



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:



NATURE

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



WATER

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



AIR

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



WASTE

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



CLIMATE CHANGE  
MITIGATION

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



CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATION

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, and 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, 25 Integrated Projects have been funded in 14 Member States (and involving actions in 18 countries). These projects have a combined budget of more than € 460 million. They are also mobilising and coordinate the use of more than **€ 5 billion in complementary funding** from other EU and national funds and the private sector.



Photo: LIFE11 NAT/LU/000658

## 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 Frameworks for 2014-2020 on 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.

The **Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 (PAF)** is a planning tool for Member States. It helps them to integrate financing for the Natura 2000 network of protected areas into relevant EU funding programmes, such as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, Structural Funds and the LIFE programme.

This LIFE Integrated Project is enabling both to happen. It is working to substantially improve policy, capacity and knowledge building and improve cooperation between authorities across the country. It 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 and to facilitate management agreements for conservation in agriculture. The project will also give stakeholders a greater say in decision-making and develop integrated site management plans and monitoring programmes. By strengthening the capacity to form new partnerships, the project increases the likelihood that those partnerships will endure. Ultimately, nature is the winner.

Read more: <http://life-bnip.be/>



## 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 in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. **Living River Lahn** enables multiple agencies and stakeholders to come together in an integrated way to reconcile many interests and pressures, including navigation, hydropower, nature protection, flood protection, tourism, agriculture and climate change.

The Lahn river landscape is typical of the central mountain uplands found in many parts of Germany, making this an ideal pilot for other river improvement projects to follow.

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

Read more: <http://www.lila-livinglahn.de/>



Photo: LIFE06 ENV/IE/000044

## AIR

LIFE IP-PREPAIR builds a network of public agencies and private operators to deliver measures in the Po Basin's Air Quality Plans.

The Po Valley in northern Italy is densely-populated, intensively-farmed and heavily industrialised. Hemmed in by the Alps, Apennines and Dinaric Alps, its pollutants do not disperse easily. The result: levels of particulate matter, ozone and nitrous oxides exceed legal limits. **LIFE-IP PREPAIR** is giving environmental agencies of the Po Valley, eastern border regions and neighbouring Slovenia the capacity to meet their obligations to improve air quality in line with Air Quality Plans and the Po Basin Agreement.

The project is also developing a near real-time web-based system for sharing air quality and emissions data and air quality models and it is raising public awareness through initiatives such as an Electro Mobility Day.

Central to this is a new permanent network of competent authorities and private operators. Those in the network can jointly assess the effectiveness and transferability of pilot actions for improving air quality in four sectors: biomass burning, energy efficiency, transport and agriculture. Measures under the microscope include ways to improve urban freight logistics, training packages for people who design and install domestic biomass systems, trials of low ammonia fertilisers, and support for business and local authorities to make buildings more energy efficient.

Read more: <http://www.lifeprepare.eu>



## WASTE

CIRCWASTE-FINLAND implements a national waste plan by keeping materials in the economy for longer.

Finland has a national waste plan to meet its obligations under the Waste Framework Directive by 2023. Full implementation of that plan requires system level changes in waste management. The **CIRCWASTE-FINLAND** project is leading the way. It will help Finland meet EU targets on the reuse and recycling of municipal waste and biodegradables, landfilling of recyclable materials and waste, and on the recycling of electrical and electronic waste. It will also speed up the development of markets for high quality secondary raw materials.

The project covers both urban environments and sparsely-populated rural areas where a range of different economic interests are represented. This means that CIRCWASTE-FINLAND should serve as a model for other parts of the country and the EU, showing the way forward for effective reduction and reuse of waste.

Taking place in five regions of Finland, it includes pilot projects to reuse organic waste and by-products, as well as industrial waste and side streams. Other actions will cover logistics, use of soil and resource efficiency in construction. At the heart of this network of activity will be a National Centre for the Circular Economy, that will make Finland a core expert at keeping biological and technical materials circulating for longer.

Read more:

<http://www.circwaste.fi/en-US>



## 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.

In addition to helping avoid more than 250 000 tonnes/year of carbon dioxide emissions, ZENAPA will create some 12 500 jobs and have a regional added value of over half a billion euros.

**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 hydro power, energy hedges, biogas, biochar and battery-powered chainsaws. One community, Rhaunen, is becoming a 'model district' that showcases all of the zero emissions technologies and systems being introduced by ZENAPA, from energy efficient street lighting to electric vehicles and bat and bird-friendly solar roofs. It is also piloting a revolving fund to reinvest profits from green energy and so on in innovative energy-biodiversity systems. This will show the potential of regions as incubators for wider uptake of the project's climate change mitigation and energy production measures.

Read more:

<http://zenapa.eu/>



## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

C2CCC creates a climate-resilient region in Central Denmark through full implementation of 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)** project enables the regional government of Midtjylland ('Central Denmark') to work together with 30 partners to create a climate resilient region.

With actions in the countryside as well as urban areas, this LIFE Integrated Project is delivering a comprehensive and coordinated response to climate change with wider applications.

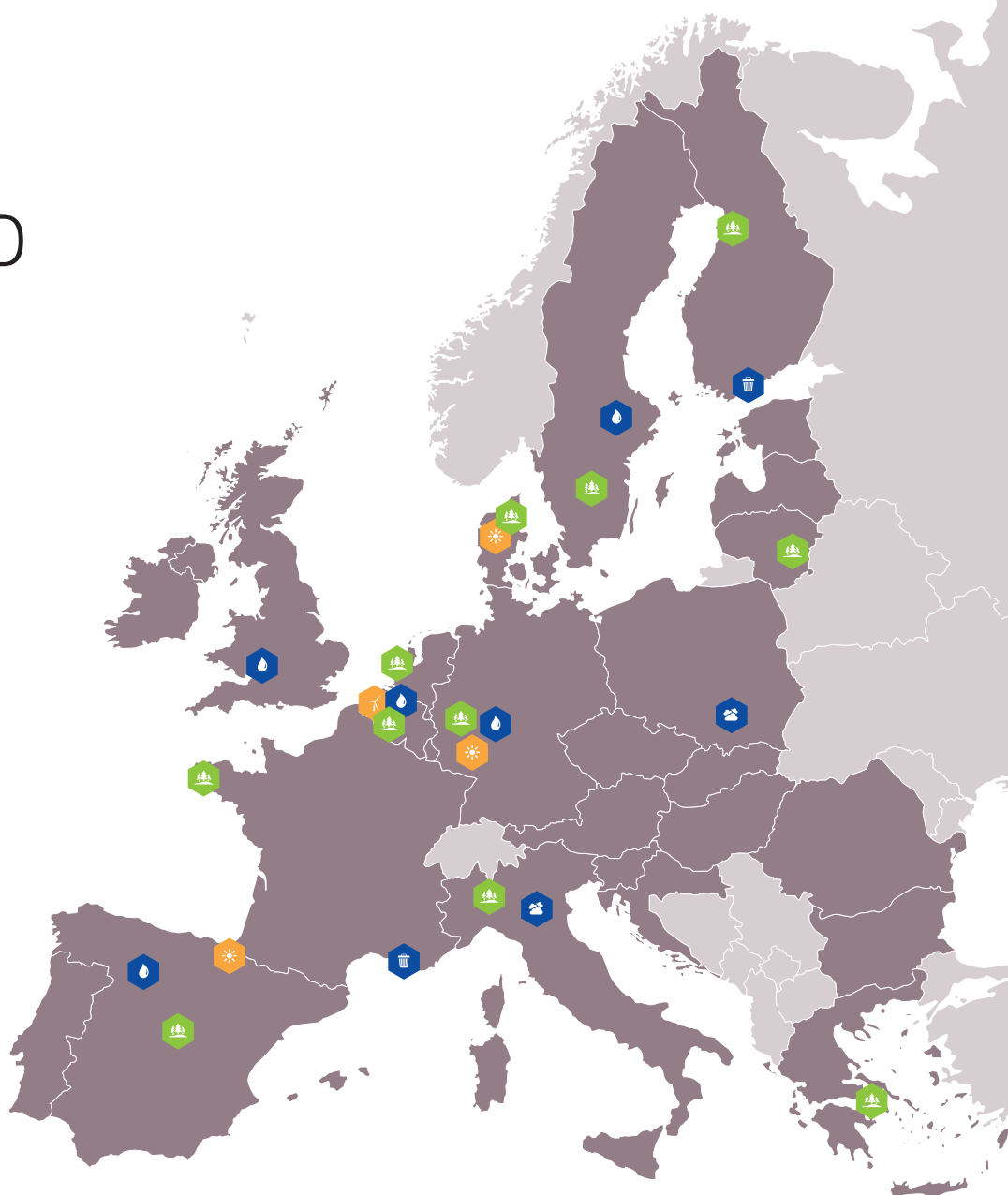
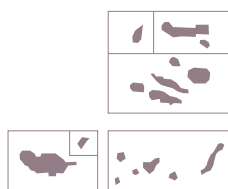
Key to this is the full implementation of local climate adaptation plans related to managing more water. The project's integrated approach to flood risk management identifies and enhances the resources and capabilities of citizens, municipalities, utilities and companies in the water industry. Central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

Read more:

<http://www.c2ccc.eu/>

# 25 INTEGRATED PROJECTS SO FAR

-  Nature
-  Water
-  Air
-  Waste
-  Climate Change Mitigation
-  Climate Change Adaptation



## Learn more

-  [ec.europa.eu/life](http://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 <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>

## Contact

European Commission – Directorate-General for the Environment – B-1049 Brussels ([env-life@ec.europa.eu](mailto:env-life@ec.europa.eu)).  
European Commission – Directorate-General for Climate Action – B-1049 Brussels ([clima-life@ec.europa.eu](mailto:clima-life@ec.europa.eu)).  
European Commission – Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) – B-1049 Brussels ([EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu)).

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