

LIFE Programme in Finland



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 155 projects in Finland over 106 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €389m, of which the EU contributed €197.6m.

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 (*):

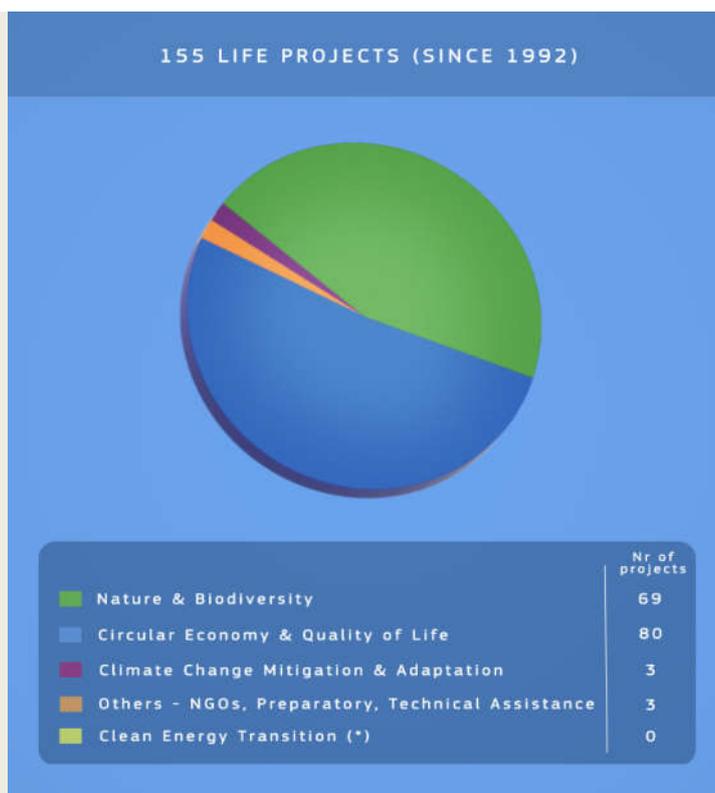
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

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 FINLAND (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	389	197.6
Nature & Biodiversity	218	121
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	152	65
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	18	11
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	1	0.6



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 69 projects in Finland. These represent a total investment of €218 million, of which €121 million has been contributed by the EU.

The majority of completed projects focused on the protection and restoration of habitats (aapa mires, boreal forests and peatlands, rivers, wetlands and marine habitat types; species-rich habitats, rural wetlands and the Natura 2000 network in south-western Lapland) and species (the wild forest reindeer, the white-tailed eagle, the white-backed woodpecker, and the Saimaa ringed seal). The ESCAPE biodiversity project established a seed bank for threatened native flora in Finland, and increased the number of endangered plant species in ex-situ collections in accordance with the Finnish national action plan. Over 80% of the projects were coordinated by regional authorities. The rest were split between national/local authorities, universities, NGOs, a professional organisation and natural parks.

There are nine ongoing projects in Finland. A series of projects target species, such as: Finnish forest reindeer, saproxylic and pyrophilous insect species, flying squirrel, Saimaa ringed seal, and freshwater pearl mussel and its habitats. Other projects target habitats, such as wetlands and Baltic coastal habitats. One project will specifically contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity, by identifying invasive alien species and their pathways of introduction and by controlling/eradicating the main species. Another project aims to enhance the long-term status of the wolf and maintain the long-term population viability of the species in Finland, through improved coexistence between humans and large carnivores.

Two closed projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. The CrayMate project raised awareness amongst Finns on matters regarding native crayfish conservation, particularly with regards to aquatic ecosystem biodiversity and functionality and the need for more sustainability in the noble crayfish industry. The Saimaan lohikalojen project's general objective was to maintain the genetic diversity of the valuable salmon populations in Lake Saimaa and to improve their vitality.

Two Strategic Nature Projects have been co-funded in Finland and are ongoing. The FRESHABIT project aims to develop new methodology and indicators for assessing the conservation status of freshwater habitats (fresh- and groundwater dependent habitats, coastal and estuarine habitats, and species depending on water in several Natura 2000 network sites) across Finland. The LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA project's objectives are described below.



Safeguarding biodiversity in the Baltic Sea (LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA) LIFE20 IPE/FI/000020

The Baltic Sea off Finland's coast is under increasing pressure from human activities. The LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA project will improve EU policy implementation on the country's protected marine areas. Its actions will mitigate the adverse effects of human activities on land and at sea that threaten marine and coastal biodiversity, habitats, and critical species.

The project team, coordinated by Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland, will identify human pressures most affecting the marine environment, and generate the information necessary for effective mitigation measures, to benefit the habitats and species most urgently in need of conservation actions. They will monitor biodiversity and improve the management of the national network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), safeguard maritime archaeological heritage, limit underwater noise, and reduce marine litter.

[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 80 projects in Finland thus far, representing a total investment of €152 million, of which €65 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects focused on the following main themes: risk assessment/pollution control, water management at river-basin scale, sustainable construction, sensitive area management in coastal areas, eco-friendly and green financial products, urban design/quality of life/transport planning, agricultural waste, air quality management and monitoring, construction and demolition waste, energy efficiency, forest management, life-cycle assessment, risk management, integrated environmental management, hazardous and industrial waste, wastewater treatment, land-use (drained peatlands restoration policy), and modelling techniques in the climate change adaptation sector. The main types of coordinating beneficiaries were national, regional and local authorities, universities, international and large enterprises, research institutions and SMEs.

There are two ongoing projects in Finland, tackling industrial waste (from the mining sector) and indoor air pollution in foundries.

The closed CCCRP project, co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand, set up the Finnish Climate Change Community Response Portal, successfully created an extensive website/portal combining relevant and reliable climate change information in one place.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Finland under this strand. The CIRCWASTE project's objectives are described below.



Recovering waste to boost the circular economy in Finland (CIRCWASTE) LIFE15 IPE/FI/000004

The CIRCWASTE project team will help implement the National Waste Plan of Finland (NWP), to keep materials circulating in the economy for longer. The project will address bottlenecks currently being experienced and the future challenges for waste management businesses and EU waste legislation (the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe and the Circular Economy Package). In particular, the project team will promote a transitional change towards a circular economy.

CIRCWASTE actions will increase capacity building and enhance cooperation within the waste management sector. The project team will redesign municipal/industrial systems, prevent the generation of waste, and encourage use of by-products and waste. The project covers five regions in Finland: Satakunta, Southwest Finland, Central Finland, the North Karelia region, and the South Karelia region.

[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, the Climate Change strand has co-financed three projects in Finland. The total investment for these projects amounts to €18 million, of which the EU is contributing €11 million.

The closed LIFE EconomisE project set up the EconomisE platform, which has helped coordinate multi-stakeholder action on the development of new projects and business ideas. The platform has also improved cooperation among institutional investors to bring about a shift towards low-carbon investment, explicitly focused on decarbonisation of buildings and improved climate resilience. The ongoing OPAL-Life project will optimise agricultural land-use to mitigate climate change.

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



Towards a carbon-neutral Finland (LIFE-IP CANEMURE-FINLAND) LIFE17 IPC/FI/000002

The LIFE-IP CANEMURE-FINLAND project will make a major contribution to the implementation of Finnish climate change policy, as outlined in Finland's National Energy and Climate Strategy (NECS) and its medium-term climate change policy plan for 2018-2024. The project team will work with seven Finnish regions and 39 municipalities, which together cover one-third of Finnish territory and more than two-thirds of its population. These include 12 forerunner (so-called HINKU) municipalities that are committed to an 80% greenhouse gas emission reduction compared to 2007 emissions in their territories by 2030. They will act as an example to others and a catalyst for action elsewhere in Finland and the EU.

[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](#)

- Contact the LIFE National Contact Point in your Member State:

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
The wild forest reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus fennicus</i>) of Finland: Conservation and recovery of historic range	LIFE15 NAT/FI/000881	WildForestReindeerLIFE	https://www.suomenpeura.fi/metsapeuralife.html	10/2016 -> 09/2023
Restoring the hydrological integrity of wetland habitats in Finland	LIFE16 NAT/FI/000583	Hydrology LIFE	http://www.metsa.fi/hydrologialife	08/2017 -> 12/2023
Beetles Life - One small step for a man, one giant leap for the charismatic flagship species	LIFE17 NAT/FI/000181	Beetles Life	http://www.metsa.fi/beetleslife	08/2018 -> 07/2023
Co-operation for improving the conservation of the Flying squirrel in Europe	LIFE17 NAT/FI/000469	Flying Squirrel LIFE	http://www.metsa.fi/liito-orava-life	08/2018 -> 03/2025
Awareness building, surveying and controlling invasive alien species (IAS) in Finland -LIFE+	LIFE17 NAT/FI/000528	Finvasive LIFE	https://www.sll.fi/viekas-life/	07/2018 -> 12/2023
CoastNet LIFE	LIFE17 NAT/FI/000544	CoastNet LIFE	http://www.metsa.fi/rannikkolife	08/2018 -> 03/2025
Ex-Situ Conservation of Finnish Native Plant Species	LIFE11 BIO/FI/000917	ESCAPE	http://www.luomus.fi/ESCAPE/	09/2012 -> 08/2017
Toward better human coexistence with wolves	LIFE18 NAT/FI/000394	LIFE BOREALWOLF	https://susilife.fi	10/2019 -> 09/2025
Working together to save the Saimaa Ringed Seal in changing environment	LIFE19 NAT/FI/000832	Our Saimaa Seal LIFE	https://www.metsa.fi/en/project/our-saimaa-seal-life/	09/2020 ->12/2025
Reviving freshwater pearl mussel populations and their habitats	LIFE20 NAT/FI/000611	LIFE Revives	N/A	09/2021 ->08/2027
Towards integrated management of freshwater Nature 2000 sites and habitats	LIFE14 IPE/FI/000023	FRESHABIT	https://www.metsa.fi/web/en/freshabit	01/2016 ->09/2022
Enhancing the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Baltic Sea in Finland and promoting the sustainable use of marine resources	LIFE20 IPE/FI/000020	LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA	N/A	09/2021 ->11/2029

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Utilization of by-products and alternative construction materials in new Mine Construction	LIFE12 ENV/FI/000592	LIFE+ UPACMIC	https://projektit.ramboll.fi/life/upacmic	07/2013-> 08/2022
Inorganic binder system to minimize emissions, improve indoor air quality, purify and reuse of contaminated foundry sand	LIFE17 ENV/FI/000173	Green Foundry LIFE	https://greenfoundry-life.com/	07/2018-> 06/2022
LIFE IP on waste - towards circular economy in Finland	LIFE15 IPE/FI/000004	CIRCWASTE	https://www.circwaste.fi	10/2016-> 12/2023

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Optimising Agricultural Land Use to Mitigate Climate Change	LIFE17 IPC/FI/00002	OPAL-Life	https://www.opal.fi/	09/2015 -> 03/2022
Towards Carbon Neutral Municipalities and Regions in Finland (LIFE-IP CANEMURE-FINLAND)	LIFE17 IPC/FI/00002	LIFE-IP CANEMURE-FINLAND	https://hiilineutraalisuomi.fi/en-US/Canemure	11/2018 -> 10/2024