



# The new LIFE Programme 2014-2020

## General Introduction & Sub-programme for the Environment

LIFE Climate Action and Environment

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# Outline

- Policy context
- (Legal) Structure
- Some more communalities of the LIFE sub-programmes
- The sub-programme for Environment
- Basic info on calls for proposals



# (Policy) Context

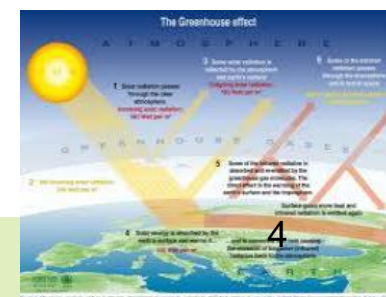
- Why LIFE?
- LIFE - then and now
- LIFE 2014-2020 What stays?
- LIFE 2014-2020 New elements
- New Priorities & Focus
- Stronger Emphasis on...
- New tools





# 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 feed-back and final evaluation of LIFE+.





# LIFE – Then and Now

LIFE 1992-2013: more than 4000 projects in the fields of

- ➔ nature & biodiversity
- ➔ other environmental sectors & governance, and
- ➔ information

LIFE 2014 to 2020, two sub-programmes for:

- ➔ environment
- ➔ climate action





# LIFE 2014-2020 – What stays?

- Priorities: Environment and resource efficiency (without Climate), Nature and Biodiversity
- Project types: Pilot, demonstration, best practice, information => so called "traditional projects"
- Funding types: Action grants for projects; Operating grants 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 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)



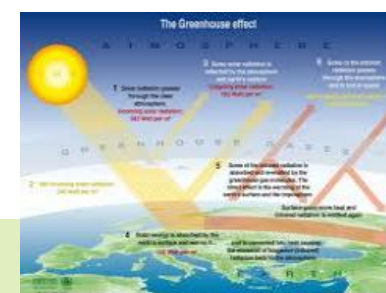
# (Legal) Structure

- 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

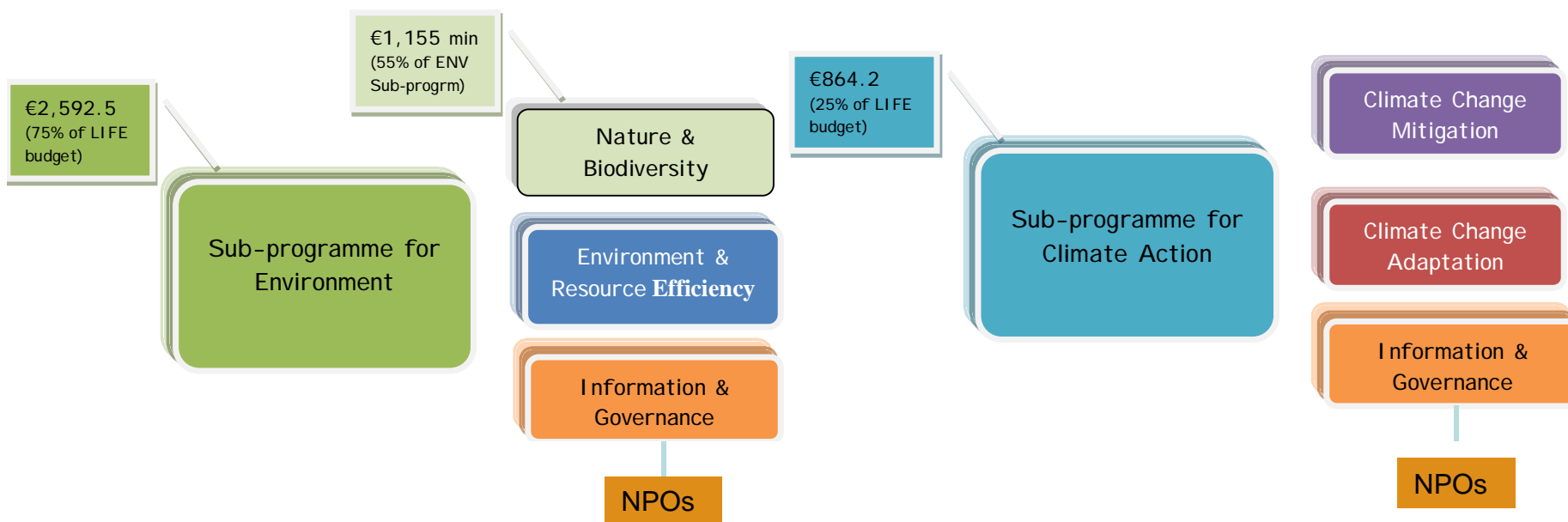
- Sub-programme for Environment
  - Environment & Resource Efficiency (ENV)
  - Nature & Biodiversity (NAT)
  - Environmental Governance & Information (GIE)
  
- Sub-programme for Climate Action
  - Climate Change Mitigation (CMM)
  - Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
  - Climate Change Governance & Information (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 financial instruments: €324.6 million (81% of total)
- Sub-programme for Environment: €247 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 (~€44.3 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





# The sub-programme for Environment

- Three priority areas – common goals
- ENV – thematic priorities
- ENV – tools
- NAT – thematic priorities
- NAT – tools
- GIE – thematic priorities and tools



# LIFE Sub-programme for Environment

- Three priority areas:
- Environment and Resource Efficiency (**ENV**)
- Nature and Biodiversity (**NAT**)
- Environmental Governance and Information (**GIE**)
- Common goals:
- Pursuit of the related specific objectives (Articles 10, 11, 12 of the LIFE Regulation), thematic priorities (Annex III to the LIFE Regulation), project topics (Heading 3. of the LIFE multiannual work-programme (MAWP) for 2014-2017), and targets (Heading 7 of the LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017)



## Thematic priorities (ENV)

- Water
- Waste
- Resource efficiency
- Environment and health
- Air



## LIFE ENV – Tools

- "Traditional" projects – bonus, if Project topic(s) fulfilled
- pilot = apply innovative technique/method, not applied/tested before or anywhere else, potential to be applied on larger scale later, but not research! or
- demonstration put into practice, test, evaluate and disseminate actions/methodologies/approaches that are new/unknown in the context; special bonus, if Project topic(s) fulfilled and new/unknown throughout the EU!
- Integrated waste, water, and air projects implementing Union environmental plans (Heading 5 MAWP 2014-2017) and related Technical assistance projects to prepare them
- Preparatory and "other" projects



## Thematic priorities (NAT)

- Nature – contributes to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives (Council Directives 79/409 EEC and 92/43/EEC) – inside Natura 2000 network or contributing to its integrity
- Biodiversity – contributes to the implementation of the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 - must address wild fauna/flora



## LIFE NAT – Tools

- "Traditional" projects – full bonus, if Project topic(s) fulfilled
- Best practice: apply appropriate, cost-effective and state-of-the-art techniques/methods/approaches taking into account the specific context of the project or
- pilot and demonstration (N.B.: there is no special bonus, if new/unknown throughout the EU; Biodiversity Project topics 4 and 5 have to be pilot or demonstration projects)
- Integrated nature projects implementing Union environmental plans (Heading 5 MAWP 2014-2017) and related Technical assistance projects to prepare them
- Projects financed through Financial instruments: NCFE
- Preparatory and "other" projects



## Thematic priorities (GIE)

- **Information** — information/communication/awareness raising campaigns in line with 7th Environment Action Programme priorities
- **Governance** — effective control processes/measures to promote compliance in relation to Union environmental legislation/support of information systems and tools on the implementation of Union environmental legislation.
- ➔ ***New focus:*** Support for better governance (promote cooperation networks and best practices for the application of environmental regulations and enforcement, knowledge sharing, NPOs)



## LIFE GIE – Tools

- "Traditional" projects – full bonus, if Project topic(s) fulfilled
- Information, awareness and Dissemination projects: aimed at supporting communication, dissemination of information and awareness raising and at improving governance in the fields of the sub-programmes for Environment
- Preparatory, "other" projects, operating grants, calls for tender, ...





# Basic info on Calls for proposals 2014

- Joint publication for both sub-programmes
- Separate calls per project type(s) and priority area
- Indicative Calendar



# Joint publication for both sub-programmes

Joint call for proposals

- for action grant projects **Capacity Building Projects (CBP)**
- for operating grants for **non-profit organisations (NPO)**

Separate calls for proposals for action grant projects:

- **Sub-programme for Environment**: „traditional“, integrated (IPE), technical Assistance (TAE), preparatory (PPE)
- **Sub-programme for Climate Action**: „traditional“



# Separate calls per project type(s) and priority area

## → Sub-programme for Environment

„traditional“ (= pilot, demonstration, best practice, and governance and information) Projects:

ENV, NAT, GIE => e-proposal (Commission/EASME)

Integrated, Technical Assistance, Preparatory Projects:

IPE, TAE, PPE => PDF forms on data carrier by post (Commission)

## → Sub-programme for Climate Action

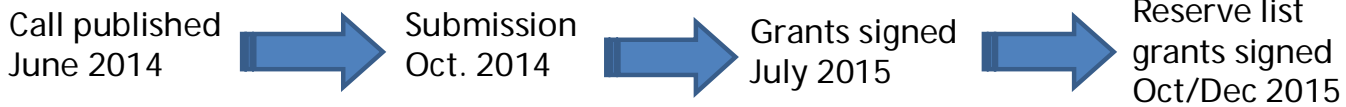
„traditional“ Projects:

CCM, CCA, GIC => e-proposal (Commission/EASME)

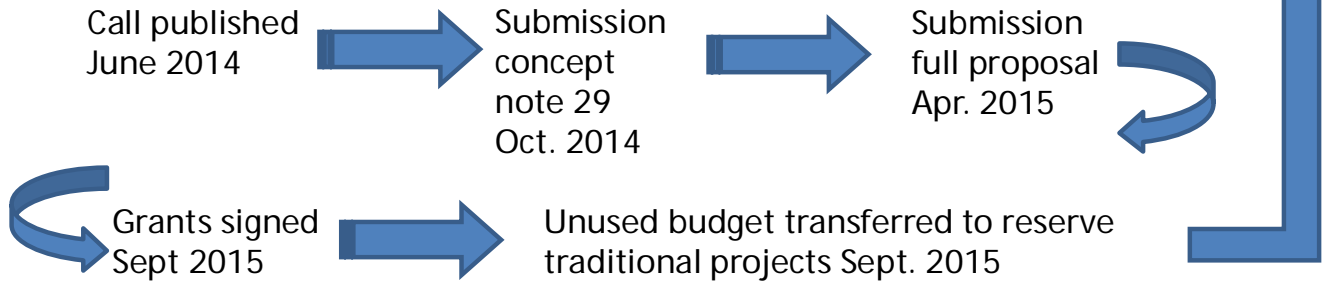


# LIFE Call 2014 Indicative timetable

## Traditional projects



## Integrated projects





# Thank you for your attention!

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

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