



# LIFE+ PROGRAMME

<http://ec.europa.eu/life>





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Welcome!

[Name of expert]



The content of this presentation is intended for information purposes only, and in no way replaces the official information on the LIFE website by the European Commission





# PART 1

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## INTRODUCTION TO LIFE+





# THE LIFE+ PROGRAMME

“Financial instrument for the environment”

- Co-funding in nature conservation and in other environmental fields that are of European interest (e.g. water, waste, climate)
- Co-funding information and communication activities for the environment
- Sixth Community Environment Action Programme





# LIFE+ FIGURES

- ➔ Duration: 01.01.2007 to 31.12.2013
- ➔ Budget: over €2 billion
- ➔ 2009 budget: €250 million, including €25 million for climate change
- ➔ Budget distribution
  - 78% for project grants, of which
  - 50% for nature and biodiversity
  - 15% target for transnational projects





# THE LIFE+ PROGRAMME 2009 IN [COUNTRY]

- 2009 indicative allocation for [country] is € [xxx]
- National priorities – see LIFE website
- Number of proposals:
  - 2007: [number] proposals, [number] projects
  - 2008: [number] proposals



# THREE COMPONENTS

- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance
- LIFE+ Information and Communication





# THREE APPROACHES

## → Best Practice

... applies appropriate, cost-effective, state-of-the-art techniques and methods for the conservation of species/habitats.

Testing and evaluating best practice techniques should NOT be part of the project as they are already state of the art. Monitoring is obligatory





# THREE APPROACHES

## → Demonstration

... puts into practice, tests, evaluates and disseminates actions and methods that are to some degree new or unfamiliar in the project's specific context and that should be more widely applied in similar circumstances.

Monitoring, evaluating and dissemination are integral parts of the project.



# THREE APPROACHES

## → Innovation

... applies a conservation technique or method that has not been applied/tested before or elsewhere and that offers potential advantages compared to current best practice.

... must be innovative at EU level.





# LIFE+ NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

→ Aims to contribute to the implementation of community policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity

A project may be EITHER:

- LIFE+ Nature OR
- LIFE+ Biodiversity





# LIFE+ NATURE

- Objective: Contributes to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives (Council Directives 79/409 EEC and 92/43/EEC)
- Approach: Must be **best practice** and/or **demonstration** projects
- Focus: Long-term sustainable investments in Natura 2000 sites and on the conservation of species and habitats targeted by the Birds and Habitats Directives



# LIFE+ BIODIVERSITY

- Objective: Contributes to the implementation of the objectives of the Commission's Communication COM (2006) 216 final: "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond"
- Approach: Must be **demonstration** and/or **innovation** projects
- Focus: The demonstration of measures and practices that contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU, other than those related to the implementation of the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directives



# LIFE+ BIODIVERSITY

Types of projects:

- A proposal consisting essentially of best practice actions will be rejected
- Proposals must be compatible with national and/or regional strategies for biodiversity where these exist
- Natural habitats and wild fauna/flora





# LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

- Objective: Implementation, updating and development of various Community environmental policy and legislation
- Approach: Must be **demonstration** and/or **innovation**
- Focus: To bridge the gap between research and development results and widespread implementation, and to promote innovative solutions with a public dimension





# LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Two kinds of projects:

- Actions related to Community policy on climate change, water, air, soil, urban environment, noise, chemicals, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests, innovation, and strategic approaches
- Projects to develop and implement Community objectives relating to the broad-based, harmonised, comprehensive, and long-term monitoring of forests and environmental interactions





# LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

LIFE+ Environment proposals should NOT include:

- ➔ Research and technological development activities
- ➔ Studies not specifically addressing the objective aimed at by the proposal
- ➔ Development of industrial capacity



# LIFE+ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

- ➔ Objective: Communication and awareness raising campaigns and actions for implementing, updating, and developing European environmental policy and legislation
- ➔ Also covers: Awareness raising campaigns and training activities for forest fire prevention
- ➔ Character: Highly visible communication and awareness raising targeting a defined environmental problem
- ➔ Do NOT have to be **innovation** or **demonstration**



# LIFE+ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Two types of projects:

1. Awareness raising campaigns
2. Awareness raising campaigns and training activities for forest fire prevention

→ Training projects will only be considered as main project actions in the field of forest fire prevention

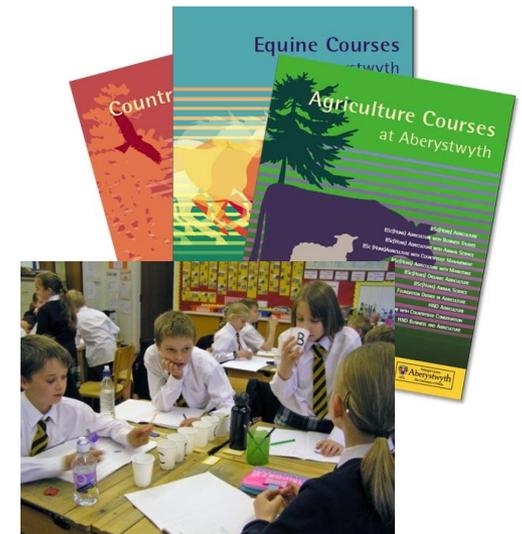




# LIFE+ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

LIFE+ Information and Communication proposals should NOT include:

- Investments in major infrastructure
- Land purchase
- Research and technological development
- Marketing for products
- Lobbying activities of NGOs
- EMAS and Ecolabel registration procedure information and dissemination activities (see CIP programme)
- Forest fire prevention actions covered by EAFRD
- Protection of intellectual property
- Development of a knowledge base (research, etc.)
- Forest fire extinction (see Civil Protection instrument)





# IS LIFE+ THE RIGHT PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

- “Bottom-up” instrument
- Three components
- EU added-value
- Average project grant of €1 million (EU contribution)
- Average project duration - between 2 and 5 years
- Maximum 50% co-financing (75% exception)





# IS LIFE+ THE RIGHT PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

- Payments: one or two pre-financing payments and one final payment
- One Call for Proposals per year until 2013
- Actions within the EU only
- Public or private bodies, actors or institutions registered in the EU



# OTHER PROGRAMMES THAT MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE

- **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**
  - ✓ National Ministry of Agriculture
  - ✓ National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
  - ✓ EC Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development
- **European Regional Development Fund**
  - ✓ National Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing
  - ✓ EC Directorate General for Regional Policy
- **Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)**
  - ✓ EC Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry



European  
Agricultural  
Fund  
for Rural  
Development



EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND





# OTHER PROGRAMMES THAT MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE

## → 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme

- ✓ EC Directorate General for Research

## → Civil Protection Financial Instrument

- ✓ EC Directorate General Environment

## → Cohesion Fund

- ✓ EC Directorate General for Regional Policy

## → European Fisheries Fund

- ✓ EC Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



European Civil Protection



Cohesion Fund



European Fisheries Fund



## PART 2



# PREPARING A LIFE+ PROPOSAL



# RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Regulation 614/2007 of the European Parliament and Council of 23/05/2007 (LIFE+)
- Common Provisions
- Guidelines for Applicants
- Guide for the Evaluation of LIFE+ Project Proposals 2009





# RELEVANT EC POLICY OR LEGISLATION

For example:

- Council Directives on the Conservation of Natural Habitats or Wild Birds
- European Commission Communication Halting the Loss of Biodiversity
- Water Framework Directive, etc.





# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 2008 AND 2009 CALLS

- Timing – Call and deadline earlier in the year
- Format of submissions
- Tightening of Guidelines
- Changes to the Guidelines due to extra funds for climate change: e.g. for nature corridors, drought tolerant crops.



# CONTENT OF A LIFE+ PROPOSAL

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# 1. ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSAL (PART A)

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# PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

- **One coordinating beneficiary:** legally and financially responsible. Single point of contact for the Commission. Must contribute technically and financially to the project.
- **Optional: associated beneficiaries** may be included in a project where they bring an added value to the project. They must contribute technically and financially.
- **Optional: co-financers** have no technical responsibilities and cannot benefit from the Community financial contribution.
- **Optional: sub-contractors** can be foreseen for specific tasks of a limited scope.



# PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

- Public and non-public bodies:
- Legal status
- Financial status





# COMMON QUESTIONS ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSALS

- Transnational projects
- Partners from outside the EU
- How to find partners, co-financing, etc.



## 2. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (PART B)

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# CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

- Summary of the project
- Sites / habitats targeted (if any)
- Environmental problem
- Approach
- State of the art
- Carbon footprint
- Stakeholders
- Constraints
- Sustainability
- EU added value



# 3. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (PART C)

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# PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

## Obligatory for all LIFE+ projects

- Activities undertaken by the beneficiaries for the administrative, technical and financial management of the project and for meeting the LIFE+ reporting requirements
- Monitoring and evaluation of project progress and impact



# PREPARATORY ACTIONS

- Not obligatory, but most projects include preparatory actions
- Preparatory actions must lead to direct implementation during the project
- In general, they should be of a limited duration (significantly shorter than the duration of the project)





# PROJECT ACTIONS

- Check the Guidelines for Applicants for suggestions of the kinds of actions appropriate for your LIFE+ component
- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity: minimum 25% of budget (see exceptions)
- No recurring (i.e. day-to-day) activities
- Are aimed at solving environmental problem





# COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

## Obligatory for all LIFE+ projects:

- A convincing and well-thought out communication and/or dissemination plan
- A Layman's Report, an After-LIFE Conservation Plan (for LIFE+ Nature) or an After-LIFE Communication Plan (for the other components)
- Project website, notice boards



## In addition, for demonstration and innovation projects:

- A significant set of actions to disseminate results



# 4. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (PART D)

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# OUTPUT INDICATORS

## Obligatory for all LIFE+ projects:

- To define both the initial situation and the planned project outputs
- Separate tables to be filled in for each of the three components
- Indicators required for Preparatory Actions, Concrete Actions and Dissemination Actions





# 4. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

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# PROJECT BUDGET

- Personnel costs of all beneficiaries
- Travel and subsistence costs of all beneficiaries
- External assistance costs
- Durable goods (depreciation rules apply)
- Consumable materials
- Other costs
- Overheads (flat rate: maximum 7% of eligible costs excluding land purchase costs)



# CO-FINANCING

- The EC contribution is calculated as a % of the eligible costs - usually a maximum of 50% (exception for some LIFE+ Nature projects)
- Once this maximum amount is fixed it cannot be increased, but it can be reduced.
- All beneficiaries must provide a “reasonable financial contribution” to the project budget
- All beneficiaries of the project should receive a share of the EC contribution
- The sum of public body beneficiaries’ financial contributions must exceed (by at least 2%) the sum of the salary costs of their permanent staff charged to the project



# ELIGIBLE COSTS

The financial part of the application form should only include costs which are in accordance with Article 25 of the Common Provisions, e.g.:

- Directly linked to project activities
- Mentioned in the proposal
- Reasonable
- Incurred during project lifetime
- Incurred by a project participant
- Fully paid before submission of Final Report





# COMMON QUESTIONS ON FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

- 2% Rule for public body personnel costs
- Income
- In-kind costs



# HOW TO SUBMIT A LIFE+ PROPOSAL

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# HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

- In the requested format
- To the national authority (see Guidelines)
- By the deadline: 15 September 2009
- The national authority will forward it to the Commission by: 22 October 2009
- Role of the national authority





# TIMETABLE AND PROCESS

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- The 2009 Selection Process will start in October 2009
- Grant agreements should be sent out in July/August 2010
- Earliest possible project start date:  
01.09.2010



# PART 3



# LIFE+ SELECTION PROCESS



# A. ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY PHASE

- Admissibility – timeliness, completeness and format
- Eligibility – scope of LIFE+
- To ensure fairness, the Commission must be strict in its application of the rules
- In the 2007 Call, 122 / 707 proposals were rejected at this stage





## Admissibility and Eligibility Phase

# COMMON PROBLEMS

### Admissibility

- The email address given in the proposal is not correct / not checked / inbox full / spam filter rejects Commission email / ...
- The applicant did not reply to a request for further information
- Forms missing or incomplete / signatures or dates missing / obligatory financial annexes missing or incomplete / ...
- Use of outdated forms or wrong format for annexes

### Eligibility

- The project does not fall within the scope of LIFE+



## Admissibility and Eligibility Phase

# AVOID REJECTION

- Read the Guidelines for Applicants carefully – use the Checklist in Sections 6 or 7
- Use the 2009 Guidelines for Applicants and Application Forms
- Ensure enough time and resources to write the proposal
- Fill in ALL required forms
- Provide ALL the information requested, in the right format and language



## Admissibility and Eligibility Phase

# AVOID REJECTION

- Ensure the email address works / the inbox is not full / the Commission's emails are not spammed
- CHECK page by page that the pdf version corresponds to the paper version, and prints out properly from the CD / DVD
- Check the scope of the proposed project:
  1. Takes place in the EU
  2. Falls within scope of one LIFE+ component





## B. SELECTION PHASE

- Technical selection criteria – technical reliability of participants, scope of project, etc.
- Financial selection criteria – compliance with financial rules
- 153 / 707 proposals rejected at the Selection Phase
- 95% of proposals rejected at the selection phase were LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity proposals



## Selection Phase

# COMMON PROBLEMS - FINANCIAL CRITERIA

- Lack of financial capacity
- Co-financing not assured
- Risk of bankruptcy
- Beneficiary unable to provide proof of public body status





## Selection Phase

# COMMON PROBLEMS – LIFE+ NATURE

- Less than 25% of budget on concrete conservation actions
- With site related actions:
  1. Main project actions (e.g. land purchase, habitat restoration) did not comply with the criteria for an appropriate Natura 2000 designation of the project area, nor with any exemptions
  2. The official Standard Data forms for Natura 2000 sites did not include any information on the presence of the target species / habitat type (therefore, legally, the site not designated for it)



## Selection Phase

# COMMON PROBLEMS – LIFE+ BIODIVERSITY

- 
- Less than 25% of budget on concrete conservation actions
  - Insufficient evidence that the project was demonstration or innovation (many projects were best practice conservation actions, outside Natura 2000 areas)
  - Outside the scope of LIFE+ Biodiversity



## Selection Phase

# COMMON PROBLEMS – OTHER COMPONENTS

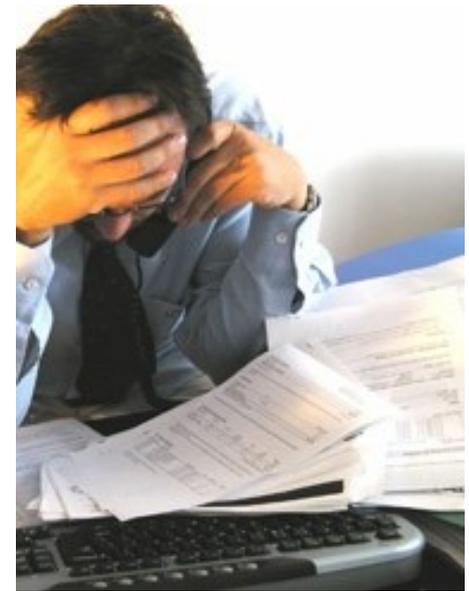
- 
- ➔ LIFE+ Information and Communication:
    - No link with EU environmental policy
    - Environmental problem not or weakly described
    - No clear link between problem and proposed solutions
    - Target audience and stakeholders not identified / involved / appropriate
    - Lack of adequate monitoring of project impact
    - Unclear objectives and expected results
  - ➔ LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance:
    - Proposal poorly elaborated



## Selection Phase

# AVOID REJECTION

- Properly document legal and financial status
- Clearly explain the environmental problem
- Elaborate the project properly





## Selection Phase

# AVOID REJECTION

- 25% concrete conservation actions for LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Nature: check the data on Natura 2000 site designation
- LIFE+ Biodiversity: check compliance with the LIFE+ application guides (compliance with the Communication does not necessarily equal eligibility for LIFE+)
- LIFE+ Biodiversity: ensure all Project Actions are demonstration or innovation



# C. SELECTION PROCESS – AWARD PHASE

Criteria	Maximum points	Threshold
Technical coherence and quality	15	8
Financial coherence and quality	15	8
Contribution to the general objectives of LIFE+	25	12
European added value and complementarity and optimal use of EU funding	30	15
Transnational character	5	-
Compliance with national annual priorities and national added value according to LIFE+ national authority	10	-
Total	100	-



## Award Phase

# COMMON PROBLEMS

- Award phase – four criteria with minimum thresholds
- 251 / 707 proposals rejected because they were below the threshold for at least one of the Award Criteria 1 – 4
- Usually Criteria 1 and/or 2 (technical and/or financial coherence)



## Award Phase

# AVOID REJECTION

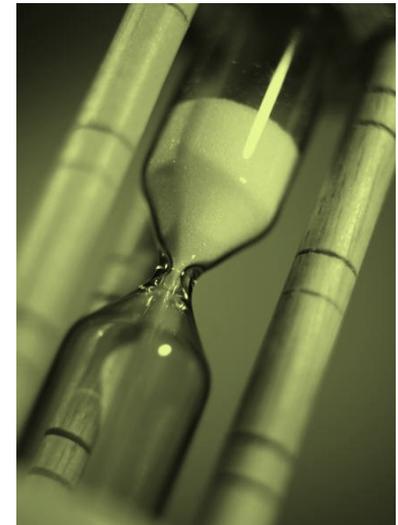
- Take all criteria seriously, but particularly Criteria 1 and 2
- Provide all information requested
- Use a formal project management tool to plan the project (e.g. Logical Framework)





## D. SELECTION PROCESS – REVISION PHASE AND AFTER

- Long, short and reserve lists
- Revision
- LIFE+ Committee
- Scrutiny by European Parliament
- Grant agreements (“contracts”)





# PART 4



# MANAGING A LIFE+ PROJECT



# COMMON REASONS FOR FAILURE IN LIFE PROJECTS

- Being badly prepared is the key reason why projects fail, in particular:
- unrealistic planning
  - no contingency plan
  - lack of understanding
  - poor management
  - prerequisites not fulfilled





# COMMON REASONS FOR FAILURE IN LIFE PROJECTS

- Stakeholder opposition
- Targets and/or actions unachievable in the given timeframe or budget
- Unclear roles of project participants
- Lack of commitment to the project
- Lack of understanding of LIFE responsibilities and rules





# POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF PROJECT FAILURE

- No – or even negative – impact on the environmental problem
- Waste of time, resources and opportunity
- Cancellation of the project
- Reimbursement of all or part of the provisional payments made by the Commission
- Modification of the project
- Reduction in project budget
- Extension of timeframe with no extra budget



# POINTS TO CONSIDER

## → Understanding:

- Environmental problem
- LIFE+

## → Realistic planning:

- What must be done?
- When?
- Is it realistic?





# POINTS TO CONSIDER

- ➔ Resources:
  - Project participants
  - Project management
  - Budget
  - Other resources
- ➔ Expected constraints and risks
  - Issues beyond the scope of the project
  - Killer assumptions
  - Contingency plan





# WHERE TO FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

- The Guidelines for Applicants
- The Common Provisions
- The national authority
- The LIFE website





# LIFE WEBSITE – FUNDING PAGES

Environment - LIFE : Funding : LIFE+ - Mozilla Firefox

EUROPA > European Commission > Environment > LIFE

Home | Who's who | Policies | Integration | Funding | Resources | News & Developments

HOME | NEWS | FUNDING | PUBLICATIONS | TOOLKIT | CONTACT | LIFE SITE MAP

LIFE by theme

- Nature, Biodiversity
- Air
- Energy, climate
- Environmental management
- Industry, production
- Urban environment, quality of life
- Soil, land-use, agriculture
- Waste
- Water

Home | Funding | LIFE+

## LIFE+ (2007-2013)

LIFE+, the new Financial Instrument for the Environment, has entered into force with the publication of the Regulation in the Official Journal L149 of 9 June 2007.

[View the LIFE+ Regulation](#)

### May 15 is launch day for 2009 call for proposals

28 January 2009 DG ENV is planning to launch its 2009 call for proposals for LIFE+ projects on May 15 2009. The 2009 applications package will be made available on that date on these pages.

Since the LIFE unit anticipates that there are unlikely to be significant changes with respect to the 2008 call, it recommends that potential applicants begin preparing their applications using the 2008 applications package.

This is available to download below. It is important to note however that applicants **MUST submit their proposals using the 2009 application forms** that will be made available on May 15.

→ LIFE project database

→ LIFE Best Projects

→ LIFE by country

→ LIFE+

- Components
- Call for proposals
- Background

→ LIFE III

→ Other funding

**LIFE+ Workshops**

Find out more on the workshops for potential applicants to be organised in 2009 by the Commission in each Member State.

**LIFE+ Leaflet**

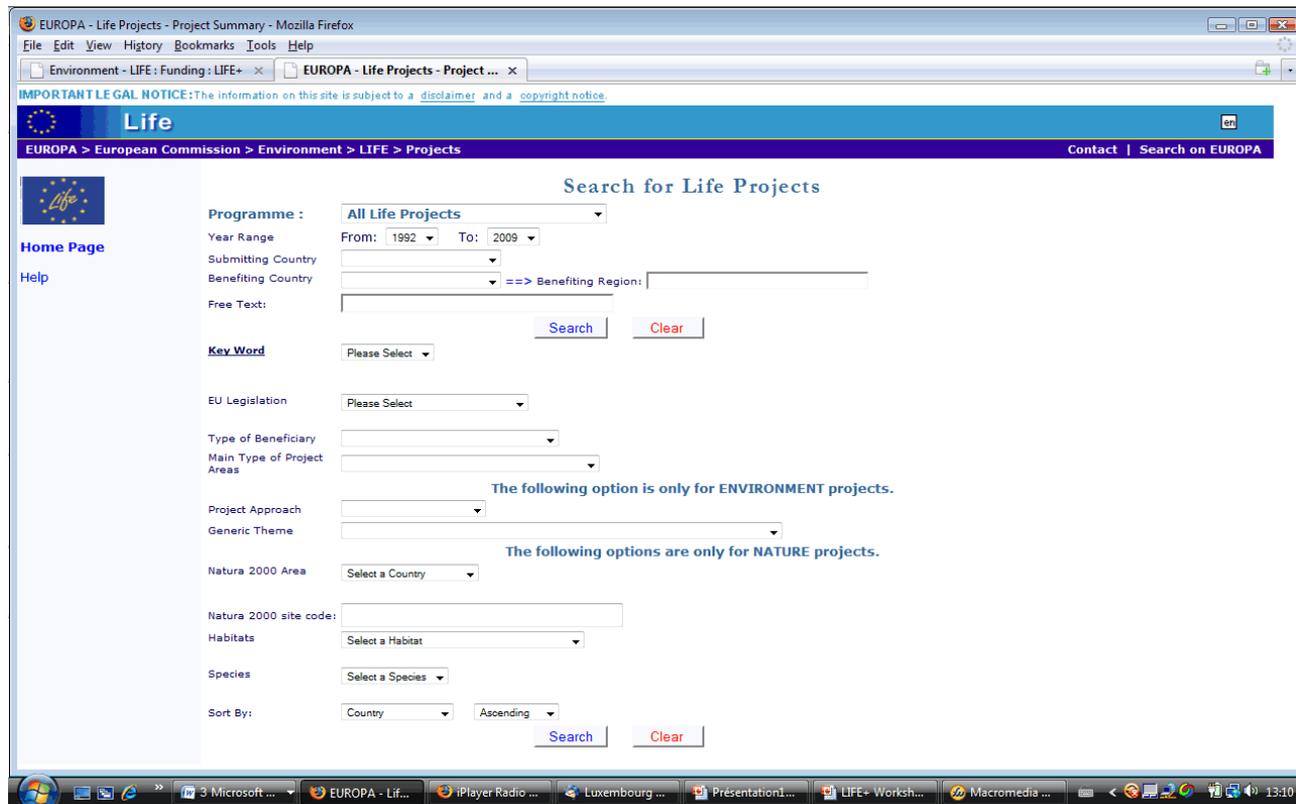
This leaflet provides an overview of the LIFE+ programme.

**First LIFE+ projects approved**

Find out more about the first



# LIFE WEBSITE – PROJECT DATABASE





# PROJECTS IN THE SAME FIELD

Check other projects that may have addressed similar or related problems:

- Build on their successes
- Learn from their problems
- Avoid unnecessary overlaps or duplication
- Build up a network





# THANK YOU!

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