

The Life+ 2011 call for proposals



Life+ is the principle European fund for environmental projects. The fund covers both the operational expenditure of the Directorate-General for the Environment and the co-financing of projects in all European Member States. Life+ is organised into three strands, Nature and Biodiversity, Environmental Policy and Governance, and Information and Communication.

How much funding is available?

The Life+ programme runs between 2007 and 2013 with a total budget of €2.143 billion. There is no minimum or maximum boundary for funding applications, although the European Commission normally favours large, ambitious projects with budgets of over €1m. Average total budgets are between €1 – 3 million, and most projects last for between 2 and 5 years.

General priorities

Life+ co-finances actions under three separate priorities, each covering different areas of environmental policy and legislation.

- **Life+ Nature and Biodiversity**

This priority funds two types of project. Life+ Nature projects contribute to the implementation of the EU [Birds](#) and/or [Habitats Directive](#), and support the development and implementation of the [Natura 2000 network](#) of protected ecological sites. Projects test and use best practice approaches to deliver long-term sustainable investments in the conservation of targeted species, habitats and/or Natura 2000 sites.

Life+ Biodiversity projects contribute to the European Commission Communications entitled '[Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond](#)', and '[Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010](#)'. Projects can test new, innovative or unfamiliar approaches to biodiversity actions in areas not directly covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives.

- **Life+ Environment Policy and Governance**

This priority funds projects which contribute to the updating, development and implementation of European environmental policy, including the integration of environmental priorities into other areas of European policy. Projects should support the goals of the [6th EAP](#) and [Europe 2020](#), have measurable results, include knowledge dissemination, and look at ways to achieve economic and social benefits from environmental actions.

Projects which identify promising new environmental technologies or approaches must demonstrate them at a scale which allows for analysis of their viability for large scale deployment. Example actions could include the development of innovative approaches for assessing the state of the environment, the design of tools for monitoring and evaluating environmental policy, or the demonstration of new environmental policy approaches.

- **Life+ Information and Communication**

This priority supports two types of projects. The first funds education, training, communication programmes and awareness raising campaigns in the areas of nature and biodiversity, climate change, water, air, soil, urban environment, noise, chemicals, environment and health, natural resources and waste, forests, innovation and strategic approaches. These should contribute to the updating and implementation of European environmental policy.

The second type of project concerns actions which contribute to fire prevention within Europe, including the training of fire safety professionals and awareness raising campaigns for at-risk areas.

Relevant policies and legislation

European environmental policy targets the key areas of climate change, biodiversity, environmental health and sustainable development. The Life+ programme is designed to complement other European financial instruments by supporting environmental actions across these priorities.

Life+ is specifically focused on the development and implementation of European environmental policy and legislation, and aims to deliver the objectives of the Sixth Community Environmental Action Programme (6th EAP). The documentation for the Life+ programme is available [here](#).

Who can apply?

Life+ funding is open to national public authorities and their subsidiaries, private non-commercial organisations, NGOs, and other institutions registered in the EU. Private commercial organisations can participate provided they act in a non profit making capacity.

Project proposals can be submitted by a single beneficiary or as a partnership between a coordinating beneficiary and associated beneficiaries. Partnerships are only encouraged when they add European value to a project, help disseminate and transfer results, or are clearly required to make the project feasible.

Conditions of funding:

The maximum co-financing rate is 50%, which means that Life+ will fund up to 50% of the eligible costs of a project, with the remaining 50% coming from a source other than the European Union. Co-financing rates of up to 75% may be granted to projects under the Life+

Nature priority that focus on concrete conservation actions for priority species or habitats under the Birds and Habitats Directive.

Deadline:

The fifth call for Life+ proposals opened in February, with a deadline for applicants on 18 July 2011.

For more information:

- [European Commission Life+ website](#)
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