



The – new - LIFE program (Integrated Projects)





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- 1. Objectives
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1. Context: The LIFE Programme

- The only EU financial instrument specifically targeting the environment.
- Beneficiaries include public authorities, SMEs, NGOs, research institutions,





2. Objectives of LIFE (2014-2020)

- LIFE should be used as a catalyst (provide a platform for the development and exchange of best practices and knowledge thereby improving, catalysing and accelerating changes)
- LIFE should promote implementation and integration of environment and climate objectives in other policies and Member State practice, including mainstreaming;
- Specific link to EU priorities: resource efficiency, biodiversity loss and climate adaptation and mitigation.



2. Objectives: Proposed targets

- 6% River basin districts brought to adequate management
- 25% habitats targeted by projects have improved conservation status
- 25% species targeted by projects have improved conservation status
- 3% ecosystem services restored
- 10% Natura2000 network adequately managed.





3. Structure for 2014-2020 period and budget: overview

- Creation of two sub-programmes:
 - LIFE sub-programme for Environment, including as priority areas: environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity, and governance and information
 - LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action, including as priority areas: adaptation, mitigation and governance and information
- **Interventions** similar to LIFE+ (**projects**, NGOs operating grants) and **new ones** (**integrated projects**, capacity building, financial instruments)
- **Budget**: €3,456.7 (€2,592.5 for ENV, €864.2 for CLIMA)



3. Structure

Sub-programme for Environment

2. Priority area of Nature and Biodiversity:

- Focused on **Natura2000** (in particular **Integrated Projects** to implement Prioritised Action Frameworks);
- and the implementation of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020**;
- **Best practice and demonstration projects** for nature and biodiversity
- **55% of resources** allocated to projects under the sub-programme for Environment.



4. The Tools/Types of Funding: overview

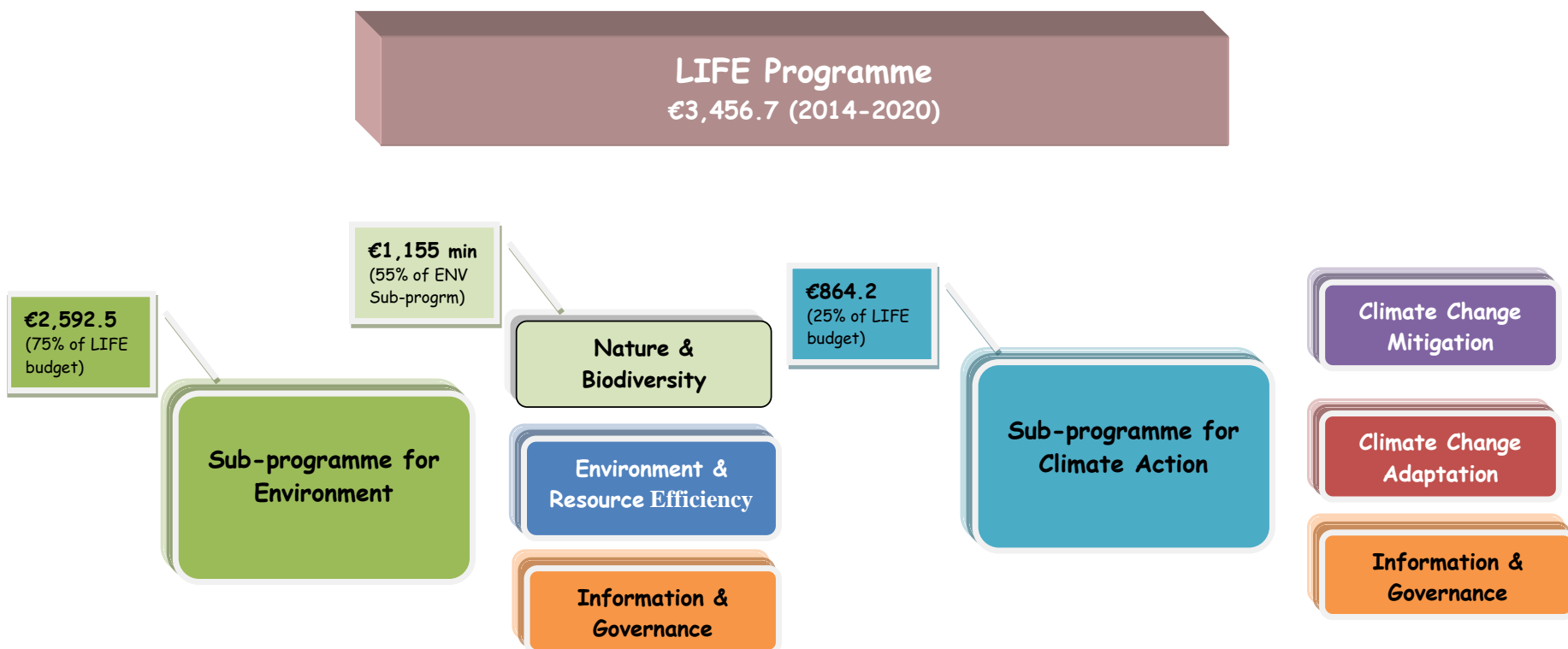
- Action Grants **at least 81%** of the budget, both traditional and new types of projects: integrated Projects, technical assistance projects for IPs, Capacity building projects and preparatory projects
- Operating Grants (NGOs, IMPEL)- no earmarking but **about 3%** of the Programme- **70% co-financing rate**;
- Other types of funding- public procurement (e.g., studies, conferences, service contracts, technical assistance for the monitoring of LIFE, etc.)- no earmarking but **about 15%** of the Programme

**Operating grants and Other types of funding
cannot exceed 19% of ENV sub-programme budget**

- **NEW:** Possibility to make contributions to innovative financial instruments to finance projects
 - To be decided by an assessment
 - Funds to be transferred from action grants

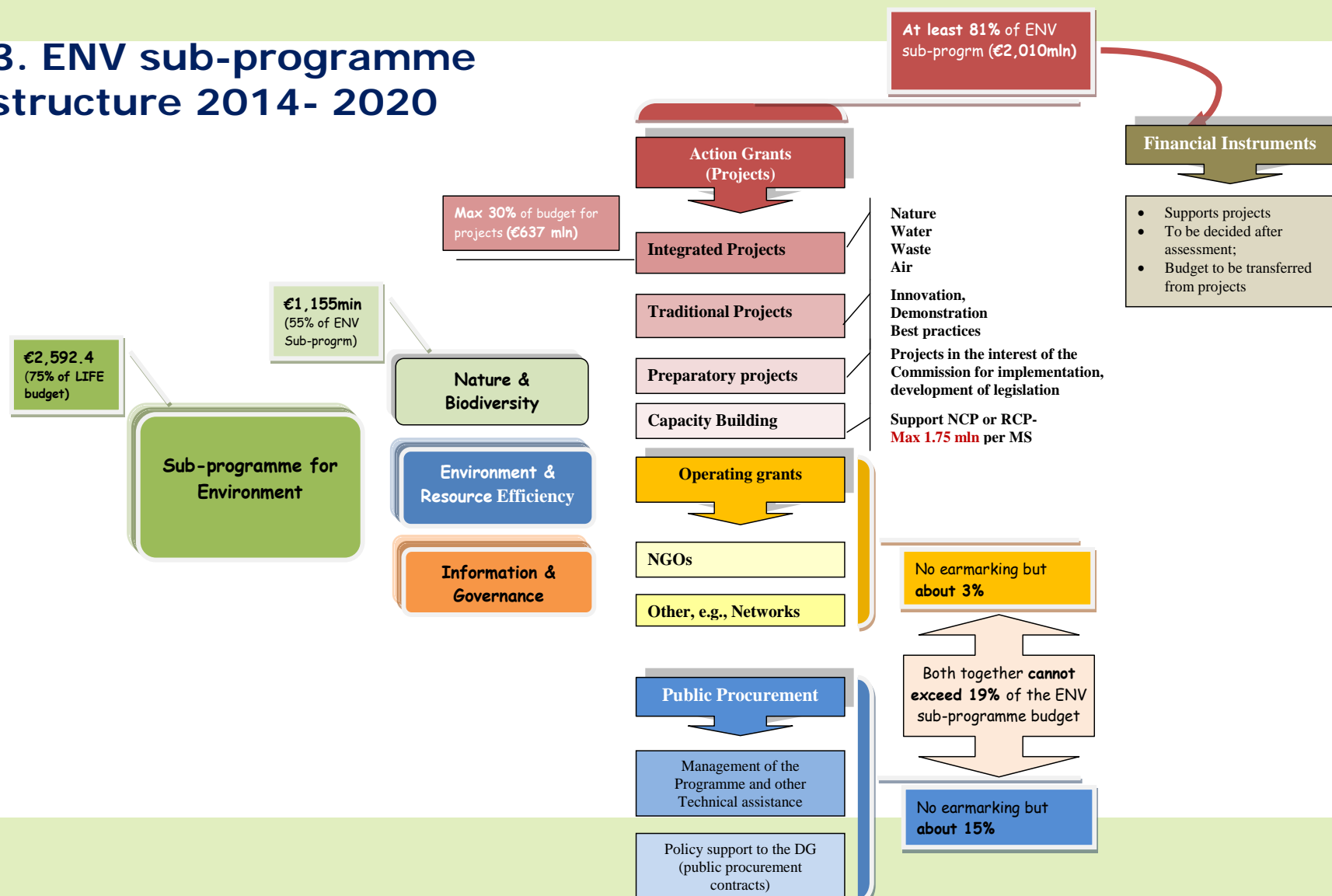


3. Structure for 2014-2020 period: overview





3. ENV sub-programme structure 2014- 2020





4. The tools: Action grants overview

- **Action Grants:** At least 81% of the budget for the Programme (approx. €2,800 million):
- **Traditional projects:** best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects
- **Integrated projects:** projects aiming at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air;
- **Preparatory projects :** projects identified by the Commission to support the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy and legislation
- **Capacity building projects:** financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE



4. The tools: co-financing rates

- 60% co-financing for Projects under Nature and Biodiversity **BUT 75%** co-financing for projects targeting **priority habitats and species**
- 60% co-financing for Integrated projects, preparatory projects and technical assistance projects
- 100% co-financing for capacity building projects



4. The tools: Traditional projects selection

Selection:

- 1-step application procedure similar to LIFE+



4. The tools: Integrated Projects

- Aiming at **implementation of plans, programmes or strategies** required by EU environmental or climate legislation or pursuant to other acts or developed by MS authorities;
- **Larger scale**, e.g., regional, multiregional, national;
- Primarily in the areas of nature (Natura 2000), water, waste, air, climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- They are **inclusive**: stakeholders must be involved as associated beneficiaries;
- **Sustainability** will be important as well as mobilisation of **other EU funds**;



4. The tools: Integrated Projects

Budget:

- 30% ceiling of the funds dedicated to projects
- Max. €855 million for 7 years (of which around €637million in the sub-programme for Environment)
- At least 3 IPs per MS (2 in environment sub-programme, 1 in climate action sub-programme)

Other aspects:

- Technical assistance in support of IPs possible for potential applicants
- Provisions regarding exchange of experience, best practices, and National Contact Point support enhanced
- Active dissemination of examples and good practices by LIFE and in the specific working groups and committees for the sectors concerned



4. The tools: Integrated Projects

Proposed targets

- 15% Natura2000 network adequately managed.





4. The tools: Integrated Projects

Complementarity:

- **Reference in LIFE** to the CPR and CSF and mechanisms set out in the Partnership contracts
- **Specific section in the Common Provisions Regulation** regarding LIFE:
 - Member States shall **promote** and, where appropriate **[...] ensure** complementarity and coordination with LIFE, in particular with integrated projects [...] **through measures such as [...]** promoting the funding of activities through the European Structural and Investment Funds that complement IP



4. The tools: Integrated Projects

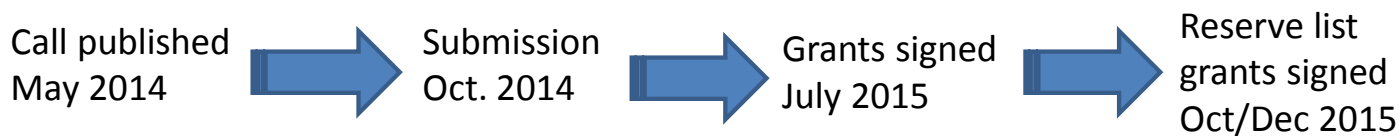
Selection:

- **2-step** application procedure
- Proposals to be accompanied by a **Financial Plan** to evaluate compliance with the obligation to mobilise funds
- **Letters of intent** from at least one other funding source to be submitted in the second step
- The extent to which other EU Funds are mobilised to be taken into account during the **award phase**
- **Geographical balance: 3 IPs per Member State over 7 years**

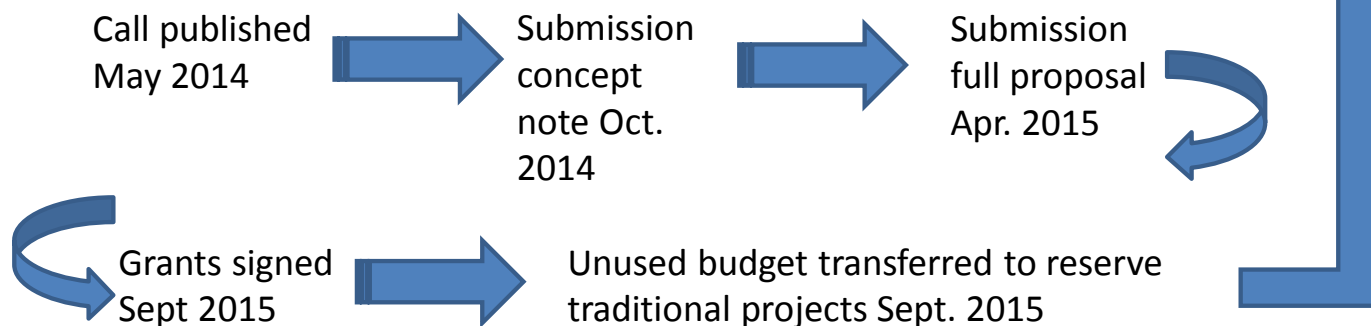


LIFE Call 2014 Indicative timetable

Traditional projects



Integrated projects





4. The tools: IP examples - Nature

A Region develops a Regional Programme

covering all Natura2000 sites under its jurisdiction

It identifies a range of **management and conservation activities**.

The region then identifies the **financial needs** for the implementation of these activities and **submits a proposal** for a LIFE Integrated Project.

This project clearly **specifies the activities** or group of activities among those included in the programme that will be **financed by LIFE**

- e.g. the restoration and connectivity activities, capacity building, awareness raising.

In addition, it presents evidence on how it will use other funds (EARDF, ERDF, private) to implement the **complementary measures**

- compensation payments, making power lines safe for birds, infrastructure etc.





4. The tools: IP examples - Nature

A real example: Combining EU Funds in Laplaand

The **aim** of this project was to help **the five largest protected areas** in central Lapland so that ecotourism and recreational use can be organised on a sustainable basis.

It **combined LIFE** (for planning), **ERDF** for construction of the tourism infrastructure and **national funds** (for construction of barns on the hay meadows)

Lessons learned: the combination of funds

- Provided the opportunity to make **environmental objectives more ambitious without significant additional administrative costs**
- Provided **confidence** in the approach: it will be used in the **future**





5. Territorial Scope

Possible participation of **Third Countries** (as per current LIFE+) – based on supplementary funding.

Possible co-operation with **International Organisations** (e.g., international studies such as TEEB).

Activities outside the Union and in OCTs possible in when:

- Action outside the EU is necessary to achieve EU environmental/climate objectives; and
- To ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the MS; and
- The coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU.



6. Hints to Applicants

- ➔ READ the application guidelines
- ➔ Read about and talk to ongoing projects
- ➔ Be SURE that LIFE+ is the appropriate funding programme for you
- ➔ Be AWARE of all the exceptions that may apply to you
- ➔ Ensure financial coherence; Watch COST EFFECTIVENESS
- ➔ Be clear and precise – applicants are evaluated on what is submitted (not on the potential of the idea)
- ➔ FOCUS - Do NOT include Actions not related to the objective of your proposal
- ➔ LIFE+ is not a structural fund: do not see it as an operational business financing tool
- ➔ START EARLY!!!

➤ The LIFE+ Selection procedure is very tough, thorough and detailed.



THANK YOU!

More information at

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/beyond2013.htm#proposal>