



LIFE Calls 2023

Sub-programmes and types of projects funded



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The LIFE programme

- The LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.
- The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- LIFE is over 30 years 'young'
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €.
- The multiannual work programme for 2021-2024 was adopted in July 2021.
- Call 2023 budget: 611 million €



The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

To contribute to the shift to a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy based- and climate resilient economy

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



Nature and Biodiversity



Circular Economy and Quality of Life



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Clean Energy Transition

Projects

- Develop and demonstrate innovative techniques and approaches to solving environmental challenges
- Help to implement plans and strategies, required by EU legislation.
- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions

Impact

- Support the development, monitoring and implementation of EU environment & climate policy
- Provide models to copy and upscale

Project beneficiaries are:

- 1/3 private enterprises
- 1/3 NGOs and civil society organisations
- 1/3 public authorities



Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



Nature and
Biodiversity

Contribution to:

- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
- Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised Action Frameworks.
- Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.

Typical actions

Projects supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.

Species protection.

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of PAF or other plans under the Biodiversity Strategy; mainstreaming biodiversity

Financing of small-scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions



Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life



Circular Economy
and Quality of Life

Contribution in the areas of:

- circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment.

Typical actions

Support to public authorities and other stakeholders to implement EU environment legislation.

Support to technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy.

Promote upscale and access to finance.



Sub-programme Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Contribution to:

- The transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through:
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation & Related Governance



On **climate mitigation**, projects that contribute significantly to the implementation of:

- the 2030 energy and climate policy
- the EU Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

On **climate adaptation**:

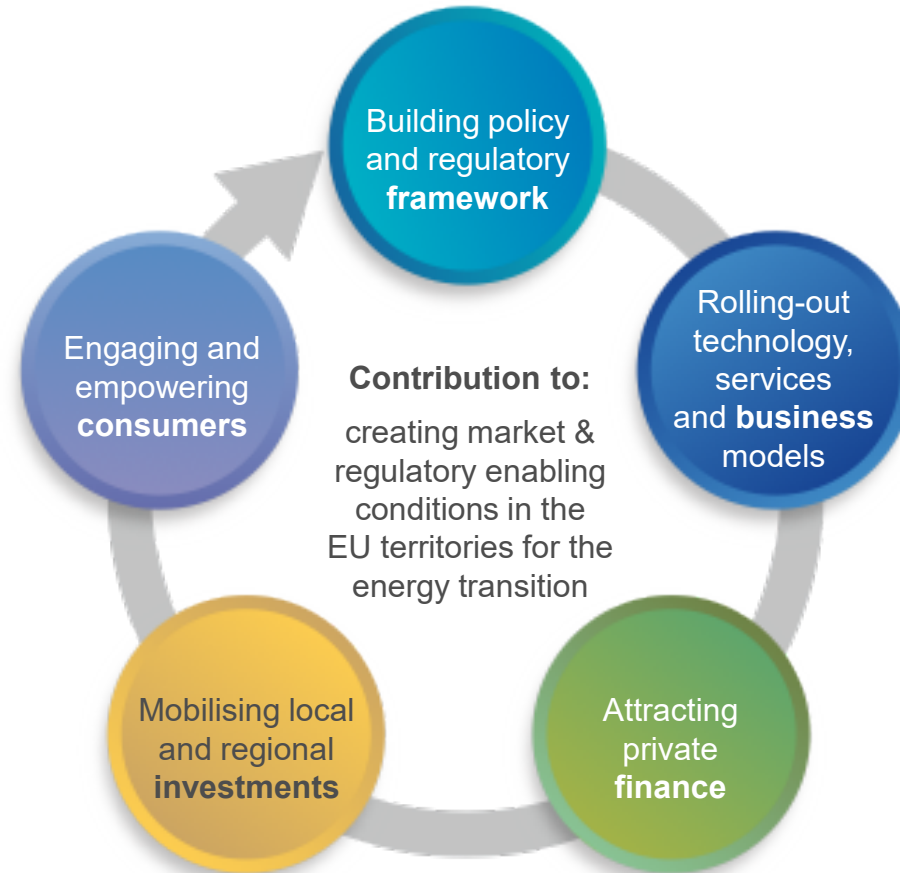
- projects that support the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and related national implementation

The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition

predecessors: Intelligent Energy Europe continued under H2020- SC3- market uptake



Clean Energy Transition



Type of activities: developing and spreading best practice, mobilising investments, improving skills, removing market barriers, raising awareness, educating, empowering.



Clean Energy Transition: areas of intervention



Clean Energy Transition

- Building a national, regional and local **policy framework** supporting the clean energy transition
- Accelerating **technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models** and enhancement of the related **professional skills** on the market
- Attracting private **finance** for sustainable energy

- Supporting the development of local and regional **investment** projects
- Involving and **empowering citizens** in the clean energy transition



Types of activities funded under LIFE

Grants

- **Action grants:**
 - Standard Action projects (SAPs)
 - Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
 - Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)
 - Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
 - Preparatory projects addressing ad hoc Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP)
 - Technical Assistance (TA-PP and TA-R)
- **Operating grants** (*call restricted to entities that signed a LIFE Framework Partnership Agreement*)

Other Forms of Funding

- **Procurement** (*not in this call*)
- **Prizes** (*not in this call*)
- **Blending** (*not in this call*)



Standard action projects (SAPs)

- **‘Traditional’ LIFE projects aimed to:**
 - develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches;
 - contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices;
 - support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
 - catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance
- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum except:**
 - 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
 - 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- **Maximum 10-year duration**



Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)

- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum**
- **Maximum 14-year duration**
- **Circular Economy and Quality of Life:**
 - Circular Economy: national or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
 - Waste: national and regional Waste Management Plans and/or Waste Prevention Programmes
 - Water: River Basin Management Plans, Flood Risk Management Plans, Marine Strategies
 - Air: Air quality plans pursuant to the Ambient Air Quality Directive, National Air Pollution Control Programmes
- **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:**
 - National Energy and Climate Plans;
 - National Energy Efficiency Action Plans;
 - National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;
 - Urban or community-based action plans pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society;
 - National, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or economy roadmaps contributing to climate neutrality



Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)

→ **Not in 2023 call**

- **Focused on the implementation of**
 - the Prioritised Action Frameworks pursuant to the Habitats Directive
 - other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, regional or multiregional level by nature and biodiversity authorities
- **Require mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives into other policies and instruments**
- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum**
- **Maximum 14-year duration**



Operating grants for NGOs

- **Two-steps application**
 - Framework partnership agreement (FPA) - successful applicants sign a long-term agreement (3 budget years – 2022-2024) – **NOT in this call ! Next call in 2024.**
 - Specific grant agreement (SGA). **Only organisations that sign an FPA can be considered for SGA**
- **Co-financing rate of 70% maximum**
- **Maximum 1 year duration for SGAs**



Technical assistance projects (TA-PP)

- **TA-PP: support to the preparation of SNaPs and SIPs (TA-PP)**
 - Co-financing rate of maximum 60%, maximum LIFE contribution of EUR 70 000



Technical assistance projects (TA-R)

- **TA-R: LIFE Technical Assistance for Replication (i)**

NOVELTY

- Preparation for facilitating the up-scaling and replication of results from other projects funded by the LIFE Programme, its predecessor programmes or other EU funding programmes
- For the LIFE23 Call only proposals in the field of ‘Environment’ (i.e. ‘Nature and Biodiversity’ and ‘Circular Economy and Quality of Life’)
- The TA-R projects could co-finance the activities necessary:
 - (1) to prepare or remove impediment to the up-scaling and/or replication of the results of previous LIFE projects or of other Union programmes, as long as they contribute to the objectives of the LIFE programme.
 - (2) to facilitate the access of an action contributing to the LIFE objectives, to other financial instruments.



Technical assistance projects (TA-R)

- **TA-R: LIFE Technical Assistance for Replication (ii)**

NOVELTY

- it should exceed the replication/transfer efforts and objectives foreseen in the preceding LIFE project and/or it should address issues emerging during a LIFE project that could not be solved during its duration, despite being extremely relevant for the success and sustainability of the project's results. In case of proposals based on other EU-funding programmes, similar criteria will be applied.
- Only proposals in the field of 'Environment' (i.e. 'Nature and Biodiversity' and 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life') – for the LIFE23 call
- 60% co-funding ; Call budget 6.5 M€ ; Opening April 2023
- Deadline for submission: 27 July 2023
- Grant Agreement signature: foreseen around February - March 2024



Other action grants – Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)

- CSAs are the standard type of grant for the CET sub-programme
- Breaking market barriers to the clean energy transition through capacity building, dissemination of information and knowledge, awareness raising
- Policy-driven, prescriptive call topics
 - A tightly pre-defined scope of the proposal;
 - Engagement of multiple stakeholders and large transnational consortiums;
 - EU-widely validated results feeding into EU policy making;
- Co-financing rate of 95% maximum
- Usual duration of projects between 18 and 36 months
- No infrastructure costs, mainly labor costs



Other action grants – PLP

Projects focused on current policy priorities – one grant per topic;
3 of the 15 topics focus specifically on Ukraine and/or Moldova



Calls 2023 – Overview

Call	Enveloppe indicative (M€)	Opening date	Closing date	Indicative grant signature date
SAP – Nature and Biodiversity	148,4	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP – Circular economy and quality of life	81	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP –Climate Mitigation and Adpatation	66,3	18/04/23	21/09/23	June 2024
CSA – Clean Energy Transition	99	11/05/23	16/11/23	June 2024



Call	Enveloppe indicative (M€)	Opening date	Closing date	Indicative grant signature date
SNaP – Strategic Nature Projects	No call in 2023			
SIP - Circular economy and quality of life	52,8	Phase 1 (CN): 18/04/23	Phase 1 (CN): 05/09/23	November 2024
SIP – Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	30	Phase 2 (FP): November 2023	Phase 2 (FP): 05/03/24	
PLP – Policy and Legislative Priorities Projects	14,9	18/04/23	07/09/23	November 2023 (Bauhaus-Phoenix-Emerald) March 2024 (the others)
TA-PP	0,9	18/04/23	07/09/23	December 2023
TA-R	6,5	18/04/23	27/07/23	March 2024





Applying successfully for LIFE: how does it work?



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Key Challenges



- There is **significant competition** for LIFE funds
- New **IT environment** and **applications forms**
- Proposals that **fail are either poorly prepared** or simply with limited ambition or risk taking
- But: Key to success is always the same!



Must read

- LIFE Web site https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en – **LIFE project database**
- **Call documents** ([Funding & tender opportunities portal](#))
- **LIFE Regulation and Multi-annual work-programme**
- As relevant, specific information, guidelines designed by your **National Contact Point**



Project Design - I

- **Baseline description should be clear** enough as it is essential for evaluating the potential of the project (AW1)
- The **sequence of actions should be logical** and clearly linked to project description (AW1 - AW2)
- Expected results and quantitative **estimations of projects impacts** (during and after project end) (AW3)



Project Design - II

- **Activities/plans to ensure sustainability** of the project results are absolutely crucial! (AW3)
- **Uptake and Replication** needs to be taken into account and **related project actions** need to be well conceived (AW3)
- Clear **description of beneficiary involved** in specific actions (AW2 - AW4)



Project Design - III

- Limit the number of **actions to the ones essential** to achieve the project objectives
- Coherence in **description and output in Part B and in the Work Packages**
- **Partnership** structure: look for complementarity and avoid redundancy of expertise (key stakeholders should be involved)
- Project duration should take into account:
 - Sufficient time to **gather information** about the impact of project activities
 - Delays in **obtaining permits and authorisations**
 - **Buffer** to allow for unexpected events
- Make sure you meet the **communication requirements**
 - Think about **platform meetings** and **networking events**



Project Design Full Proposal

Good design

Solid analysis of the problem, state of play and solution proposed (baseline)

Key stakeholders involved (incl. users)

Robust assessment of impacts over the life cycle of the solution proposed

Clear strategy on how to sustain and multiply the impacts

Common problems

Insufficient background information (why, who and how)

Rationale for projects is defined during the project

Objectives too broad, too many

Poor partnership (partners don't fit regarding know-how or insufficient budget)

Over-optimistic / unrealistic or lack of quantification of impacts

Replication confused with networking and dissemination

Vague plans to sustain the project/results after project end



Thank you

