



European  
Commission

# Save

Cruising on sunshine



Mecaprom in the region of Piedmont, Italy, is fitting cars with hybrid-electric engines, batteries and solar panels.

Photo: Save

## OUR STORY

Founded in 1960, Mecaprom is now present in nine countries and works with leading car manufacturers including Audi and General Motors. To safeguard air quality and tackle climate change, we have recently extended our product portfolio to develop state-of-the-art engines and transmissions for electric-hybrid and battery powered vehicles.



e-Mobility



Clean air



Energy security

## Larger with Life

Between 2017-2020, the EU LIFE Programme will invest €1.8 million in the €3.2 million Save project to fit flexible solar panels and battery packs onto conventional road vehicles, turning them into solar-powered hybrids.

Mecaprom is assembling and road-testing the technology, bringing a green transport solution to the market that could save consumers money and cut EU reliance on imported fossil fuels.

## EU added value

- **Urban fuel consumption down 25%**
- **Pay-back time lower than 4 years**
- **Reduce hybrid vehicle charging time**

## Prospects

- **Improve air quality in cities**
- **Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of transport**
- **Billion-euro market for retrofitting cars**

## Achievements

- Pioneered **HySolarKit technology** with funding from Horizon 2020's SME instrument
- Assembled electronic traction components to complete a **market-ready product**
- Tested solar panels, electronics and battery systems under conventional working conditions
- Buzzed on social media, made headlines in the Italian press and featured on **Euronews**
- Entered talks with **Seat** and **Volkswagen** to develop the technology for assembly lines

## Policy support

- Reduce transport-related **air pollutants** described in the clean air programme for Europe
- Promote **green and efficient road transport** as set out in the European Clean Vehicles Directive
- Reduce EU reliance on **fossil fuel imports** in line with the energy security strategy

## Contact

[www.life-save.eu](http://www.life-save.eu)

E-mail: [michele.pennese@it.mecaprom.com](mailto:michele.pennese@it.mecaprom.com)

Environment  
& Climate  
Action



# LIFE supporting companies



The **LIFE Programme** has financed green innovation and clean tech solutions since its start in 1992. One of today's key priorities for LIFE is to support close-to-market projects delivering innovative environmental solutions, ensuring that they are sustainable and capable of being widely taken up by society in general, and the economy in particular.

The **Close-to-market initiative's** aim is to help and assist the LIFE projects with market potential to develop towards successfully maintaining project results via commercialisation and upscaling of the proposed innovative solutions.

## How can LIFE support beneficiaries with close-to-market activities?

- Expert review of the close-to-market stage of your project and assessment of the close-to-market potential.
- Help with determining milestones and action points based on project readiness and assisting you with their progress during your project's whole lifecycle.
- Flexibility to use the LIFE project budget to get the necessary expertise including market analysis, detailed business plan preparation, coaching etc.
- Linking you with a network of advisers including the Enterprise Europe Network, coaches and accelerators.
- Assistance with financing and contacts with the investor community through events, introducing you to the SME Instrument and the European Investment Bank Group.
- Networking opportunities through LIFE platforms in order to build business partnerships with other key players.
- Gaining additional publicity for your innovative green solutions through the Innovation Radar platform and via dedicated handouts promoting close-to-market activities of LIFE.

*“LIFE can help you to sustain and thrive even after the end of the LIFE project.”*

## LEARN MORE

 [ec.europa.eu/life](http://ec.europa.eu/life)  [LIFE programme](#)  
 [@LIFEprogramme](#)  [LIFE programme](#)

## HOW TO APPLY FOR LIFE FUNDING

The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals.  
Full details are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>  
<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/your-close-market-proposals-tips-applying>

## CONTACT

European Commission – Directorate-General for the Environment – B-1049 Brussels ([env-life@ec.europa.eu](mailto:env-life@ec.europa.eu))  
European Commission – Directorate-General for Climate Action – B-1049 Brussels ([clima-life@ec.europa.eu](mailto:clima-life@ec.europa.eu))  
European Commission – Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) – B-1049 Brussels ([EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu))

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