

Estonia

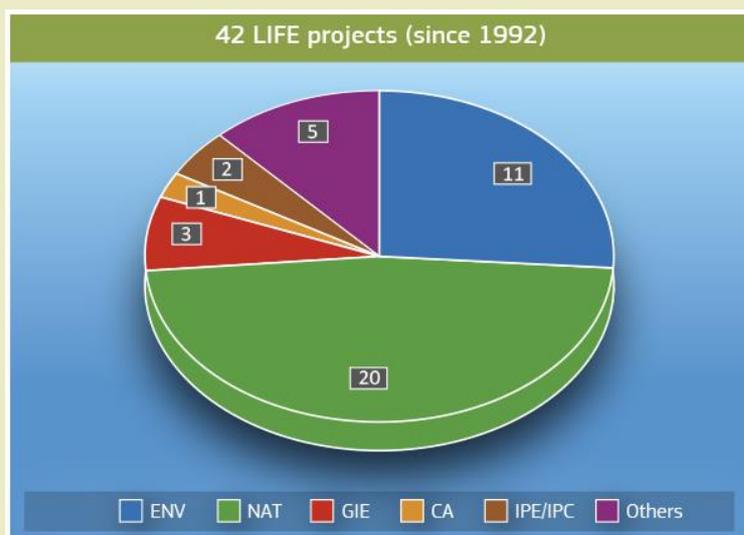


Overview

This document provides an overview of LIFE in Estonia. It showcases key data and some of the latest LIFE projects.

You will also find contact details and other useful resources and a full list of current and recently-finished LIFE projects.

Every year calls for project proposals are launched covering the LIFE programme's priority areas.



Investment in LIFE projects in Estonia (€ million)

	Total investment	EU contribution
ALL LIFE projects	84	48
Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)	21	8.5
Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)	20.5	13.5
Environmental Governance and Information (GIE)	2.5	1.5
Climate Action (CA)	2	1
Integrated (IPE/IPC)	36	22
Others	2	1.8

ABOUT LIFE

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 4 500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising over €9 billion and contributing more than €4 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The budget for the LIFE programme for 2014–2020 is set at €3.4 billion in current prices, with a sub-programme for environment and a sub-programme for climate action.

Types of LIFE project:

- Traditional (Environment and Resource Efficiency; Nature and Biodiversity; Environmental Governance and Information; Climate Change Mitigation; Climate Change Adaptation; Climate Governance and Information).
- Integrated (Environment, Nature or Climate Action)
- Preparatory
- Capacity-building

Other types of LIFE funding:

- NGO operating grants
- Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)
- Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)

NCFF and PF4EE are joint initiatives with the European Investment Bank, which manages the two funds. For more information visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/life>

LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency

This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to environmental challenges, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

The LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency strand (formerly the LIFE Environment Policy and Governance component) has co-financed 11 projects in Estonia thus far, representing a total investment of €21 million, of which €8.5 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects have tackled issues such as water quality, wastewater treatment – notably to reduce pollution by priority hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea – and groundwater protection; soil protection; and waste use (recycling of oil-shale ashes into road construction products). The projects were carried out by public bodies (national, local authorities and a state-owned company), a NGO and a university. They had an average duration of 40 months.

The project presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Environment project in Estonia.



Management of environmentally sound recycling of oil-shale ashes into road construction products. Demonstration in Estonia (OSAMAT) LIFE09 ENV/EE/000227

The OSAMAT project demonstrated the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of producing aggregates and additives from three different oil shale ash (OSA) applications in the construction sector. OSA was tested during road construction at two pilot sites in Estonia, Narva-Mustajõe and Simuna-Vaiatu, for road base course layer stabilisation and mass stabilisation of peat, and also in structural road base aggregates made from OSA and shale mining waste. The technical monitoring results showed that all three types of OSA are suitable for use in the tested applications for road construction.

These OSA applications were tested by the Estonian Road Administration for use in the construction of the main road between Tallinn and Tartu. In 2017, tests started for the use of OSA in the mass-stabilisation of soils in Rail Baltic railway construction, and coordinating beneficiary Eesti Energia is considering the material for the mass-stabilisation of soil in the construction of Tootsi wind park. An international collaboration, including ECOBA, large cement producers and civil-engineering companies in Finland, Sweden and Lithuania, has also been started.

The utilisation of OSA brings environmental, economic and social benefits. The environmental benefits of OSA utilisation as a binder in road construction, instead of cement, are reduced amounts of OSA deposited in landfill, reduced depletion of natural resources (cement and mineral resources), and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂) due to improved resource-use efficiency. In fact, for every tonne of OSA used in large applications as a substitute for cement reduces, GHG emissions are reduced by over 0.6 tonnes, along with other air pollutants.

The results of the environmental monitoring indicated fluctuations in concentrations of some metals and anions in samples of surface water and soils during several years of monitoring (at both pilot sites), but none of the concentrations exceeded the target values of the environmental legislation. There was no influence on the flora around the tested pilot site. Instead, there was a bloom of vegetation. In general, it can be concluded that there are no significant negative impacts to the environment coming from OSA use in road construction and it proves itself as an environmentally-safe aggregate.

According to the projects life cycle assessment (LCA) carried out at both pilot sites, the environmental load can be decreased by using OSA as a construction material for road construction. The life cycle cost (LCC) study compared the relevant investment costs of the alternatives and found OSA to be cost-effective; it showed that the discounted annual cost per kilometre of road was lower for structures with alternative construction materials to cement, like OSA. The crucial barrier to its use is the cost related to transportation of OSA over long distances. In this case, being more cost-effective for stabilisation projects closer to the Eesti Energia Narva Power Plant where the OSA is generated.

The increased use of OSA entails positive social impacts such as higher employment through the involvement of service providers (including SMEs) in such projects. The decreased landfilling of OSA improves the living environment of the people in North-East Estonia. Additionally, the decreased need for the extraction of primary raw materials for the production of cement has a positive effect on the people otherwise impacted by such mining activities.

Project results and dissemination actions helped to change perceptions of oil shale ash, with road construction companies, authorities and the general public now more likely to see it as a valuable construction material rather than just a waste material. An additional benefit arising from the project was that OSA was standardised as a product for using in cement, concrete and gas concrete production in Estonia.

For further information:
<http://www.osamat.ee>

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to contribute to the development and implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 20 projects in Estonia. These represent a total investment of €20.5 million, of which €13.5 million has been contributed by the EU.

Among the 12 closed projects, three dealt with the conservation/management of Natura 2000 biotopes/habitats (Karula National Park, Rāpina polder, the Häädemeeste wetland complex, the Boreal Baltic Coastal Meadow, the Kopu Peninsula, coastal meadows and lagoon habitats in Pärnu, petrifying spring habitats, river Laeva's natural riverbed in the Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 site, and alvar grassland areas). The remaining projects focused on the protection/recovery of priority species (European mink, great crested newt, spotted eagle, black stork, spadefoot toad and yellow-spotted whiteface dragonfly in Estonia and Denmark, and endangered freshwater fish species in the Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area) and habitats (the Häädemeeste wetland complex and the Boreal Baltic Coastal Meadow). The projects were mostly carried out by NGOs/foundations and park/reserve authorities, and had an average duration of 43 months.

There are three ongoing projects in Estonia. One project aims to secure the favourable conservation status of wetlands, especially mires and priority habitats protected by the Habitats Directive: active raised bogs, bog woodland and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods. The second project aims to improve habitats for the pond bat in Estonia. The most-recently funded project's main objective is to restore 200 ha of semi-natural grassland habitats on Muhu, Estonia's third largest island. These projects are being coordinated by NGOs and a university. They have durations of 48 to 88 months.

An example of a successful LIFE Nature project in Estonia is presented in the box below.



Restoration of Estonian alvar grasslands (LIFE to alvars) LIFE13 NAT/EE/000082

The LIFE to alvars project restored a total of 2 502 ha of alvar grasslands, as well as 1 000 ha of private land. Approximately 600 private landowners were involved in the project.

The project launched, tested and implemented a completely new and unseen restoration technique.

Manual work has been replaced with mechanical restoration, where chain swipec mowers, guillotines, forwarders and harvesters have been used.

The methodology set up by the project was very successful and was replicated to restore other habitat types such as coastal meadows and wooded meadows.

Livestock breeders' needs for grazing reintroduction were covered (grazing infrastructure was purchased, 200 km of fences were built on the restored areas, and 35 km of access roads were restored).

The recovery of the meadow vegetation has been much faster than expected. In the areas covered with juniper bushes the recovery of the meadow vegetation was observed already during the first vegetative period after the initial restoration. Heavily overgrown areas reached the same level of species richness within 2-3 years as the areas that were initially in the better state.

Altogether 178 farmers, landowners and entrepreneurs were trained on habitat restoration techniques.

The management guidelines for alvars were updated.

For further information:

<https://life.envir.ee/elualvaritel>

LIFE Environmental Governance and Information

This priority area is aimed at raising awareness of environmental matters, supporting the communication, management and dissemination of environmental information, and promoting better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement.

To date, this strand (formerly the LIFE+ Information and Communication component) has co-financed three projects in Estonia. This represents a total investment of €2.5 million, of which €1.5 million was provided by the EU.

The objectives of the two closed projects were: to raise awareness of how to protect against forest fires and provide training in order to enhance the level of preparedness at national level; and to strengthen consumer demand in the three Baltic states for products that are free of hazardous substances (see project results in the box below). The beneficiaries were the Private Forest Centre and the Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia.

The overall objective of the ongoing NaturallyEst-LIFE project, implemented by the Estonian Fund for Nature, is to enhance communication on the Natura 2000 network between local communities, landowners and nature conservation stakeholders.



Promoting Baltic Info Campaign on Hazardous Substances (BaltInfoHaz) **LIFE10 INF/EE/000108**

The BaltInfoHaz project generated a societal demand in three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) for products free of hazardous substances. The project's four awareness-raising campaigns targeted the general public; hairdressers and car repair shops; the consumers of paints, varnishes and adhesives; and young teachers and their pupils. Other core actions included lobbying for the integration of hazardous substance reduction measures into policy, and testing blood, air and products for hazardous substances. The project helped implement EU chemicals policy, particularly the requirements of the REACH regulation, the Water Framework Directive, the Baltic Sea Strategy, and HELCOM activities aiming for an environment free of hazardous substances.

The awareness-raising campaign targeted at the general public reached around 1 000 000 people in three Baltic States. Thanks to the project, almost 500 articles were published concerning hazardous substances. In Estonia and Latvia, 94 shop assistants in 16 K-Rauta shops were trained on hazardous substances issues. Around 320 students and acting teachers received training and 4 000 pupils were taught about the topic in Estonia and Latvia. The project's website had around 80 500 unique visitors. Other project deliverables included 6 guidebooks, on household chemicals, cosmetics, baby care, toys, renovation, and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs); a handbook for hairdressers and car repair shops, as well as leaflets for their clients; 2 leaflets for clients of K-Rauta stores; a teachers' handbook; 20 animations and 3 longer videos, and other brochures and gadgets. As a result, the BEF offices in the Baltic States are now regarded as information centres on hazardous substances in consumer goods.

To evaluate the environmental impacts of the project, two sets of measurements were applied: 'soft' (e.g. increase of awareness among selected stakeholder groups, changes in consumption patterns) and 'hard' (quantitative reduction of hazardous substances put in the market due to changes in sales of particular product groups). According to Eurobarometer surveys ('Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment') done in 2011 and 2014, awareness on chemicals in everyday products increased in all three countries: in Lithuania by 12% (51% to 63%), in Estonia by 13% (35% to 48%), and in Latvia by 9% (44% to 53%); although this effect cannot be attributed entirely to the BaltInfoHaz project. As a result of increased sales of tagged (project's "safer choice" tag) paints, varnishes and adhesives, with less hazardous substances, in comparison to non-tagged products, reductions were recorded for four hazardous substances: methyl ethyl ketoxime (25-26 kg/year), cobalt bis(2-ethylhexanoate) (25-26 kg/year), methylchloroisothiazolinone (0.12-0.14 kg/year) and benzisothiazolinone (0.25-0.26 kg/year) in Estonia and Latvia.

For further information:

<http://www.thinkbefore.eu/en/life-project/>

Sub-programme for Climate Action (LIFE 2014-2020)

LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and LIFE Climate Change Adaptation

The Climate Change Mitigation priority area is helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notably by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

The Climate Change Adaptation priority area is supporting efforts to increase resilience to climate change, in particular by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

To date, the Climate Change Adaptation strand has co-financed one project in Estonia. The project aims to increase the climate resilience of Estonian municipalities, especially their ability to manage flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall. It is being coordinated by the rural municipality of Viimsi parish in Northern Estonia, over a 54-month period, starting September 2018. The total budget is €2 million, of which the EU is contributing €1 million. The project's detailed objectives can be found in the box below. Its website link and results will be integrated in due course.



Development of sustainable and climate resilient urban storm water management systems for Nordic municipalities (LIFE UrbanStorm) LIFE17 CCA/EE/000122

In order to achieve its main objective presented above, the LIFE UrbanStorm project will facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches for climate change adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level, prioritising, where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches. The project will also focus on setting up an innovative complex storm water management system, which entails storm water collection and re-use. The demonstration site will be the focal point for engaging local inhabitants to promote the sustainable use of storm water and a change in water habits.

The project expects to:

- Propose a rainwater taxation system that incentivises the construction of sustainable drainage systems and thus decreases the pressure on city drainage systems;
- Develop strategies and action plans for Viimsi and Tallinn municipalities that include measures for increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change;
- Develop a cost-effective storm water management system, including four mobile weather stations and six flow metres in six locations created in Viimsi;
- Establish four demonstration sites for nature-based sustainable urban drainage systems in Viimsi;
- Make five hectares of land flood resilient as a result of the developed demonstration sites;
- Enable at least eight additional towns to draw up a climate change adaptation strategy and action plan.

For further information:

<https://www.viimsivald.ee/development-sustainable-and-climate-resilient-urban-storm-water-management-systems-nordic>

LIFE Integrated Projects for the Environment and Climate

This LIFE priority area is aimed at implementing on a large territorial scale (regional, multi-regional, national, trans-national) environmental or climate plans or strategies required by specific EU environmental or climate legislation, primarily in the areas of nature, water, waste, air and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Integrated Projects ensure the involvement of stakeholders, and promote the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other relevant EU, national or private funding source.

To date, two Integrated Projects for the environment have been co-financed in Estonia. This represents a total budget of €36 million, of which the EU will contribute €22 million.

The LIFE IP CleanEST project targets the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2015-2021 of the East Estonia River Basin District (RBD) and will run over a 120-month period. See detailed objectives of the project in the box below.

The main objective of the LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand project is to implement the most critical part of the Estonian Prioritised Actions Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 relating to forests and agricultural land. The project will tackle different conservation challenges that influence the value of Estonia's diverse ecosystems, with a focus on improving nature conservation practices in forest and farming landscapes. This project will run over a 120-month period.

Both projects are coordinated by the Estonian Ministry of Environment.



Development of an integrated water management and its modern tools in Estonia - strategic choices for future (LIFE IP CleanEST) LIFE17 IPE/EE/000007

The Integrated Project itself will focus on fully implementing measures for the Viru sub-basin. The essence of the project is to use new approaches for the integration of measures for water management, nature conservation and achievement of socio-economic goals.

The overall objective of the project is to achieve a good status of Estonia's aquatic environment considering the chemical and ecological criteria and to ensure the favourable status of water-dependent habitats. The project integrates the activities of River Basin Management Plans and nature management plans, and aims to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and administrative capacity.

The specific objectives include:

- Improving the status of surface and groundwater bodies;
- Building capacity to implement cost-efficient new technologies and innovative solutions;
- Increasing know-how and long-term capacity among all stakeholders involved; and
- Updating the RBMP for the next period (2021-2027) and applying the lessons learned in other RBMPs in Estonia, as well as at EU level.

Concrete actions will encompass 40 water bodies and their catchment areas, covering approximately 236 968 ha (including 30 690 ha of Natura 2000 areas, constituting 13% of the total area covered). Planned measures will be implemented on 38 river water bodies (with a total length of 574 km) and in 2 coastal water bodies (with a total catchment area of 155 200 ha). All measures planned for the Viru sub-basin will be implemented (37% of all measures in the East Estonia RBMP) and the good practices gained from their execution will be replicated in other River Basin districts, both in Estonia and in the EU.

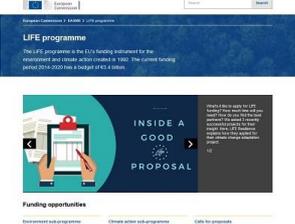
The main quantifiable expected outcomes are:

- A total stretch of 1.5 km of the River Erra bed and banks will be cleaned of residual pollution;
- Up to 1 200 tonnes of petroleum waste and soil will be removed from the Kohtla-Nmme residual pollution site and treated;
- Up to 340 m³ of contaminated soil on the Pahnime residual pollution site will be purified and detailed methodology for replication elaborated;
- A database of single-household wastewater treatment systems will be established;
- Agricultural pollution sources will be determined and effective preventive measures developed based on the work on a group of 10 pilot farms;
- Technical solutions for migration barriers (at least 10) will be developed;
- River connectivity will be restored, and six fish passes will be constructed;
- Diversity and abundance of migratory fish species (such as salmon) in the River Purtse and its tributaries (the rivers Erra and Kohtla) will be increased and the conservation status of various fish will be improved;
- 10-15 riverine habitats with an approximate length of 10 km will be restored;
- Novel methods to ecologically reclaim quarries will be demonstrated.

For further information:

<https://life.envir.ee/life-ip-cleanest>

Find out more about LIFE and LIFE projects

<p>LIFE website</p> <p>The LIFE website provides a wealth of information on the LIFE programme: http://ec.europa.eu/life/</p>	
<p>LIFE project database</p> <p>For further information on LIFE projects in Estonia or LIFE projects in general, please consult the online LIFE projects' database: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm</p> <p>This easy-to-use database is the authoritative source of information on all ongoing and completed LIFE projects. It also provides information on the beneficiaries, their contact details, and the projects' websites.</p>	
<p>Social media</p> <p>  twitter.com/LIFE_Programme  http://www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme </p>	
<p>Contact</p>	
<p>The National Contact Point for Estonia</p> <p>Estonian Ministry of the Environment - Foreign Financing Department and Climate and Radiation Department</p> <p>Name: Ms Merike LINNAMAGI, Senior Officer (LIFE Nature & Biodiversity) Mr Olav OJALA, Adviser Environment, Water Issues Mr Mihkel KRUSBERG, Adviser Resource efficiency Mr Ivo KRUSTOK, Senior Officer Foreign Financing Dept. (LIFE Environment) Ms Maris Arro, Senior Officer Climate Mr Allan Tamme, Senior Officer (LIFE Information & Communication) Ms Krista Tõnisson, Senior Officer, Budget and Strategy Dpt ((LIFE Climate)</p> <p>Address: Narva mnt 7a EE - 15172 Tallinn</p> <p>Tel: +372 6262 965 / +372 626 2919 / +372 626 0752 / +372 626 2986 / +372 6260 727</p> <p>E-mail: merike.linnamagi@envir.ee olav.ojala@envir.ee / mihkel.krusberg@envir.ee ivo.krustok@envir.ee / maris.arro@envir.ee / krista.tonisson@envir.ee</p> <p>Website: Ministry of the Environment</p> <p>The Monitoring Team for Estonia</p> <p>NEEMO EEIG – ELLE sia</p> <p>Address: Skolas iela 10-8 LV-1010 Riga</p> <p>Tel: +371 6 7242411</p> <p>E-mail: elle@neemo.eu</p>	

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Management of environmentally sound recycling of oil-shale ashes into road construction products. Demonstration in Estonia (OSAMAT)	LIFE09 ENV/EE/000227	http://www.osamat.ee/		09/2010→ 08/2016

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Conservation and restoration of petrifying springs habitats (code *7220) in Estonia (LIFE Springday)	LIFE12 NAT/EE/000860	http://www.loodushoid.ee/SPRINGDAY_348.htm		07/2013 → 05/2018
Restoring the integrity of freshwater habitats in Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area- bringing the River Laeva back to life (LIFE HAPPYRIVER)	LIFE12 NAT/EE/000871	http://www.loodushoid.ee/HAPPYRIVER_347.htm		07/2013 → 12/2017
Restoration of Estonian alvar grasslands (LIFE to alvars)	LIFE13 NAT/EE/000082	http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/elualvaritel/		09/2014 → 09/2019
Conservation and restoration of Mire Habitats (LIFE Mires Estonia)	LIFE14 NAT/EE/000126	https://soo.elfond.ee/en/projektist/ul_evaade/		09/2015 → 08/2020
Improving the Pond Bat (Myotis dasycneme) habitats in Estonia (EstBatLIFE)	LIFE16 NAT/EE/000710	http://elfond.ee/bats/the-project		07/2017 → 06/2021
Restoring and connecting semi-natural meadow habitats on Muhu island (LIFE CONNECTING MEADOWS)	LIFE19 NAT/EE/001006	N/A		12/2020 → 12/2025

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Environmental Governance and Information projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Baltic Info Campaign on Hazardous Substances (BaltInfoHaz)	LIFE10 INF/EE/000108	http://baltinfohaz.befgroup.net/		10/2011 → 03/2015
Piloting Natura2000 communication in Estonia (NaturallyEst-LIFE)	LIFE16 GIE/EE/000665	http://elfond.ee/what-we-do/naturallyest		09/2017 → 03/2022

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and LIFE Climate Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration

Development of sustainable and climate resilient urban storm water management systems for Nordic municipalities (LIFE UrbanStorm)	LIFE17 CCA/EE/000122	https://www.viimsivald.ee/development-sustainable-and-climate-resilient-urban-storm-water-management-systems-nordic		09/2018 -> 02/2023
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Ongoing LIFE Integrated Projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Development of an integrated water management and its modern tools in Estonia - strategic choices for future (LIFE IP CleanEST)	LIFE17 IPE/EE/000007	https://life.envir.ee/life-ip-cleanest		01/2019 -> 12/2028
Adaptive community based management of forest and farming landscapes to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species (LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand)	LIFE18 IPE/EE/000007	https://life.envir.ee/life-ip-forestfarmland		01/2020 -> 12/2029

Other ongoing projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Awareness raising & application quality improvement of the LIFE program in Estonia (AwaRaEst LIFE)	LIFE14 CAP/EE/000009	http://life.envir.ee		01/2016 -> 09/2018