

LIFE + :

An overview



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LIFE+: An overview

- Presentation of the LIFE+ instrument
- Presentation of the three LIFE+ strands
- LIFE+ application procedure
- LIFE+ in Greece: Results of 2007 and 2008 calls



LIFE + : General Objectives

LIFE co-finances environmental actions that...

“contribute to the implementation, updating and development of Community environmental policy and legislation, including the integration of the environment into other policies, thereby contributing to sustainable development. In particular, LIFE+ shall support the implementation of the 6th EAP, including the thematic strategies, and finance measures and projects with European added value in Member States”



LIFE phases & budgets

Launched in 1992:

- LIFE I (1992-1995): €400 million
- LIFE II (1996-1999): €450 million
- LIFE III (2000-2004): €640 million
- LIFE III Extension (2005-2006): €317 million
- **LIFE + (2007-2013): €2.143 billion**



LIFE+

Duration: 1.1.2007 to 31.12.2013

=> 7 annual calls for proposals

Budget: €2.143 billion

- at least **78%** of LIFE+ for the co-financing of project action grants
 - at least 50% of this amount is for nature and biodiversity projects
- up to **22%** for operational expenses of DG Environment



Complementarity

LIFE+ “shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria and main scope of, or receive assistance from, other Community financial instruments”

Article 10

LIFE+ strands

Is a limited but focused funding instrument.
It comprises 3 components:

LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity

LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance

LIFE+ Information & Communication

Remark: A project can contribute to the specific objectives of more than one of these 3 components !

LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity

LIFE+ Nature: ***best-practice projects or demonstration projects*** for implementing the objectives of the EU Birds directive 79/409/EEC and of the EU habitats directive 92/43/EEC, including the Natura 2000 network of sites

LIFE+ Biodiversity: ***innovative projects or demonstration projects*** for implementing certain objectives of the Commission Communication *COM (2006) 216 final* on halting the loss of biodiversity



LIFE + Nature and Biodiversity: Specific Objectives

- to contribute to the **implementation of Community policy** and legislation on nature and biodiversity (Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC) and to support the further development of the Natura 2000 network;
- to contribute to the **consolidation of the knowledge base** for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Community nature and biodiversity policy and legislation;
- to support the design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for the **monitoring and assessment of nature and biodiversity** and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on them, (special concerns: halting biodiversity loss, climate change);
- to provide support for **better environmental governance** by broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of NGOs, in consultations on, and the implementation of, nature and biodiversity policy and legislation.



LIFE+ Nature: comments

- **focus on:**
 - sustainable long-term investments in Natura 2000 sites
 - conservation actions for species targeted by the Birds and Habitats directives
 - **projects must be “best practice” or “demonstration”**
- **co-financing rate 50% (but up to 75% when clearly targeting priority species or habitats)**
- **land purchase is possible**
- **at least 20% of the project budget should be allocated to “concrete conservation actions”**
- **recurring conservation management actions** for species, habitats and Natura 2000 sites are **ineligible**



LIFE+ Biodiversity: comments

- focus on:
 - **"innovative" and/or "demonstration"** measures for enhancing biodiversity in both terrestrial and marine areas, without regard to the Natura 2000 status
 - **simple implementation of "best practice" is not sufficient**
- actions must be **different from and have an added value compared to** those in Natura 2000 network
- the maximum **EC co-financing rate** for projects under this heading is **50%**
- **land purchase is ineligible**
- **at least 20% of the project budget should be allocated to "concrete conservation actions"**
- scope includes French overseas departments



LIFE+ Nature or Biodiversity?

LIFE+ Nature	LIFE+ Biodiversity
<i>objectives of the birds and habitats directives</i>	<i>not restricted to the birds and habitats directives</i>
<i>best practice or demonstration</i>	<i>innovation or demonstration</i>
<i>long-term sustainability of conservation measures</i>	<i>demonstrating the feasibility of new or innovative measures in the short term</i>
<i>land purchase and long-term lease or compensation eligible</i>	<i>only short term lease or compensation are eligible</i>
<i>Infrastructure and equipment costs eligible at 100%</i>	<i>Infrastructure and equipment costs partially eligible (depreciation)</i>



LIFE+ Env Policy & Governance: Specific Objectives

The specific objective of **LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance** is:

- (a) to contribute to the development and **demonstration of innovative** policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments;
- (b) to contribute to **consolidating the knowledge base** for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policy and legislation;
- (c) to support the design and implementation of approaches to **monitoring and assessment** of the state of the environment and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on it;
- (d) to facilitate the **implementation of Community environmental policy**, with particular emphasis on implementation at local and regional level;
- (e) to provide support for **better environmental governance** by broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation.



LIFE+ Env Policy & Governance

- **14 Priority objectives:**
 - climate change, water, air, soil, urban environment, noise, chemicals, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests, innovations, strategic approaches, governance, NGO
 - Each priority objective comprises one or several priority areas of action (see Annex II for more details)
- **co-financing rate: 50%**



LIFE+ Info. & communication: Main Objective

“Ensuring regular and **effective information flow** to provide the basis **for policy decisions** on the environment, including forest fires, and to provide accessible information **to citizens** on the state and trends of the environment”.



LIFE+ Info. & communication

- **Priority areas of action:**
Disseminating information, ecolabelling, raising awareness and develop specific skills on environmental issues, including forest fire prevention.
- **co-financing rate: 50%**



Application procedure

- countries' eligibility
- division of tasks / application procedure
- project selection procedure



LIFE+: countries eligibility (Art. 9)

- **Only EU27 at present**
- Participation of Third countries possible if additional Community funding made available
- Third countries to benefit IF additional funding:
EFTA (if EEA members), EU Candidate countries,
Western Balkan countries of the Stabilisation and
Association Process



Division of tasks

Commission:

organises annual call for proposals, selects, revises and monitors projects, with help of

- (a) external experts for the selection and revision of proposals
- (b) external monitoring teams for monitoring of ongoing projects

Member States:

- (a) forward all project proposals to the Commission
- (b) set national priorities and objectives (from 2008 onwards)
- (c) prepare comments on proposals (in particular in relation to national annual priorities)



LIFE+ project selection

- Based on technical and financial quality, EU added value and consistency with the Regulation
- Takes account of:
 - National priorities (except for 2007)
 - Member States' comments
- Is in accordance with indicative national financial allocations and 50% threshold for LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity
- Endeavours to include transnational projects



Project selection process: 2009

Publication of the 2009 call for proposals	15 May 2009
Workshop for potential applicants (by the EC in each Member State)	May to September 2009
Deadline for applicants to send proposals to Member States' authorities	15 September 2009
Deadline for Member States to send proposals to the Commission	22 October 2009
Evaluation and revision	October 2009 to June 2010
Announcement of project selection	July-August 2010



LIFE+: 2007 and 2008

2007 call

Number of approved proposals:	143
Total budget of approved proposals:	€367 M
EU contribution:	€186 M

2008 call

Number of approved proposals:	196
Total budget of approved proposals:	€431 M
EU contribution:	€207,5 M



Greece - Cyprus: LIFE+ 07 and 08 projects

	Greece 2007	Greece 2008	GR-Total No. of projects	Cyprus 2007	Cyprus 2008	CY-Total No. of projects
NAT	4	2	6	--	1	1
ENV	6	11	17	1	4	5
INF	--	2	2	--	--	0
Total for country	10	15	25	1	5	6
All EU	143	196	339	143	196	339



Greece: LIFE+ 07 and 08 Results

Greece	GR: Total investment	Total EU investment	Total EU funding
Total 2007	18,4 M	367 M	186 M
NAT	10,3 M		94 M
ENV	8,1 M		84 M
INF	--		8 M
Total 2008	22,4 M	431 M	207,5 M
NAT	3,4 M		107,5 M
ENV	16,8 M		90 M
INF	2,2 M		10 M



Greece 2007 - 2008: themes of successful proposals

- ❖ Forests
- ❖ Waste and natural resources
- ❖ Habitats protection and biodiversity
- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Alternative energy sources (Biofuels, agricultural residues)
- ❖ Soil
- ❖ Pesticides



For further reference....

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>