



NCP Training

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EASME
Executive Agency
for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

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Changes to Call 2020

- No more obligation for an open tendering procedure – however, still required to follow internal procedures & respect value for money/no conflict of interest
- Full purchase price of equipment/infrastructure is possible for all strands/beneficiaries if certain conditions are fulfilled (see requirement GA)
- 2% rule – including public third party co-financing for the compliance check (ALSO APPLIED FOR PREVIOUS CALLS)
- Volunteer costs (in-kind-contribution)

Durable Goods – exception depreciation (2020)

- For **all** LIFE **traditional projects**, the purchase costs incurred for durable goods, intrinsically connected with the implementation of the project and used to a significant degree within its duration, shall be considered eligible in full. Such eligibility shall be subject to **the coordinating beneficiary and associated beneficiaries** undertaking to continue to assign these goods definitively and exclusively to the same objectives and purpose foreseen by the project co-financed under LIFE.
- This commitment shall extend beyond the end of the project and cover at least the whole economic life of the good.

=> *Includes maintaining the goods and ensuring that entities taking over the goods are guaranteeing this as well !!!*

2% Rule – revised interpretation for compliance

Public beneficiaries need to ensure that **102% of their non-additional staff costs are covered by own contribution.**

Co-financing coming from **public co-financers** is now assimilated to own contribution of public beneficiaries

Own contribution public beneficiaries + **co-financing public co-financers**

= or >

102% non-additional staff costs

Compliance calculation is based on the split of funding agreed in GA !

Volunteer costs – In-kind-contribution (2020)

- Value of volunteer work can be added to the budget in the form of ‘**unit costs**’
- Unit costs **are pre-defined per working day/per country** (where volunteer is performing the work)
- If volunteers do not work full days but only some hours, then unit rate is **divided by 8**

TWO CAPS :

- Max volunteer value to be declared at payment stage is **fixed** according to the budget at signature of grant agreement and cannot increase (max. 50% of all the contributions : EU+own+co-financing+income project...).
- Union Contribution cannot be higher than estimated eligible costs excl. volunteers

Volunteer costs – In-kind-contribution (2020)

Estimated budget of the project				
max 55 % Union Contribution	Estimated volunteer costs (= sum of number of volunteer days * unit cost for the country) (a)	Estimated Eligible costs 'actually' incurred (b)	Total estimated eligible costs (c)=(a)+(b)	Estimated lump sums contributions or financing not linked to costs (d) (currently not foreseen in LIFE)
1. Beneficiary 1 (profit)	30	20	50	0
2. Beneficiary 2 (non-profit)	50	25	75	0
3. Beneficiary 3 (profit)	20	15	35	0
	100	60	160	0

- ⇒ The estimated eligible volunteers' costs represent max 50 % of the overall estimated co-financing
- ⇒ The estimated volunteers' costs (100) that can be charged to the project, will be limited to 50 % of (c) + (d) = **80**
- ⇒ The max. Union Contribution = $(160 * 55\%) + (d) = \mathbf{88}$

Volunteer costs – In-kind-contribution (2020)

Costs declared				
55 % cofinancing	Estimated volunteer costs (= sum of number of volunteer days * unit cost for the country) (a)	Estimated Eligible costs 'actually' incurred (b)	Total estimated eligible costs (c)=(a)+(b)	Estimated lump sums contributions or financing not linked to costs (d) (currently not foreseen in LIFE)
1. Beneficiary 1 (profit)	50	40	100	0
2. Beneficiary 2 (non-profit)	60	45	105	0
3. Beneficiary 3 (profit)	10	20	30	0
	120	105	235	0

1st CAP :

The eligible amount of volunteer's work to be accepted at time of the final payment shall be the lower value between: the declared volunteers costs (120) and the capped estimated eligible volunteers costs (**80**)

2nd CAP :

The amount of the grant will be limited to the sum of the accepted eligible costs actually incurred (=105) and contributions (d=0) other than those for volunteers (**105**)

The amount of the grant shall be the lowest of the following amounts:

- the amount obtained after applying the co-financing rate to the eligible costs (including the max. volunteer costs), i.e. $((80+105)*55\%) = \mathbf{101,75}$, to which the accepted contributions and financing not linked to costs are added $(101,75+0) = \mathbf{101,75}$
- the maximum amount of the Union Contribution according to the grant agreement = **88**
- the eligible costs and contributions other than those for volunteers = **105**

The theoretical amount of the grant at this stage (before non-profit check and possible cuts due to non or partial implementation & 2% rule) will be **88**.

Thank you



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Important highlights for the LIFE Call 2020

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Covid19 related Flexibility measures

- All deadlines extended by one month
- Increased first pre-financing payment
- Grants to third parties
- New narrative on start-ups
- Private entities: no obligatory tendering above 139K€
- Increased flexibility for 2% rule
- No depreciaton for durable goods
- Volunteers work eligible
- New exception to 25% concrete conservation for Nature proposals
- Priorities and topics remain, but ideas connected with pandemics management welcome

New feature: Financial support to third parties as part of a LIFE traditional project

LIFE projects may budget financial support to third parties in order to assist entities outside the project partnership (e.g. non-profit organisations, local authorities or citizens groups) in the implementation or development of local initiatives that will contribute to the project's objectives.

Max 100K€ (200K€ for IPs) per project and 20K€ per initiative

Applicants should explain:

- The rationale and results expected;
- How they will manage the process (e.g. criteria to select the entity);
- List types of activities for which third party may receive financial support.

Support to start-ups

The LIFE programme favours innovation and commercialisation introduced by dynamic start-ups and the LIFE project could represent, in this sense, a risk-free incubation context that allows the start-up to safely bring its solution to the market, supported by appropriate financial, technical, business means and expertise.

In this context, the LIFE programme welcomes proposals whose partnership combines the knowledge and expertise of consolidated market players with the drive of start-ups which want to commercialise their solution.

Support to new Biodiversity Strategy

- Projects allocating **less than 25%** of their budget to concrete conservation actions are eligible if they aim at:
- **identifying and mapping** areas and landscape features that are needed to ensure the ecological coherence of NATURA 2000 (e.g. buffer zones, stepping stones, ecological corridors, etc.) and
- **identify the most suitable mechanisms required to ensure the conservation** needs of those areas (legal, contractual protection mechanisms or land use planning and development policies)
- Proposal must include **Competent Authority** or a clear support letter indicating they will use the results of the project and actively collaborate during its implementation

Thank you