

LIFE Programme in Malta



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 23 projects in Malta over 19 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €38.7m, of which the EU contributed €23.1m.

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 (*):

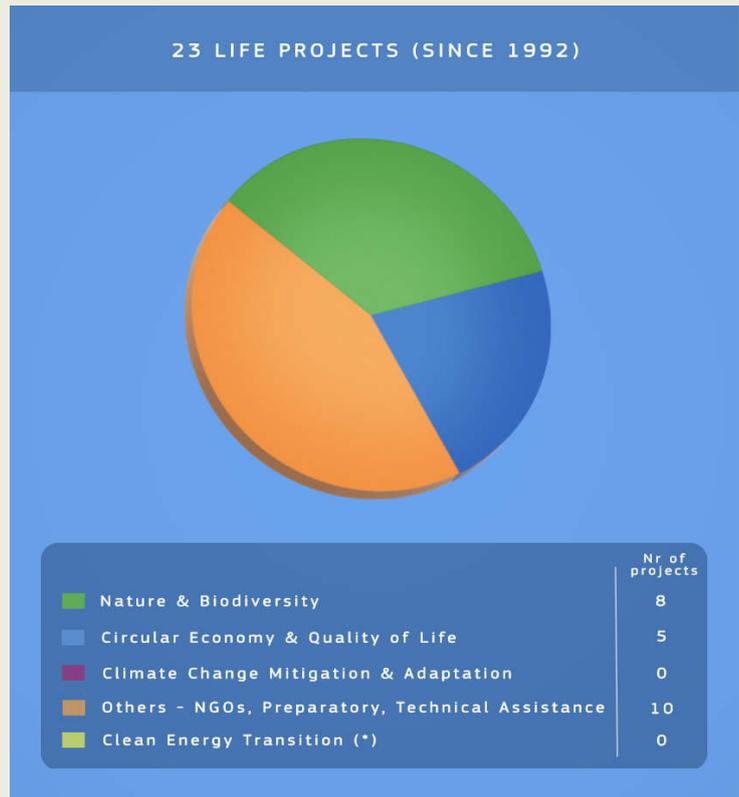
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

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 MALTA (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	38.7	23.1
Nature & Biodiversity	13.3	7.2
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	21.4	13.4
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	4	2.5



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 eight projects in Malta. These represent a total investment of €13.3 million, of which €7.2 million has been contributed by the EU.

The results achieved by closed projects were: reversing the decline in the Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) population at Rđum tal-Madonna, a designated Natura 2000 site which hosts the largest colony of this bird species on the Maltese islands; creating an inventory of Marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for Yelkouan shearwater, Scopoli's shearwater and European storm-petrel breeding in Malta; implementing soil stabilisation measures aimed at protecting Annex I Habitats Directive habitats in the Buskett-Girgenti Natura 2000 site; surveying and collecting data on marine areas, to help the Maltese authorities establish the identification, distribution and extension of these areas (namely, sandbanks, reefs, submerged and partially submerged sea caves) within the Natura 2000 network; implementing data-collecting activities and marine surveys (during the summers of 2014 and 2015) to understand the conservation status of the loggerhead turtle and common bottlenose dolphin, and to identify the best areas in Maltese waters to establish Natura 2000 network sites for these species; and securing the conservation of the Balearic shearwater and Yelkouan shearwater on the Maltese islands.

These projects were coordinated by BirdLife Malta and by three national authorities: the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change, the Environment and Planning Authority, and the Environment and Resources authority.

There is one ongoing project, which started its actions in September 2020. It is aiming to improve the conservation status of endemic Yelkouan shearwater and other seabirds by ensuring their safety both on land and at sea. The project is being coordinated by BirdLife Malta.

One closed project was co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. STOP-TRAPPING-MALTA raised awareness among bird trappers and the general public about the ending of the transition period for trapping activities, and about the damage trapping causes to wild bird populations.



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 five projects in Malta thus far, representing a total investment of €21.4 million, of which €13.4 million has been provided by the EU.

Malta's first LIFE Environment Policy and Governance project finished in 2015. The DemoEV project conducted the first demonstration action on the deployment of electric vehicles in Malta, by distributing a sample of vehicles to selected volunteers. The project was coordinated by the Maltese Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs. The second closed project, LifeMedGreenRoof, represented a first major Maltese initiative to show the feasibility and benefits of green roofs. To this end, it set up two demonstration green roofs: one in Italy and one in Malta. The project was coordinated by the University of Malta.

Two closed projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. Through a series of information campaigns and audits, the Investing in Water project demonstrated that stakeholders can contribute to the reduction of water (and energy) consumption in Malta. The InfoNitrates project improved the implementation of the national Nitrates Action Plan (NAP), by giving farmers and livestock breeders the necessary information and training to comply with it, and by establishing the Nitrates Action Unit, which has the task of designing and implementing the NAP in compliance with the EU Nitrates Directive.

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



Optimising river basin management planning in Malta (LIFE-IP-RBMP-Malta) LIFE16 IPE/MT/000008

The LIFE-IP RBMP-MALTA project supports the implementation of Malta's second River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), by establishing an integrated framework for the optimised management of all water resources on the Maltese islands. To achieve this, the project team - coordinated by the Energy and Water Agency - will address key challenges identified during the development of the second RBMP, through best practice, demonstration, pilot study, and capacity building actions.

The project team will raise awareness of the need to conserve and protect water resources and dependent ecosystems; facilitate the uptake of measures by demonstrating best practices, in addition to financial incentives; adopt an approach that achieves a high level of institutional and stakeholder dialogue; and improve knowledge of water-related processes and ecosystem services. These actions will inform appropriate ecosystem-based management regimes and increase the trust of stakeholders in them.

[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.

No projects have been co-funded in Malta under this strand so far.



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
Improving the conservation status of endemic Balearic and Yelkouan shearwaters by ensuring safe land and sea	LIFE19 NAT/MT/000982	LIFE PanPuffinus!	https://birdlifemalta.org/conservation/current-projects/life-panpuffinus/	09/2020 -> 08/2025

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Optimising the implementation of the 2nd RBMP in the Maltese River Basin District	LIFE16 IPE/MT/000008	LIFE-IP-RBMP-Malta	https://www.rbmplife.org.mt/	01/2018-> 12/2025