

LIFE Programme in Greece



The LIFE Programme has funded 272 projects in Greece over 187 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €446m, of which the EU contributed €244.5m.

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) (*)
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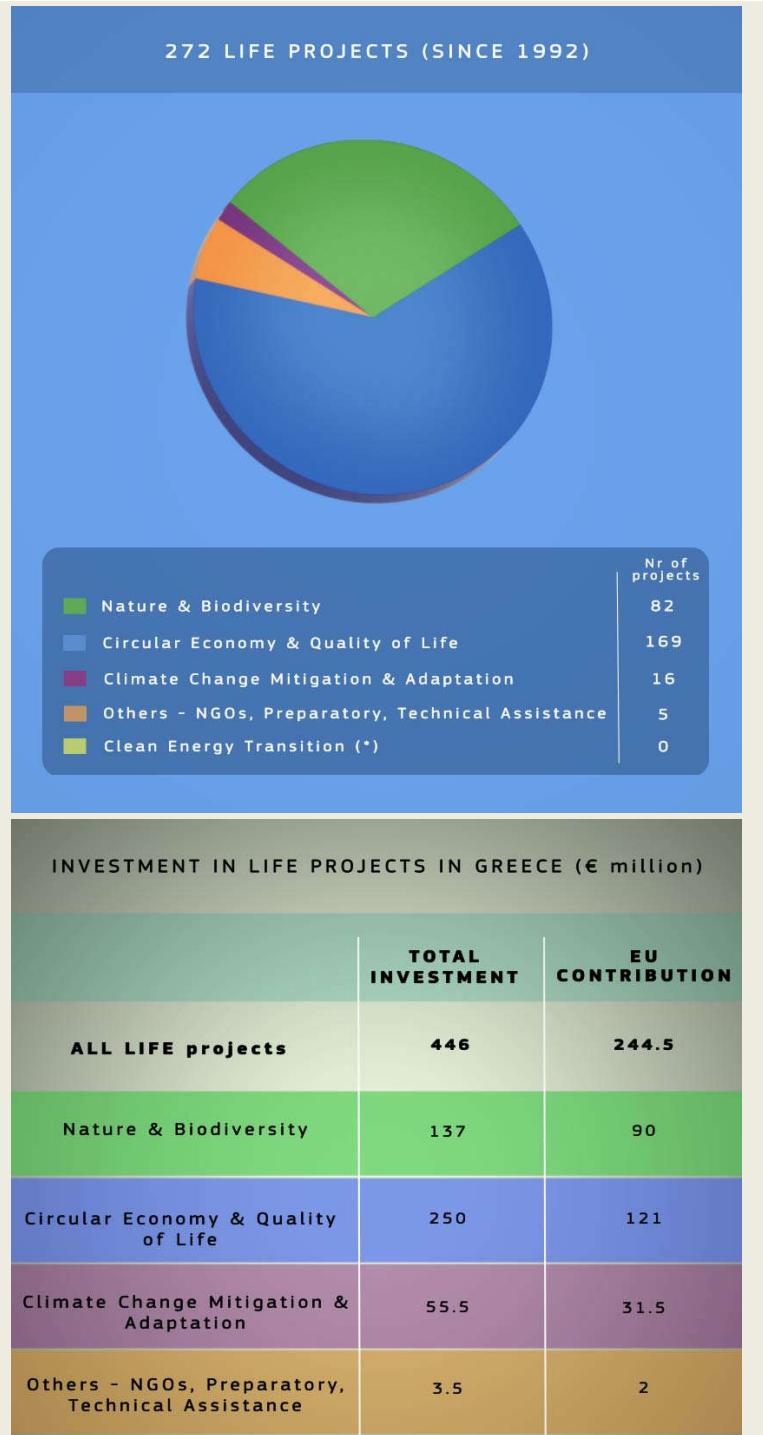
For more information:

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

Facts and figures





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 82 projects in Greece. These represent a total investment of €137 million, of which €90 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects in Greece have supported actions aimed at stabilising or increasing populations of endangered species (*Gypaetus barbatus*, *Caretta caretta*, *Falco eleonorae*, *Monachus monachus*, *Ursus arctos*, Mediterranean shag and Audouin's gull, Fennoscandian population of lesser white-fronted goose, lesser kestrel, Leonora's falcon and its adaptation to climate change, the monk seal in the Northern Cyclades, and Lake Prespa's waterbirds), as well as conserving/rehabilitating habitats (e.g. Drana lagoon, Northern Pindos National Park, Agras wetlands, Mediterranean temporary ponds, black pine forests, coastal lagoons, and Juniper wood habitats in Crete, the South Aegean, Prespa National Park). One project aimed at the establishment of a sustainable management and financing system for an important but degraded wetland ecosystem (the Natura 2000 site "Limni Stymfalia"). Two projects addressed the improvement of Human-Bear Coexistence Conditions. The AmiBio Biodiversity project developed a particularly innovative integrated technological system to enable remote, quick and non-obtrusive monitoring of biodiversity. One Biodiversity project aimed to establish integrated planning and management for enhancing biodiversity, whilst also facilitating sustainable economic and social development. Another sought to enhance biodiversity during the restoration of fire-disturbed ecosystems by introducing a new technology, based on pre-cultivation in mini-plugs using a wide range of species. The last Biodiversity project aimed to develop a methodology that can be used to harmonise the needs of wind farm developers with the conservation of EU biodiversity. Coordinating project beneficiaries were mostly NGOs, local and national authorities, research institutions and development agencies.

There are seven ongoing projects. These focus on the conservation of habitats (e.g. forest/forest openings in continental Greece Natura 2000 sites on Andros Island, priority habitats in Mediterranean coastal areas) and on the protection of species (Bonelli's eagle populations in Greece and Cyprus). Some of the projects have very specific objectives, including management and change of attitude towards Greek caves and bats, improvement of green infrastructure in agroecosystems, and response to threats of invasive species in northern Greece.

Six projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental governance and Information strands: the PROM.SUS.FIS.PR.PRESPA project aimed at halting the decline of fish biodiversity, in the Prespa basin. The Thalassa project implemented an awareness campaign on the protection of Marine Mammals in Greece. The LIFE Natura2000ValueCrete project addressed the ecological services, social benefits and economic value of the Ecosystem Services in Natura 2000 sites in Crete. The LIFE Natura Themis promoted awareness of wildlife crime prosecution and liability for biodiversity damage in NATURA 2000 areas in Crete. There are two ongoing projects, LIFE ForestLife will help building cooperation, developing skills and sharing knowledge for Natura 2000 forests in Greece. LIFE EL-BIOS will be designing, developing and implementing a central biodiversity information system, "EL-BIOS", operated by the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA).

One ongoing Strategic Nature Project has been co-funded in Greece. The LIFE IP 4Natura project's objectives are described below.



Conservation management actions in Greece (LIFE IP 4Natura) LIFE16 IPE/GR/000002

The LIFE IP 4Natura project is supporting the implementation of the Greek Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) as well as concrete conservation measures, as well as applying legal instruments, to protect species, habitats and ecosystems threatened at the national and multiregional scale in Greece. The project team, coordinated by the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy with the support of the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, will develop and implement at least 10 Action Plans for selected habitats and species, and at least 12 Management Plans in four participating administrative regions, covering both terrestrial and marine Natura 2000 network sites. This will strengthen the coherence between Natura 2000 sites and improve their connectivity. Furthermore, the project will generate new knowledge on ecosystem services and their provisions at national, regional and local level, as well as a Natural Capital Accounting at national-scale. The project will develop also a web-based GIS tool for the effective management of the Natura 2000 network by competent authorities and the general public. Finally, the project team will also work to improve capacity, knowledge and awareness of key stakeholders with respect to the implementation of the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, and 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 169 projects in Greece thus far, representing a total investment of €250 million, of which €121 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects mainly targeted integrated environmental management; the management of vulnerable coastal areas; industrial and municipal waste, as well as biowaste; waste reduction (transformation of food waste from hotels into animal feed); green financial products; air quality management and monitoring; the environmental impact of economic activities; water management at the scale of the river basin; sustainable tourism; forest fire safety; hazardous waste (waste oils and petroleum residues); reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (creation of a co-modal journey planning platform); renewable energies; protection of water resources; climate change adaptation (adaptation of the market to the risks and financial impacts of climate change and carbon sequestration in the olive growing sector); integrated management plans for the environmentally-friendly control of invasive mosquito species, preventing their entry, spread and establishment across Europe; air quality management and monitoring; forest management; prevention of natural risks (forest fires and floods); reduction of the carbon footprint in the food industry sector; decontamination and pollution control; implementation of an innovative, patented, environment-friendly and low-cost food attractant (Biodelear) for the control of med fly on a full scale; risk assessment in health protection; water supply; soil protection; agricultural waste; and prevention of WEEE. Almost a third of the projects were coordinated by local authorities. The other coordinating beneficiaries were mainly development agencies, universities and public enterprises.

There are nine ongoing projects in Greece, covering a wide range of issues, including: waste management and recycling (e.g. prevention of WEEE, and specific recycling schemes for remote areas); wastewater treatment; chemicals (development of a technology and online tools to monitor exposure to engineered nanomaterials in indoor workplaces and urban areas); land-use and planning (promotion of an energy-efficient urban freight transport through the introduction of green routing); environmental management (smart exploitation of petroleum sludge produced by the Corinth Refineries of Motor Oil Hellas); demonstration of an innovative, adaptable and affordable smart farming system; air pollution (bringing older heavy-duty vehicles up to Euro VI standard); energy saving (development of a holistic solution to achieve healthy indoor environments, and to induce energy savings in the building sector, by using new environmentally-friendly technologies); and chemicals (demonstrating non-chemical pest control methods for the gypsy moth, by developing and implementing smart traps, mass adult and larval trapping, and mating disruption techniques).

Seven projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental governance and Information strands: the closed projects (5) tackled the following issues: sustainable production and consumption of olive oil; smoking-related litter on beaches in Greece; impacts caused by the improper management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in the Greek regions of Epirus and Thessaly; harmonisation of knowledge in order to help enforce EU regulations on the sustainable use of chemicals and to expand the added value of environmental prevention in handling hazardous chemicals; and reduction of plastic bag pollution in the marine environment, on a national level in Greece and on a local level on the Greek island of Syros. There are two ongoing projects. LIFE PROWhiBIT will address environmental waste crime and LIFE PROFILE will promote financial instruments for liability on environment.

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



Improved waste management to achieve the circular economy in Greece (LIFE-IP CEI-Greece) LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013

In 2017, almost 80% of municipal waste produced in Greece was landfilled. Additional effort is needed to achieve waste management targets. LIFE-IP CEI-Greece will develop and demonstrate waste management actions, based on waste hierarchy and circular economy principles. The project will establish three Enhanced Green Centres, in Thessaloniki and Athens, to improve waste collection, recycling and re-use rates, and five Integrated Waste Management systems to address specific challenges on islands and in a mountainous area. The project will also implement a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system aimed at reducing waste, create a platform to link food waste donors to charities, develop a Food Waste Prevention Forum, establish a repair-and-reuse park, and develop new waste indicators and standards to help build the circular economy in Greece.

[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 16 projects in Greece. The total investment for these projects amounts to €55.5 million, of which the EU is contributing €31.5 million.

Two projects are closed. The LIFE ADAPT2CLIMA project developed a decision support system (DSS), the ADAPT2CLIMA tool, for demonstrating the impact of climate change on agriculture, in a way that is easy for non-experts to understand. The ClimaTree project aimed to contribute to the development of a new methodology and provide policy-makers with an innovative tool for the quantification of carbon storage in permanent tree-crops.

The ongoing projects tackle the following issues: climate change adaptation strategies for agriculture; use of green infrastructures resilient to climate change impacts; UHI (Urban Heat Island forecasting systems) in Thessaloniki and Rome; reporting on GHG emission; management, monitoring and evaluation of Urban Green Areas (UGAs); awareness-raising on purchase of low emission and low fuel-consumption vehicles; greenhouse gas emission savings from the substitution of fossil fuels with advanced biofuels; strategic and integrated environmental management in Mount Athos; integrated and sustainable industrial energy storage and CO₂ capture and utilisation (CCU); increase climate adaptation capacities and resilience of the European Health Infrastructure (EHI) and related critical infrastructures; atmospheric (aerosol concentration), meteorological and phenological indicators to predict damaging frost events; and management of agro-industrial waste streams.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded under this strand. The objectives of the LIFE-IP AdaptInGR are summarised below.



Boosting climate adaptation policy across Greece (LIFE-IP AdaptInGR) LIFE17 IPC/GR/000006

LIFE-IP AdaptInGR is supporting the implementation of the national adaptation strategy in Greece. The project team, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, are building national and regional capacity for coordinating, prioritising, monitoring and mainstreaming adaptation policy actions. Pilot projects are being developed for 3 regions and 5 municipalities. This will help build a knowledge base of resources to guide and support national, regional and local authorities in planning and assessing adaptation-relevant actions. The project team are conducting awareness campaigns to gain support for effective adaptation action; identifying suitable funding schemes and programmes for adaptation measures; and developing and disseminating strategies, guidelines, and best practices to transfer and replicate lessons learnt throughout Greece, the EU, and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

[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
Improvement of green infrastructure in agroecosystems: reconnecting natural areas by countering habitat fragmentation	LIFE16 NAT/GR/000575	LIFE IGIC	https://www.lifeigic.eu/	09/2017 -> 06/2024
Conservation of priority species and habitats of Andros Island protected area integrating socioeconomic considerations	LIFE16 NAT/GR/000606	LIFE Andros Park	http://www.androslife.gr/	09/2017 -> 09/2022
Restoration, management and valorisation of Priority habitats of Mediterranean coastal areas (LIFE PRIMED)	LIFE17 NAT/GR/000511	WildForestReindeerLIFE	https://www.suomenpeura.fi/fi/metsapeuralife.html	10/2016 -> 09/2023
Conservation & Management of the Bonelli's eagle population in east Mediterranean (LIFE Bonelli eastMed)	LIFE17 NAT/GR/000514	Hydrology LIFE	http://www.metsa.fi/hydrologialife	08/2017 -> 12/2023
Greek Caves and Bats: Management Actions and Change of Attitude (LIFE GRECABAT)	LIFE17 NAT/GR/000522	Beetles Life	http://www.metsa.fi/beetleslife	08/2018 -> 07/2023
Addressing the Threat of Invasive Alien Species in North Greece, using Early Warning and Information systems for mammals (LIFE ATIAS)	LIFE18 NAT/GR/000430	Flying Squirrel LIFE	http://www.metsa.fi/liitorava-life	08/2018 -> 03/2025
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe (LIFE ACRPROM)	LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768	Finvasive LIFE	https://www.sll.fi/viekas-life/	07/2018 -> 12/2023
Building cooperation, developing skills and sharing knowledge for Natura 2000 forests in Greece	LIFE14 GIE/GR/000304	LIFE ForestLife	http://www.forestlife.gr/	07/2015 -> 07/2022
hELlenic BIOdiversity Information System: an innovative tool for biodiversity conservation	LIFE20 GIE/GR/001317	LIFE EL-BIOS	N/A	10/2021 -> 03/2025
Integrated actions for the conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites, species, habitats and ecosystems in Greece	LIFE16 IPE/GR/000002	LIFE IP 4Natura	https://edozoume.gr/	12/2017 -> 11/2025

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
New concept for energy self-sustainable wastewater treatment process and biosolids management	LIFE16 ENV/GR/000298	LIFE B2E4sustainable-WWTP	https://www.biosolids2energy.eu/home.html	09/2017-> 12/2022

LIFE GreenYourRoute: A European innovative logistic platform for last mile delivery of goods in urban environment.	LIFE17 ENV/GR/000215	LIFE GYR	https://www.greenyourroute.com/	09/2018-> 04/2023
Innovative Smart Farming services supporting Circular Economy in Agriculture	LIFE17 ENV/GR/000220	LIFE GAIA Sense	https://lifegaiasense.eu/	07/2018-> 06/2022
Integrated approach for exposure and health effects monitoring of engineered nanomaterials in workplaces and urban areas	LIFE17 ENV/GR/000285	LIFE NanoEXPLORE	https://www.lifenanoexplore.eu/	09/2018-> 09/2023
Nano-CATalysts for HEAVY Duty Applications	LIFE17 ENV/GR/000352	LIFE CAT4HEAVY	https://www.lifecat4heavy.eu/	07/2018-> 06/2023
Pollutant Photo-NF remediation of Agro-Water	LIFE17 ENV/GR/000387	LIFE PureAgroH2O	https://www.lifepureagroh2o.com/	07/2018-> 12/2023
Demonstration of an advanced technique for eliminating coal mine wastewater (brines) combined with resource recovery	LIFE18 ENV/GR/000019	LIFE BRINE-MINING	https://brinemining.eu/en/home/	09/2019-> 06/2024
InnoVative photocatalytic paintS for healthy envirOnment and eNergy Saving	LIFE19 ENV/GR/000100	LIFE VISIONS	https://lifevisions.gr/	09/2020-> 09/2023
Using smart traps and pheromones to control the gypsy moth: ecofriendly control in practice	LIFE20 ENV/GR/000801	LIFE eGYMER	N/A	09/2021-> 08/2024
PRevent Of Waste crime by Intelligence Based InspecTions	LIFE18 GIE/GR/000899	LIFE PROWhIBIT	https://open.gov.gr/perivallon/programmata-life/life-prowhibit-prolipsi-perivallontikou-egklima/	09/2021-> 08/2024
Promote financial instruments for liability on environment	LIFE19 GIE/GR/001127	LIFE PROFILE	N/A	11/2020-> 11/2023
Circular Economy Implementation in Greece	LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013	LIFE-IP CEI-Greece	https://circulargreece.gr/	07/2019-> 10/2027

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects

Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
EMPLOYING LAND STEWARDSHIP TO TRANSFORM TERRACED LANDSCAPES INTO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES TO BETTER ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE	LIFE16 CCA/GR/000050	LIFE TERRACESCAPE	http://www.lifeterracescape.aegean.gr/	07/2017 -> 10/2022
Implementation of a foreCasting System for urban heat Island effect for the development of urban adaptation strategies	LIFE17 CCA/GR/000108	LIFE ASTI	https://lifeasti.eu/	09/2018 -> 08/2022
Strategic Environmental Management in Mount Athos under Climate Change	LIFE19 CCA/GR/001185	LIFE STEMMA ATHOS	https://lifestemma.eu/	10/2020 -> 12/2025

Strategic Environmental Management in Mount Athos under Climate Change	LIFE19 CCA/GR/001185	LIFE STEMMA ATHOS	https://lifestemma.eu/	10/2020 -> 10/2025
Forecasting and protecting fruit crops from frost damage	LIFE20 CCA/GR/001747	LIFE FROSTDEFEND	N/A	09/2021 -> 08/2025
Climate change REsilience framework for health SYStems and hospiTALs	LIFE20 CCA/GR/001787	LIFE RESYSTAL	N/A	09/2021 -> 08/2025
Low-cost, carbon positive bioethanol production with innovative Green Floating Filters in multiple water bodies	LIFE16 CCM/GR/000044	LIFE Biomass C+	https://biomasscarbonpositive.eu/	09/2017 -> 12/2022
Innovative technologies for climate change mitigation by Mediterranean agricultural sector	LIFE17 CCM/GR/000087	LIFE ClimaMed	https://life-climamed.eu/	07/2018 -> 12/2022
Promoting urban integration of GReen INFrastructure to improve climate governance in cities	LIFE17 GIC/GR/000029	LIFE GrIn	http://lifegrin.gr/	06/2018 -> 03/2024
A circular economy system for multi-source biomass conversion to added value products	LIFE18 CCM/GR/001180	LIFE CIRCforBIO	https://circforbio.eu/	10/2019 -> 05/2023
Demonstration of a mobile unit for hybrid energy storage based on CO2 capture and renewable energy sources	LIFE20 CCM/GR/001642	LIFE CO2toCH4	N/A	10/2021 -> 09/2025
Mitigating climate impact of small ruminants through innovative feeding approaches	LIFE20 CCM/GR/001703	LIFE MiCliFeed	N/A	09/2021 -> 02/2026
Boosting the implementation of adaptation policy across Greece	LIFE17 IPC/GR/000006	LIFE-IP AdaptInGR	https://www.adaptivegreece.gr/en-us/	01/2019 -> 12/2026