

LIFE Programme in Slovenia



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 60 projects in Slovenia over 44 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €176.5m, of which the EU contributed €93.4m.

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 (*):

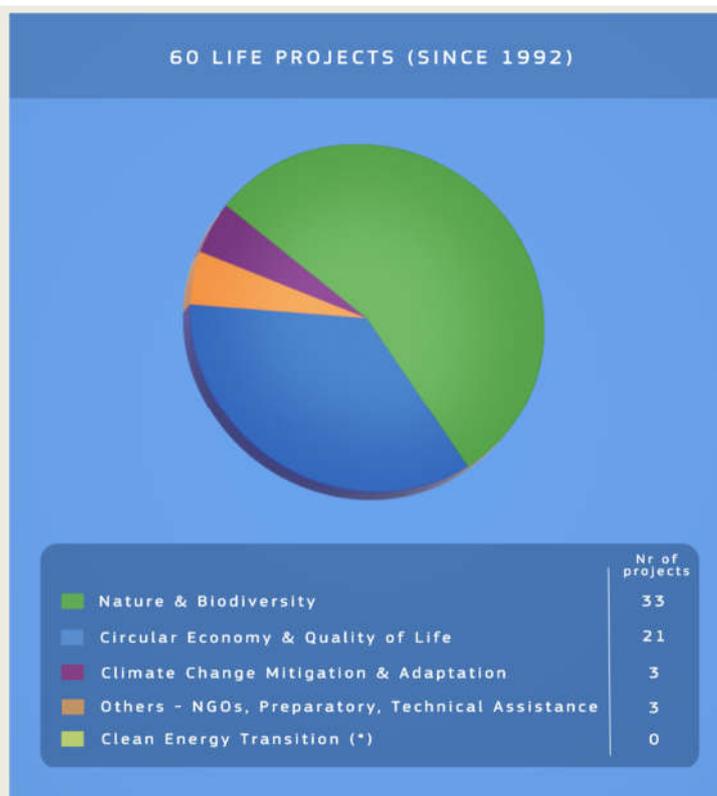
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

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 SLOVENIA (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	176.5	93.4
Nature & Biodiversity	92.5	55.5
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	52	28
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	30	8.5
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	1.9	1.4



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 33 projects in Slovenia. These represent a total investment of €92.5 million, of which €55.5 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed projects mostly dealt with the conservation/restoration/protection of habitats (freshwater wetlands, Veternik and Oslica high dry meadows, peat bogs in the Triglav National Park, Mura river and intermittent Cerknica Lake, the Natura 2000 sites of Sečovelje Salina and Kočevsko, the Ljubljana river corridor and the lower Drava river; and grasslands in Eastern Slovenia); and species (Slovenian brown bear, corncrake, otter, Mediterranean shag, nocturnal animals such as moths and bats, and wolf). One project has provided local administrations with a model on which to base actions aimed at the conservation of habitats and species of EU interest. Another project’s objective was to prepare the 2014-2020 Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia. The coordinating beneficiaries included park authorities, universities, local and national authorities, a public authority, a development agency, NGOs, a large enterprise and an SME.

There are five ongoing projects in Slovenia under this component. These are focusing on the conservation/management/restoration of habitats (seasonal lakes – turloughs - in the former Stržen riverbed and priority grassland habitats through the establishment of seed bank and in situ restoration); and species (Alpine lynx populations in the Dinaric Mountains and Alps; the extremely-endangered fish, South European nase; and the conservation of several types of endangered amphibians).

Five projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental Governance and Information strands. The closed AQUAVIVA project improved public awareness of freshwater ecosystems in Slovenia. The closed LIFE ARTEMIS project successfully contributed to the reduction of the harmful impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity by increasing public awareness, namely via the online application Invazivke. There are three ongoing projects: the LIFE NATURAVIVA project will highlight the danger of biodiversity loss by informing and raising awareness among different target groups. The LIFE NarciS project aims to build an integrated functional Nature Conservation Information System, combining data from various sources and providing a one-stop-shop for data and information. LIFE BEAVER’s overall objective is to raise awareness about the return of the European beaver to Slovenia and Croatia after two centuries of absence.

One Strategic Nature Project is ongoing. The LIFE IP NATURA.SI project’s objectives are described below.



Enhancing cooperation to improve nature management in Slovenia (LIFE IP NATURA.SI) LIFE17 IPE/SI/000011

The LIFE IP NATURA.SI project will enhance the implementation of the Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia (2014-2020). The project team, coordinated by the Slovenian Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning, will improve the conservation status of targeted habitat types and species by establishing a long-term and inclusive management approach. This will enhance cooperation and communication between policymakers, landowners, research institutions and NGOs, thus turning stakeholders into more effective partners.

[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 21 projects in Slovenia thus far, representing a total investment of €52 million, of which €28 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects focused on: site rehabilitation and decontamination (demonstration of a sustainable and reliable method for rehabilitating landfill sites in line with EU standards and human health protection); sustainable building (successful development of PVC, aluminum and wood versions of an innovative type of UNISASH window); the development of new tools for the managers of pollution control systems; a programme of activities and remedial measures for improving the management of aquifers; soil decontamination; wastewater treatment, forest genetic monitoring and waste reuse (acid whey). The projects were coordinated by two local authorities, a public enterprise, a research institute and SMEs.

There are two ongoing projects under this strand, tackling the following issues: water saving in high water-demanding industries such as the automotive industry; and waste reuse (hop waste transformed into a novel product in the packaging and horticulture sectors).

Six projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental Governance and Information strands. The closed projects implemented awareness-raising campaigns on: Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE); increased and better recycling of industrial and construction and demolition waste in the building sector; the benefits of separate collection and recycling of municipal waste; the importance of the recovery and recycling of household waste; and informing/engaging key audiences and stakeholders in Slovenia on the Environmental Liability Directive. The ongoing LIFE Turn to e-circular project aims at contributing to more effective implementation of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan, specifically in the field of electric and electronic equipment.

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



Enhancing Slovenia's circular economy (LIFE IP RESTART) LIFE20 IPE/SI/000021

Several obstacles to achieving EU waste recycling targets in Slovenia have been identified, including a lack of coherent legislation, insufficient capacity for recycling, and a low social acceptance of the recycling processes and resulting products.

LIFE IP RESTART will help overcome these obstacles. The project team, led by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, will deploy a set of complementary technical, digital, environmental and circular solutions to achieve maximum material self-sufficiency and increased circularity in the waste-to-resource sector. They will demonstrate six circular solutions for problematic and voluminous waste streams and ensure a broad uptake of solutions to achieve a coherent and integrated implementation of national waste management and prevention objectives. By 2030, the project's approach is expected to reduce waste by 60% through recycling and achieve a 50% recycling rate of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste. The team also wants to reach a 70% recycling rate for municipal waste and cut CO₂ emissions by 20% through improved waste collection, treatment and disposal activities, and materials recovery.

[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, the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation strand has financed three projects in Slovenia. The total budget of these projects amounts to €30 million, of which the EU contributed €8.5 million.

The closed LIFE ViVaCCAdapt project developed measures to avoid the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture in Vipava valley, Slovenia, near the Italian border. The main goal of the closed LIFE ClimatePath2050 project was to contribute to climate change mitigation by setting up a Decision Support System to provide better guidance to Slovenian national authorities and to better shape actions by 2030, in accordance with the mid-century GHG reduction ambitions set by the Paris Agreement and to help achieve objectives set by the National Emission Ceilings Directive (EU 2016/2284) and Energy Efficiency Directive (EU 2012/27). These projects were coordinated by a research institute and a development agency.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Slovenia under this strand. The LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE project's objectives are described below.



Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting sustainable transport, energy efficiency, renewable energies and sustainable land use (LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE) LIFE17 IPC/SI/000007

LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE supports the implementation of Slovenia's operational plan for greenhouse gases and national action plan on energy efficiency 2014-2020. The project, coordinated by the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, will tackle implementation gaps and bottlenecks to enable targets to be met quickly and cost-effectively. The project team will focus on improving stakeholder capacity and involvement, and the modernisation of procedures for preparing new legal instruments. Another objective is to set up an efficient monitoring system for the implementation of the measures foreseen in the operational plan for greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide emission sinks, systematic monitoring of the effectiveness of awareness-raising and training activities, and monitoring of green public procurement uptake.

[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
Preventing the extinction of the Dinaric-SE Alpine lynx population through reinforcement and long-term conservation	LIFE16 NAT/SI/000634	LIFE Lynx	https://www.lifelynx.eu	07/2017 -> 03/2024
LIFE SAVING LASCA Urgent measure to conserve nearly extinct species <i>Protochondrostoma genei</i>	LIFE16 NAT/SI/000644	LIFE for LASCA	https://www.lifeforlasca.eu/	10/2017 -> 12/2022
Improvement of Natura 2000 statuses with renaturation of Stržen's riverbed on intermittent Cerknica Lake	LIFE16 NAT/SI/000708	LIFE STRŽEN	http://life.notranjski-park.si	09/2017 ->08/2022
AMPHIBian CONservation and habitat restoration	LIFE18 NAT/SI/000711	LIFE AMPHICON	http://www.lifeamphicon.eu	11/2019 ->12/2026
Conservation of priority grassland habitats in Slovenia through the establishment of seed bank and in situ restoration	LIFE20 NAT/SI/000253	LIFE FOR SEEDS	N/A	09/2021 ->12/2026
BIODIVERSITY – ART OF LIFE	LIFE16 GIE/SI/000771	LIFE NATURAVIVA	http://www.naturaviva.si	09/2017 ->08/2022
LIFE BEAVER - LIFE with the beaver, wetlands and climate change	LIFE19 GIE/SI/001111	LIFE BEAVER	https://lutra.si/life-beaver/	01/2021 -> 12/2024
LIFE NarcIS - NATuRe Conservation Information System	LIFE19 GIE/SI/000161	LIFE NarcIS	https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/life-narcis/	09/2020 -> 08/2024
LIFE integrated project for enhanced management of Natura 2000 in Slovenia	LIFE17 IPE/SI/000011	LIFE-IP NATURA.SI	http://www.natura2000.si/life_natura	09/2018 -> 08/2026

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
BioTwine HOP waste transformation into novel product assortments for Packaging and Horticulture Sector	LIFE18 ENV/SI/000056	LIFE BioTHOP	https://www.life-biothop.eu/	07/2019-> 06/2022
Sustainable water management in high water demanding industries	LIFE18 ENV/SI/000673	LIFE HIDAQUA	http://hidaqua.zag.si	09/2019-> 09/2023
Raising awareness on Environmental Liability Directive in Slovenia	LIFE16 GIE/SI/000728	ECOLEX LIFE	https://ecolexlife.si	09/2017 -> 08/2022
Awareness building of the circular economy key elements among households in the field of EE equipment	LIFE18 GIE/SI/000008	LIFE Turn to e-circular	http://www.krozno.zeos.si	10/2019 -> 12/2024
Boosting waste recycling into valuable products by setting the environment for a circular economy in Slovenia	LIFE20 IPC/SI/000021	LIFE IP RESTART	N/A	01/2022 -> 12/2030

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Boosting greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2020 with a view to promoting sustainable transport, energy efficiency, renewable energies and sustainable, climate protecting land use in the transition to low carbon society	LIFE17 IPC/SI/000007	LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE	https://www.care4climate.si/s !	01/2019 -> 12/2026