

LIFE Programme's contribution to climate action: the experience of Italian projects

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Italian Pavillon
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The EU LIFE Programme: opportunities to support projects for climate change mitigation and adaptation



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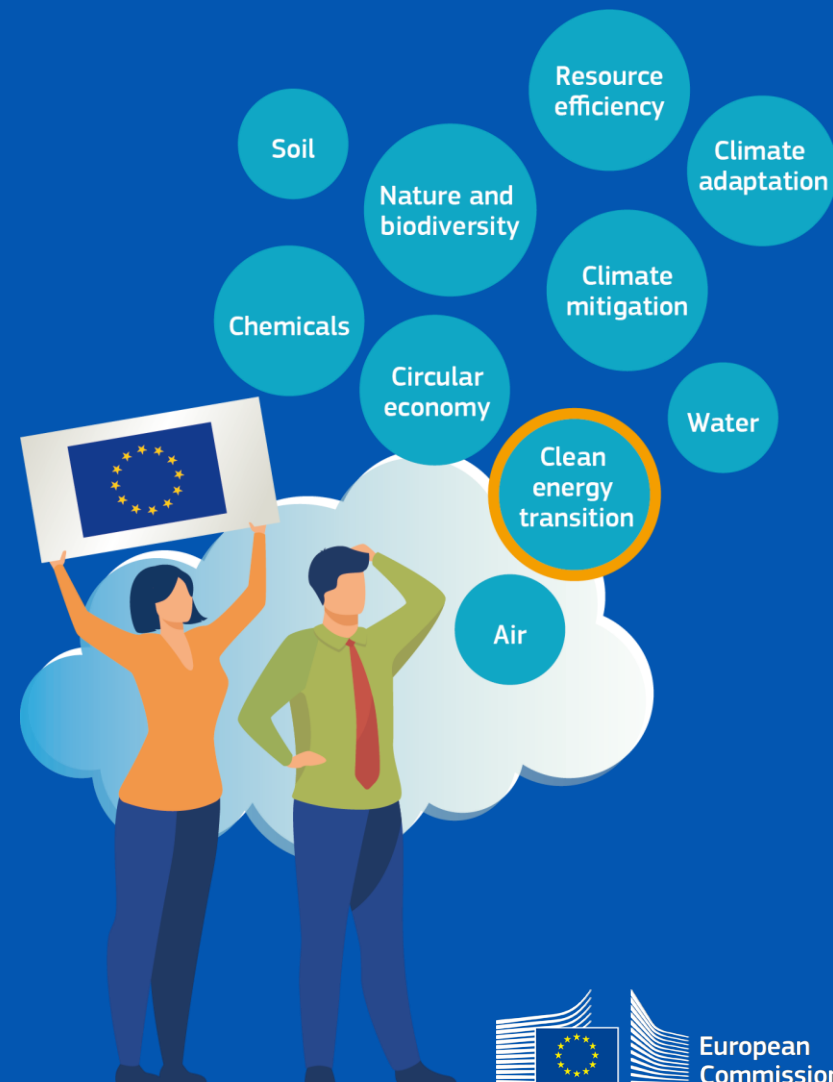
LIFE

L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement

LIFE is the only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.



LIFE is more than 30 years 'young'



LIFE: Agenda 2030, CBD and Paris Agreement

The LIFE Programme should contribute to sustainable development and to the achievement of the objectives and targets of the environmental, climate and relevant energy legislation, strategies, plans and international commitments of the Union, in particular as regards:



United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



Paris Agreement

LIFE: European Green Deal

The LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal

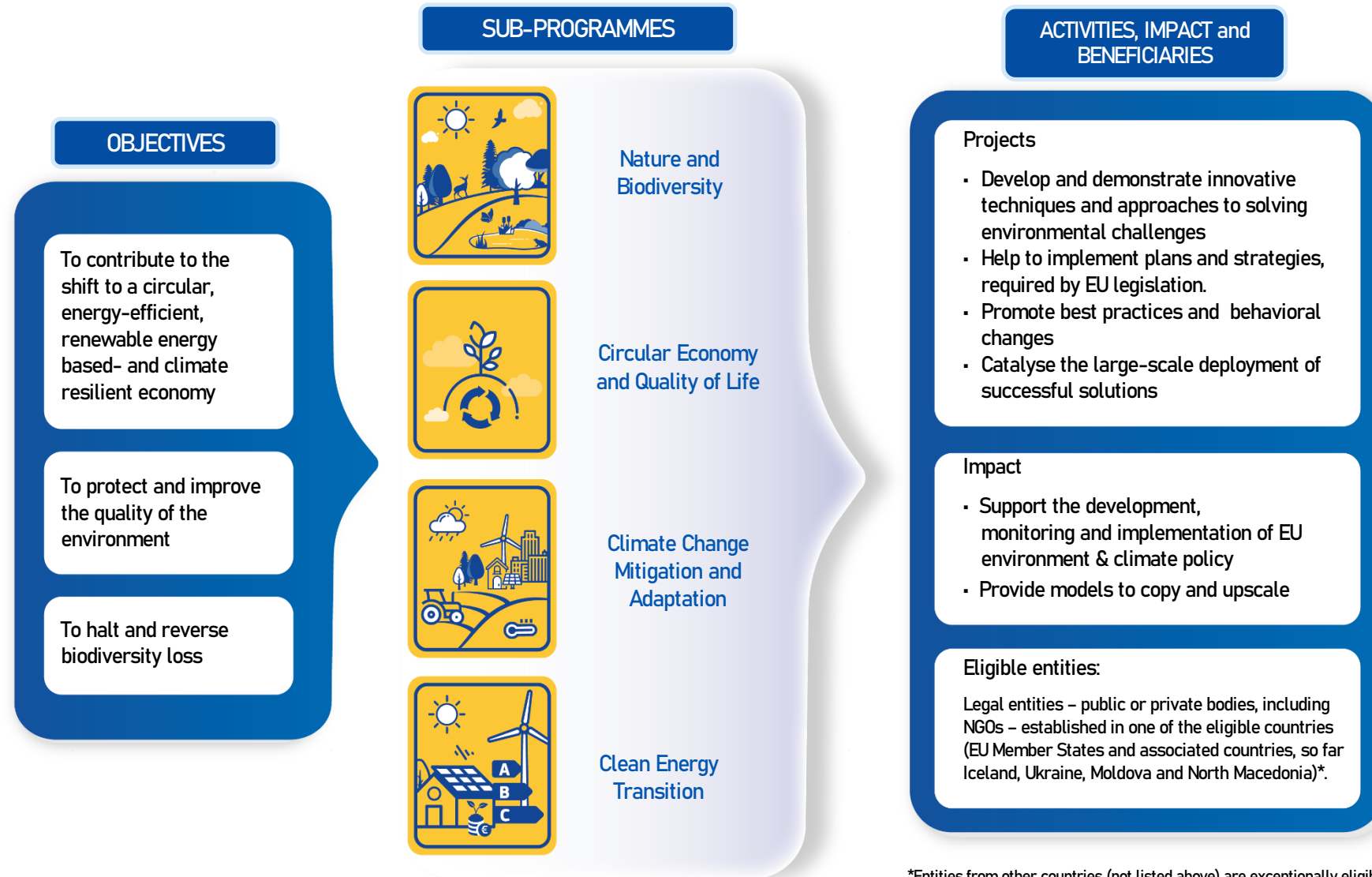


The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact



The LIFE Programme 2021-2027



*Entities from other countries (not listed above) are exceptionally eligible.

LIFE calls for proposals

- ❑ The Calls for proposals for EU LIFE action grants are launched on an annual (or multiannual) basis and managed by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).
- ❑ Each LIFE Call for proposals is published on the EU "Funding & Tenders Portal", where is possible to find the related Call documentation.
- ❑ LIFE project proposals can only be submitted electronically through the "Portal" Electronic Submission System.



The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

**LIFE budget
2021-2027:
EUR 5.43
billion**

- € 2.15 billion for the sub-programme “Nature and Biodiversity”;
- € 1.35 billion for the sub-programme “Circular Economy and Quality of Life”;
- € 947 million for the sub-programme “Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation”;
- € 997 million for the sub-programme “Clean Energy Transition”.

Strengthened action on energy efficiency and renewable energy (integration of the new sub-programme “Clean Energy Transition”)

Strengthened action on nature and biodiversity to contribute to the ambition of providing 7,5% in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and in 2027 of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives

A 61% target for expenditures supporting climate objectives to support the 30% target under the multiannual financial framework

Promotion of synergies with other funding programmes (Synergies with Horizon Europe, EU Missions, Innovation Fund and other programmes, Seal of Excellence)





LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation sub-programme



Sub-programme Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

contributes to:

- the transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through activities on:
- Climate Change Mitigation & related Governance
- Climate Change Adaptation & related Governance



on climate mitigation, through projects that contribute significantly to supporting the goal for Europe to become climate-neutral by 2050 and the intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, set out in the European Climate Law [\(EU\) 2021/1119](#)

on climate adaptation, through project that contribute significantly to the implementation of the [EU Adaptation Strategy](#)

Two main types of projects: SAPs and SIPs

SAPs: STANDARD ACTION PROJECTS – Direct action, generally implementing solutions on the ground.

Pilot, demonstration and best practices projects that contribute to the reduction of GHG, the increasing of resilience to climate change and information, capacity building, awareness and dissemination projects on climate matters, catalyzing the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

Co-financing rate of 60% max.

Duration: 3-5 years, Maximum 10 years.

Typical LIFE grant: € 0.7-2 millions/project.

SAPs can be “close -to-market”

SIPs: STRATEGIC INTEGRATED PROJECTS – Addressing specific areas of intervention related to certain strategic plans on climate change adaptation and mitigation adopted by a public authority pursuant to EU/national legislation, catalyzing their full implementation, operating on a regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national scale, with full involvement of stakeholders and mobilising at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source for the implementation of complementary activities, within the same plan or strategy

Co-financing rate of 60% max.

Duration: 6-10 years, Maximum 14 years.

Typical LIFE grant: € 10-20 millions/project.



SAPs – Areas of intervention for Climate Change Mitigation

Scope and areas of intervention

Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the sectors not covered by the existing EU Emissions Trading System, including the reduction of use of fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances

- ✓ Availability of suitable alternatives to fluorinated gases
- ✓ Recovery, reclamation and recycling of fluorinated greenhouse gases
- ✓ Actions to support the shift to zero-emission mobility (in road transport)
- ✓ Decarbonising non-road transport modes, fostering intermodality and modal shift

Actions which enhance the functioning of the existing Emissions Trading System and which have an impact on energy and greenhouse gas intensive industrial production

Increase the generation and use of renewable energy and improvement of energy efficiency (as far as not covered by specific calls for proposals under the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme)

The development of land and sea management practices which have an impact on emissions and removals of emissions, conservation and enhancement of natural carbon sinks





LIFE RAPID DRY

(2020-2022) Viterbo, SET.E.C. srl

RAPID DRYING OF CERAMICS

REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CO2 EMISSIONS WHILE PRESERVING PRODUCT QUALITY

Innovations:

- 1) A cost-effective chamber dryer, which optimizes currently available techniques and deliver increased energy savings.
- 2) Rigorously modified ceramic bodies (fire clay and vitreous china), which optimize the drying process, maintaining quality and resistance.

RESULTS

- ▶ Thermal consumption reduced by 67%
- ▶ Electrical consumption reduced by 86%
- ▶ GHG emissions in the life cycle of a dryer reduced by 68%
- ▶ Investment to purchase the new RAPID DRY dryer repaid in less than a year



SAPs - Areas of intervention for Climate Change Adaptation

Scope and areas of intervention

Adaptation policy development, and adaptation strategies and plans

State-of-the art tools and solutions for adaptation

Nature-based solutions in the management of land, forests, coasts and marine areas

Adapting cities and regions to climate change

Climate-proofing and resilience of infrastructure and buildings

Adaptation solutions for farmers, forest managers, Natura 2000 managers and other land managers

Water management

Preparedness for extreme weather events

Financial instruments, innovative solutions and public-private collaboration on insurance and loss data





GREAT LIFE - Growing REsilience AgricolTure

(2018-2022) Emilia Romagna, University of Bologna
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE FROM CROPS TO MARKET

Innovative and integrated approach:

- 1) substitute of maize with climate resilient crops – sorghum and millet – in three pilot farms
- 2) raise awareness about the contribution that food consumption can make to adaptation and resilience

RESULTS

- Reduction of water consumption by 20% and the CO2 emissions by 50%
- Creation of a community of consumers and stakeholders to promote products made from resilient crops (food companies, school canteens, consumers)



SAPs - Areas of intervention for Climate Governance and Information

Scope and areas of intervention

Support to the operation of the European Climate Pact	Implementation/further development of national 2030 climate and energy strategies plans and/or long-term strategies
Incentivising behavioural change, mainstream emission reduction and resource and energy efficiency actions	Development and implementation of greenhouse gas accounting and climate change mitigation in the land use sector
Awareness-raising activities addressing adaptation and mitigation needs	Assessment of the functioning of the EU ETS
Activities linked to the development and implementation of the Sustainable Finance actions	Building capacity, raising awareness among end-users and the equipment distribution chain of fluorinated greenhouse gases
Greenhouse gas emission monitoring and reporting	Climate policy monitoring, assessment and ex-post evaluation





LIFE BEWARE

(2018–2022), Municipalities of Santorso and Marano Vicentino (Vicenza)
BEtter Water-management for Advancing Resilient-communities in Europe

Beneficiaries: 2 municipalities, NGO, innovation agency, academia

Objective: prevent flood risks by increasing water infiltration and storage in urban and rural areas

RESULTS

- Mobilization of wide range of stakeholders through a participatory approach and awareness-raising on water retention and storage
- Update of building codes to guarantee a minimum value of draining surface
- Preparation of the Altovicentino Mayors Adapt Strategy through a participatory approach
- 7 pilot water retention measures implemented
- Voicing farmers needs in policy development through the allocation of resources for the development of retention basins in draft of the National Strategic Plan “Complemento per lo Sviluppo Rurale (CSR)”, period 2023–2027.



SIPs – Climate Action

Applicants should target the implementation of one of the following plans/strategies:

National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) pursuant to [Regulation 2018/1999](#) on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action

National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans

Urban or community-based action plans pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society, including climate-neutral cities plans and actions, for instance in the context of the EU Mission “Climate neutral and smart cities” and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans

National, regional or industry/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or economy roadmaps contributing to climate neutrality





LIFE CLIMAX PO

CLIMate Adaptation for the PO river basin district
(LIFE21-IPC-IT-LIFE CLIMAX PO, 2023-2032,)

- ❑ Po River Hydrographic district *as a national special case and pilot area*
- ❑ 8 regions (Emilia-Romagna, Liguria, Lombardia, Marche, Piemonte, Toscana, Valle D'Aosta, Veneto, Autonomous Province of Trento)
- ❑ 19 850 000 inhabitants

- ❑ Total Eligible Budget: € 17 890 937
- ❑ EU Contribution: € 10 734 562
- ❑ Coordination of € 447 876 192 of complementary funding from EAFRD, ERDF, INTERREG, CEF, NRRP and other national and regional funds, as applicable.

Objectives:

- *boost adaptation to climate change through climate-smart management of water resources at the scale of the river basin district by implementing the measures of the National Adaptation Strategy, tailored on the local characteristics and climate peculiarities of the district.*
 - *Governance of adaptation at the Po River Basin District level*
 - *Knowledge-sharing*
 - *Capacity building and awareness-raising activities*
 - *Improved water security and climate resilience*
 - *Institutionalization of climate adaption at Po River Basin District level*

LIFE: Where to find information?

- ❑ LIFE EU website;
- ❑ LIFE EU Info Days (25th-26th April 2023);
- ❑ LIFE – Support for applicants;
- ❑ LIFE National Contact Points (LIFE NCPs);
- ❑ LIFE Project Database.





Climate and nature are intertwined. Our soils, oceans and forests are the biggest carbon sinks we have, and healthy nature can keep us cool on a warming planet. With the weather extremes our world is experiencing, projects on climate adaptation and mitigation are paramount. When I see what LIFE projects have already achieved in the EU and participating countries and the impact they will have in the future, I am optimistic that we have the tools to bring real change on the ground.

Wopke Hoekstra

Commissioner for Climate Action,
European Commission



Thank you



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