

# LIFE Programme in Cyprus



## Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 50 projects in Cyprus over 27 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €85m, of which the EU contributed €48.5m.

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 (\*):

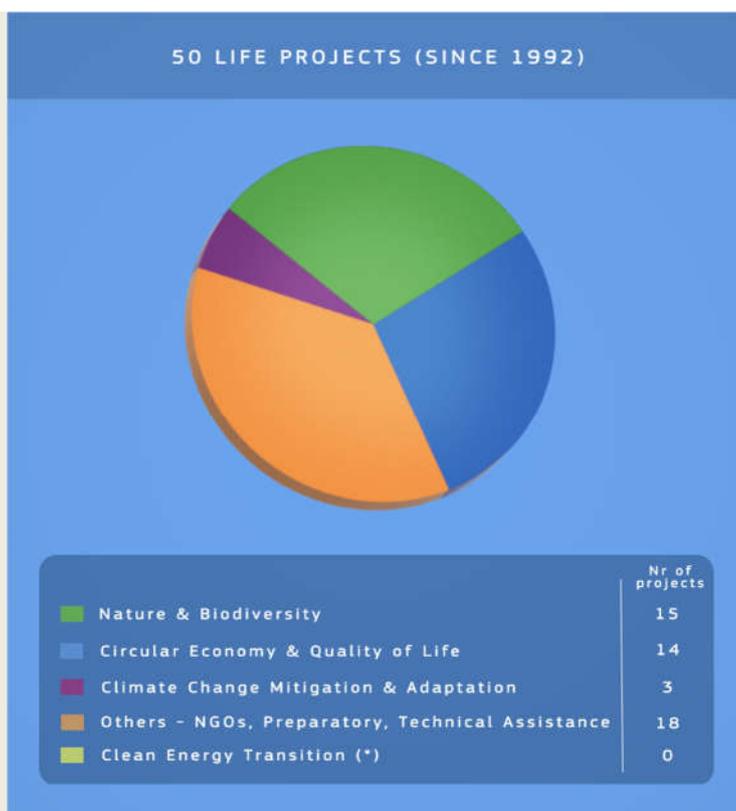
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (\*)

For more information:

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](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 CYPRUS (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
<b>ALL LIFE projects</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>48.5</b>
Nature & Biodiversity	34	20
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	35	19
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	6	3.5
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	10	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 11 projects in Cyprus. These represent a total investment of €12 million, of which €7 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects in Cyprus have: implemented conservation and protection measures in five Natura 2000 sites on the island; established a plant micro-reserve network in Cyprus for the conservation of priority species and habitats; improved the conservation status of fauna species in Cyprus; restored and managed the Oroklini Lake special protection area; improved the conservation status of the priority habitat type endemic forests with *Juniperus* spp.; promoted and enabled the long-term conservation of arborescent matorral with *Zyziphus* and gypsum steppes; improved ecological conditions for selected bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive found in three Natura 2000 sites in Cyprus; maintained the priority habitat in the Koilada Kedron-Kampos Natura 2000 network site in good conservation status; and prevented a lionfish invasion in the Mediterranean through early response and targeted removal.

One project under this strand is ongoing. LIFEWithVulturesCY’s overall aim is to prevent the griffon vulture’s extinction in Cyprus and then to improve its conservation status.

Two closed projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental Governance and Information strands. The BIOforLIFE project conducted a comprehensive and broad-based awareness-raising and communication campaign, with the aim of halting biodiversity loss in Cyprus, utilising mass media, social media and a website, events, training courses, seminars and networking activities. The iLIFE-TROODOS project aimed to increase public awareness of the Troodos national forest park’s natural values and the ecosystem services it provides.

One Strategic Nature Project has been co-funded in Cyprus and is ongoing. The LIFE IP Physis project’s objectives are summarised below.



### **Managing the Natura 2000 network better in Cyprus (LIFE IP PHYSIS) LIFE18 IPE/CY/000006**

Cyprus is among the top five EU countries in terms of land area covered by the Natura 2000 network (almost 29%). However, knowledge gaps exist for many protected habitats and species, while a significant number of management plans for Natura 2000 sites are in need of updating. LIFE IP PHYSIS will help conserve important habitats and species through implementation of the so-called ‘prioritised action framework’ for the Natura 2000 network in Cyprus. The project will fill knowledge gaps, improve governance of the network, make use of ecosystem services, and implement actions and management plans to conserve habitats and species.

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

Completed projects tackled the following issues: waste from electrical and electronic equipment; water quality improvement; wastewater treatment (namely in the wine sector); waste (use of quarry waste); climate change mitigation (impact assessment for the adoption of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions trading for maritime transport) and adaptation (increasing Cyprus' adaptive capacity to climate change impacts through the development of a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, with the use of modelling); water (strengthening the scientific foundation of water quality programs); air quality monitoring (particulates monitoring, modelling and management); industrial waste (demonstrating an environmentally and financially sustainable procedure for the management and treatment of returned, expired dairy products); agricultural waste (developing, demonstrating and evaluating an integrated system for the treatment of livestock); and energy supply (pointing the way towards a more economically and environmentally sustainable electricity grid in Cyprus and Europe). The coordinating beneficiaries were universities, national authorities and a large enterprise.

One ongoing project, LIFE PHARMA-DETOX, aims to detoxify wastewater from the pharmaceutical industry by developing an innovative, economically viable and cost-efficient system for the transformation of pharmaceutical compounds present in wastewater into non-toxic substances (novel detoxification process).

One closed project was co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. The LIFE KNOW WASTE project successfully promoted the Reduction-Reuse-Recycling (3R) concept in Cyprus via an integrated communication strategy, which used TV, radio, printed and electronic press, social media, and educational and training activities. The ongoing LIFE FOODPRINT project, co-funded under the former Environmental Governance and Information strand, will conduct an awareness-raising campaign targeted at preventing food waste.

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



### **Steering waste away from landfill (LIFE-IP CYzero WASTE) LIFE20 IPE/CY/000011**

Cyprus has one of the EU's highest levels of municipal waste per inhabitant. Most of it goes to landfill, with less than 20% recycled. Several factors hamper the country from meeting the EU's Landfill Directive and Circular Economic Action Plan's targets.

The overall objective of the LIFE-IP CYzero WASTE project is to catalyse the full implementation of the National Waste Management Plan and the National Waste Prevention Strategy, addressing the main gaps identified in the Environmental Implementation Review for Cyprus (2019) and the Early Warning Report for Cyprus (2018).

The Department of Environment at Cyprus's Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment leads this project, which includes multiple measures such as the separate collection of biowaste in 50 rural, semirural, and urban areas, and improving the collection of dry recyclables, like paper and metal cans, by setting up 20 green kiosks. Seven cities will get reuse/repair centres and a network of reuse shops. A new waste management coordination body will be created and awareness will be raised in key stakeholders, authorities and the general public. Also, some 'pay-as-you-throw' systems will be demonstrated, which, together with introducing a landfill tax and facilitating the coordinated use of more than €62 million complementary funds, should encourage the shift to a more circular economy.

[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 Cyprus. The total investment for these projects amounts to €18 million, of which the EU is contributing €11 million.

The closed LIFE+ ORGANIKO project evaluated the situation in Cyprus regarding the organic farming sector, including farmer practices and stakeholders' technical bottlenecks. They conducted a study using questionnaires and field visits to organic farmers while educational meetings with farmers interested in organic farming were held in various villages of Cyprus. The overall aim of the other closed, project, UrbanProof, was to increase the resilience of municipalities to climate change by equipping them with a tool that supports their climate change adaptation planning. The coordinating beneficiaries of these projects were respectively the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and Cyprus University of Technology.

The ongoing LIFE-MEDEA project's main goal is to demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of an adaptation strategy to Desert Dust Storms (DDS), and to better inform EU policy-making by providing a field-based evidence for the adoption of a strategic plan for mitigating the health effects of DDS events in south-east Europe.



## 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
Saving Griffon Vultures in Cyprus through concrete conservation actions	LIFE18 NAT/CY/001018	<a href="#">LIFEWithVulturesCY</a>	<a href="https://birdlifecyprus.org/news-details/in-the-press/life-with-vultures-project-launch">https://birdlifecyprus.org/news-details/in-the-press/life-with-vultures-project-launch</a>	07/2019 -> 07/2023
Managing the NATURA 2000 network in Cyprus and Shaping a sustainable future	LIFE18 IPE/CY/000006	<a href="#">LIFE IP Physis</a>	<a href="https://pandoteira.cy/">https://pandoteira.cy/</a>	11/2019 ->10/2029

<b>Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects</b>				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Demonstration of an innovative method for the detoxification of pharmaceutical wastewater from pharmaceutical facilities	LIFE20 ENVCYI/000615	<a href="#">LIFE PHARMA-DETOX</a>	N/A	09/2021--> 08/2025
Awareness raising campaign to prevent and manage food waste among consumers, the food and hospitality industries	LIFE19 GIE/CY/001166	<a href="#">LIFE FOODPRINT</a>	<a href="https://www.foodprintcy.eu/">https://www.foodprintcy.eu/</a>	09/2020--> 04/2023
Intelligent monitoring and efficient waste reduction in Cyprus Island	LIFE20 IPE/CY/000011	<a href="#">LIFE-IP CYzero WASTE</a>	N/A	10/2021--> 09/2029

<b>Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects</b>				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Mitigating the Health Effects of Desert Dust Storms Using Exposure-Reduction Approaches	LIFE16 CCA/CY/000041	<a href="#">LIFE-MEDEA</a>	<a href="https://www.life-medea.eu/">https://www.life-medea.eu/</a>	09/2017 -> 12/2022