

LIFE Programme in Hungary



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 77 projects in Hungary over 49 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €180m, of which the EU contributed €116m.

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 (*):

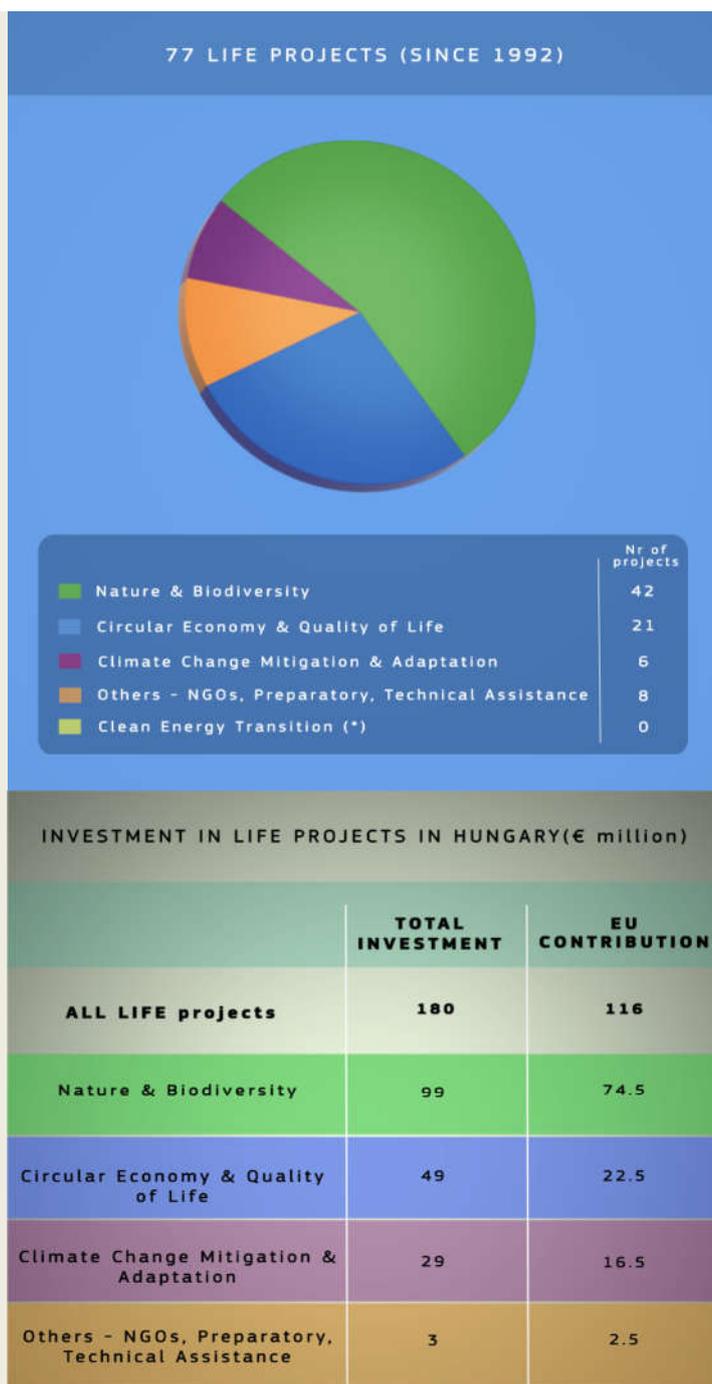
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

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





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 39 projects in Hungary. These represent a total investment of € million, of which € million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects in Hungary have supported actions aimed at conserving species (mainly bird species – such as Imperial eagle, great bustard, red-footed falcon, Saker falcon, and European roller in the Carpathian basin – but also the Hungarian meadow viper, large carnivores, and the Pannon endemic plant *Dianthus diutinus*). Projects have also supported actions aimed at the conservation/restoration of habitats, such as pannonic, calcareous sand forest and salt steppes, steppe lakes in the Hortobágy National Park, alluvial forests, marshes, sodic wetlands and grasslands in the Hortobágy National Park, alluvial habitats on Szabadság Island, and Euro-Siberian steppic woods. Park authorities accounted for more than half of the coordinating project beneficiaries. The other projects were led by NGOs and a national authority.

There are currently six projects running in Hungary under this strand. Some target the conservation and restoration of habitats, such as sodic wetlands, calcareous sand forest steppe, river floodplains (Drava) and Pannonic salt steppes and loess steppic grasslands. The other projects are aiming at conserving species, such as Imperial eagle (by managing human-eagle conflicts) and the Hungarian meadow viper.

Two closed projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. The FIRELIFE project enhanced effective, proactive and continuous forest fire prevention in Hungary, through the establishment of the Hungarian Forest Fire Prevention Communication Programme. The LIFEinFORESTS project advanced the understanding of conservation measures for Natura 2000 sites in Hungary, engaging all stakeholders in the forest and conservation sector and the preparation of background materials.

One ongoing Strategic Nature Project has been co-funded in Hungary. The LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU project’s objectives are summarised below.



Fostering the long-term conservation of Pannonian grasslands and related habitats (LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU) LIFE18 IPE/HU/000018

The LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU project will carry out conservation measures to improve 10 priority habitat types, including semi-natural Pannonian grasslands. Actions will address shrub encroachment and afforestation, along with habitat fragmentation and the disappearance of ecological corridors.

The project will control invasive species, reduce the misuse of land and other resources, address water-level issues and raise the awareness of farmers.

A key outcome will be a revision of the conservation measures for priority and indicator species and habitats.

[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 18 projects in Hungary, representing a total investment of €30 million, of which €11.5 million has been provided by the EU. No project has been co-funded under this strand since 2013.

Completed projects covered a wide range of sectors, including: end-of-life vehicles; air quality management; clean technologies; hazardous waste; reducing emissions of air pollutants; packaging and plastic waste; site rehabilitation and decontamination; waste from electrical and electronic equipment; sustainable tourism; sensitive area management; water management at the river basin scale; wastewater treatment; water quality; soil degradation and protection; climate change through the application of industrial symbiosis principles in central Hungary; and risk management in agriculture (pest control). A third of these projects were coordinated by SMEs. Other leading beneficiaries were a development agency, three NGOs, two public enterprises, two regional authorities, an intergovernmental body and a research institute.

Two projects have been co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental Information and Governance strands. The closed LIFE-FOODWASTEPREV project contributed to reducing food waste in Hungary as a result of its educational programme, which became the national food waste prevention programme of Hungary and achieved positive changes in national policy. The aim of the ongoing Green & Safe LIFE-styles project is to facilitate behavioural change and raise awareness about the sustainable and safe use of chemical products. It will mainly but not exclusively focus on goods with safety warning labels or ecolabels.

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



Implementing the air quality plans of eight Hungarian regions (LIFE-IP HUNGARY) LIFE17 IPE/HU/000017

The LIFE-IP HUNGARY project aims to carry out measures to improve air quality in eight regions in Hungary, to maintain an appropriate environmental state and improve air quality in compliance with the human right to healthy environment and clean air.

The measures, which are included in the air quality plans, were developed by the regional environmental authorities and take into consideration the suggestions of the 10 municipalities involved.

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

The closed LIFE-MICACC project's main goal was to improve the climate resilience of vulnerable municipalities in Hungary by reducing their risks stemming from climate change. It was coordinated by Hungary's Ministry of Interior.

There are four ongoing projects. LIFE-CLIMCOOP project aims to develop, test and demonstrate collective actions between a city government and a multinational company, to reduce local climate risks and enhance joint climate change adaptation for vulnerable urban and industrial areas in the selected region, in Hungary and in Central-East Europe. The overall objective of LIFE BIO-BALANCE is to support EU Member States to shift to a low-carbon and resilient economy by ensuring that solid biomass is produced and used sustainably at all levels. The project will be delivered in three CEE countries: Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. The goal of the LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project is to improve climate resilience of local municipalities. It will be achieved by mitigating the negative water-balance situation through the demonstration of integrated ecosystem-based water management solutions applied at the catchment level. LIFE in RUNOFF's main objective is to support urban climate change adaptation by enabling synergies between public stormwater investment/maintenance and stimulating private stormwater blue-green infrastructure (mainly ecosystem-based) to efficiently reduce the impact of stormwater runoff on fragile urban infrastructure (e.g. the sewer system, roads and buildings).

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Hungary under this strand. The LIFE IP North-HU-Trans project's objectives are summarised below.



Replacing Hungary's brown coal with renewable energy sources (LIFE-IP North-HU-Trans) LIFE19 IPC/HU/000009

Hungary's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) will not work without the gradual phasing-out of lignite (brown coal). This coal is currently used to generate electricity in the country's Mátra Power Plant. It is the last remaining lignite power plant in Hungary, and it accounts for nearly 50% of the energy sector's CO₂ emissions.

This Integrated Project will see project coordinator, Hungary's Ministry for Innovation and Technology, decarbonising the Mátra Power Plant by 2030. All the existing lignite-fired power generation units will be replaced with low-carbon technology solutions. These include renewable energy and energy storage as well as natural gas technologies. This project will play a key role in enhancing the use of renewable energy technologies across the country

[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
Restoration of Pannonic sodic wetlands in the Kiskunság	LIFE12 NAT/HU/001188	LIFE sodic wetlands	http://www.sodicwetlands.com/	10/2013 → 12/2023
Conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region	LIFE15 NAT/HU/000902	PannonEagle Life	http://imperialeagle.eu/	10/2016 → 01/2023
Multilevel and multisite complex restoration of key ecosystem services of the calcareous sand forest steppe habitat	LIFE16 NAT/HU/000599	OAKEYLIFE	http://oakeylife.hu	10/2016 → 09/2023
Wise water management for the conservation of riverine and floodplain habitats along the Drava River	LIFE17 NAT/HU/000577	WISEDRAVALIFE	http://wwf.hu/wisedrava/	08/2017 → 12/2023
Viability improvement of Hungarian meadow viper populations and habitats in the Pannonian region	LIFE18 NAT/HU/000799	LIFE HUNVIPHAB	https://www.mme.hu/elindult-a-rakosi-vipera-vedelmet-szolgallo-life-projekt?fbclid=IwAR3eouUQgwKb48W94QcriSSDICAQA9vk_TRw1Y7IBTHS_wJdx7zPs39mSpM	08/2018 → 07/2023
Innovative management of Pannonic salt steppes and loess steppic grasslands to benefit plants, insects and birds	LIFE20 NAT/HU/001404	LIFEforBUGS&BIRDS	https://ecolres.hu/projektek/lifeforbugsbirds-innovative-management-of-pannonic-salt-steppes-and-loess-steppic-grasslands-to-benefit-plants-insects-and-birds-agrarminiszterium-tarsfinanszirozas/	09/2021 → 12/2027
Long term conservation of Pannonian grasslands and related habitats through the implementation of PAF strategic measures	LIFE17 IPE/BE/000018	LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU	http://lifepalyazatok.eu/life-integralt-projektek-2018.html	01/2019 → 12/2026

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Complex awareness raising and behaviour change program for the sustainable & safe use of chemicals in consumer products	LIFE17 GIE/HU/000622	Green & Safe LIFE-styles	https://tudatosvasarlo.hu/green-and-safe-lifestyles-English	09/2018→ 04/2023
Improving air quality at eight Hungarian regions through the implementation of air quality plan measures	LIFE17 IPE/HU/000017	LIFE-IP HUNGARY	http://www.hermanottointeze.hu/hungairy	01/2019→ 12/2026

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration

Cooperation of cities and local companies for climate change adaptation	LIFE19 CCA/HU/001320	LIFE-CLIMCOOP	http://life-climcoop.hu	09/2020 -> 08/2024
Integrated application of innovative water management methods at river basin by coordination of local governments	LIFE20 CCA/HU/001604	LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS	https://lifelogos4waters.bmh u	10/2021 -> 09/2025
Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into urban planning by demonstrating public & private stormwater infrastructure	LIFE20 CCA/HU/001774	LIFE in RUNOFF	http://varosieso.hu/	07/2021 -> 06/2025
Balancing solid biomass for climate neutrality in CEE countries	LIFE20 GIC/HU/001660	LIFE BIO-BALANCE	https://wwfcee.org/what-we- do/climate-energy/life-bio- balance-project	07/2021 -> 06/2024
Secure and start implement an effective roadmap for the low-carbon transition of the single largest coal region in Hungary	LIFE19 IPC/HU/00009	LIFE IP North-HU-Trans	https://igazsagosatmenet.eu/ en/introduction/	09/2020 -> 10/2029