

LIFE Programme in Denmark



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 106 projects in Denmark over 78 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €335m, of which the EU contributed €162m.

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising more over €12 billion and contributing with more than €5 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The LIFE programme contributes fully to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The budget for the period 2021–2027 is set at €5.4 billion.

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

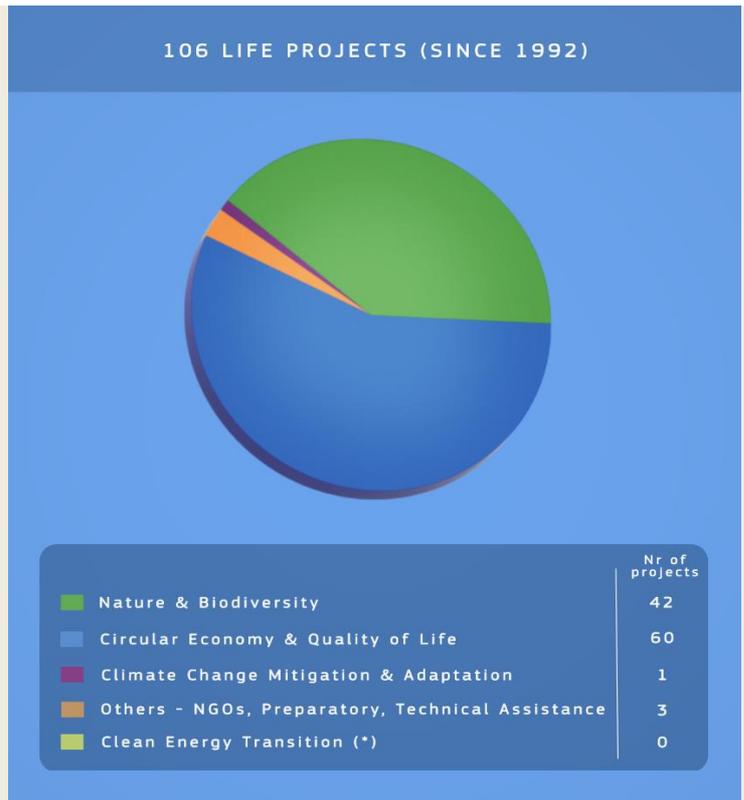
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

For more information:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

'The future is green. The future is LIFE' leaflet

Past and closed projects are designated in this document with the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 nomenclature



INVESTMENT IN LIFE PROJECTS IN DENMARK (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	335	162
Nature & Biodiversity	156	88
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	167	67
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	11.5	7
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	0.7	0.3



LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

The Nature and Biodiversity strand includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as “Strategic Nature Projects” (SNAP). These new projects support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States in order to mainstream those objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the prioritised action frameworks adopted pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 42 projects in Denmark. These represent a total investment of €156 million, of which €88 million has been contributed by the EU.

The completed projects focused mainly on the restoration of habitats (grey dunes, coastal lagoons, raised bogs, dry grasslands, heathlands and fjords, marine cavernous boulder reefs in Kattegat, Mølleåen river system, dry grasslands at Bøjden Nor, inland dunes, Atlantic heaths, semi-natural habitat at Helnæs, and rare wet terrestrial habitats in Southern Denmark and calcareous fens), but also on the implementation of actions to sustain endangered species (marsh fritillary, meadow birds, fire-bellied toad, and houting). The projects were mainly coordinated by the Danish Nature Agency, as well as by regional and local authorities.

The SMART Natura project, co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand, ensured the smooth and cost-effective implementation of the Natura 2000 network plans in Denmark, through the development of tools to facilitate cooperation between landowners, municipalities (authorities) and agricultural advisors.

There are eight ongoing LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity projects in Denmark. One part of the projects aim to improve the conservation status of species - the thick-shelled river mussel, coastal birds and amphibians. The other projects focus on the conservation and restoration of habitats, including coastal habitats, wetlands in dune habitats, petrifying springs, open woods, raised bogs and alkaline fens.

One Strategic Nature Project is ongoing in Denmark. The LIFE NATUREMAN project's objectives are summarised below.



The Farmer as a Manager of Nature (NATUREMAN) LIFE16 IPE/DK/000006

The NATUREMAN project will create and teste incentives for the integration of nature management into farming activities, such as grazing and biomass harvesting, including the development of high-value specialty products. The project focuses on wetland and grassland habitats in 11 Natura 2000 sites in Jutland (Denmark), contributing to a more holistic approach to nature and water management.

[Project summary](#)



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Actions supported under the Circular Economy and Quality of Life strand will help in reaching major EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the environment. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 60 projects in Denmark thus far, representing a total investment of €167 million, of which €67 million has been provided by the EU.

The completed projects focused mainly on issues such as water management at the river basin scale, packaging and plastic waste, reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, management of industrial and hazardous waste, clean technologies, waste recycling in the building sector, and climate change adaptation (natural risk management). More than three-quarters of the projects were coordinated by international and large enterprises. Other coordinating beneficiaries included local authorities, research institutions, SMEs, a professional organisation and a large enterprise.

LIFE - Support EUTR, co-funded under the former Environmental Governance and Information strand, helped facilitate greater and consistent implementation of due diligence by the timber and timber-related industries under the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR).

There are three ongoing projects. The overall aim of LIFE NAUTILUS is to develop a smart resource-saving technology, a next generation washer with a novel centrifuge, to minimise gas and electrical energy use in cleaning technologies for recyclable plastic crates to make packaging more sustainable and resource-efficient. The LIFEFORFIT project's strategy is to develop tools, models, and manuals to reduce barriers for Close to Nature Forestry (CNF)-implementation, combined with the large-scale demonstration, testing, and dissemination of CNF practices. The LIFE - Support EUTR II project, co-funded under the former Environmental Governance and Information strand, aims to reduce illegal logging and improve sustainable forest management globally through improved compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the EUTR by key duty holders.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Denmark under this strand. The LIFE-IP CE Beyond Waste project's objectives are described below.



Transforming more waste into resources (LIFE-IP CE Beyond Waste) LIFE20 IPE/DK/000001

Denmark's waste management sector is fragmented and implemented through 98 local waste management plans. This reduces the potential for creating homogenous high-quality fractions of sufficient volume for the effective commercialisation of secondary raw materials. Moreover, large amounts of waste are incinerated for energy generation, rather than being recycled.

This Integrated Project aims at implementing the Danish Action Plan for Circular Economy. The project's three main objectives are: more waste prevention, circular waste management to turn more waste into secondary resources, and a better regulatory framework for waste. The project coordinator, the administration of the Central Denmark Region, will integrate circularity principles into public procurement and demonstrate to business how the circular economy can be rolled out in practice. The team also wants to identify and overcome regulatory barriers to the circular transition and test reuse stations and new business models.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LIFE Climate change mitigation and adaptation strand will support actions which help implement the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and meet the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Projects under this strand will contribute to a renewable energy based- and climate- resilient economy. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, one Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded under this strand in Denmark. The EU LIFE IP C2C CC project's objectives are summarised below. The total investment for this project amounts to €11.5 million, of which the EU is contributing €7 million.



An integrated strategy for climate-resilient cities (EU LIFE IP C2C CC) LIFE15 IPC/DK/000006

The EU LIFE C2C CC project will create climate-resilient cities in a climate-resilient region by drawing up a common, long-term strategy with the involvement of local stakeholders. This strategy will lead to the targeted implementation of local climate change adaptation (CCA) plans, coordinated CCA analyses and activities, and the identification and improvement of the resources and adaptive capacities of citizens, municipalities, utilities and companies in the water sector.

The project team regard CCA plans as a cross-boundary challenge in which coordination, knowledge sharing and capacity building are necessary for improved governance and the development of tools and innovation. The SIP focuses on four themes related to the hydrological cycle: sea and fjords, rivers, groundwater, and rainwater. These are supplemented by three cross-cutting themes: governance, tools and innovation.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

Building on the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003–2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014–2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy. In particular, it aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy across Europe.

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports projects in the following five areas of intervention:

- 1) Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- 2) Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- 3) Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- 4) Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- 5) Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition.

Want to know more about LIFE?

- Visit the [LIFE website](#) and [LIFE project database](#)

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



- Sign up to the [LIFE Programme](#) and [CINEA Clean Energy](#) Newsletters

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Improvement of natural habitats for coastal birds in the West Baltic Sea	LIFE17 NAT/DK/000498	Better BirdLIFE	https://betterbirdlife.middelfart.dk/	09/2018 → 10/2025
New habitats for Bombina bombina other amphibians and birds to counteract problems from climate change in coastal areas	LIFE18 NAT/DK/000732	LIFE Clima-Bombina	https://www.vordingborg.dk/borger/miljoe-og-natur/natur/life-clima-bombina-2019-2023	09/2019 → 12/2023
LIFE Open Woods. Improvement of the conservation status of forest habitats with a focus on <i>Osmoderma eremita</i>	LIFE18 NAT/DK/000747	LIFE Open Woods	http://amphi.dk/projekter/eu-projekter/eu-life/nyt-projekt-hos-amphi-life-open-woods-improvement-of-the-conservation-status-of-forest-habitats-with-a-focus-on-osmoderma-eremita/	09/2019 → 12/2027
Restoring and managing bird habitats in the Danish and German Wadden Sea area	LIFE19 NAT/DK/000922	LIFE Wadden Sea Birds	http://amphi.dk/projekter/eu-projekter/eu-life/nyt-projekt-hos-amphi-life-open-woods-improvement-of-the-conservation-status-of-forest-habitats-with-a-focus-on-osmoderma-eremita/	09/2020 → 12/2026
BioScape - improving Biodiversity in the landScape	LIFE20 NAT/DK/000048	LIFE BioScape	N/A	10/2021 → 10/2026

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Enabling Effective Implementation and Enforcement of the EU Timber Regulation in 6 Key Timber Importing Countries	LIFE18 GIE/DK/000763	LIFE - Support EUTR II	https://preferredbynature.org/projects/closing-gaps-illegal-timber-trad	07/2019 → 06/2022
Forest fit for future	LIFE19 ENV/DK/000013	LIFEFORFIT	https://lifeforfit.dk/	09/2020 → 10/2028
Circular Economy Beyond Waste	LIFE20 IPE/DK/000001	LIFE-IP CE Beyond Waste	N/A	01/2022 → 12/2029

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
EU LIFE IP C2C CC	LIFE15 IPC/DK/000005	EU LIFE IP C2C CC	https://www.c2ccc.eu/	11/2016 → 12/2022