

LIFE Programme in Latvia



Facts and figures

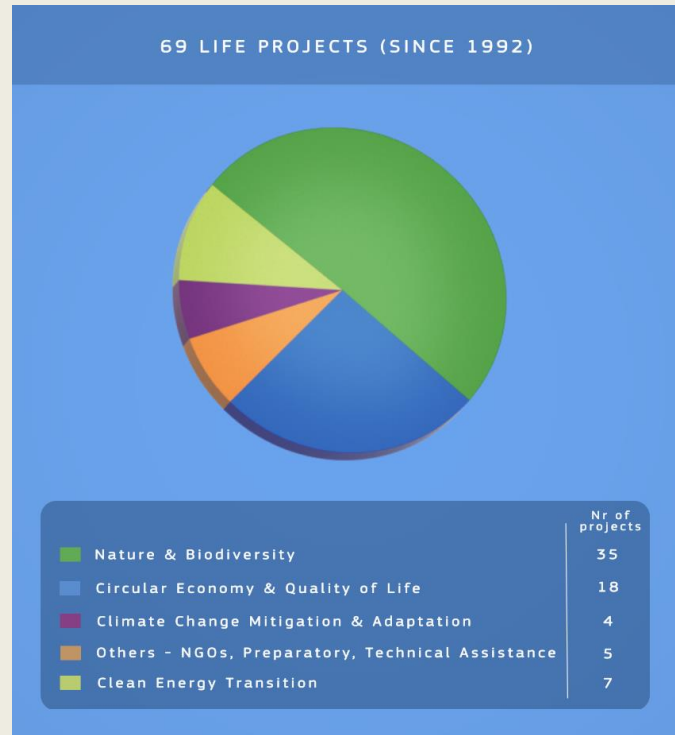
The LIFE Programme has funded 69 projects in Latvia over 38 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €149.5m, of which the EU contributed €92m.

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising more over €12 billion and contributing with more than €5 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The LIFE programme contributes fully to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The budget for the period 2021–2027 is set at €5.4 billion.

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (**)



INVESTMENT IN LIFE PROJECTS IN LATVIA (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	149.5	92
Nature & Biodiversity	81	49.5
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	47.5	27.5
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	9.5	7
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	2	1.5
Clean Energy Transition	4.2	4

(*) Past and closed projects are designated in this document with the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 nomenclature

(**) The new CET sub-programme comprises mostly multi-country projects and all participants are included in the figures



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LIFE Climate change mitigation and adaptation strand will support actions which help implement the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and meet the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Projects under this strand will contribute to a renewable energy based- and climate- resilient economy. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, the Climate Change strand has co-financed four projects in Latvia. The total investment for these projects amounts to €9.5 million, of which the EU is contributing €7 million.

The closed LIFE REstore project established a decision-support system for responsible and sustainable re-use and management of degraded peatland in Latvia.

The two other projects are ongoing. LIFE CRAFT's objective is to implement, evaluate, promote and provide guidance on effective and economically feasible, climate-responsible agricultural methods, while preserving stable incomes for farmers. The aim of the LIFE OrgBalt is to implement innovative climate change mitigation measures in nutrient-rich organic soils in the temperate cool and moist (TCM) climate zone. LIFE PeatCarbon aims to implement Climate Change Mitigation measures in peatlands, and demonstrate innovative tools and applicable methods for greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring.



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

Building on the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003-2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014-2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy. In particular, it aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy across Europe.

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports projects in the following five areas of intervention:

- 1) Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- 2) Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- 3) Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- 4) Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- 5) Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition.

To date, Latvia is coordinating two projects co-funded under this strand. Ekodoma is the leading partner of projects KNOWnNEBs and OwnYourSECAP. KNOWnNEBs aims to develop a new calculation methodology and result presenting approach for enterprises to clearly show and assess their potential overall benefit including the multiple benefits of energy efficiency as well as non-energy benefits (NEBs) from the implementation of energy efficiency measures, fostering the investments in energy efficiency and sustainable actions. OwnYourSECAP aims to deliver a systematic approach to development and implementation of sustainable energy and climate action plans in municipalities using 1) energy management systems (EnMS) concept according to ISO 50001 standard, 2) climate adaptation in municipalities concept according to ISO 14092, and 3) innovative engagement approaches. These two projects represent a total investment of €3.4 million, of which the EU is contributing 95%.

Latvia also participates in five other projects, as follows: EKODOMA, Riga Municipal Agency "Riga Energy Agency" and Wit Berry in the REVERTER project; Rigas Planosanas Regions in the ENERGATE project; Rigas Planosanas Regions in the SRI-ENACT project; Vidzemes Planosanas Regions in the CESEU-DIGIT project; and Ekonomikas Ministrija in the CAEPBD6 project. This represents a total investment of €0.8 million, of which the EU is contributing 0.7.



LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

The Nature and Biodiversity strand includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as “Strategic Nature Projects” (SNAP). These new projects support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States in order to mainstream those objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the prioritised action frameworks adopted pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 35 projects in Latvia. These represent a total investment of €81 million, of which €49.5 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed projects have mostly dealt with the conservation, restoration and management of habitats (wetlands, coastal/marine protected areas, floodplains, raised bogs, corncrake habitats in the Dviete floodplain Natura 2000 site, grasslands, bittern habitats in two coastal lakes in Latvia, and wooded meadows) and species (lesser-spotted eagle, black stork, and endangered hermit beetle species). One aimed to restore the biological diversity of a military training area and Natura 2000 site (“Adazi”) and one restored the hydrological functions of the Kemeru National Park. The projects were mainly coordinated by NGOs, national parks and universities, and a national authority.

There are four ongoing projects in Latvia. One project is focused on the conservation of lesser-spotted eagle. Another project aims to mitigate heavy anthropogenic pressures and to restore vulnerable coastal habitats in Piejūra Nature Park. GrassLIFE is developing, optimising and improving the conservation status of five EU priority grasslands in Latvia. The LIFE REEF aims to contribute to a comprehensive management system of marine protected areas in Latvia. LIFE MarshMeadows aims to establish and demonstrate the intrinsic link between fully-functioning natural ecosystems and economic benefits for local communities. The most recently co-funded GrassLIFE2 project aims to upscale the work done in previous GrassLIFE project and tackle all major factors that have led to unfavourable conservation status of grassland habitats in Latvia.

There is one Nature Strategic project ongoing. LIFE-IP LatViaNature’s objectives are summarised below.



Better nature reserve management for Latvia (LIFE-IP LatViaNature) LIFE19 IPE/LV/000010

The Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Latvia’s Natura 2000 network provides a list of habitats and species for which actions should be taken to improve their conservation status. The Framework also includes a cost assessment of these actions. The country’s Natura 2000 network comprises 326 terrestrial and seven marine sites. But there remain shortcomings and gaps.

This Integrated Project will ensure that Latvia’s PAF runs according to plan. The project team, led by the Nature Conservation Agency, will address existing gaps and help to ensure the favourable conservation status of terrestrial habitats and species. They will also develop better site management plans, new mechanisms for nature conservation on private land, and a centralised data portal for nature conservation. The control of invasive alien species is also a priority.

[Project summary](#)



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Actions supported under the Circular economy and quality of life strand will help in reaching major EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the environment and life. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 18 projects in Latvia thus far, representing a total investment of €47.5 million, of which €27.5 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects have covered a wide range of themes: coastal protection, noise pollution abatement, sustainable tourism (the development of a sustainable tourism management model for the Natura 2000 site, Slītere National Park), water management, integrated environmental management (EMAS II implementation by local authorities in new Member States), energy-labelling of apartments, the management of municipal waste, climate change (aiming to ensure that climate change impacts on hydrological processes are adequately investigated and taken into account in city planning systems), and assessment of ecosystem services. The range of coordinating beneficiary types was wide, including NGOs, a university (Riga Technical University), local and a regional authorities, a development agency, an SME and a public enterprise.

There are two ongoing projects. LIFE_PHIPP will demonstrate the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of a new type of building insulation material made of recycled paper and hemp fibre. LIFE-ALFIO will pilot the use of a non-toxic substitute for biocides found in paints and coatings. It will develop 16 biocide-free paint and coating formulas using an organoclay-based material developed by ALINA.

Two ongoing Strategic projects have been co-funded in Latvia so far. The LIFE GoodWater IP aims to improve the status of water bodies at risk in Latvia by means of the full implementation of the measures laid down in the Daugava, Gauja, Lielupe and Venta River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). The objectives of the most recent LIFE Waste To Resources IP project are summarised below.



More recycling for less waste and landfilling (LIFE Waste to Resources IP) LIFE20 IPE/LV/000014

In Latvia, higher recycling rates for municipal solid waste and packaging waste must meet the 2025 targets set out under the country's National Waste Management Plan (2021-2028). However, the current low quality of separately collected waste jeopardises its further recycling and use. Also, the separate collection of biodegradable waste must happen in all Latvian municipalities by the end of 2023.

The country's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development aims to reduce waste generation through this Integrated Project. They will implement the National Waste Management Plan's measures to reach this goal. Specifically, they plan to improve the separate collection of waste and the up-cycling and reuse of municipal waste. They also want to better recycle packaging waste and divert biodegradable waste and recyclables from landfill. Thanks to the project, almost 23 000 tonnes per year of waste – more than twice the weight of the Eiffel Tower – will avoid being sent to landfill.

[Project summary](#)

Want to know more about LIFE?

- Visit the [LIFE website](#) and [LIFE project database](#)

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



- Sign up to the [LIFE Programme](#) and [CINEA Clean Energy](#) Newsletters

- Contact the LIFE National Contact Point in your Member State:

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Restoring EU priority grasslands and promoting their multiple use	LIFE16 NAT/LV/000262	GrassLIFE	https://grasslife.lv/	09/2017 → 03/2023
Research of marine protected habitats in EEZ and determination of the necessary conservation status in Latvia	LIFE19 NAT/LV/000973	LIFE REEF	https://reef.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/manager_of_invasive_species/	09/2020 → 08/2025
Piloting integrated wetland restoration approaches in Latvia and Lithuania	LIFE20 NAT/LV/000273	LIFE MarshMeadows	N/A	10/2021 → 09/2027
Restoring EU priority grassland habitats and building a new narrative for their management	LIFE21-NAT-LV- GrassLIFE2/101073 829	GrassLIFE2	N/A	01/2023 → 12/2028
Threatened species in Latvia: improved knowledge, capacity, data and awareness	LIFE19 GIE/LV/000857	LIFE FOR SPECIES	https://lubi.lu.lv/parmums/zinas/zina/t/63475/	10/2020 → 12/2024
Optimising the Governance and Management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia	LIFE19 IPE/LV/000014	LIFE-IP LatViaNature	https://latvianature.daba.gov.lv/	08/2020 → 12/2028

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Alina Life Formulations in Open-Source Platform	LIFE17 ENV/LV/000318	LIFE-ALFIO	https://alina-premium.com/lie-alfio/	07/2018→ 10/2023
Paper-hemp insulation pilot production	LIFE17 ENV/LV/000335	LIFE PHIPP	https://www.balticfloc.lv/	08/2018→ 06/2023
Implementation of River Basin Management Plans of Latvia towards good surface water status	LIFE18 IPE/LV/000014	LIFE GoodWater IP	https://goodwater.lv/	01/2020→ 12/2027
Waste To Resources Latvia - boosting regional sustainability and circularity	LIFE20 IPE/LVI/000014	LIFE Waste To Resources IP	https://www.varam.gov.lv/en/article/ambitious-life-program-project-launched-implement-concept-waste-resource?utm_source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F	11/2021→ 12/2028

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Climate Responsible Agriculture for Latvia	LIFE16 CCM/LV/000083	LIFE CRAFT	https://ldf.lv/en/projects/life-craft-climate-responsible-agriculture-latvia	04/2018 → 06/2023
Demonstration of climate change mitigation potential of nutrients rich organic soils in Baltic States and Finland	LIFE18 CCM/LV/001158	LIFE OrgBalt	https://www.orgbalt.eu/	08/2019 → 09/2023

Ongoing Clean Energy Transition projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Bringing local and regional municipalities towards owning their SECAPs	LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-OwnYourSECAP/101077109	OwnYourSECAP	N/A	09/2022 -> 08/2025
Integration of non-energy benefits into energy audit practices to accelerate the uptake of recommended measures	LIFE21-CET-AUDITS-KNOWnNEBs/101076494	KNOWnNEBs	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2025
Deep REnovation roadmaps to decrease households VulnERability To Energy poveRty	LIFE21-CET-ENERPOV-REVERTER/101076277	REVERTER	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2025
Co-creating Tools and Services for Smart Readiness Indicator Uptake	LIFE21-CET-SMARTREADY-SRI-ENACT/101077201	SRI-ENACT	N/A	12/2022 -> 05/2025
Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's Design and Implementation of regional Government Initiatives for a just energy Transition	LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-CEESEU-DIGIT/101077297	CEESEU-DIGIT	N/A	12/2022 -> 11/2024
Energy Efficiency Aggregation platform for Sustainable Investments	LIFE21-CET-MAINSTREAM-ENERGATE/101076349	ENERGATE	N/A	01/2023 -> 06/2025