



LIFE programme: over €280 million in EU funding for environment, nature and climate action projects

Brussels, 16 November 2020

The European Commission has approved an investment package of more than €280 million from the EU budget for over 120 new [LIFE programme](#) projects. This EU funding will trigger total investments of nearly €590 million to help meet these projects' ambitious goals for environment, nature, and climate action. **This amount represents a 37% rise compared to last year.**

The projects will help to achieve the [European Green Deal](#) objectives by supporting the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#) and the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), contributing to the [green recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic](#), and helping Europe become a climate-neutral continent by 2050, among others. Many of the new projects are cross-country projects involving several Member States.

Frans **Timmermans**, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal said: "*The European Green Deal is our roadmap to a green, inclusive, and resilient Europe. LIFE projects epitomise these values as they bring together Member States for the protection of our environment, the restoration of nature, and support of biodiversity. I'm looking forward to the results of these new projects.*"

Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries added: "LIFE projects can really make a tangible difference on the ground. They bring solutions to some of the most serious challenges of our time such as climate change, loss of nature and unsustainable use of resources. If replicated across the EU at speed and scale, they can help the EU achieve its ambitious EU Green Deal goals and contribute to building a greener and more resilient Europe for all of us, but also for generations to come."

Approximately €220 million are allocated to a wide range of projects on **environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity**, and **environmental governance and information** and over €60 million to support **climate change mitigation, adaptation** and **governance and information** projects.

This includes major investments aimed at protecting and enhancing Europe's biodiversity. Projects such as restoring peatlands – unique ecosystems home to many highly adapted, rare and threatened species – will contribute to the implementation of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#). Peatlands are also an important carbon sink, and can boost Europe's drive toward [climate neutrality by 2050](#).

The LIFE projects also support reducing energy consumption in new buildings, in line with the recently launched [EU Renovation Wave Strategy](#). Funds will go into developing universal and affordable low-carbon solution that could reduce energy consumption in all new buildings by up to 40%.

Funds will also go towards projects that prevent food waste and lead to improved waste management in line with the new [EU's Circular Economy Action Plan](#).

Financial resources are also being earmarked for numerous projects that will help energy-intensive industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Commission's ambitious [Climate Target Plan](#) and our climate neutrality objective.

The numbers in brief

- **34 LIFE nature & biodiversity** projects will support the implementation of the [EU Birds and Habitats Directives](#) as well as the [EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030](#). They have a total budget of €221 million, of which the EU will pay €133 million.
- **47 LIFE environment and resource efficiency** projects will mobilise €208 million, of which the EU will provide €76 million. These projects cover actions in five areas: air, environment and health, resource efficiency and circular economy, waste, and water.
- **8 LIFE environmental governance and information** projects of nearly €17 million with just over €9 million EU contribution will raise awareness of environmental issues among the wider public and help public authorities to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with EU

environmental legislation.

- **16 LIFE climate change mitigation** projects will have a total budget of approximately €86 million, of which just under €32 million from the EU.
- **15 LIFE climate change adaptation** projects will mobilise €50 million, €26 million of which will come from EU funds.
- **3 LIFE climate governance and information** projects will improve governance and raise awareness about climate change with a total budget of €7 million of which the EU is contributing just under €4 million.

Project descriptions and more details can be found in the [Annex](#) to this press release.

Background

The projects were selected among more than 1250 applications submitted under the LIFE 2019 call for proposals, published in April 2019. The [LIFE programme](#) is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5 500 projects across the EU and in third countries. At any given moment, some 1 100 projects are in progress. The budget for 2014–2020 is set at €3.4 billion in current prices. For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing to increase LIFE funding by almost 60%.

For more information

[Annex: Short summaries of awarded projects from the LIFE 2019 call for proposals](#)

[LIFE Programme](#)

IP/20/2052

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