



Life Programme 2021-2027 Call 2023

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Life Info Day Ireland

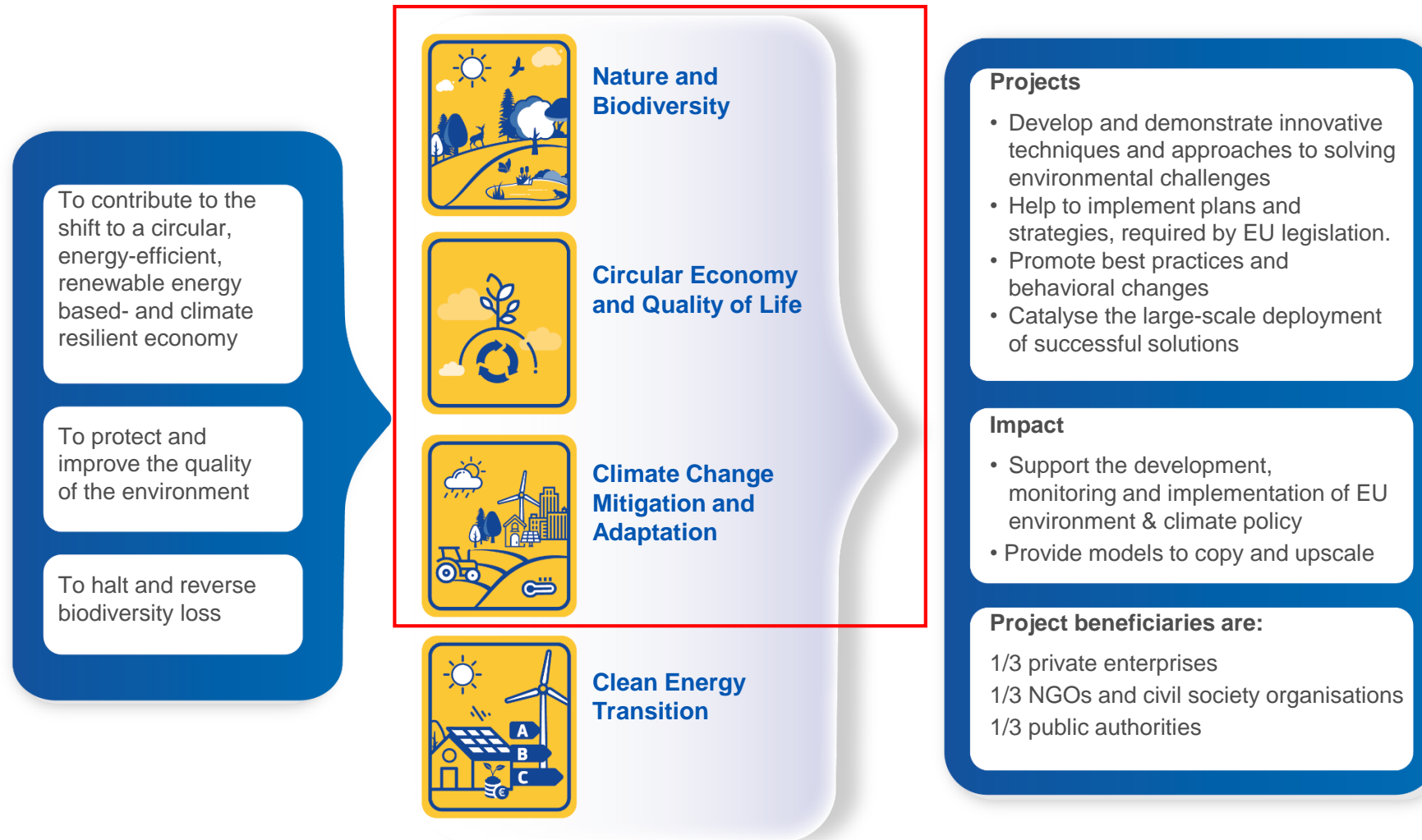
31 May 2023

The LIFE programme

- The LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the [European Green Deal](#).
- The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- LIFE is over 30 years 'young'
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of **5.43 billion €**.
- The [multiannual work programme for 2021-2024](#) was adopted in July 2021.
- Call 2023 budget: **611 million €**



The LIFE Programme 2021-2027



Priorities: EU Biodiversity Strategy

- Establishing a coherent **network of protected areas**
- Implementing **EU nature restoration targets** for species and habitats
- Restoring **degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems**; prevent and **reduce the impact of natural disasters**
- Improving the **health and resilience of managed forests**
- Reversing the **decline of pollinators**
- Bringing **nature back to agricultural land**
- Greening **urban and peri-urban areas**
- Measuring and integrating the **value of nature**



Priority areas



- **Circular economy and waste**
- **Soil**
- **Air**
- **Water**
 - A. Water quality and quantity
 - B. Marine and coastal water management
 - C. Water services
- **Noise**
- **Chemicals**

Scope: Climate Change Mitigation

- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** in the sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System, including the reduction of use of fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances
- **Enhance the functioning of the Emissions Trading System** and which have an impact on energy and greenhouse gas intensive industrial production
- **Increase** the generation and use of **renewable energy and improvement of energy efficiency**
- **Development of land and sea management practices** which have an impact on emissions and removals of emissions, conservation and enhancement of natural carbon sinks

Scope: Climate Change Adaptation

- Adaptation **policy development**, and **adaptation strategies and plans**
- State-of-the art **tools and solutions** for adaptation
- **Nature-based solutions** in the management of land, forests, coasts and marine areas
- **Adapting cities and regions** to climate change
- **Climate-proofing** and **resilience of infrastructure** and buildings

Types of activities funded under LIFE

Grants

- **Action grants:**
 - Standard Action projects (SAPs)
 - Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
 - Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)
 - Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
 - Preparatory projects addressing ad hoc Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP)
 - Technical Assistance (TA-PP and TA-R)
- **Operating grants** *(call restricted to entities that signed a LIFE Framework Partnership Agreement)*

Other Forms of Funding

- **Procurement** *(not in this call)*
- **Prizes** *(not in this call)*
- **Blending** *(not in this call)*

Types of activities funded under LIFE

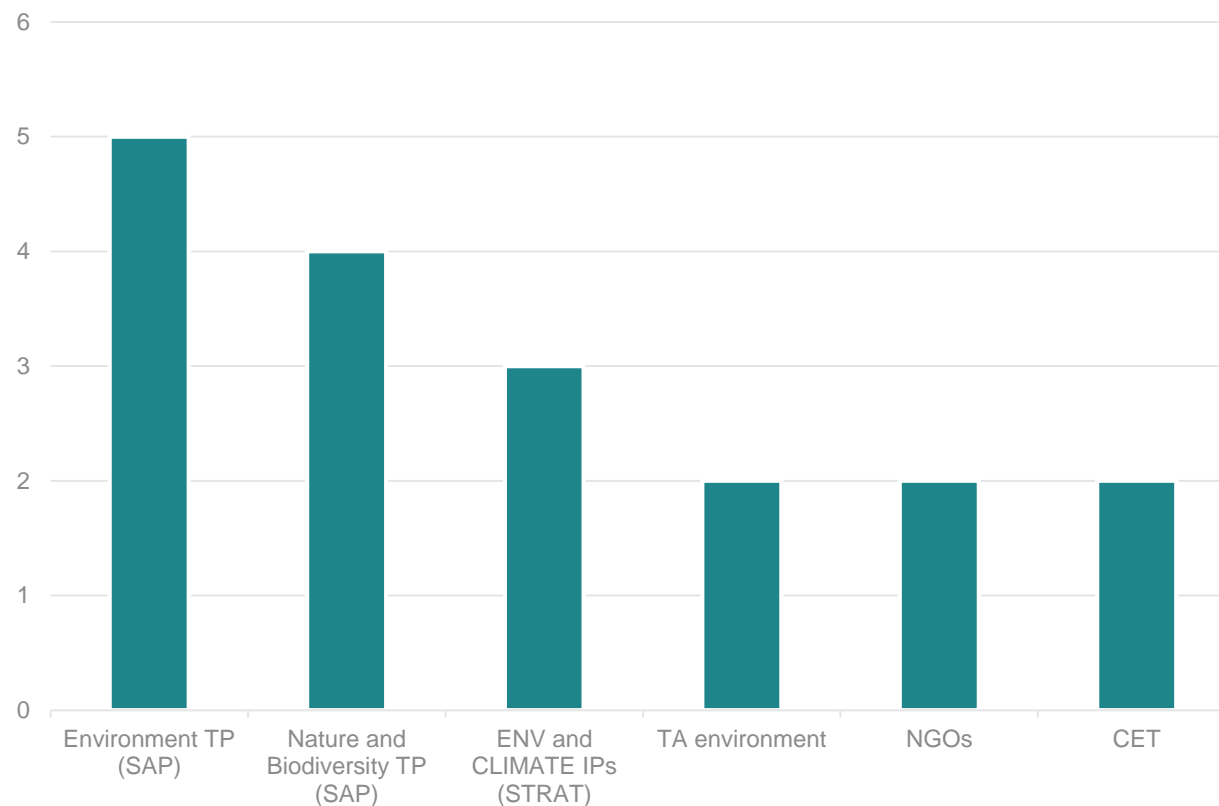
Grants

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Funded projects in IE in the period 2014-2021



SOURCE: Life project database <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>

1. Standard action projects (SAPs)

- ‘Traditional’ LIFE projects aimed to:
 - develop, demonstrate and promote **innovative techniques, methods and approaches**;
 - contribute to the **knowledge base** and to the **application of best practices**;
 - support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the **relevant Union legislation and policy**, including by improving **governance** at all levels, in particular through **enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society**;
 - catalyse the **large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions** for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, **integrating related objectives into other policies** and into **public and private sector practices**, mobilising investment and improving access to finance
- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum except:**
 - ☐ 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
 - ☐ 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- **Maximum 10-year duration**

LIFE-2023-SAP: 1 PHASE ONLY

3 themes (sub-programmes) **with two or more topics** (calls)

Functional and tender opportunities – Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

[1\) LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT / LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-GOV](#)

[2\) LIFE-2023-SAP-ENV-ENVIRONMENT / LIFE-2023-SAP-ENV-GOV](#)

Deadline for submission: 06/09/2023

[3\) LIFE-2023-SAP-CLIMA-CCA / LIFE-2023-SAP-CLIMA-CCM / LIFE-2023-SAP-CLIMA-GOV](#)

Deadline for submission: 21/09/2023

LIFE-2023-SAP: Evaluation of proposals

1. **Relevance** (0-20 points)
2. **Impact** (0-20 points) * 1,5
3. **Quality** (0-20 points)
4. **Appeals** (0-20 points)

Award criteria are scored between 0 and 20
The weight of all is the same **except IMPACT * 1,5**

To be considered for funding:

- at least 10/20 in each case, and
- total score of at least 55 points

EXTRAS

- Criterion 1: The proposal offers **exceptional synergies** and promotes **significant co-benefits** between the LIFE sub-programmes (2 points)
- Criterion 2: The proposal mainly applies to the **outermost regions (ORs)** (2 points)
- Criterion 3: The proposal builds **substantially on or expands the results of other EU-funded projects** (2 points)
- Criterion 4: The proposal offers **exceptional catalytic potential** (2 points)
- Criterion 5: The proposal foresees **transnational cooperation** between Member States essential to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the project (2 points).

LIFE-2023-STRAT

... are designed to implement certain plans and strategies *

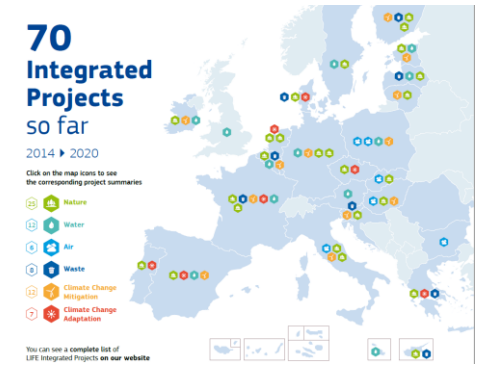
... on a large territorial scale

... have full involvement of stakeholders

... role of mobilising, compromising the coordination of complementary funding sources

Maximum 60 % co-funding

Maximum 14 years duration



2. Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)

→ No call in 2023

- **Focused on the implementation of:**
 - the Prioritised Action Frameworks pursuant to the Habitats Directive
 - other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, regional or multiregional level by nature and biodiversity authorities
- **Require mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives into other policies and instruments**
- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum**
- **Maximum 14-year duration**

3. Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)

- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum**
- **Maximum 14-year duration**
- **Circular Economy and Quality of Life:**
 - Circular Economy: national or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
 - Waste: national and regional Waste Management Plans and/or Waste Prevention Programmes
 - Water: River Basin Management Plans, Flood Risk Management Plans, Marine Strategies
 - Air: Air quality plans pursuant to the Ambient Air Quality Directive, National Air Pollution Control Programmes
- **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:**
 - National Energy and Climate Plans;
 - National Energy Efficiency Action Plans;
 - National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;
 - Urban or community-based action plans pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society;
 - National, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or economy roadmaps contributing to climate neutrality

Specific plans for strategic projects

SNaPs

1. **Prioritised Action Frameworks** under the Habitats Directive
2. **Other plans or strategies** adopted at international, national, multiregional or regional level by nature and biodiversity authorities, **implementing EU nature or biodiversity policy or legislation**

SIPS – Environment

1. **Circular economy**: national or regional circular economy action plans, strategies, roadmaps or action plans
2. **Water – River Basin Management Plans within the Water Framework Directive; flood risk management plans; marine strategies**
3. **Waste – Waste management plans or waste prevention programmes** under the Waste Directive
4. **Air** – Local and regional **air quality** plans and national **air pollution control** programmes

SIPS – Climate Action

1. **National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;**
2. **Pioneering urban or community-based action plans** in the transition towards a climate-neutral or climate-resilient society;
3. **National Energy and Climate Plans;**
4. **National Energy Efficiency Action Plans;**
5. **National, regional or sectoral greenhouse gas emission mitigation strategies or economic roadmaps** contributing to climate neutrality.

* * in green text: **new targets added compared to the period 2014-2020** * *

LIFE-2023-STRAT: 2 PHASES

2 topics (calls) in 2023

1. ~~[LIFE-2023-STRAT-NAT-SNAP-two-stage](#)~~
2. [LIFE-2023-STRAT-ENV-SIP-two-stage](#)
3. [LIFE-2023-STRAT-CLIMA-SIP-two-stage](#)

- **Stage 1** (concept note):

- Less information provided

Deadline for submission: 05/09/2023



- **Step 2** (full proposal):

- Only if proposal passes step 1

Deadline for submission: 05/03/2024

LIFE-2023-STRAT

Phase 1 (concept note)

- 1) Implementation of plans or strategies**
 - 2) Territorial coverage**
 - 3) Coordination of complementary funds**
 - 4) Key stakeholder involvement**
- These criteria are **yes/no**.
The concept note **must fulfil all four criteria** for the applicant to be invited to submit a full proposal.

Step 2 (full proposal) award criteria

- 1) Relevance** (0-20 points)
- 2) Quality** (0-20 points)
- 3) Complementary financing** (0-20 points)
- 4) Impact** (0-20 points)
- 5) Appeals** (0-20 points)

The award criteria are scored between 0 and 20 and the weight of all is the same.

To be considered for possible funding:

- at least 10/20 in each case, and
- total score of at least 55 points

4. Technical assistance projects (TA-PP)

Technical assistance projects: Support for participation in the preparation of SNAP and SIP (TA-PP).

Maximum co-financing rate of **60 %**, maximum contribution from LIFE of **EUR 70,000**

- [LIFE-2023-TA-PP-NAT-SNAP](#)
- [LIFE-2023-TA-PP-ENV-SIP](#)
- [LIFE-2023-TA-PP-CLIMA-SIP](#)

Deadline for submission: 07/09/2023

Technical assistance projects (TA-R)

- **TA-R: LIFE Technical Assistance for Replication (i)** **NOVELTY**
 - Preparation for **facilitating the up-scaling and replication of results** from other **projects funded by the LIFE Programme**, its predecessor programmes or other EU funding programmes
 - For the LIFE23 Call only proposals in the field of 'Environment' (i.e. '**Nature and Biodiversity**' and '**Circular Economy and Quality of Life**')
 - The TA-R projects could co-finance the activities necessary:
 - (1) to prepare or remove impediment to the up-scaling and/or replication of the results of previous LIFE projects or of other Union programmes, as long as they contribute to the objectives of the LIFE programme.
 - (2) to facilitate the access of an action contributing to the LIFE objectives, to other financial instruments.

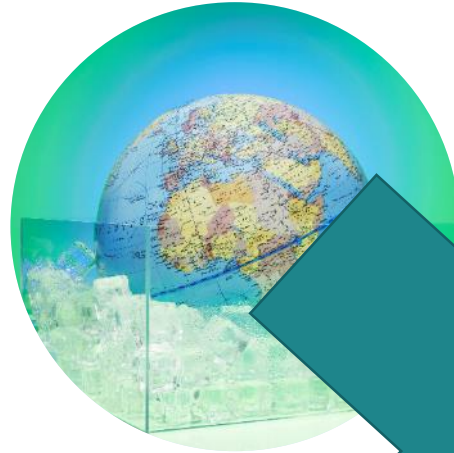
Technical assistance projects (TA-R)



Nature –
Biodiversity



Circular
economy and
quality of life



Adaptation
Mitigation
Climate Change



Transition to
Energy

Environment

Technical assistance projects (TA-R)

- **TA-R: LIFE Technical Assistance for Replication (ii)** **NOVELTY**
 - it should **exceed the replication/transfer efforts and objectives foreseen in the preceding LIFE project** and/or it should **address issues emerging during a LIFE project** that could not be solved during its duration, despite being extremely relevant for the success and sustainability of the project's results. In case of proposals based on other EU-funding programmes, similar criteria will be applied.
 - Only proposals in the field of 'Environment' (i.e. '**Nature and Biodiversity**' and '**Circular Economy and Quality of Life**') – for the LIFE23 call

[LIFE-2023-TA-R-NAT-ENV](#)

Deadline: 27/07/2023

Timeline





Budget & Evaluation criteria



- **Available budget:**

6,500,000 EUR

- **EU co-financing: 60%**

max. 1,000,000 EUR/project

(6-12 projects)

- **Award criteria:**

- Relevance (0-20)
- Impact (0-20) – weighted **1.5**
- Quality (0-20)
- Resources (0-20)
- **= 90 points (pass score 55)**
- **NO bonus points**

Project scope in 4 dimensions

Spatial



Financial

Societal



Thematic



Spatial dimension

- Transferring results of successful projects (i.e. best practices) beyond the **geographic boundaries** of the project:
 - to EU Member States
 - to third countries associated to the LIFE programme
- **Widening the network** of protected areas by identifying and/or designating additional protected or strictly protected sites





Societal dimension

- **Removing** local /regional/national legislative **barriers**

- help ensuring sustainability and/or replication of finalised projects



- Substantial **transfer of knowledge to relevant stakeholders**, including in another sector/region/country
 - an aim of mainstreaming nature and environmental objectives into other policies and leading to policy changes

- **Organising extensive awareness raising campaign(s)** with a goal of achieving considerable **behavioural change**





Financial dimension

- Facilitating the **access to other EU or non-EU financial instruments** and leverage additional funding in line with the LIFE objectives
- The additional steps needed to **effectively market the product/service** developed through a previous project in line with the LIFE objectives





Thematic dimension

- Project's impacts may be **replicated in other thematic areas**:
 - technology or a practice developed as a result of a project on nature and biodiversity may be applied via the TA-R project to protect, restore or improve soil quality
 - a technology or practice on the reduction of dangerous chemicals that could be applied in a new TA-R project on water
- There must be clear evidence showing how the technology or practice and its benefits could be transferred to the other thematic area.

Calls 2023 – Overview

Call	Enveloppe indicative (M€)	Opening date	Closing date	Indicative grant signature date
SAP – Nature and Biodiversity	148,4	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP – Circular economy and quality of life	81	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP –Climate Mitigation and Adpatation	66,3	18/04/23	21/09/23	June 2024
CSA – Clean Energy Transition	99	11/05/23	16/11/23	June 2024

Call	Enveloppe indicative (M€)	Opening date	Closing date	Indicative grant signature date
SNaP – Strategic Nature Projects	No call in 2023			
SIP - Circular economy and quality of life	52,8	Phase 1 (CN): 18/04/23	Phase 1 (CN): 05/09/23	November 2024
SIP – Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	30	Phase 2 (FP): November 2023	Phase 2 (FP): 05/03/24	
PLP – Policy and Legislative Priorities Projects	14,9	18/04/23	07/09/23	November 2023 (Bauhaus-Phoenix-Emerald) March 2024 (the others)
TA-PP	0,9	18/04/23	07/09/23	December 2023
TA-R	6,5	18/04/23	27/07/23	March 2024

Call LIFE 2023 Other Novelties

Third Countries

2023 call

- **Associated third countries**
 - **Updated List**
 - **Evaluation: terms of the Partnership Agreement with the country concerned**



List of Participating Countries in the LIFE Programme

EFTA countries which are part of the European Economic Area (EEA)

- **Iceland** participates in the LIFE Programme (*agreement signed in September 2021 — entry into force retroactive on 01 January 2021*)
- **Norway** does not participate in the LIFE Programme
- **Liechtenstein** does not participate in the LIFE Programme

EU Acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates

- **Ukraine** participates in the LIFE Programme (*agreement signed on 24 June 2022 — entry into force retroactive on 01 January 2021*)
- **Moldova** participates in the LIFE Programme (*agreement signed on 26 November 2022 — entry into force retroactive on 01 January 2021*)
- **North Macedonia** is in ongoing negotiations to participate in the LIFE Programme
- No other country is in ongoing negotiations to participate in the LIFE Programme

European Neighbourhood Policy countries

- No country is in ongoing negotiations to participate in the LIFE Programme

Other countries

- No country is in ongoing negotiations to participate in the LIFE Programme

Third countries associated to LIFE

The following non-EU countries have signed association agreements to LIFE:

- Iceland
- Ukraine
- Moldova

Entities from these countries can participate to LIFE programme and apply for LIFE calls under the same conditions as EU-27 entities.

Negotiations are ongoing with **North Macedonia**. Entities from this country can apply under LIFE 2023 calls but the grant agreements will be concluded only if an association agreement is signed on time.

Other third countries

Entities from third countries not associated to LIFE can only participate to LIFE programme by **way of exception**, to the limited extent and under special conditions.

- In line with Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, the actions financed by the LIFE Programme should be exceptionally open to participation of the legal entities of all third countries not associated to the LIFE Programme **providing that**:
 - their participation is **necessary for the achievement of the objectives** of the action to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out **in the Union and/or in overseas countries and territories linked to it** and;
 - they bear, in principle, the **cost of their participation to the action**.
- The **project leader (“Coordinator beneficiary”)** must be based in an eligible country (EU-27 or one of the associated countries)

Seal of Excellence

Justification

- Life receives many quality proposals
 - For SAP Call 2021: 526 proposals
- The LIFE budget cannot finance all good proposals
- Need to provide other funding sources with a list of high quality projects that cannot be funded under LIFE:
 - ✓ without restarting the complete evaluation process
 - ✓ while maintaining the same implementing rules

Origin of the Seal of Excellence

- Horizon 2020: first Seal of Excellence
- Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027: extension to other programmes
- Currently, three EU programmes award the Seal of Excellence.
 - ✓ Horizon Europe, through the ERDF, the ESF + or the EAFRD
 - ✓ Digital Europe Programme, through ERDF or ESF +
 - ✓ Life through ERDF, ESF + or EAFRD

Life regulation

- Article 16 of the LIFE Regulation
- ‘Support from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus or the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development’, in accordance with its relevant provisions, ‘may be awarded to actions awarded a Seal of Excellence label under the LIFE Programme if it fulfils the following cumulative conditions:
 - ✓ a) have been evaluated in a call under the LIFE Programme;
 - ✓ b) meet the minimum quality requirements of that call; and
 - ✓ c) they cannot be financed under this call due to budgetary constraints.

Visual identity

Applicants receive letters informing them that they have been awarded the Seal of Excellence in this template.



Transmission of information

- The applicants receive the letters informing them that they had obtained the Seal of Excellence.
- The relevant national authorities will be contacted in order to be provided with the list of LIFE Seal of Excellence projects awarded in their country, together with brief information on the projects to facilitate their selection:
 - Acronym and full title of the project
 - Summary of the proposal
 - The names of all applicants
 - Applicant's address

Benefits for applicants and other funds

- The Seal of Excellence:
 - ✓ certifies the quality of the project proposal
 - ✓ you can gain the reputation of the project and of the relevant company/entity
 - ✓ gives the project the opportunity to attract investment at local, regional, national and international level
- It opens an additional opportunity to obtain funding, under the same conditions as in your proposal.
- Applicants can always re-submit their proposal in the following LIFE calls

New European Bauhaus (NEB)

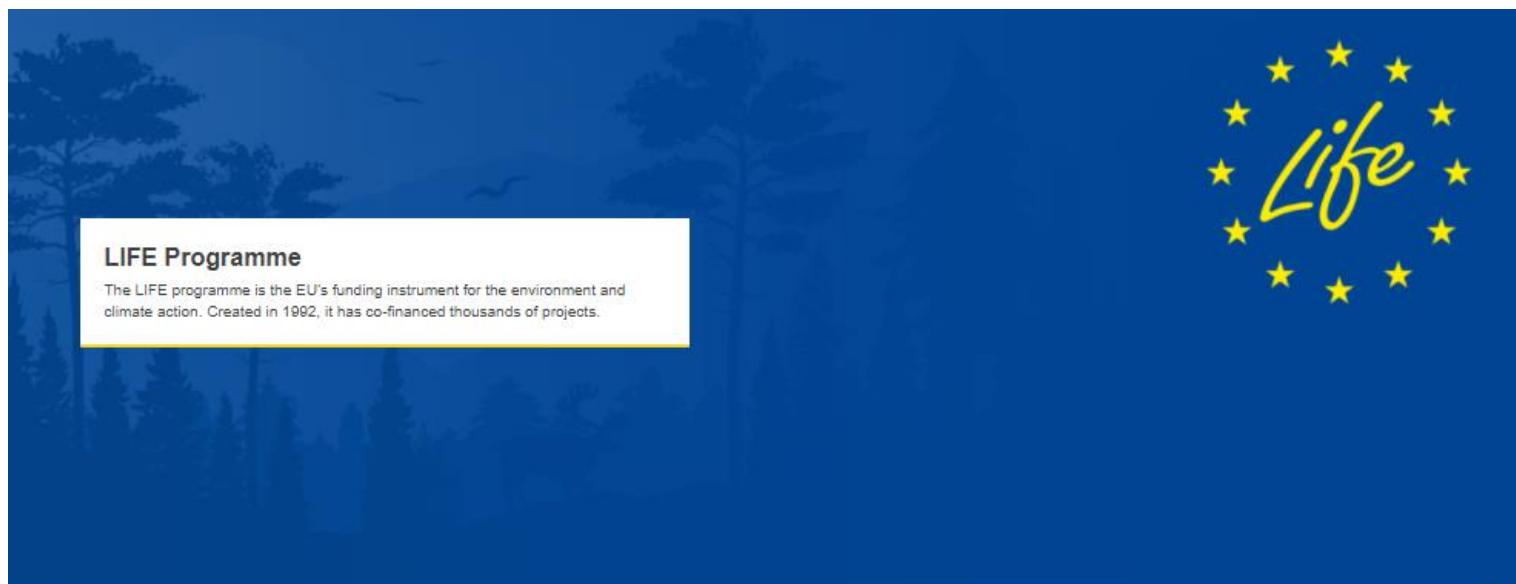
NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS (NEB)

- Environmental, economic and cultural project to **combine design, sustainability, accessibility and affordability** to help deliver the European Green Deal.
- It is appropriate to **develop synergies** to support this initiative under the LIFE programme (Circular Economy and Quality of Life – Nature and Biodiversity), to showcase the potential of the Bauhaus initiative in third countries associated to the LIFE programme.

In particular, priority will be given to the following project proposals contributing to the implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative:

1. Proposals focusing on the **holistic reduction of the environmental impact of new buildings**;
2. Proposals on **circular districts involving the creation of circular value chains to boost urban economies** while urban and territorial regeneration takes place.
3. Proposals to **maintain or restore biodiversity** contributing to the implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative. This may include, for example, **demonstrating biodiversity-friendly practices for energy insulation of buildings, innovative architectural approaches for wildlife friendly buildings**, etc.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



Nature and Biodiversity



Circular Economy and Quality of Life



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Clean Energy Transition



Calls for Proposals



Support for Applicants

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_es

Support available to prepare a proposal

- Life National Contact Points
- Technical Assistance Projects (TA-PP)
- Links to the factsheet for ongoing projects
- Direct contacts with LIFE CINEA staff

CINEA-life-enquiries@ec.europa.eu

- Information on the [LIFE calls for proposals website](#) where FAQs can be consulted