

LIFE Programme in Estonia



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 45 projects in Estonia over 31 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €102.5m, of which the EU contributed €60m.

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.

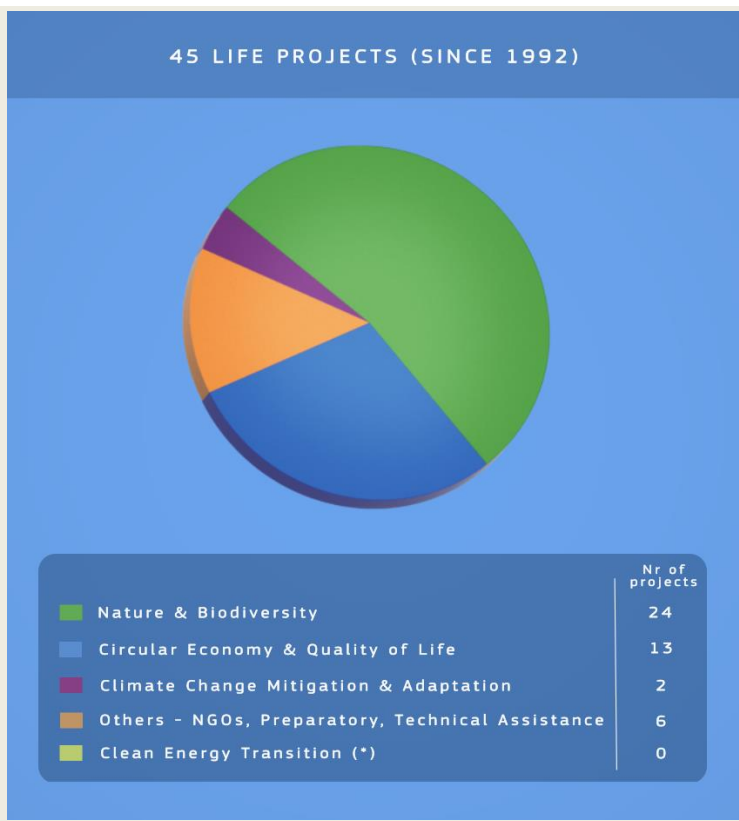
The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

- **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 ESTONIA (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	102.5	60
Nature & Biodiversity	46.5	30
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	36	17.5
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	18	10.5
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	2	1.8



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 24 projects in Estonia. These represent a total investment of €46.5 million, of which €30 million has been contributed by the EU.

Among the 12 closed projects, three dealt with the conservation/management of Natura 2000 biotopes/habitats (Karula National Park, Rāpina polder, the Häädemeeste wetland complex, the Boreal Baltic Coastal Meadow, the Kopu Peninsula, coastal meadows and lagoon habitats in Pärnu, petrifying spring habitats, river Laeva’s natural riverbed in the Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 site, alvar grassland areas; as well as active raised bogs, bog woodland and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods). The remaining projects focused on the protection/recovery of priority species (European mink, great crested newt, lesser spotted eagle, black stork, spadefoot toad and yellow-spotted whiteface dragonfly in Estonia and Denmark, endangered freshwater fish species in the Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area, and the pond bat) and habitats (the Häädemeeste wetland complex and the Boreal Baltic Coastal Meadow). The projects were mostly coordinated by NGOs/foundations and park/reserve authorities.

Under the former Information & Communication strand, the completed FFPE project successfully produced a range of awareness-raising materials, reached out to key stakeholders on the issue of forest fire prevention and developed networking amongst decision-makers in Estonia. The overall objective of the ongoing NaturallyEst-LIFE project is to enhance communication between local communities, landowners and nature conservation stakeholders.

There are two ongoing projects in Estonia. The LIFE CONNECTING MEADOWS project’s main objective is to restore 200 ha of semi-natural grassland habitats on Muhu, Estonia’s third largest island. The goal of the most recently co-funded project, WOODMEADOWLIFE, is to restore a significant proportion of the wooded meadows in Estonia and Latvia, to establish long-term arrangements and infrastructure on private land for their future management and to highlight their ecosystem services, ecological functions and unique heritage value.

One Strategic Nature Project is ongoing in Estonia. The LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand project’s objectives are described below.



Management of forest and farming landscapes to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species (LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand) LIFE18 IPE/EE/000007

Forest and farmland habitats are threatened by changing management practices, hydrological conditions, climate change and urbanisation. To address these pressures comprehensively, LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand will improve nature conservation practices and stakeholder collaboration in Natura 2000 sites in forests and farming areas. Landowners, local authorities and the general public will be involved in conservation actions. The project team will develop and introduce a range of conservation tools and methods, eradicate invasive alien species, develop action plans for pollinator species, and restore wet and dry forest habitats, semi-natural grasslands and coastal areas.

[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 and life. 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 13 projects in Estonia thus far, representing a total investment of €36 million, of which €17.5 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects have tackled issues such as water quality, wastewater treatment – notably to reduce pollution by priority hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea – and groundwater protection; soil protection; and waste use (recycling of oil-shale ash into road construction products). The projects were carried out by public bodies (national, local authorities and a state-owned company), a NGO, and a university.

Under the former Information & Communication strand, the completed BaltInfoHaz project campaigned to strengthen consumer demand in three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) for products free of hazardous substances, so as to reduce their impact on health and the environment.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Estonia under this strand. The ongoing LIFE IP CleanEST project's objectives are described below.



Developing an integrated water management system in Estonia (LIFE IP CleanEST) LIFE17 IPE/EE/000007

The LIFE IP CleanEST project will help implement the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2015-2021 of the East Estonia River Basin District. The project team will focus on fully implementing measures for the Viru sub-basin, using new approaches that integrate measures for water management, nature conservation, and for obtaining socioeconomic goals.

Project actions will contribute to achieving a good status of Estonia's aquatic environment, considering chemical and ecological criteria, and ensure the favourable status of water-dependent habitats. The integration of river basin management and nature management plans will be achieved by enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation and administrative capacity.

[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 climate neutral and resilient economy.

Strategic Integrated Climate Projects (SIP) will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promote coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, one project has been co-financed in Estonia under that strand. The ongoing LIFE UrbanStorm project aims to increase the climate resilience of Estonian municipalities, especially their ability to manage flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall. It is being coordinated by the rural municipality of Viimsi parish in Northern Estonia.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Estonia. The LIFE IP BUILDEST project's objectives are described below.

The total investment for these projects amounts to €18 million, of which the EU is contributing to €10.5 million.



Intelligent and resilient building renovations (LIFE IP BUILDEST) LIFE20 IPC/EE/000010

The EU requires Member States to carry out comprehensive renovation programmes on existing buildings to achieve an energy-efficient building stock. Estonia requires fast rates of such renovation due to its buildings' low construction quality and energy performance. The LIFE IP BUILDEST project, led by the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, will help achieve EU energy performance of buildings targets and implement Estonia's so-called 'Long Term Renovation Strategy' for buildings.

The project team will demonstrate technical solutions and pilot renovations in 25 buildings in three cities on a range of building types. These include multi-storey apartment blocks, detached houses, and historical buildings. Various tools and solutions will be created for the deep renovations of these building types, which can be replicated across Estonia.

[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
Restoring and connecting semi-natural meadow habitats on Muhu island	LIFE19 NAT/EE/001006	LIFE CONNECTING MEADOWS	https://pk.emu.ee/struktuur/elurikkusjaloodusturism/life-connecting/	12/2020 -> 12/2025
Restoring and promoting a long term sustainable management of Fennoscandian wooded meadows in Estonia and Latvia	LIFE20 NAT/EE/000074	WOODMEADOWLIFE	N/A	11/2021 ->12/2026
Piloting Natura2000 communication in Estonia	LIFE16 GIE/EE/000665	NaturallyEst-LIFE	https://elfond.ee/what-we-do/naturallyest	09/2017 ->03/2022
Adaptive community based management of forest and farming landscapes to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species	LIFE18 IPE/EE/000007	LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand	https://life.envir.ee/life-ip-forestfarmland	01/2020 -> 12/2029

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Development of an integrated water management and its modern tools in Estonia - strategic choices for future	LIFE17 IPE/EE/000007	LIFE IP CleanEST	https://life.envir.ee/life-ip-cleanest	01/2019-> 12/2028

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Development of sustainable and climate resilient urban storm water management systems for Nordic municipalities	LIFE17 CCA/EE/000122	LIFE UrbanStorm	https://www.viimsivald.ee/development-sustainable-and-climate-resilient-urban-storm-water-management-systems-nordic	08/2018 -> 02/2023
PURSUIING ESTONIAN NATIONAL CLIMATE AMBITION THROUGH SMART AND RESILIENT RENOVATION	LIFE20 IPC/EE/000010	LIFE IP BUILDEST	N/A	11/2021 -> 12/2028