

Ireland

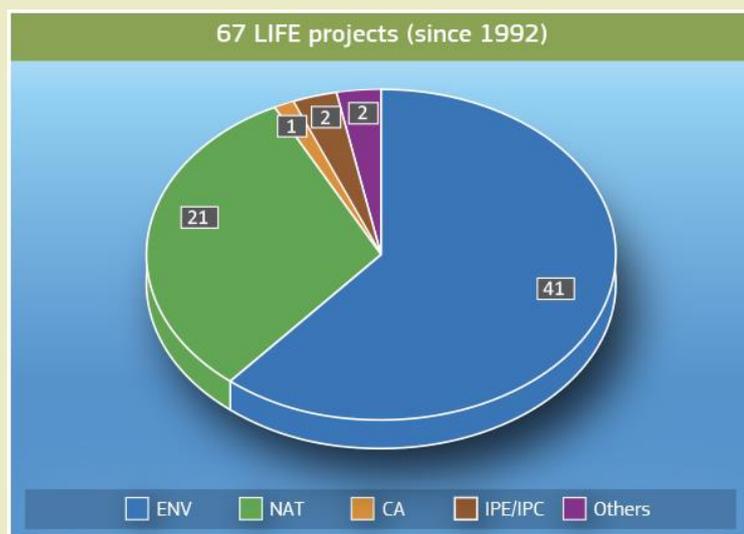


Overview

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

	Total investment	EU contribution
ALL LIFE projects	191	90
Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)	82	28
Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)	62	37
Climate Action (CA)	5.5	3
Integrated (IPE/IPC)	40.5	22
Others	0.6	0.2

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 (NCF)
- Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)

NCF 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 41 projects in Ireland thus far, representing a total investment of €82 million, of which €28 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects mainly targeted integrated environmental management, clean technologies, sensitive area management (coastal areas), end-of-life vehicle waste and urban design. One project specifically aimed to strengthen the integration of tourism and natural heritage, and to reconcile tourism development with the conservation of biodiversity in the Burren region. Another project transformed an industrial space into a collaborative learning space. Local authorities and SMEs were the main beneficiaries, and the projects had durations of between 24 and 63 months.

There are three ongoing projects in Ireland. One project (coordinated by the South Dublin County Council over a 48-month period) seeks to improve water quality in County Dublin and beyond, by making it quicker and cheaper to carry out domestic misconnection inspections using a novel GIS-based approach. One project (coordinated by a SME over a 33-month period) will seek to bring a new water quality monitoring solution to market; and the most recently-funded project (coordinated by Lanber Holdings over a 33-month period) aims at addressing the environmental impacts of cheese production by overcoming the main barrier currently limiting the appropriate valorisation of whey permeate.

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



Working with Industrial Spaces to Exemplify Reuse (WISER LIFE) LIFE13 ENV/IRL/000763

The WISER LIFE project has succeeded in delivering a new methodology for education in sustainable development. The project underwent an 18-month design period and 12 months of construction to transform a disused boiler house in Ballymun, Dublin, into a novel 3D textbook and collaborative learning space.

WISER LIFE has developed and delivered a collaborative life-long learning programme with schools, universities, corporate organisations and community groups. The demonstration and innovation aspects of the 3D textbook are attracting many visitors and practitioners to the centre and helping to build capacity for the green sector.

The facility provides a living laboratory for the circular economy and collaborative research projects, and opportunities are continually emerging with local and overseas universities and municipalities. An eco-cluster of resource-efficient social enterprises has been created. A number of social, economic and environmental benefits due to their co-location have been achieved. The communication and dissemination activities of the project have been particularly successful and WISER LIFE is widely acknowledged as nationally exemplary.

For further information:
<http://www.wiserlife.eu>

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

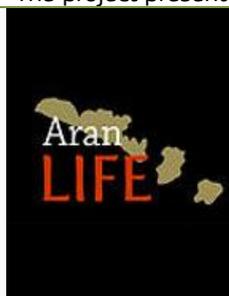
This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to contribute to the development and implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 21 projects in Ireland. These represent a total investment of €62 million, of which €37 million has been contributed by the EU.

The completed projects mostly concentrated on the conservation, management and restoration of habitats, with a specific emphasis on active blanket bogs, raised bogs, farmland, various types of woodland, and priority terrestrial habitats. As a result of some projects, the conditions for the Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey and European otter, hen harrier, merlin, Atlantic salmon and brook lamprey were improved by connecting or restoring their habitats. One project made a significant contribution to halting the loss of biodiversity in Ireland by developing and demonstrating effective methods for controlling highly-invasive plant species, combined with a programme of stakeholder commitment, leading to policy development and dissemination. Another project developed a new model for the sustainable agricultural management of the priority habitats of the Burren. Project beneficiaries comprised mainly NGOs, IRD Duhallow, parks and national authorities, and a semi-state fisheries organisation. The durations ranged from 48 to 66 months.

There are four ongoing projects in Ireland. Projects seek to: demonstrate sustainable management techniques for farming and forestry in freshwater pearl mussel catchments; restore raised bogs in the Irish Midlands; and improve the conservation status in Ireland of the corncrake by the enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland. The projects will have durations of 52 to 66 months and are being coordinated by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The project presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Nature project in Ireland.



The sustainable management of the priority terrestrial Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitats of the Aran Islands (LIFE Aran) LIFE12 NAT/IE/000995

The LIFE Aran project worked with farmers on the three Aran Islands to develop and promote traditional and sustainable farming practices to benefit the Islands' natural environment. The project focused on the low-intensity farming practices that created the iconic Aran landscape, which are recognised in the designation of the Islands' Natura 2000 sites (sites to protect habitats and species of European importance). It harnessed local farming

knowledge and experience with the scientific expertise of project partners to overcome the challenges of island farming and to improve the conservation condition of the Natura sites.

Main achievements of the project:

- Worked with 67 farmers to improve the conservation status of habitats of international importance;
- Improved access to land parcels to facilitate management, including grazing, by clearing 28 km of boreens (small roads) and installing 40 gates and assisting access to approximately 460 ha of land;
- Scrub and bracken control management resulting in 91 ha of scrub controlled;
- Enhancement of livestock management facilities through the provision of water infrastructure consisting of 131 new water features installed, and 107 existing rain catchers repaired. This infrastructure secures the conservation of over 4 500 000 litres of rainwater annually and improves the grazing in approximately 474 ha of land;
- Development of a simple scoring system that reflects the quality of the habitat and level of grazing achieved;
- Implementation of optimal grazing plans on 1 011 ha of land within the project, with a results-based approach to measure success;
- Identified the deficiencies in the forage and worked with the local veterinary surgeon to provide mineral supplementation specifically suited to the island forage; and
- The production of Best Practice Guides and Information sheets to encourage more effective ecologically-sensitive management of additional land on the islands and for use in other areas.

For further information:

<http://www.aranlife.ie>

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 and increase carbon sequestration, 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.

To date, the Climate Change Mitigation strand has financed one project in Ireland. Over a 48 month-period, UCD School of Biosystems & Food Engineering will coordinate the LIFE Farm4More project, which aims to deliver climate change mitigating impacts for the livestock industry by implementing an economically viable organic animal feed and a biochar production strategy. The total investment for this project amounts to almost €5.5 million, of which the EU is contributing €3 million.

More details on the project actions can be found in the box below.



LIFE Farm4More - Future Agricultural Management for multiple outputs on climate and rural development (LIFE Farm4More) LIFE18 CCM/IE/001195

The LIFE Farm4More project aims to deliver climate change mitigating impacts for meat production through an economically-viable organic animal feed, a biochar production process, and an environmentally-sustainable land management strategy. These address key problems of the rearing of livestock for food production, namely, high greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and excess nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, which can cause water pollution. The project partners will develop new feeding strategies for cattle and poultry to reduce nutrient emissions, and optimise new biorefinery protein products for a range of animal feed applications.

Specific objectives include:

1. Demonstrating GHG reductions in cattle production using new feed formulations;
2. Developing a biorefinery to produce crude protein and hydrolysed protein, amino acid and polypeptide concentrates for animal feed;
3. Establishing a Member State/stakeholder group (Ireland, Austria, Denmark) for localised biorefinery implementation;
4. Characterising and optimising biorefinery products for various feed applications;
5. Conducting animal feeding tests using biorefinery products, to create feeding strategies that maximise animal performance while minimising GHG and nutrient emissions;
6. Screening for alternative feed substrates (e.g. seaweed) and additional non-feed applications for the generated biorefinery products;
7. Assessing the economic feasibility of selected business cases; and
8. Building a strong base for the Farm4more initiative by integrating existing expertise from green biorefining actors from Austria and Ireland, and the project's biorefinery group in Denmark.

For further information:
<http://www.farm4more.eu/>

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 Ireland. These projects represent a total budget of nearly €41 million, of which the EU will contribute nearly €22 million.

The LIFE-IP PAF Wild Atlantic Nature project aims to address the identified obstacles, gaps and shortcomings that currently prevent the full implementation of the PAF for Natura 2000 on 24 SACs with respect to Ireland's blanket bogs in the Northern and Western Region. The overall objective of LIFE-IP Waters of Life is to support the implementation of measures to protect and enhance high-status waters and thus to support the work of the Blue Dot Catchments Programme as outlined in the RBMP for Ireland 2018-2021.

The projects will be coordinated respectively by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government over periods of 108 and 86 months.

Detailed objectives of the LIFE-IP Waters of Life project can be found in the box below. The project's website and results will be added in due time.



Protect and restore high ecological status waterbodies in Ireland (LIFE-IP Waters of Life) LIFE18 IPE/IE/000003

The Waters of LIFE IP will act as a catchment-scale demonstration project to test and validate the effectiveness of implementing locally-tailored best practice measures across a range of landscape and land-use management activities typically associated with the catchments of high-status waters.

The project will give particular emphasis to the following:

- Building technical understanding and capacity in relation to the design and implementation of measures in a strategic and integrated way across a variety of key land-use pressures and activities to deliver effective solutions at a landscape/catchment-wide scale for the protection of high-status waters;
- Promoting community and landowner ownership of the actions proposed and ensuring local community involvement in developing the land-use management actions to be implemented;
- Making recommendations that will inform the development of future agri-environment and forestry policies and provide for the long-term sustainable management of high-status areas;
- Enhancing public appreciation of the ecology, ecosystems and natural capital value of high-status waters and their catchments;
- Developing and building synergies between measures implemented to address water quality considerations and related biodiversity objectives within the catchments of high-status waters; and
- Monitoring and demonstrating the effectiveness of the measures implemented.

Find out more about LIFE and LIFE projects

LIFE website

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



LIFE project database

For further information on LIFE projects in Ireland 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.



Social media



twitter.com/LIFE_Programme



<http://www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme>



www.flickr.com/photos/life_programme

Contact

The National Contact Point for Ireland

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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
Burren Tourism for Conservation (Burren Tourism)	LIFE11 ENV/IE/000922	http://www.burrengeopark.ie/what-we-do/geopark-life-project/		10/2012--> 12/2017
Working with Industrial Spaces to Exemplify Reuse (WISER LIFE)	LIFE13 ENV/IE/000763	http://www.rediscoverycentre.ie/WISER_Life.aspx		06/2014--> 04/2018
LIFE EcoSens Aquamonitrix (LIFE EcoSens Aquamonitrix)	LIFE17 ENV/IE/000237	https://www.ecosensaquamonitrix.eu/		07/2018--> 03/2021
Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE)	LIFE17 ENV/IE/000281	https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/dublin-urban-rivers-life/		06/2018--> 06/2022
Extension of whey permeate value chain through industrial symbiosis to produce a valuable non-GMO yeast protein (Whey2LIFE)	LIFE18 ENV/IE/000084	http://www.whey2life.ie		07/2019--> 06/2022

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
The sustainable management of the priority terrestrial Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitats of the Aran Islands (LIFE Aran)	LIFE12 NAT/IE/000995	http://www.aranlife.ie		09/2013 -> 12/2017
Sustainable land use management for the conservation of freshwater mussel (LIFE Kerry)	LIFE13 NAT/IE/000144	http://www.npws.ie/research-projects/kerrylife		07/2014 -> 12/2019
Connecting and Restoring habitats for Hen Harrier, Merlin, Atlantic Salmon and Brook Lamprey in Duhallow, Southern Ireland (RAPTOR LIFE)	LIFE13 NAT/IE/000769	http://duhallowlife.com/raptor-life		01/2015 -> 05/2019
Restoring Active Raised Bog in Ireland's SAC Network 2016 – 2020 (LIFE Irish Raised Bogs)	LIFE14 NAT/IE/000032	http://www.raisedbogslife.ie/		01/2016 -> 12/2020
Improving Corncrake conservation status in Ireland by the enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland (LIFE Atlantic Crex)	LIFE18 NAT/IE/000090	N/A		01/2020 -> 12/2024

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
LIFE Farm4More - Future Agricultural Management for multiple outputs on climate and rural development (LIFE Farm4More)	LIFE18 CCM/IE/001195	http://www.farm4more.eu/		07/2019 -> 06/2023

Ongoing LIFE Integrated Projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Towards implementing the PAF for Ireland by protecting and restoring Ireland's blanket bog Natura Network along Atlantic seaboard (LIFE IP PAF-WILD ATLANTIC NATURE)	LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002	N/A		01/2020 -> 12/2028
Protect and restore high ecological status waterbodies in Ireland (LIFE-IP Waters of Life)	LIFE18 IPE/IE/000003	N/A		11/2019 -> 12/2028