

LIFE Programme in Austria



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 129 projects in Austria over 83 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €442m, of which the EU contributed €188.5m.

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 (*):

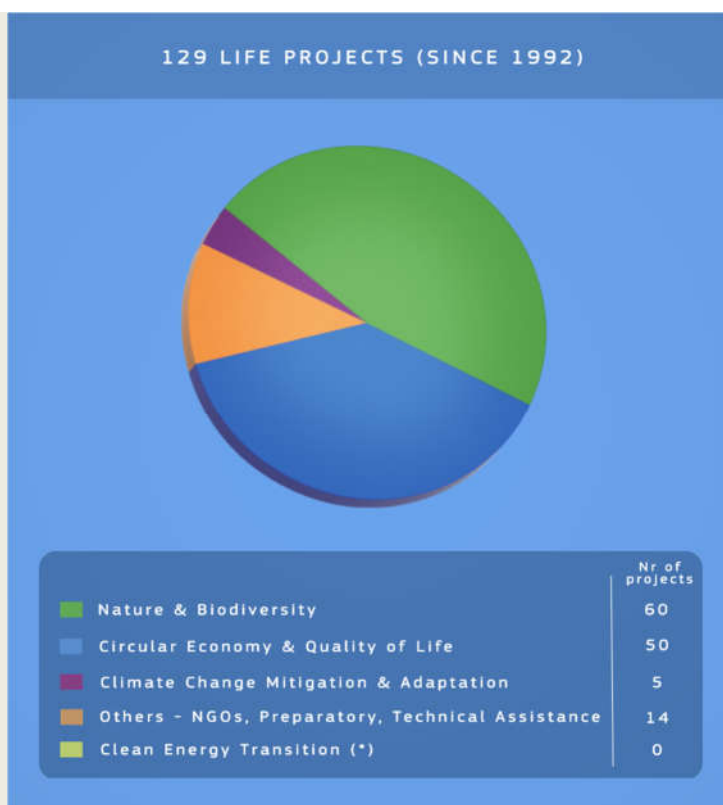
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

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 AUSTRIA (€ million)		
	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	442	188.5
Nature & Biodiversity	300	132
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	115	44
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	10	5.5
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	17	7



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 60 projects in Austria. These represent a total investment of €300 million, of which €132 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects have focused on the protection, management and restoration of habitats (Tyrolean Lech, Bisamberg, Upper Drau, Danube river banks, Gesäuse mountains, the rivers Traisen, Mur, lower Morava and Enns, the habitat of the plant *Myosotis rehsteineri* in Bregenz, natural woodlands and bogs in the Aussee area, Salzachauen alluvial forest, etc.) and species (brown bear, great bustard, Danube salmon, fish populations in the river Lavant, and sturgeon populations in the Austrian Danube). One project specifically demonstrated possible ways to reach a balance between ecological improvement and water management guidelines in the Gail River area. Most of these projects were coordinated by regional authorities, NGOs and park authorities.

The completed Biodiversity project LIFE Northern Bald Ibis aimed to reintroduce the critically endangered northern bald ibis into Europe and to establish a pattern of migration that would ensure the survival of the species. It was coordinated by a NGO.

There are 11 ongoing LIFE Nature projects in Austria. These aim to: improve and restore river habitats (Danube, Lech, Wachau wetlands, high-quality fluvial habitats for (semi-)aquatic species) to a favourable conservation status, and alluvial forests in Danube islands). Other projects tackle the protection/conservation or restoration of species, such as; red kite; starlet, the wolf population in the Alps, by training at least 1 000 livestock farmers to improve human-wolf coexistence; Great bustard in Austria and Central Europe by reducing the threat of collision with power lines; and the Northern Bald Ibis.

Three closed projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental governance and Information strands. The SAVING DANUBE STURGEONS project achieved positive policy and legislative impacts for the conservation of overexploited sturgeon species in the Lower Danube River Basin. LIFE+EcoBusiness addressed the importance of global and local biodiversity preservation using a variety of communication channels targeting employees, employers and the general population. The LIFE FOR DANUBE STURGEONS project influenced the implementation and further development of policies and legislation related to sturgeons in several EU Member States, and successfully contributed to the implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.



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 50 projects in Austria thus far, representing a total investment of €115 million, of which €44 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects have mainly dealt with sustainable building, the sustainable use of demolition waste, air quality, noise abatement, wastewater treatment, reduction of greenhouse gases in the construction sector, and integrated management (defining strategies to reduce vulnerability of the urban lake "Alte Donau". A quarter of these projects were coordinated by local and municipal authorities, the rest being spread among SMEs, NGOs, international enterprises, national and regional authorities, and research institutions.

There is one ongoing project, LIFE Cycle Habitation, with an overall goal of demonstrating innovative building concepts and technologies that significantly reduce CO2 emissions and enable buildings to be carbon neutral over their entire lifecycles.

One closed project was co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. The EKO-LIFE project introduced experimental spaces, that is, sites where everyday scenarios were developed to create concrete and enjoyable opportunities for people to experience alternative, more sustainable practices, and to encourage a change in their behaviour.

One ongoing Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Austria under this strand. The LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA project's objectives are summarised below.



Developing river management concepts to improve flood protection (LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA) LIFE17 IPE/AT/000006

The LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA project aims to devise and demonstrate 'River Development and Risk Management Concepts' that help streamline flood protection. The concepts will be tested in seven pilot regions to show that they can form part of national plans for implementing EU environmental policy. The medium- to long-term goal is to develop concepts for all relevant rivers in Austria. The project will also monitor the impact of the measures included in the concepts, developing common indicators to this end.

[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 five projects in Austria. The total investment for these projects amounts to €10 million, of which the EU is contributing €5.5 million.

Two projects are closed. The LIFE – DoppelPlus project advised energy-poor households in the Austrian state of Tyrol on how to minimise energy costs and adopt a more climate-friendly approach to everyday life. The project team, for example, advised residents on energy-efficient use of electricity, hot water and heating. LIFE PlanUp helped local and regional authorities (LRA) and civil society organisations (CSO) to engage in processes for formulating the 2030 national energy and climate plans (NECPs). The focus was on five EU Member States: Italy, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Spain

The main aims of the ongoing projects are: to increase the climate change resilience of ecosystems on the Danube Island (LIFE DICCA); to show how large environmental projects can integrate climate change adaptation (LIFE EnCAM); and to develop an innovative circular economy ecosystem for fluorinated gases (LIFE 3R); and



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
LIFE+ Wilderness Wetland Wachau	LIFE13 NAT/AT/000301	LIFE+ Wilderness Wachau	http://www.auenwildnis-wachau.at	01/2015 → 12/2022
Restoration of sterlet populations in the Austrian Danube	LIFE14 NAT/AT/000057	LIFE Sterlet	http://life-sterlet.boku.ac.at/index.php/home.html	09/2015 → 06/2022
Dynamic River System Lech	LIFE15 NAT/AT/000167	River Lech	http://www.life-lech.at/	09/2016 → 09/2022
Cross-border protection of the Great Bustard in Central Europe	LIFE15 NAT/AT/000834	LIFE Great Bustard	http://www.grosstrappe.at/en/projects/life-project-2016-2023.html	07/2016 → 12/2023
Cross-border protection of the Red Kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality	LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048	LIFE EUROKITE	https://www.raptorprotection.eu/de/projects/planned-project-life-eurokite.html	08/2019 → 01/2027
Dynamic LIFE Lines Danube	LIFE18 NAT/AT/000733	Dynamic LIFE Lines Danube	http://www.viadonau.org/unternehmen/projekt Datenbank/dynamic-life-lines-danube	07/2019 → 06/2026
Life Network Danube+: Closing the gaps and promoting a river corridor system with an European perspective	LIFE18 NAT/AT/000915	LIFE Network Danube+	https://www.life-network-danube-plus.at	08/2019 → 11/2023
Improving livestock protection for the direct benefit of wolf conservation in the German-speaking Alpine Region	LIFE19 NAT/AT/000889	LIFEstockProtect	http://www.lifestockprotect.info	09/2020 → 08/2025
LIFE Northern Bald Ibis	LIFE20 NAT/AT/000049	LIFE NBI	N/A	01/2022 → 12/2028
Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor	LIFE20 NAT/AT/000063	LIFE WILDIsland	https://wildisland.danubeparks.org/wildislands/	09/2021 → 08/2027
LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn - Supporting ecological connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along a blue corridor	LIFE20 NAT/AT/001126	LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn	https://www.life-blue-belt-danube-inn.eu	09/2021 → 08/2029

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
LIFE Cycle Habitation Demonstration Project with Carbon Neutral Construction and Innovative Energy Supply System	LIFE13 ENV/AT/000341	LIFE Cycle Habitation	http://lch.grat.at/index.php?id=62	06/2014→ 06/2022
LIFE IP Integrated River Solutions in Austria	LIFE17 IPE/AT/000006	LIFE IP IRIS AUSTRIA	https://life-iris.at/	12/2018→ 12/2027

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Climate Change Adaption of the Ecosystem Danube Island	LIFE17 CCA/AT/000077	LIFE DICCA	https://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/gewaesser/donauinsel/dicca/	09/2018 → 09/2024
Circular economy ecosystem to Recover, Recycle and Re-use F-gases contributing to the depletion of greenhouse gases	LIFE19 CCA/AT/001226	LIFE Retradeables	https://retradeables.com/	07/2020 → 06/2023
Adapting large-scale environmental projects to climate change while supporting climate objectives	LIFE19 CCA/AT/001329	LIFE EnCAM	https://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/gewaesser/liesingbach/encam/projektbeschreibung.html	07/2020 → 06/2025