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2. European Action programmes 2014-2020 per sector

2.6 Environment

2.6.1 Life

PROGRAMME/CALL	LIFE Programme 2014/2020
Programme	<p>LIFE, the new Programme which supports activities related to the protection of the environment and the climate action.</p> <p>The LIFE Programme contributes to sustainable development and the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and other strategies implemented in the fields of environment and climate. LIFE is divided into 2 sub-programmes: Environment and Climate Action.</p>
General objectives	<p>The general objectives of the LIFE Programme are characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contributing to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate- resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems; - improving the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, and to act as a catalyst for, and promote, the integration and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice, including by increasing the public and private sector's capacity; - supporting better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors; - supporting the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme.
Types of funded projects	<p>The types of eligible projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "<u>pilot projects</u>" means projects that 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; - "<u>demonstration projects</u>" means projects that put into practice, test, evaluate and disseminate actions, methodologies or approaches that are new or unknown in the specific context of the project, such as the geographical, ecological, socio-economic context, and that could be applied elsewhere in

	<p>similar circumstances;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "<u>best practice projects</u>" means projects that apply appropriate, cost-effective and state-of-the-art techniques, methods and approaches taking into account the specific context of the project;- "<u>integrated projects</u>" means projects implementing on a large territorial scale, in particular, regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national scale, environmental or climate plans or strategies required by specific Union environmental or climate legislation, developed pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' authorities, primarily in the areas of nature, including, inter alia, Natura 2000 network management, water, waste, air and climate change mitigation and adaptation, while ensuring involvement of stakeholders and promoting the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source;- "<u>technical assistance projects</u>" means projects providing, by way of action grants, financial support to help applicants prepare integrated projects, and in particular to ensure that those projects comply with the timing, technical and financial requirements of the LIFE Programme in coordination with the following funds: European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund;- "<u>capacity-building projects</u>" means projects providing, by way of action grants, financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States, including LIFE national or regional contact points, with a view to enabling Member States to participate more effectively in the LIFE Programme. This type of project is eligible only for certain categories of countries: during the first multiannual work programme may submit a "capacity building project" (only one project per country): Croatia, the countries where the GDP per capita in 2012 was below 90% of the EU average and those in which the average absorption level of LIFE+ resources in the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 was below 70%;- "<u>preparatory projects</u>" means projects primarily identified by the Commission in cooperation with Member States to support specific needs for the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation;- "<u>information, awareness and dissemination projects</u>" means projects aimed at supporting communication, dissemination of information and awareness raising in the fields of the sub-programmes for Environment and Climate Action;- <u>any other projects</u> needed for the purpose of achieving the general objectives of the Programme;- "<u>operating grants</u>" shall support certain operational and administrative costs of non-profit making entities which pursue
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	<p>an aim of general interest for the EU, are primarily active in the field of environment or climate action and are involved in the development, implementation and enforcement of EU policy and legislation.</p>
<p>Eligible activities</p>	<p>The general objectives shall be pursued through the following sub-programmes: I Environment; II Climate Action.</p> <p>The sub-programme Environment will finance interventions in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Environment and Resource Efficiency</u>: will try to find more creative solutions to improve the implementation of environmental policy and integrating environmental objectives in other sectors; • <u>Nature and Biodiversity</u>: will develop best practices for halting the loss of biodiversity and restore ecosystem services, while at the same time supporting Natura 2000 sites, especially through integrated projects consistent with the prioritized action frameworks of the Member States; • <u>Environmental Governance and Information</u>: will promote the sharing of knowledge, the dissemination of best practices and a better compliance with sector regulations as well as public awareness campaigns. <p>In particular, the priority areas are: <u>Environment and Resource Efficiency</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Water, including the marine environment</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. integrated approaches for the implementation of Directive 2000/60/EC; ii. activities for the implementation of Directive 2007/60/EC; iii. activities for the implementation of the programme of measures of Directive 2008/56/EC; iv. activities to ensure safe and efficient use of water resources, improving quantitative water management, preserving a high level of water quality and avoiding misuse and deterioration of water resources. b) <u>Waste</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. integrated approaches for the implementation of waste plans and programmes; ii. activities for the implementation and development of Union waste legislation, with particular emphasis on the first steps of the Union waste hierarchy (prevention, re-use and recycling); iii. activities for resource efficiency and lifecycle impact of products, consumption patterns and

	<p>dematerialisation of the economy.</p> <p>c) <u>Resource Efficiency, including soil and forests, and green and circular economy:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. activities for industrial symbiosis and knowledge transfer, and development of new models for the shift towards a circular and green economy; ii. activities for the Soil Thematic Strategy (COM 2006 31) with special emphasis on mitigation and compensation of soil sealing, and improved land use; iii. activities for forest monitoring and information systems, and to prevent forest. <p>d) <u>Environment and Health, including chemicals and noise:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. support activities for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH) and Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 (Biocidal Products Regulation) to ensure a safer, more sustainable or economical use of chemicals (including nanomaterials); ii. support activities to facilitate the implementation of Directive 2002/49/EC (Noise Directive) in order to achieve noise levels that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health; iii. support activities for avoiding major accidents in particular facilitating the implementation of Directive 2012/18/EU (Seveso III Directive). <p>e) <u>Air quality and emissions, including urban environment:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. integrated approaches to the implementation of Air quality legislation; ii. support activities to facilitate compliance with Union air quality and related air emissions standards including Directive 2001/81/EC (National Emissions Ceilings Directive); iii. support activities for the enhanced implementation of Directive 2010/75/EU (Industrial Emissions Directive) with a special emphasis on improving the process of defining and implementing best available techniques, ensuring easy public access to information and enhancing the contribution of the Industrial Emissions Directive to innovation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>“Nature and Biodiversity”:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Nature:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. activities aimed at improving the conservation status of habitats and species, including marine habitats and species, and bird species, of Union interest; ii. activities in support of the Natura 2000 network biogeographical seminars;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. integrated approaches for the implementation of prioritised action frameworks. b) <u>Biodiversity</u>: activities for the implementation of the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. activities aimed at contributing to the achievement of Target 2; ii. activities aimed at contributing to the achievement of Targets 3, 4 and 5. • <u>“Environmental Governance and Information”</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) information, communication and awareness raising campaigns in line with the priorities of the 7th Environment Action Programme; b) activities in support of effective control process as well as measures to promote compliance in relation to Union environmental legislation, and in support of information systems and information tools on the implementation of Union environmental legislation. <p>Under these thematic priorities, a list of project topics is foreseen in the LIFE Multiannual work programme for 2014-2017, to consider in order to present proposals. It should be noted that funding of projects on topics not included in this list is not excluded. High quality projects that fulfil the applicable eligibility and selection criteria may still be awarded funding.</p> <p>Within the sub-programme Climate Action, the eligible activities are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>“Climate Change Mitigation”</u>: will focus on reducing emissions of greenhouse gas emissions, the priority area Climate Change Mitigation shall in particular have the following specific objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to contribute to the implementation and development of Union policy and legislation on climate change mitigation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions for climate change mitigation; - to improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective climate change mitigation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice; - to facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for climate change mitigation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level; - to contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative climate change mitigation technologies,
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	<p>systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Climate Change Adaptation”; for activities aimed at increasing the resilience to climate change Specific objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to contribute to the development and implementation of Union policy on climate change adaptation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions for climate change adaptation, including, where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches; - to improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective climate change adaptation actions and measures, prioritising, where appropriate, those applying an ecosystem-based approach, and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice; - to facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for climate change adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level, prioritising, where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches; - to contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative climate change adaptation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed. • “Climate Governance and Information”: actions which seek to improve awareness, communication, cooperation and dissemination of information on the interventions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Specific objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to promote awareness raising on climate matters, including generating public and stakeholder support of Union policy- making in the field of the climate, and to promote knowledge on sustainable development; - to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of the climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms among stakeholders and training; - to promote and contribute to more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union climate legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches; - to promote better climate governance by broadening
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	<p>stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in consultation on and implementation of policy.</p> <p>Moreover, LIFE Programme may finance activities implemented by the Commission in support of the initiation, implementation and mainstreaming of Union environmental and climate policies and legislation for the purpose of achieving the general objectives. Such activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information and communication, including awareness raising campaigns. Financial resources allocated to communication activities pursuant to this Regulation shall also cover corporate communication regarding the political priorities of the Union, as well as regarding the implementation and transposition status of all major Union environmental and climate legislation; • studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building; • preparation, implementation, monitoring, checking and evaluation of projects, policies, programmes and legislation; • workshops, conferences and meetings; • networking and best-practice platforms; • any other activities needed for the purpose of achieving the general objectives.
<p>Eligible organizations</p>	<p>Eligible organizations are public and private bodies, established in one of the eligible countries for the Programme. Cooperation with relevant international organizations and with their bodies and institutions is allowed in order to achieve the general objectives of the Programme.</p> <p>The eligible countries are the 28 EU Member's States. The programme Third Countries are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EFTA/EEA Countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein); - candidate countries, potential candidates and acceding countries to the Union (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Turkey); - countries to which the European Neighbourhood Policy applies (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and the Palestinian Authority); - countries which have become members of the European Environmental Agency. <p>Such participation shall be pursued in accordance with the conditions laid down in the respective bilateral or multilateral agreements establishing the general principles for those third countries' participation in Union programmes.</p> <p>Together with transnational projects, the Programme funds also projects submitted by one single beneficiary and national consortia.</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>The duration of the Programme is 7 years, starting from 1st January</p>

	<p>2014 to 31st December 2020.</p> <p>The duration of the projects will be set with the launch of the first calls within the new programming period. Usually projects have a duration of 2-5 years.</p>
Budget	<p>The funds allocated to the new programming period 2014/2020 accounts approximately for 3,457 billion EUR, divided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.592.491.250 EUR for the sub-programme Environment; • 864 163 750 EUR for the sub-programme Climate Action <p>During the first multiannual work programme funds of the sub-programme Environment allocated to projects other than integrated projects will be shared among Member States in accordance with the indicative national allocations. However, if in one of the Member States not all funds are allocated, the remaining amounts will be allocated to the best projects in other Member States.</p> <p>At least 15% of the resources dedicated to projects shall be allocated to transnational projects.</p> <p>The maximum contribution to the LIFE multiannual work programme for 2014-2017 is set at EUR 1 796 242 000 and shall be used to finance the relevant sub-programmes and priority areas as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An overall amount of EUR 1 347 074 499 for the sub-programme for Environment which shall be divided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 495 845 763 for the priority area 'Environment and Resource Efficiency'; - EUR 610 068 900 for the priority area 'Nature and Biodiversity'; - EUR 162 999 836 for the priority area 'Environmental Governance and Information'; - EUR 78 160 000 for related support expenditure. 2. An overall amount of EUR 449 167 501 for the sub-programme for Climate Action which shall be divided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 193 559 591 for the priority area 'Climate Change Mitigation'; - EUR 190 389 591 for the priority area 'Climate Change Adaptation'; - EUR 47 588 319 for the priority area 'Climate Governance and Information'; - EUR 17 630 000 for related support expenditure. <p>At least 55% of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported by way of action grants are allocated to projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity, including related information and governance, technical assistance and preparatory projects. The rest of the budget allocated to projects will be allocated to projects under the priority area environment and resource efficiency, including related information and governance, technical assistance and preparatory projects.</p>

	<p>The maximum co-financing rates for the projects is characterized by a maximum contribution up to 60% of eligible costs for all projects for the period 2014-2017 and 55 % of eligible costs for the period 2018-2020. On the contrary, for the whole Programme period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 60% of eligible costs for <u>integrated projects</u>, <u>technical assistance projects</u> and <u>preparatory projects</u>; • Up to 60% of the eligible costs of the projects funded in the priority area <u>Nature and Biodiversity</u> within Environment sub-programme and up to 75% for those projects within the same area and subprogramme concerning priority habitats and priority species (see Directive 92/43/EEC) or bird species for which the financing is considered a priority (see Directive 2009/147/EC) to achieve the objective in the field of conservation; • Up to 100% of eligible costs for projects of <u>capacity building</u>.
Deadlines	The publication of the calls within the LIFE Programme is foreseen in the second quarter of each year of 2014-2017 period.
How to apply	The project must be submitted in electronic format upon registration on the official website.
Evaluation criteria	<p>Depending on the different type of project to be implemented, as general rule the award criteria are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Technical coherence and quality; B. Financial coherence and quality; C. EU added value: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extent and quality of the contribution to an increased climate resilience and/or to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; - extent and quality of the contribution to the objectives; - extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action; - extent and quality of mobilisation of other funds, in particular Union funds; - quality of multipurpose, synergies, and integration; - replicability and transferability; - transnational, green procurement, uptake. D. Comprehensiveness of the approach in relation to the identified weaknesses leading to the Member State's low participation in LIFE+ 2010-2012 programmes; E. Presentation of the expected improvement of the ability to promote integration, complementarity, synergies and replicability of the Life Programme into policies, economic activities and other programmes. <p>The evaluation criteria, their meaning and scores to be attributed to</p>

	each category may vary according to each specific call and have to be verified in the Multiannual work programme for 2014-2017 .
Link	LIFE Programme 2014-2020 Regulation No 1293/2013 LIFE Multiannual work programme for 2014-2017 LIFE Programme 2014-2020 official website DG Environment – European Commission website

4. Open calls 2014 on European Action programmes

1.3 Life

Sub-programme: Climate Action

Climate Governance and Information

PROGRAMME/CALL	LIFE Programme 2014-2020 Subprogramme Climate Action – CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND INFORMATION
Call	Call 2014 – Subprogramme Climate Action – Priority: Climate Governance and Information
Programme	LIFE, the new Programme which supports activities related to the protection of the environment and the climate action. The LIFE Programme contributes to sustainable development and the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and other strategies implemented in the fields of environment and climate. LIFE is divided into 2 sub-programmes: Environment and Climate Action
Main objectives	LIFE Climate Action aims specifically to fulfil the following general objectives as set out in Article 3 of the LIFE programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low- carbon and climate- resilient economy; • to improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union climate policy and legislation; • to act as a catalyst for, and promote, the integration and mainstreaming of climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice; • to support better climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors Projects under this call for proposals should support the implementation of the EU's climate policy and prepare the EU for the climate action challenges in the coming years and decades.
Priorities	There are no project topics defined in the LIFE Regulation. However, the sub-programme for Climate Action requires projects to contribute to one of the three priority areas: mitigation, adaptation, governance and information. In addition to that, the annual calls for proposals encourage applications targeting specific climate policy related priorities. <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Governance and Information. LIFE <i>Climate Governance and Information</i> aims specifically at contributing to the development and implementation of EU climate policy and legislation. Projects financed must have a European added value and be complementary to actions that can be financed under

other EU funds during the period 2014-2020. Objectives:

- to promote awareness raising on climate matters, including generating public and stakeholder support of Union policy-making in the field of the climate, and to promote knowledge on sustainable development;
- to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of the climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms among stakeholders and training;
- to promote and contribute to more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union climate legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches;
- to promote better climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in consultation on and implementation of policy.

Link to EU climate policy objectives: Full implementation of climate policy and legislation is inextricably linked to achieving better governance, mainstreaming climate action in other policies, improving stakeholder involvement and disseminating information.

Therefore, the priority area Climate Governance and Information will support projects that develop cooperation platforms and share best practices for more effective compliance, enforcement and mainstreaming, and that generate support from the public and stakeholders for the Union's policy-making efforts. They should support improvements in the dissemination of knowledge and best practices in the implementation and mainstreaming of climate legislation, in awareness-raising, and in public participation and access to information. To this end, the EU's policy approaches on climate change mitigation and adaptation should supplement areas where best practices and well performing demonstration and pilot projects already exist but require a further effort in the uptake in order to achieve the transition to a low emission and climate resilient economy and society. This also requires a deeper mainstreaming of climate action into the European Semester which aims at better coordinating Member States economic policies with the view of boosting growth and jobs. 'Greening the European Semester' is about ensuring that Member States macroeconomic policies are sustainable, not only economically and socially, but also from a climate policy perspective and contribute fully to the transition to a low emission and climate resilient economy. Enhanced implementation and development of climate policies also requires transparency and accountability. A solid system for tracking progress through enhanced monitoring and reporting is therefore essential, as well as a robust evaluation of the effects of climate policies. A particular interest relates to the functioning of the EU ETS and its impacts and interaction with other policy tools. Broader and stronger networks of experts and wider dissemination of knowledge

are therefore needed on emissions inventories, projections, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures. Even when information on climate risks and vulnerabilities exists, it is not always properly disseminated. As a result, investment and business decisions by EU citizens or the private sector do often not pay sufficient attention to current and projected climate change impacts.

Therefore, there is a need to promote awareness-raising on adaptation, including indicators, risk communication and management.

Priorities 2014:

The 2014 call for proposals for the priority area climate information and governance will **support actions associated with the climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation priority areas** as specified above by addressing the specific objectives on climate governance and information in accordance with these relevant themes. In particular they can be:

- Projects that develop best practices and raise awareness among Member States in the field of climate policy evaluation to support the development of cost-effective climate action both in the fields of mitigation and adaptation. Concerning adaptation this should include particularly adaptation indicators, risk communication and management.
- Projects for targeted audience (e.g. citizens, SMEs) raising awareness on climate change vulnerabilities and climate change adaptation options, including information actions aiming to raise awareness and understanding of adaptation strategies and on how they are applied in the local and regional context.
- Projects that share and develop expertise across Europe (for instance on how less environmentally harmful taxation/subsidies, energy efficiency and renewable policies, enabling legislative frameworks for private sector can contribute, inter alia, to restoring public finance, reducing energy dependency, accelerating innovation and creating jobs while reducing emissions) on the challenges and opportunities related to the 2030 climate and energy policy objectives and highlight the potential in the Member States for further mainstreaming climate and energy into macro-economic policies.
- Projects that develop publicly available and easily accessible data bases to promote a deep analysis of the effects of the use of market-based instruments, to disseminate results of these evaluations and to stimulate discussion on the use of market-based instruments, in particular the EU ETS.
- Exchange of best practices for enabling mechanisms, including public-private financing mechanisms, and innovative solutions which can be scaled up and replicated in
 - industrial processes and products across Europe and production methods to facilitate the low emission transition of industry, including energy intensive industries and the power sector,
 - transport and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ building sectors. □ Projects that raise the capacity of e.g. local, regional and national authorities to facilitate the inclusion of monitoring of potentials for carbon storage or emission saving into public spatial planning and/or exchange and implement best practices on tools for reporting, monitoring and evaluation of adaptation policies and measures across Europe. <p>It is encouraged, where relevant, for projects to contribute to more than one of those priority areas and to involve the participation of more than one Member State</p> <p>Synergies with other environmental and climate policies should be a central theme of adaptation projects, e.g. climate change adaptation and biodiversity should be promoted, wherever relevant.</p> <p>With a view to optimising the use of LIFE Programme resources, synergies between actions under the LIFE sub-programme for Environment, in particular to protect biodiversity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures under the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action, for forests and soil, water scarcity and droughts, as well as management of flood risks, should be fostered. Projects in one priority area that might undermine environmental or climate objectives in another priority area will not be funded unless this impact is clearly explained and justified in the proposal and the possible alternatives and mitigation and adaptation measures have been correctly planned if appropriate.</p> <p>The experience of past LIFE programmes has highlighted the need to focus efforts on concrete environmental and climate policy priorities and areas for action. Those thematic priorities should not be exhaustive to allow applicants to submit proposals in other areas and to incorporate new ideas to react to new challenges. Thematic priorities and project topics are not foreseen as part of action grants implemented under the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action. However, in line with the general objective of the LIFE Regulation, the project applications are especially encouraged to address specific climate challenges in each of the three priority areas, which are outlined below in the form of EU policy priorities. It should be noted that these priorities may be altered each year.</p>
Types of projects funded	<p>These "traditional" types of projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "<u>pilot projects</u>" means projects that apply a technique or method that has not been applied or tested before, or elsewhere, and 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. <p>A pilot project aims to assess the effectiveness of the method, to inform other stakeholders of the results and to encourage them where appropriate to use the techniques and methods successfully tested in the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "<u>demonstration projects</u>" means projects that put into practice, test, evaluate and disseminate actions, methodologies or approaches that

	<p>are new or unknown in the specific context of the project, such as the geographical, ecological, socio-economic context, and that could be applied elsewhere in similar circumstances.</p> <p>For demonstration projects to achieve the required EU added value, they must be designed to demonstrate whether or not the target techniques and methods work in the project's context (geographical, ecological, socio-economical). A successful demonstration project is available to all potential stakeholders and aims to encourage other stakeholders to use the techniques and methods demonstrated in the project. Demonstration projects may have a higher EU added value if they take place on a national or transnational level, rather than on a local scale.</p> <p>As regards the demonstration scale, the project should be implemented on a technical scale that allows the evaluation of the technical and economic viability of the proposed pilot on a larger scale. The proposal must justify the choice of scale for the project in the light of the above. In particular, for projects developing decision support systems, planning tools or the like, there has to be a specific project action implementing the tool to demonstrate its technical and economic viability and to enable a comparison with the baseline situation.</p> <p>Note that the application of an established best practice action/methodology in a particular geographical region where it has not been applied before is considered to be a "best practice" activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>"best practice projects"</u> means projects that apply appropriate, cost-effective, state-of-the-art techniques, methods and approaches taking into account the specific context of the project. <p>A best practice project is one that is available to all potential stakeholders to adopt and that illustrates how this can be done. In order to achieve the required EU added value, the monitoring, evaluation and active dissemination of the main project results and/or lessons learnt is an integral part of the project and its follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>"information, awareness and dissemination projects"</u> means projects aimed at supporting communication, dissemination of information and awareness raising in the fields of the Sub-programmes Environment and Climate Action. <p>Such projects must especially serve one or more of the general objectives of the Climate governance and information priority area, in accordance with Article 16 of the LIFE regulation. The projects need to have a clear intended application of information, awareness and dissemination activities and need to clearly outline the intended improvements.</p> <p>Priority Area and Types of Action Grant / Projects Eligible</p> <p>Mitigation - Best practice, demonstration, and pilot projects Adaptation - Best practice, demonstration, and pilot projects Governance and Information - Information, awareness and dissemination projects</p>
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<p>Eligible activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Preparatory actions (A Actions): All preparatory actions must produce practical recommendations and/or information that can be implemented (either during the project or after the project) and be used without requiring further preparatory work. Furthermore, where preparatory actions do not lead to direct implementation during the project, the proposal must provide sufficient set of explanations, commitments and guarantees to show that their full implementation after the project is effectively ensured. Research activities are NOT eligible. <u>Only limited research activities</u> aimed to improve and enhance the knowledge data underpinning the project may be carried out within a LIFE project. Research must be strictly limited and intrinsically related to the project's objectives and the applicant shall explain in detail how the proper implementation of the project relies on these research activities, showing that the existing scientific basis is insufficient, and how the additional knowledge will be used to implement the project actions. In such a case, scientific publications are considered important deliverables of the project.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Land purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payment for land use rights (B Actions): in very specific cases, this may be applicable for the LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation sub-programmes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Concrete implementation actions (C Actions) – OBLIGATORY: they should always be <i>pilot, demonstration and/or best practise actions</i>, or support communication, dissemination of information and awareness rising in the field of climate action.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (D Actions) – OBLIGATORY : different from F. <i>pilot/demonstration</i> projects must have a clear set of actions for evaluating the main project findings and outcomes, including the cost-efficient replicability or transferability of the actions and results and the measures taken to ensure the actual replication or transfer of successful pilot/demonstration actions. Also dissemination of the actions and results must be evaluated through a clear set of actions included in the project. The proposal should specify a pre-identified set of programme indicators (see list with examples in the Guide) to be used to measure the output and impact of the project. Where relevant and applicable, socio-economic indicators should be included in project proposals. In addition, each proposal must include an action aimed to assess the socioeconomic impact of the project actions on the local economy and population. This can take the form of a study consolidating the data and results over the project lifetime, to be delivered with the Final Report. Projects should aim to increase social awareness and acceptance of the benefits of protecting the environment against climate change. Examples of positive effects of the project are: direct or indirect employment growth,</p>
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	<p>enhancement of other activities (e.g. ecotourism) aimed to develop supplementary income sources, offsetting social and economic isolation, raising the profile of the area/region, resulting in increasing the viability of the local community (especially in rural areas).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Communication and dissemination actions (E Actions) – OBLIGATORY: <i>LIFE Climate Action</i> projects can be pilot / demonstration / best practise / information, awareness and dissemination projects. They must all include an appropriate set of actions to disseminate the results of the project so that the knowledge gained is actively communicated to those targeted stakeholders that may best make use of it and apply the lessons from the project.</p> <p>A crucial element is active networking with, and dissemination to, other stakeholders that could apply the results.</p> <p>Projects should therefore typically include 2 distinct types of communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> information and awareness raising activities regarding the project to the general public and stakeholders. These actions should in general begin early on in the project. <input type="checkbox"/> more technical dissemination actions aimed at transferring the results and lessons learnt to those stakeholders that could usefully benefit from the project's experience and implement themselves the actions demonstrated in the project. <p><u>The organisation of large and costly scientific meetings or the financing of largescale visitor infrastructures is not eligible.</u></p> <p>Note that certain communication actions are obligatory (project web site, notice boards ...) and should therefore be explicitly foreseen in the proposal as separate actions.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project management and monitoring of project progress (F Actions) – OBLIGATORY : typically they are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _Project management _Training, workshops and meetings for the beneficiaries' staff, where these are required for the achievement of the project objectives _ Networking with other LIFE and/or non-LIFE projects (obligatory) _ Mid-term and Final Reports (obligatory) <p>To be taken eligible for funding, all actions must meet each of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the need of the action has to be well justified in view of the objectives of the project; <input type="checkbox"/> the long-term sustainability of the investments must be guaranteed. <p><u>Long term sustainability</u>, together with <u>replication and dissemination</u> must be foreseen.</p>
Eligible organizations	A proposal may be submitted by any legal person registered in the European Union.

Applicants may fall into three types of beneficiaries:

- (1) *public bodies*,
- (2) *private commercial organisations*
- (3) *private non-commercial organisations* (including NGOs).

The term "public bodies" is defined as referring to national public authorities, regardless of their form of organisation – central, regional or local structure – or the various bodies under their control, provided these operate on behalf of and under the responsibility of the national public authority concerned. In the case of entities registered as private law bodies wishing to be considered for the purpose of this call as equivalent to "public law bodies", they should provide evidence proving that they comply with all criteria applicable to bodies governed by public law and in the event the organisation stops its activities, its rights and obligations, liability and debts will be transferred to a public body. For a complete definition, please refer to the annex "Public body declaration", which must be completed by all beneficiaries which wish to be considered and treated as a 'public body'.

A LIFE proposal may also involve one or more associated beneficiaries and/or one or more project co-financers.

An **associated beneficiary** may be legally registered outside the European Union, provided that the coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU. Any activities to be carried out outside the EU must be necessary to achieve EU climate objectives and to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Member State territories to which the Treaties apply. The associated beneficiary must always contribute technically to the proposal and hence be responsible for the implementation of one or several project actions. An associated beneficiary must also contribute financially to the project.

There is no obligation to involve associated beneficiaries in a LIFE proposal.

A beneficiary should not hesitate to associate other beneficiaries, if this would bring an added value to the project, such as when the partnership strengthens the feasibility or the demonstration character of the proposal, its European added value, its impacts and/or the transferability of its results and lessons learnt.

Public undertakings whose capital is publicly owned and which are considered an instrument or a technical service of a public administration, and which are subject to the public administration's control, but are in effect separate legal entities, must become beneficiaries if a public administration intends to entrust the implementation of certain project actions to these undertakings.

A **project co-financer** only contributes to the project with financial resources, has no technical responsibilities, and cannot benefit from the EU financial contribution. Furthermore, it cannot act, in the context of the project, as a sub-contractor to any of the project's beneficiaries.

However, project proposals involving business-sector co-financing will be favourably considered during the evaluation process where this co-financing contributes to the expected sustainability of the project

	<p>results.</p> <p>The LIFE Regulation indicates that, while selecting the projects to be co-funded, the Contracting Authority shall have special regard to <u>transnational projects</u>, when transnational cooperation is essential to guarantee climate objectives.</p>
Eligible countries	<p>The <u>eligible countries</u> are the 28 EU Member's States. Programme Third Countries are*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EFTA/EEA Countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein); - candidate countries, potential candidates and acceding countries to the Union (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Turkey); - countries to which the European Neighbourhood Policy applies (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and the Palestinian Authority); - countries which have become members of the European Environmental Agency. <p>Such participation shall be pursued in accordance with the conditions laid down in the respective bilateral or multilateral agreements establishing the general principles for those third countries' participation in Union programmes.</p> <p>Together with transnational projects, the Programme funds also projects submitted by one single beneficiary and national consortia.</p> <p><u>Location of activities:</u> LIFE projects shall take place in the territory of the European Union Member States. The LIFE Programme may also finance activities outside the EU and in overseas countries and territories (OCTs), provided that the coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU and strong evidence is provided that the activities to be carried out outside the EU are necessary to achieve EU climate objectives and to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Member State territories to which the Treaties apply.</p> <p><small>*At the moment none of these Third Countries has signed agreements to participate in the programme</small></p>
Duration	There is no fixed duration, usually 2-5 years.
Budget	<p>EUR 44.26 million available for this call under this subprogramme The grant can be max 60% of eligible costs</p> <p>There is no fixed minimum size for project budgets (in the past from EUR 5 million to EUR 500 000). Large-scale 'flagship projects' with a budget of EUR 1.5 million, or more if duly justified based on their replicability and transferability potential, are strongly encouraged. Large-scale projects will help reaching sufficient scale and therefore enhance visibility and increase the chances of triggering replication of the same/similar measures. LIFE+ Information and Communication projects have historically</p>

	<p>tended to have lower overall budgets than other LIFE projects. Applicants for Climate Action Information and Governance projects are therefore advised to ensure that the scale (and the budget) of the proposed actions is sufficiently large to ensure that the project achieves meaningful results with a significant EU added value.</p> <p>Moreover, where public bodies are involved as coordinating and/or associated beneficiaries in a project, the sum of their financial contributions to the project budget must exceed (<u>by at least 2%</u>) the sum of their salary costs charged to the project for personnel who are not considered 'additional' (permanent staff charged to the project).</p> <p>It is expected that the share of the project budget allocated to external assistance should remain <u>below 35%</u> of the total budget.</p> <p><u>The construction of large infrastructure</u> is considered beyond the scope of the LIFE Programme and will therefore not be supported. A project is considered to be dedicated to the construction of large infrastructure if the cost of a "single item of infrastructure" exceeds € 500,000. A "single item of infrastructures" means all elements as described in form F4a that are physically bound to ensure the functionality of the infrastructural investment (e.g. for an eco-duct the bridge, barriers, signposting, etc.)</p>
Deadlines	<p>16:00 Brussels local time on 16 October 2014 The earliest possible starting date for projects is 16 July 2015.</p>
How to apply	<p>Application is done through the eProposal system. The application tool contains all administrative (A), technical (B and C) and financial (F) forms required, and functionalities to attach relevant documents (maps, photos, diagrams, graphs, mandatory administrative and financial annexes)</p>
Evaluation criteria	<p>Projects under the sub-programme for Climate Action need to demonstrate a transformative impact on increased climate resilience and/or on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This should contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. It will be assessed at the level of the project itself and at the level of the potential of wider replication/transferability of the project's results achieved during the project or in a post-project stage.</p> <p>F. <u>Technical coherence and quality</u> (10-20) G. <u>Financial coherence and quality</u> (10-20) H. <u>EU added value:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extent and quality of the contribution to an increased climate resilience and/or to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (7-15) - extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action (7-15)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- quality of multipurpose, synergies, and integration (7-15)- replicability and transferability (5-10)- transnational, green procurement, uptake (0-5) <p>A project proposal has to reach at least the minimum pass score for each award criterion and also the sum of scores for criteria for which a minimum score has been fixed has to be equivalent to 55 points or more.</p>
Reference documents	<p>Website of the call where to download call documents</p> <p>Work plan 2014</p> <p>Orientation document</p> <p>Indications on priority themes</p>