



The new LIFE Programme 2014-2020

General introduction to LIFE

LIFE-Workshop for potential applicants
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Outline

- (Policy) Context
- (Legal) Structure
- Some more communalities of the LIFE sub-programmes
- New focus: Climate Action





(Policy) Context

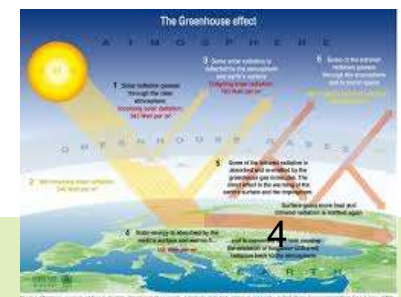
- Why LIFE?
- LIFE - then and now
- LIFE 2014-2020 What stays?
- LIFE 2014-2020 New elements
 - New Priorities & Focus
 - Stronger Emphasis on...
 - New tools





Why LIFE?

- It is the only EU financial instrument **fully dedicated to the environment**
- **LIFE is a catalyst:** it provides a **platform** for the development and exchange of best practices and knowledge thereby improving, catalysing and accelerating changes
- **LIFE** is the ideal instrument to show to authorities and enterprises the benefits of investing in the environment sector and incentivising them to **develop strategic frameworks for spending.**
- **LIFE** has been **successfully tested since 1992:** positive feedback and final evaluation of LIFE+.





LIFE – Then and Now

- **LIFE 1992-2013**: more than 3100 projects in the fields of
 - **nature & biodiversity**
 - other **environmental sectors & governance**
 - **information**
- **LIFE 2014 to 2020**, two sub-programmes for:
 - **environment**
 - **climate action**





LIFE 2014-2020 – What stays?

- **Priorities: Environment and resource efficiency (without Climate) (NAT), Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)**
- **Project types: Pilot, demonstration, best practice, information => so called "traditional projects,"**
- **Funding types: Action grants („subvenciones de acciones concretas ") for projects; Operating grants („subvenciones de funcionamiento") for Non-profit Organisations (NPO's)**
- **Funding rate: exceptionally **75%** for **priority** species and habitats in **Natura2000****
- **Actors: beneficiary private companies (mainly SMEs), public authorities, NGOs**
- **Application: **e-Proposal** for "traditional projects"**



LIFE 2014-2020 – New elements

- **Framework:** Multi-annual work programmes (4+3 year MAWPs) giving **selection framework => direct applications; no annual or national priorities;**
- **Geographical Scope:** Exceptionally outside Union territory or in Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT's)
- **Actors:**
- **EASME** for grants except ENV Integrated Projects
- **EIB/intermediary banks** for financial instruments
- **National Contact Points (NCP)** for counselling and guidance
- **Funding types:** Innovative financial instruments



LIFE 2014-2020 – New Priorities & Focus

→ Priorities:

→ **Climate change mitigation and adaptation;**

→ **Governance component => from INF to GIE/GIC**

→ Focus:

→ **Thematic priorities and project topics** (temas para proyectos) for **traditional projects** under the **sub-programme for Environment**

→ National allocations:

→ **4-year envelope, only to 2017, only sub-programme for Environment, not IP**



LIFE 2014-2020 - Stronger emphasis...

... on:

- **positive complementarity** between LIFE priorities and strands and other (in)direct Union funding programmes;
- **multi-purpose design** to deliver in several sectors;
- **replication/transfer** preparation as part of the project, reporting in English;
- **outcome indicators** on project level linked to **performance indicators** of the programme
- **long-term sustainability** of outcomes and
- **green procurement** in all projects



LIFE 2014-2020 New Tools

- ➔ **Project types: integrated, technical assistance, capacity building, preparatory, „other“ projects**
- ➔ **Funding types: Innovative financial instruments => Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF – Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation), Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE – Climate Change Mitigation)**
- ➔ **Funding rates: max. until 2017: 60% of eligible costs for all except priority species/habitats (75%) and capacity building (100% of eligible costs)**



(Legal) Structure

- LIFE 2014-2020 Priority Areas
- LIFE 2014-2020 Structure
- LIFE 2014-2020 Legal Framework
- LIFE 2014-2020 Objectives
- LIFE 2014-2020 Budget
- LIFE 2014 Budget





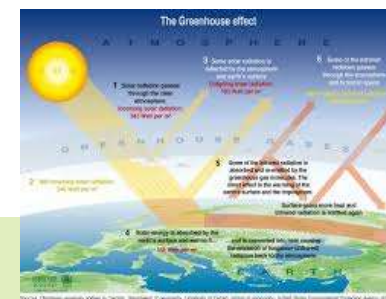
LIFE 2014-2020 – Priority Areas

→ Sub-programme for Environment

- Environment & Resource Efficiency (**ENV**)
- Nature & Biodiversity (**NAT**)
- Environmental Governance & Information (**GIE**)

→ Sub-programme for Climate Action

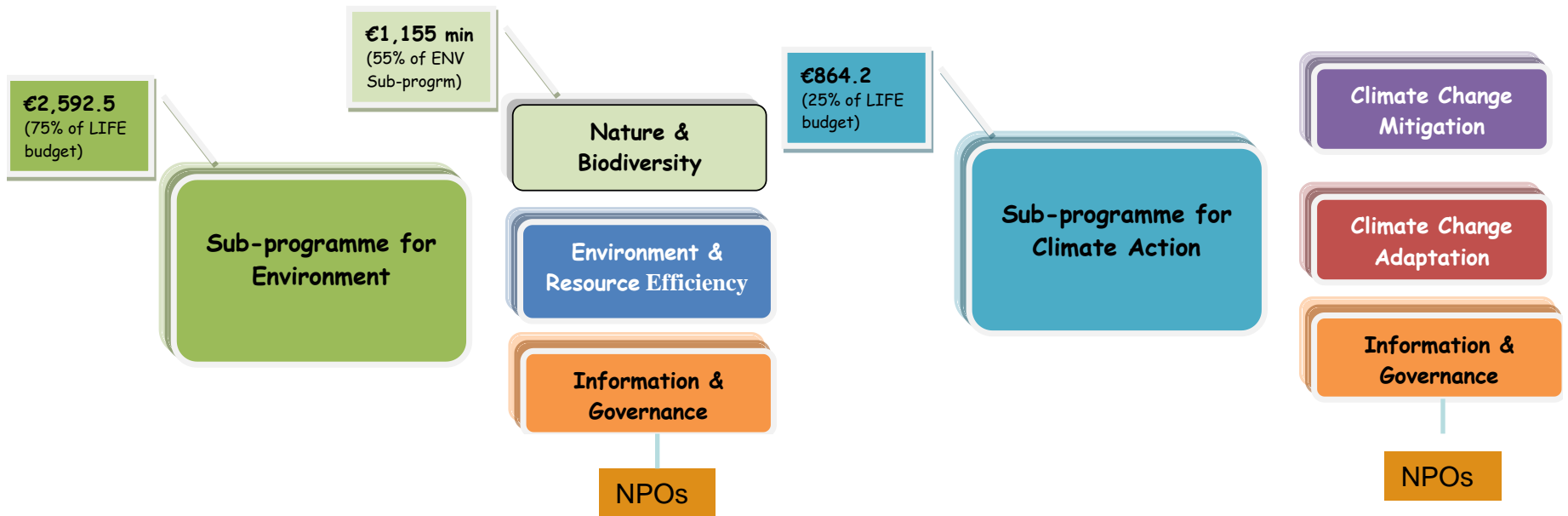
- Climate Change Mitigation (**CMM**)
- Climate Change Adaptation (**CCA**)
- Climate Change Governance & Information (**GIC**)





LIFE 2014-2020 Structure

LIFE Programme
€3,456.7 (2014-2020)





LIFE 2014-2020 - Legal Framework

- **The LIFE Regulation** (EU Regulation 1293/2013 of 20/12/2013)
- **The LIFE Multiannual Work Programme 2014-2017** (Commission Decision of 19/03/2014)
 - **Indicative budget** per priority area and types of funding
 - **Selection relevant elements** (project topics, procedure, criteria, indicators) for all projects and operating grants
- **Application and evaluation guidelines**
- Action/Operating **grant agreements** of beneficiaries with the **Agency/Commission** (including **General Conditions**), or **agreements** of recipients **with banks**





LIFE 2014-2020 – Objectives

- ↗ contribution towards a **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**
- ↗ implementing of the **7th Environment Action Programme**



LIFE 2014-2020 - Budget

- Total budget of **€3.5 billion**
- For **projects** funded by action grants and financial instruments: **€2.8 billion** (81% of total)
- **Environment** sub-programme **€2.1 billion** for projects
 - **Nature & Biodiversity** incl. **related governance and information projects and other grants: €1.22 billion** (>55% of the sub-programme for Environment minus financial instruments)
- **Climate action** sub-programme **€0.69 billion** for projects (€0.47 for action grants)
- **IPs budget: Max. €741 million, ~€604 million** for the sub-programme for Environment
- **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NPOs** **€63 million**





LIFE 2014 - Budget

- Total budget of **€ 404.6 million**
- For **projects** funded by action grants and by financial instruments: **€331.6 million** (81% of total)
- Sub-programme for **Environment: €252 million** for projects (~€165.4 for "traditional" projects)
- **Nature & Biodiversity** including **related governance & information projects and NCFF: € 132.8 million** (> 55% budget of sub-programme for Environment minus financial instruments)
- Sub-programme for **Climate action: €79.2 million** for **projects** (~€40.5 million for action grants, €35 million for FI)
- **IP Budget: €61.5 million** - only **sub-programme ENV**
- **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NPOs** **€9 million**





Some more communalities of the LIFE sub-programmes

- General common features
- Geographical scope – interventions
- Geographical scope – beneficiaries
- The new actor EASME





General Common features of the sub-programmes

- **Stakeholders: Private companies (mainly SMEs), NGO, public administration** active in the field of environment and climate protection
- **Geographical scope** of interventions and origin of beneficiaries
- Emphasis on **replicability/transferability** and **longterm sustainability** of the project results
- **Not focused on research** (↔ H2020)
- **Not focused on large infrastructure** nor **rural or regional development** (↔ agricultural, structural funds)
- **Support & monitoring** from EASME or Commission and external monitoring team



Geographical scope: interventions

Principle:

Applicable **where the Treaty on the** European Union applies

Exceptions:

Participation of certain Third Countries possible on the basis and in line with the **conditions** of a **cooperation agreement** (Article 5); or

Outside the Union, but **necessary for effectiveness** of measures inside the Union ***and*** **coordinating beneficiary inside the Union** (Article 6).



Possible cross-Union-border issues

- Cross-border river management
- Trans-boundary air pollution
- Management of spread of alien species
- Conservation of migratory species or cross-border habitats
- Activities necessary to improve techniques that will be implemented inside the EU
- Marine litter with origin outside EU



Geographical scope: beneficiaries

Independent of whether the interventions take place inside or are – exceptionally – eligible outside the Union, beneficiaries established outside the Union can only be eligible if:

→ **The coordinating beneficiary is established in the Union** (Article 6), *or*

→ It is a case of **cooperation with international organisations, necessary to reach general LIFE objectives** (Article 7).



The new actor EASME

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

- One of the six Executive Agencies of the EU
- Responsible for **managing programmes for the Commission** since 2005...
- ... coupled with **policy feedback and communication of results to the "parent" DGs**
- Programmes managed: **LIFE 2014-2017, CIP Eco-innovation, Intelligent Energy Europe, COSME), Horizon 2020 Energy, Environment and Resources and SME instrument, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**



EASME - Managing the LIFE programme

- **What?** Projects **LIFE 2014-2020**, **not** the **LIFE legacy, 2014-2017** **not integrated, technical assistance or preparatory projects,**
- **As of when?** ~after the evaluation of the 2014 Call (earlier for NPO grants and Capacity Building)
- **Who?** EASME Unit "**LIFE and CIP Eco-innovation**", a team of **~35** project and financial officers with project management experience and technical background
- **How?** Continue work **with an external monitoring team**, take over the **role of DG Environment technical and financial desk officers**; try to **simplify** where possible (e.g. the new General Conditions set a higher threshold for moves within the project budget)
- **Responsibilities:** technical and financial programme management; policy feedback and communication of results to DG ENV and CLIMA



Thank you for your attention!

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

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