

LIFE Programme in Slovakia



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 45 projects in Slovakia over 20 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €136m, of which the EU contributed €77m.

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 (*):

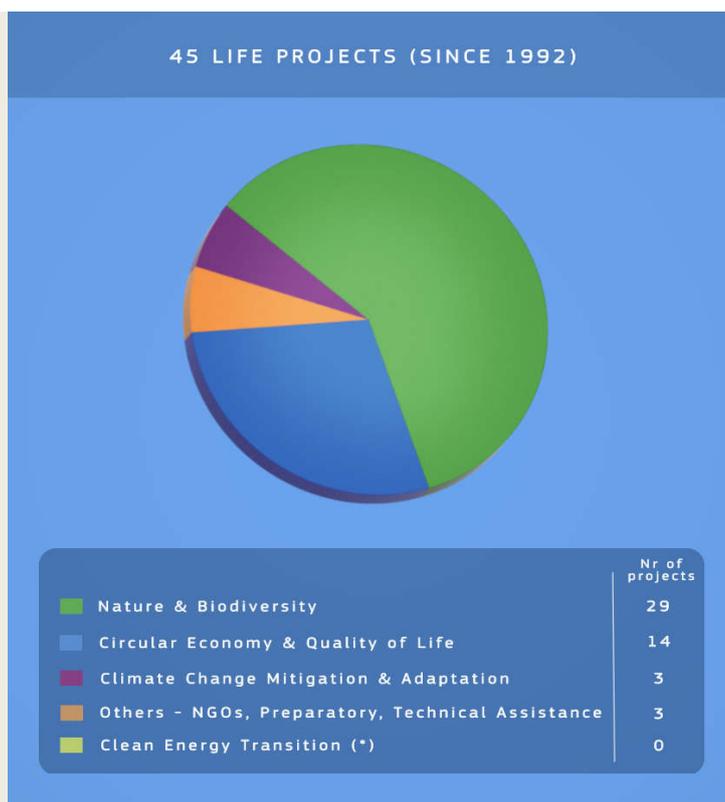
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

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 SLOVAKIA (€ million)		
	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	136	77
Nature & Biodiversity	92	56
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	36	16.5
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	8	4.5
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 29 projects in Slovakia. These represent a total investment of €92 million, of which €56 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed projects have mainly addressed the conservation, management and restoration of habitats - notably the Súr Fen Nature Reserve, the Danube floodplain forests, the Slovenský Raj National Park, the Záhorie lowland and military training area, wetlands, sand dunes, salt marshes, and Natura 2000 sites in the cross-border Bratislava capital region. They also aimed to promote the conservation of species, such as imperial eagle, great bustard, endangered bird species in the Danube inland delta, bittern, ferruginous duck, common tern, lesser-spotted eagle, swift, lesser grey shrike, tawny pipit, red-footed falcon, root vole and bats. The successful, awarded LIFE ENERGY project prevented bird-flight collisions with electricity power lines in the southern part of Slovakia, with a focus on ten protected bird species listed in the Birds Directive. This was achieved by installing bird-flight diverters on 77 km of the riskiest sections of distribution power lines, planting trees for future bird-flight breaks, and nesting and prey-base supportive measures. NGOs and national authorities were the typical coordinating project beneficiaries.

There are seven ongoing projects under the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity component. These are focused on the conservation and restoration of habitats (dry grasslands, river ecosystems in southern Slovakia, habitats for the root vole, Danube floodplain, wetlands, as well as nesting and feeding habitats of the sand martin, kingfisher and European bee-eater in the Danube-Morava region) and species (red-footed falcon, great bustard, European ground squirrel). One project will specifically tackle the prevention of bird collisions with electricity power lines through the installation of bird flight diverters, the restoration of windbreaks and other measures. Another aims at the integrated management of river ecosystems in southern Slovakia.

One Strategic Nature Project is ongoing in Slovakia. The LIFE- IP NATURA 2000 SK project’s objectives are described below.



Completing Slovakia’s Natura 2000 network (LIFE- IP NATURA 2000 SK) LIFE19 IPE/SK/000003

Slovakia’s Natura 2000 network of protected areas covers approximately 30% of the country but it is not yet complete. And although there are conservation targets for species and habitats, there sometimes lacks a methodology for measuring conservation status.

The Ministry of Environment aims to implement the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) through this Integrated Project. This PAF maps out the measures needed to run the Natura 2000 network. Doing this effectively will improve the conservation status of various species and habitats. It will also help the country meet the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 targets. Actions include restoring peatlands and improving habitats that highly threatened species like the Western capercaillie and the European pond turtle depend on. Public awareness and acceptance of the Natura 2000 network

[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 14 projects in Slovakia thus far, representing a total investment of €36 million, of which €16.5 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects addressed air quality management and noise abatement, hazardous waste, urban design, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (through innovation in biomass processing and heat production) and human health protection (by reducing the negative impact of geological conditions on the health of the population of the Slovak Republic, notably by reducing the risk of mineral deficiency in drinking water in the Krupina district). They were coordinated by small and medium-sized enterprises, NGOs a research institute, and a public institution.

Two closed projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. During the SMAPUDE_LIFE project changes were made to fuel sources from fossil to biomass or solar energy were introduced in 6 546 buildings, significantly exceeding the 300 foreseen. This included 1 071 new biomass heating installations and 5 475 new solar panels. This in turn reduced the CO₂ emissions by 32 984 tonnes hugely surpassing the original target of 20 000 tonnes. The WATLIFE project strategy aimed at changing common attitudes and inefficient water use practice in Slovakia that are causing shortages and pollution. It combined several dissemination approaches within a wide awareness and education campaign focussing on the young (kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and the teachers). It involved public authorities (water managers, mayors, regional and local authorities), farmers and the general public.

There are three ongoing projects. Their objectives are: to improve residents' long-term health by promoting the importance of minerals and the re-carbonisation of drinking water; to enable regulators of chemicals to make more systematic use of monitoring data from apex predators and prey, which will reduce exposure to harmful substances and protect human health and the environment; and to demonstrate lower emissions and higher efficiency through innovative, downscaled hydraulic systems in demolition machinery.

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



Reducing citizens' exposure to air pollutants (LIFE-IP SK AQ Improvement) LIFE18 IPE/SK/000010

Slovakia suffers from poor air quality which affects both public health and the environment. Particulate matter from burning of solid fuels for household heating and nitrogen oxide emissions from transport are especially problematic. LIFE-IP SK AQ Improvement will help Slovakia comply with EU directives on air quality, reducing the population's exposure to harmful air pollutants. Measures such as encouraging less-polluting forms of transport and replacing inefficient, old boilers will be promoted, reducing households' emissions of fine particles by 25%.

Management and monitoring of air quality at regional and local level will be improved and authorities assisted with implementing air quality management plans. The project will also target all regions of neighbouring Czechia, which is affected by similar problems.

[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 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, two ongoing Climate Change Adaptation projects have been co-funded in Slovakia. This represents a total amount of €8 million, of which the EU is contributing €4.5 million. The LIFE DELIVER project aims to introduce adaptation and mitigation measures in residential areas consisting of mostly prefabricated buildings. The CLIMAFORCEELIFE project aims to improve the management of forests in Central and Eastern Europe by fostering the transition to climate-smart forestry for the benefit of people and nature.



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
Wetland habitat restoration and bird protection of Pojplie, Horna Orava and Senianske rybniky SPAs in Slovakia	LIFE15 NAT/SK/000861	LIFE IPORSEN	http://www.vtaciraj.sk/	05/2017 → 04/2022
Conservation of subpannonic dry grassland habitats and species	LIFE17 NAT/SK/000589	LIFE SUB-PANNONIC	https://broz.sk/projekty/life-sub-pannonic/	09/2018 → 12/2024
Restoration of habitats for root vole *Microtus oeconomus mehelyi	LIFE17 NAT/SK/000621	LIFE Microtus II	https://broz.sk/projekty/life-microtus-ii/	09/2018 → 08/2025
Conservation of endemic species and dry grassland habitats in the contact zone of Pannonian and Alpine bioregions)	LIFE19 NAT/SK/000895	LIFE endemic PANALP	https://broz.sk/projekty/panalp/	09/2020 → 02/2027
Transnational conservation of birds along Danube river	LIFE19 NAT/SK/001023	LIFE DANUBE FREE SKY	https://danubefreesky.eu	09/2020 → 02/2026
Conservation of the European Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>) at the northwestern border of its range	LIFE19 NAT/SK/001069	LIFE SYSEL	https://broz.sk/projekty/life-sysel/	09/2020 → 12/2027
Long-term conservation of Great Bustard and Red-footed Falcon in border region of Hungary and Slovakia	LIFE20 NAT/SK/001077	LIFE STEPPE ON BORDER	N/A	02/2022 → 04/2027
Role of the Natura 2000 network and management of some prioritized habitats in the integrated landscape protection in the Slovak Republic	LIFE19 IPE/SK/000003	LIFE- IP NATURA 2000 SK	https://www.minzp.sk/life-natura/	01/2021 → 12/2030

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Improvement of health status of population of the Slovak Republic through drinking water re-carbonization	LIFE17 ENV/SK/000036	LIFE - Water and Health	https://fns.uniba.sk/lifewaterhealth/	09/2018→ 12/2022
Systematic use of contaminant data from apex predators and their prey in chemicals management	LIFE17 ENV/SK/000355	LIFE APEX	https://lifeapex.eu/	09/2018→ 08/2022
Demonstrating lower emissions and higher efficiency through innovative hydraulic systems in demolition machinery	LIFE20 ENV/SK/000392	LIFE PowerCylinder	N/A	09/2021→ 08/2024
Enhancing the implementation of Air Quality Management Plans in Slovakia by strengthening	LIFE18 IPE/SK/000010	LIFE-IP SK AQ Improvement	https://www.popular.sk/sk	01/2020→ 12/2027

capacities and competencies of regional and local authorities and promoting air quality measures				
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Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Developing resilient, low-carbon and more livable urban residential area	LIFE17 CCA/SK/000126	LIFE DELIVER	http://odolnesidliska.sk	07/2019 -> 06/2023
Climate-Smart Forest Management for Central and Eastern Europe	LIFE19 CCA/SK/001276	CLIMAFORCEELIFE	https://clima4ceelife.eu/	09/2020 -> 12/2027