

LIFE Programme 2021-2027

Presentation to INTER LIFE PT 2024

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The role of CINEA

- CINEA is an Executive Agency established by the European Commission to implement parts of EU funding programmes for transport, energy, climate action, environment and maritime fisheries and aquaculture.
- The Agency has a key role in supporting the **European Green Deal** – one of the European Commission’s main strategic priorities - through the efficient and effective implementation of its delegated programmes.
- Our aim is that CINEA will support our beneficiaries, establish strong partnerships, deliver high-quality programme and project management, foster effective knowledge sharing and create synergies between programmes - to support a sustainable, connected, and decarbonised Europe.



The LIFE programme

- The LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.
- The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- LIFE is over 30 years 'young'
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €
- The multiannual work programme for 2021-2024 was adopted in July 2021.



The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

To contribute to the shift to a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy based- and climate resilient economy

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



Nature and Biodiversity



Circular Economy and Quality of Life



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Clean Energy Transition

Projects

- Develop and demonstrate innovative techniques and approaches to solving environmental challenges
- Help to implement plans and strategies, required by EU legislation.
- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions

Impact

- Support the development, monitoring and implementation of EU environment & climate policy
- Provide models to copy and upscale

Project beneficiaries are:

- 1/3 private enterprises
- 1/3 NGOs and civil society organisations
- 1/3 public authorities



Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



Nature and
Biodiversity

Contribution to:

- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
- Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised Action Frameworks.
- Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.

Typical actions

Projects supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.

Species protection.

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of PAF or other plans under the Biodiversity Strategy; mainstreaming biodiversity

Financing of small-scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions



Priorities: *EU Biodiversity Strategy*

- Establishing a coherent **network of protected areas**
- Implementing **EU nature restoration targets** for species and habitats
- Restoring **degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems**; prevent and **reduce the impact of natural disasters**
- Improving the **health and resilience of managed forests**
- Reversing the **decline of pollinators**
- Bringing **nature back to agricultural land**
- Greening **urban and peri-urban areas**
- Measuring and integrating the **value of nature**



Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life



Circular Economy
and Quality of Life

Contribution in the areas of:

- circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment.

Typical actions

Support to public authorities and other stakeholders to implement EU environment legislation.

Support to technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy.

Promote upscale and access to finance.



Priority areas



- **Circular economy and waste**
- **Soil**
- **Air**
- **Water**
 - A. Water quality and quantity
 - B. Marine and coastal water management
 - C. Water services
- **Noise**
- **Chemicals**



NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS (NEB)

- Environmental, economic and cultural project to **combine design, sustainability, accessibility and affordability** to help deliver the European Green Deal.
- It is appropriate to **develop synergies** to support this initiative under the LIFE programme (Circular Economy and Quality of Life – Nature and Biodiversity), to showcase the potential of the Bauhaus initiative in third countries associated to the LIFE programme.

In particular, priority will be given to the following project proposals contributing to the implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative:

1. Proposals focusing on the **holistic reduction of the environmental impact of new buildings**;
2. Proposals on **circular districts involving the creation of circular value chains to boost urban economies** while urban and territorial regeneration takes place.
3. Proposals to **maintain or restore biodiversity** contributing to the implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative. This may include, for example, **demonstrating biodiversity-friendly practices for energy insulation of buildings, innovative architectural approaches for wildlife friendly buildings**, etc.



Sub-programme Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Contribution to:

- The transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through:
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation & Related Governance



On **climate mitigation**, projects that contribute significantly to the implementation of:

- the 2030 energy and climate policy
- the EU Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

On **climate adaptation**:

- projects that support the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and related national implementation



Scope: Climate Change Mitigation

- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** in the sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System, including the reduction of use of fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances
- **Enhance the functioning of the Emissions Trading System** and which have an impact on energy and greenhouse gas intensive industrial production
- **Increase** the generation and use of **renewable energy and improvement of energy efficiency**
- **Development of land and sea management practices** which have an impact on emissions and removals of emissions, conservation and enhancement of natural carbon sinks



Scope: Climate Change Adaptation

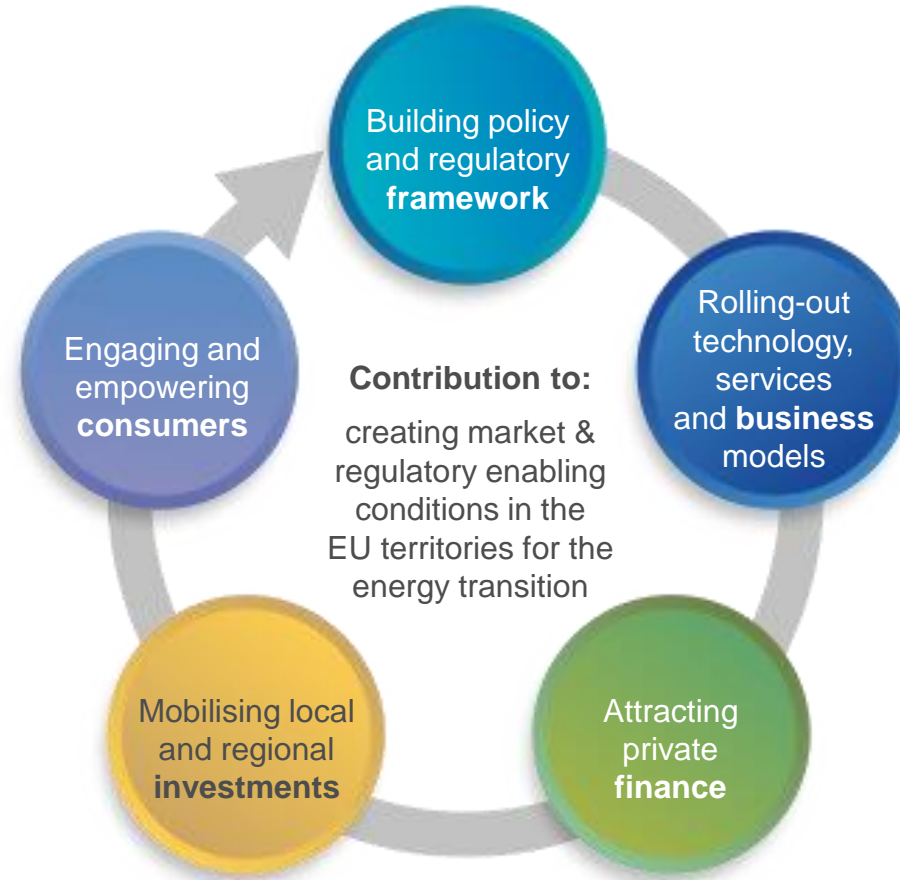
- Adaptation **policy development**, and **adaptation strategies and plans**
- State-of-the art **tools and solutions** for adaptation
- **Nature-based solutions** in the management of land, forests, coasts and marine areas
- **Adapting cities and regions** to climate change
- **Climate-proofing** and **resilience of infrastructure** and buildings

The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition

predecessors: Intelligent Energy Europe continued under H2020- SC3- market uptake



Clean Energy Transition



Type of activities: developing and spreading best practice, mobilising investments, improving skills, removing market barriers, raising awareness, educating, empowering.



Types of activities funded under LIFE

Grants

- **Action grants:**
 - **Standard Action projects (SAPs)**
 - Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
 - **Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)**
 - **Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)**
 - Preparatory projects addressing ad hoc Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP)
 - Technical Assistance (TA-PP and TA-R)
- **Operating grants**

Other Forms of Funding

- **Procurement** (*not in this call*)
- **Prizes** (*not in this call*)
- **Blending** (*not in this call*)



1. Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

- **'Traditional' LIFE projects aimed to:**
 - develop, demonstrate and promote **innovative techniques, methods and approaches**;
 - contribute to the **knowledge base** and to the **application of best practices**;
 - support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the **relevant Union legislation and policy**, including by improving **governance** at all levels, in particular through **enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society**;
 - catalyse the **large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions** for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, **integrating related objectives into other policies** and into **public and private sector practices**, mobilising investment and improving access to finance
- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum except:**
 - 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
 - 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- **Maximum 10-year duration**



LIFE-SAP: Evaluation of proposals

1. **Relevance** (0-20 points)
2. **Impact** (0-20 points) * 1,5
3. **Quality** (0-20 points)
4. **Resources** (0-20 points)

Award criteria are scored between 0 and 20
The weight of all is the same **except IMPACT * 1,5**

To be considered for funding:

- at least 10/20 in each case, and
- total score of at least 55 points

EXTRAS

- Criterion 1: The proposal offers **exceptional synergies** and promotes **significant co-benefits** between the LIFE sub-programmes (2 points)
- Criterion 2: The proposal mainly applies to the **outermost regions (ORs)** (2 points)
- Criterion 3: The proposal builds **substantially on or expands the results of other EU-funded projects** (2 points)
- Criterion 4: The proposal offers **exceptional catalytic potential** (2 points)
- Criterion 5: The proposal foresees **transnational cooperation** between Member States essential to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the project (2 points).



LIFE-STRAT

... are designed to implement certain plans and strategies *

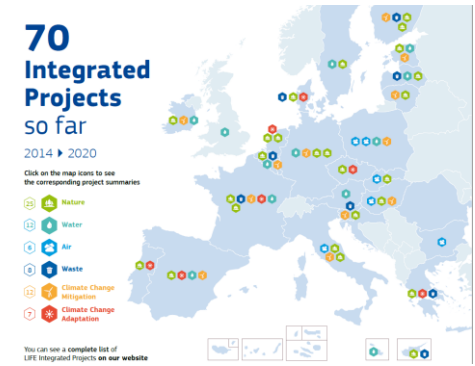
... on a large territorial scale

... have full involvement of stakeholders

... role of mobilising, compromising the coordination of complementary funding sources

Maximum 60 % co-funding

Maximum 14 years duration



2. Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)

- **Focused on the implementation of:**
 - the Prioritised Action Frameworks pursuant to the Habitats Directive
 - other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, regional or multiregional level by nature and biodiversity authorities
- **Require mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives into other policies and instruments**
- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum**
- **Maximum 14-year duration**



3. Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)

- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum**
- **Maximum 14-year duration**
- **Circular Economy and Quality of Life:**
 - Circular Economy: national or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
 - Waste: national and regional Waste Management Plans and/or Waste Prevention Programmes
 - Water: River Basin Management Plans, Flood Risk Management Plans, Marine Strategies
 - Air: Air quality plans pursuant to the Ambient Air Quality Directive, National Air Pollution Control Programmes
- **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:**
 - National Energy and Climate Plans;
 - National Energy Efficiency Action Plans;
 - National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;
 - Urban or community-based action plans pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society;
 - National, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or economy roadmaps contributing to climate neutrality



Specific plans for strategic projects

SNaPs

1. **Prioritised Action Frameworks** under the Habitats Directive
2. **Other plans or strategies** adopted at international, national, multiregional or regional level by nature and biodiversity authorities, **implementing EU nature or biodiversity policy or legislation**

SIPS – Environment

1. **Circular economy**: national or regional circular economy action plans, strategies, roadmaps or action plans
2. **Water – River Basin Management Plans within the Water Framework Directive; flood risk management plans; marine strategies**
3. **Waste – Waste management plans or waste prevention programmes** under the Waste Directive
4. **Air** – Local and regional **air quality plans** and national **air pollution control programmes**

SIPS – Climate Action

1. **National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans**;
2. **Pioneering urban or community-based action plans** in the transition towards a climate-neutral or climate-resilient society;
3. **National Energy and Climate Plans**;
4. **National Energy Efficiency Action Plans**;
5. **National, regional or sectoral greenhouse gas emission mitigation strategies or economic roadmaps** contributing to climate neutrality.

** in green text: **new targets added compared to the period 2014-2020** **

LIFE-STRAT: Evaluation of proposals

Phase 1 (concept note)

- 1) **Implementation of plans or strategies**
 - 2) **Territorial coverage**
 - 3) **Coordination of complementary funds**
 - 4) **Key stakeholder involvement**
- These criteria are **yes/no**.
The concept note **must fulfil all four criteria** for the applicant to be invited to submit a full proposal.

Step 2 (full proposal) award criteria

- 1) **Relevance** (0-20 points)
- 2) **Quality** (0-20 points)
- 3) **Complementary financing** (0-20 points)
- 4) **Impact** (0-20 points)
- 5) **Resources** (0-20 points)

The award criteria are scored between 0 and 20 and the weight of all is the same.

To be considered for possible funding:

- at least 10/20 in each case, and
- total score of at least 55 points



Project Design - I

- **Baseline description should be clear** enough as it is essential for evaluating the potential of the project (AW1 - Relevance)
- The **sequence of actions should be logical** and clearly linked to project description (AW1 - Relevance and AW2 – Impact)
- Expected results and quantitative **estimations of projects impacts** (during and after project end) (AW2 - Impact)



Project Design - II

- **Activities/plans to ensure sustainability** of the project results are absolutely crucial! (AW3 - Quality)
- **Uptake and Replication** needs to be taken into account and **related project actions** need to be well conceived (AW3 - Quality)
- Clear **description of beneficiary involved** in specific actions (AW2 – Impact and AW4 – Resources)



Project Design - III

- Limit the number of **actions to the ones essential to achieve the project objectives**
- Coherence in **all parts of the submission**
- **Partnership** structure: look for complementarity and avoid redundancy of expertise (key stakeholders should be involved)
- Project duration should take into account:
 - Sufficient time to **gather information** about the impact of project activities
 - Delays in **obtaining permits and authorisations**
 - **Buffer** to allow for unexpected events
- Make sure you meet the **communication requirements**
 - Think about **platform meetings** and **networking events**



Project Design Full Proposal

Good design

Solid analysis of the problem, state of play and solution proposed (baseline)

Key stakeholders involved (incl. users)

Robust assessment of impacts over the life cycle of the solution proposed

Clear strategy on how to sustain and multiply the impacts

Common problems

Insufficient background information (why, who and how)

Rationale for projects is defined during the project

Objectives too broad, too many

Poor partnership (partners don't fit regarding know-how or insufficient budget)

Over-optimistic / unrealistic or lack of quantification of impacts

Replication confused with networking and dissemination

Vague plans to sustain the project/results after project end



Must read

- Call documents ([Funding & tender opportunities portal](#)) and [Model of Grant Agreement](#) and its [guidance](#)
- LIFE Regulation and Multi-annual work-programme
- LIFE Web site https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en includes support to applicants and link to many resources
- [LIFE project database](#)
- Funding and Tender [guidance](#) on how to apply: key steps
- Life **National Contact Point** (get in touch!)



How to prepare the submission

Key steps are detailed under [IT How to - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities \(europa.eu\)](#) with screenshots.

- Check if your [entity is already registered](#), if not do not wait to do it (without « PIC » for all partners no submission possible).
- One desk for all issues related to access to the Portal the IT helpdesk: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/helpdesks/contact-form>
- Help for beginners: [Funding & Tenders Portal for beginners](#).



LIFE 2024 Calls for Proposals

- The LIFE Calls for proposals 2024 are expected to be published on the [Funding & tender opportunities portal](#) on **18 April 2024**.
- CINEA will hold virtual information sessions from **23 to 26 April 2024** to guide potential applicants through the LIFE Calls for proposals 2024. See the [LIFE YouTube channel](#) for previous [recordings](#).



Thank you

