



LIFE Programme 2014-2020

Opportunities for Environment & Climate Action Projects

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LIFE 2014-2020 Opportunities for Environment & Climate Action Projects

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1.1 Objectives of the LIFE Programme (2014-2020)

- **resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**; protecting and improving the environment; maintaining and improving **biodiversity**, ecosystems and, in particular, the **Natura 2000 network**
- improving the development, implementation and enforcement of **Union environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- **integrating and mainstreaming** of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies
- improving environmental and climate **governance**
- the implementation of the **7th Environment Action Programme**



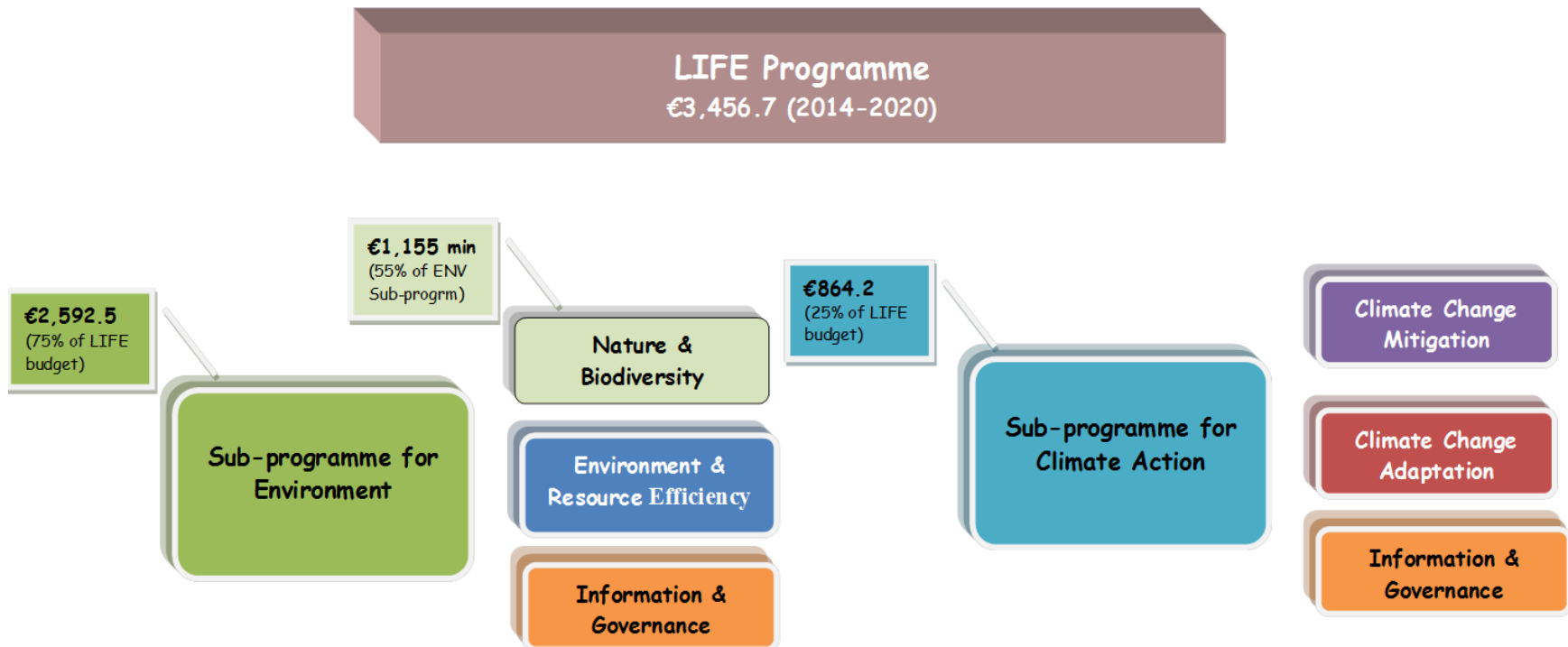
1.2 Structure and budget for 2014-2020

Creation of two sub-programmes:

- LIFE sub-programme for Environment, including priority areas environment and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; and governance and information
- LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action, including priority areas adaptation; mitigation; and governance and information
- **Budget 2014-2020:** €3.4567 billion (€2.5925 billion for ENV, €864.2 m for CLIMA)



1.2 Structure and budget for 2014-2020



1.2 National allocations

- For the duration of the first multiannual work programme (2014-2017), national allocations applicable only to traditional projects under the ENV sub-programme
 - **IE allocation 2014-17 = €11,458,751**
- From the second multiannual work programme (2018-2020), national allocations are phased out, selection is only merit based
- Selection for traditional projects under the Climate sub-programme merit based only for the duration of the whole Programme (2014-2020)



1.2 National Allocations

IE Past performance under LIFE+ 2007-13

Year	No. of applications submitted	No. of successful applications	Total Budget (successful applications)	EU Contribution
2007	3	2	€3,266,640	€1,652,804
2008	3	0	-	-
2009	5	2	€4,147,154	€2,226,447
2010	2	1	€3,157,910	€1,562,672
2011	4	1	€2,225,205	€1,108,872
2012	4	1	€2,597,685	€1,941,188
2013	13	3	€11,700,000	€5,780,254
Total	34	10	€27,094,594	€14,272,254



1.3 Sub-programme for Environment

Structure:

- Environment & Resource Efficiency
- Nature and Biodiversity
- Environmental Governance & Information



1.3 Sub-programme for Environment

Thematic Priorities for funding (defined in Annex III):

- Thematic Priorities for **Nature** and for **Biodiversity**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Water**, including the marine environment;
- Thematic Priorities for **Waste**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Resource Efficiency**, including soil and forests and green and circular economy;
- Thematic Priorities for **Environment** and **Health**, including chemicals and noise;
- Thematic Priorities for **Air Quality** and **Emissions**, including the urban environment;
- Thematic Priorities for **Information** and **Governance**



1.4 Sub-programme for Climate Action

Priority areas and their objectives:

- **Climate Change Mitigation** contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- **Climate Change Adaptation** supports efforts leading to increased resilience to climate change
- LIFE Climate Governance and Information

Specific objectives:

Implement and develop Union policy and legislation and mainstream activities across policy areas

- Improve and apply knowledge base in practice
- Develop and implement integrated strategies and action plans
- Develop and demonstrate innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments for replication, transfer or mainstreaming



1.4 Sub-programme for Climate Action

Climate change adaptation: Priority areas

- cross-border management of **floods**, fostering collaborative agreements based on the EU Floods Directive;
- trans-boundary **coastal management**, with emphasis on densely populated deltas and coastal cities;
- mainstreaming adaptation into urban land use planning, building layouts and natural resources management;
- **mountain and island areas**, with emphasis on sustainable and resilient agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors;
- sustainable management of water; combating desertification and forest fires in **drought-prone areas**



1.4 Sub-programme for Climate Action

Climate change adaptation in the urban environment

- developing and implementing **local adaptation strategies** in the framework of "Mayors Adapt";
- developing and deploying **innovative adaptation technologies** in urban areas, including in the water, energy and construction sectors;
- promoting and developing **green infrastructure in cities**, including combating the urban heat island effect (through green roofs or networks of green space as ventilation areas) and/or controlling flood risks (through multi-use retention areas);
- **low carbon projects** contributing at the same time to climate mitigation and adaptation as well as nature conservation and biodiversity objectives in urban areas.



1.4 Sub-programme for Climate Action

Climate Change Mitigation Priority Areas

- **Land use sector:** e.g. landscape and land management strategies and practice which limit emissions, particularly organic soils, conservation of natural carbon sinks;
- **Greenhouse gas monitoring and accounting of land use change and forestry;**
- Sustainable use of solid **biomass**;
- **Agriculture:** implementation of **low carbon farming practices** with a transformational impact and analysis and development of improvements for existing climate measures under CAP.



1.4 Sub-programme for Climate Action

LIFE Climate Governance and Information Priorities

- Knowledge of global **emission reduction strategies** and the consequences on the agricultural and land use sectors locally
- **Awareness of biomass production** in an integrated perspective (biodiversity, forest, other land)
- **Dialogue with business** on future energy and climate investments
- Evaluation of functioning of **EU ETS** and its impact on policy tools
- Awareness on **best practice in the field of climate policy evaluation** to support development of cost-effective climate action
- Exchange of best practice on enabling mechanisms and **innovative solutions for industrial processes and production methods** to facilitate low carbon transition of industry, transport



2.1 The Types of Funding: overview

Projects

- Action grants for both traditional projects and Integrated Projects (a new element of LIFE); technical assistance grants for IPs; capacity building grants
- Innovative financial instruments to finance projects (Natural Capital Financial Facility & Private Finance for Energy Efficiency).

Operating grants and Other types of funding

- Operating Grants (NGOs, IMPEL)- no earmarking but about 3% of the Programme - 70% co-financing rate;
- Other types of funding - public procurement (e.g., studies, conferences, service contracts, technical assistance for the monitoring of LIFE, etc.)- no earmarking but about 15% of the Programme



2.2 Types of Projects

At **least 81%** of the budget for the Programme (approx. €2.8 billion):

- **Traditional projects:** best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects (similar to LIFE+)
- **Integrated projects:** projects aimed at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air
- **Technical assistance grants:** to facilitate the start up phase of an Integrated Project
- **Capacity building grants:** financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE (not applicable to Ireland)



2.2 Types of Projects: “Traditional” Projects

For whom?

- Mainly SME, NGO, public administrations active in the field of environment and climate protection

For what?

- Pursuit of general and specific objectives of the 6 priority areas.
- Within sub-programme for environment: additional focus on thematic priorities and on project topics (LIFE MAWP 2014-2017) (sub-programme for CA – no project topics)

Average indicative size?

- 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €500,000 to €1.5m, 3 to 5 years ...but larger and longer projects possible



2.2 Co-financing Rates

- **Traditional Projects** under the sub-programme of Climate Action and traditional projects under the sub-programme for Environment (Environment & Resources Efficiency and Environment Governance & Information Projects):
 - 60% co-financing during the first multiannual work programme (2014-2017)
 - 55% co-financing during the second multiannual work programme(2018-2020)
- Traditional **Nature** and **Biodiversity** Projects: **60% co-financing** but **75% for projects targeting priority habitats & species**
- **Integrated projects** and **technical assistance** projects: 60% co-financing
- **Capacity building projects**: 100% co-financing (not applicable to Ireland)



2.3 Integrated Projects [IPs]

- Aimed at implementation of plans, programmes or strategies required by EU environmental or climate legislation or pursuant to other acts or developed by MS authorities;
- Larger scale, e.g., regional, multiregional, national;
- Primarily in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate mitigation and adaptation;
- Sustainability will be important as well as mobilisation of other funds (EU or other).



2.3 Integrated Projects

Complementarity with other funds:

- Specific section in the Common Provisions Regulation regarding LIFE:

'Member States shall promote and, where appropriate [...] ensure complementarity and coordination with LIFE, in particular with integrated projects [...] through measures such as [...] promoting the funding of activities through the European Structural and Investment Funds that complement IPs'

- Reference to LIFE in draft Partnership Agreement
- Links needed in Operational Programmes



2.3 Integrated Projects

Budget

- 30% ceiling of the funds dedicated to projects
- Max. €855 million for 7 years
- Geographical balance: 3 IPs per Member State over 7 years
- [IE 1 waste or water; 1CCA or CCM; 1 nature]

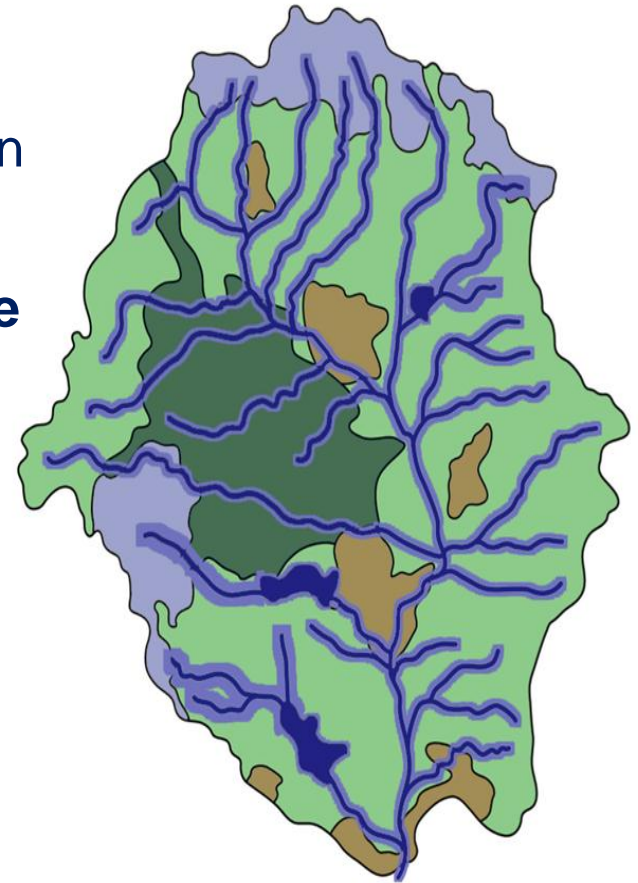
Other aspects:

- Technical assistance in support of IPs possible for potential applicants
- Provisions regarding exchange of experience, best practices, and National Contact Point support enhanced
- Active dissemination of examples and good practices by LIFE and in the specific working groups and committees for the sectors concerned



Water IP – RBMP example:

- Target **whole river basin district**
- Seek out **synergies** at the outset and plan for multiple benefit
- Plan and implement **measures to restore to good status** and **achieve protected area objectives**
- Focus on **improving compliance with basic measures**
- Targeted **land use change** to protect sensitive areas and achieve good status
- **Remove hydromorphological barriers** from source to sea



Water IP – RBMP example

Continuous 5 m buffer strips on all watercourses

- protecting water and offering terrestrial biodiversity benefits

Competent authority

Regular management & control:

Local/public authority

Bathing waters (land hydrologically connected to bathing water):

Target uptake of measures that reduce likelihood of faecal pathogens entering waters

Local authorities

Wetland creation/restoration
To reduce nutrients, recreate pre-existing wetlands, store flood waters

Pilot: NGO, competent authorities

Large scale: ESIF

Drinking water protected areas:

Target uptake of measures that reduce pesticides and nutrients in binding agreements (e.g. arable reversion, forestry)

NGO, competent authorities

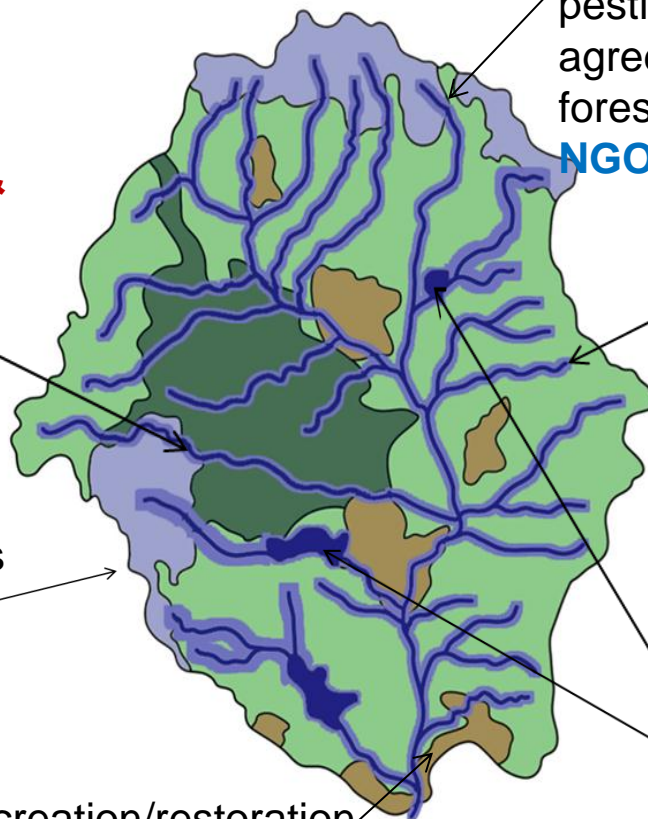
Reduce pollutant loss from all agricultural land through targeted advice and inspections
EU directive and WFD basic measures

Competent authorities, stakeholders

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Remove all hydromorphological barriers

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)



3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

- Prepared by the European Commission in consultation with the MS
- First period: 2014-2017
- Adopted at LIFE Committee meeting 7 February 2014
- Thematic priorities & project topics



3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

Allocation of funds between priority areas and between different types of funding within each sub-programme:

Limitations

- distribution between ENV and CLIMA sub-programmes provided by the Regulation (75% for ENV and 25% for CLIMA)
- At least 81% of resources to be allocated to projects (via action grants or financial instruments)
- At least **55% of resources** allocated in the **Environment sub-programme to projects shall be allocated to projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity**; these include projects under information and governance targeting nature or biodiversity
- 30% ceiling of the budget dedicated to projects (i.e. 30% of the 81%) for Integrated Projects



4. Other EU funding – complementarity with LIFE

LIFE Orientation Document

- Key differences between LIFE and Horizon 2020
- Relationship between LIFE and the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds
- Key differences between priority areas in the LIFE Sub-programme for Environment and the LIFE Sub-programme for Climate Action
- Comparative Table – LIFE Integrated projects / LIFE “Traditional” projects
- Illustrative Examples



4. Other EU funding – complementarity with LIFE

LIFE vs Horizon 2020

- Type of projects/actions supported
- Scope of the calls
- Number and geographical distribution of beneficiaries
- Participating countries
- Co-financing rates



4. Other EU funding – complementarity with LIFE

LIFE vs EU Structural and Cohesion Funds

- Different purposes
- Certain specific actions might be financed by either, but never both source
- Complementarity encouraged, particularly in Integrated Projects



5. 2014 LIFE Calendar

Traditional Projects (Environment & Climate sub-programmes)

- Call published 18 June
- LIFE Information Day (Custom House) 24 June
- Application-writing workshop (Custom House) 28 August
- Submission 16 October (16.00 Brussels time!)
- Grants signed July 2015

Integrated projects (Environment sub-programme) - submission 16 October

Technical assistance to prepare for integrated projects - submission 15 September

Similar timeline expected for 2015 call!



Keep in touch!

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More LIFE information at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>



<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/LIFEProgramme>

2014 LIFE call documentation:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/index.htm>

LIFE Projects database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

