



Unveiling LIFE Strategic Projects: SIPs & SNAPs

The Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) and Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs) support Member States in implementing nature, environment and climate plans and strategies.

They have replaced LIFE's Integrated Projects (IPs) which were funded between 2014 and 2020.

Since 2021, the LIFE Programme has invested **over €349 million in 20 Strategic Projects.**

LIFE Strategic Projects
in EU countries.

European Climate,
Infrastructure
and Environment
Executive Agency

Integrated Projects' impact

The [70 Integrated Projects](#) helped implement plans, programmes and strategies on a regional, multiregional or national level. They have helped, and several continue to help, Member States comply with key EU legislation in seven areas: nature conservation, water, air, circular economy, waste management, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.

The projects had a combined budget of more than **€1.27 billion**. They also mobilised more than **€30 billion in complementary funding** from other EU and national funds and the private sector.

Building on this success

Building on this experience and recognising the need for more targeted and elaborate measures to help protect our planet, LIFE has added **more features** to Strategic Projects. These include a broader range of targeted policy areas with an increased emphasis on **good governance, capacity building**, and involving all **relevant stakeholders** in the process. Also included is support for effectively **mainstreaming LIFE's objectives** and priorities into other policies, sectors and financing instruments. And there is a focus on the **EU's missions** on soil, on adaption to climate change, and on climate-neutral and smart cities. Finally, the mobilisation of **complementary funding** is expected to be an essential element of LIFE Strategic Projects.

Strategic Projects in a nutshell

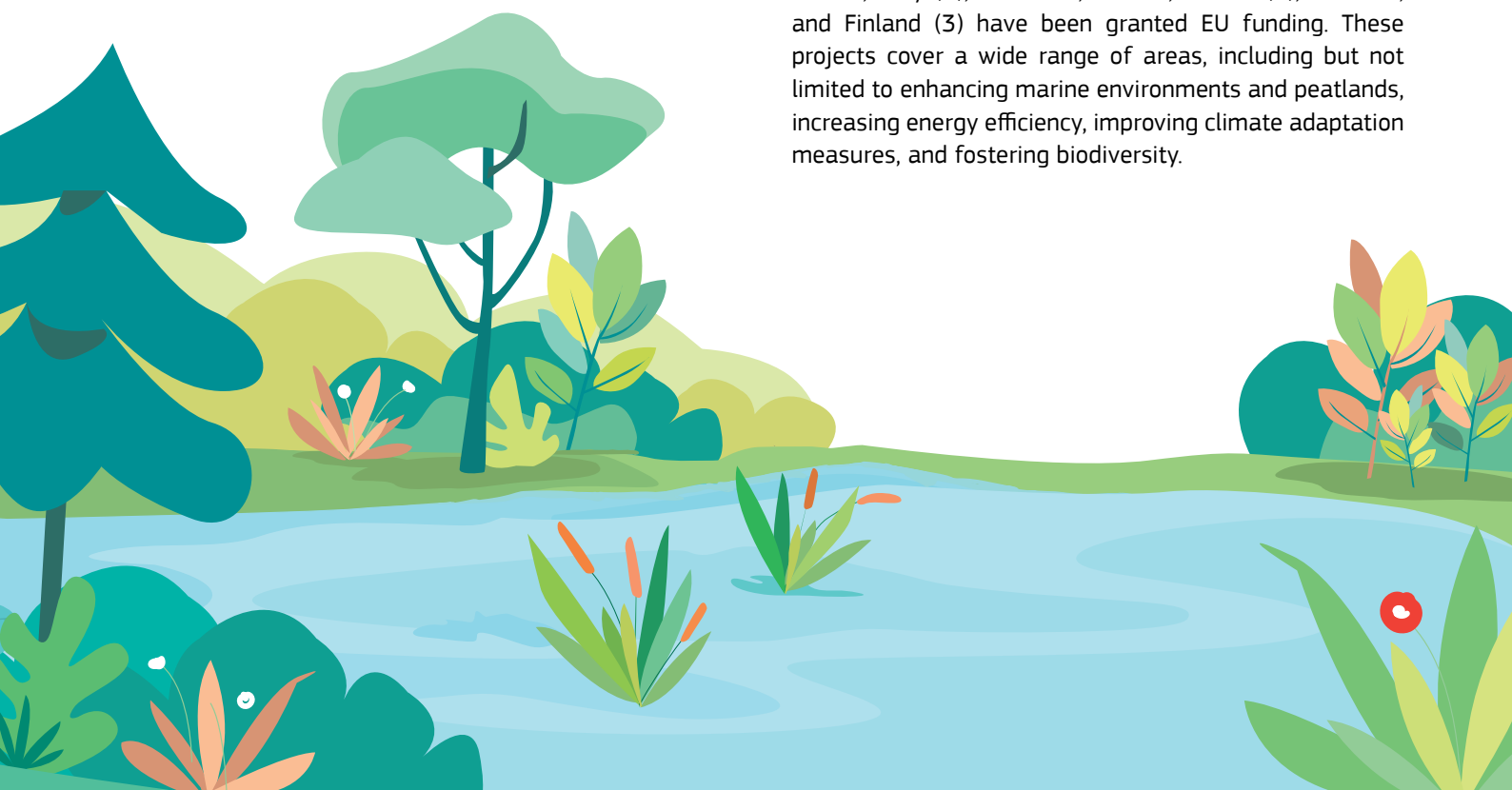
The [LIFE Programme](#) is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action, and it is one of the key contributors to the [European Green Deal's](#) objectives. These include reaching continental climate neutrality by 2050, protecting, conserving and enhancing the EU's natural capital and ensuring citizens' well-being.

Strategic Projects are a type of action under LIFE:

SNAPs support the EU's nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing action programmes to help EU countries mainstream their nature and biodiversity policy objectives into other policies and financing instruments. The projects will implement the prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) adopted under the EU's [Habitats Directive](#) and other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, regional or multiregional levels by nature and biodiversity authorities. Together, these plans and strategies help implement EU nature and biodiversity policy or legislation and include specific and measurable actions, or targets, with a clear timeline and budget.

SIPs aim to implement environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities on a regional, multiregional, national or transnational scale. They also contribute to national, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or low carbon economy roadmaps. These strategies are required by specific EU environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy. SIPs ensure that stakeholders from different sectors and areas are involved.

Since the introduction of SIPs and SNAPs, 20 projects from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Ireland (2), Spain (2), France, Italy (2), Lithuania, Austria, Poland (3), Slovakia, and Finland (3) have been granted EU funding. These projects cover a wide range of areas, including but not limited to enhancing marine environments and peatlands, increasing energy efficiency, improving climate adaptation measures, and fostering biodiversity.



What's the difference between Standard Action Projects and Strategic Projects?

	STANDARD ACTION PROJECTS	STRATEGIC PROJECTS
SCOPE	One or several priorities under the LIFE environment and climate action sub-programmes.	Specific areas of intervention related to certain strategic plans related to nature, biodiversity, air, water, floods, marine strategies, waste, circular economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation.
GEOGRAPHIC SCALE	Local, multi-city, regional, multi-regional, national or transnational.	Regional, multi-city, multi-regional, national or transnational.
LINK TO A PLAN OR STRATEGY ALIGNED WITH EU/ NATIONAL LEGISLATION	Optional.	Yes. Projects must contribute to fully implementing such a plan or strategy.
MOBILISATION OF COMPLEMENTARY FUNDS	Not required.	Yes. Project must mobilise at least one other relevant EU, national or private funding source.
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT	Expected.	Compulsory.
AVERAGE PROJECT PERIOD	1 - 5 years.	5 - 10 years.
TYPE OF PROJECTS	Pilot, demonstration, best practice or information, awareness-raising and dissemination projects.	Best practice that can be combined with pilot, demonstration and information, awareness-raising and dissemination aspects. A capacity-building element is mandatory.
CONSORTIUM REQUIREMENTS	1 participant may be sufficient.	At least 2 participants.

TO SUMMARISE, LIFE STRATEGIC PROJECTS AIM TO:

- Support the implementation of a targeted plan/strategy/action plan at a large territorial scale.
- Remove administrative, financial, structural and other barriers to implementation.
- Increase skills and knowledge through training.
- Improve the participation of relevant stakeholders in the projects.
- Mobilise additional finance for complementary actions from national and/or other EU funding instruments and programmes.
- Support effective mainstreaming of LIFE's objectives and priorities into other policies, sectors and financing instruments.
- Link to the EU's missions on soil, on adaptation to climate change, and on climate-neutral and smart cities.

Learn more

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How to apply for LIFE funding

The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals. Full details are available at ec.europa.eu/life

Contact

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Find out more

You can learn more about LIFE SIPs and SNAPs on our [LIFE 2024 Calls for proposals page](#). From 23 to 26 April 2024, CINEA will hold virtual information sessions to guide potential applicants through the LIFE 2024 Calls for proposals.

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