



ENVIRONMENT

EASME

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

THE LIFE PROGRAMME 2014-2020

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LIFE Info Day
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Executive
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SMEs

AGENDA

- LIFE objectives general features and 25 years
- Priorities and strands
- Who is who in the program
- Highlights for the 2017 call for proposals
- Close to market activities
- Some features of a successful proposal

LIFE'S OVERALL OBJECTIVE



To contribute to:
the implementation,
update and development of
the EU environmental and
climate policy and legislation



L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement



25 years of EU supporting Nature, Environment and Climate Action through **LIFE**

Founded **21 May 1992**.
~**4500** projects.
Invested **€8.7 billion**
Created **74 500 jobs**.



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity:

- **€3.4 billion** in species and habitat protection.
- World's largest network of protected areas.
- Over **400** protected species and **200** rare habitats.
- **Iberian lynx, Azores bullfinch** and **Sicilian fir**.
- **7000** Natura 2000 network sites.
- **€43 billion** in ecosystem services.



LIFE Environment:

- **€4.8 billion** invested in over **2400 projects**.
- More than **1000 projects** on **water, air and soil**.
- **€1 billion** in preventing, reusing and recycling **waste**.
- **€100 million** invested in **circular economy**.



LIFE Climate Action:

- **€1.1 billion** invested in climate action.
- Over **220 projects** mitigating climate change.
- Over **100 projects** adapting to climate change.



LIFE 2014-2020 – OBJECTIVES

- ❖ **Resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**; protecting and improving the **environment**; maintaining and improving **biodiversity**, ecosystems and **Natura 2000 network**
- ❖ Contribution to **Union environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- ❖ **Integrating and mainstreaming** of environmental and climate objectives into other policies
- ❖ Improving environmental and climate **governance**

WHAT IS LIFE FINANCING?



Traditional Projects

Capacity Building
Projects

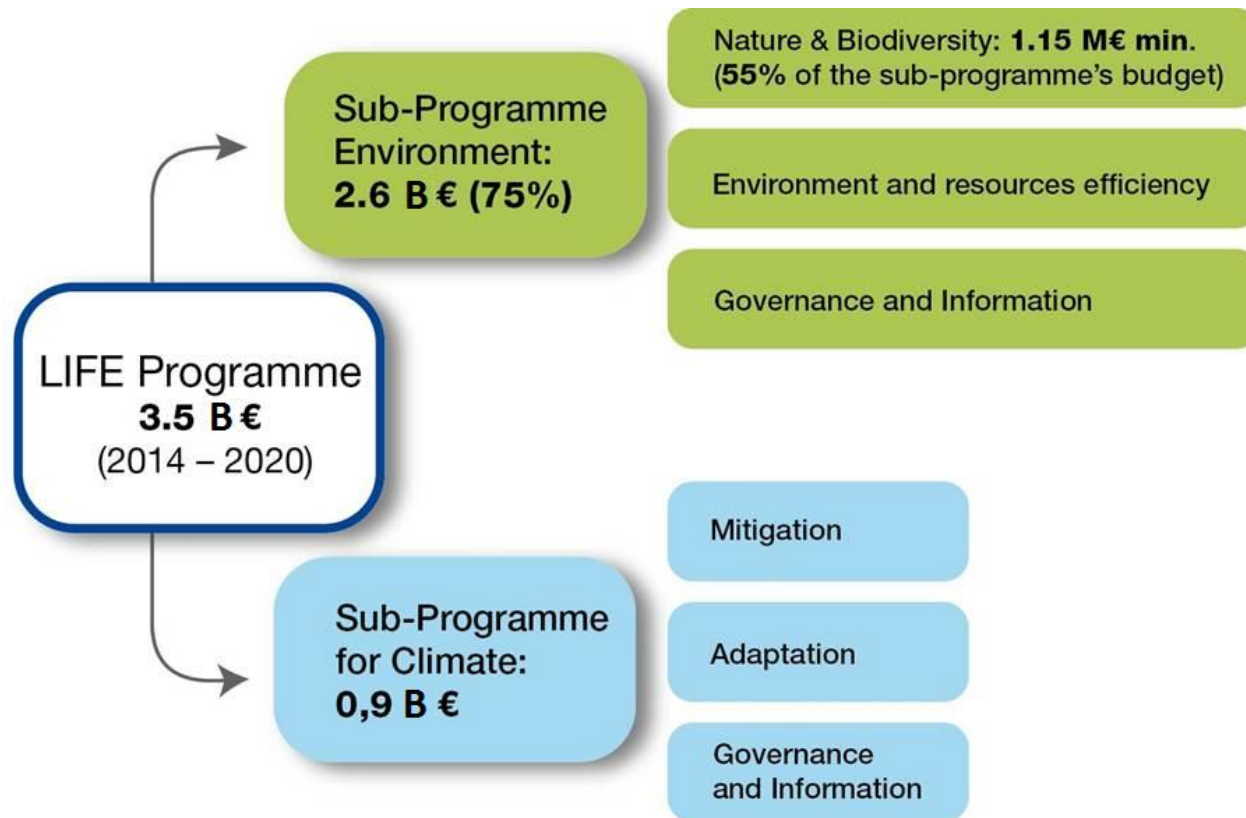
Technical Assistance
and Integrated Projects

NGOs grants

Financial Instruments

Preparatory Projects

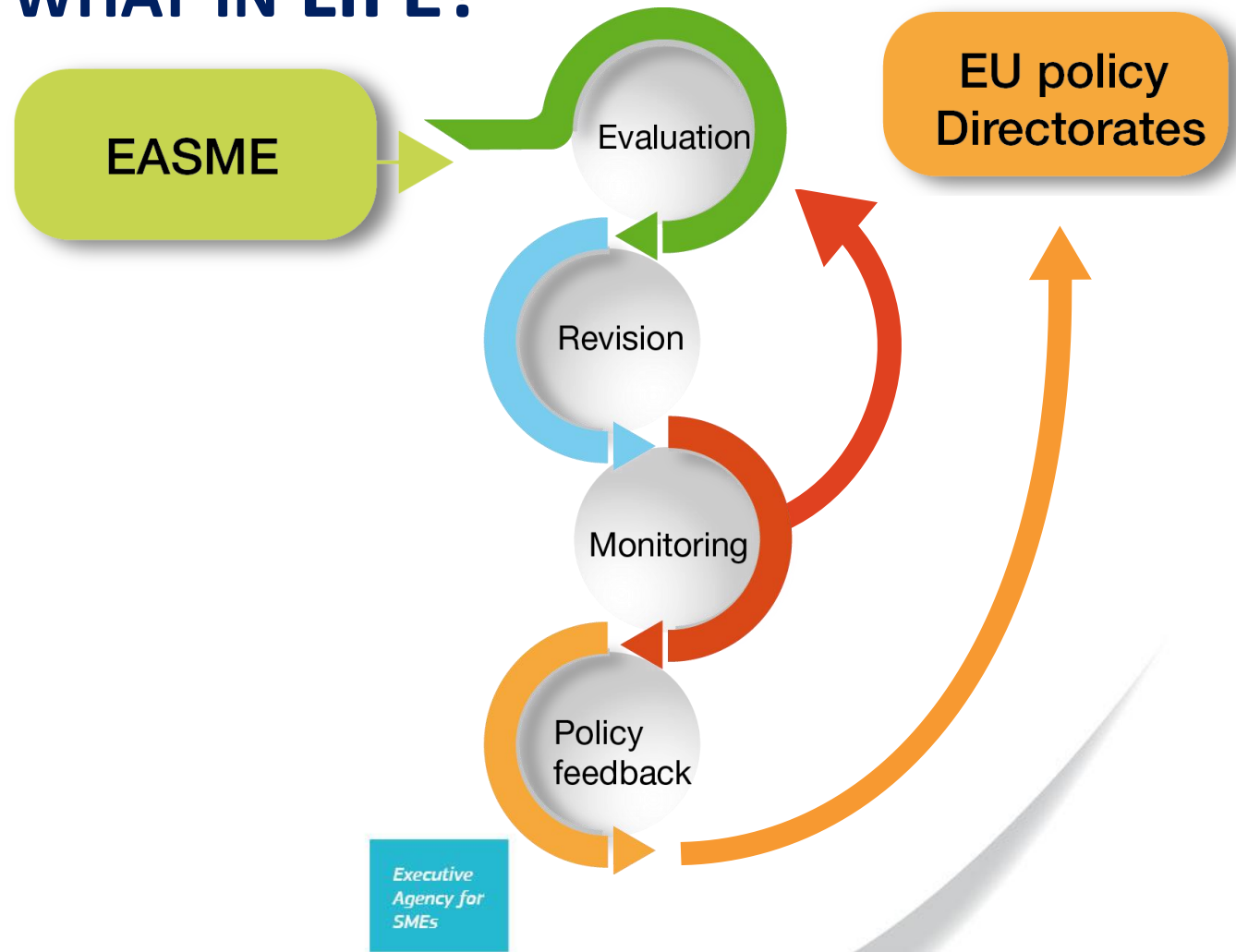
LIFE 2014-2020 : PRIORITY AREAS & BUDGET



LIFE - GENERAL FEATURES

- ❖ Applicants - **all legal persons registered in the EU**
- ❖ Emphasis on **replicability/transferability, long-term sustainability, and an EU added value**
- ❖ **Not** focused on **research** (↔ H2020)
- ❖ No large infrastructure; **not** focused on **rural or regional development** (↔ agricultural, structural funds)
- ❖ Support and monitoring: from Contracting Authority (EASME or European Commission) and external monitoring team

WHO DOES WHAT IN LIFE?



THE "TRADITIONAL" PROJECTS

For what? Pursuit of general and specific objectives of the 6 priority areas

❖ Sub-programme for environment: additional focus on thematic priorities and on project topics

Average size? 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €500,000 to €1.5 million

Co-funding rate? 60%;

- NAT under specific conditions linked to conservation actions on priority habitat/species: **75%**

LIFE 2014-2020 – IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- ❖ LIFE Web site – It contains everything you need:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>
- ❖ LIFE Regulation – priority areas
- ❖ MAWP (Multi-annual work programme 2014-2017) – project topics
- ❖ Application Packages
- ❖ Guides for evaluation
- ❖ Specific information, guidelines designed by your National Contact Point



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HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE LIFE CALL 2017

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LIFE 2017 – BUDGET

LIFE Call 2017 opening: 28 April 2017

AREA	CLOSING	BUDGET 17	~ % vs 2016
CLIMATE	07-Sep-17	€ 52.1 Mill.	+10%
ENV-RE	12-Sep-17	€ 83 Mill.	+10%
NAT	14-Sep-17	€ 101.9 Mill.	+5%
GIE	14-Sep-17	€ 16.9 Mill.	-12%
IPE	26-Sep-17	€ 86 Mill.	+ 10%
IPC	26-Sep-17	€ 30 Mill.	+ 53%
TA	07-Sep-17	€ 300k	+47%

LIFE 2014-2017 MAWP

❖ Stronger emphasis on:

- ❖ Long term sustainability of the project
- ❖ Replicability and transferability
- ❖ EU added value

❖ Impact indicators

LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

- ❖ Sustainability of project results should be built in the proposal
- ❖ Potential to use project results beyond the project life time
- ❖ Particularly important for Award Criterion 1
Technical coherence and quality

REPLICABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY

- ❖ Go beyond dissemination of project results and sharing of knowledge
- ❖ Include activities and approaches integrated in project actions which aim to facilitate the replication and/or transfer of the project results beyond the project, including in other sectors, regions or countries

EU ADDED VALUE

- ❖ Each project should demonstrate EU Added Value in terms of:
 - ❖ Quantifiable environmental impact (substantial, ambitious, credible)
 - ❖ Multi-purpose, synergies and integration
 - ❖ Transnational scope



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CLOSE TO MARKET PROJECTS



CLOSE TO MARKET (C2M) PROJECTS

- ❖ Propose **new solutions with environmental and economic benefits**
- ❖ Ready from **technical and business perspective**
- ❖ Implement **solution in close-to-market conditions** (i.e.: industrial, commercial scale) during the project
- ❖ Foresee **pre-commercial activities (market analysis, business plan, etc.)**
- ❖ Direct **solutions towards market**
- ❖ Knows its **competitors and competitive advantages**
- ❖ Aim for **long-term commercialisation** of the solutions

WHY C2M PROJECTS?

- ❖ LIFE supports C2M projects (without calling them C2M)
- ❖ C2M is attractive mainly for ENV and CCM strands
- ❖ LIFE contributes to the priorities of EU on Growth and Jobs

WHY C2M PROJECTS? (CONT.)

- ❖ C2M approach offer **increased sustainability**
- ❖ one-stop-shop for businesses **from innovation, demonstration, upscaling to commercialisation**

IS THE FOCUS OF LIFE CHANGING?

- ❖ **No but...**
 - ❖ Emphasis to clarify the C2M approach, and
 - ❖ Explicitly reach out to the private sector
- ❖ **Non-C2M projects remain a key feature of LIFE**

HOW TO PREPARE A GOOD PROPOSAL

TIPS AND COMMON PITFALLS



FACT 1: THERE IS SIGNIFICANT COMPETITION FOR LIFE FUNDS

FACT 2: YOU CAN'T GET A GRANT IF YOU DON'T SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

FACT 3: IT TAKES TIME AND MONEY TO PREPARE AN APPLICATION

FACT 4: PROPOSALS THAT FAIL ARE POORLY PREPARED OR SIMPLY NOT AS GOOD AS THE OTHERS; FUNDING IS LIMITED

PROJECT BUDGET

Only costs incurred for actions implemented during project lifetime can be eligible!

- ❖ Daily rate – based on gross salary + contributions according to the national legislation (social security, pension, etc.)
- ❖ External assistance – not more than 35% of the total budget
- ❖ Durable goods – 100% for NAT projects, for the rest, only depreciation costs can be financed (up to 25% for infrastructure, up to 50% for equipment),
- ❖ Prototypes – 100% if developed specifically for the LIFE project – no commercialisation during the project's life.
- ❖ Public tender – mandatory for contracts above 130,000 €
- ❖ Good value for money has to be demonstrated



THE BASELINE IS INCOMPLETE

- ❖ What is **the problem** you want to address
- ❖ What are the challenges **in your specific context**
- ❖ What has been done so far – **value added of the project**
- ❖ **Baseline data** (surveys, results of tests, etc.) → provide the data source and, when relevant, maps

UNCLEAR LINK BETWEEN ACTIONS AND OBJECTIVES



- ❖ **Are the actions appropriate** to address the problem identified? Use **logical framework**
- ❖ Clearly present **who does what and when**
- ❖ Tools/strategies/methodologies → needed for **concrete implementation**
- ❖ **Transnational?**

SUSTAINABILITY NOT ENSURED



- ❖ Technical sustainability **should be built in the project** ex. scale up pilot, uptake of policy recommendations/tools
- ❖ Responsibilities – who will do the job afterwards?
Who will use the tool/ products developed?
- ❖ Financial sustainability



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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