

Croatia

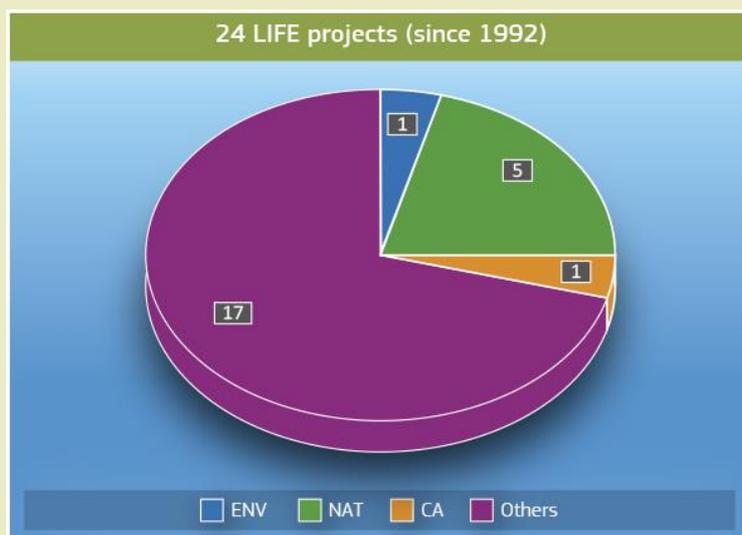


Overview

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

	Total investment	EU contribution
ALL LIFE projects	30.5	20.5
Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)	2	1
Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)	15	10
Climate Action (CA)	2.6	1.6
Others	11	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 (NCFE)
- Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)

NCFE 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 (former LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance component) has co-financed one project in Croatia, representing a total investment of €1.8 million, of which €0.9 million has been contributed by the EU.

The overall objective of the LIFE.SU.SA.FRUIT project was to develop, apply and demonstrate an economically-viable strategy for the implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) in orchards and in post-harvest fruit production in typical Croatian and Italian agro-ecosystems by promoting the use of low-chemical approaches. The project was coordinated by the University of Zagreb (Faculty of Agriculture) and was closed in December 2017. More detailed results are presented in the box below.



Low pesticide IPM in sustainable and safe fruit production (LIFE.SU.SA.FRUIT) LIFE13 ENV/HR/000580

The project demonstrated the feasibility of applying the tested IPM techniques in commercial conditions, even though appropriate incentives are still required at a national level to secure more sustainable fruit production. Using photosensitive nets avoids the use of around three to nine insecticide treatments, representing a reduction of at least 70% of the use of insecticides in pilot orchards. Such measures moreover also showed that it is possible to lower the cost of pest

treatment: €130-300 per hectare for peaches and €350-400 per ha for apples.

In those areas not covered by the photosensitive pest-exclusion netting, pesticide residues were higher in most cases than in those orchards covered with nets. This result was particularly pronounced when testing for Etoprenofos on peaches, which was found to be eight times lower on fruits under the net, and Clorpirifos on apples, which was seven times lower in concentration under the net. Enamectina and Tebuconazolo were twice as low in concentration under the net. Furthermore, the project's methods were shown to reduce the damage caused by codling moth by 50-70%.

Commercial yield of apple (share of first-class fruit) significantly increased under the red photosensitive net. More than 70% of all fruit attained a diameter of greater than 7 cm, in contrast to areas not covered by the net where the share is under 50%. A significantly lower incidence of 'sunburn' is also recorded: nearly 80% of the fruit is unaffected by the sun under the net while the figure is around 63% in an uncovered orchard. Furthermore, the crops increased in weight in both apples and peaches, while total polyphenols were significantly higher in Italian agro-ecological conditions (61.7 mg GAE/100g under the net and 44.9 mg GAE/100g in control).

The project results can be readily replicated elsewhere on a larger scale. One fruit producer in Croatia engaged by the project applied for a loan from the Croatian Bank to roll out the pest exclusion nets in real commercial conditions. Such a move could persuade other fruit growers to use the IPM techniques demonstrated by the project.

For further information:

<http://www.life-susafuit.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.

The EU has co-financed five projects in Croatia so far under this strand, providing 10 million of the total investment of €15 million. One of these projects, coordinated by the public enterprise Croatian Waters, is the first inter-sectoral cooperation and integrated management initiative focusing on Croatian rivers. It aims to implement EU Directives (e.g. Water Framework, Floods, Birds and Habitats) to solve river ecosystem problems. The second project, coordinated by the Croatian Natural History Museum, aims to improve the conservation status of the EU populations of two priority sea turtle species, the loggerhead turtle and the green turtle. A third project will help designate marine Special Protection Areas in Croatia, drawing up a list of proposed SPAs and suggested management measures for them. The fourth project, coordinated by the Association BIOM, aims to protect and restore dry grassland habitats and their characteristic species in Natura 2000 network sites in the Dinaric Mountains of Croatia. The most recently co-funded project, implemented by the Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, aims at establishing control of the invasive alien species *Ailanthus altissima* (tree of heaven) in Croatia. These projects have a duration of 42 to 60 months.

More detailed objectives of the first project, DRAVA LIFE, are presented in the box below. The results will be provided in due course.

	<p>DRAVA LIFE – Integrated River Management (DRAVA LIFE) LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115</p> <p>The specific aims of the LIFE Drava project are to: increase pristine, dynamic river habitats along the Drava; preserve and create new floodplain waters and improve water level dynamics, focusing on the 're-dynamisation' of the side-arms to benefit habitats and species; reduce human disturbance of riverine bird species; and increase awareness of Natura 2000, to ensure local support.</p> <p>The project also aims to introduce inter-sectoral river management cooperation in Croatia and increase cross-border cooperation along the Drava.</p>
<p>The following quantifiable results are expected: 40.8 ha land acquired for river restoration; 13 ha new dynamic river zone with gravel, sand and muddy banks and succession stages of floodplain forests (91E0*); 1 000 m dynamic river banks restored/preserved; 11.9 km side-arms restored and 2.6 km newly created; as well as 306 ha floodplain forest (91E0*) improved.</p> <p>Among other expected results are: increased breeding populations of gravel/sand breeding birds, e.g. little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) and sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>); reduction of human disturbance of black stork (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>); establishment of awareness raising instruments (new information centre, six info points, a nature educational corner, two monitoring towers, Drava rangers, a toolkit, and other information and educational material); synergies among water management, nature conservation and NGOs visible due to successful restoration actions; an international Drava symposium; three excursions to other LIFE projects abroad; and three transnational conservation actions.</p> <p>For further information: http://www.drava-life.hr</p>	

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

LIFE Climate Governance and Information

The Climate Governance and Information priority area is promoting awareness-raising on climate matters, supporting the communication, management and dissemination of climate information, promoting more effective compliance with climate legislation, and encouraging better climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement.

To date, the Climate Governance and Information strand has co-financed one project in Croatia.

The LIFE CROLIS project, coordinated over a 43 month period from October 2020 by the Croatian Ministry of environment and energy, aims to develop and implement a harmonised land monitoring data model that enables the integration and processing of Land Cover (LC), Land Use (LU) and land management data from different data sources. Its total budget amounts to €2.6 million, of which the EU is contributing €1.6 million. You will find its detailed objectives in the box below. The project's website and results will be added in due course.



CROatian Land Information System (LIFE CROLIS) LIFE19 GIC/HR/001270

The LIFE CROLIS project will be the first multi-scale and multi-purpose land information monitoring system in Croatia. The consistent time series with semantically adapted LC classes (according to the main nomenclature of LULUCF), which can be traced back regarding LC changes to the 1970s, is the key element of the project. It will provide a robust basis for planning and implementing greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation actions in the land use sector.

The LIFE CROLIS model will be further designed to support Croatia in fulfilling future international and European targets such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU regulations for rural development, conservation of natural habitats, and many more.

The project shall be implemented in close partnership with the Croatian land monitoring community that includes all stakeholders involved in monitoring LC and LU changes. The long-term aim is to enable and secure a permanent CROLIS implementation by national authorities, decision makers, experts, NGOs and others.

The project expects to achieve following results:

- Harmonised data from different regional and national land monitoring activities;
- More detailed spatial information on the environment;
- Identification of relations, trends and impacts between LU, LC and other parameters like GHG emissions/removals from LULUCF, soil conditions, climate change indicators, land management indicators/drivers;
- Identification of options for improved GHG mitigation in the LULUCF sector;
- Avoidance of duplication of work / data production, maintenance, dissemination;
- Generation of a time series of LC changes;
- Use of the data in a more flexible way for a wide range of assessments;
- Stepwise integration of different data sets from governmental institutions as needed or requested;
- Improved collaboration between partner institutions;
- The basis provided for smooth cooperation between land monitoring and statistical agencies and their subordinated institutions;
- Croatian authorities better able to follow European developments, and the efforts for international reporting obligations minimised.

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 Croatia 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  www.flickr.com/photos/life_programme </p>	
<p>Contact</p>	
<p>The National Contact Point for Croatia</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Energy - Independent Sector for EU</p> <p>Name: Nikolina PETKOVIC GREGORIC, Head of Service for EU Affairs Address: Radnička cesta 80 HR - 10 000 Zagreb Croatia Tel: +385 1 3717 209 E-mail: nikolina.petkovic.gregoric@mingor.hr life@mingor.hr Website: Website of the LIFE NCP</p> <p>The Monitoring Team for Croatia NEEMO EEIG TIMESIS</p> <p>Address: Via Niccolini 7 I - 56017 San Giuliano Terme Italy Tel: +39 050 818800 Fax: +39 050 818801 E-mail: timesis@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
Low pesticide IPM in sustainable and safe fruit production (LIFE.SU.SA.FRUIT)	LIFE13 ENV/HR/000580	http://www.life-susafruit.eu		06/2014 -> 12/2017

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
DRAVA LIFE – Integrated River Management (DRAVA LIFE)	LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115	http://www.drava-life.hr/		12/2015 -> 11/2020
COLLECTIVE ACTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE EU SEA TURTLE POPULATIONS (LIFE EUROTURTLES)	LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997	http://www.euroturtles.eu/		09/2016 -> 08/2021
LIFE Artina - seabird conservation network in the Adriatic (LIFE ARTINA)	LIFE17 NAT/HR/000594	http://www.lifeartina.eu		09/2018 -> 08/2023
Management planning and restoration of Dinara dry grasslands to save biodiversity and support sustainable development (Dinara back to LIFE)	LIFE18 NAT/HR/000847	https://dinarabacktolife.eu		01/2020 -> 07/2023
Establishing control of invasive alien species Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven) in Croatia (LIFE CONTRA Ailanthus)	LIFE19 NAT/HR/001070	N/A		01/2020 -> 07/2023

Ongoing LIFE Climate Governance and Information projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
CROatian Land Information System (LIFE CROLIS)	LIFE19 GIC/HR/001270	N/A		10/2020 -> 04/2024

Other ongoing projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Capacity Building for Croatia's National CP for the LIFE programme – Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (HR NCP – MENP)	LIFE14 CAP/HR/000014	https://lifeprogramhrvatska.hr/en/life-capacity-building-project/		11/2015 -> 01/2019
HR NCP LIFE (HR NCP LIFE)	LIFE18 CAP/HR/000001	N/A		04/2019 -> 03/2023