



European
Commission

Life

Integrated Projects



Integrated Projects support authorities in EU Member States to implement environmental and climate plans, programmes and strategies developed at regional, multi-regional or national level. They help Member States to comply with key EU legislation in six areas:



**Prioritised
Action Frameworks**
required under
the **Habitats
Directive**



**River Basin
Management Plans**
required under the
**Water Framework
Directive**



**Air Quality
Plans** required
under the **Air
Quality Directive**



**Waste Management
Plans** and/or
**Waste Prevention
Programmes** required
under the **Waste
Framework Directive**



Implementation of **green-
house gas mitigation
strategies, action
plans** or **roadmaps**
for the transition to a **low
carbon society**



Implementation
of **adaptation
strategies** or **action
plans** for the transition
to a **climate
resilient society**

In each of these areas there is a strategy, a vision of what we need to do to make Europe greener. Delivering that vision can be challenging. That's where Integrated Projects can really help.

Mobilise and coordinate complementary funding: The unique feature of Integrated Projects is that they help Member States to make a better and more coordinated use of other EU funding sources, including agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, as well as national funds and private sector investments. This enables Integrated Projects to start the ball rolling on the route to full implementation of environmental and climate plans and strategies.

Multi-purpose: Integrated Projects develop delivery mechanisms that make it possible to achieve results and create jobs in more than one of the six areas as well as in other policies, such as rural development. They can also mainstream environmental and climate action objectives into those areas.

Build capacity and actively involve stakeholders: Integrated Projects build strategic capacities among competent authorities and stakeholders to ensure the **long-term sustainability** of project actions and results. Key to this is **actively involving stakeholders** in the design and implementation of the project, or in actions that complement the work of the project. Through the well-coordinated and effective delivery of plans and strategies to implement EU environmental and climate objectives, Integrated Projects will provide a **replicable model** for other regions and Member States.

The story so far: Since their introduction in 2014, 70 Integrated Projects have been funded in 25 Member States (and involving actions in 26 countries). These projects have a combined budget of more than €1.27 billion. They also mobilise and coordinate the use of more than **€30 billion in complementary funding** from other EU and national funds as well as from the private sector.



Photo: LIFE11 NAT/LU/000858

NATURE

BNIP provides an improved operational framework for nature conservation in Belgium through Prioritised Action Frameworks.

The **Belgian Nature Integrated Project (BNIP)** is a lever for achieving targets set by the Federal, Flemish and Walloon Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for 2014-2020. This PAF focuses on the conservation of natural areas, restoration of habitats and preservation of species. To meet those targets, the competent authorities in different parts of Belgium need financial support from other funds and better coordination with other policy sectors.

This LIFE Integrated Project is enabling both to happen. The team is working to substantially improve policy, capacity and knowledge building. They are also looking to improve cooperation between authorities across the country.

The project also helps those authorities to access complementary funding under the new rural development programme for Flanders and Wallonia. This money will be used to invest in afforestation and forest management programmes and to facilitate management agreements for conservation in agriculture.

BNIP partners are developing various tools and databases to monitor and improve Natura 2000 site management. One example is a tailor-made geographic information system (GIS) that can identify areas with wildlife infrastructure barriers.

The partners will also give stakeholders a greater say in decision-making and develop integrated site management plans and monitoring programmes.

BNIP hosted a major platform meeting attended by all LIFE Integrated Projects in October 2019. At the meeting, participants highlighted how Integrated Projects bring much added value to Natura 2000 governance.



WATER

An ambitious German project shows the benefits of coordinated action. It is helping to implement a river basin management plan and reconcile competing interests on the River Lahn.

The Lahn is an eastern tributary of the Rhine. Commercial navigation of the river ended in the 1980s, but much of the old heavy infrastructure remains. This is a barrier to improving the ecological status of the river to be in line with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. **Living River Lahn** enables multiple agencies and stakeholders to come together to reconcile many interests and pressures, including navigation, hydropower, nature protection, flood protection, tourism, agriculture and climate change.

The team has been introducing multiple ecological improvements to the river. For example, around 100 000 m³ of soil were moved on a span of the river about 1.5 km long near Marburg. This soil was replaced with new structures and diverse habitats for the benefit of rare animal species.

By 2025, 50 actions will have improved the river's ecology and made it more attractive for people to use.

A second aspect of the project is the creation of a future concept of the river that will be implemented after 2025. This is part of a German national strategy to create a "blue belt" of waterways, including a core net for navigation and a second layer of waterways upgraded for recreation and environmental protection.



Photo: LIFE06 ENV/E/000044

AIR

The **LIFE-IP MAŁOPOLSKA** Integrated Project is working to improve air quality in Poland's Małopolska province.

Although European air quality has seen huge improvements, there are many regions in which the air is still polluted and unclear, negatively impacting the health of local citizens. In the Małopolska region in southeast Poland, over 60% of houses have boilers that are often used to burn coal and even rubbish, leading to high smog levels especially during the heating season.

In 2020, the team launched an information and education campaign that presents the benefits of replacing coal boilers with modern heating devices. These benefits include better health and comfort, lower heating costs and cleaner air.

The **LIFE-IP MAŁOPOLSKA** team is implementing the existing Małopolska Air Quality Plan. Project partners have also established a network of 60 so-called 'eco-managers' who are responsible for implementing air quality initiatives in the region's cities and towns. And they are advising the public on how to stop using old stoves and solid fuel boilers.

The project's success is evident in that many municipalities have continued to join the partnership since its outset.

The team's work is expected to improve air quality for over 20 million citizens.

In fact, between 2014 and 2020, air pollution during the heating season fell by 30% in Małopolska and by up to 45% in Kraków.



WASTE

LIFE IP Smart Waste aims to fully implement the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur’s (PACA) waste plans so that they comply with the EU’s Waste Framework Directive.

On average, each person living in PACA produces around 400 kg of waste per year and this is directly sent to landfill or incineration. This amount is well above France’s national average.

To counter this, the team behind this Integrated Project is developing circular economy innovations to improve waste collection, treatment and recycling.

The team has recently added 13 new beneficiaries to the partnership. This will extend the project’s reach to the entire territory and significantly boost the region’s waste management plan. This plan aims at introducing innovative IT solutions to reduce waste and it also sets out better ways to manage organic waste.

Training is on offer to improve the skills of those responsible for waste in local communities and businesses.

Sharing examples of good practices is also a priority as this will increase the uptake of the project’s approach.

The ultimate goal is to improve the waste recycling rate from 29% to 65% by 2025 and to gain public support for the new approach. With less waste generated, greenhouse gas emissions are expected to fall by 30% by the time to project ends in 2026.

Most of the project’s 138 actions are underway with just a few yet to commence.



CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

ZENAPA shows that coordinated strategic, practical and financial support can achieve the goals of a climate protection plan that combines climate change mitigation with nature protection.

As part of its climate protection plan, Germany has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050. Climate action should not be at nature’s expense, however. This requires well-coordinated measures and access to funds.

Zero Emissions Nature Protection Areas (ZENAPA) is showing the way. This LIFE Integrated Project involves 11 protected areas in nine regions of Germany and one region of Luxembourg, where a range of nature-friendly carbon mitigation measures are being introduced. These include solar, wind and hydropower, energy hedges, biogas, biochar and battery-powered chainsaws.

In June 2020, the European Association for Renewable Energy (EUROSOLAR) awarded the German Solar Prize 2020 to the NEMo project, a zero-emission mobility centre. This high-performance charging site received support from ZENAPA and the state environment ministry.

One community, Rhaunen, is becoming a ‘model district’ that showcases all of the zero emissions technologies and systems being introduced by ZENAPA. These include energy efficient street lighting, electric vehicles and bat and bird-friendly solar roofs.

Project partners are also piloting a revolving fund to reinvest profits from green energy in innovative energy-biodiversity systems. This will show the potential of regions as incubators for the wider uptake of the project’s climate change mitigation and energy production measures.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

C2CCC creates a climate-resilient region in Central Denmark by implementing climate adaptation plans.

Climate change is bringing more rain, more powerful storms and rising groundwater and sea levels to Denmark. The **COAST TO COAST CLIMATE CHALLENGE (C2CCC)** Integrated Project enables the regional government of Midtjylland (‘Central Denmark’) to work together with 30 partners to create a climate resilient region.

Key to this is the full implementation of local climate adaptation plans related to managing more water. The project’s integrated approach to flood risk management identifies and enhances the resources and capabilities of citizens, municipalities, utilities and companies in the water industry.

In December 2020, the team opened its international climate centre known as Climatorium in Lemvig. Climatorium’s mission is to develop and share new solutions to climate change challenges. It is also a meeting place for the public to debate climate issues.







Central to this are cross-cutting capacity-building actions that focus on seas and fjords, rivers, groundwater and rainwater, developing tools and innovations and improving governance in each of these areas.

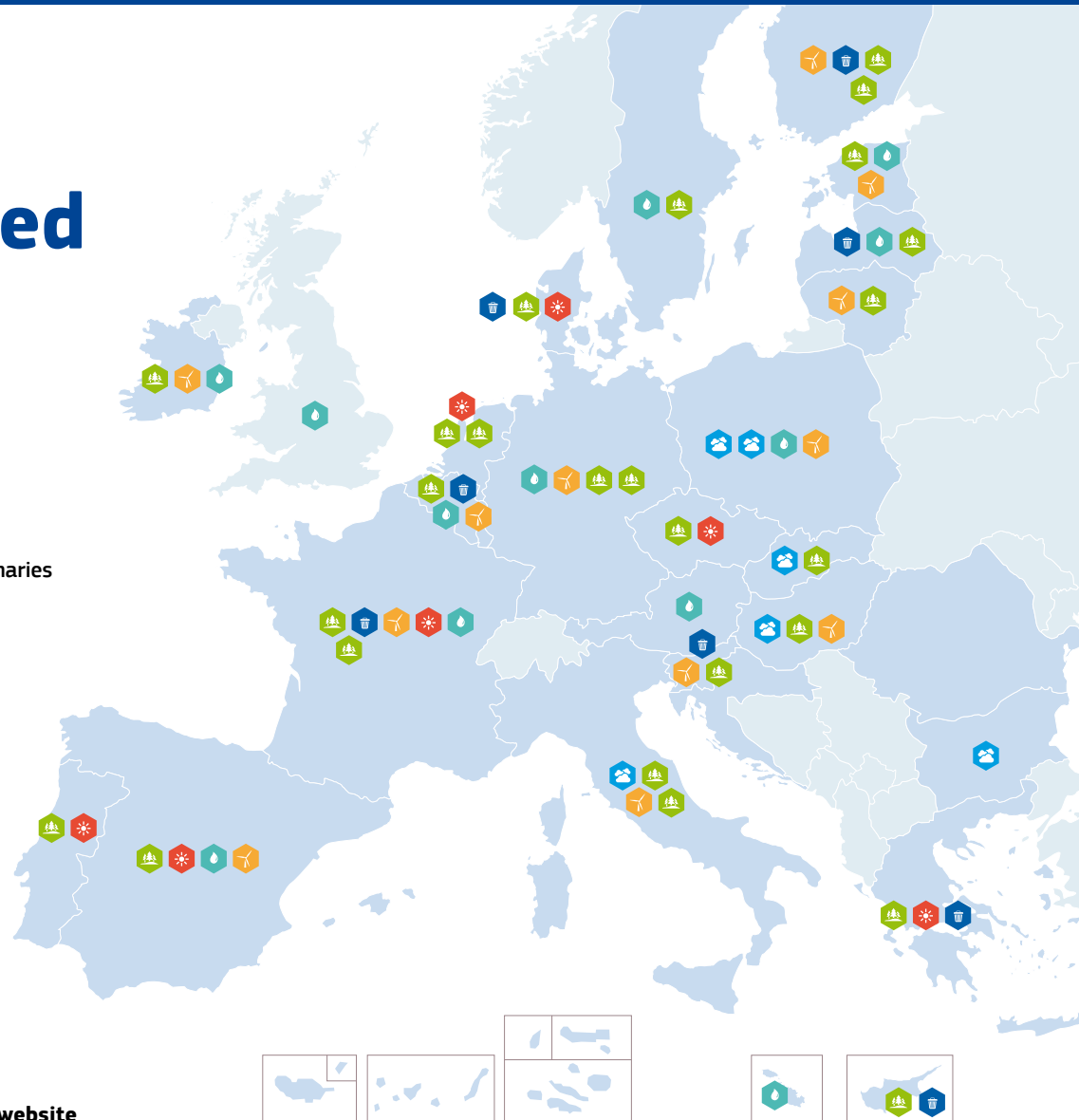
Innovative interdisciplinary projects will raise public awareness, develop new technologies, add eco-tourism infrastructure and showcase the cultural and natural history of the region.

70 Integrated Projects so far

2014 ▶ 2020





Click on the map icons to see
the corresponding project summaries

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- 12  **Climate Change Mitigation**
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You can see a **complete list** of
LIFE Integrated Projects **on our website**

Learn more

 ec.europa.eu/life  LIFE programme
 @LIFEprogramme  LIFE programme

How to apply for LIFE funding

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

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PDF EF-06-22-087-EN-N

ISBN 978-92-9208-119-5

doi: 10.2840/68349

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