



Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

2021-2027

LIFE 2021-2027

- **Commission Proposal adopted on 1 June, 2018**
- **Building on over 25 years of success**
- **Reinforcing the strengths of LIFE**
- **Improving coherence, efficiency and effectiveness based on last evaluation**

LIFE remains...

- **Policy driven:**
 - Dedicated to development and implementation of E.U. environment and climate action policy
- **Complementary to other MFF programmes:**
 - Fills a niche between research and large scale implementation
 - Helps make mainstreaming more effective
- **Catalytic:**
 - Facilitates large-scale societal transition to sustainability through development and exchange of best practice
 - Mobilises complementary actions from other funding sources
- **Inclusive:**
 - Promotes better governance and widespread involvement of stakeholders

... A key tool for reaching the EU's environment and climate objectives

LIFE 2021-2027

- **Budget increases** of almost €2 billion from €3.46 bn. to €5.45 bn.
- **Two main fields of action** encompassing four sub-programmes



Fields:

**Environment
(€3,5 bn)**

**Climate
Action
(€1,95 bn)**

Sub-Programmes:

**Nature &
Biodiversity**

**Circular
Economy
& Quality
of Life**

**Change
Mitigation
&
Adaptation**

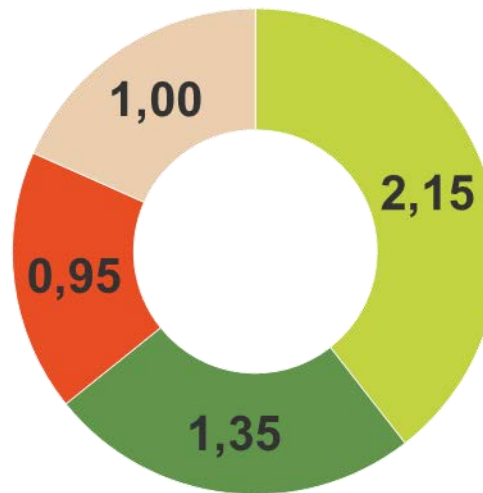
**Clean
Energy
Transition**



PROGRAMME FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION (LIFE)

Building on 25 years of success:

- Reinforcing the programme's strengths
- Improving coherence, efficiency and effectiveness



- Nature & Biodiversity
- Circular Economy & Quality of Life
- Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation
- Clean Energy Transition

Proven Elements of LIFE:

Bottom-up approach to generating high quality applications for **Standard Action Projects** to:

- develop, demonstrate and exchange innovative methods for meeting environmental and climate objectives
- implement best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity
- contribute to better environment and climate governance

(Strategic) Integrated Projects as compliance support tools for catalysing implementation of key environmental and climate plans and strategies

NGO Operating Grants for improving involvement of civil society

Opportunities for Enhancement

- **Improve strategic focus** on key policy needs:
 - Targeting evolving needs and priorities
 - Reinforce contribution to implementation/compliance agenda
- **Improve replication/uptake** of successful projects
- **Improve coherence and synergies** with other instruments - leverage funding
- **Ensure streamlining of application and reporting** formats, and address unbalanced accessibility across the EU

New / Enhanced Elements:

- **New Clean Energy Transition subprogramme**
- **Dedicated sub-programme for Nature and Biodiversity including new Strategic Nature Projects to support mainstreaming of nature and biodiversity into other policies and programmes**
- **Expanded use of Strategic Integrated Projects**
- **Greater flexibility to target key and emerging issues**
- **Increased support to LIFE National Focal Points to build capacity for programme access across all MS**

NEW

1. Clean Energy actions

- Incorporation of elements of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme, from H2020
- Contribution to climate mitigation, with environmental co-benefits
- Suitability of LIFE delivery mechanisms

Expanded

2. Strategic Integrated Projects

- Successfully piloted under LIFE 2014-2020 as compliance support tools.
- Expanded budget will enable:
 - **targeting expanded range of plans** (eg – marine environment plans, noise plans.... In addition to water, air, waste, climate)
 - **meeting demand across M.S.** beyond limits of present programme (only 3 per M.S. over 7 years)
- **Success is dependent on availability of finance for complementary actions in other programmes.**

NEW

3. Strategic Nature Projects

- **Mainstreaming of nature and biodiversity into other policies and programmes**
- Particular focus on Priority action Frameworks for developing the Natura 2000 Network
- **Support for coherent programmes of actions** in each Member State
- Mobilise complementary actions (like SIPs)

Expanded

4. Enhanced Replication

- Support for measures to upscale or replicate successful approaches
- Preparation for accessing other financing instruments
- Blending operations

NEW

5. Strategic Flexibility

- Streamlining of the Regulation – no definition of fixed priority areas
- **Targeting of key and emerging issues** through the multiannual work programmes and calls

IMPROVED

6. Better Implementation

- **Commitment to continued simplification** of programme administration
- Two-step application procedure to be introduced if present pilot is positive
- **Clear set of programme indicators**, to be complemented by aggregation of specific project level indicators
- **Support to LIFE Focal Points in MSs** to build capacity for programme access

Synergies with Other Programmes:

- Uptake and development of innovations first tested in Horizon Europe in **Standard Action Projects**
- **Technical Assistance Projects** can assist beneficiaries to upscale successful projects in larger instruments (CAP, ERDF, InvestEU...)
- **Strategic Integrated Projects** mobilise funding from other sources, including other EU instruments, for complementary actions that contribute to implementation of the target plans.
- **Strategic Nature Projects** support and help coordinate mainstreaming of nature and biodiversity into other policies and programmes