



The new LIFE Regulation (2014-2020)

**Regulation EU/1293/2013 of the
European Parliament and of the
Council of 11 December 2013 on the
establishment of a Programme for
the Environment and
Climate Action (LIFE)**



Outline

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1.1 Objectives of the LIFE Programme (2014-2020)

- LIFE should be used as a **catalyst**;
- LIFE should promote **implementation and integration** of environment and climate objectives in other policies and Member State practice, including mainstreaming;
- Emphasis will also be placed on **better governance**;
- Specific **link to EU priorities**: resource efficiency, biodiversity loss and climate adaptation and mitigation.





1.2 Structure and budget for 2014-2020

Creation of two sub-programmes:

- LIFE sub-programme for **Environment, including as priorities areas** environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity, and governance and information
- LIFE sub-programme for **Climate Action, including as priorities areas** adaptation, mitigation and governance and information

Budget: €3,456.7 million (€2,592.5 m for ENV, €864.2 m for CLIMA)





1.3 Sub-programme for Environment

Structure:

1.Environment & Resource Efficiency

2.Nature and Biodiversity

3.Environmental Governance & Information:





1.3 Sub-programme for Environment

Thematic Priorities for funding (defined in Annex III):

- Thematic Priorities for **Nature** and for **Biodiversity**;
 - 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 **Information and Governance**
- **To be translated into project topics for funding in the Multiannual work programme**





1.4 Sub-programme for Climate Action

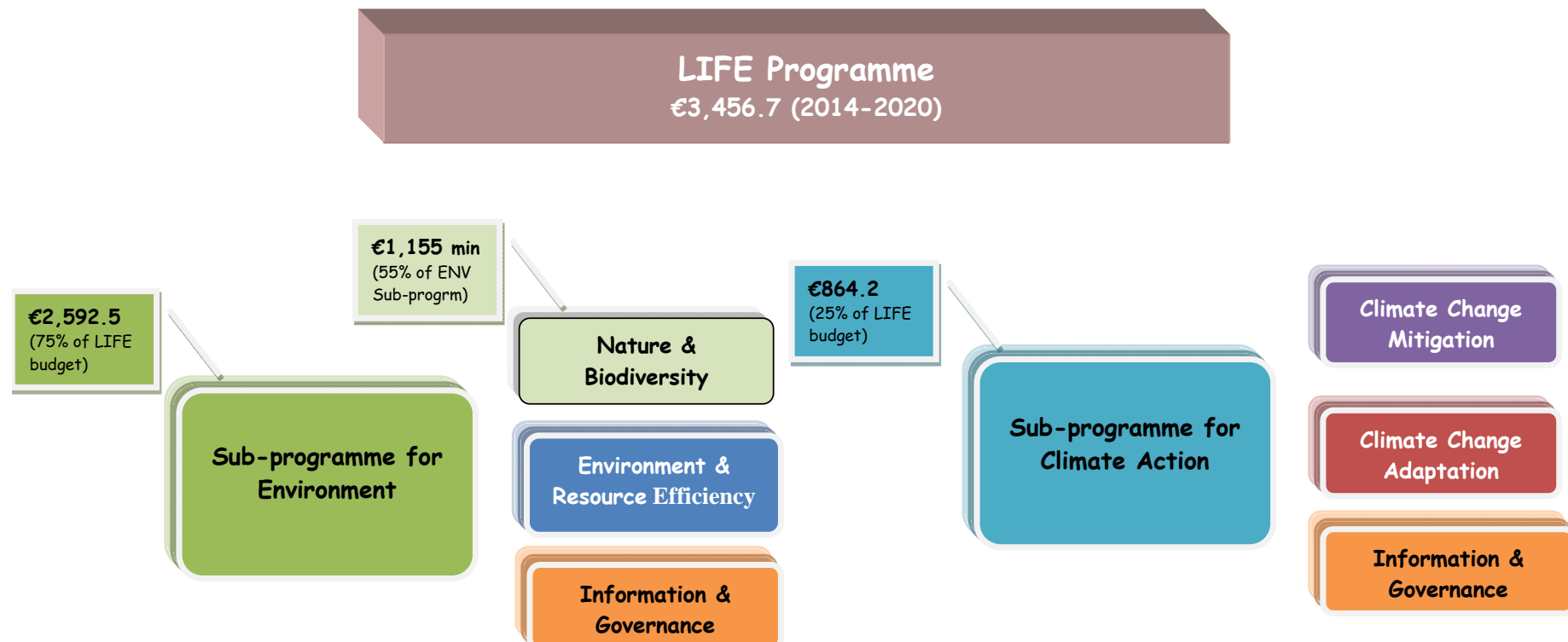
Priority areas and their objectives:

- 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

Specific objectives:

- Implement and develop **Union policy and legislation** and **mainstream activities** across policy areas
- Improve and apply **knowledge base** in practice
- **Develop and implement integrated strategies and action plans**
- Develop and demonstrate **innovative technologies**, systems, methods and instruments for replication, transfer or mainstreaming

1.2 Structure and budget for 2014-2020





1.2 National allocations

- **National allocations:**
 - For the duration of the **first multiannual work programme (2014-2017)**, national allocations applicable **only to traditional projects** under the **ENV sub-programme**
 - From the **second multiannual work programme (2018-2020)**, national allocations are **phased out** and selection is only merit based
- **Selection for traditional projects under the Climate sub-programme** **only merit based** for the duration of the whole Programme (2014-2020)





1.2 Territorial Scope

Possible participation of **Third Countries** (as per current LIFE+) – based on supplementary funding.

Possible co-operation with **International Organisations** (e.g., international studies such as TEEB).

Activities outside the Union and in OCTs possible in when:

- Action outside the EU is necessary to achieve EU environmental/climate objectives; **and**
- To ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the MS; and
- The coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU.





2.1 The Tools/Types of Funding: overview

- **Projects (at least 81% of the budget):**

Action grants for both traditional projects and new types of projects: integrated Projects, technical assistance projects for IPs, capacity building projects and preparatory projects

Possibility to make contributions to innovative financial instruments to finance projects

- **Operating grants and Other types of funding (cannot exceed 19% of ENV sub-programme budget)**

Operating Grants (NGOs, IMPEL)- no earmarking but about 3% of the Programme - 70% co-financing rate;

Other types of funding - public procurement (e.g., studies, conferences, service contracts, technical assistance for the monitoring of LIFE, etc.)- no earmarking but about 15% of the Programme





2.2 Types of Projects

- At **least 81%** of the budget for the Programme (approx. **€2,800 million**):
 - **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





2.2 Co-financing Rates

- **Traditional Nature and Biodiversity Projects: 60%** co-financing **but 75%** for projects targeting **priority habitats & species**
- **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:
 - **60% co-financing** during the **first multiannual work programme (2014-2017)**
 - **55% co-financing** during the **second multiannual work programme (2018-2020)**





2.3 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)**;





2.3 Integrated Projects

Complementarity with other funds:

- Specific section in the draft Common Provisions Regulation regarding LIFE:

Member States shall promote and, where appropriate [...] ensure complementarity and coordination with LIFE, in particular with integrated projects [...] through measures such as [...] promoting the funding of activities through the European Structural and Investment Funds that complement IPs

- Reference in sectoral regulations and Partnership Agreements
- **Links needed in OPs/RDPs:**



2.3 The tools: IP examples - Nature

A Region develops a Regional Programme for Natura2000 covering all 50 sites under its jurisdiction, and aimed at PAF implementation.

It identifies the necessary range of **management and conservation activities.**

The region then identifies the **financial needs** for the implementation of these activities and **submits a proposal** for a LIFE Integrated Project.

This project clearly **specifies the activities** or group of activities among those included in the programme that will be **financed by LIFE**

- e.g. the restoration and connectivity activities, capacity building, awareness raising.

In addition, it presents evidence on how it will use other funds (EARDF, ERDF, private) to implement the **complementary measures**

- compensation payments, making power lines safe for birds, infrastructure etc.





2.3 Integrated Projects

Budget:

- 30% ceiling of the funds dedicated to projects
- Max. €855 million for 7 years (of which around €637million in the sub-programme for Environment)
- Geographical balance: 3 IPs per Member State over 7 years

Other aspects:

- Technical assistance in support of IPs possible for potential applicants
- Provisions regarding exchange of experience, best practices, and National Contact Point support enhanced
- Active dissemination of examples and good practices by LIFE and in the specific working groups and committees for the sectors concerned





2.4 Capacity building projects

- Provide financial support to the **activities required to build the capacity of LIFE national or regional contact points;**
- They will be based on a **Capacity Development Plan** agreed with the Commission.
- Only 2 projects possible per Member State (one for the period 2014-2017 and a second one for the period 2018-2020)
- The maximum funds to be allocated for both projects will be **€1.75 million per eligible Member State** (up to €1 million for the first multiannual work programme and up to €750,000 for the second multiannual work programme)
- Member State **must commit to maintaining resources** dedicated to the LIFE Programme, including inter alia staffing levels, no lower than those in place in 2012, for the duration of the relevant multiannual work programme





2.4 Capacity building

- Member States **eligibility** for the **first multiannual work programme** period is based on a combination of GDP per capita and performance in LIFE+: **15 Member States qualify** for capacity building in the first multiannual work programme: BG, CY, CZ, EE, EL, HU, LT, LV, MT, POL, PT, RO, SI, SK and HR
- Member States **eligibility** for the **second multiannual work programme period** is only based on performance:
 - ✓ low **average absorption level** for the years 2014-2016 **and**
 - ✓ **average absorption level** for the years 2014-2016 **has increased** compared to the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Exclusion criteria in all cases: a Member State shall be ineligible for funding for capacity building projects if **its GDP per capita in 2012 is above 105 %** of the Union average





2.4 Capacity building- activities funded

- **Recruitment of new personnel** and training for national or regional contact points;
- Activities aimed at **facilitating exchange of experience** and best practice and at **promoting the dissemination** and use of LIFE project results;
- **Train the trainer** approaches;
- **Exchange and secondment programmes** between public authorities in Member States (e.g., best in class exchange activities);
- **Procurement of expert** to address **ad-hoc** technical and process capability gaps
- **BUT SHOULD NOT FINANCE:** procurement of experts whose primary function is the drafting of proposals for submission under the annual call for proposals





3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

- Shift from a pure bottom-up approach to a **flexible top-down approach**;
- Prepared by **the Commission in consultation with the MS**
- **First period: 2014-2017**





3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

- Allocation of funds between priority areas and between different types of funding within each sub-programme:

Limitations:

- distribution between **ENV and CLIMA sub-programmes** provided by the Regulation (75% for ENV and 25% for CLIMA)
 - **At least 81% of resources to be allocated to projects (via action grants or financial instruments)**
 - **At least 55%** of resources allocated in the **Environment sub-programme** to projects shall be allocated to **projects** supporting the conservation of **nature and biodiversity**; these include projects under information and governance targeting nature or biodiversity
 - **30% ceiling** of the budget dedicated to projects (ie 30% of the 81%) **for Integrated Projects**
- Methodology for Selection
 - Indicative Timetable for calls for proposals





3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

- **Project topics and targets (for Environment)**

- ✓ **Topics are not exhaustive:** a proposal may be submitted even if it falls outside the topics (but it must fall within the Priority Areas indicated in the Regulation).
- ✓ **Limitations:** Integrated Projects primarily in areas referred to by the LIFE Regulation, **thematic priorities provided in Annex III** in the Regulation (for nature, biodiversity, water, waste, resource efficiency, environment and health, air quality and emissions and information and governance but ONLY for the ENV sub-programme).
- ✓ For four years (2014-2017) and three years (2018-2020) ensuring **stability** for potential applicants.





4. Calendar

LIFE Regulation:

- **Nov 21, 2013** – Regulation adopted by the European Parliament
- **Dec 11, 2013** -- Regulation adopted by the Council (*published 20.12.2013 on OJ L 347/185*)
- **Entry into force 1 January 2014**

Multi-Annual Work Programme:

- **2-day consultation organised on 24-25 October to discuss drafting of the Multi-Annual Work Programme**
- **Target: to adopt the work programme in February 2014 to be able to launch the call for proposals by May 2014**

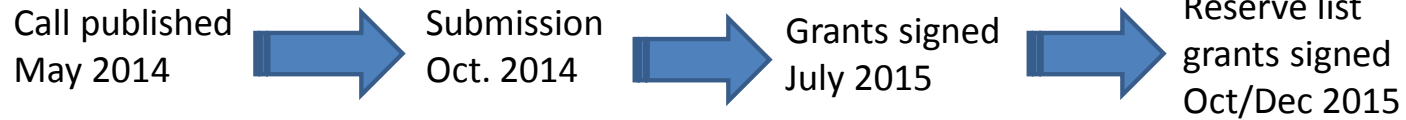
Call for Proposals:

- **Drafting of application guides started**
- **Information sessions in spring 2014 (March / April?)**
- **Target: launch May or June 2014**

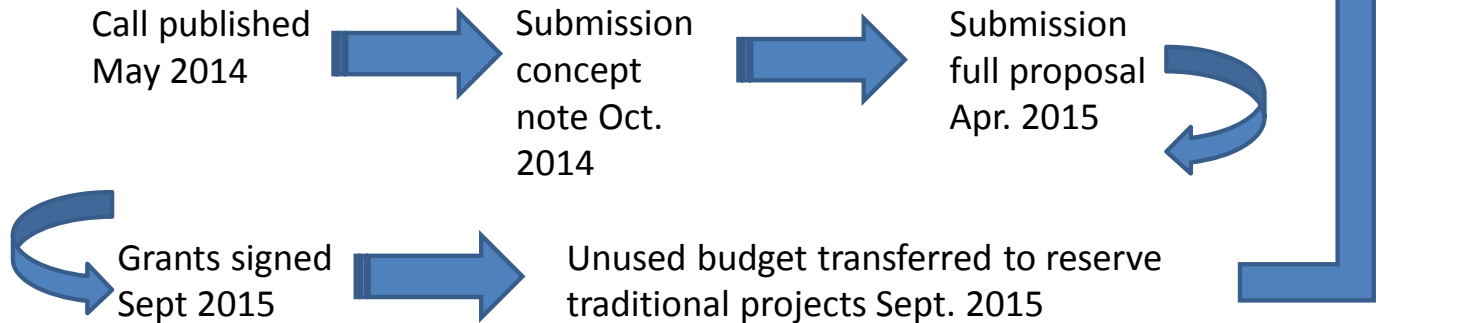


LIFE Call 2014 Indicative timetable

Traditional projects



Integrated projects





More information at

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/beyond2013.htm>

