



Opportunities for third countries to participate in LIFE



LIFE Info Day 2023

Third countries associated to LIFE

The following non-EU countries have signed association agreements to LIFE:

- Iceland
- Ukraine
- Moldova

Entities from these countries can participate to LIFE programme and apply for LIFE calls under the same conditions as EU-27 entities.

Negotiations are ongoing with **North Macedonia**. Entities from this country can apply under LIFE 2023 calls but the grant agreements will be concluded only if an association agreement is signed on time.



Other third countries

Entities from third countries not associated to LIFE can only participate to LIFE programme by way of exception, to the limited extent and under special conditions.

- In line with Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, the actions financed by the LIFE Programme should be exceptionally open to participation of the legal entities of all third countries not associated to the LIFE Programme providing that:
 - their participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the action to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Union and/o in overseas countries and territories linked to it and;
 - they bear, in principle, the cost of their participation to the action.
- The project leader (“Coordinator beneficiary”) must be based in an eligible country (EU-27 or one of the associated countries)



Which type of LIFE projects to propose?

- SAPs - Broad thematic scope (project topics may refer to the EU acquis)
- SNaPs – Focus on specific types of plans linked to the EU acquis
- PLPs – Some of the topics specifically address third countries

Apply to the call that is right for your project!



What to consider?

- Success rate under LIFE calls is low and competition is very high:
 - Only very good quality proposals will be financed - there is no point to submit multiple poorly prepared proposals, it is better to present one that is well designed and thought through
 - Allow sufficient time when preparing a proposal - it takes several months to prepare an application that responds well to all the evaluation criteria; do not forget obligatory annexes; use the correct application forms
 - Remember: even experienced LIFE applicants from the EU are often unsuccessful and need to re-submit their proposals several times before getting a grant



I want to apply for a SAP...

- Please take time to learn in particular about:
 - Main evaluation criteria
 - Key required elements (impact, KPIs, replication, sustainability)
 - Policy priorities (project topics) - ask yourself whether LIFE is the right funding instrument for your project
 - Financial rules and construction of the budget



Applying as a Partner?

- Consider teaming up with applicants from EU-27 - you can learn from their experience and if your project covers more than one country, chances are the impact (and therefore the score during evaluation) will be higher.
- Use LIFE [virtual networking tool](#) to find project partners.



PLPs

- Projects focused on current policy priorities – one grant per topic
- **3 of the 15 topics focus specifically on Ukraine and/or Moldova:**
 - Supporting the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive and Natura 2000 in Ukraine and Moldova, on the basis of their current Emerald network of sites under the Bern Convention
 - Project for a holistic orientation towards environmental new infrastructure in Ukrainian Cities – waste
 - Project for a holistic orientation towards environmental new infrastructure in Ukrainian Cities - Water



Successful proposals will involve a partnership between EU and Moldovan/Ukrainian entities!



Help in Preparing Applications

- Read the call documents and FAQs on the Funding and Tenders Portal
- Your National Contact Point can provide advice and suggestions on your proposal
- You might be inspired by ongoing projects (see <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>) – but beware that requirements may have changed
- For clarifications on the call documents, send an email to CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu – your question and answer may be posted in the FAQ list for transparency



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