

Romania

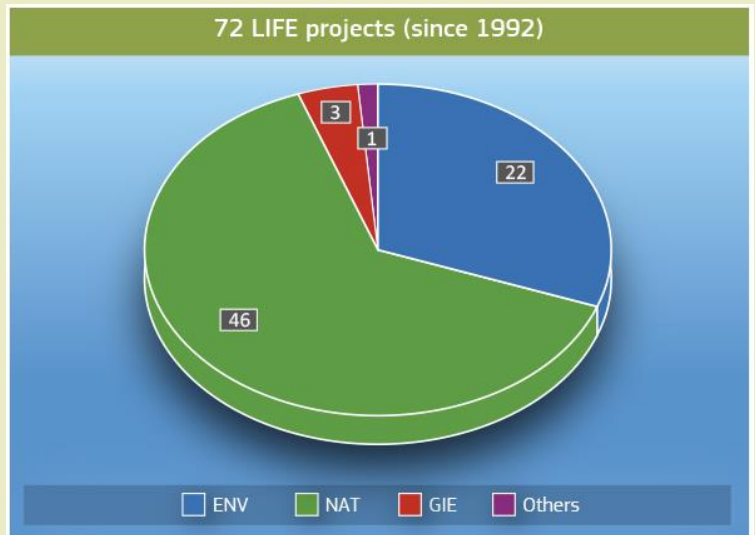


Overview

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

	Total investment	EU contribution
ALL LIFE projects	85	42
Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)	17	7.5
Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)	66	33
Environmental Governance and Information (GIE)	2	1
Others	0.4	0.3

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 22 projects in Romania thus far, representing a total investment of €17 million, of which €7.5 million has been provided by the EU.

The completed projects covered several themes, such as: clean technologies; water management at the scale of the river basin; industrial and municipal waste management; air quality; risk assessment and pollution control; sensitive area management; construction and demolition waste; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide mitigation in algal photosynthetic systems); hazardous waste (shipment and safe treatment, hazardous waste in hospitals); recycling of industrial waste; and eco-marketing. National and local authorities were the main beneficiaries. Other beneficiaries included a development agency, a public enterprise, a university (Târgu-Jiu) and two research institutions. The average durations of the projects ranged from 30 to 45 months.

Presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Environment project in Romania.



Microwaves ecofriendly alternative for a safe treatment of medical waste (MEDWASTE) **LIFE10 ENV/RO/000731**

The MEDWASTE project demonstrated the feasibility and efficiency of using microwave technology to treat medical waste, and promoted this technology as a technically and economically superior, and less environmentally harmful, alternative to current methods for disinfecting medical waste.

From a technical perspective, the project developed a device based on the innovative use of industrial generators of microwaves, in particular magnetrons that generate a high-frequency field in the device chamber. This ensures treatment of hazardous medical waste at a temperature of 100 degrees Celsius, for 60 litres of medical waste per cycle within 30 minutes. The entire process lasts about 45 minutes including cooling, and is quicker than traditional methods. The process effectively destroys the pathogens in hazardous medical waste, enabling it to be safely handled and destroyed by traditional methods. The project team demonstrated the microwave treatment method in Romania and Bulgaria under real medical condition, and showed the replicability of its methodology in other European contexts. They raised awareness of the management of medical waste through an extensive dissemination campaign, which promoted the developed device and the microwave methodology and highlighted the positive results, including at several national and international workshops and seminars.

Environmental and economic benefits of the innovative equipment for the microwave treatment of medical waste include: meeting new requirements for reusing and recycling solutions and/or reducing waste volume at the production point; improved bio-risk management to solve biosafety and biosecurity issues; reducing the need for solid or liquid fuels which could generate additional pollutants; and fulfilling environmental, social and economic requirements for a green economy.

The project's microwave technology treats medical wastes via heating and radiation directly on the surface and inside the waste. This is fundamentally different from conventional heating, and provides energy savings and therefore cost savings. Because microwaves are a penetrating radiation, wastes are heated more uniformly and more rapidly than by incineration or autoclaving processes. The reduced size of the prototype, compared to conventional treatment devices, reduces the size of the installation area, and it is generally more suitable for indoor use.

The impact of treating medical waste is therefore minimised, in terms of energy, raw resources and pollution. For instance, the energy needed per unit of medical waste is 30-50% less than that required for incineration or autoclaving; maintenance and operating costs are lower (e.g. no external source of steam is needed); and the device is not polluting and so generates fewer environmental problems.

Local authorities could use the project information to update medical waste management guidelines and/or legislation, and to harmonise the Romanian, Bulgarian and EU directives implementation regarding medical waste management.

For further information:
<http://www.life.imnr.ro>

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.

The LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 46 projects in Romania thus far. These represent a total investment of €66 million, of which €33 million was contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects in Romania focused mainly on habitat restoration (alpine and sub-alpine forests and wetland habitats; Transylvania's pastoral ecosystems; Semenic and Calimani-Gurghiu mountains; Iron Gates wetlands; caves; and natural forests in the Fagaras Mountains in the Southern Carpathian Mountains), but also on the conservation of certain species (large carnivores, bats, meadow viper, dolphins, pygmy cormorant, ferruginous duck, lesser spotted eagle, and wolf). Parks, national and regional authorities, and research institutions accounted for nearly 80% of the project beneficiaries. Other types of beneficiaries included development agencies, NGOs, universities, local authorities, a national park and a training centre. Project durations ranged from 24 to 63 months.

There are six ongoing Nature projects under the LIFE+ programme in Romania. These focus mainly on the conservation of habitats (Cheile Nerei – Beusnita caves) as well as species (brown bear in the Carpathians, rheophilic fish in the Gilort river system, and saproxylic beetles in the Carpathians). One project specifically aims at demonstrating cooperative approach for good management of Natura 2000 grasslands at landscape scale in Transylvania; and another one at creating a wilderness reserve in the Southern Carpathian Mountains. The beneficiaries include NGOs, an agency and a research institution. The projects have durations of between 46 and 60 months.

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



WOLFLIFE - Implement best practices for in-situ conservation of the species *Canis lupus* in the Eastern Carpathians (WOLFLIFE) LIFE13 NAT/RO/000205

WOLFLIFE successfully developed a National Action Plan for the wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Romania, implemented diverse conservation actions for wolf populations in 18 Natura 2000 network sites, and helped positively change attitudes regarding wolves in society.

The project team developed the National Action Plan (NAP) for the wolf in Romania, which was approved in July 2018 by the Minister for the Environment. As part of the NAP, guidelines were developed and pioneering methods implemented for robust population estimates of the national wolf populations. The project team proposed innovative measures for assessing the size, distribution, structure and dynamics of the wolf population. An integrated sampling procedure and methodology, for instance, was demonstrated for the wolf population in the Eastern Carpathians. The NAP was given a high visibility, for example, through an article published in National Geographic. Effective wolf management and conservation strategies were developed.

Improving wolf-human coexistence and developing good practices for preventing conflicts with wolves was a key success story of WOLFLIFE. The project led to the establishment of the Centre for the Reproduction, Care and Surveillance of Livestock Guarding Dogs (CRISCPS), including the setting up of a kennel for the breeding of native dog breeds traditionally used by shepherds for farm protection, training areas, accommodation space, and veterinary treatment facilities. A breeding programme for livestock guarding dogs was successfully launched, along with the establishment of a long-term guard dog owners' network. The project team identified and evaluated traditional livestock farms, in terms of the risk of damage from wolves. The project implemented best practices and demonstration actions, including the use of electrical systems and repellents, to reduce conflicts between livestock farmers and wolves in six pilot areas. In addition, the project team developed plans and methodologies to estimate the density of wandering feral dogs in wolf habitats, which compete with wolves for prey. They collected and removed 7 751 feral dogs from wolf habitat areas. A demonstration campaign was also conducted for feral dog sterilisation, and vaccination to reduce the risk of diseases being passed from feral dogs to wolves.

The project team identified 19 dens and 13 rendezvous areas for wolves, identified 36 risk areas in which there is the possibility of wolf habitat fragmentation, and developed technical proposals for the permeability of existing transport infrastructure to facilitate wolf movement across seven national road and five railway sections. Project action also improved the management of the wolf's key prey species. A Best Practice Manual for the management of prey-species of wolves was produced. The consequence of implementing these methods to improve prey availability should be a lower attack frequency of wolves on livestock.

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

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.

This strand (formerly the LIFE+ Information and Communication component) has co-financed three projects in Romania thus far, representing a total investment of €2 million, of which €1 million was provided by the EU. The projects had durations of between 24 and 42 months.

One, completed in 2014, conducted an awareness-raising campaign to promote the production and consumption of green products. The project was implemented by the University of Bacau. The second, ending in late 2016, aimed to improve the capacity of Natura 2000 site managers in Romania, by providing comprehensive training (including training to help managers better communicate about Natura 2000) and by supporting improved territorial planning, which also incorporates biodiversity issues. The project was carried out by the ProPark Foundation. The last project's objectives were to raise awareness of the environmental issues surrounding the manufacture and use of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), the handling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and its treatment and recovery, including reuse and recycling. It was coordinated by the NGO Asociatia Ecotic. More details on its results can be found in the box below.



Raising awareness of the importance of environmentally sound management of WEEE among identified target groups - Romania (ECOTIC LIFE+ Caravan) LIFE13 INF/RO/000090

The ECOTIC LIFE+ Caravan project had a direct and positive impact in raising awareness about WEEE in Romania, which has indirectly led to higher collection rates in the country. In turn, this means that less hazardous materials pollute the environment and more material is recovered/recycled.

There were three main target groups – schoolchildren and teachers; households and the general public; and local authorities – all of whom were successfully reached in higher than expected numbers.

At the heart of the project's information campaign was the 'ECOTIC Caravan' a vehicle bought second-hand, and adapted to serve as a mobile showroom (with the capacity of an average school class-room). This mobile exhibition – a novelty in Romania – was fitted out to showcase 10 examples of dismantled, typical electronic devices, such as a washing-machine and mobile phone. The interior provided information and helped raise awareness on environmental hazards associated with WEEE and on recycling and reuse possibilities. Tablets were also available for visitors (usually schoolchildren) to play a special 'WEEE game' developed during the project.

With the overall aim of increasing knowledge about the correct handling, treatment and recovery of WEEE, and to promote green energy for households and schoolchildren, the caravan travelled across the country, visiting a total of 206 schools under the title 'Eco days in your school'. As well as these visits, it stopped-over at selected towns for periods of 2-3 days carrying out local campaigns ('Recycling days in your city'). Various other educational and publicity-raising activities were also carried out. These included presentations on WEEE, its collection, reuse and recovery; and the organisation of games and competitions (e.g. raffles) to highlight the project's aims.

The project surpassed most objectives. At the end, it had generated more interest among schools – pupils and their teachers – than originally expected (e.g. 206 schools were visited, compared with the forecast 150). Similarly, almost 85 000 pupils visited the caravan exhibition, participating in 765 eco-activities. This was 10 000 higher than predicted.

Meanwhile, at the public places visited, 36 000 visitors received information about the project, compared with the expected figure of 20 000. And at 54 additional stops, at the car-parks of large retail stores, a further 33 000 visitors received information. Media attention was also higher than expected (i.e. there were 286 media mentions, compared with an expected 150). The website was another key dissemination tool - receiving 15 000 visits during the project period, almost double the expected number. Moreover, the project organised 10 local authority workshops, attracting a total of 265 participants, and organised four conferences. Here too, expected numbers of participants were higher than estimated in the project proposal.

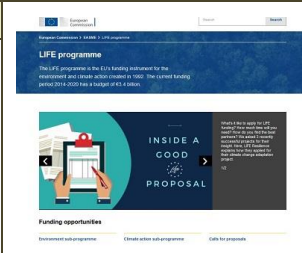
For further information:

<http://www.caravanaecotic.ro/>

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 Romania 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>

Contact

The National Contact Point for Romania

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Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Ecological restoration of forest and aquatic habitats in the Upper Dimbovita Valley, Muntii Fagaras (CARPATHIA Restoration)	LIFE11 NAT/RO/000823	http://www.conservationcarpathia.org		08/2012 → 07/2017
Conservative management for 4070 and 9260 habitats of ROSC10129 North of Western Gorj (NORTHWESTGORJ)	LIFE11 NAT/RO/000825	http://www.lifegreenhabitatsgorj.ro/en/		07/2012 → 06/2017
Environmental restoration and support of natural processes in the forests and eutrophic marshes from Prejmer and Harman (FOR-MARSH)	LIFE11 NAT/RO/000828	http://www.formarsh.fundatiacarpatici.ro/		10/2012 → 10/2017
Implement best practices for in-situ conservation of the species <i>Canis lupus</i> in the Eastern Carpathians (WOLFLIFE)	LIFE13 NAT/RO/000205	http://www.wolflife.eu/		07/2014 → 14/2018
Conservation of Brown Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) population in Romania (LIFE FOR BEAR)	LIFE13 NAT/RO/001154	http://www.forbear.icaswildlife.ro		10/2014 → 10/2019
LIFE Preserving of the Habitat 8310 from the Site Natura 2000 Cheile Nerei – Beusnita (LIFE PH8310SN2000CNB)	LIFE13 NAT/RO/001488	http://salvatipesterile.ro/		07/2014 → 12/2018
Restoration of migration corridors and habitats for rheophilic fish species in Gilort River (Fish for LIFE)	LIFE16 NAT/RO/000778	https://fishforlife.ro		09/2017 → 03/2022
Creation of a Wilderness Reserve in the Southern Carpathian Mountains, Romania (LIFE CARPATHIA)	LIFE18 NAT/RO/001082	https://www.carpathia.org/ro/life-carpathia/		07/2019 → 04/2024
Conservation of saproxylic beetles in the Carpathians (LIFE ROSALIA)	LIFE19 NAT/RO/000023	N/A		09/2020 → 05/2025
Demonstrating cooperative approach for good management of Natura 2000 grasslands at landscape scale in Transylvania (LIFE TransilvaCooperation)	LIFE19 NAT/RO/000602	N/A		09/2020 → 12/2023

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
Raising awareness of the importance of environmentally sound management of WEEE among identified target groups – Romania (ECOTIC LIFE+ Caravan)	LIFE13 INF/RO/000090	http://www.caravanaecotic.ro		06/2014 –> 06/2016

Other projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
LIFE – Closer to you (LIFE Lab)	LIFE14 CAP/RO/000007	http://www.mmediu.ro/categorie/life-capacity-building/197		01/2016 –> 12/2018