

Life Programme

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value.

The LIFE Programme pursues the following general objectives:

- to contribute 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;
- to improve 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;
- to support better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors; and

LIFE is divided in two sub-programmes: Environment and Climate Action. Legal Persons (entities) registered in the European Union (EU) are invited to present proposals for the 2014 Call for proposals for LIFE Action Grants. The call covers proposals for both LIFE sub-programmes.

1. The sub-programme for Environment

The sub-programme for **Environment** covers the priority areas Environment and Resource Efficiency, Nature and Biodiversity, and Environmental Governance and Information. Each of the priority areas covers several thematic priorities.

The action grants covered by Environment will include:

1.1 "Traditional" projects, with the following priority areas:

- LIFE Nature & Biodiversity
- LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency
 - a) Thematic priorities for Water, including the marine environment
 - b) Thematic priorities for Waste
 - c) Thematic priorities for Resource Efficiency, including soil and forests, and green and circular economy
 - d) Thematic priorities for Environment and Health, including chemicals and noise
 - e) Thematic priorities for Air quality and emissions, including urban environment
- LIFE Environmental Governance & Information

Deadline: 16 October 2014

1.2 Preparatory projects address specific needs for the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation.

Deadline: 29 October 2014

1.3. Integrated projects are projects implementing on a large territorial scale (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 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.

Deadline: Phase I, concept note 10 October 2014

Deadline: Phase II, full proposal April 2015

1.4. Technical Assistance projects provide, by way of action grants, financial support to help applicants prepare integrated projects.

Deadline: 15 September 2014

1.5. Capacity Building projects provide financial support to 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.

Deadline: on a rolling basis until 30 September 2015

2 The sub-programme for Climate Action

The sub-programme for Climate Action offers a new and unique opportunity to support the implementation of the EU's climate policy. Overall, it will help induce transitional change towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in the EU, strategically underpinning the implementation of the 2020 climate and energy package and the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change, and prepare the EU for the climate action challenges until 2030. It should also support better climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors.

The action grants covered by Climate Action will include:

1. "**Traditional**" projects, with the following priority areas:

- **LIFE Climate Change Mitigation** which will co-finance action grants for best practice, pilot and demonstration projects that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; that 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; that improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective climate change mitigation actions and measures and that enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice; that facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for climate change mitigation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level; and that contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative climate change mitigation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.
- **LIFE Climate Change Adaptation** which will co-finance action grants for best practice, pilot and demonstration projects that contribute to supporting efforts leading to increased resilience to climate change; that 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; that 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; that 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; and that 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.

- **LIFE Climate Governance and Information** which will co-finance action grants for information, awareness and dissemination projects that 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; that 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; and that 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.

Deadline: 16 October 2014

2. **Capacity Building** projects providing financial support to 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.

Deadline: on a rolling basis until 30 September 2015

Proposals may be submitted by legal persons (entities) registered in the EU. Applicants may fall into three types of beneficiaries: (1) public bodies, (2) private commercial organisations and (3) private non-commercial organisations (including NGOs).

For further information and support concerning your participation in LIFE Programme, please contact **Ms Ioanna Garefi** at garefi@systasi-consulting.gr, Tel: +30 2311 999939, +30 2311 999938

Official Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>