



# The LIFE Programme 2014-2020

## Life Info day

Spain  
Tuesday 7 July 2015

Aurelio Politano  
EASME





## **A new actor in LIFE: Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

- **One of 6 Executive Agencies of the EU**
- **Responsible for managing programmes for the European 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**



**SME SUPPORT**



**ENERGY**



**ENVIRONMENT**

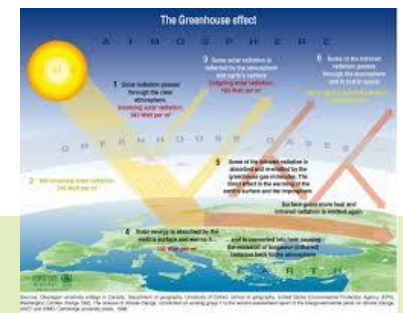


**MARITIME**



# Why LIFE?

- 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 regional and national authorities 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





# LIFE – Then and Now

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





# 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)
- The Action/Operating **grant agreements** of beneficiaries with the **Contracting Authority** (including **General Conditions**) or agreements of recipients **with banks**







# LIFE 2014-2020 – Objectives

- contributing 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 the **7th Environment Action Programme**



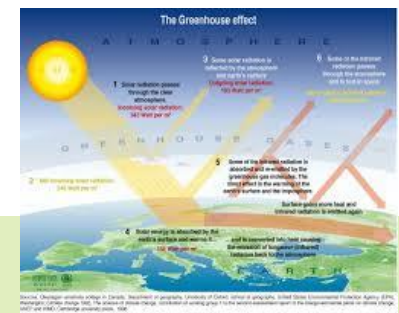
# LIFE 2014-2020 – Priority Areas

## → Environment sub-programme

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

## → Climate Action sub-programme

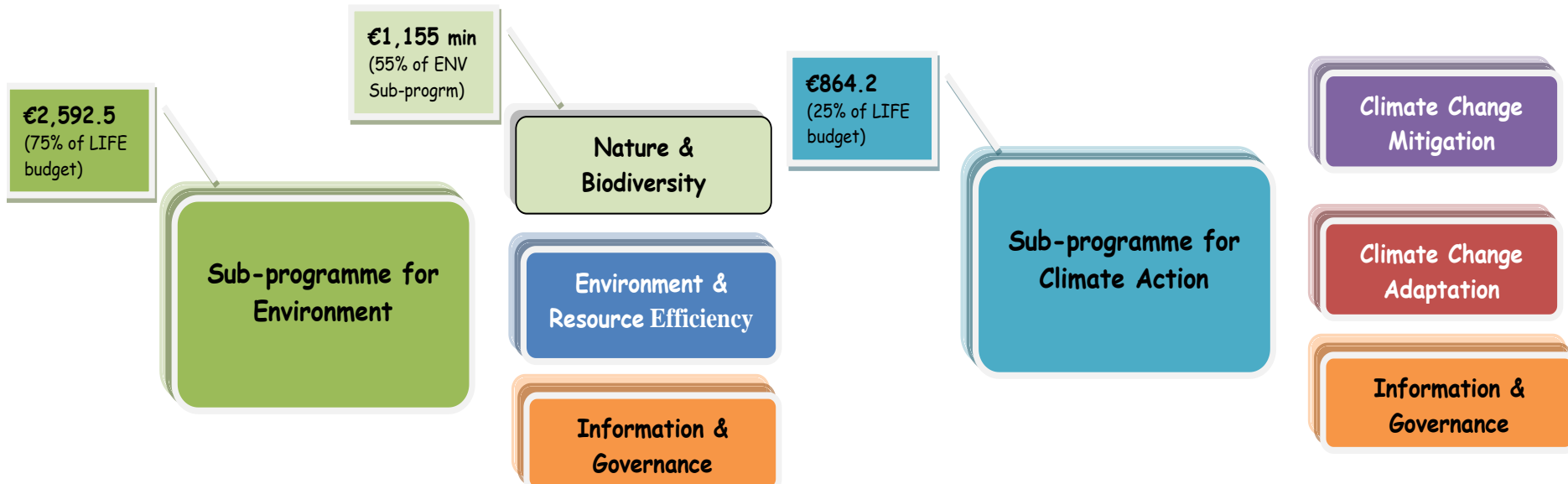
- Climate Change Mitigation (CMM)
- Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
- Climate Change Governance & Information (GIC)





# LIFE 2014-2020 - Structure

**LIFE Programme**  
€3,456.7 (2014-2020)







# LIFE 2014-2020 - Budget

- Total budget of **€3.5 billion**
- For **projects** funded by action grants and financial instruments:  
**€2.8 billion** (81% of total)
  - Sub-programme for **environment €2.1 billion** for projects
  - Sub-programme for **climate action €0.69 billion** for projects
- **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs**  
**€63 million**





# LIFE 2015 - Budget

## → Traditional projects:

- Environment sub-programme ~ **€ 184 million**
- Climate action sub-programme ~ **€ 42 million**

## → Integrated projects:

- Environment sub-programme ~ **€ 68 million**
- Climate action sub-programme ~ **€ 14 million**





# LIFE 2014-2020 – Geographical Coverage

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

**Participation:**

- Certain Third Countries may participate on the basis of and in line with the conditions of a cooperation agreement
- Cooperation with International Organisations is possible when necessary to reach LIFE objectives





# Activities outside of the EU

## May be included if:

- Necessary to achieve Union environmental or climate objectives
- **Necessary to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Member States' territories to which the Treaties apply**
- The Coordinating Beneficiary is established in the EU





# LIFE - General features

- **Applicants - SME, NGO, public administrations** active in the field of environment and climate protection
- Emphasis on **replicability/transferability, long-term sustainability, and an EU added value** of the project results
- **Not focussed on research** (↔ H2020)
- **No large infrastructure; not focussed on rural or regional development** (↔ agricultural, structural funds)
- **Support and monitoring:** From Contracting Authority (EASME or Commission) and external monitoring team





# LIFE



- ➔ **Funding types: Action grants, Operating grants, Innovative financial instruments** => NCCF, PF4EE
- ➔ **Projects Types: traditional, integrated, technical assistance, capacity building, preparatory projects**
- ➔ **Project topics: for traditional projects** under the sub-programme for environment



# LIFE

- **Funding rate:** in general **60%** of eligible cost in the first 4 years; **100%** for capacity building
- **Actors:** **EASME** for **grants** except environmental integrated projects and technical assistance under environment sub-programme, and preparatory projects; **EIB/intermediary banks** for **financial instruments**; intervention **NCP only if desired**
- **National Allocations:** **Only for environment sub-programme, only until 2017**





# Tools: The "traditional" projects

## For whom?

- Mainly SME, NGO, public administrations active in the field of environment and climate protection

## For what?

- Pursuit of general and specific objectives of the 6 priority areas.
- Sub-programme for environment: additional focus on thematic priorities and on project topics (LIFE multiannual work-programme for 2014-2017)

## Average size?

- 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €500,000 to €1.5 million

## Co-funding rate?

- **60%**; NAT: for priority habitat/species: **75%**





# Important features

- ⇅ Stronger emphasis on:
  - Long term sustainability of the project
  - Replicability and transferability
  - EU added value
- ⇅ New requirement – Impact indicators\*

\* Introduced in the call for proposal for LIFE Climate Action (2014)



# Long Term Sustainability

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- Sustainability of project results should be built in the proposal
- Potential to use project results beyond the project life time
- Particularly important for award criterion 1 Technical coherence and quality





# Replicability and Transferability

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- Go beyond dissemination of project results and sharing of knowledge
- Include activities and approaches integrated in project actions which aim to facilitate the replication and/or transfer of the project results beyond the project, including in other sectors, regions or countries



## EU Added Value

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- ➔ Each project should demonstrate EU Added Value in terms of:
  - Objectives
  - Replicability/Transferability and
  - Transnational scope



# Impact Indicators

- LIFE Programme 2014-2020 puts an emphasis on impact/output indicators – to measure impact of each individual project
- Each project has to report on key indicators during and after the project end
- Social and economic indicators mandatory for ALL projects!



## What's new in Call 2015 1/2

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- Table on impact/output indicators across all priorities (ENV/NAT/CLIMA)
- Environmental benefits in Life Cycle Perspective/impact on the conservation status of habitats and species (AW3)
- Substantial activities to support replication and transferability must be included in work plan



## What's new in Call 2015 2/2

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- Simplification of Application forms (indicators of progress, specific constraints , expected results and deliverables)
- Improve consistency of evaluation guidelines
- ENV sub-programme: 2 project topics
- NAT proposals will have to include excel table with Concrete Conservation Actions and relative budget => verification of the 25% rule





# Tools: Integrated projects (IPs)

## For whom?

- Mainly public administrations and other entities active in the field of environment and climate protection and capable of coordinating, besides the IP, complementary actions co-funded by additional private, public (preferably EU) funds.

## For what?

- Implementing Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017); big scale; complementary actions with additional co-funding; involvement of stakeholders

## Average size?

- 2 to 10 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €10 to 15 million; about 3 IPs per Member State.

## Co-funding rate?

- **60%**



# Tools: Technical Assistance Project (TAs)

## For whom?

- For those who would like to submit an IP, but need assistance in finalising the application

## For what?

- Support in drafting the IP application; can be applied for a year before the intended IP or in the same year

## Average size?

- Maximum 1% of the allocation for IP's => maximum €100,000

## Co-funding rate?

- **60%**





# Tools: Financial Instruments (FIs)

## ↓ For whom?

Mainly for SMEs active in the field of environment and climate protection (NCFF), SME's, households, public administrations wishing to improve their energy efficiency (PF4EE)

## ↓ For what?

Credits/bank guarantees/ ... for environment or climate **projects** (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017)

## ↓ Average size

1 recipient; EU contribution: €5 to 10 million (NCFF)





# LIFE Call 2015 Indicative planning

## Traditional projects

Call published  
1 June 2015



Submission  
Sept/Oct  
2015



Revision Oct  
2015-May  
2016



Reserve list  
grants signed  
May/June  
2016

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## Integrated projects

Call published  
June 2015



Submission  
concept  
note Oct.  
2015



Submission  
full proposal  
Apr. 2016



Grants signed  
Sept 2016



Thank you for your attention!

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

**For further inquiries:**

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