



European Commission



LIFE Programme in Estonia

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:

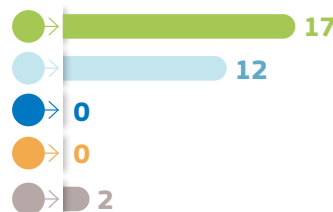
-  NATURE & BIODIVERSITY
-  CIRCULAR ECONOMY & QUALITY OF LIFE
-  CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
-  CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

 BUDGET 2021-2027
→ **€5.4 billion**

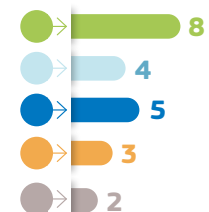


53 LIFE projects¹

31 LIFE Projects
as coordinator (1992-2013)



22 LIFE Projects
as coordinator (since 2014)



EU contribution² to LIFE projects since 1992 (€ million)

€91.5

All LIFE projects

€37

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

€22.1

CIRCULAR ECONOMY & QUALITY OF LIFE

€24.8

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

€5.7

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

€1.7

OTHER³

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](#).

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

³ OTHER includes NGO operating grants and Capacity Building (CAP) 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
€1 million

EU contribution
€0.7 million



PARTICIPANT in 7 ONGOING PROJECTS

Estonian partners are also participating in 7 ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects in 5 other EU Member States.

- 1 FINLAND
[LIFE Revives](#)
[CoastNet LIFE](#)
[Flying Squirrel LIFE](#)
- 2 GERMANY
[PAME Europe](#)
- 3 LATVIA
[GrassLIFE2](#)
- 4 LITHUANIA
[LIFE LWfG CLIMATE](#)
- 5 POLAND
[GSELIFEAboveBorders](#)



HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

Introducing adaptive community-based biodiversity management in urban areas for improved connectivity and ecosystem health (urbanLIFEcircles)

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> [Project summary](#)

UrbanLIFEcircles focuses on enhancing urban biodiversity management in Tartu, Riga and Aarhus by establishing interconnected green habitats and spaces. This approach involves creating green corridors and stepping stones that connect existing Natura 2000 sites with urban green areas, facilitating species movement and improving ecological quality. Key objectives include engaging local communities, supporting businesses in biodiversity efforts, fostering collaborative governance and utilising science-based methods for effective management, ultimately demonstrating a viable model for promoting biodiversity in urban environments.

COORDINATOR of 5 ONGOING PROJECTS

urbanLIFEcircles focuses on biodiversity management in urban areas across Estonia to improve ecosystem health and connectivity.

Baltic Sturgeon is reintroducing the extinct sturgeon in the North-Eastern Baltic Sea by releasing juvenile sturgeons in historical spawning rivers in Estonia.

WOODMEADOWLIFE aims to restore and manage 700 hectares of wooded meadows in Estonia and Latvia.

LIFE CONNECTING MEADOWS is restoring 200 hectares of semi-natural grasslands on Muhu Island, Estonia.

The **ForEst&FarmLand** project improves conservation practices for forest and farmland ecosystems in Estonia.



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 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
€3.5 million



EU contribution
€2.2 million

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

Chemicals Risk Management and Assessment of Alternatives: Tools and best practices to support circularity, create more sustainable products and avoid regrettable substitution (LIFE FitforREACH-2)

> [Project summary](#)

LIFE FitforREACH-2 is a transnational initiative involving Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises in improving chemicals risk management. The project helps companies reduce the use of harmful substances, particularly carcinogenic and hazardous chemicals, by replacing them with safer alternatives. It engages 7 partner companies in adopting better risk management practices, while also raising awareness across industries. The initiative promotes the integration of chemical management into environmental standards such as EMAS and ISO.

LIFE / FIT FOR REACH

PARTICIPANT in 4 ONGOING PROJECTS

Estonian are also participating in 4 ongoing LIFE Circular Economy & Quality of Life projects in 4 other EU Member States.

- 1 FINLAND
[GREEN CASTING LIFE](#)
- 2 FRANCE
[Panelka 2.0](#)
- 3 NETHERLANDS
[Life-EPICS](#)
- 4 SPAIN
[WOOD4PLASTIC](#)



COORDINATOR of 2 ONGOING PROJECTS

LIFE FitforREACH-2 focuses on implementing chemical risk management in companies to phase out hazardous substances (see below for more details).

CleanEST is preparing a strategic plan for the Western-Estonian River Basin, aiming to ensure sustainable water governance and policy adaptation.



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
€18.9 million



EU contribution
€11.3 million

PARTICIPANT
in **1 ONGOING PROJECT**

Estonian partners are also participating in 1 ongoing LIFE Climate Mitigation & Adaptation projects in another EU Member State.

1 BELGIUM
[LIFE TogetherFor1.5](#)




 **HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT**

Developing and demonstrating portfolio of nature based and smart solutions for improving urban climate resilience in Latvia and Estonia (LIFE LATESTadapt)



> [Project summary](#)

The LIFE LATESTadapt project focuses on improving urban climate resilience in Latvia and Estonia by developing nature-based and smart solutions. This transnational initiative involves 16 partners working together to address extreme weather events, particularly pluvial flooding caused by heavy rainfall. The project will test solutions at 8 urban sites, using green infrastructure, digital tools and community engagement to strengthen local government capacity in urban planning. The results will be shared across the Baltic region and other EU Member States, promoting wider adoption of climate-resilient practices.

 **COORDINATOR**
of **3 ONGOING PROJECTS**

LIFE LATESTadapt aims to improve urban climate resilience by developing nature-based solutions, engaging communities to address pluvial flooding and enhancing the capacity of local governments (see below for more detail).

LIFE SIP AdaptEst focuses on increasing Estonia’s climate change adaptation readiness by implementing national adaptation measures across prioritised sectors, including health, land use and biodiversity.

LIFE IP BUILDEST is designed to significantly reduce CO₂ emissions from Estonia’s existing buildings. It demonstrates energy-efficient renovation solutions across 25 buildings, contributing to the country’s long-term strategy for low-carbon buildings and climate resilience.



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](#)



Sustainable Estonian Archipelago (SEA)

> [Project summary](#)

The Sustainable Estonian Archipelago (SEA) aims to support the West-Estonian archipelago in its journey to achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. The project team will set up a facilitation structure within the newly established Estonian island Energy Agency to assist local authorities with green initiatives. With an investment of €35 million in 12 energy projects, the initiative is expected to deliver annual primary energy savings of 11 GWh/y and renewable energy generation of 42 GWh/y. This will lead to a reduction of approximately 3 712 tonnes of CO² emissions – and to the support of 5 local authorities through the services. Through this work, SEA aims to make a meaningful impact on local emissions and inspire other island communities with its approach to sustainable development.



Examples of ongoing projects in Estonia

The primary objective of the **CEESEU-DIGIT** project is to build capacity in 6 carbon-intensive regions across 6 Central and Eastern European countries to create comprehensive regional Energy and Climate Action Plans (ECAPs) aligned with National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) targets, supporting the EU Green Deal. The project prioritises the inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups, especially energy-poor households.

LIFE heritageHOME, focuses on providing a full-service renovation approach for owners of historic homes in Estonia to improve their energy efficiency while preserving cultural value. By working closely with local policymakers, heritage experts, and the public, the consortium behind LIFE heritageHOME aims to develop easy-to-use solutions and a digital platform that will guide heritage homeowners through each step of the renovation process.



Participants under the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme

Estonian partners are also participating in 15 ongoing LIFE Clean Energy Transition projects in 9 other EU Member States.

PARTICIPANT
in **15 ONGOING**
PROJECTS

1
BELGIUM
ENERCOM FACILITY
EnergyEfficiency4SME
EcoSMEnergy

2
BULGARIA
INSPIRenov

3
CROATIA
LIFE-COMET
CEESEN-BENDER

4
CZECHIA
RePower the Regions

5
DENMARK
CAEPBD6

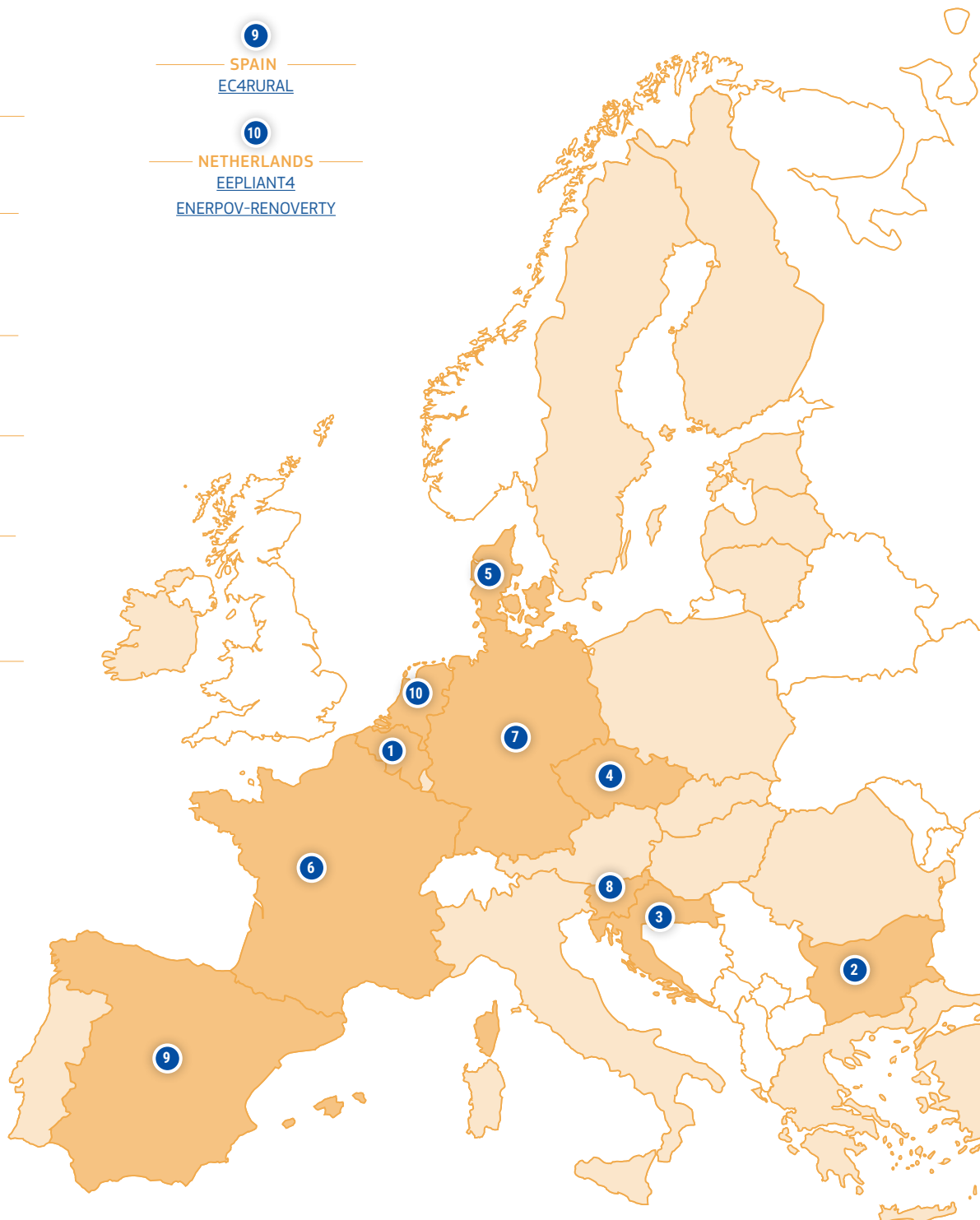
6
FRANCE
EUCF-LIFE EUCF
OdysseeMure fit-4-55

7
GERMANY
Skills4DHC

8
SLOVENIA
LOCAL GoGREEN

9
SPAIN
EC4RURAL

10
NETHERLANDS
EEPLIANT4
ENERPOV-RENOVERTY





WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT LIFE?

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

FOLLOW THE LIFE PROGRAMME ON SOCIAL MEDIA

ec.europa.eu/LIFE [LIFE programme](#) [LIFEprogramme](#)
[@LIFEprogramme](#) [LIFE programme](#) [@LIFEprogrammeEU](#)

SIGN UP TO THE [LIFE PROGRAMME](#) AND [CINEA CLEAN ENERGY NEWSLETTERS](#)

CONTACT THE LIFE NATIONAL CONTACT POINT IN YOUR MEMBER STATE

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

ONGOING NATURE & BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS COORDINATED BY ESTONIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Introducing adaptive community based biodiversity management in urban areas for improved connectivity and ecosystem health	LIFE21-NAT-EE-urbanLIFEcircles	urbanLIFEcircles	01/10/2022 - 30/09/2027
Bringing back the extinct sturgeon into the North-Eastern Baltic Sea	LIFE21-NAT-EE-LIFE Baltic Sturgeon	LIFE Baltic Sturgeon	01/09/2022 - 31/12/2027
Restoring and promoting a long term sustainable management of Fennoscandian wooded meadows in Estonia and Latvia	LIFE20 NAT/EE/000074-WOOD-MEADOWLIFE	WOODMEADOWLIFE	01/11/2021 - 31/12/2026
Restoring and connecting semi-natural meadow habitats on Muhu island	LIFE19 NAT/EE/001006-LIFE CONNECTING MEADOWS	LIFE CONNECTING MEADOWS	01/12/2020 - 01/12/2025
Adaptive community based management of forest and farming landscapes to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species	LIFE18 IPE/EE/000007-LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand	LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand	01/01/2020 - 31/12/2029

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

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Chemicals Risk Management and Assessment of Alternatives: Tools and best practices to support circularity, create more sustainable products and avoid regrettable substitution	LIFE22-ENV-EE-LIFE Fitfor-REACH-2	LIFE FitforREACH-2	01/10/2023 - 30/09/2027
Development of an integrated water management and its modern tools in Estonia - strategic choices for future	LIFE17 IPE/EE/000007-LIFE IP CleanEST	LIFE IP CleanEST	01/01/2019 - 31/12/2028

ONGOING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION PROJECTS COORDINATED BY ESTONIAN BENEFICIARIES

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Developing and demonstrating portfolio of nature based and smart solutions for improving urban climate resilience in Latvia and Estonia	LIFE21-CCA-EE-LIFE LATEST-adapt	LIFE LATESTadapt	01/09/2022 - 31/08/2027
Implementation of national climate change adaptation activities in Estonia.	LIFE21-IPC-EE-LIFE-SIP AdaptEst	SIP AdaptEst	01/01/2023 - 31/03/2032
PURSUIING ESTONIAN NATIONAL CLIMATE AMBITION THROUGH SMART AND RESILIENT RENOVATION	LIFE20 IPC/EE/000010-LIFE IP BUILDEST	LIFE IP BUILDEST	01/11/2021- 31/12/2028



ONGOING CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION PROJECTS COORDINATED BY ESTONIAN BENEFICIARIES			
PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT REFERENCE	PROJECT ACRONYM	PROJECT DURATION
Sustainable Estonian Archipelago	LIFE23-CET-SEA	SEA	01/07/2024 - 30/06/2027
Integrated renovation services for heritage homes of Estonia	LIFE22-CET-LIFEheritage-HOME	LIFEheritageHOME	01/11/2023 - 31/10/2026
Central and Eastern Europe Sustainable Energy Union's Design and Implementation of regional Government Initiatives for a just energy Transition	LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-CEESEU-DIGIT	LO-CAL-CEESEU-DIGIT	01/12/2022 - 31/05/2025

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