

LIFE Programme in Romania



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 72 projects in Romania over 67 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €88.5m, of which the EU contributed €41.5m.

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 (*):

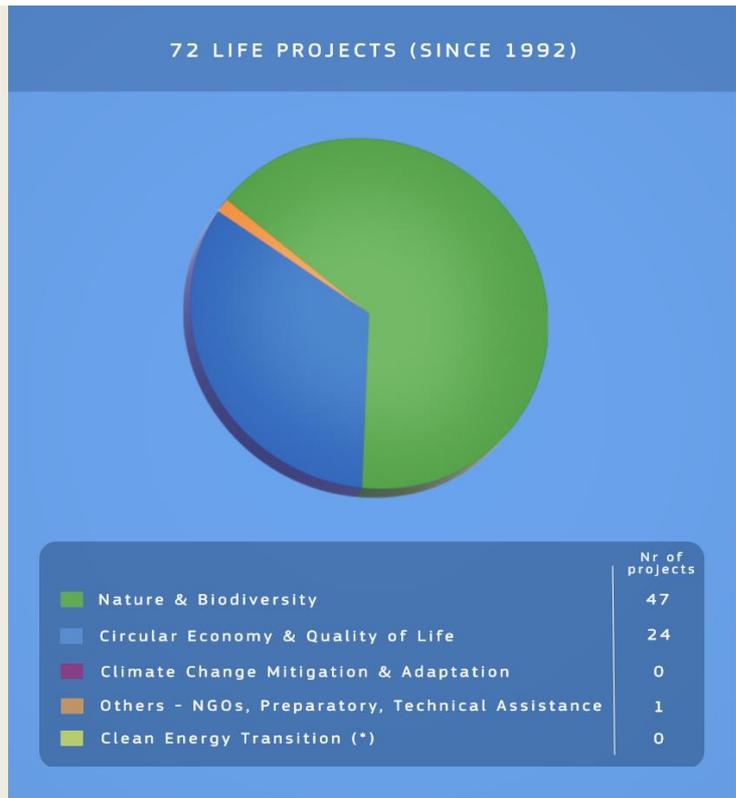
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

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 ROMANIA (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	88.5	41.5
Nature & Biodiversity	66.5	33
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	18.5	8
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	0.4	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 47 projects in Romania. These represent a total investment of €66.5 million, of which €33 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects in Romania focused mainly on habitat restoration (alpine and sub-alpine forests and wetland habitats; Transylvania’s pastoral ecosystems; Semenic and Calimani-Gurghiu mountains; Iron Gates wetlands; caves; and natural forests in the Fagaras Mountains in the Southern Carpathian Mountains), but also on the conservation of certain species (large carnivores, bats, meadow viper, dolphins, pygmy cormorant, ferruginous duck, lesser spotted eagle, brown bear in the Carpathians, and wolf). Parks, national and regional authorities, and research institutions accounted for nearly 80% of the project coordinating beneficiaries. Other types included development agencies, NGOs, universities, local authorities, a national park and a training centre.

Under the former Information & Communication strand, the closed EME Natura2000 project produced five ‘Biodiversity and Natura 2000 Toolkits for Key Economic Sectors’, and two manuals and several other strategic documents. These communication materials, which have proved to be particularly useful, were the result of a wide participatory process that brought the beneficiaries and stakeholders together.

There are five ongoing projects. These focus on the conservation of habitats (Cheile Nerei – Beusnita caves, grasslands in Transylvania, creation of a wilderness reserve in the South Carpathian mountains) and species (rheophilic fish in the Gilort river system, and saproxylic beetles in the Carpathians).



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 24 projects in Romania thus far, representing a total investment of €19.5 million, of which €8 million has been provided by the EU.

The completed projects covered several themes, such as: clean technologies; water management at the scale of the river basin; industrial and municipal waste management; air quality; risk assessment and pollution control; sensitive area management; construction and demolition waste; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide mitigation in algal photosynthetic systems); hazardous waste (shipment and safe treatment, hazardous waste in hospitals); recycling of industrial waste; and eco-marketing. National and local authorities were the main coordinating beneficiaries. Other types included a development agency, a public enterprise, a university (Târgu-Jiu) and research institutions.

Under the former Information & Communication strand, the closed GREEN-PRO project greatly increased the awareness of the local public toward green products. The other closed project, ECOTIC LIFE+ Caravan, was very successful and had a direct impact in raising awareness about WEEE in Romania, which has indirectly led to higher collection rates in the country. There were three main target groups – schoolchildren and teachers; households and the general public; and local authorities – all of whom were successfully reached in higher than expected numbers.



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 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.

No projects have been co-funded in Romania 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

- 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
LIFE Preserving of the Habitat 8310 from the Site Natura 2000 Cheile Nerei – Beusnita	LIFE13 NAT/RO/001488	LIFE PH8310SN2000CNB	http://salvatipesterile.ro/	07/2014 -> 03/2023
Restoration of migration corridors and habitats for rheophilic fish species in Gilort River	LIFE16 NAT/RO/000778	Fish for LIFE	https://fishforlife.ro	09/2017 -> 03/2022
Creation of a Wilderness Reserve in the Southern Carpathian Mountains, Romania	LIFE18 NAT/RO/001082	LIFE CARPATHIA	https://www.carpathia.org/ro/life-carpathia/	07/2019 -> 04/2024
Conservation of saproxylic beetles in the Carpathians	LIFE19 NAT/RO/000023	LIFE ROSalia	https://liferosalia.ro/	09/2020 -> 05/2025
Demonstrating cooperative approach for good management of Natura 2000 grasslands at landscape scale in Transylvania	LIFE19 NAT/RO/000602	LIFE TransilvaCooperation	https://fundatia-adept.org/projects/life-transilvacoperation/	09/2020 -> 12/2023