



# LIFE Strategic Projects

## (SIP & SNAP)

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*LIFE Info Day 19/05/2022*

# Overview

- Strategic Projects intro & key aspects
- Call 2022
  - ✓ Evaluation criteria
  - ✓ Key docs & forms
  - ✓ Lessons learnt from Call 2021
  - ✓ Relevant figures
- Support available



# Strategic Projects are...

- ... designed to implement certain plans and strategies
- ... at a large territorial scale
- ... with full engagement of stakeholders
- ... to mobilise, engage & coordinate complementary funding sources



# Requirements for a successful SP

→ catalyze the **full implementation of the targeted plan/strategy/action plan** and, together with the complementary measures needed to achieve full implementation, remove all remaining administrative, financial, structural and other barriers for its implementation.

The set of measures to be foreseen shall also include the following:

- **institutional support** and **capacity building actions**;
- **mobilisation and coordination** of additional finance for complementary actions, in particular from other EU funding instruments and programmes.

SNaPs → Normally include:

- **concrete conservation measures**, in particular where these cannot be supported through other EU funding programmes.



# Requirements for a successful SP

Present clear and quantifiable information on:

- the **expected level of implementation of the strategy or plan** as a direct consequence of (a) the actions foreseen in the SP and (b) the complementary actions;
- the **geographical area covered** by these measures (which can span across national borders e.g. in river catchment areas).
- the **specific gaps** to be addressed (e.g. climate risks and vulnerabilities for CLIMA SIP) and how the project's actions help to minimise them
- the **level of involvement and commitment of the relevant competent authorities** and stakeholders at local, regional and national level;
- the **contribution to mainstreaming climate change action / environment / nature & biodiversity priorities** into different sectors.



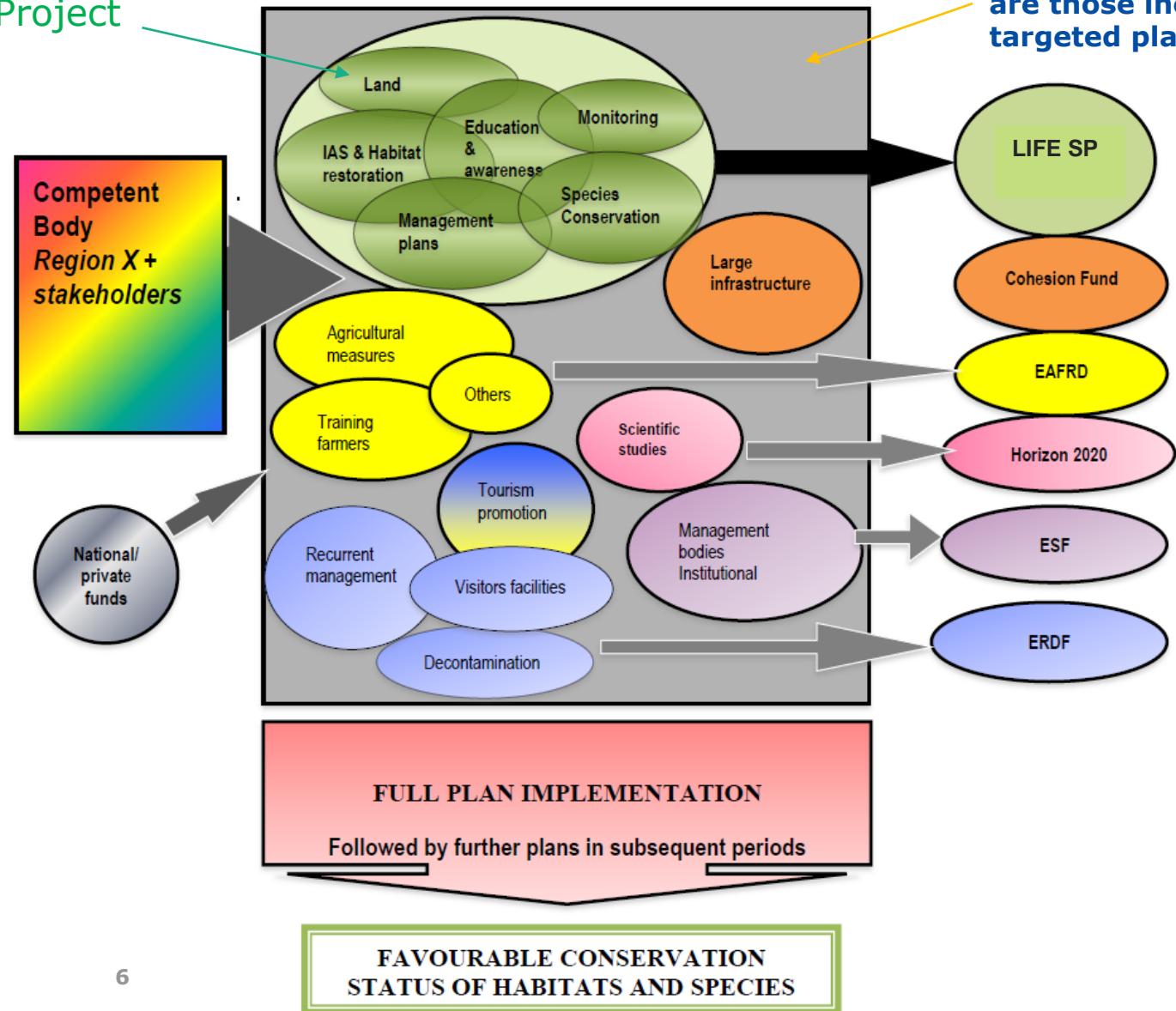
# Design of a Strategic Project: SNAP example

Strategic Nature Project

Measures in the grey box are those included in the targeted plan

## Things to consider:

1. Full implementation of the selected Strategy/ Plan
2. Strategy/ Plan selected
3. Lead applicant/ Competent Body + Associated beneficiaries (at least 1) + key stakeholders
4. LIFE funding (for catalytic function)
5. LIFE SNAP/SIP actions (e.g., for demonstration of best practice)
6. Complementary Funding/ Mobilisation of other funds
7. Complementary actions
8. Coordination mechanism
9. Capacity development
10. Stakeholder involvement



# Strategic vs Standard Projects

	Former Traditional Projects (now SAP)	SNAP/SIPs
Scope	Target one or several thematic priorities for the sub-programme environment / climate action	Limited to specific areas of intervention related to certain strategic plans in nature, biodiversity, air, water, floods, marine strategies, waste, circular economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation
Co-financing rates (%) and amounts (EUR) of LIFE contribution	Up to 60% (or up to 75%) Historical average of €1-2 million	Up to 60% Foreseen average of €15-50 million
Geographical scale	Shall be implemented on a local, regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national scale.	Must be implemented on a regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national scale.  N.B. A multi-city approach or smaller territorial scale may also be acceptable for SIPs dealing with air quality management.
Required link to a plan or strategy developed pursuant to EU/national legislation	No. Link to plans/strategies is optional (may get extra points).	Yes, compulsory. Must contribute to and catalyse the full implementation of a specific plan or strategy developed pursuant to EU/national legislation as specified above (Multi-annual work programme)

# Strategic vs Standard Projects

	Former Traditional Projects	SNAP/SIPs
Mobilisation of complementarity funds outside of the project itself	Not required. No double funding or overlaps with other EU funds.	Yes. Compulsory mobilisation of at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source for the implementation of complementary activities, within the same plan or strategy. No double funding or overlaps with other EU funds for the LIFE IP per se. The implementation of SPs may result in better access to other EU funding.
Stakeholder involvement	Expected	Compulsory
Project period (average)	Historically, 1 to 5 years	Expected, 60-120 months





# Strategic vs Standard Projects

	Former Traditional Projects	SNAP/SIPs
Type of projects	Pilot, demonstration, best practice or information, awareness and dissemination projects.	SNAP/SIPs combine elements of "traditional" project types: they should include mainly best practice elements that can be combined with pilot, demonstration and information, awareness raising and dissemination elements. A capacity building element is mandatory.
Consortium requirements	1 participant enough	At least 2 participants  Authority responsible for the plan implementation must be a participant. By default should be coordinator, unless there is a good justification
Implementing mechanism	Full detailed project plan from beginning	Revolving programming and reporting in phases
Sustainability	Required for all projects.	Required for all SPs, including long term commitment and capacity building.

# Strategic Projects targeted plans

## • SNAPs

1. **Prioritised Action Frameworks** under the Habitats Directive
2. other **plans or strategies** adopted at international, national, multiregional or regional level by nature and biodiversity authorities, that **implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation**

## SIPs – Environment

1. **Circular Economy SIPs - National or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar**
2. **Water – River Basin Management Plans under the Water FD & Flood Risk Management Plans & Marine Strategies**
3. **Waste – Waste Management Plans and/or Waste Prevention Programmes under the Waste FD**
4. **Air - Local and regional Air Quality Plans, and National Air Pollution Control Programmes**

## SIPs – Climate Action

1. **National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;**
  2. **Urban or community-based action plans pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society including climate-neutral cities plans and actions and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans;**
  3. **National Energy and Climate Plans;**
  4. **National Energy Efficiency Action Plans;**
  5. **National, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or economy roadmaps contributing to climate neutrality.**
- CCA**
- Urban**
- CCM**

**\*\*In green text: newly added objectives compared to 2014-2020\*\***

# Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)

- New eligible plans:
  - ✓ other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, regional or multiregional level by nature and biodiversity authorities, e.g.:
    - ✓ National or Regional Pollinator/Insect Strategies and/or Action Plans
    - ✓ National or Regional Plans for Green Infrastructure Networks
    - ✓ National or Regional Restoration Plans, National or Regional Urban Greening Plans, etc as called for in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
    - ✓ National or Regional Plans or strategies supporting objectives of Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species



# Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)

- Mainstreaming objectives and priorities into other policies & financing instruments
- Possibility of regional SNAPs --> coordinate to avoid that best regions get all funds
  - Especially relevant for MS with larger SNAP budget
- Based mostly on PAFs --> if already existing IP --> coordinate to have a reasonable strategy optimizing funding & plan implementation



# Call 2022: LIFE-2022-STRAT-two-stage

- 3 topics in [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

- ✓ LIFE-2022-STRAT-NAT-SNAP-two-stage
- ✓ LIFE-2022-STRAT-ENV-SIP-two-stage
- ✓ LIFE-2022-STRAT-CLIMA-SIP-two-stage

- 2 stages:

- ✓ **Stage 1** (concept note):

- ✓ You will provide less info

- ✓ **Deadline** to submit: **08/09/2022**



- ✓ **Stage 2** (full proposal):

- ✓ Only if you pass stage 1

- ✓ **Deadline** to submit: **30/03/2023**



# Call 2022 - Evaluation criteria

## Stage 1 (Concept Note)

- 1) Implementation of plans or strategies
  - 2) Territorial coverage
  - 3) Coordination of complementary funds
  - 4) Involvement of key stakeholders
- These are yes/no criteria. Concept note must meet all four criteria for the applicant to be invited to present full proposal.

## Stage 2 (Full Proposal) award criteria

- 1) Relevance
  - 2) Quality
  - 3) Complementary funding
  - 4) Impact
  - 5) Resources
- The award criteria are scored 0-20, the weight of all is the same.
  - To pass:
    - at least 10/20 in each, and
    - total score at least 55



# Call 2022 - Key docs

- ✓ The Call document
- ✓ The Standard Application Form (template applicants must use)
  - ✓ Very important: **read & follow instructions** in each section (incl. annexes like budget table)!
- ✓ FAQs → in [LIFE web](#)

**READ ALL OF THEM!**



# Call document structure

0. Introduction

1. Background

What is the LIFE Programme?

Nature and Biodiversity

Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Clean Energy Transition

**2. Type of action — Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded —**

**Expected impact**

**Type of action**

**Objectives**

**Scope — Activities that can be funded**

**Expected impact**

**Funding rate**

**Additional conditions**

## Topics and priorities

**3. Available budget**

**4. Timetable and deadlines**

**5. Admissibility and documents**

**6. Eligibility**

**Eligible participants (eligible countries)**

**Consortium composition**

**Eligible activities**

**Geographic location (target countries)**

**7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion**

**Financial capacity**

**Operational capacity**

**Exclusion**

**8. Evaluation and award procedure**

**9. Award criteria**





# Call document structure (2)

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

- Starting date and project duration

- Milestones and deliverables

- Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

- Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

- Reporting and payment arrangements

- Prefinancing guarantees

- Certificates

- Liability regime for recoveries

- Provisions concerning the project implementation

- Other specificities

- Non-compliance and breach of contract

## **11. How to submit an application**

## **12. Help**

## **13. Important**



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document

## Contents

1. Questions applicable to all Calls.....	2
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4. Operating grants ( <b>OG</b> ) .....	39



# Call 2022 - Forms – Mandatory & Optional Annexes

Mandatory (in green those also mandatory at concept note):

- 1) Targeted plan/strategy/action plan
- 2) Implementation overview for the plan/strategy/action plan (excel file)
- 3) Complementary funding plan
- 4) Detailed budget table → **Updated**
- 5) Participant information
- 6) Complementary funding declarations (at least one)



#### 4) Detailed budget table:

- New: info on staff/personnel
- Please add lines / subdivide & explain large lump sums!

Staff effort allocation								
<p>Fill in the effort per work package and Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity.  Please indicate the number of person-months over the whole duration of the planned work.  Adapt the columns to the number of work packages in your proposal.  Identify the work-package leader for each work package by showing the relevant person-month figure in bold.</p>								
Participant Number/Short Name	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WPn...	Total
1.								0
2.								0
3.								0
4.								0
5.								0
6.								0
7.								0
8.								0
9.								0
10.								0
<b>Total person-months</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Personnel costs								
<p>Present your estimated "Personnel costs" split into 3 categories as per the table below. If you do not have any personnel costs falling under "A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries" or "A.5 Volunteers", all personnel costs should be budgeted under "A1. Employees (or equivalent); A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3. Seconded Persons".</p> <p>For A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries: please note that as per Annex 2a of the LIFE General Model Grant Agreement (MGA), a unit cost is applied to this cost category. The units are the days spent working on the action (rounded up to the nearest half-day) and the amount per unit (daily rate) is calculated according to the following formula:  (EUR 5 080 / 18 days = EUR 282,22 per day) multiplied by (country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established)  Note that the country specific correction coefficient to use is the one applied for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Yearly rates are published in the Horizon Europe Work Programme - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the funding and tender portal Reference Documents (work programme and call documents section), available at <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON</a>.</p>								
Participant Number/Short Name	Country	Number of person months (staff effort per beneficiary)	Average monthly salary rate	A1. Employees (or equivalent); A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3.	A.4 SME owners and natural person (sole trader) beneficiaries (Unit costs in )	Subtotal personnel costs without volunteers (A1+A2+A3+A4) - must be the same as in part A section 3	A.5 Volunteers (Unit costs) must be the same as in part A section 3	Total Personnel costs
1.		0	#DIV/0!			0		0
2.		0	#DIV/0!			0		0
3.		0	#DIV/0!			0		0



# Call 2022 - Forms – Mandatory & Optional Annexes

Optional (only for full proposal):

- 1) Letters of support
- 2) Co-financing declarations
- 3) Other annexes (maps, schemes, etc.)

**New!**



# Lessons learnt from Call 2021: common mistakes

- Relevance:

- ✓ Objectives set in the targeted plan appear only generically and partially covered by the project activities.
- ✓ The problem analysis is too general and only partially demonstrates the need for the SIP/SNAP, it is unclear whether the project activities will be sufficient to allow a proper implementation of the plan
- ✓ the main gap identified by the targeted policy, e.g. the low capacity of stakeholders, is not sufficiently addressed by the proposal

- Impact:

- ✓ The impacts are defined in too general terms, e.g., “improved adaptation capacity”
- ✓ the proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate the level of implementation of the targeted strategy that would be achieved by the project and related complementary actions
- ✓ the proposal does not present a comprehensive set of actions and indicators for monitoring and evaluation



- Quality

- ✓ The risk analysis and contingency plan are insufficiently elaborated, and most risks are underestimated
- ✓ Important stakeholders with a key role for mainstreaming are missing. The proposal lacks a clear strategy for their mobilisation and commitment of key stakeholders
- ✓ the identification of the specific sites within the targeted region is insufficiently presented

- Resources

- ✓ Costs allocated to equipment and to other goods, works and services, especially for the coordinator, are not sufficiently justified and detailed.
- ✓ The proposal makes a rather generic reference to the implementation of green project management measures

- Complementary funding

- ✓ Although the proposal presents an overview of the complementary actions, their linkages to the proposed project remain vague.
- ✓ the proposal lacks an explanation of how the sectors not covered by the SIP/SNAP will be dealt with to ensure the full implementation of the targeted plan/strategy



# Some interesting figures

**Total Call budget: EUR 227,800,000**

**SNAP: combined budget 2022-23 (by default no SNAP Call in 2023)**

Topic	Topic Budget	Indicative Range	Indicative number of projects to be funded	Indicative expected project duration
Strategic <b>Nature</b> Projects (SNAP)	EUR 145 million	EUR 15-50 million	4-14 projects	60 - 120 months
Strategic Integrated Projects - <b>ENV</b> ironment (SIP)	EUR 52.8 million	EUR 10-30 million	3 - 6 projects	
Strategic Integrated Projects - <b>CLIMA</b> te Action (SIP)	EUR 30 million	EUR 10-20 million	2 - 3 projects	





# Strategic Project Calls & funding in 2022 – 2024 (current figures)

- **2022:**

- ✓ Call for SIPs: SIP ENV: 53 M€ - SIP CLIMA: 30 M€

- ✓ Bi-annual Call for SNAPs: 145 M€

- **2023:**

- ✓ Call for SIPs: SIP ENV: 53 M€ - SIP CLIMA: 30 M€

- **2024:**

- ✓ Call for SIPs: SIP ENV: 52 M€ - SIP CLIMA: 30 M€

- ✓ Bi-annual Call for SNAPs: 140 M€



# Support available to prepare a proposal

- LIFE [National Contact Points](#)
- Technical Assistance projects
- Direct contact & discussions with LIFE CINEA staff
- Info in [LIFE Calls for proposals web](#), including FAQs
- [Integrated projects factsheet](#) → links in p.4 to all 2014-2020 Integrated Projects

• Don't be shy, contact NCPs, LIFE CINEA staff & ongoing Integrated Projects!

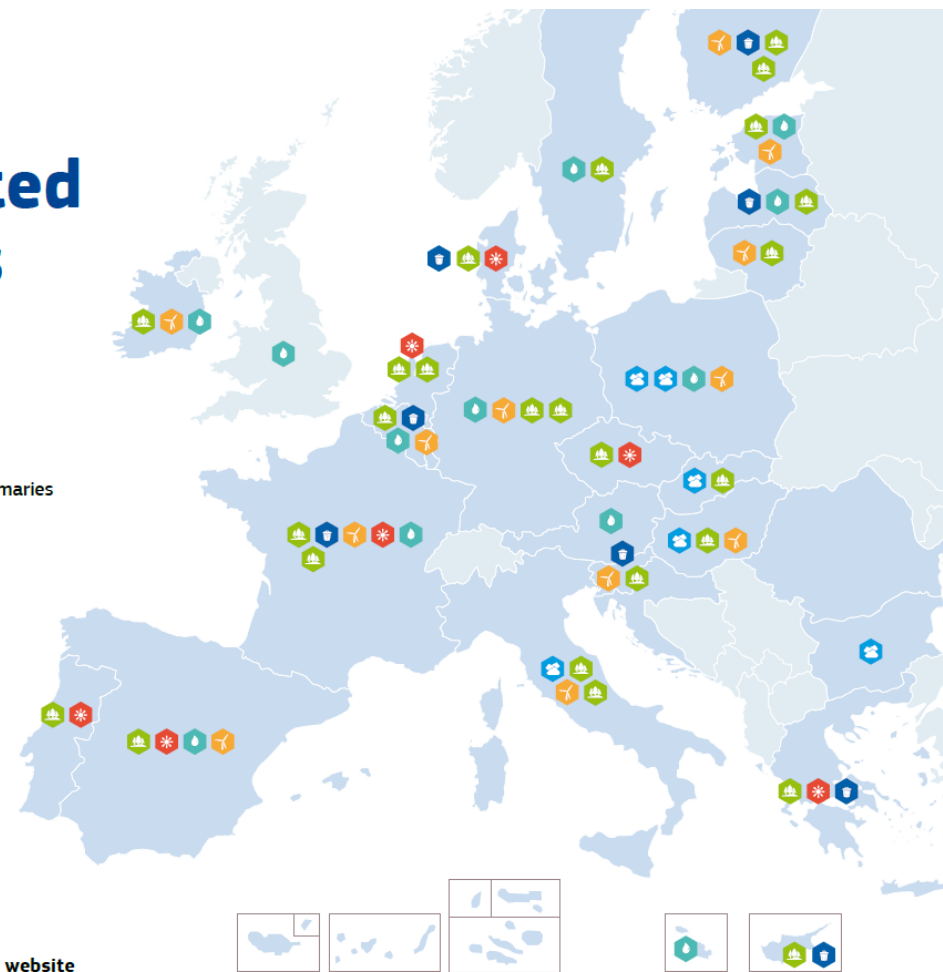
## 70 Integrated Projects so far

2014 ▶ 2020

Click on the map icons to see  
the corresponding project summaries



You can see a **complete list** of  
LIFE Integrated Projects **on our website**



# Support available - Technical Assistance Projects (TAs)

- To support preparation of Strategic Projects (SIPs & SNaPs)
- Main objective: prepare & submit a full proposal
- Co-financing rate 60%
- Maximum grant: 70.000 €
- Maximum duration: 2 y
- New Call: LIFE-2022-TA-PP (deadline 08/09/2022)



# Support available - Contact & discussions with LIFE CINEA staff

[CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu)

We can:

- Provide feedback on the ideas for Strategic Projects (SPs) (all year round)
- Respond to general questions on SPs (all year round)
- Respond to specific questions related to SP Call documents, application forms, concerned provisions of the Multiannual Work Programme (during open calls, typically between April - September and November - February)
- Facilitate networking with successful running IPs (all year round)
- Schedule meetings with us in person in Brussels, online or by phone, respond by e-mail

We cannot:

- Meet with the applicants that have been invited to submit their full proposal for stage 2
- Read or consult on draft applications to be submitted for stage 2



# Thanks and... Good luck!

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