



# The LIFE Programme 2014-2020

General Introduction & Structure  
Funding Mechanisms  
Proposal Preparation & Support

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**“LIVEWASTE-2016”, Limassol, 24 June 2016**

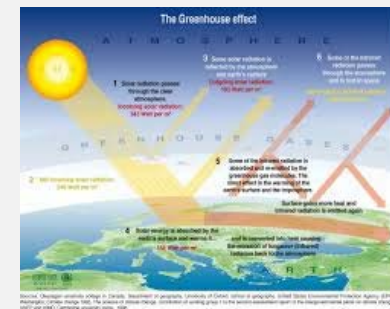
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SMEs

# 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 – 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**

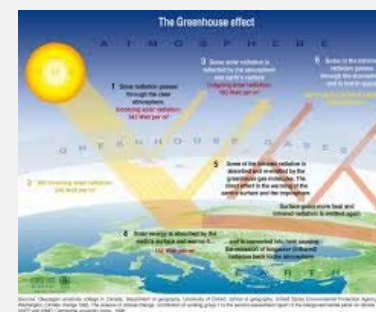
# LIFE 2014-2020 – Strands

## → 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 ENV Projects

Five priority sectors:

- Water, including marine environment
  - Waste
  - Resource efficiency, including soil and forest, green and circular economy
  - Environment and health
  - Air quality
- Annex III of the LIFE Regulation describes thematic priorities within these five sectors
- Projects topics are defined in the MAWP – projects that clearly and fully fit under the topics get 10 extra points during the evaluation

# LIFE NAT Projects

Priority areas:

- The Union Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- Birds and Habitats Directives
- Projects that support the management of NATURA 2000 network
- Development, implementation, monitoring, assessment, evaluation of EU nature and biodiversity policy and legislation
- Multi-annual work-programme defines project topics (not mandatory, but projects that clearly fit under these topics get 10 extra points during evaluation)
- Handbook on financing NATURA 2000 – Part I (May 2014 version):  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/handbook.pdf>

Part II: analysis of measures eligible for financing:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/Natura2000financingHandbook\\_part2.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/Natura2000financingHandbook_part2.pdf)



# LIFE GIE Projects

Specific objectives of GIE projects are:

- Awareness raising on environmental issues
- Communication and information dissemination, sharing of successful environmental practices, training, developing cooperation among stakeholders
- Contribution to better implementation of EU environmental legislation
- Promoting better environmental governance
- Annex III of the LIFE Regulation describes priorities for GIE projects
- Projects topics are defined in the MAWP – projects that clearly and fully fit under the topics get extra points during the evaluation – 10 for GIE projects



# LIFE Climate Change Mitigation (CCM)

Policy priorities for 2016:

- Energy intensive industries
- Fluorinated greenhouse gases
- Land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)



# LIFE Climate Change Adaptation Policy Priorities for 2016

Key cross-sectoral, trans-regional and/or cross border issues.

**Vulnerable areas** indicated in the EU Adaptation Strategy:

- cross-border management of floods, fostering collaborative agreements based on EU Floods Directive;
- trans-boundary coastal management, with emphasis on densely populated deltas and coastal cities;
- mainstreaming adaptation into urban land use planning, building layouts and natural resources management;
- mountain and island areas, with emphasis on sustainable and resilient agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors;
- sustainable management of water; combating desertification and forest fires in drought-prone areas;
- **Green infrastructure** and **ecosystem-based approaches**
- **Vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies**, including those with a cross-border nature
- Encourage proposals on **urban adaptation**

# LIFE Climate Governance and Information (1)

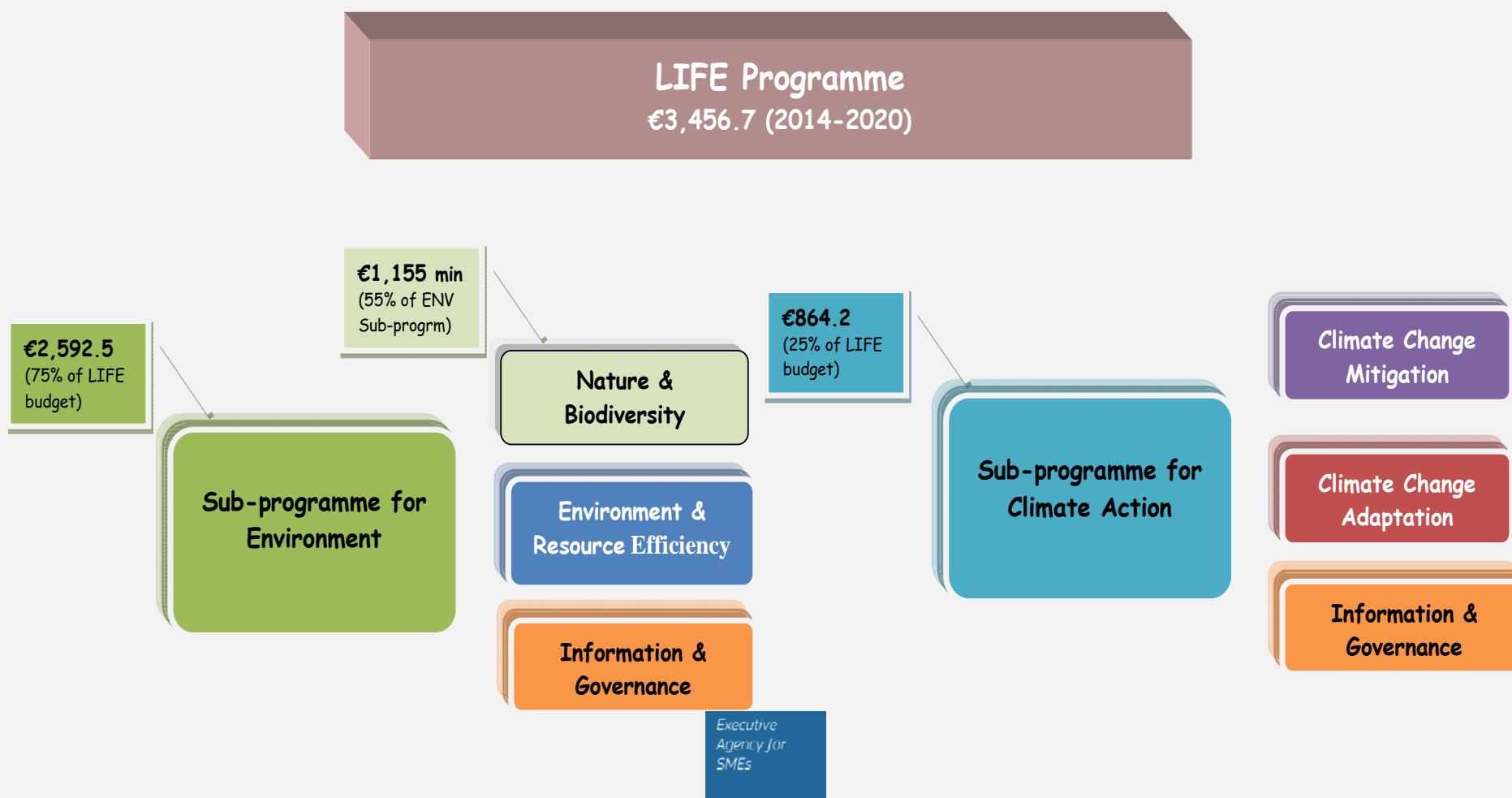
*Climate governance and capacity-building are strongly encouraged, not pure awareness raising activities. LIFE projects should e.g.:*

- build national **2030 climate and energy strategies** and design **effective investment programmes** through e.g. exchange of good practice
- **enhance monitoring and reporting**, e.g. a solid system for tracking progress (EU ETS impacts etc.)

## LIFE Climate Governance and Information (2)

- focus on **training for industry** on the implementation of new climate legislation ("**train the trainers**")
- build **coordination platforms on climate policy monitoring, assessment, ex-post evaluation** (for adaptation incl. adaptation indicators, risk communication and management)
- focus on the exchange of best practice and awareness raising on **climate change vulnerabilities** and **adaptation options**

# LIFE 2014-2020 – Structure





# 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 - 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
    - ➔ **Nature & Biodiversity** including **related governance and information €1.22 billion** (more than 55% of sub-programme ENV minus financial instruments)
  - ➔ Sub-programme for **climate action €0.69 billion** for projects
- ➔ **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs**  
**€63 million**



# LIFE 2016 – Budget

- ➔ Total budget of **€346.6 million**
- ➔ Action grants and financial instruments: **€337.6 million**
  - ➔ Sub-programme for **environment €273.9 million** for projects
    - ➔ **Nature & Biodiversity** including **related governance and information** (€150.6 million, 55% of sub-programme ENV minus financial instruments)
  - ➔ Sub-programme for **climate action €63.6 million**
- ➔ **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs €9 million**

# LIFE 2016 – Budget – Traditional projects

- ➔ Sub-programme for **environment**: **€192 million**
  - ➔ **ENV-RES - €78 million**
  - ➔ **NAT&BIO - €95 million**
  - ➔ **GIE - €19 million**
- ➔ Sub-programme for **climate action**: **€47.4 million**
  - ➔ **CCM – €15.9 million**
  - ➔ **CCA – €24.5 million**
  - ➔ **GIC - €7 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 focused on research** (⇔ H2020)
- **No large infrastructure; not focused 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 => NCFF,  
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;
- ➔ ***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**



# 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%**

# 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%**

# Preparatory projects

## For whom?

- Public sector, NGOs, private agencies involved in the wider environmental and climate change sector

## For what?

- Supporting specific needs for the implementation of the EU environmental and climate policy and legislation

## Average size (2014-2017)?

- Sub-programme for the environment: max 10.5 million euro
- Sub-programme for climate: max 1.45 million Euro

## 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)

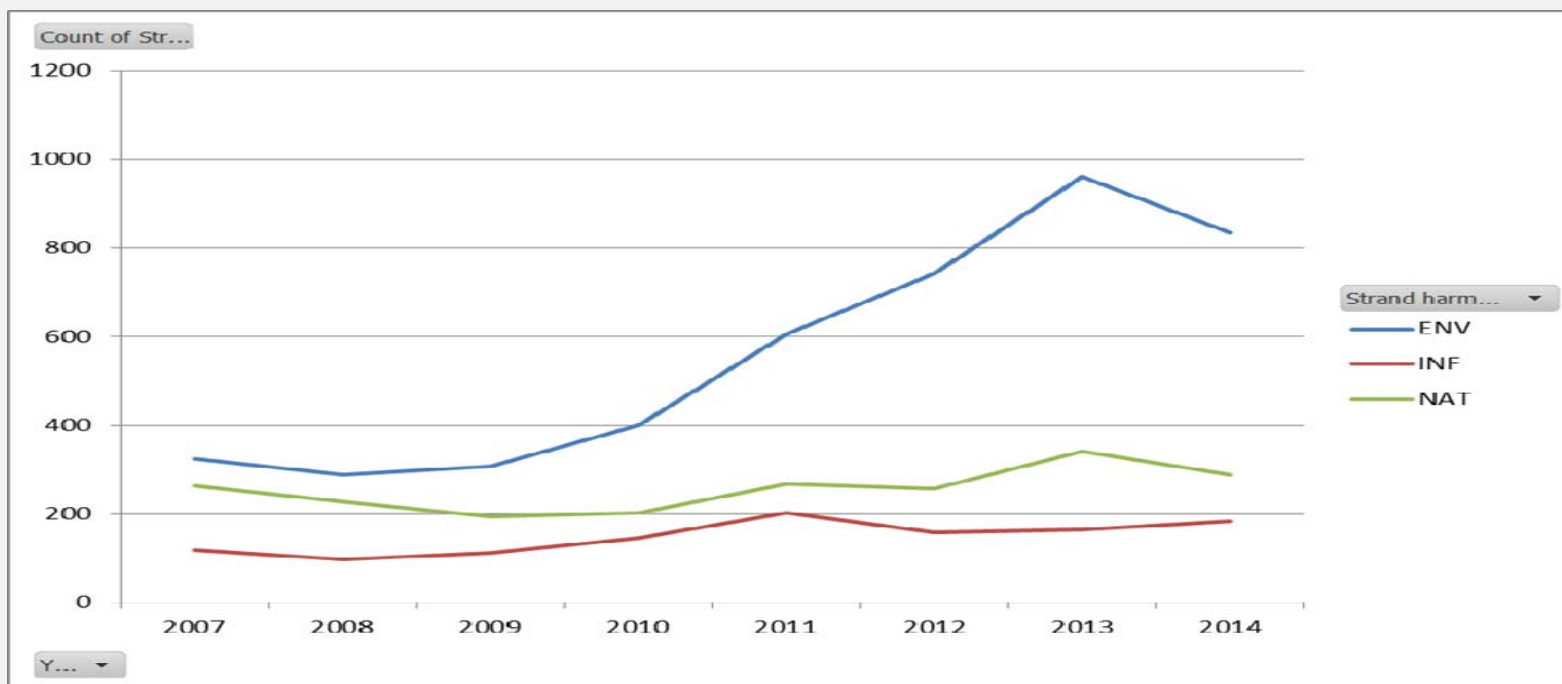
## ➔ Average size

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

## Facts of LIFE

# 1) There is significant competition for LIFE funds

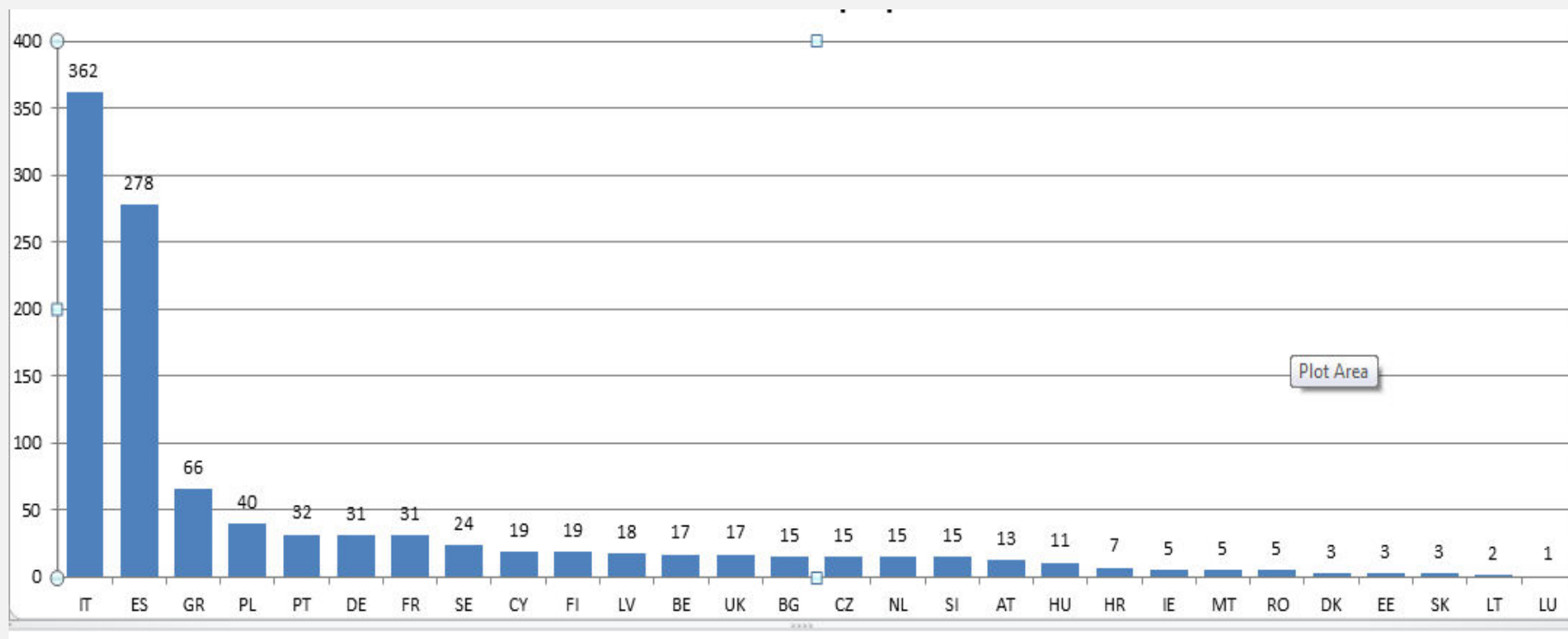
Applications 2007-2014





European  
Commission

## LIFE Call 2015 proposals submitted





## Facts of LIFE

# 2) You can't get a grant if you don't submit an application.

### Dates

- Call for Proposals launch: 19 May 2016
- Deadline for submission by applicants of traditional projects:
  - 7 September 2016 - climate action sub-programme
  - 12 September 2016 – environment & resource efficiency
  - 15 September 2016 – nature & biodiversity, environmental governance & information
  - 20 September 2016 – preparatory projects

## Facts of LIFE

- 3) It takes time and money to prepare an application**
- 4) Proposals that fail are poorly prepared or simply no good as the others, funding is limited**

# Distinct Approaches

## ***Best Practice projects***

*... applies appropriate, cost-effective, state-of-the-art techniques and methods for the conservation of species/habitats.*



Testing and evaluating of best practice techniques should NOT be part of the project as they are already state of the art. Monitoring, however, is obligatory.

# Distinct Approaches

## ***Demonstration projects***

*... puts into practice, tests, evaluates and disseminates actions, methods or approaches that are new or unfamiliar in the project's specific context and that could be applied elsewhere in similar circumstances.*



Monitoring, evaluating and dissemination are integral parts of the demonstration approach.

# Distinct Approaches

## ***Pilot projects***

*...apply a technique or method that has not been applied or tested before, or elsewhere, that offer potential environmental or climate advantages compared to current best practice and that can subsequently be applied on a larger scale to similar situations.*

## ***Information, awareness and dissemination projects***

*...aim at supporting communication, dissemination of information and awareness raising in the fields of the sub-programmes for Environment and Climate Action.*

# Evaluation Criteria

Award criteria	Minimum pass score*	Maximum score
1. Technical coherence and quality	10	20
2. Financial coherence and quality	10	20
3. EU added value: extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment	10	20
4. Contribution to the project topics	-	10
5. EU added value: multipurpose, synergies, and integration	7	15
6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	5	10
7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	-	5
<b>Overall (pass) scores</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

## Be AWARE

- READ the application guidelines
  - Be SURE that LIFE is the appropriate funding programme for you:  
LIFE is not a structural fund: do not see it as an operational business financing tool
  - Be AWARE of all the exceptions that may apply to you
  - Ensure financial coherence; Watch COST EFFECTIVENESS
  - FOCUS - Do NOT include actions not related to the objective of your proposal
  - Remember: If your project doesn't fit a priority project topic, you will receive fewer points!
- The SELECTION procedure of LIFE is very tough, thorough and detailed.





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Acknowledgements for material of slides:

DG ENV, DG CLIMA, EASME

Executive  
Agency for  
SMEs