

LIFE Programme



Laszlo Becsy, CINEA – 14/10/2025

The LIFE programme

- The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- The LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €
- The multiannual work programme for 2025-2027: [LIFE Multiannual Work Programme 2025-2027 - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)
- Priority topics for SAPs: cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2025-04/20_01_2025_LIFE_PriorityTopics_2025_2027_0.pdf



The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

To contribute to the shift to a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy based- and climate resilient economy

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



Nature and Biodiversity



Circular Economy and Quality of Life



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Clean Energy Transition

Projects

- Develop and demonstrate innovative techniques and approaches to solving environmental challenges
- Help to implement plans and strategies, required by EU legislation.
- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions

Impact

- Support the development, monitoring and implementation of EU environment & climate policy
- Provide models to copy and upscale

Project beneficiaries are:

- 1/3 private enterprises
- 1/3 NGOs and civil society organisations
- 1/3 public authorities



Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



**Nature and
Biodiversity**

Contribution to:

- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
- Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised Action Frameworks.
- Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.

Typical actions

Projects supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.

Species protection.

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of PAF and Biodiversity Strategy

Financing of small-scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions



Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life



Circular Economy
and Quality of Life

Contribution in the areas of:

- circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment, NEB

Typical actions

Support to public authorities and other stakeholders to implement EU environment legislation.

Support to technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Strategic integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy.

Promote upscale and access to finance.



Sub-programme Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



Climate Change
Mitigation and
Adaptation

Contribution to:

- The transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through:
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation & Related Governance

On **climate mitigation**, projects that contribute significantly to the implementation of:

- the 2030 energy and climate policy
- the EU Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

On **climate adaptation**:

- projects that support the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and related national implementation

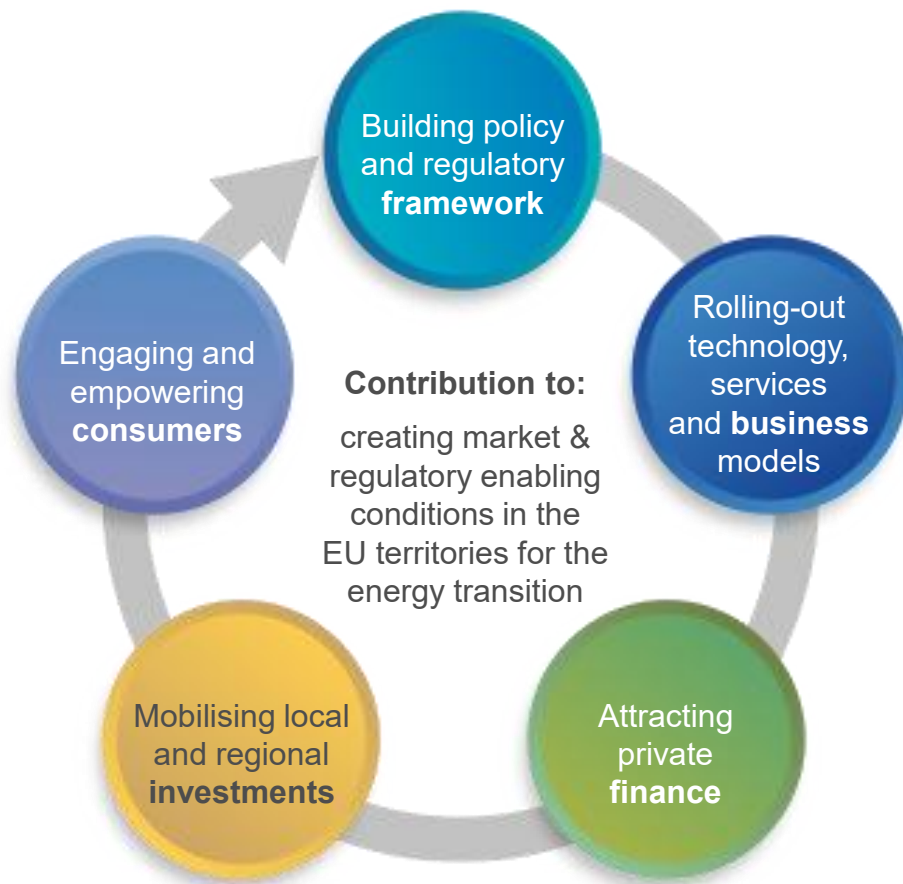


The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition

predecessors: Intelligent Energy Europe continued under H2020- SC3- market uptake



Clean Energy
Transition



Type of activities: developing and spreading best practice, mobilising investments, improving skills, removing market barriers, raising awareness, educating, empowering.



Types of activities funded under LIFE

Grants

- **Action grants:**
 - Standard Action projects (SAPs)
 - Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)
 - Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
 - Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
 - 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)*



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:**
 - 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- **Maximum 10-year duration**



Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)

- **Focused on the implementation of**
 - Prioritised Action Frameworks pursuant to the Habitats Directive
 - National restoration plans pursuant to the NRR
 - 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**



Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)

SIPs are designed to:

1. implement certain **plans and strategies**
2. at a **large territorial scale**
3. with full engagement of all the concerned **stakeholders**
4. aim at **mobilising significant additional sources** of funding to further support the implementation of the ambitious EU environmental/climate policy framework



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 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

Applicants: National or regional authorities responsible for the implementation of the above mentioned plans and strategies, in partnership with other stakeholders



Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)

- CSAs are the standard type of grant for the CET sub-programme
- Breaking market barriers to the clean energy transition through capacity building, dissemination of information and knowledge, awareness raising
- Policy-driven, prescriptive call topics
 - A tightly pre-defined scope of the proposal;
 - Engagement of multiple stakeholders and large transnational consortiums;
 - EU-widely validated results feeding into EU policy making;
- Co-financing rate of 95% maximum
- Usual duration of projects between 18 and 36 months
- No infrastructure costs, mainly labor costs
- Multi-beneficiary minimum of 3 (eligible) entities from 3 different eligible countries (average number of partners is higher)



Help in Preparing Applications

- Next call in April 2026
- Read the call documents and FAQs on the [Funding & tender opportunities portal](#)
- Your National Contact Point can provide advice and suggestions on your proposal
- LIFE projects in the NL: [07b6a963-ae88-4a64-ae8e-321ea02ceade_en](#)
- You might also be inspired by ongoing projects (see [LIFE 3.0 - LIFE Project Public Page](#)) – but beware that requirements may have changed
- For clarifications on the call documents, send an email to CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu – your question and answer may be posted in the FAQ list for transparency



Thank you



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