

# What is EU Life instrument?

The European Union's funding program for financing environmental, nature/biodiversity and climate action projects.

- the only EU funding dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- the program's 2021-2027 budget is around 5.4 billion euros
- the application for 2023 has opened. Its budget is around 611 million euros.
- the program's goals, budget, forms of EU funding and funding rules are defined in the LIFE regulation and in the multi-year work program.
- the most important project types are Traditional (Standard action projects, SAPs) and Strategic Life projects.

# Standard action projects (i.e. Traditional Life projects)

- Project budget usually 1-5 M€, on average 2-3 M€
- The proportion of EU funding is usually 60% (with the exception of Nature&BD projects, which can be up to 75% if the focus is on priority species types)
- Usually 3-5 partners
- Duration of the projects is approx. 5 years, the maximum duration is 10 years
- Examples:
  - Saimaannorppa LIFE <https://www.metsa.fi/saimaannorppalife>
  - Opal LIFE <https://www.opal.fi/>
  - LIFE Economise <https://wwf.fi/en/economise/>
  - Green foundry LIFE <https://greenfoundry-life.com/>

# A good Life project

If the project concept has the following things, it can fit into LIFE:

- A reliable and financially solvent main beneficiary organization
- The project responds to an environmental problem significant on the EU's agenda
- The project takes concrete actions for the benefit of the environment (not just research or increasing knowledge)
- The project has innovation and repeatability
- The project is significant in size (more than 1M euros)
- The project fits well to the topics of the Life programme



# The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

To contribute to the shift to a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy based- and climate resilient economy

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



**Nature and Biodiversity**



**Circular Economy and Quality of Life**



**Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**



**Clean Energy Transition**

## Projects

- Develop and demonstrate eco-innovative techniques and approaches
- Help to implement and enforce plans and strategies, in compliance with EU legislation.
- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions

## Their implementation on legislation and policies

- Support their development, monitoring and enforcement
- Help Member States to improve

## Project beneficiaries are:

- 1/3 private enterprises
- 1/3 NGOs and civil society organisations
- 1/3 public authorities

# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



Nature and  
Biodiversity

## Contribution to:

- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
- Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised Action Frameworks.
- Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.

## Typical actions

Projects supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.

Species protection.

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of PAF and Biodiversity Strategy

In Finland MoE: Life NAT & BD working group

# Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life



**Circular Economy  
and Quality of Life**

## Contribution in the areas of:

- **circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment.**



## Typical actions

Support to public authorities and other stakeholders to implement EU environment legislation.

Support to technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy.



# Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



## Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

### Contribution to:

- The transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through:
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation & Related Governance



On **climate mitigation**, projects that contribute significantly to the implementation of:

- the 2030 energy and climate policy
- the EU Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

On **climate adaptation**:

- projects that support the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and related national implementation

# The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition

predecessors: Intelligent Energy Europe continued under H2020- SC3- market uptake



Clean Energy  
Transition



**Call opens 11.5.2023**

Type of activities: developing and spreading best practice, mobilising investments, improving skills, removing market barriers, raising awareness, educating, empowering.



# Innovation in Life

Explain in detail why the project is innovative:

What is the current state of the process or solution?

Technical efficiency, Market analysis: Is the commercialization starting during the project?

Has the solution been used in another country or sector?

Existing solution, but different usage context? If so, what changes will be made?

What kind of impact from an EU perspective: policy update, new legislation, behavioral changes, new product on the market?

Evaluation/measurement/verification of environmental benefits is of paramount importance.



# Life call 2023

## Recommendations

- Start early ... **start now!**
- Read the relevant **information**
- Focus your **objectives** and build a credible intervention logic
- Build a relevant **consortium**
- Link the **budget** to activities – check value for money
- Follow the template and instructions when **writing proposal**
- Final polish and **submit multiple times**

Call	Enveloppe indicative (M€)	Opening date	Closing date	Indicative grant signature date
SAP – Nature and Biodiversity	148,4	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP – Circular economy and quality of life	81	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP –Climate Mitigation and Adpatation	66,3	18/04/23	21/09/23	June 2024
CSA – Clean Energy Transition	99	11/05/23	16/11/23	June 2024



# Thanks !

**See you in Life Infoday 2023:  
June 9 at 9:30-12  
in the Ministry of the Environment**

Pekka Harju-Autti