

Hungary

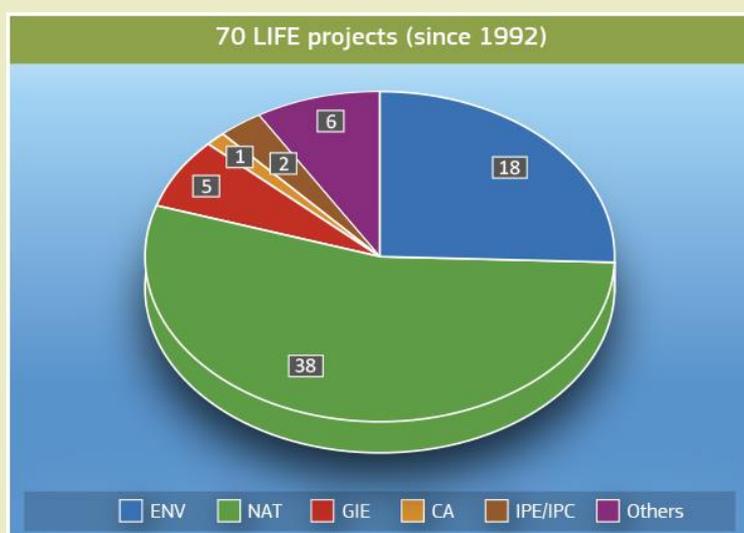
Overview



This document provides an overview of LIFE in Hungary. 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 Hungary (€ million)

	Total investment	EU contribution
ALL LIFE projects	159.5	99
Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)	30	11.5
Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)	86	61
Environmental Governance and Information (GIE)	5.5	3
Climate Action (CA)	2.5	1.5
Integrated (IPE/IPC)	33	20
Others	2.5	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.

To date, the LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency strand (formerly the LIFE Environment Policy and Governance component) has co-financed 18 projects in Hungary, representing a total investment of €30 million, of which €11.5 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects covered a wide range of sectors, including: end-of-life vehicles; air quality management; clean technologies; hazardous waste; reducing emissions of air pollutants; packaging and plastic waste; site rehabilitation and decontamination; waste from electrical and electronic equipment; sustainable tourism; sensitive area management; water management at the river basin scale; wastewater treatment; water quality; soil degradation and protection; climate change through the application of industrial symbiosis principles in central Hungary; and risk management in agriculture (pest control). A third of these projects were implemented by SMEs. Other beneficiaries were a development agency, three NGOs, two public enterprises, two regional authorities, an intergovernmental body and a research institute. The projects had durations of between 24 and 55 months.

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



Innovative Real-time Monitoring and Pest control for Insects (INSECTLIFE) **LIFE13 ENV/HU/001092**

The INSECTLIFE project is a follow-up to the MEDAPHON project (LIFE08 ENV/H/000292), whose result was the EDAPHOLOG monitoring system. This new project developed an innovative monitoring system for pest management, which detects pests and beneficial insects living in above-ground biotypes. This is addressed by assembling the different CSALOMON® pheromone traps used for certain pest species and sensors based on the

EDAPHOLOG monitoring system into a new construction. This has the advantage of allowing detection of pest emergence and population changes in an immediate and automatic way, as the pheromone baits are pest-specific, sensors inserted into CSALOMON® traps would detect only the targeted pest. This development greatly facilitates the use of pheromone traps, since the most limiting cost factors in pest monitoring are the regular checks and manual counting of catches. This automatic counting technique provides accurate data (e.g. daily) for the growers that are currently unavailable in the traditional way of manual counting. Therefore, the novel system greatly facilitates pest trapping as a basis for decisions in crop protection resulting in cleaner, more precise, as well as more environment-friendly crop protection. The aim of the project was to manufacture the prototype of this system and to test it under field conditions. The new idea and novelty of the project was the COUPLING of the above two elements in a way that the innovative tool itself can promote the use of environmentally-friendly IPM methodologies. There are two key elements of this promotion: (1) the monitoring of the pests becomes faster resulting in a more accurate pest control (IPM); and (2) the monitoring of the pests becomes cheaper and more cost-effective.

By applying integrated pest management pesticides loads can be decreased by 30-50%. The coordinating beneficiary found that manual checking in the plantations (orchards, arable lands) can be radically decreased, up to 1-2 weeks per manual checks. Compared to the daily checks this result improves not only the budgeting of IPM (less fuel consumption and working time), but also helps to spread IPM technologies over several parts in agricultural sectors. The TMO notes that the serial automated production of the prototype has not been launched yet.

For further information:
<http://zoolog.hu/insectlife>

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 38 projects in Hungary. These represent a total investment of €86 million, of which €61 million was contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects in Hungary have supported actions aimed at conserving species (mainly bird species – such as the imperial eagle, the great bustard, the red-footed falcon and the Saker falcon – but also the Hungarian meadow viper, large carnivores, and the Pannon endemic plant *Dianthus diutinus*) and actions aimed at the conservation/restoration of habitats, such as pannonic steppes, salt steppes, alluvial forests, marshes, sodic wetlands and grasslands in the Hortobágy National Park, alluvial habitats on Szabadság Island, Euro-siberian steppic woods and Pannonic sand steppes in "Nagykörösi pusztai tölgyesek" pSCI, and the Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site. Park authorities accounted for more than half of the project beneficiaries. The other projects were implemented by NGOs and a national authority. Project durations ranged from 42 to 64 months.

There are currently eight projects running in Hungary under the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity component. Some target the conservation and restoration of habitats, such as calcareous sand forest steppe habitats, and steppe lakes in Hortobágy National Park, and the Drava river floodplain. The other projects are aimed at conserving species, such as the European roller in the Carpathian basin, the imperial eagles (by managing human-eagle conflicts) and the Hungarian meadow viper. The projects are being implemented by NGOs, park authorities, and a public enterprise. The average duration is between 48 and 72 months.

Presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Nature project in Hungary.



Securing prey sources for endangered *Falco cherrug* and *Aquila heliaca* population in the Carpathian basin (RAPTORSPREYLIFE) LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183

The main objective of the RAPTORSPREYLIFE project was to reinforce the on-going efforts to strengthen the European core populations of Eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*). These are globally threatened species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. Thanks to LIFE funding, coordinating beneficiary Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate and the project partners stabilised the populations of these two raptor species, while the European and global populations are still decreasing.

Unfortunately, populations of the small mammal species that are the main part of the diet of these raptors are also in decline, including European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) which accounts for more than 25% of the Saker falcon's prey. The project team took several actions to stop the decline of small mammal populations. They established a genetic and health survey, and gene banks for small mammal species; reconnected fragmented rodent sub-populations; reconstructed ground squirrel habitat and introduced individuals from viable populations elsewhere. The project also raised public awareness about birds of prey, especially the importance of their prey species, and implemented an Action Plan for European ground squirrel.

For further information:

<https://sakerlife3.mme.hu/en>

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 five projects in Hungary. This represents a total investment of €5.5 million, of which €3 million was provided by the EU. The project durations vary from 36 to 56 months.

One of these projects, coordinated by the Forestry Directorate of the National Food Chain Safety Office, aimed to promote forest fire prevention in Hungary. Its detailed results are described in the box below.

Another project's objective was to design, develop and test a set of tools to support the development of skills, active communication and cooperation among key stakeholders in the management and conservation of Natura 2000 network forests. This project was carried out by WWF Hungary.

Among the ongoing projects, one aims to change attitudes to food waste in Hungary, leading to a reduction in the quantity of such waste generated by Hungarian households. This project is coordinated by the National Food Chain Safety Office. Another project aims to improve the implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law by providing the public with effective access to justice, such as judicial review, administrative review and complaints to other appeal bodies. It is implemented by the NGO Association Justice & Environment. The most recently co-funded project's objective is to facilitate behavioural change and raise awareness about the sustainable and safe use of chemical products. It is coordinated by the Association Tudatos Vásárlók Közhasznú Egyesülete.



Hungarian forest fire prevention and training program (FIRELIFE) LIFE13 INF/HU/000827

The FIRELIFE project achieved its objectives of enhancing effective, proactive and continuous forest fire prevention in Hungary, through the establishment of the Hungarian Forest Fire Prevention Communication Programme.

In particular, the project beneficiary printed and distributed 250 000 leaflets and information sheets, 5 000 000 brochures and flyers containing forest fire information, and published 36 500 educational storybooks. A total of 31 TV and 11 radio interviews were given, which reached 2 million people. In addition, 25 articles on forest fire prevention were published, which were cited on 875 different online platforms.

Project personnel contacted 59 000 people directly and participated in 60 events (117 event days in total). Approximately 32 000 children completed the project's adventure trail, an innovative forest fire prevention tool, and 2 000 information signs and 73 000 posters were seen by around 1.5 million people. 950 officials attended training sessions organised during the project. The large volume of information materials and dissemination activities conducted by the project resulted in 82% of the Hungarian population hearing about forest fires during the project period. The main fire prevention messages communicated included: '99% of wildfires in Hungary are caused by humans'; 'Restoration takes 100 years'; 'Helping hands are YOURS'; 'Protect forests, keep the butt!' (aimed at smokers); and 'Each euro spent on professional forest fire prevention is worth 100'.

The number of forest fires and the size of areas burnt decreased in Hungary as a result of the project. There was a steep decrease in the size of the burnt area per fire. In 2012 the average was 5 hectares/forest fire, while in 2018 it was only 1 hectare/forest fire. During the spring fire season from 2012 to 2018 the number of fires per fire danger days decreased by 30%, while the area burnt dropped by 70%. During the summer fire season, a decreasing trend is clearly visible from the intensity ratios, both in the number of fires and the burnt area. The former shows a decrease of 30%, while the latter dropped by 90%.

For further information:

<http://erdotuz.hu>

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 financed one project in Hungary. LIFE-MICACC's main goal is to improve the climate resilience of vulnerable municipalities in Hungary by reducing their risks stemming from climate change. The total investment for this project amounts to €2.5 million, of which the EU will provide €1.5 million. It will be carried out by Hungary's Ministry of Interior and will have a duration of 48 months, starting September 2017. More details about the project can be found in the box below; its results will be added in due course.



Municipalities as integrators and coordinators in adaptation to climate change (LIFE-MICACC) LIFE16 CCA/HU/000115

To achieve its objective, the project will introduce and foster the integration of sustainable ecosystem-based water management approaches into local governments' natural resources management strategies and land-use planning practice. The project also aims to strengthen the coordination role of local municipalities in climate change adaptation planning and recognition of risks.

More specifically, the project aims to: raise awareness and increase the knowledge of decision-makers in Hungarian local governments, relevant public administration bodies and economic actors about the impacts of climate change and about ecosystem-based natural water retention measures (NWRMs); test and demonstrate the practical applicability and viability of selected NWRMs in climate change adaptation within the Hungarian natural, socio-economic and administrative context by developing and implementing prototypes of these measures on five pilot sites; to disseminate the practical knowledge gained from these five test cases and foster the replication of the tested NWRM solutions for improved climate resilience in different locations within Hungary, both locally and regionally; to build locally coordinated catchment partnerships around a joint vision and prepare plans for the upscaling of NWRM solutions to catchment level, involving stakeholders; to create innovative and user-friendly smart IT tools for all Hungarian municipalities and other stakeholders that help them understand and manage climate risks, support knowledge sharing and facilitate stakeholder mobilisation; and finally involve Hungarian local governments in national and European networks of mutual support and cooperation for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The project expects to: increase adaptive capacity of municipalities in Hungary, leading to resilient, adaptive and balanced natural areas; to improve the knowledge of decision-makers in local governments on climate-induced water risks, ecosystem-based adaptation and funding sources; to bring local actors and decision-makers to take part in trainings and e-learning; to set-up two online tools to improve understanding and tackle water risks; to achieve improved climate resilience of the five pilot sites by addressing water scarcity problems, the retention of excess waters in created wetlands and green infrastructure; to produce an adaptation guide focusing on ecosystem-based methods; to obtain an improved adaptive capacity of the replication sites through increased knowledge of the municipalities' natural assets in relation to water management and climate change adaptation; and to improve the cooperation among municipalities and stakeholders.

For further information:
<http://www.bm-okl.hu/?projectMainType=LIFE> (temporary website)

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 Hungary.

The main objective of the LIFE-IP HUNGARY project is to implement air quality plan measures in eight regions to maintain an appropriate environmental state and improve air quality in compliance with the human right to healthy environment and clean air.

The long-term aim of LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU is the implementation of the Hungarian Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 (PAF).

Both projects are coordinated by Herman Ottó Institute Nonprofit Ltd.

These projects represent a total budget of €33 million, of which the EU will contribute €20 million.

Detailed objectives and the website of the LIFE-IP-HUNGARY project can be found in the box below.



Improving air quality at eight Hungarian regions through the implementation of air quality plan measures (LIFE-IP HUNGARY) LIFE17 IPE/HU/000017

During the project, 10 Hungarian municipalities representing 8 regions will participate and implement air quality plans. The project aims to promote the implementation of the measures laid down in the air quality plans (AQPs). These are prepared by the regional environmental authorities (county government offices) taking into consideration suggestions from the municipalities.

The main objectives of the BNIP project are the following:

- eliminate key barriers between the efficient implementation of municipal air quality plans and the domestic and EU funds, and make the use of financial sources more efficient;
- support and train decision-makers by developing and sharing know-how, providing local data and models and integrating the strategic planning of different sectors;
- develop an institutional background of information exchange, communication and air pollution prevention by installing an air pollution prevention consultant network to ensure that air quality plans and emission reduction measures are implemented;
- raise awareness of environmental issues by organising different events and campaigns on decreasing residential and transport air pollution and energy consumption;
- support inhabitants to be more efficient in submitting air quality and environmental protection projects; and
- transfer knowledge and disseminate good practices at national and international level.

The expected results of the project are:

- automated monitoring stations will be installed at municipalities where currently none exist;
- air quality plans to be renewed and updated during the implementation of the project starting from the first phase;
- efforts must be made to exploit and create available tenders which improve air quality. An eco-manager network will be set up to facilitate this and to link developments to the AQPs;
- strong cooperation is expected between stakeholders in implementing the AQPs; and
- broad information campaigns will be launched through media channels. Residential combustion and transportation habits can only be changed with regular awareness raising and educational campaigns.

For further information:

<http://www.hermanottointezet.hu/hungary>

Find out more about LIFE and LIFE projects

Surf on the LIFE website

The LIFE website provides a wealth of information on the LIFE programme:
<http://ec.europa.eu/life/>



Search the LIFE projects database

For further information on LIFE projects in Hungary or LIFE projects in general, please consult the online LIFE projects database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

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.



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Contact

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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
Innovative Real-time Monitoring and Pest control for Insects (INSECTLIFE)	LIFE13 ENV/H/001092	http://zoolog.hu/insectlife		06/2014-> 12/2018

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Restoration and conservation of the Pannonic salt steppes of Pásztó grassland with sustainable management (Pásztó habitat restoration)	LIFE10 NAT/HU/000018	http://www.pasztolife.hu		09/2011 -> 12/2014
Conservation of imperial eagles by managing human-eagle conflicts in Hungary (HELICON)	LIFE10 NAT/HU/000019	http://www.imperialeagle.hu		01/2012 -> 12/2016
Conservation of priority natural values in 'Turjánvidék' Natura 2000 site southern unit (HUTURJAN)	LIFE10 NAT/HU/000020	http://turjanvidek.hu/		09/2011 -> 08/2016
Large scale grazing management of steppe lakes in the Hortobágy (Steppe lake grazing)	LIFE11 NAT/HU/000924	http://www.hortobagy.eu/en/life/		07/2012 -> 07/2018
CONSERVATION OF FALCO VESPERTINUS IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN (REDFOOT)	LIFE11 NAT/HU/000926	http://falcoproject.eu		09/2012 -> 03/2018
Restoration and conservation of Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior in the Kaszo area (KASZO-LIFE)	LIFE12 NAT/HU/000926	http://www.kaszo-life.eu		09/2013 -> 08/2018
Conservation of dry grasslands in Central Hungary (HUGRASSLANDSLIFE)	LIFE12 NAT/HU/001028	http://www.dunaipoly.hu		09/2013 -> 08/2018
Restoration of Pannonic sodic wetlands in the Kiskunság (LIFE sodic wetlands)	LIFE12 NAT/HU/001188	http://www.sodicwetlands.com/		10/2013 -> 06/2019
Conservation of the European Roller (Coracias garrulus) in the Carpathian Basin (ROLLER LIFE+)	LIFE13 NAT/HU/000081	http://rollerproject.eu/		09/2014 -> 03/2020
Securing prey sources for endangered Falco cherrug and Aquila heliaca population in the Carpathian basin (RAPTORSPREYLIFE)	LIFE13 NAT/HU/000183	http://sakerlife3.mme.hu/en		09/2014 -> 03/2020
Transboundary cooperation for revitalization of riverine habitat complex in Drava region within Natura 2000 sites (LIFE Old-Drava)	LIFE13 NAT/HU/000388	http://www.olldrava.com/		06/2014 -> 05/2018

Conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region (PannonEagle Life)	LIFE15 NAT/HU/000902	http://imperialeagle.eu/		10/2016 → 03/2022
Multilevel and multisite complex restoration of key ecosystem services of the calcareous sand forest steppe habitat (OAKEYLIFE)	LIFE16 NAT/HU/000599	http://oakeylife.hu		08/2017 → 12/2022
Wise water management for the conservation of riverine and floodplain habitats along the Drava River (WISEDRAVALIFE)	LIFE17 NAT/HU/000577	http://wwf.hu/wisedrava/		07/2018 → 16/2023
Viability improvement of Hungarian meadow viper populations and habitats in the Pannonian region (LIFE HUNVIPHAB)	LIFE18 NAT/HU/000799	https://www.mme.hu/elindult-a-rakosi-vipera-vedelmet-szolgalolife-projekt?fbclid=IwAR3eouUQgwKb48W94QcriSSDICAQA9vk_TRw1Y7lBTHS_wJdx7zPs39mSpM		08/2019 → 03/2025

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
Hungarian forest fire prevention and training program (FIRELIFE)	LIFE13 INF/HU/000827	http://erdotuz.hu		07/2014 → 06/2018
Improved communication, cooperation and capacity building for preserving biodiversity in Natura 2000 forests (LIFEinFORESTS)	LIFE13 INF/HU/001163	http://www.lifeinforests.eu		07/2014 → 03/2018
Food waste prevention in the food chain to support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme (LIFE-FOODWASTEPREV)	LIFE15 GIE/HU/001048	http://maradeknelkul.hu/		07/2016 → 06/2020
Complex awareness raising and behaviour change program for the sustainable & safe use of chemicals in consumer products (Green & Safe LIFE-styles)	LIFE17 GIE/HU/000622	https://tudatosvasarlo.hu/green-and-safe-lifestyles-English		09/2018 → 04/2023

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
Municipalities as integrators and coordinators in adaptation to climate change (LIFE-MICACC)	LIFE16 CCA/HU/000115	http://www.bm-oki.hu/?projectMainType=LIFE		09/2017 → 08/2021

Ongoing LIFE Integrated Projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Improving air quality at eight Hungarian regions through the implementation of air quality plan measures (LIFE-IP HUNGARY)	LIFE17 IPE/HU/000017	http://www.hermanottointezet.hu/hungairy		01/2019 -> 12/2026
Long term conservation of Pannonian grasslands and related habitats through the implementation of PAF strategic measures (LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU)	LIFE17 IPE/BE/000018	http://lifepalyzatok.eu/life-integralt-projektek-2018.html		01/2019 -> 12/2026

Other ongoing projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
LIFE Capacity Building in Hungary (LIFE CAP HUN)	LIFE14 CAP/HU/000010	http://www.lifepalyzatok.eu/capacity-building.html		01/2016 -> 12/2018