



Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Call for proposals

LIFE Preparatory Projects
Projects addressing ad hoc Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP)

(LIFE-2025-PLP)

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**EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)**
CINEA.D – Natural Resources, Climate, Sustainable Blue Economy and Clean Energy
CINEA.D.1 – LIFE Energy + LIFE Climate
CINEA.D.2 – LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** under the **Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))¹
- the basic act (LIFE Regulation [2021/783](#))².

The call is launched in accordance with the 2025-2027 Multiannual Work Programme³ and will be managed by the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('Agency').

The call covers the following **funding topics**:

- **Topic 1: LIFE-2025-PLP-ENER — Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the field of Clean Energy Transition**
- **Topic 2: LIFE-2025-PLP-NAT-ENV — Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the fields of Nature & Biodiversity and Circular Economy & Quality of Life**
- **Topic 3: LIFE-2025-PLP-URBAN - Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP) for the green transition in Urban spaces**

Each project application under the call must address only one of these topics. Applicants wishing to apply for more than one topic, must submit a separate proposal under each topic.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call document](#) outlines the:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
 - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
 - award criteria (section 9)

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

² Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) (OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 53).

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2025)955 of 15 April 2025 on the financing of the LIFE Programme and the adoption of the work programme for the years 2025 to 2027.

- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- how to submit an application (section 11)
- the Online Manual outlines the:
 - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
 - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
 - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

You are also encouraged to visit the [LIFE database](#) to consult the list of projects funded previously. For the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme, projects funded previously (under the Horizon 2020 programme) can be found on the [CORDIS website](#).

1. Background

What is the LIFE Programme?

The LIFE Programme is the EU Programme for Environment and Climate Action.

As such, it is one of the key contributors to the European Green Deal⁴ which aims to:

- transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use and
- protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment and climate related risks and impacts.

The LIFE Programme will contribute to these priorities through its four sub-programmes in particular by:

- boosting and integrating the implementation of the EU's policy objectives for halting and reversing loss of wildlife habitats and species across all sectors
- supporting the transition to a circular economy and protecting and improving the quality of EU's natural resources, including air, soil and water among others
- supporting implementation of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework, the EU's climate neutrality objective by 2050, and the new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change and
- building capacity, stimulating investments and supporting implementation of policies focused on energy efficiency and small-scale renewables.

The LIFE Programme is structured in two fields and four sub-programmes (described in more detail below):

Environment:

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The European Green Deal (COM [\(2019\)640](#) final).

- sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity
- sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Climate Action:

- sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- sub-programme Clean Energy Transition.

Nature and Biodiversity

In line with the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme as set out in Article 3(2) of the LIFE Regulation, the sub-programme “Nature and Biodiversity” aims:

- to develop, demonstrate, promote and stimulate the scale up of innovative techniques, methods and approaches (including nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches) for reaching the objectives set out under the Union legislation and policy on or related to nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network;
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy on or related to nature and biodiversity, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing the capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society, also taking into due consideration the possible contributions provided by citizen science⁵;
- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions/approaches for implementing relevant Union legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

LIFE has been a key tool supporting the implementation of the EU Birds⁶ and Habitats⁷ Directives since 1992 and has been instrumental and, in some cases crucial, to ensure the establishment of the Natura 2000 network.

The Nature Directives' fitness check⁸, the Action plan for nature, people, and the economy⁹ as well as the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030¹⁰ underline the need to increase funding for nature and biodiversity.

The sub-programme covers two priority areas:

⁵ Scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions.

⁶ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7)

⁷ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

⁸ Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2016) 472 final of 16 December 2016 ‘Fitness-check of the EU Nature Legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives) Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora’ (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Fitness-check of the Birds and Habitats Directives’).

⁹ Communication COM(2017) 198 final of 27 April 2017 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions ‘An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy’.

¹⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions ‘The European Green Deal’ (COM/2019/640 final).

1. EU Nature and Biodiversity,
2. Awareness raising, compliance assurance and access to justice related to nature and biodiversity legislation.

Circular Economy and Quality of Life

The specific objectives of the sub-programme “Circular Economy and Quality of Life” are:

- to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of Union legislation and policy on environment, and to contribute to the knowledge base and, where relevant, to the application of best practices;
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

This sub-programme covers three priority areas:

1. Circular economy and waste,
2. Zero pollution and sustainable management of natural resources
3. Environmental governance.

This sub-programme aims at facilitating the transition toward a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy, a toxic-free environment and at protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the environment in line with the European Green Deal and recent policy developments.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The specific objectives of the sub-programme “Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation” are:

- to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of Union legislation and policy on climate action and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices;
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of relevant Union legislation and policy on climate action, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing relevant Union legislation and policy on climate action by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

This sub-programme will support the implementation of the European Green Deal by contributing to the objectives and targets set out in the European Climate Law¹¹: the goal for Europe's economy and society to become climate-neutral by 2050; the intermediate Union climate target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030; the 2040 Union climate target that the Commission should propose within six months of the first global stock take carried out under the Paris Agreement¹²; and the obligation for Union institutions and Member States to ensure continuous progress in enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, in line with the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change¹³.

The sub-programme covers three priority areas:

1. Climate Change Mitigation,
2. Climate Change Adaptation,
3. Climate Change Governance and Information.

Clean Energy Transition

The specific objectives of the sub-programme "Clean Energy Transition" are the following:

- to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative regulatory, governance and market-oriented techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of Union legislation and policy on the clean, sustainable and just energy transition by upscaling renewable energy solutions and increasing energy efficiency, and contributing to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices;
- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of relevant Union legislation and policy on the clean, sustainable, and just energy transition upscaling renewable energy solutions and increasing energy efficiency, including by improving governance at all levels, by enhancing capacities of public and private actors, by assisting and engaging citizens and the involvement of civil society, and by structuring the market to enable and foster the uptake of energy transition technologies;
- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions supporting cross-European actions integrating market and regulatory approaches able to favour the implementation of relevant Union legislation and objectives on the clean, sustainable, and just energy transition upscaling renewable energy solutions and increasing energy efficiency, by replicating results and successful best practices, by mobilising investment, upscaling the use of financial instruments and improving access to finance, and by fostering cross-sectoral business cooperations, public-private partnerships and activities of EU cross-border market actors.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 ('European Climate Law'), OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1–17.

¹² On 6 February 2024, the Commission recommended reducing the EU's net greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 relative to 1990 in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Securing our future - Europe's 2040 climate target and path to climate neutrality by 2050 building a sustainable, just and prosperous society', COM/2024/63 final.

¹³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change', COM/2021/82 final.

This sub-programme aims at facilitating the transition toward an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy by funding mainly Coordination and Support Actions (CSA). These actions aim at capacity building, at dissemination of information and of knowledge, and at awareness-raising to support the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency. They support breaking market barriers that hamper the socio-economic transition to sustainable energy, typically engaging multiple small and medium-size stakeholders, including but not limited to local and regional public authorities, non-profit organisations, energy services companies and utilities, project developers, net-zero technologies manufacturers, financial institutions, professional organisations, consumers associations and citizens initiatives.

The sub-programme covers five priority areas:

1. Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition
2. Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market for the clean energy transition
3. Attracting private finance for sustainable energy
4. Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects
5. Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition

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

The topics under this call for proposals concern LIFE Other Action Grants (OAGs).

Other Actions may include:

- Coordination and Support Actions (CSA);
- Other Projects, including Projects addressing ad hoc Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP projects);

Due to their specific nature, Other Actions are typically more prescriptive in the calls for proposals than bottom-up calls (such as for SAPs), where the identification of needs and possible solutions is in the remit of the applicants.

Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)

Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) are designed to support the implementation of specific EU policies in the different eligible countries and at EU level and are aimed at capacity building, dissemination of information and knowledge, and awareness-raising to support the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency. They support breaking market barriers that hamper the socio-economic transition toward a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy. The main focus is on the coordination and support to local, national and European stakeholders, public, private and civil actors, to build capacity for the effective implementation of the transition.

CSAs can fund activities such as capacity building, dissemination of information and knowledge, awareness raising, development and adaptation of the policy frameworks, policy dialogues, market monitoring, data gathering, standardization, accelerating technology roll-out and digitalisation, developing new services and business models, ensuring the availability of skilled workers, attracting private finance, developing

investment plans, supporting the development of local and regional investment projects, involving and empowering citizens.

CSAs focus on the non-technological barriers to the transition. They are not designed to fund technology development or demonstration projects.

CSA grants may be directly awarded to identified beneficiaries in duly specified cases.

The maximum funding rate for CSAs is 95%. The priorities for the CSA proposals are defined in the specific calls for proposals.

Other Projects

Other Projects may include:

- Policy and Legislative Priority Projects addressing specific Union priorities (PLP projects). PLP projects follow a top-down approach in consideration of their potential to address the challenges relating to the political momentum and to the EU legislative landscape. They are defined on an annual basis, following a consultation with the Member States and the third countries associated to the LIFE Programme.
- Action grants benefitting the organisations mentioned in Annex I of the LIFE Regulation (see also point 2 of section 4.3 below);
- Other specific projects financed according to Article 195 of the Financial Regulation to support EU policies related to environment, climate action and energy fields to be identified during the implementation of this work programme.

Under this call, proposals may be submitted only to address the specific needs described in the section below under the three funding topics:

- **Topic 1: LIFE-2025-PLP-ENER — Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the field of Clean Energy Transition**
- **Topic 2: LIFE-2025-PLP-NAT-ENV — Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the fields of Nature & Biodiversity and Circular Economy & Quality of Life**
- **Topic 3: LIFE-2025-PLP-URBAN - Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP) for the green transition in Urban spaces**

Topic 1 - LIFE-2025-PLP-ENER — Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the field of Clean Energy Transition

The proposed projects under the funding topic LIFE-2025-PLP-ENER shall aim to address the following specific needs identified by the Member States in the sub-programme Clean Energy Transition.

The contracting authority expects to award only 1 grant under this funding topic.

Real world energy consumption of energy-related products

Sub-Programme	Clean Energy Transition
Objectives	<p>Harmonised standards are not always representative of actual energy consumption in real-life conditions. Evaluating the impacts of EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations following these standards can lead to overestimations, as pointed out in the 2020 European Court of Auditors ecodesign and energy labelling audit.</p> <p>To address this, the topic aims to improve understanding of the actual impacts of EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations and facilitate the implementation of related test methods that reflect better product use in real life, in terms of energy consumption and, when appropriate, pollutant emissions. In addition, actual energy consumption data would inform on the one hand future reviews of ecodesign and energy labelling rules, while providing added value for preparatory studies. On the other hand, it would also contribute to improving the ecodesign impact accounting model utilised for reporting the impacts of these rules.</p>
Scope (including project duration and consortium requirement)	<p>Proposals should set-up and implement in-situ measurement campaigns to capture the actual energy consumption, or energy efficiency where relevant, in EU households and to better understand the determinants of energy use for the selected products. Data collected should be statistically analysed and policy recommendations formulated on the related EU ecodesign and energy labelling rules, calculation methods and standards. Proposals should build on relevant studies, including on the recommendations from the JRC technical report¹⁴.</p> <p>The following aspects should be taken into account for the measurement campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product selection: while multi-product monitoring would be preferable, an appropriate balance should be sought between the number of samples, geographical focus and the range of

¹⁴ Castellazzi L., Dupret M., Bertoldi P., Methods to capture actual energy savings due to the implementation of minimum energy performance standards (MEPSs) under the EU Ecodesign, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023 <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130994>.

products selected. Priority should be placed on products which are simple to measure and relevant for policymaking, including displays, household refrigerators and cooking appliances, considering also their expected overall energy consumption. Monitoring instruments of adequate precision should be installed, but the use of existing and embedded meters would be also possible, if their precision is known or can be established.

- **Sample and geographic focus:** a representative sample and a good geographical spread among EU Member States should be ensured; depending on the products selected, different climatic zones, socio-economic, cultural, and other aspects should be considered.
- **Duration:** 36 months (indicatively), based on relevant criteria, including the intrusive character of testing from the household's perspective, the effect of seasonality on products considered, cost/benefit, the possibility to rotate monitoring among households etc.
- **Appropriate determinants** influencing energy use of the selected products should be investigated (e.g. thermostat settings of a refrigerator, functions aiming to optimise consumption) and other relevant data should be collected, such as the model identifier, energy class and corresponding product information (e.g. information sheet, technical documentation), as applicable. Consideration could also be given to registering user patterns/ significant user interactions and observations in a logbook (e.g. refrigerator door-openings).

Particular attention should be paid to ensuring a sufficient household engagement and retention, including to factors that could influence this, such as the type of products selected (e.g. plug-in domestic appliances compared to other products requiring expert installation), data protection issues etc.

Proposals should involve a consortium with multidisciplinary expertise and resources, including on technical aspects (e.g. installing equipment, with remote accessibility, and capacity to tackle on-site issues, such as malfunctions), household engagement, statistical evaluation.

Relevant stakeholders necessary for the successful implementation of the action should be involved, including consumer or other relevant civil society organisations at the European or national level. Access to experts with technical knowledge on the concerned products, regulations and standards as well as the wider legal framework will be necessary.

Consortium requirement

Proposals must be submitted **by at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries.**

Expected results and impacts

Proposals submitted under this topic should present the concrete results which will be delivered by the activities, and demonstrate how these results will contribute to the topic-specific objectives and impacts. This should include a detailed analysis of the starting point and a set of well-substantiated assumptions, and establish clear causality links between the results and the expected impacts. Specifically, proposals submitted under this topic should demonstrate how they will contribute to understanding better the actual impacts of EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations.

Proposals should quantify their results and impacts using the indicators provided for the topic when they are relevant for the proposed activities. They should also propose indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. Proposals are not expected to address all the listed impacts and indicators. The expected results and impacts should be quantified for the end of the project and for 5 years after the end of the project.

The indicators for this topic include:

- Total amount of energy represented by the monitored product categories and the corresponding CO₂-eq amount.
- Improved information on actual typical energy consumption available for a range of selected EU household products (e.g. including product type, geographical spread, conditions of use, where relevant).
- Identifying better the real-life determinants of the energy consumption for the selected products.
- Identifying options for improvements (e.g. requirements, measurement and calculation methods) in ecodesign and energy labelling legislation and related harmonised standards, as applicable, with a view of better taking into account real life conditions (without losing in terms of reliability or reproducibility of the methods).

Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution

Maximum funding rate: 90%

Maximum EU contribution: The Commission considers that proposals requesting an EU contribution of up to EUR 2 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

The contracting authority intends to select one single proposal under this topic.

Topic 2 - LIFE-2025-PLP-NAT-ENV — Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the fields of Nature & Biodiversity and Circular Economy & Quality of Life

The proposed seven (7) specific priorities under the topic LIFE-2025-PLP-NAT-ENV shall aim to address the following specific needs identified by the Member States in the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life and in the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity.

The contracting authority expects to award only 1 grant per specific priority.

1. Strengthening foresters’ skills in biodiversity friendly forest management

Sub-Programme	Nature and Biodiversity
Objectives	<p>The main objective of this project is to strengthen foresters’ skills and expertise in biodiversity friendly forest management practices in line with the EU Forest Strategy for 2030.</p> <p>The Forest Strategy for 2030 includes a dedicated work strand on developing skills and empowering people for a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy. This includes also the Commission’s commitment to <i>“build a toolkit to help Member States to establish life-long programs and advice to foresters and adapt education and training to the challenges and needs of today’s forest needs and realities”</i>. The Commission has launched a study which will underpin the development of this toolkit with an EU wide gap analysis and recommendations for education and training curricula. Together with the study, it is expected that the proposed project will feed the preparation of the toolkit.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project shall promote the uptake of the Commission guidelines on biodiversity friendly forest management practices that published in 2023 and support the application of biodiversity friendly forest management practices to enhance forest biodiversity in line with the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR).</p> <p>Restoring and conserving forest biodiversity inter alia through the promotion of biodiversity friendly forest management is a cornerstone of the EU Forest Strategy for 2030 to ensure resilient forests for the benefit of the environment, society and economy.</p> <p>At present, experience and expertise in such practices varies among and within the EU Member States, ranging from common practice since decades to being rather unknown and untested. This is echoed also by the varying degree of thematic inclusion in existing academic and vocational training programmes for foresters in the EU Member States.</p> <p>Beyond contributing to the delivery of the Commission’s commitment to forestry training and skills under the EU Forest Strategy, it is expected that the proposed project will contribute to the successful implementation</p>

of several other work strands in relation to the EU Biodiversity and Forest Strategies for 2030.

First, it shall promote the uptake of the Commission guidelines on biodiversity friendly forest management practices that DG ENV published in 2023 (i.e. on closer to nature forest management, biodiversity friendly afforestation and reforestation and on monitoring, mapping and protection old-growth and primary forests). The guidelines have been received with great interest in some EU MS and parts of the forester community as demonstrated by the numerous invitations to present the guidelines in various events including training sessions for practitioners and the inclusion or reference to the guidelines in forest planning, stakeholder websites and articles in dedicated journals. At the same time, the need for bringing them into local contexts, for example through dedicated practical trainings or practical guidance has been raised repeatedly together with the growing recognition in theory and practice that promoting forest biodiversity will be key for ensuring forest resilience.

Second, it shall contribute to the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR). The NRR obliges Member States to enhance forest biodiversity and identifies a series of biodiversity friendly forest management practices for inclusion in the National restoration plans that Member States are to establish.

Third, it shall aim to empower forest owners and managers to benefit from nature credits or carbon farming credits in forests and therefore strengthen the development of respective markets. Both, the draft forest methodology under the CRCF regulation and the forest certification pilot for nature credits in preparation refer to the implementation of biodiversity friendly forest management practices in line with the respective Commission guidelines.

Reference documentation

- [New EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#)
- [Nature Restoration Regulation](#)
- [Guidelines on Closer-to-Nature Forest Management](#)
- [Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting](#)
- [Guidelines for Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary and Old-Growth Forests](#)

Scope

The activities that can be funded are the following:

1. A preliminary identification of training needs among relevant actors on biodiversity friendly forest management, at national or regional scale, in line with the EU's forest biodiversity ambitions;
 2. Based on the identification of training needs:
-

-
- a. The organisation and execution of trainings including through field trips and courses (online or in-person);
 - b. The preparation and distribution of training manuals in English, French, and German.

Applicants should have an expert understanding in biodiversity friendly forest management and a proven track record in respective training activities. Applicants should also have a good understanding of the wider EU forest policy context.

Expected results and impacts

It is expected that the specific project awarded in the framework of this call will have a substantial support to policy and legislative implementation in particular in terms of:

- Promoting the recognition and awareness of biodiversity friendly forest management;
- Increasing foresters' capacity to translate the EU's forest biodiversity ambition into practice on the ground;
- Strengthening support for EU biodiversity policy by key actors and stakeholders;
- Supporting the further development of relevant academic and vocational education opportunities;
- Exchanging and developing best practices in forest education and training between relevant actors.

Minimum expected results are:

- A report on training needs, challenges and opportunities for biodiversity friendly forest management;
 - Training manuals for biodiversity friendly forest management in English, French, and German;
 - Guidelines on organising and implementing field trips and courses for biodiversity friendly forest management.
-

Specific consortium requirements

The applicant must be either forest agencies, administrations and/or forest organisations covering directly and/or through their membership at least two- third of the EU Member States.

Expected project duration

36 months

Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution

Maximum funding rate: 90%

Maximum EU contribution: EUR 1.0 million

2. New European Bauhaus - Supporting local strategies for an efficient and balanced use of space towards sustainable, beautiful and inclusive neighbourhoods.

Sub-Programme

Environment

Objective

Background

Sufficiency, in the context of buildings and construction, refers to the potential of purposefully redistributing, leveraging and managing existing built spaces as a valuable resource, prioritising the use of the existing, vacant building stock before constructing new buildings.

Adaptability, in the context of buildings and construction, refers to the ability of a structure to accommodate changes over time with minimal effort, cost, and disruption. This means designing buildings that can easily adjust to new functions, technologies, user needs, or environmental conditions without requiring demolition but rather based on renovation and repurposing.

The report on “Sufficiency in the building sector – for the EU Whole Life Carbon”, confirms that new construction is an emission hotspot, and that adopting sufficiency policies in the building sector could effectively address the climate, environmental and housing crises all at once. By prioritising the use of the existing building stock before constructing new buildings, sufficiency emphasises the potential of purposefully redistributing, leveraging and managing existing built spaces as a valuable resource, which has so far remained untapped to a large extent.

The report also reveals a considerable potential for utilising vacant and underused building space; if done correctly, this would lead to whole life carbon emissions lower than those of new buildings.

There are **challenges to the implementation of sufficiency and adaptability measures**. For example, the (1) limited capacity within public administrations (to manage projects, use databases, inform, or fund), (2) unattractive taxation regimes, tenancy regulations, or policies, (3) high adaptation costs and operational costs for old buildings, (4) limited mapping of vacant buildings, or (5) the diversity of the EU built territory (weather, building techniques, available materials, regulation, etc.).

Objective

Sufficiency and adaptation of buildings and spaces is a new area of work in the European Commission. This **call aims to showcase with examples and data** that would help confirm the conclusions of the report and demonstrate ways forward that can be replicated in other areas of the EU and beyond.

This call is made in synergy with the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative and will contribute to the Roll-Out component of the NEB Facility. It is also relevant in the context of the Affordable Housing initiative.

The outcomes of the call will be relevant in the context of the European Green Deal, as well as for future calls under Cohesion Policy and Recovery and Resilience Facilities type instrument.

Reference documentation

Report on “[Sufficiency in the building sector – for the EU Whole Life Carbon](#)” – DG ENV – August 2024

Level(s) - European framework for sustainable buildings : Level(s) provides a common language for assessing and reporting on the sustainability performance of buildings. It is an entry point for applying circular economy principles in our built environment. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/levels_en. In particular, macro objectives 1 and 2 can serve as inspiration.

The [NEB Toolbox](#) provides a collection of case studies on participatory practices to support public authorities in the implementation of NEB projects.

The [NEB EIB Investment Guidelines](#)—developed in partnership with the European Investment Bank—illustrate with concrete recommendations how public and private investments can integrate the values promoted by the NEB to transform the built environment. Chapters 2 (2.2.4, 2.3.4), and 4 can best support municipalities.

The [NEB Self-Assessment Method and Handbook](#) allow for a detailed and scientific assessment of an architectural project's alignment with NEB criteria.

Skills are a crucial and strategic element of the NEB initiative. NEB has launched the [NEB Academy on skills for sustainable construction](#).

Scope

This specific priority aims to support at least four small and medium sized municipalities from the eligible countries (see section 6) in setting-up individual short/medium-term plans for providing quality affordable housing through the transformation of existing building stocks and spaces in urban, peri-urban and rural neighbourhoods focusing on **sufficiency and adaptability** measures.

The plans should identify projects and present their intervention logic, expected impacts, the stakeholders to be involved and credible pathways for their financing and implementation. The proposed project would support carrying out comprehensive architectural and technical assessments for adaptability and land optimization, as well as activities

that promote replication, demonstration, and transferability of project results at larger scale.

The concrete output of the project would be a report including four qualitative, place-based tested transformation strategies following the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus, a pilot demonstration, a transferable and replicable methodology to other medium-size municipalities; as well as an improvement of the capacities of the relevant actors involved, eventually through training offers that can be further shared with other project developers.

The strategies would be fed by seminars with the relevant stakeholders, and a study with architectural and technical assessments of existing building stocks and spaces in neighbourhoods.

Each of the local authorities included in the consortium shall demonstrate advanced project ideas to repurpose or retrofit existing buildings or public space.

In addition, the applicants must indicate a project coordinator overseeing the four city projects and coordinating the work. The engagement of other relevant actors for the application would be a plus.

Expected results and impacts

The expected result would translate into four qualitative, place-based transformation strategies following the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus (example of expected effects: limit urban sprawl, save resources, increase affordability of housing, preserve and upgrade existing buildings, diversify housing supply, etc), and an improvement of the capacity of the relevant actors. Regarding the latter, the applicants shall present how they work with data (e.g. what indicators do they use, how do they monitor them, what kind of a registry or similar do they use).

During the project, it is expected that the participating municipalities shall promote mutual learning and exchange of information between them. The project would also result in the identification of legislation, rules, and norms that present barriers for sufficiency and/or adaptability of buildings, both at national and local levels and possible solutions to overcome them.

The selected project will be encouraged to share their learnings with the New European Bauhaus Community and the NEB Cohesion Policy Community of Practice, and where relevant to work with the New European Bauhaus hub for results and impact.

Specific consortium requirements

The consortium shall include at least four small and medium-size local authorities ¹⁵, from four different EU eligible countries.

¹⁵ with an indicative number of inhabitants below 100,000 - information would be checked on the official national statistical office websites.

Expected project duration	24 months
Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution	Maximum funding rate: 90% Maximum EU contribution: EUR 4 million

3. Strengthening the fight against environmental crime in the EU and supporting the implementation of the new Environmental Crime Directive

Sub-Programme	Environment
Objective	<p>Background</p> <p>Environmental crime is one of the world’s most profitable organised criminal activities and has a major impact not only on the environment but also on human health. It is a growing concern causing significant and lasting damage to habitats and species, citizens’ health and the economy within and beyond the EU. It is highly lucrative, but it is hard to detect, prosecute and punish. These factors make it highly attractive for organised crime groups.</p> <p>The new Environmental Crime Directive (also ‘ECD’) was adopted on 11 April 2024, supporting the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing the 2008 Environmental Crime Directive¹. To address the shortcomings of the 2008 Directive, which established the first common EU framework in this field but that in practice was not effective enough, this new Directive provides a comprehensive and up-to-date list of environmental offences addressing the most serious breaches of environmental obligations stemming out from EU environmental law. It introduces several new offence categories, such as unlawful ship recycling, unlawful water abstraction, serious breaches of EU chemicals and mercury legislation, dealing unlawfully with fluorinated greenhouse gases, and serious breaches of legislation on invasive alien species. In addition, Member States will be obliged to establish qualified offences, subject to more severe penalties where one of the offences defined in the Directive leads to serious widespread and substantial damage or the destruction of the environment. Furthermore, the Directive defines concrete types and levels of penalties for natural and legal persons, a big step forward to ensure a deterrent effect across the EU. The new rules also include provisions on strengthening the enforcement chain to combat environmental crime on the ground. By way of illustration, practitioners combating environmental offences shall have access to sufficient resources, effective and proportionate investigative tools, and appropriate training, as well as Member States shall establish appropriate measures to establish coordination and cooperation mechanisms within and between Member States. Member States have until 21 May 2026 to transpose the new rules into their national legal systems.</p>

Objective

Combatting environmental crime is of both political and legal importance (strengthening the rule of law). This Directive supports enforcement of EU environmental law, and enforcement including combating crimes is high in the agenda of the Commission for 2024-2029. In this context, relevant objectives include developing and establishing tools for enhancing specialisation, cooperation and communication between all the competent authorities within and between Member States involved in enforcement of environmental crime legislation.

Reference documentation

1. A [Guidance on combatting environmental crime and related infringements](#) was developed and published in 2018 under the Action Plan on Environmental Compliance and Governance. It supports the work of environmental inspectors, police officers, customs officers, prosecutors, judges, and others in combating environmental crime and related infringements. The Guidance gives insights on both environmental law breaches and non-environmental infringements, such as fraud, which are connected to environmental crime.
2. The [Impact Assessment Report](#) evaluating Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law. Such evaluation, finalised in 2020 and published in 2021, showed that the ECD established a common EU framework of key environmental crime categories, but that in practice it did not have an effect as it did not increase the number of convictions or the level of imposed sanctions in the Member States.
3. The [proposal](#) for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directive 2008/99/EC was published on 15 December 2021.

Scope

The list of activities and outputs to deliver under the project are described below. The project **must** include the following activities:

- a. Preparing training materials targeting enforcers specialized in preventing and combatting environmental crime (e.g., investigators, police officers, prosecutors and judges). The training materials shall target various actors of the enforcement chain in addressing the complexities of environmental crime; the training materials may provide general information on existing as well as new practices on combatting environmental crime. Guidance, also on methodologies, and possible related tools shall be the outcome of the training materials. Such materials shall be made available to the competent authorities who may need to
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deliver such training according to Article 18 of the new Environmental Crime Directive.

- b. Preparing a guidance document on factors to be considered for assessing individual crime categories covered by the new Environmental Crime Directive such as on whether the damage or likely damage is substantial, whether the conduct is likely to cause damage, and whether a quantity is negligible or non-negligible, as set out respectively in Article 3(6), Article 3(7) and Article 3(8) of the new Environmental Crime Directive.
- c. Preparing and providing a set of methodologies and / or tools to support the Member States' competent authorities to collect the statistical data as set out in Article 22 of the new Environmental Crime Directive.

Furthermore, the project **must also** cover at least three of the following activities, to the applicants' choice:

- a. Organising and delivering trainings to enforcers specialized in preventing and combatting environmental crime (e.g., investigators, police officers, prosecutors and judges) by using the training materials prepared under previous point (a), in support to competent authorities according to the Article 18 of the new Environmental Crime Directive.
 - b. Analysing the effectiveness of existing investigative tools, including the methodologies for their use, for combatting environmental crime in relation to Article 13 of the new Environmental Crime Directive.
 - c. Developing new practical investigative tools for environmental criminal offences (both on detection and investigation) in view of supporting competent authorities in relation to Article 13 of the new Environmental Crime Directive.
 - d. Preparing a guidance on earth observation techniques and other newest technologies (e.g. AI) for preventing and combatting individual environmental crime categories covered by the new Environmental Crime Directive, and ensuring compliance with EU environmental law.
 - e. Preparing guidance in support to competent authorities on defining and differentiating the scope of administrative and criminal law enforcement measures regarding environmental offences.
 - f. Organising workshops or conferences on supporting the implementation of the new Environmental Crime Directive or on
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combatting environmental crime overall, to identify and share best practices and useful information.

The material developed under the contract shall be in English, and translation in at least two other EU languages would be very appreciated to help country-specific practitioners using it. The material developed shall be in formats suitable for being accessible online. It shall also be suitable to fit in existing DG ENV² online platforms for ensuring the continuation of its use after the end of the contract (in case it will be decided to move such material on DG ENV online platforms).

The consortium may include EU networks of environmental practitioners, for example networks of prosecutors, inspectors, judges, police and other enforcement officers; competent authorities from EU Member States including at local level, private sector entities, universities and other academic institutions, and environmental NGOs.

Expected results and impacts

This project is expected to contribute to the fight against environmental crime in the EU producing concrete results in the work of enforcers and to support the implementation of the new Environmental Crime Directive. In specific, the project is expected to generate significant improvements in the detection, investigation, prosecution, and prevention of environmental crimes, directly contributing to the implementation of the new Environmental Crime Directive.

The development of training materials will strengthen the capabilities of all actors along the enforcement chain, ensuring that they are better equipped in addressing the complexities of environmental crime. The same result is expected for the development of practical investigative tools.

The guidance on factors to be considered for assessing individual crime categories will contribute to clarify certain concepts used in the Environmental Crime Directive, it will lead to more effective enforcement helping authorities investigate effectively environmental crime cases.

Furthermore, the developing and establishment of statistical data collection tools aim at supporting competent authorities in monitoring criminal activities related to environmental crime. Such data will be essential to collect accurate, consistent and comparable statistical data on environmental criminal offences.

The organisation of trainings with the aim of specialising enforcers will lead to increased detection and successful prosecution of offences, ultimately deterring environmental crime and promoting stronger compliance with environmental legislation.

The analysis of existing investigative tools will lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges linked to the detection

	<p>and investigation of environmental crime categories and it is aimed at overcoming such challenges.</p> <p>The guidance on earth observation techniques and other newest technologies (e.g., AI) will contribute to successful enforcement and enhance the ability to monitor, and therefore respond to environmental crime, leading to a reduction in harm and damage.</p> <p>Preparing a guidance on defining and differentiating the scope of administrative and criminal law enforcement measures is aimed at supporting competent authorities in ensuring an effective, integrated and coherent enforcement system. Although each Member State has a different legislative framework, such guidance will aim at facilitating the overall coordination of the administrative and criminal systems.</p> <p>By organizing workshops and conferences, the project will foster collaboration among stakeholders, facilitating the exchange of best practices and expertise. This will result in a more coordinated approach to combatting environmental crime across the EU.</p> <p>Overall, the project is expected to contribute to improving legal compliance, a more effective enforcement chain, and the development of a more robust framework for combatting environmental crimes at both national and EU levels. The materials which will be prepared will aim at providing guidance and sharing useful information and best practices among enforcers and competent authorities, and will provide an ongoing resource for knowledge dissemination and collaboration. The impacts of this project will contribute to a more consistent and effective prosecution of environmental crime and result in prevention of and reduction in environmental damage caused by environmental crimes. Ultimately, this project aims at contributing to safeguarding ecosystems, promoting environmental sustainability, and ensuring strengthening the environmental rule of law in the EU.</p>
Specific consortium requirement	The consortium must include at least one EU network of environmental practitioners (e.g., of prosecutors, inspectors, judges, police and other enforcement officers).
Expected project duration	30 months
Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution	Maximum funding rate: 90% Maximum EU contribution: EUR 1.5 million

4. Participation of consumer organisations and environmental NGOs in the implementation of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

Sub-Programme	Circular Economy and quality of life
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Objective

Background

A previous LIFE project ([LIFE23-PRE-BE-Ecodesigned4LIFE](#), ending in December 2026) aims to support the participation of consumer NGOs and other non-profit organisations and environmental NGOs in the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Consultation Forum¹⁶. Considering the success of this project in ensuring that civil society views were taken into account and integrated in the decision-making process, the present priority is to launch a similar but larger project to further support their participation on the following legislation.

ESPR repeals the Ecodesign Directive, and after a transition period, the Ecodesign Forum (expert group for ESPR¹⁷) will fully replace the Consultation Forum in the development of delegated acts and implementing acts for the new product groups. These types of organizations will need further funding to participate in and contribute to the new Ecodesign Forum.

The ESPR has a wide and ambitious scope, covering complex environmental requirements of products across their life cycle, hence support to ensure a balanced representation and participation of society in the expert group will be crucial. Because of the complexity and scope of the ESPR as compared with the old Ecodesign Directive, the views of civil society organisations and environmental NGOs are at risk of being under-represented due to lack of resources. To prevent this, the proposed project aims to further fund these organisations in the scope of the new regulation, considering also the timeline of the project [LIFE23-PRE-BE-Ecodesigned4LIFE](#).

The level of ambition of the ESPR will lead to the need for expertise in several additional product groups or horizontal requirements in the first working plan, including specific work (preparatory studies), and additional work on more general issues (work plans, methodologies, unsold goods, public procurement, etc.).

Likewise, a previous LIFE-2022-PLP ([LIFE22-PLP-realLIFEstandards](#)) is being used to support EU's standardisation activities related to eco-design and energy labelling under the old Ecodesign and Energy Labelling regulation until February 2026. The proposed project aims to fund standardisation activities after 2026 for the new ESPR legislation. Standards are the backbone of eco-design and energy labelling regulations, and very relevant as well in the context of sustainability of products under ESPR.

For ESPR to deliver, standardised test procedures must be available or elaborated in response to new regulatory requirements and be

¹⁶ [Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁷ Please note: Article 14 of the Energy Labelling Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 stipulates that its Consultation Forum shall be combined with the Consultation Forum referred to in Article 18 of the Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC. Following the entry into force of ESPR, which has repealed Directive 2009/125/EC, the Consultation Forum established under Article 14 of the Energy Labelling Regulation should be combined with the Ecodesign Forum provided for under Article 19 of ESPR.

sufficiently simple, repeatable and reproducible to avoid an excessive testing burden on manufacturers, service providers and authorities. At the same time, they must, to the extent possible, take into account the real-life usage of a given product or system, reflect average consumer and end-user behaviour, and be robust in order to deter intentional and unintentional circumvention.

Objectives

The **objective** of the proposed project is **twofold**:

First, to ensure that the views of European consumer organisations and environmental NGOs are well represented in the preparatory process leading to developing delegated acts for ecodesign requirements and implementing acts, under the new Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR):

- This will imply ensuring an active contribution of European consumer organisations and environmental NGOs to the work of the Ecodesign Forum as well as to other expert group activities, such as (i) preparing working plans; (ii) examining the effectiveness of the established market surveillance mechanisms; (iii) assessing self-regulation measures; and (iv) assessing the prohibition of the destruction of unsold consumer products.
- Representativeness of environmental and consumer organisations is fundamental in ensuring that ESPR delegated acts and implementing acts respond to common general interests, such as impacts on consumers in terms of the affordability of relevant products, also taking into account access to second-hand products, durability and the life cycle cost of product groups covered under this regulation.

Second, the proposed project will also cover standardisation activities related to ESPR product groups, including standardisation activities related to ecodesign and energy labelling. In particular, this will be achieved by participating and contributing to the standardisation groups and processes, ensuring transparency, consideration of the interests of civil society, understanding and challenging the industrial interests. Specifically (but not only) for energy-related products under ESPR¹⁸, and to the extent feasible, by improving the standards' representativeness of average real-world usage of products. Such representativeness is not only fundamental in ensuring the effectiveness of the ecodesign and energy labelling regulations, but also in responding to the interests of users of energy-related products.

This second strand of work will be a follow-up to the abovementioned project [LIFE22-PLP-realLIFEstandards](#).

¹⁸ Article 18 of ESPR Regulation

To participate in the processes discussed above, the selected consortium, once selected for LIFE funding, will have to apply to the relevant [call for applications for the selection of members and observers](#), and once accepted they will be included in the [Group of experts on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products and Energy Labelling \('the Ecodesign Forum'\) \(E03969\)](#).

Scope

The first strand of work involves identifying, elaborating, and channelling the contribution of consumer and environmental NGOs and other non-profit organisations to the preparatory work on ESPR implementation:

- This includes presence in relevant stakeholder meetings, in the Ecodesign Forum and in other related contexts, and providing the coordinated positions from consumer and environmental organisations at those meetings.
- Other activities include (i) ensuring tailored communication to citizens, consumer and environmental organisations on the impacts and benefits of specific ESPR measures and (ii) providing advice to the European Commission as regards its communication activities in this policy area.
- The scope of work will cover several product groups or horizontal requirements in the first (5-year-) ESPR working plan, including specific work (preparatory studies), and additional work on more general issues (work plans, methodologies, unsold goods, public procurement, etc.).
- It should be noted that this first strand of work will be linked to project [LIFE23-PRE-BE-Ecodesigned4LIFE](#). Exchanges with that project shall take place from an early stage, to ensure that the project's workplan is adjusted if required, considering the timeline of [LIFE23-PRE-BE-Ecodesigned4LIFE](#).
- The estimated/indicative grant amount to implement this first strand of work is EUR 1.8 million.

The second strand of work involves the following:

- Monitoring of (i) horizontal and product specific standardisation activities related to eco-design, energy labelling, and (ii) other standardisation activities related to ESPR product groups.
 - Participation in and contributions to the Technical Committees and related Working Groups in the European and International Standardisation Organisations at different levels of the standardisation process.
 - The deliverables will include regular progress reports, research reports, position papers, compatibility analyses, input into standardisation requests, guidelines, etc.
 - Ideally, a joint participation of environmental and consumer NGOs is desired to ensure due consideration of both environmental and wider consumer and end-user perspectives.
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- The estimated/indicative grant amount to implement this second strand of work is €1.2 million.

To successfully address all of the above, it is expected that the applicants demonstrate:

- an expert understanding of the ESPR, and of standardisation activities related to improving environmental and sustainability aspects (including expertise in several product groups or horizontal requirements);
 - a good understanding of the wider sustainability of products framework, circular economy and circular economy business models, and other sustainable product policies.
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Expected results and impacts

It is expected that the proposed project will provide a substantial support to policy development and legislative implementation in particular in terms of:

- Increasing effective participation of NGOs and other non-profit organisations/Civil Society organisations in expert groups related to Ecodesign;
- Supporting the effective implementation of ESPR secondary legislation;
- Improving the consideration of impacts on consumers in terms of affordability, access to second-hand, durability, and the life cycle cost of product groups under ESPR;
- Increasing transparency and promoting the consideration of civil society interests in the related processes;
- Exchanging and building on best practices between relevant actors.
- Improving the standards' representativeness of average real-world usage of energy-related products as well as non-energy related products covered under ESPR.

Proposals should include indicators which are specific to the proposed activities. The results and impacts at project end should be quantified and verifiable to the extent possible.

Specific consortium requirements

To ensure a wide representation of European consumer organisations and environmental NGOs in the framework of relevant meetings at different stages of the legislative process, the applicant must be a single NGO /non-profit organisation or a consortium of NGOs and non-profit organisations, covering through their membership at least two-thirds of the EU Member States in the field of European consumer organisations and/or environmental NGOs.

Expected project duration

36 months

Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution

Maximum funding rate: 90%
Maximum EU contribution: EUR 3 million

5. Capacity building on results-based payment schemes for the restoration of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes and implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation

Sub-Programme

Nature and Biodiversity

Objectives

Under the Nature Restoration Regulation¹ (NRR), Member States are required to **implement restoration activities to improve the status of biodiversity on farmland**. In particular, Member States are obliged to reverse the decline of pollinators (Article 10 of the NRR), and they have to put in place measures which shall aim to achieve an increasing trend on farmland birds and (optionally) on grassland butterflies² by 2030 (Article 11). The NRR indicates (in Recital 80) that funding nature restoration measures on the ground, through private or public financing, including **result-based support** and innovative schemes such as carbon removal certification schemes, could be promoted.

In Results-Based Payment Schemes (RBPS), beneficiaries that implement activities in support of biodiversity are rewarded according to the level of achievements, i.e. **measurable results** (e.g. maintenance or improvement of species diversity on their land). Opposed to this, in management-based payment schemes, beneficiaries are rewarded for implementing specific and defined measures, and they are typically compensated for the additional costs that this entails.

RBPS have the potential to restore biodiversity on farmland more **efficiently and cost-effectively** than management-based payment schemes, rewarding farmers for their efforts and contributing to sustainable farming.

If designed well, RBPS can achieve **more targeted results, avoid windfall credits, and can be very attractive for farmers** to implement as the results are directly visible to them. RBPS always include a **monitoring component**, which helps in the transition towards more **performance-based spending of public funds**.

RBPS can be implemented in public support schemes in favour of biodiversity (Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), regional funds, LIFE, national or regional funds, etc.) or they can be included in **nature credits** systems, enabling **private funds to become available for nature restoration**.

The project is aimed to **build capacities in Member States for incorporating RBPS in public or private support schemes**. It should involve public authorities and other key players, in all Member States, enabling them to set up RBPS in support of biodiversity on farmland. The focus of this activity will be on farmland, as agricultural habitats have, on average, a [much lower conservation status](#) than other habitats in the EU.

The Commission has organised a range of activities in order to support RBPS for biodiversity. This included a **Workshop on the Design and Implementation of RBPS in CAP Strategic Plans** in 2020, an earlier [ENRD Workshop on Results-based Agri-environment Payments for Biodiversity](#), as well as the publication of a Commission funded [Guidance Handbook Results-based Payments for Biodiversity](#). CINEA has organised a **LIFE Platform meeting on Result Based Payment Schemes for biodiversity**, that took place in October 2024 and hosted by the ongoing LIFE project Belgium for Biodiversity ([LIFEB4B](#))

Scope

This proposed project will establish a **peer-to-peer network, connecting public authorities, experts and practitioners from all Member States** with a different level of experience in setting up RBPS. It will support Member States in setting up, piloting, monitoring, and evaluating their own RBPS by taking stock of existing schemes and bringing together environmental and agricultural authorities (including CAP managing authorities and paying agencies), biodiversity experts, farmers and other land managers, and farm advisors.

The project should leverage Knowledge and Innovation Systems (e.g. AKIS) to enhance the dissemination of best practices in the implementation of results-based payment schemes.

The project will also organise **seminars, workshops, and field trips** to successful demonstration RBPS sites. The project will undertake **surveys** with farmers in participating Member States to identify their interest and financial needs to implement the schemes on the ground.

This project will allow Member States to exchange experience in setting up RBPS, from the planning stage (Which aspects of biodiversity to focus on? How to monitor? How to link reward to the scores achieved?) to the recruitment and training of participants, and the administration of the scheme (e.g. the incorporation of result-based payments into administrative processes and infrastructure of national authorities responsible for CAP management and payments). This will enable Member States to set up and implement effective RBPS on the ground.

The consortium needs to include the relevant expertise in terms of management of natural ecosystems, ecology of the target groups of organisms (including farmland birds, pollinators, and grassland butterflies), grassland management, and agriculture.

It is expected that the public authorities in charge of managing and supporting schemes for biodiversity restoration, as well as authorities in charge of budgetary control, are involved in the networking activities organised by the consortium.

Expected results and impacts

The aim is to build capacities for and facilitate the development and future implementation of RBPS for biodiversity on farmland in all Member

	<p>States, in particular in those that do not yet have experience in this regard.</p> <p>RBPS should be conceptualised and designed, to ensure simplicity and coherence for the beneficiaries, minimising the administrative burden while ensuring measurable environmental outcomes. This will be done based on knowledge gathered from existing schemes.</p> <p>This will help make the schemes more attractive and practical for participants across each MS. The RBPS should also be designed such that they can be directly incorporated into planning instruments for the programming of future agricultural and environmental interventions by the Member State. This should ensure a continuation of successful RBPS beyond the lifetime of the project, leading to tangible improvements of farmland biodiversity over time.</p>
Specific consortium requirements	Applying consortia shall include at least two entities from EU member states that have been involved in setting up and managing RBPS at national or regional level across different Member States. Those entities might be public agencies, and/or public authorities, and/or well as research bodies.
Expected project duration	24 months
Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution	<p>Maximum funding rate: 90%</p> <p>Maximum EU contribution: EUR 1 million</p>

6. Support for Circular Business Model Mainstreaming - Boosting the single market for sustainable products and services

Sub-Programme	Circular Economy and quality of life
Objectives	<p>The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) is the cornerstone of the European Commission's approach to more environmentally sustainable and circular products. Products and the way we use them can significantly impact the environment. The ESPR is part of a package of measures that are central to achieving the aims of the 2020 EU Circular Economy Action Plan and fostering the transition to a circular, sustainable, and competitive economy.</p> <p>ESPR enables the setting of performance and information rules – known as 'ecodesign requirements' - on a wide range of products aspects such as durability, reusability, energy & resource efficiency, carbon & environmental footprints, waste generation amongst others. A first ESPR working plan, setting out which products will be prioritised over the coming years is expected in mid-April 2025. This LPP Call supports</p>

businesses in adopting circular business models (CBMs) aligned with ESPR requirements.

Whilst product requirements under the ESPR will stimulate the uptake of circular business models - which are often still challenging to take off and scale up - further support is clearly needed to help businesses, particularly SMEs and microenterprises, overcome the challenges of transitioning to circular models. Within the Sustainable Products Initiative, the respective impact assessment, and the Communication on [‘Making sustainable products the norm’](#) (March 2022), a ‘European Circular Business Hub’, was announced to ‘support the uptake of circular business models, channel information and services, including awareness raising, cooperation, training and exchanges of best practices’ to help mainstream private businesses address this challenge. Furthermore, the ESPR proposes specific support measures for SMEs and microenterprises, both at EU as well as Member State level. The LLP will build on/utilise synergies with the expertise and service offering of existing EU actions, such as the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform or the Enterprise Europe Network of Sustainability Advisors. This LLP will contribute to the wider objectives of the Clean Industrial Deal and Competitiveness Compass in particular ‘competitive sustainability’, re-industrialisation/clean industrial deal and creating favourable economics (incl. business models and markets) for more sustainable products and services.

Therefore, the LIFE project has as core objectives to:

- Facilitate the successful transition of economic actors towards economically viable, sustainable circular business models (CBM)¹, including but not limited to ESPR relevant products/sectors such as textiles or furniture via dedicated capability building, targeted advisory approaches, facilitation of knowledge creation/sharing and best practice exchange with relevant stakeholders.
- Mainstream economically viable, sustainable circular business models and linked innovative approaches, as well as targeted support to small mid-caps (SMCs), SMEs, and micro-enterprises.

Support the Commission in its activities in order to 1) bring different stakeholders together to promote CBMs and circular practices; 2) receive feedback on barriers and challenges in the CBMs adoption, and in preparing guidance on boosting CBMs for businesses, Member States and regions.

This project should ensure that the selected organisations collaborate and work in a coordinated manner to implement the actions listed below, as well as to complement them within their proposal based on their own expertise. Furthermore, a governance structure/PMO structure should be set up, involving key project partners and DG ENV, Unit B4 ‘Sustainable Products’, as main interlocutor with the relevant Commission Services in

the decision making and project planning/implementation processes – namely in relevant steering or technical project committee.

The role of the PMO is to steer and manage the project, convening regular project meetings (with timings and participant composition that enable both technical and governance discussions, such as setting up steering and technical group meetings as needed) to present progress and receive feedback and guidance on ongoing or planned work, including annual work plans (to be developed by the successful applicant).

Scope

Activities expected under this project are listed below.

Knowledge creation and sharing:

- Efficiently collect and analyse existing knowledge (such as best practices, CBM theory, enablers and barriers to CBMs) and develop new content (such as sectoral guidance, checklists, tools) for SMEs, microenterprises and small mid-caps to help them become more circular. The outputs should be targeted to specific fields of activity/sectors or products and address the needs, and particularities of SMEs, SMCs and microenterprises. The activity could also include mapping of funding/financing support available for circular transitions/sustainability matters on EU and/or national level to support companies to identify and benefit from available financing/funding.
- Efficiently collect and curate (including via digital tools/data scraping) CBM theory and best practices and translate the theory into practical, easy-to-use guidance for businesses and business support organisation to share e.g. in presentations, guidelines, or tools and make them available free of charge including via existing platforms/networks such as the European Cluster Collaboration Platform or the EU Circular Economy stakeholder platform.

Pilot sector demonstrations: Gather tangible examples from selected pilot sectors such as furniture or textiles and utilise them to generate usable step-by-step analysis and targeted recommendations to guide companies in adopting CBMs - identifying viable circular approaches and successfully transforming their business model or products to become more circular.

Capacity building and advisory support:

- Develop, deliver and fine-tune training and provide practical hands-on guidance (checklists, information materials, tools) to support the identification/creation of and successful transition to CBMs including targeted approaches for SMEs, SMCs and microenterprises and 'train-the-trainers'. All outputs should be available for/shared with - free of charge - any relevant/interested organisation such as the as the European
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Cluster Collaboration Platform or the EU Circular Economy stakeholder platform.

- Organise training for EEN sustainability advisers in EEN hubs towards on-the-ground training/targeted business advisory on circular business model creation/identification as well as uptake/transformation. This can also include guidance on how to proactively identify and approach companies with a potential to apply circular practices.

Networking and outreach: Identify useful networks, hubs, sector organisations and other intermediaries that could further expand outreach and spread the information and tools developed within relevant sectors/economic operators in addition to EEN, ECESP or the ECCP.

Feedback and impact assessment: Utilise the piloting work/advisory role of EEN or other multipliers to get structured feedback from business, in particular SMEs, microenterprises and SMCs on barriers, concerns and challenges related to circular transitions. Develop project indicators to measure progress.

Applicants/Consortia are expected to have a broad and representative geographical as well as sectorial reach capturing also national, regional or sectoral differences in awareness/uptake of circular business models/players involved as well as individual support needs based on such differences. Hence, multi-country and multi-sectoral consortia will be encouraged.

Whilst academic participation on concepts/theory of circular business models would be seen a beneficial, partners must also be able to translate these concepts and adapt them to be able to support companies (of different scale, maturity and sectors/CBMs) 'on the ground' with tangible actions/recommendations targeted at their situation. Industry participation, related to piloting activities will be seen as beneficial.

Expected results and impacts

Promoting circular business models and the transition to CBMs, thereby boosting the circular economy and enhancing our efforts to develop a single market for sustainable products and services by:

- Facilitate capacity and capability building, hands-on practical guidance and training, as well as knowledge creation, for transitioning to circular business models, in particular for SMEs, microenterprises and SMCs.
 - Increase the adoption of CBMs, ensuring an uptake and efficient, long-term sustainable shift towards circular business models, including in ESPR relevant key sectors, and in particular, by SMCs, SMEs and microenterprises, based on:
 - Increased awareness and knowledge about successful shift to potential CBM approaches, general as well as specific (sector, activity, geography) enablers and barriers of CBMs and how to ensure long-term viability and sustainability. of
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CBMs amongst economic actors, including with regard to furniture and textiles as well as other potential ESPR priority products.

- Availability of targeted hands-on guidance and tools on how to create and transition the business model (e.g. sectoral guidance), practices or individual products towards more circular approaches, channel finance and investment and foster partnerships.
- Strengthen market readiness and competitiveness of sustainable products.
- To ensure efficient project management, annual work plans with clear areas of work, core actions with determined actor responsible for its implementation, timing and deliverables are to be developed. The applicants are encouraged to develop or identify relevant and meaningful project indicators that would quantify the impacts of the expected outcomes and deliverables as well as assess the quality of outputs. These indicators should be included in the annual activity report.

Indicators, which can be considered include (non-exhaustive):

- Number of training schemes and capacity building activities developed;
- Number of trainers trained and/or trainings held;
- Number of companies, including in ESPR relevant sectors, benefitting from the trainings and using the tools/approaches developed;
- Number of pilots conducted;
- Quantitative and qualitative surveys to assess improved knowledge and progress towards shifting to CBMs;
- Evaluation surveys by relevant stakeholders

Synergies are expected to be achieved with existing EU platforms and initiatives, such as the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP) – including existing content available on CBMs and the use of ECESP as a multiplier for content/materials generated by the LIFE project and/or stakeholder engagement activities - as well as the Enterprise Europe Network, particularly through the EEN Sustainability Advisors. However, other potential avenues to share/multiply content and effectively reach stakeholders to support the objectives of this call should also be explored.

The project should take into account the Communication on '[Making sustainable products the norm](#)', the ESPR, as well as the [technical report by JRC](#) on new ESPR product priorities and the EEA report (link: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/a-framework-for-enabling-circular>).

	The deliverables of this project should make efficient use of existing information and go beyond the findings (without overlapping or repeating) of existing research, such as the 2019 Interreg policy brief on circular economy business models in the EU (Circular economy business models in the EU) or Circular X (Circular X - experimentation with circular business models Circular X).
Specific consortium requirements	Not applicable
Expected project duration	Between 30 and 36 months
Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution	Maximum funding rate: 90% Maximum EU contribution: EUR 0.6 million

7. Climate Proof Pollution Alert model: relevant for the Water Resilience Strategy and Zero Pollution geared to transboundary cooperation on water pollution incidents

Sub-Programme	Circular Economy and quality of life
Objectives	<p>The international collaboration on transboundary pollution issues is of primary importance and might be getting a boost by the improvement and further development of existing flow models, by getting modern additional functions generating data to support water authorities and improve the options that warn the authorities and trace sources of incidental or peak concentration caused by (incidental) pollution.</p> <p>Follow- up by authorities and involved stakeholders needs to be as fast as possible to help stopping pollution at its source and prevent bigger disasters. With climate change and the increase of very intensive rains and flash floods the number of incidents is bound to increase and the necessity for adequate timely responses to safeguard downstream drinking water functions and to prevent incidents killing long stretches of aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>This project aims to support transboundary cooperation in the sensitive field of water pollution in order to prevent as much as possible small incidents having big impacts and to facilitate the transboundary communication and cooperation needed to stop or limit causes of water pollution as soon as possible.</p> <p>The transboundary modelling of the flows is complex as each country is using different types of models and is basing those on other assumptions. Special hydrological knowledge skills needed are relatively rare, creating a problematic market with little competition and relatively high prices. Therefore, the project is also meant to promote this line of expertise, create consciousness among authorities that these tools can help them</p>

and have multiple players interested to develop their own products in this field.

Scope	<p>Here below the list of activities and outputs to deliver under the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development / procurement, installation and testing of Climate proof Pollution Alert Modelling and tracing system; b. Capacity building activities targeted to water authorities and related to the Climate proof Pollution Alert Model system principles and functioning; c. Dissemination of the Climate proof Pollution Alert Model and its functioning; d. Enabling of replication of the model in other Basins; e. information to interested water authorities, environmental protection organisations, drinking water companies etc in other European transboundary river basins; f. report on its functioning.
Expected results and impacts	<p>The action must build upon existing international cooperation and communication systems and provide the opportunity to enhance the existing systems with additional functionalities that will enable the mainstream of modelling and increase hydrological knowledge skills.</p> <p>The expected main result is the setting up and implementation of a transboundary climate proof flow and real-time alert model, generating data and tracing of sources to support water authorities in case of incidental or peak concentration causing pollution. The system must enable water authorities to respond timely to incidents and prevent environmental accidents and provide the possibility to trace back sources of pollution, including in the main course of the river and its tributaries.</p>
Specific consortium requirements	<p>To be eligible, the consortium shall include partners from at least 3 different eligible countries and must include water authorities (or their grouping and associations) in charge of the management of River Basin Management Plans¹⁹ (which must include water bodies being part of the same transboundary/international water course) and established in at least one of the eligible countries.</p>
Expected project duration	24 months
Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution	<p>Maximum funding rate: 90%</p> <p>Maximum EU contribution: EUR 0.7 million</p>

¹⁹ pursuant to Annex VII to the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy)

Topic 3 - LIFE-2025-PLP-URBAN - Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP) for the green transition in Urban spaces

The proposed projects under the topic LIFE-2025-PLP-URBAN shall aim to address the following specific priority identified by the Member States.

The contracting authority expects to award between 3 to 4 grants under this funding topic.

Accelerating the green transition in urban spaces by testing integrated innovative solutions addressing energy, nature and climate

Objective

Policy context

The European Union has increased its ambitions for a green transition with the European Green Deal across the areas of environmental, climate action and energy policies.

The European Union has set ambitious targets to achieve a **cleaner, healthier environment, to reverse biodiversity loss and to move to a circular economy**. The Zero Pollution Action Plan (2021) outlined the objective of zero pollution by 2050. To achieve this goal, the EU has adopted a range of policies and legislation including on urban wastewater, ambient air and industrial emissions. The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 outlined the objective to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, with a focus on conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources. With the EU's Nature Restoration Regulation 2024/1991, the EU sets for the first time binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, namely the restoration of at least 20% of the EU's natural areas by 2030. This target will help to reverse the decline of nature and promote the recovery of biodiversity in the EU. Finally, the EU reinforced its initiatives to move to a circular economy as outlined in the Circular Economy Action Plan (2020). It outlines that the EU economy should become more circular by 2050, with a focus on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. It was supported by a number of new laws on waste shipments, packaging waste, a right-to-repair and an extended Eco-design for Sustainable Product Regulation.

In the policy domains of **energy and climate**, the Fit-for-55 package has substantially raised the EU policy ambitions to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, enshrining into law new objectives on energy efficiency, renewable energy and the energy performance of buildings, clean heating and cooling solutions, decentralised renewable deployment and integrated energy system – that directly involve cities and urban agglomerations. Climate legislation has also evolved to lead the EU to turn into the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and to boost climate resilience. Unless we take much bolder action, we risk losing the race against the fast-growing negative impacts and risks associated with climate change.

An ambitious European Climate Adaptation Plan (ECAP) will be adopted during the second half of 2026. In tandem with other EU initiatives, the Plan will help safeguard Europe's security and prosperity, boost its competitiveness, and protect our health and well-being.

Objective

With **Europe's urban areas** being home to over two-thirds of the EU's population, local authorities play a key role as the closest governance level to EU citizens in accelerating the green transition. However, local authorities often lack the technical and financial capacity to plan, design, pilot and implement highly integrated approaches, strategies and investments.

Supporting uptake of innovative solutions for the green transition addressing interconnected challenges of circular economy, zero pollution, nature and biodiversity, energy transition and/or climate action in urban spaces is key to increase efficiency and effectiveness of actions at urban level to deliver on the EU environmental, climate and energy objectives.

In a context of limited resources and multiple priorities, this specific funding topic intends to support the green transition in urban spaces in a cross-sectoral and integrated way. It aims to bolster the capacity of urban local authorities to adopt **integrated approaches** and to unlock the potential of **interconnections between the various environmental, climate and energy challenges existing at urban level** and addressing them in a **cross-sectoral and integrated way** e.g. on circular economy, zero pollution, nature and biodiversity, clean energy transition and climate action.

By offering support to local authorities to develop and implement ambitious integrated approaches that can effectively provide solutions to key challenges across the environmental, climate and energy policy areas, it is expected to contribute to the implementation of various Union environmental, climate and/or energy legislation and/or policies in urban spaces and to maximise the co-benefits of an integrated approaches.

Scope

Proposals should aim to deliver pilot projects, ambitious impactful integrated solutions and approaches, demonstrations of new technology, and/or support to uptake of integrated green technologies and/or innovative approaches to governance models.

Proposals shall target one or more challenge(s) belonging to at least 2 of the three main fields of intervention of the LIFE Programme (Environment, Energy and Climate) AND addressing **at least three of six thematic areas of intervention**:

Main field of Intervention: **ENVIRONMENT**

(1) pollution (including air, water, soil pollution)

(2) resource efficiency (including circular economy and waste management),

(3) nature restoration and biodiversity

Main field of Intervention: **ENERGY**

(4) energy transition (including renewables, energy efficiency and/or clean heating and cooling)

Main field of Intervention: **CLIMATE**

(5) climate change mitigation

(6) climate change adaptation.

Proposals must address cross-sectorial policy objectives and tackle several of the identified challenges simultaneously. The choice of the main fields of intervention – Environment, Energy, Climate (at least two out of three) and of the thematic areas of intervention (at least three out of six) must be indicated in the Abstract of the Application Form and must be explained in Section 1.1 (Compliance with the Call topic).

Proposals shall be ambitious and of scale, demonstrate a significant degree of integration and demonstrate concrete activities with associated expected results and impacts, for a critical number of inhabitants. They shall demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the interlinkages between the targeted areas of intervention. Proposals may include innovative integrated policy planning and monitoring, including solution design, planning and implementation, spatial and environmental mapping, data collection and monitoring, evaluation and verification measures. Where relevant, proposals shall seek solutions unlocking private finance including public-private partnerships, blended concepts etc.

Applicants are required to clearly showcase in their project proposals – and as part of the implementation if awarded – why the proposed integrated approaches and solutions represent more efficient solutions that maximise co-benefits in the other targeted thematic areas of intervention. They shall also, when relevant, foresee specific activities aimed at generating other co-benefits such as economic benefits, citizen engagement and just transition and/or innovation and knowledge generation.

Proposals should include a convincing plan on the engagement of key stakeholders in the relevant technical and financial sectors, including citizens, as well as a plan for long-term capacity building within the public administrations.

Concrete actions shall be built-in to ensure scalability, including, where relevant, awareness raising, knowledge/experience sharing and feedback to policy development and implementation.

It is expected that proposals include an initial cost benefit analysis that would be further developed during the project.

For cities already participating in the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities mission under Horizon Europe, involvement in this LIFE initiative will require a clear demonstration of how the proposed project complements and adds value to their existing work within the mission, ensuring a coherent and synergistic approach.

Furthermore, proposals are encouraged to build on and seek interconnections with other existing EU initiatives such as the European Urban Initiative (former UIA), the Covenant of Mayors, the Clean Energy for EU islands, the Horizon Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the European Green Capital Award (EGCA), the European Green Leaf Award (EGLA), Green City Accord, Climate Pact, Resilient Cities and Health Observatory.

The project proposal should foresee a collaboration between the different actors necessary for the successful implementation of the proposed solution, e.g. municipal companies, public administrations, private companies, research and civil society organisations etc.

Proposals involving more than one municipality, from different eligible countries are particularly encouraged.

Expected results and impacts

The projects expected results and impacts should showcase that deployment of integrated solutions to common EU environmental, climate and energy challenges can deliver more than the sum of sector-specific interventions.

Results and impacts should be estimated in a quantitative way for each specific areas of intervention addressed by the project and of any other co-benefits. The use of compounded indicators at the urban level can also be envisaged.

The number of inhabitants that will benefit from the expected results and impacts should be quantified.

Specific consortium requirements

The coordinator beneficiary must be a local authority or a grouping of local authorities.

Expected project duration

Projects may last from 36 to 60 months

Maximum Funding rate and maximum EU contribution

Maximum funding rate: 90%

Maximum EU contribution for the funding topic: EUR 8 million.

The contracting authority expects to award between 3 to 4 grants under this funding topic.

3. Available budget

The available call budget is **EUR 21 800 000**.

Specific budget information per topic can be found in the table below:

Topic	Topic budget	Estimated number of projects to be funded	Expected maximum EU contribution and project duration
Topic 1 — LIFE-2025-ENER - Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the field of Clean Energy Transition	EUR 2 000 000	1 project	See description above
Topic 2 — LIFE-2025-NAT-ENV - Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities in the fields of Nature & Biodiversity and Circular Economy & Quality of Life	EUR 11 800 000	1 project per specific priority – 7 projects in total under that topic	See description above
Topic 3 – LIFE-2025-URBAN - - Projects on Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP) for the green transition in Urban spaces	EUR 8 000 000	3 to 4 projects	See description above

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines(indicative)	
Call opening:	24 April 2025
<u>Deadline for submission</u>	23 September 2025 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)
Information on evaluation results:	January 2026
GA signature:	April/May 2026

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

⚠ Please note that not using the correct template or not complying with the instructions therein (*e.g. font size limit, deletion of instructions, etc*) may lead to the inadmissibility of your proposal. Furthermore, to ensure a proper evaluation of your project the appropriate sections of the template must be filled in depending on whether the call has one or two submission stages.

Project acronym — Your project acronym must include the word LIFE.

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)

⚠ In order to ensure a proper evaluation of your project, please click on the “?” sign appearing in each screen and carefully check the instructions to correctly fill the different sections.

- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*)
- Part C — contains additional project data and the project’s contribution to EU programme indicators (*to be filled in directly online*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*templates to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):

- detailed budget table
- activity reports of last year: not applicable
- participant information (including previous projects, if any)


Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (*especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc*). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable** (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

Proposals are limited to maximum **50 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 Please be aware that some proposal information may be shared with the LIFE programme committee established under Regulation No [182/2011](#)²⁰, i.e. name and country of all applicants (coordinating organisation and partners), project title, total eligible costs, LIFE funding requested, result of the assessment of the admissibility and eligibility of the proposal, and scores by criterion for eligible proposals.

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries:
 - listed EEA countries and countries associated to the LIFE Programme ([list of participating countries](#))²¹
- the coordinator must be established in an eligible country

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (*see section 13*).

Specific cases and definitions

Exceptional funding — Entities from other countries (not listed above) are exceptionally eligible, if the granting authority considers their participation essential for the implementation of the action (*see work programme*).

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer guarantees

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

²¹ Applicants from countries which have requested to be associated to the LIFE Programme may participate in this call for proposals. However, no grant agreement will be signed if the association agreement is not entered into force by the end of the selection procedure.

for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons²².

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'²³. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations for participating in the programme (*see list of participating countries above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature and if the association covers the call (i.e. is retroactive and covers both the part of the programme and the year when the call was launched).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)²⁴. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

EU conditionality measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to measures adopted on the basis of EU Regulation 2020/2092²⁵. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.). Currently such measures are in place for Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain (see [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#), as of 16 December 2022).



For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Consortium composition

Consortium composition - please see section 2 above for specific consortium requirement if any.

Eligible activities

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic and/or specific priority description for which they are submitted as set out in section 2 above.

The following activities are not considered as eligible for funding under this call:

- land purchase
- volunteer work.

²² See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

²³ For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

²⁴ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

²⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94).

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*). Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (*e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc*)²⁶.

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*). Activities outside the eligible countries must be necessary to achieve the EU environmental and climate objectives and ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried within the eligible countries (*e.g. actions aimed at the conservation of migratory birds in wintering areas, actions implemented on a trans boundary river, or projects aimed to address environmental problems that cannot be solved successfully or efficiently unless actions are carried out also in non-eligible countries*).

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc.*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all coordinators except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the project requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibilities for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)

or

²⁶ See, for instance, [Guidance on funding for activities related to the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policy](#).

- propose no prefinancing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications and resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Resources' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants (and previous projects, if any)

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate²⁷:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct²⁸ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

²⁷ See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

²⁸ 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted²⁹ an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that³⁰:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call, and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For the LIFE-2025-PLP, the committee will rank the proposals as follows:

- 1) The proposals with the highest passing score per specific priority;
- 2) Other passing proposals ranked by score.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic, a specific priority or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:


Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order, the *ex aequo* proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Impact'. If

²⁹ 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

³⁰ See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Relevance', then 'Quality', then 'Resources'.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Full compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

1. Relevance (0-20 points)

- Relevance to the objectives of the targeted LIFE sub-programme and to the specific priorities of the call for proposals and, when relevant, topic description;
- Concept and methodology: soundness of the overall intervention logic

2. Impact (0-20 points)

- Ambition and credibility of impacts expected during and/or after the project due to the activities, including ensuring that no substantial harm is done to the other specific objectives of the LIFE Programme
- Sustainability of the project results after the end of the project and quality of the measures for the exploitation of project results

3. Quality (0-20 points)

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

4. Resources (0-20 points)

- Composition of the project team - in terms of expertise, skills and responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure
- Appropriateness of the budget and resources and their consistency with the work plan

- Transparency of the budget, i.e. the cost items should be sufficiently described
- Value for money of the proposal

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score	Weighting
Relevance	10	20	1
Impact	10	20	1.5
Quality	10	20	1
Resources	10	20	1
Overall weighted (pass) scores (without bonus)	55	90	N/A

Maximum points (full proposals): 90 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 10/20, 10/20, 10/20 and 10/20 points (before weighting).

Overall threshold: 55 points (after weighting).

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: per topic or specific priority, the duration of the project is set under the section 2 above.

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (requested grant amount): *see section 2 above*.

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (**90%**).


Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

Please note that the maximum grant amount for each beneficiary will be fixed in the Grant Agreement. The beneficiaries can however decide to distribute the grant money differently in accordance with what they have agreed in the consortium agreement (*see also section 13*).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (*e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc*).

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

 When filling in the summarised budget table (directly online in Application Form Part A), please click on the “?” sign appearing in each screen and carefully check the instructions to correctly fill the different sections.

Budget categories for this call:

- A. Personnel costs
 - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
 - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
 - A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
 - C.1 Travel and subsistence
 - C.2 Equipment
 - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- E. Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

- personnel costs:

- SME owner/natural person unit cost³¹: Yes
- volunteers unit cost³²: No
- travel and subsistence unit cost³³: No (only actual costs)
- equipment costs: depreciation
- other cost categories:
 - costs for financial support to third parties: not allowed
 - land purchase costs: n/a
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories (land purchase), if any)
- VAT: non-deductible/non-refundable VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
- other:
 - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
 - kick-off meeting: costs for kick-off meeting organised by the granting authority are eligible (travel costs for maximum 2 persons, return ticket to Brussels and accommodation for one night) only if the meeting takes place after the project starting date set out in the Grant Agreement; the starting date can be changed through an amendment, if needed
 - project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible unless duly justified by the project objectives
 - common information and dissemination activities: foresee resources to increase synergies between, and the visibility of LIFE and EU supported actions (for example 1 travel/year, 5 days)
 - other ineligible costs: Yes:
 - land purchase costs are not eligible
 - Volunteers costs are not eligible

Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).

After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **30%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

There will be no interim payments. There will be one or more **additional prefinancing**

³¹ Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7115).

³² Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).


³³ Commission [Decision](#) of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).

payments linked to a prefinancing report.

In addition, for longer or more complex projects, you may be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if you or one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for **keeping records** on all the work done and the costs declared. The Grant Agreement contains additional record-keeping rules (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 20*).

Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation, and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement (*art 23*).

Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
- unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum*

grant amount for the action

or

- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts.*

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5):*

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- communication and dissemination plan: Yes
- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- special logos: Yes

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):*

- durability: No
- specific rules for blending operations: No

Other specificities

Consortium agreement: Yes

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).



For more information, see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 4 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Part C containing additional project data. To be filled in directly online.
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System, otherwise the proposal may be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed, and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).
- [LIFE website Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [LIFE Info Days](#)

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

Contact


Only in case you did not find an answer in the above links, you may contact:

- for individual questions on the Portal Submission System: [IT Helpdesk](#)

- for non-IT related questions, contact:

LIFE-2025-ENER topic: CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu.

LIFE-2025-NAT-ENV or LIFE-2025-URBAN: CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu

 Please send your questions at the latest 7 days before the submission deadline (see *section 4*) AND indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc.*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** (*n/a for OG and IBA named beneficiary calls*) — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** *(n/a for FPAs)* — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **No-profit rule** *(n/a for FPAs)* — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding** *(n/a for FPAs)* — It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants; projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** *(n/a for OG and FPAs)* — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded funding for them).

Organisations may participate in several proposals.

BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw the others (or they will be rejected).

- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be rejected. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application.

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).