

LIFE programme

“**L**’Instrument **F**inancier pour l’**E**nvironnement”
(Financial Instrument for Environment)

The LIFE programme began in 1992 and has to date co-financed more than 4,600 projects.

The European Commission manages the LIFE programme through its services [Directorate-General for Environment](#) and [Directorate-General for Climate Action](#), and its Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ([EASME](#)).

Two sub-programmes:

- LIFE sub-programme for **Environment**, including such priority areas as **Environment and Resource Efficiency, Nature and Biodiversity**, and **Governance and Information**;
- LIFE sub-programme for **Climate Action**, including such priority areas as **Adaptation, Mitigation** and **Governance and Information**.

Sub-programme for Environment

Structure:

1.Environment & Resource Efficiency

2.Nature and Biodiversity

3.Environmental Governance & Information

Sub-programme for Environment

Thematic Priorities for funding:

- Thematic Priorities for Water, including the marine environment;
- Thematic Priorities for Waste;
- Thematic Priorities for Resource Efficiency, including soil and forests and green and circular economy;
- Thematic Priorities for Environment and Health, including chemicals and noise;
- Thematic Priorities for Air Quality and Emissions, including the urban environment;
- Thematic Priorities for Nature and for Biodiversity;
- Thematic Priorities for Information and Governance

Sub-programme for **Climate Action**

Priority areas and their objectives:

- **Climate Change Mitigation** contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- **Climate Change Adaptation** supports efforts leading to increased resilience to climate change
- LIFE **Climate Governance and Information**

Types of Projects

- **Traditional** projects: best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects (similar to LIFE+);
- **Integrated** projects: projects aiming at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air;
- **Preparatory** projects: projects identified by the Commission to support specific needs for the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy and legislation;
- **Capacity building** projects: financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE.

Co-financing Rates

- **Traditional Nature and Biodiversity** Projects: **60%** co-financing but **75%** for projects targeting priority habitats & species (e.g. costal lagoons, active raised bogs; Lynx(*Lynx lynx*), Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Corn Crake (*Crex crex*))
- **Integrated** projects, **preparatory** projects and **technical assistance** projects: **60%** co-financing
- **Capacity building** projects: **100%** co-financing
- All other projects, i.e., **traditional** projects under the sub-programme of **Climate Action** and **traditional** projects under priorities **Environment and Resources Efficiency** and **Environment Governance and information** Projects in the sub-programme for **Environment**:
 - **55%** co-financing during the second multiannual work programme (2018-2020)

The European Commission launches calls for the **Environment and Climate Action** Programme LIFE every year. [2019 call](#) for proposals was announced on the **4th of April**.

LIFE **Application guidelines** provide all necessary information on application procedures, possible applicants and other new information about LIFE.

Guidelines of traditional LIFE projects of [Call 2019](#):

- LIFE **Nature & Biodiversity** ([application package](#)) – **19 June 2019** – national co-financing: up to **25%** (up to **35%** - for priority species and habitats)
- LIFE **Environment & Resource Efficiency** ([application package](#)) – **17 June 2019** – up to **25%** (up to **35%** - for priority areas foreseen in strategical planning documents)
- LIFE **Environmental Governance & Information** ([application package](#)) - **20 June 2019** – up to **25%**
- LIFE sub-programme for **Climate Action** ([application package](#)) - **12 September 2019** – up to **25%**
- Examples of LIFE **Concept notes** ([ENV pdf](#); [NAT pdf](#); [GIE pdf](#)); [Budget](#)
- LIFE **Integrated projects** - **5 September 2019** – up to **40%**

In order to simplify the process for the submission of LIFE **traditional** projects, in 2019 proposal submission procedure for the Environment sub-programme was organised in two stages:

- Stage 1: **Concept note**
- Stage 2: **Full proposal**

This two stage approach will first entail submission of an **11 page concept note**. Only applicants with the best ranked concept notes will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The submission procedure for the **Climate sub-programme** was organised as before, in **one-stage** approach.

Full proposals and Concept notes should be submitted through the online tool [eProposal](#).

Timeline

4 April 2019

Publication of the **call** for proposals

20 June 2019

Extended deadline for applicants to submit **concept notes**

October 2019

Notification to the applicants, **shortlisted applicants** invited to submit full proposal

February 2020

Deadline to submit **full project proposals**

April 2020

Notification of applicants if their proposal has been selected

June 2020

Signature of individual **grant agreements**

Similar timeline scheme is expected for year 2020!

Types of actions (Nature & Biodiversity):

- ❖ A. Preparatory actions,
- ❖ B. Land purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payment for land use rights,
- ❖ C. Conservation actions,
- ❖ D. Monitoring and impact assessment of the project actions,
- ❖ E. Communication and dissemination actions,
- ❖ F. Project management and progress.

Types of actions (Environment & Resource Efficiency):

- ❖ A. Preparatory actions (if needed),
- ❖ B. Implementation actions (obligatory),
- ❖ C. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (obligatory),
- ❖ D. Public awareness and dissemination of results (obligatory),
- ❖ E. Project management (obligatory).

Search for LIFE Projects

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/>

Search for partners

<http://db.lifeprojektai.lt/#home>

Integrated Projects

- Aiming at **implementation of plans, programmes or strategies** required by EU environmental or climate legislation or pursuant to other acts or developed by MS authorities;
- Larger scale, e.g., **regional, multiregional, national**;
- Primarily in the areas of **nature, water, waste, air, climate mitigation and adaptation**;
- They are inclusive: **stakeholders** must be involved as **associated beneficiaries**;
- **Sustainability** will be important as well as **mobilisation of other funds** (EU or other);

LIFE-IP PAF-NATURALIT

“Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania”

2018-2027

<https://naturalit.lt/en/>

[Video](#)

Capacity building projects

Building LIFE Capacities in Lithuania (LIFE 14 CAP/LT/000008)

Project duration: 2016/04/01-2020/03/31

Coordinating beneficiary:

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania;

Associated beneficiary:

Environmental Projects Management Agency under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.

<http://lifeprojektai.lt/en>

<http://lifeprojektai.lt/en/life-projects/lithuanian-life-projects>

Project number:

LIFE14 CAP/LV/000002

Name of the project:

Capacity building for the LIFE programme implementation in Latvia

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Capacity Building for the LIFE Programme implementation in Latvia (CAP LIFE LAT) is a LIFE project created by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and the Administration of the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund.

<https://www.lifeprogramma.lv/en/capacity-project>

Evaluation criteria

1. Technical coherence and quality
2. Financial coherence and quality (including value for money)
3. EU added value: extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment
4. EU added value: Sustainability (continuation, replication, transfer potential)
5. EU added value: Contribution to the project topics
6. EU added value: Synergies (including multipurpose and integration/complementarity, Green Public Procurement, Ecolabel and uptake of EU-research results) & Transnational

https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/life_2018_sub-programme_environment_evaluation_guide.pdf

Close-to-market projects

These are projects:

- which propose a **new, demonstrative solution** able to bring clear environmental and/or climate benefits e.g. in the fields of waste management, circular economy, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation, and water and
- have **a level of technical and business readiness** allowing them to implement their solution in close-to-market conditions (i.e. at industrial or commercial scale) during the project duration.

The LIFE programme can provide up to **55%** co-financing to such projects.

8 tips to help you apply

1. Show the impact

Clearly explain how your project will serve the environment. Make sure that its benefits are ambitious, credible and well quantified in the **key project level indicators** for environment and climate action projects detailed in your application pack.

2. Think sustainable

For assessment of the **technical coherence and quality** of application, you should show how your project's objective will outlast its funding. How will the products or services that you develop thrive on the open market? LIFE's close-to-market projects must also produce a **business plan** as part of their compulsory deliverables.

3. Transfer and replicate

Outline how you will help **replicate** and **transfer** your results, notably to other sectors, regions or countries, beyond the duration of the project. Clarity will help your proposal meet the **award criterion** on sustainability, continuation, replication and transfer potential outlined in the evaluation guide for environment and climate action projects.

4. Follow guidelines

Refer to the **application guide** for environment and climate action projects when detailing the problem you address, the solution you propose, the team you pitch and why your project is worth funding. It spells out the **criteria** by which your proposal will be **evaluated**.

5. Pick your team

Describe the **staff** involved in each action and demonstrate that your partners are capable of taking on the challenges ahead and motivated to overcome them.

6. Plan ahead

Before writing, start **budgeting**. Make sure that each expense reflects market prices and that it is justified given its impact on sustainability and your business potential.

7. Get writing

Start writing your **business plan** as soon as possible for the duration of the project and the 12 months following its conclusion. A good business plan will help you and investors grasp your market, competitors, costs and sources of income, offering tangible milestones to follow your progress.

8. Read up

Read through the **application guide, evaluation guide** and other resources in the LIFE application package. For further tips, explore the work of [existing LIFE projects](#), join [LIFE Information and Networking Day](#) online and contact your [national contact point](#) with any questions.

Examples of projects

Nature and Biodiversity:

WETLIFE - Restoring Hydrology in Amalvas and Žuvintas Wetlands
(LIFE07 NAT/LT/000530)

<http://wetlife.gpf.lt/en>

WETLIFE 2 - Restoration of proper hydrological conditions in Amalva and Kamanos bog
(LIFE13 NAT/LT/000084)

<http://wetlife2.gpf.lt/>

Environment & Resource Efficiency:

Algae – economy based ecological service of aquatic ecosystems (AlgaeService for LIFE)
(LIFE17 ENV/LT/000407)

<https://algaeservice.gamtostyrimai.lt/>