

LIFE Programme: Call 2021

Standard Action Projects

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LIFE Writers' Workshop

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European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

The new LIFE programme

 The LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

 The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.

- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €.
- The multiannual work programme for 2021-2024 adopted in July 2021.



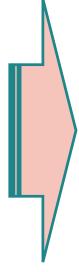


The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

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











Clean energy transition

Projects

- Develop and demonstrate ecoinnovative 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

On legislation and policies

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

Project beneficiaries are:

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





Sub-programme 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 Biodivesrity Strategy

Financing of small scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions





Sub-programme 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.

Promote upscale and access to finance.





Sub-programme Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Contribution to:

The transformation of the European Union into a climateneutral and -resilient society, especially through:

Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Adaptation
& Related Governance



On <u>climate mitigation</u>, 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 longterm 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

Building policy and regulatory framework **Contribution to: Engaging and** Rolling-out technology, services empowering creating market & and **business** models consumers regulatory enabling conditions in the EU territories for the energy transition Attracting private Mobilising local and finance regional investments

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





Types of activities funded under LIFE

GRANTS

- Action grants:
 - ✓ Standard action projects (SAPs)
 - √ Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)
 - ✓ Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
 - ✓ Technical Assistance (TA)
 - ✓ Other actions (OA) → Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
- Operating grants

OTHER FORMS OF FUNDING

- Procurement (not in this call)
- Prizes (not in this call)
- Blending (not in this call)





I. Standard Action Projects (SAPs)





Standard action projects (SAPs)

- 'Traditional' LIFE projects aimed to:
 - ✓ develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches;
 - ✓ contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices;
 - ✓ support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
 - ✓ catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance
- Co-financing rate of 60% maximum except:
 - √ 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
 - √ 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- Maximum 10 year duration





Innovative and best practice?

• By 'innovative' solutions we mean:

<u>new</u> when <u>compared to the state of the art</u> at <u>Member State and sector level</u> and implemented at an <u>operational</u> <u>scale</u> allowing the achievement of <u>ambitious and credible impacts</u> (as per the award criterion 'Impact)'

• By 'Best practice' solutions we mean:

<u>appropriate, cost-effective, state of the art (at Member State and sector level)</u> and implemented at <u>an operational scale</u> allowing the <u>achievement of ambitious and credible impacts</u> (as per the award criterion 'Impact)'

'Innovative' is used <u>strategically</u> in the description of priority topics





Please pay attention to several changes in LIFE:

New submission tool and new application forms:

EU Funding and Tenders Portal:

- √ (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/IT/How+to+participate) incl. Online Manual on submission of a proposal
- ✓ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=LIFE2027 Reference documents LIFE (incl. grant agreement LIFE MGA V1.0 & call documents)
- LIFE Call document
- LIFE Grant Agreement & Annotated Grant Agreement (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf) -> details on the provisions in the grant agreement important for setting up the budget! (e.g. eligible costs, obligations, payment schedules,...)
- New LIFE Regulation and Multi Annual Work Programme





Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

There are 3 calls for LIFE SAP:

- LIFE Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life
- LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

 One stage application procedure: Full proposal to be submitted by 30 November 2021





II. Finding the right call





Call document structure

- 0. Introduction
- 1. Background

What is the LIFE Programme?

Nature and Biodiversity

Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Clean Energy Transition

2. Type of action — Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

Type of action
Objectives
Scope — Activities that can be funded
Expected impact
Funding rate
Additional conditions



topics and priorities

- 3. Available buget
- 4. Timetable and deadlines
- 5. Admissibilit and documents
- 6. Eligibility

Eligible participants

(eligible

countries)

Consortion composition

Eligible activities

Geographic location

(target

centries)

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Operational capacity

Exclusion

- 8. Evaluation and award procedure
- 9. Award criteria



Call document structure (2)

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (n/a for FPA)

Starting date and project duration

Milestones and deliverables

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

Reporting and payment arrangements

Prefinancing guarantees

Certificates

Liability regime for recoveries

Provisions concerning the project implementation

Other specificities

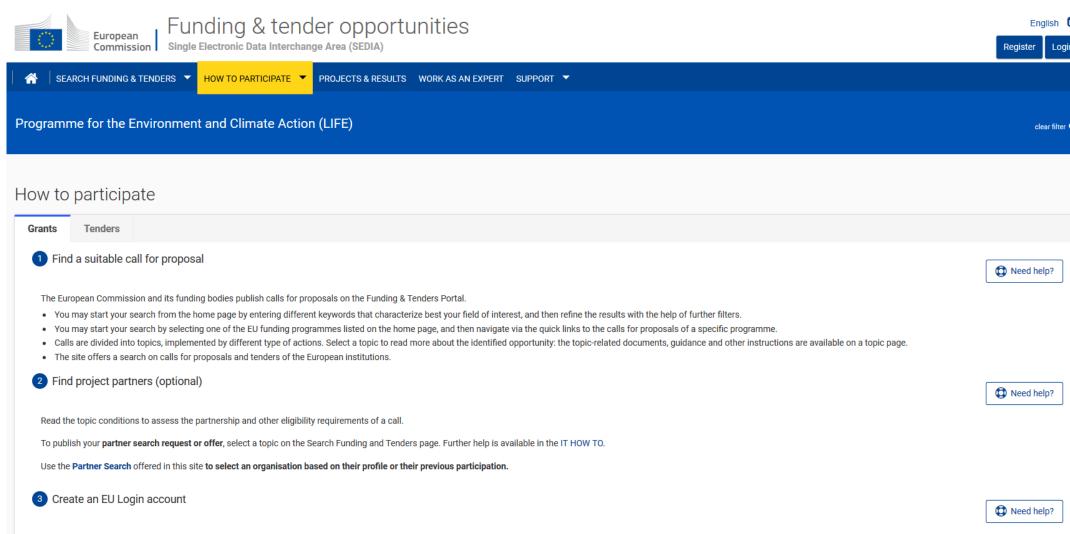
Non-compliance and breach of contract

- 11. How to submit an application
- 12. Help
- 13. Important





LIFE: Funding & tender opportunities



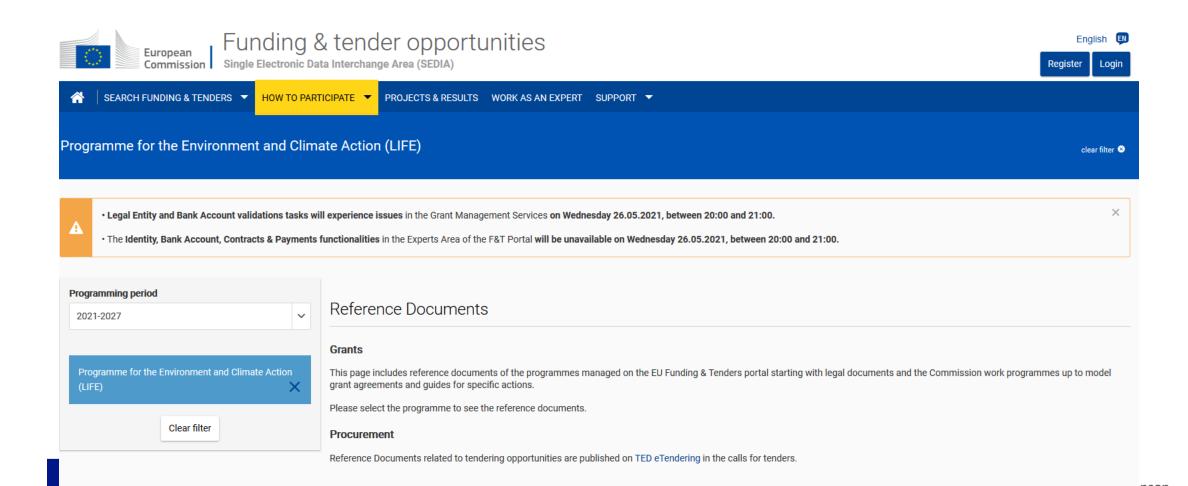


Each user has to have an EU Login account to log in on the Portal. If you already have such an account, you can use it for any interactions supported on this site from proposal submission to reporting.

If you do not have an account yet, you need to create it by clicking on the REGISTER button. Otherwise you get access only to the public services of the site (eg. searching funding opportunities, reading guidance, etc.)

Register an EU login account

LIFE: Reference documents



Example of call structure

- Finding the correct call and topic
- Climate action: three topics!
 - ✓ Climate Change Mitigation (CCM)
 - ✓ Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
 - ✓ Climate Governance and Information (GOV)



CALL-ID	TOPIC-ID	Submission model	
LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT	LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-GOV	Single stage	
LIFE-2021-STRAT-two- stage	LIFE-2021-STRAT-NAT-SNAP-two- stage	Two-stage	
LIFE-2021-SAP-ENV	LIFE-2021-SAP-ENV- ENVIRONMENT LIFE-2021-SAP-ENV-GOV	Single Stage	
LIFE-2021-STRAT-two- stage	LIFE-2021-STRAT-ENV-SIP-two- stage	Two-stage	
	LIFE-2021-SAP-CLIMA-CCM		
LIFE-2021-SAP-CLIMA	LIFE-2021-SAP-CLIMA-CCA	Single stage	
	LIFE-2021-SAP-CLIMA-GOV		
LIFE-2021-STRAT-two- stage	LIFE-2021-STRAT-CLIMA-SIP-two- stage	Two-stage	
LIFE-2021-CET-CAEPBD	LIFE-2021-CET-CAEPBD	Single stage	
LIFE2021-CET	LIFE-2021-CET-XX For example: LIFE-2021-CET-LOCAL LIFE-2021-CET-MAINSTREAMING LIFE-2021-CET-PDA LIFE-2021-CET-XX	Single stage	
LIFE-2021-TA-PP	LIFE-2021-TA-PP-NAT-SNAP LIFE-2021-TA-PP-ENV-SIP LIFE-2021-TA-PP-CLIMA-SIP	Single-Stage	



III. Application forms





Types of application forms

Application Form SAP, OAG and TA

- Application Form SIP and SNAP
- Application Form TA PP
- Application Form TA PP LS
- Application Form FPA, OG and FR NGOs
- Application Form TA CAP

Submission via EU "Funding & tender opportunities" portal





Structure of the proposal

Structure

- ✓ Part A: Administrative Forms > generated from your information in the Portal Submission System
- ✓ Part B: Technical Description > uploaded as pdf (+annexes) in Submission System
- ✓ Part C: Key Performance Indicators





Proposal Part A

- Part A: Administrative Forms > generated from your information in the Portal Submission System
 - ✓ Description of the action
 - ✓ Project summary
 - ✓ List of participants
 - ✓ List of work packages
 - ✓ Staff effort
 - ✓ List of deliverables
 - ✓ List of milestones
 - ✓ List of critical risks
 - ✓ Climate relevant Sector
 - ✓ Participant information (key staff, projects/activities, affiliates)





Proposal Part B (1)

Structure of Part B

Cover page

Table of contents

Project Summary (from Part A)

Watch out:

- √ character and page limits!
- **✓ DO NOT REMOVE INSTRUCTIONS!**





Proposal Part B (2)

1. Relevance

- ✓ Background and general objectives
- ✓ Specific objectives
- ✓ Compliance LIFE and call topic
- ✓ Concept and methodology
- ✓ Upscaling of other EU projects
- Complementarity with other actions
- ✓ Synergies and co-benefits LIFE
- ✓ Synergies and co-benefits other policies

Award criterion 1: Relevance (0-20)

- Relevance of the contribution to one or several of the specific objectives of the LIFE programme and the targeted subprogramme;
- Extent to which the project is in line with the description included in the call for proposals, including, where relevant, its specific priorities;
- Soundness of the overall intervention logic;
- Extent to which the project offers co-benefits and promotes synergies with other policy areas relevant for achieving environment and climate policy objectives.





Proposal Part B (3)

2. Impact

- ✓ Ambition of the impacts
- ✓ Credibility of the impacts
- ✓ Sustainability of results
- ✓ Exploitation of results
- ✓ Catalytic potential replication and upscaling

Award criterion 3: Impact (0-20)

- ✓ Ambition and credibility of impacts expected during and/or after the project due to the proposed activities, including potential negative impacts on the other specific objectives of the LIFE programme, including ensuring that no substantial harm is done to those objectives.
- ✓ Sustainability of the project results after the end of the project.
- ✓ Potential for the project results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places, or to be up-scaled by public or private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources (catalytic potential).
- ✓ Quality of the measures for the exploitation of project results.





Proposal Part B (4)

3. Implementation

- ✓ Workplan
- ✓ Stakeholder input and engagement
- ✓ Work packages and activities
 - ✓ Objectives and results
 - ✓ Activities and tasks
 - ✓ Milestones and deliverables
- ✓ Timetable
- ✓ Impact monitoring and reporting
- ✓ Communication, dissemination and visibility

Award criterion 2: Quality (0-20)

- ✓ Clarity, relevance and feasibility of the work plan;
- ✓ Appropriate geographic focus of the activities;
- ✓ Quality of the plan to monitor and report impacts;
- ✓ Identification and mobilisation of the relevant stakeholders;
- ✓ Appropriateness and quality of the proposed measures to communicate and disseminate the project and its results to different target groups.





Proposal Part B (5)

4. Resources

- ✓ Consortium set-up
- ✓ Project management
- ✓ Green management
- ✓ Budget
- ✓ Risk management

Award criterion 4: Resources (0-20)

- Composition of the project team of a consortium or of a sole beneficiary - in terms of expertise, skills and responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure.
- ✓ Appropriateness of the budget and resources and their consistency with the proposed work plan.
- ✓ Transparency of the budget, i.e. the cost items should be sufficiently described.
- Extent to which the project environmental impact is considered and mitigated, including through the use of green procurement.. The use of recognised methods for the calculation of the project environmental footprint (e.g. PEF or OEF methods or similar ones) or environmental management systems (e.g. EMAS) would be an asset;
- √ Value-for-money of the proposed project.





Proposal Part B (6)

5. Other

- ✓ Ethics
- ✓ Security
- Declarations (funding rate, double funding, third parties)

Annexes

- ✓ Detailed budget table
- ✓ Annual activity reports (optional for some calls)
- ✓ List of previous projects
- ✓ other

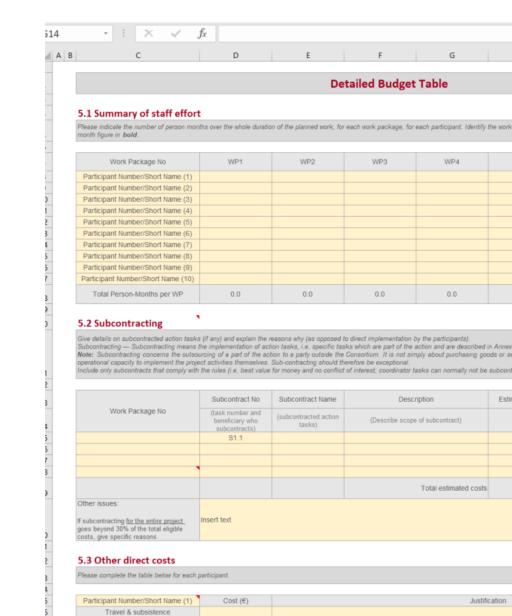




Annex: Detailed budget table

- 1. Summary of staff effort
- 2. Subcontracting
- 3. Other direct costs
 - ✓ Travel
 - ✓ Equipment
 - ✓ Other goods
 - ✓ Infrastructure
 - ✓ Third parties
 - ✓ Land purchase





IV. Evaluation criteria





Standard Action Projects (SAPs) Award Criteria

There are 4 Award Criteria:

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Quality
- 3) Impact
- 4) Resources

Possible bonus points:

- Synergies between LIFE sub-programmes
- Outermost Regions and areas with specific needs and vulnerabilities
- Up-scaling results of other European Union funded projects
- Exceptional catalytic potential
- Transnational cooperation among Member States

- The award criteria are scored 0-20 and the score of criterion 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1,5.
- The bonuses are based on yes/no criteria. They do not foresee a graduation: either 0 or 2 points are assigned to each proposal



Award criteria

Award criteria	Minimum	Maximum	Weighting
	pass score	score	
Relevance	10	20	1
Impact	10	20	1.5
Quality	10	20	1
Resources	10	20	1
Overall weighted (pass) score (without bonus)	55	90	N/A
Bonus 1	N/A	2	1
Bonus 2	N/A	2	1
Bonus 3	N/A	2	1
Bonus 4	N/A	2	1
Bonus 5	N/A	2	1
Overall weighted (pass) scores (with bonus)	55	100	N/A





Bonus

- Bonus 1: The proposal offers exceptional synergies and promotes significant cobenefits between LIFE sub-programmes. (2 points).
- Bonus 2: The proposal is primarily implemented in the **Outermost Regions**. Where specific regional features are relevant to the needs addressed in the call for proposals, e.g. islands for waste, coal-intensive regions for clean energy, etc., the bonus could be extended to other geographical areas with **specific needs and vulnerabilities** (2 points).
- Bonus 3: The proposal substantially builds on or up-scales the results of other EU funded projects. (2 points).
- Bonus 4: The proposal offers an exceptional catalytic potential. (2 points).
- Bonus 5: The proposal envisages a **transnational cooperation** among Member States essential to guarantee the achievement of the project objectives. (2 points).





Passing the eligibility check

Admissibility

- □Submitted before deadline & electronically
- □Complete & using the forms/templates provided
- □ Readable (no smaller than Arial 9) printable (A4)
- □Page limit (including the instructions)

Eligibility

- □ Eligible participants
- □Consortium composition
- □ Eligible activities
- □ Geographic location







V. Tips for preparing a successful SAP application





PROJECT DESIGN - I

- Baseline description should be clear enough as it is essential for evaluating the potential of the project (AW1)
- The sequence of actions should be logical and clearly linked to project description (AW1 AW2)
- Expected results and quantitative estimations of projects impacts (during and after project end)
 (AW3)





PROJECT DESIGN - II

- Activities/plans to ensure sustainability of the project results are absolutely crucial! (AW3)
- Uptake and Replication needs to be taken into account and related project actions need to be well conceived (AW3)
- Clear description of beneficiary involved in specific actions (AW2 AW4)





PROJECT DESIGN - III

- Limit the number of actions to the ones essential to achieve the project objectives
- Coherence in description and output in Part B and in the Work Packages
- Partnership structure: look for complementarity and avoid redundancy of expertise (key stakeholders should be involved)
- Project duration should take into account:
 - ✓ Sufficient time to **gather information** about the impact of project activities
 - ✓ Delays in obtaining permits and authorisations





VI. Where to find more information?





- Virtual info day call topics, KPIs, financial rules (and more) explained
- Frequently Asked Questions

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-calls-proposals_en

News on the networking possibilities:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news/meet-network-other-life-call-2021-potential-applicants-2021-08-04_en

















Good luck!

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life



