



LIFE

Opportunities for the Blue Economy



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 €.
- Present multiannual work programme is for 2021-2024
- Call 2023 budget: 611 million €



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



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.



Sub-programme Climate Change 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



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** (*call restricted to entities that signed a LIFE Framework Partnership Agreement*)



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**

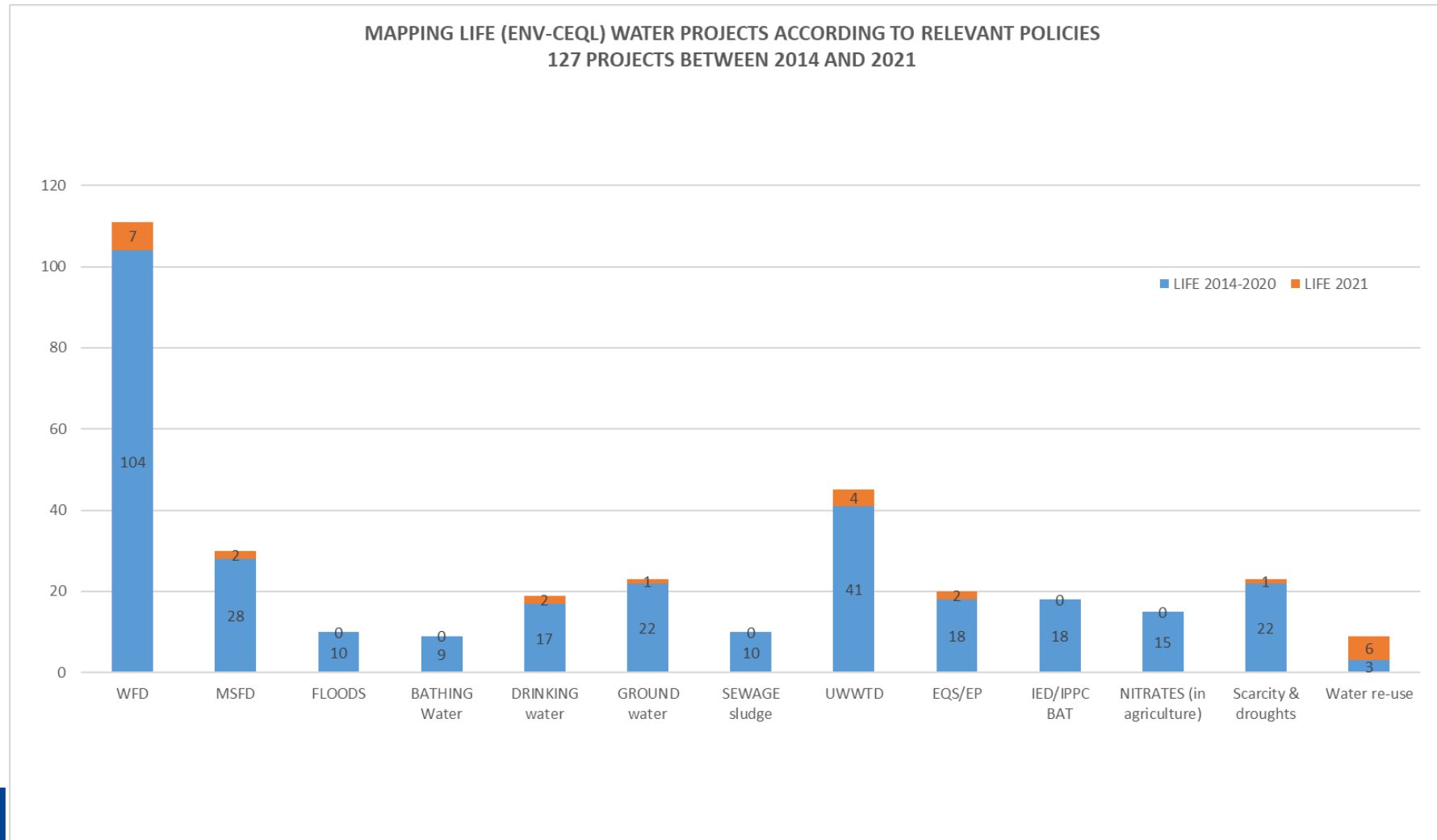




Project examples



Overview of the water portfolio by policy



LIFE SouPLess (LIFE17 ENV/NL/000339)

- **Problem addressed:** Marine plastic pollution by tackling the problem locally on rivers, which are the main transport pathways of land-based plastic waste
- **How:** Demonstration of three new systems for riverine plastic removal and an innovative software tool to predict movement and accumulation hotspots of plastic litter in rivers.
- **Where:** Three pilots were implemented in The Netherlands and Belgium
- **Results:** All plastic collection system proved their concept and collected micro-plastics. All three systems continued to operate after the one-year-pilot.
- **More information:** [Layman's report](#) and [LIFE Public Database](#)



REMEDIA Life (LIFE16 ENV/IT/000343)

- **Problem addressed:** Make aquaculture more sustainable by using biological organisms to clear pollutants from the water of a pilot fish farm.
- **How:** Demonstration of an Integrated Multi Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) system based on a new set of stress-tolerant bio-remediators.
- **Where:** Province of Taranto, Italy
- **Expected results:** better environmental and farming conditions (mainly due to a decreased microbial load in the water), but also additional economic benefits for the aquaculture sector because of the diversification of production and the use of non-edible biomass for biotechnological exploitation.
- **More information:** [LIFE Public Database](#)



LIFE DELFI (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000942)

- **Problem addressed:** dolphin/turtles mortality caused by fishing activities
- **How:** By minimizing the negative interactions between dolphins and professional fishing through innovative technical solutions introduced/tested/implemented in different marine contexts (fishing gears/tools; acoustic/visual deterrents (pingers). Additional economic activities promoted/tested
- **Where:** 6 MPAs in Italy (MPA Egadi, MPA Punta Campanella, MPA Tavolara, MPA Torre del Cerrano) and Croatia (10 marine Natura 2000 sites), very close to the main fishing areas in the Adriatic, Ionian and Tyrrhenian seas.
- **Expected results:** reduce bycatch of marine mammals and marine turtles protected under the Habitats Directive (*Tursiops truncatus*, *Stenella coeruleoalba* and of *Caretta Caretta*).
- More information: [LIFE Public database](#)



ROC-POP Life (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000816)

- **Problem addressed:** bad conservation status the Habitats Directive habitat “Reef” (1170) in the Ligurian and Adriatic seas.
- **How:** restoration of the target habitat through *in situ* / *ex situ conservation* activities: collection / cultivation / transplantation of fertile specimens of the key species *Cystoseira*, taken from three Natura 2000 sites where populations are present in good health to the target sites.
- **Where:** MPA Cinque Terre (Ligurian sea) and MPA Miramare (Adriatic sea).
- **Expected results:** improve the conservation status of the ‘Reef’ with more than 2500 adult thalli reintroduced in the target MPAs. Algae will continue to increase in the target sites, after the end of the project, thanks to the critical density created / the natural reproduction of the transplanted populations. Natural recolonization of nearby coastal areas is also predicted.
- More information: [Layman’s Report](#) and [LIFE Public database](#)



LIFE Blue Natura (LIFE14 CCM/ES/000957)

- **Problem addressed:** a scientific knowledge gap concerning the use of ‘blue carbon’ for climate change mitigation
- **How:** quantification of the carbon deposits and the sequestration rates of marsh and seagrass meadow habitats
- **Where:** Andalusia, Spain
- **Results:** Assessment and quantification of the carbon sink capacity of seagrass meadows and coastal marshlands. Approval of the Andalusian Blue Carbon Credit Certification Standard. Elaboration of a Catalogue for blue carbon projects.
- **More information:** [Layman’s report](#) and [LIFE Public Database](#)



Key Challenges to applying for LIFE finance



- There is **significant competition** for LIFE funds
- New **IT environment** and **applications forms**
- Proposals that **fail are either poorly prepared** or simply with limited ambition or risk taking



Project Design

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



Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

Award Criteria

There are 4 Award Criteria:

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Quality
- 3) Impact
- 4) Resources

Possible bonus points:

- Synergies between LIFE sub-programmes
- Outermost Regions and areas with specific needs and vulnerabilities
- Up-scaling results of other European Union funded projects
- Exceptional catalytic potential
- Transnational cooperation among Member States

- The award criteria are scored 0-20 and the score of criterion 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1,5.
- The bonuses are based on yes/no criteria. They do not foresee a graduation: either 0 or 2 points are assigned to each proposal



Award criteria

1. Relevance (0-20 points)

- Relevance of the contribution to one or several of the specific objectives of the LIFE programme and the targeted sub-programme;
- Extent to which the project is in line with the description included in the call for proposals, including, where relevant, its specific priorities;
- Soundness of the overall intervention logic;
- Extent to which the project offers co-benefits and promotes synergies with other policy areas relevant for achieving environment and climate policy objectives.



Award criteria

2. Quality (0-20 points)

- Clarity, relevance and feasibility of the work plan;
- Appropriate geographic focus of the activities;
- Quality of the plan to monitor and report impacts;
- Identification and mobilisation of the relevant stakeholders;
- Appropriateness and quality of the proposed measures to communicate and disseminate the project and its results to different target groups.



Award criteria

3. Impact (0-20 points)

- Ambition and credibility of impacts expected during and/or after the project due to the proposed activities, including potential negative impacts on the other specific objectives of the LIFE programme, including ensuring that no substantial harm is done to those objectives.
- Sustainability of the project results after the end of the project.
- Potential for the project results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places, or to be up-scaled by public or private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources (catalytic potential).
- Quality of the measures for the exploitation of project results.



Award criteria

4. Resources (0-20 points)

- Composition of the project team - of a consortium or of a sole beneficiary - in terms of expertise, skills and responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure.
- Appropriateness of the budget and resources and their consistency with the proposed work plan.
- Transparency of the budget, i.e. the cost items should be sufficiently described.
- Extent to which the project environmental impact is considered and mitigated, including through the use of green procurement. The use of recognised methods for the calculation of the project environmental footprint (e.g. PEF or OEF methods or similar ones) or environmental management systems (e.g. EMAS) would be an asset.
- Value-for-money of the proposed project.



All LIFE 2023 Calls - Admissibility Criteria

- Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline
- Proposals must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System
- Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided inside the Submission System
- Project acronym — Your project acronym must include the word LIFE.
- Your application must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Page limit must be respected - please do not delete the instructions in the application forms to gain more space



All LIFE 2023 Calls - Eligibility Criteria

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries: listed EEA countries and countries associated to the LIFE Programme (associated countries) or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature → Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova and Republic of North Macedonia.
 - No grant agreement will be signed if the related association agreement has not entered into force by the end of the evaluation process
- The coordinator must be established in an eligible country.
- Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the Participant Register — before submitting the proposal
- Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc.
- There might specific consortium composition requirements applicable to certain calls. These are listed in the relevant call document (section 6).



All LIFE 2023 Calls - Eligibility Criteria

Geographic location (target countries)

- Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries. Projects with activities outside the EU must be necessary to achieve EU environmental and climate objectives and ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried within the EU (e.g. actions aimed at the conservation of migratory birds in wintering areas, actions implemented on a trans boundary river, or projects aimed to address environmental problems that cannot be solved successfully or efficiently unless actions are carried out also in non-EU countries).



All LIFE 2023 Calls - Eligibility Criteria

The following activities are not considered as eligible for LIFE funding:

- research;
- statutory responsibilities of the competent authority;
- activities outside the duration of the project;
- activities which are not clearly related to the objective(s) of the project
- Compensation measures



Start early ... start now!

1

Call opening:
18 April 2023

First submission deadline:
05 September 2023



Must read

- LIFE Web site https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en – **LIFE project database**
- **Call documents** ([Funding & tender opportunities portal](#))
- **LIFE Regulation and Multi-annual work-programme**
- **[LIFE Info Days!](#)**



We encourage you when completing and submitting your application form to proactively give access and request support from your LIFE National Contact Point



Good luck!

<https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life>

