



LIFE Programme in Austria

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 6 000 projects across the EU and in neighbouring countries. LIFE has contributed almost €8 billion to these projects, amounting to around two-thirds of the projects' overall budget of €12 billion. The LIFE Programme contributes directly to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The LIFE Programme includes the following sub-programmes:

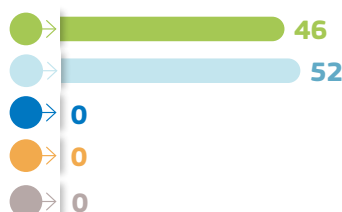
-  NATURE & BIODIVERSITY
-  CIRCULAR ECONOMY & QUALITY OF LIFE
-  CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
-  CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

 BUDGET 2021-2027
→ **€5.4 billion**

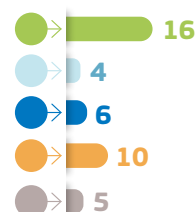


139 LIFE projects¹

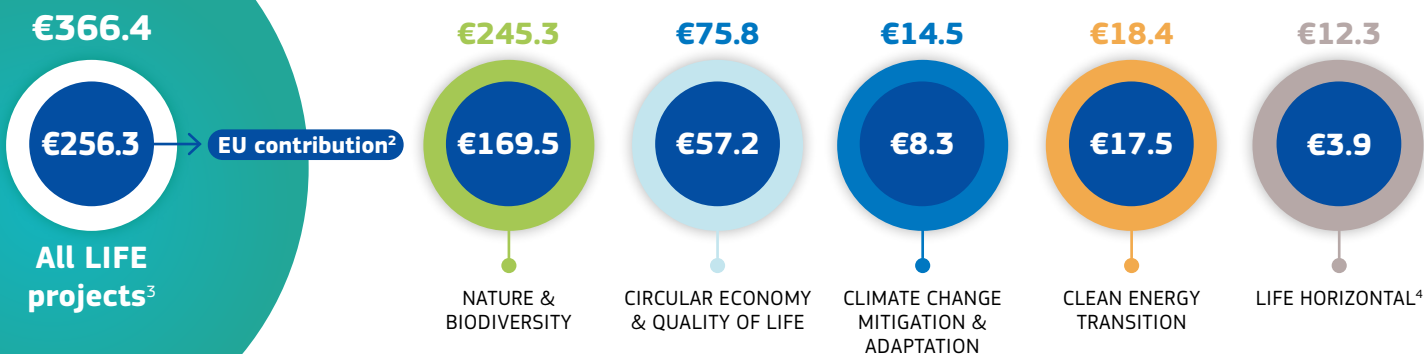
98 LIFE Projects
as coordinator (1992-2013)



41 LIFE Projects
as coordinator (since 2014)



Total investment in LIFE projects since 1992 (€ million)



¹ Total number of project figures refer to projects coordinated by an organisation in the country in question since 1992.

LIFE projects financed since 2014 are publicly available on [QlikSense](https://klik.sense.at).

² Covers EU contribution to both project coordinators and project participants to multi-country projects.

³ Total investment = Eligible cost + Land purchase.

⁴ LIFE HORIZONTAL includes NGO operating grants and Capacity Building (CB) projects. The Technical Assistance (TA) and Preparatory (PRE) projects are included under the relevant sub-programmes.



FOCUS ON 2023-2024

LIFE NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

The Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme aims to protect and restore Europe's nature and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The subprogramme contributes to the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats directives, the development and management of the Natura 2000 network, the Invasive Alien Species Regulation, and supports the achievement of the objectives of the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the newly adopted EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

> [More information on this sub-programme](#)

TOTAL INVESTMENT
2023-2024
€84.7 million

EU contribution
€53 million



LIFE+ Wilderness Wetland Wachau

> [Project summary](#)

Building on previous LIFE projects, this closed project complemented the restoration and conservation of sidearms and floodplain forests of the river Danube in the Wachau area. The project successfully improved the sidearm system and alluvial forests near Rührsdorf and Rossatz. Results included notably the designation of 'Island Schönbühel' and 'Pritzenau' as protected wilderness areas over 62.1 ha.

Preserving and restoring floodplain forest habitats along the Mura-Drava-Danube rivers (LIFE RESTORE for MDD)

> [Project summary](#)

This project aims to conserve and restore the largest contiguous riparian forest system in the Danube River Basin. Riparian forests make up 49.4% of the area's forest structure. Over 5 years, 17 partners from Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia and Serbia will restore and improve 2 472 ha of floodplains and 45 230 m of water bodies, and remove 966 000 m³ of sediments. The project area spans over 2 000 km², connecting 17 Natura 2000 sites in the UNESCO 5-country Mura-Drava-Danube biosphere reserve.

PARTICIPANT in 6 ONGOING PROJECTS

1 GERMANY

[wildLIFEcrime](#)

2 HUNGARY

[DRAVA LIFE](#)

3 ITALY

[LIFE ProForPES](#)

4 POLAND

[LIFE Apollo2020](#)

5 SLOVAKIA

[LIFE DANUBE FREE SKY](#)
[LIFE Microtus II](#)

Austrian partners are also participating in 6 ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects in 5 other EU Member States.



COORDINATOR of 12 ONGOING PROJECTS

Numerous on- going projects in Austria aim to conserve the Danube river habitats and prevent species extinction. The [LIFE Boat 4 Sturgeon](#) project focuses on saving the remaining sturgeon species through captive breeding, while the [LIFE NBI](#) works on increasing the population of the endangered northern bald ibis to over 350 individuals. The [LIFE WILDisland](#) project creates a natural habitat corridor along the Danube, despite agricultural pressures and river modifications. Another initiative, [LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn](#), enhances ecological connectivity and protects endangered fish like sterlet. The [LIFE Pannonic Salt](#) project aims at restoring special habitats in the Natura 2000 site, "Neusiedler See - Nordöstliches Leithagebirge". Moreover, [LIFE RESTORE for MDD](#) focuses on preserving floodplain forests across the Mura-Drava-Danube rivers in Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, and Croatia.



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CIRCULAR ECONOMY & QUALITY OF LIFE

The Circular Economy and Quality of LIFE sub-programme aims to facilitate the transition toward a sustainable, circular, toxic-free, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy and to protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment. The sub-programme mainly supports implementing innovative and best practice solutions, in particular with regard to the circular economy, including recovery of resources from waste, water, air, noise, soil and chemical management as well as environmental governance and the new European Bauhaus. Priority is given to solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale.

> [More information on this sub-programme](#)

TOTAL INVESTMENT

2023-2024

€9.9 million



EU contribution

€4.6 million

PARTICIPANT in 9 ONGOING PROJECTS

Austrian partners are also participating in 9 ongoing LIFE Circular Economy & Quality of Life projects in 5 other EU Member States.

1 GERMANY

[LIFEChemBee](#)

[LIFE CityRiver](#)

2 HUNGARY

[ToxFree LIFE for All](#)

3 ITALY

[LIFE CDW CIRCLE](#)

4 SPAIN

[LIFE ZERO WASTE WATER](#)

[More LIFE to LEVELs](#)

[OLIFECycle](#)

[SALTEAU](#)

5 SWEDEN

[LIFE TREATS](#)



COORDINATOR of 2 ONGOING PROJECTS

The **BIOCHAR-LIFE** project will demonstrate the production of plant-based biochar in the compost cycle and its development to high value-added biochar products. The key innovation is "Pyrodry", a new drying and pyrolysis technology designed in a modular unit format, allowing easily the upgrade to large biochar production and solving the issue of incinerating screening residues. The prototype will convert 5 300 tonnes of biowaste into 1 000 tonnes of biochar each year. The circular innovation will lead to a more cost-effective production of biochar, while substantially reduce the CO₂ emissions.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Floods Directive (FD) shape Austria's river management. Implemented through the RBMP (River Basin Management Plan) and FRMP (Flood Risk Management Plan), they sometimes present conflicting goals. In Austria, national coordination exists, but regional challenges remain. The overall objective of the **LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA** project is to elaborate, test and successfully implement the River Development and Risk Management Concepts (GE-RMs) which address the challenge of streamlining flood protection according to the FD and ecological river restoration as required in the WFD.



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LIFE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

The LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation sub-programme supports actions that support the implementation of 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 contribute to the shift towards a sustainable, energy-efficient, renewable-energy-based, climate-neutral and climate-resilient economy.

> [More information on this sub-programme](#)

TOTAL INVESTMENT

2023-2024

€2.9 million



EU contribution

€1.7 million



HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

Sustainable Viticulture for Climate Change Adaptation

> [Project summary](#)

Austria is also participating in a German LIFE Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation project - LIFE VineAdapt – which aims to increase native biodiversity in vineyards to maximise ecosystem services such as pest control, soil biota, humification (soil organic content), erosion protection, water retention and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.



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COORDINATOR
of **4 ONGOING PROJECTS**

LIFE MOONSET: A consortium from Bulgaria, Austria and Portugal will design, implement and evaluate an innovative demand responsive transport (DRT) shuttle service for nocturnal workers in Vienna and Lisbon. The initiative will: decrease greenhouse gas emissions generated by transport; reduce the reliance on cars of employees with challenging working hours; improve access to workplaces for socio-economically disadvantaged staff members; and encourage employees to adopt sustainable mobility behaviours. DRT shuttle service will be tested first in Vienna and Lisbon, followed by Ruse, Bulgaria.

EmpowerLIFE: The EmpowerLIFE project team aims to provide a concrete and effective DIY approach to tackle rising (energy) prices, fragile supply structures and climate change. The consortium of four Austrian organisations wants to help local communities implement innovative measures and install hubs to enable co-creation. The project activities will be embedded in existing structures and are realised in close cooperation with established initiatives and civil society organisations.

LIFE Retradeables: Fluorinated gases (F-gases) are powerful greenhouse gases used in a range of industrial applications whose emissions have risen by 60% since 1990. The company behind this project, Daikin Airconditioning Central Europe, will develop an “ecosystem” allowing F-gases previously considered as waste to be recovered – for use in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

LIFE EnCAM: The City of Vienna will enhance its resilience to climate change with this project, showing how large environmental projects can incorporate adaptation requirements. The adaptation of selected sections of the river Liesing, by planting trees, for example, will reduce urban heat island effects and improve the attractiveness for recreation while increasing biodiversity.



LIFE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy, in particular, the European Green Deal, the Energy Union (2030 energy and climate targets) and the European Union's 2050 long-term decarbonisation strategy. It aims to facilitate the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy by funding actions of high EU added-value, which are targeted at breaking market barriers that hamper the transition to sustainable energy.

> [More information on this sub-programme](#)



Energy efficiency in regional food processing value chains (LIFE EENOVA)

> [Project summary](#)

The partners behind this project are aiming to support the uptake of energy audit results and the implementation of energy solutions. The project focuses on regional value chains, particularly in the food processing sector, and aims to validate sustainable approaches across 5 food processing value chains in 5 countries. Projected energy savings and renewable energy generation are expected to amount to approximately 1.1 GWh/year, equivalent to the annual energy use of about 344 households, by the end of the project.



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LIFE23-CET-install.res: Heat pump rollout. Simple and affordable

LIFE23-CET-EPREL Services: Tools and services supporting effective exploitation of EPREL

LIFE23-CET-AchieVE-ZEB: Achieving zero emission building stock with viable educational programs

LIFE23-CET-KnowHowHP: Upskilling for boosting heat pump installation in refurbishments

LIFE22-CET-SaveEnergyTogether: Boosting joint emergency energy efficiency first interventions

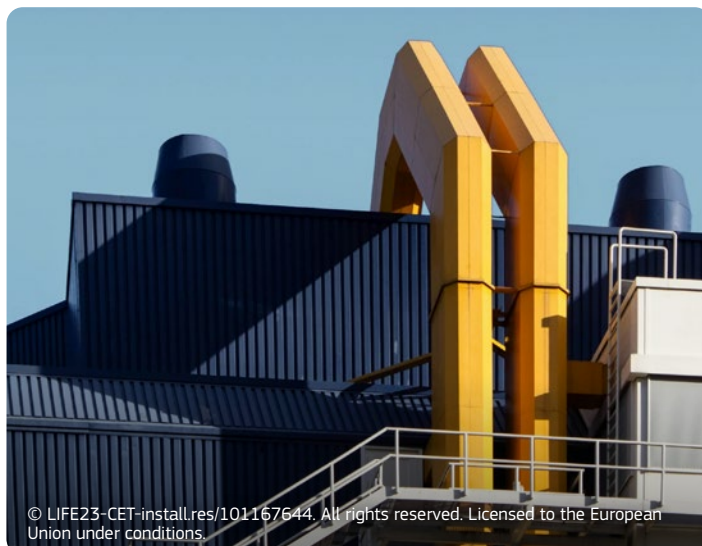
LIFE22-CET-ComplianceServices: Services supporting suppliers and retailers regarding compliance with ecodesign and labelling legislation

LIFE22-CET-EPBD.wise: Effective implementation of the EPBD in line with short-term and long-term policy requirements

LIFE22-CET-EENOVA: Energy efficiency in regional food processing value chains

LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-PLenty-LIFE: Institutionalised cross-sector planning and dedicated capacity building to enable small and medium-sized municipalities to develop and monitor sustainable strategies for the Transition to clean energy

LIFE21-CET-BUILDSKILLS-ReBUSk: Reboot BUILD UP Skills Austria



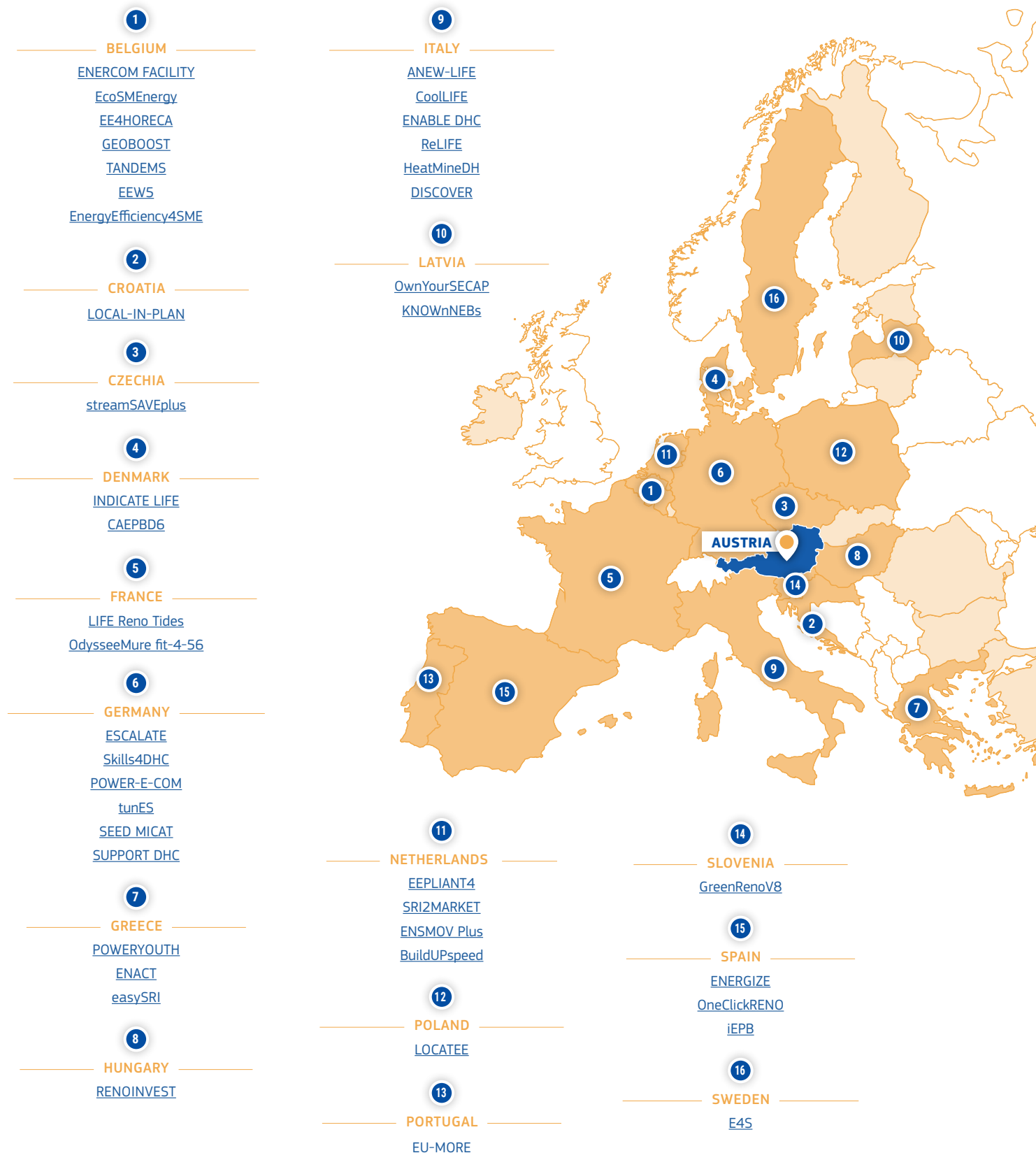
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Participants under the LIFE Clean Energy Transition Sub-programme

Austrian partners are also participating in 42 ongoing LIFE Clean Energy Transition projects in 16 other EU Member States.

PARTICIPANT
in **42 ONGOING**
PROJECTS





LIFE HORIZONTAL

LIFE HORIZONTAL includes NGO operating grants and Capacity Building (CB) projects.

In addition to providing direct co-financing to projects, LIFE also provides operating grants that enable non-profit entities to raise awareness of environmental issues and contribute to policy-making by representing citizens' views.

These organisations facilitate dialogue with stakeholders and ensure public concerns on the environment and climate change are addressed, providing a democratic counter-balance to other interests.

> [More information](#) on this sub-programme

TOTAL INVESTMENT

2023-2024

€1.8 million



EU contribution

€0.7 million



COORDINATOR
of 1 ONGOING
PROJECT

Worldwide fund Central and Eastern Europe (WWF-CEE) aims to conserve Europe's valuable species and wilderness in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Moldova. The FY2025 work programme addresses all 21 objectives from the FY2023-25 FPA, focusing on the EU Green Deal and nature directives to sustainably manage forests and rivers and protect species like large carnivores, bison, and sturgeon in these countries. WWF will engage national authorities to meet biodiversity targets, integrate climate targets into sectoral decisions, and advocate for environmental considerations in funding measures. If unsuccessful, WWF will highlight violations to the EU Commission and courts. Public engagement, especially youth and businesses, will be increased. WWF will also support Ukraine in preparing for EU policies and reconstruction planning.



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WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT LIFE?

VISIT THE [LIFE WEBSITE](#), [LIFE PROJECT DATABASE](#) AND WATCH THE [LIFE PROGRAMME VIDEO](#)

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[WEBSITE](#) → [European National Contact Points - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)



ONGOING LIFE NATURE & BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS COORDINATED BY AUSTRIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
The Enns Blue-Green Corridor Project	LIFE23-NAT-AT-WeNatureEnns	WeNatureEnns	01/06/2024 - 31/05/2031
Restoration and preservation of Pannonic salt lakes and salt steppes of European significance (1530*)	LIFE22-NAT-AT-LIFE Pannonic Salt	LIFE Pannonic Salt	01/09/2023 - 31/08/2028
Preserving and restoring floodplain forest habitats along the Mura-Drava-Danube rivers	LIFE22-NAT-AT-LIFE RESTORE for MDD	LIFE RESTORE for MDD	01/10/2023 - 30/09/2028
Austrian Moor Restoration - Integriertes Projekt zur Umsetzung der Moorstrategie Österreich 2030+	LIFE22-IPN-AT-LIFE AMooRe	LIFE AMooRe	01/01/2024 - 31/12/2033
LIFE Boat to rescue four Danube sturgeon species from extinction	LIFE21-NAT-AT-LIFE Boat 4 Sturgeon	LIFE Boat 4 Sturgeon	01/09/2022 - 28/02/2030
LIFE Northern Bald Ibis	LIFE20 NAT/AT/000049-LIFE NBI	LIFE NBI	01/01/2022 - 31/12/2028
Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor	LIFE20 NAT/AT/000063-LIFE WILDisland	WILDisland	01/09/2021 - 31/08/2027
LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn - Supporting ecological connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along a blue corridor	LIFE20 NAT/AT/001126-LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn	LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn	01/09/2021 - 31/08/2029
Improving livestock protection for the direct benefit of wolf conservation in the German-speaking Alpine Region	LIFE19 NAT/AT/000889-LIFEstockProtect	LIFEstockProtect	01/09/2020 - 31/08/2025
Cross-border protection of the Red Kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality	LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048-LIFE EUROKITE	LIFE EUROKITE	01/08/2019 - 31/01/2027
Dynamic LIFE Lines Danube	LIFE18 NAT/AT/000733-Dynamic LIFE Lines Danube	Dynamic LIFE Lines Danube	15/07/2019 - 30/06/2026
LIFE Network Danube+: Closing the gaps and promoting a river corridor system with an European perspective	LIFE18 NAT/AT/000915-LIFE Network Danube+	LIFE Network Danube+	01/08/2019 - 30/11/2024

ONGOING LIFE CIRCULAR ECONOMY & QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS COORDINATED BY AUSTRIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Demonstrating the production of plant-based biochar in the compost cycle and developing high value-added biochar products	LIFE23-ENV-AT-BIOCHAR-LIFE	BIOCHAR-LIFE	01/06/2024 - 31/05/2027
LIFE IP Integrated River Solutions in Austria	LIFE17 IPE/AT/000006-LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA	LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA	01/12/2018 - 31/12/2027

ONGOING LIFE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PROJECTS COORDINATED BY AUSTRIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Implementing a nocturnal, eco-friendly, and integrated Shared Transportation Concept	LIFE23-CCM-AT-LIFE MOONSET	LIFE MOONSET	01/09/2024 - 31/08/2027
Empowering local communities to co-create and implement DIY climate solutions	LIFE22-GIC-AT-EmpowerLIFE	EmpowerLIFE	01/09/2023 - 31/08/2028



ONGOING LIFE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PROJECTS COORDINATED BY AUSTRIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Circular economy ecosystem to recover, recycle and re-use F-gases contributing to the depletion of greenhouse gases	LIFE19 CCM/AT/001226- LIFE Retradeables	LIFE Retradeables	01/07/2020 - 31/12/2024
Adapting large-scale environmental projects to climate change while supporting climate objectives	LIFE19 CCA/AT/001329- LIFE EnCAM	LIFE EnCAM	01/07/2020 - 30/06/2025

ONGOING CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION PROJECTS COORDINATED BY AUSTRIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Heat pump rollout. Simple and affordable	LIFE23-CET-install.res	install.res	01/11/2024 - 31/10/2027
Tools and services supporting effective exploitation of EPREL	LIFE23-CET-EPREL Services	EPREL Services	01/09/2024 - 29/02/2028
Achieving Zero Emission Building Stock with Viable Educational Programs	LIFE23-CET-AchieVE-ZEB	AchieVE-ZEB	01/10/2024 - 30/09/2027
Upskilling for boosting heat pump installation in refurbishments	LIFE23-CET-KnowHowHP	KnowHowHP	01/11/2024 - 31/10/2027
Boosting joint emergency energy efficiency 1st interventions	LIFE22-CET-SaveEnergyTogether	SaveEnergyTogether	01/01/2024 - 31/08/2026
Services supporting suppliers and retailers regarding compliance with ecodesign and labelling legislation	LIFE22-CET-ComplianceServices	ComplianceServices	01/09/2023 - 28/02/2027
Effective implementation of the EPBD in line with short-term and long-term policy requirements	LIFE22-CET-EPBD.wise	EPBD.wise	01/10/2023 - 30/06/2026
Energy efficiency in regional food processing value chains	LIFE22-CET-EENOVA	EENOVA	01/10/2023 - 31/10/2026
Institutionalised cross-sector planning and dedicated capacity building to enable small and medium-sized municipalities to develop and monitor sustainable strategies for the transition to clean energy	LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-PLenty-LIFE	PLenty-LIFE	01/11/2022 - 31/10/2025
Reboot BUILD UP Skills Austria	LIFE21-CET-BUILDSKILLS-ReBUSk	ReBUSk	01/10/2022 - 31/03/2024

ONGOING LIFE HORIZONTAL PROJECTS COORDINATED BY AUSTRIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
UMWELT organisation WWF central and eastern europe	LIFE23 NGO-AT-WWF-CEE	WWF-CEE	01/07/2024 - 30/06/2025

Data extract: 13 September 2024

Source: LIFE on-line public dashboard [QlikSense](#)

Under 'Focus 2023-2024' section covering all sub-programmes, the EU contribution to both project coordinators and participants include projects started between the 1 January 2023 and 31 October 2024.

Last update: 1 January 2025