



# The LIFE programme

Funding opportunities - from R&D to pilot testing and implementation

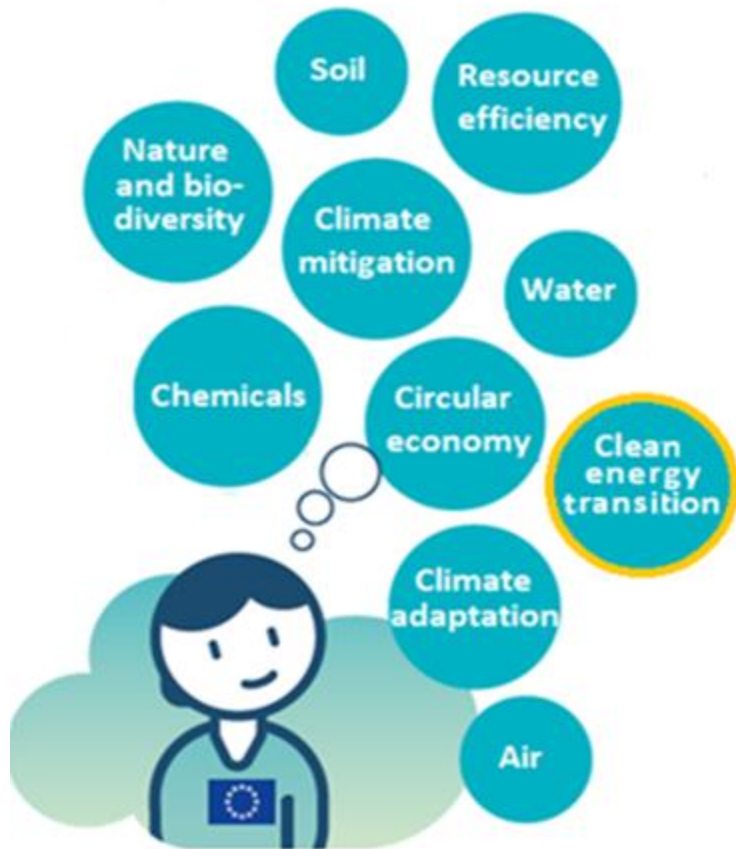
LIFE IP CleanEST project international conference

Wednesday, 25 October 2023

Federico De Filippi  
Project Advisor - CINEA  
Unit D.2 - LIFE Environment  
(Nature & Circular Economy)

# The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

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



**Total budget 2021 -2027 ~ € 5.43 billion**

- Sub-programme **Nature and Biodiversity** (€ 2 billion)
- Sub-programme **Circular Economy and Quality of Life** (€ 1.35 billion)
- Sub-programme **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation** (€ 0.95 billion)
- Sub-programme **Clean Energy Transition** (€ 1 billion)

## **Major Changes**

- Expanded use of strategic integrated projects
- New application tool (eGrants – Funding & Tender Portal)
- Greater flexibility to target key emerging issues

# The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

To contribute to the shift to a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy based- and climate resilient economy

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



**Nature and Biodiversity**



**Circular Economy and Quality of Life**



**Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**



**Clean Energy Transition**

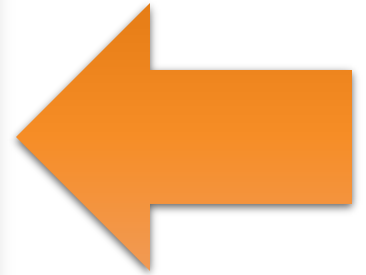
## Projects

- Develop and demonstrate eco-innovative techniques and approaches
- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Help to implement and enforce plans and strategies, in compliance with EU legislation.
- Catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions

- Contributes to policies and legislation development, monitoring and enforcement
- Help Member States to improve their implementation

## Project beneficiaries are:

Private enterprises  
NGOs and civil society organisations  
Public authorities



# Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life



## Circular Economy and Quality of Life

- **Contribution in the areas of:**  
  
green and circular economy, water, noise, air, chemicals, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste



### Typical actions

Support to public authorities and other stakeholders to implement EU environment legislation.

Support to technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy.

Promote upscale and access to finance.



# Types of activities funded under LIFE

## GRANTS

- Action grants:
  - Standard action projects (SAPs)
  - Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)
  - Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
  - Technical Assistance (TA)
  - Other actions (OA) – including Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
- Operating grants

## OTHER FORMS OF FUNDING

- Procurement
- Prizes
- Blending



# Focus on: Standard action projects (SAPs)

- ‘Traditional’ LIFE projects aimed to:
  - develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches;
  - contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices;
  - support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
  - catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, 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% maximum except:**
  - 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
  - 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species



Maximum 10 year duration



# LIFE ENV Calls for SAPs: Scope and priority topics for **Circular economy and quality of LIFE**

## Scope and priority topics

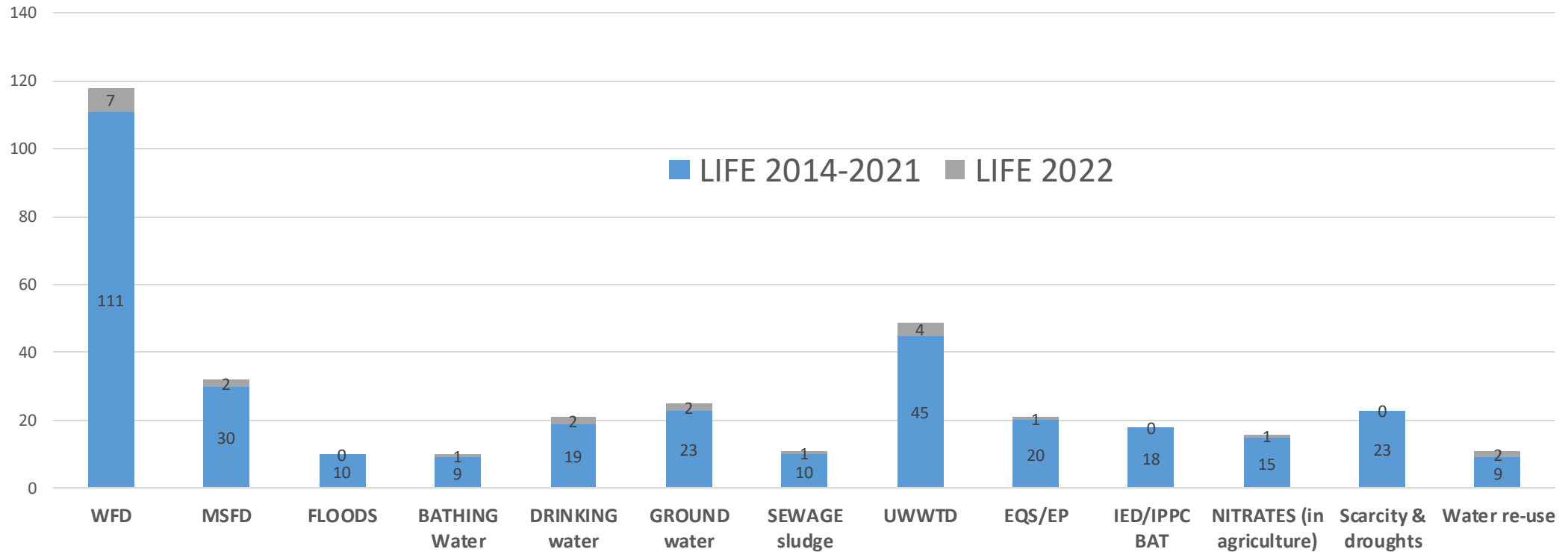
Actions to facilitating the transition toward a **sustainable, circular, toxic-free, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy** and at **protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the environment**

1. Circular economy and waste
2. Soil
3. Air
4. Water
5. Noise
6. Chemicals
7. Environmental governance
8. New European Bauhaus



# LIFE ENV Water projects and Policies

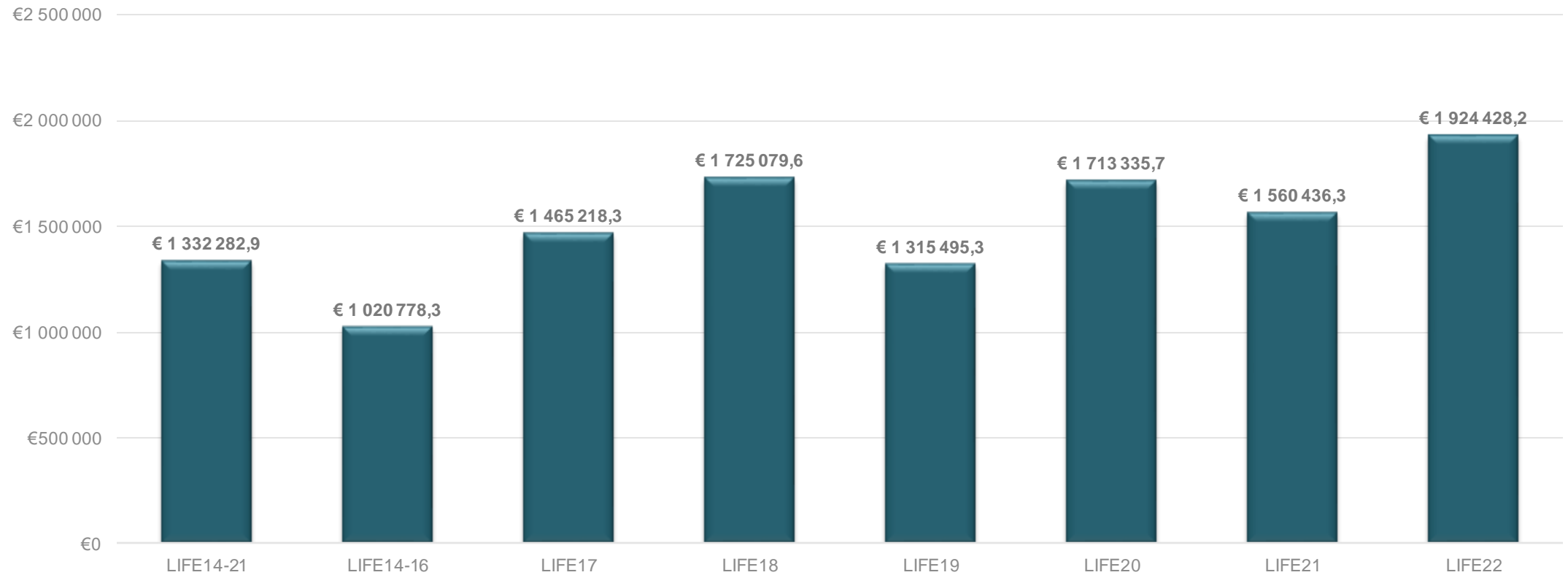
Mapping LIFE (ENV-CEQL) Water projects according to relevant policies  
136 projects between 2014 and 2022





# LIFE ENV Water projects Budget (SAP)

## LIFE TRADITIONAL PROJECTS 14-22 (average EU contribution)



60%  
co-funding  
For SAPs  
CEQL

| Traditional Projects    | LIFE14-21       | LIFE14-16      | LIFE17         | LIFE18         | LIFE19         | LIFE20         | LIFE21         | LIFE22        |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Number of projects      | 127             | 53             | 16             | 15             | 16             | 17             | 10             | 9             |
| Total cost              | € 310,165,700.0 | € 97,834,982.0 | € 42,062,147.0 | € 52,064,142.0 | € 38,510,176.0 | € 53,658,696.0 | € 26,035,557.0 | 32287673      |
| Total EU Contribution   | € 169,199,929.0 | € 54,101,249.0 | € 23,443,492.4 | € 25,876,193.6 | € 21,047,924.0 | € 29,126,707.0 | € 15,604,363.0 | 17319854.01   |
| Average EU Contribution | € 1,332,282.9   | € 1,020,778.3  | € 1,465,218.3  | € 1,725,079.6  | € 1,315,495.3  | € 1,713,335.7  | € 1,560,436.3  | € 1,924,428.2 |

# LIFE ENV Calls for SAPs : Scope and areas of intervention for Water Quality and quantity

## Scope and areas of intervention

- Improvement of water quality by
  - ✓ Integrated management of nutrients and organic pollution of human (urban) and/or agricultural origin by directly removing pollution.
  - ✓ Innovative solutions for the reduction of pressures from chemical pollutants in the water environment by reducing emissions of priority substances and other chemicals identified as river basin specific pollutants at source
- Implementation of flood and/or drought risk management actions by applying at least one of the following,
  - ✓ Nature-based solutions consisting in natural water retention measures that increase infiltration and storage of water and remove pollutants through natural or "natural-like" processes
  - ✓ Innovative prevention and protection tools and techniques for support of policy, land use planning, risk reduction, post-event resilience and emergency management,
  - ✓ Innovative integrated risk assessment and management approaches
- Innovative projects addressing hydro morphological pressures identified in RBMPs
- Implementation of innovative water saving measures

# LIFE ENV Calls for SAPs : Scope and areas of intervention for **Marine and costal water management**

## Scope and areas of intervention

Application of innovative solutions (tools, technologies or practices) to **ensure the protection and conservation of the seas, oceans and their coasts.**

Initiatives aimed at reducing the pressure of human activities on the marine environment, and addressing at least one of the following topics of high concern

- ✓ underwater noise,
- ✓ marine litter and/or contaminants (addressed at source or in the sea giving priority to prevention rather than clean-up),
- ✓ disturbance of and damage to the sea floor,
- ✓ examination & reduction of impacts of deep sea exploitation & exploration,
- ✓ over-fishing and/or incidental by-catch,
- ✓ nutrient and organic matter inputs from agriculture or aquaculture and/or
- ✓ navigation (e.g. dredging navigation channels, shipping highways).



# LIFE ENV Calls for SAPs : Scope and areas of intervention for **Water Services**

## Scope and areas of intervention

- Application of innovative technologies and tools for **drinking water and UWWT systems**
  - ✓ the use of resource efficient processes for the provision of water services ,
  - ✓ the use of processes to diminish the presence of pollutants of emerging concern,
  - ✓ the treatment of drinking water and/or waste water for reuse
- Application of innovative tools ensuring the **resource efficient provision of water services** compliant with the revised Drinking Water Directive and the UWWTD to **population living in rural areas**
- Improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of innovative solutions and/or innovative **treatment options regarding recycled/reclaimed water**,
  - ✓ Source control methods and on-site technologies for decreased discharges of pollutants
  - ✓ Systematic approaches to avoid loss of water, energy and resources in industrial production and/or in provision of water services



# LIFE20 ENV/ES/000327 - Ebro Resilience



## FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT THROUGH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

- The LIFE project develops actions in two tranches of intervention defined within the framework of the strategy for the resilience of the river Ebro, in line with the Flood risk management plan of the Ebro hydistrict (PGRI).
  - Intervention 1: Restoration and renaturalization works of river spaces through the removal or movement of the banks/levees and environmental restoration of three meanders
  - Intervention 2: Agricultural surfaces under intensive cultivation are made floodable. Creation of buffer zones for controlled lateral flows
- The measures can also be replicated for similar cases in other parts of the Ebro basin and in other Spanish and European river basins.

<https://www.ebroresilience.com/proyecto-life-p1/el-proyecto/>



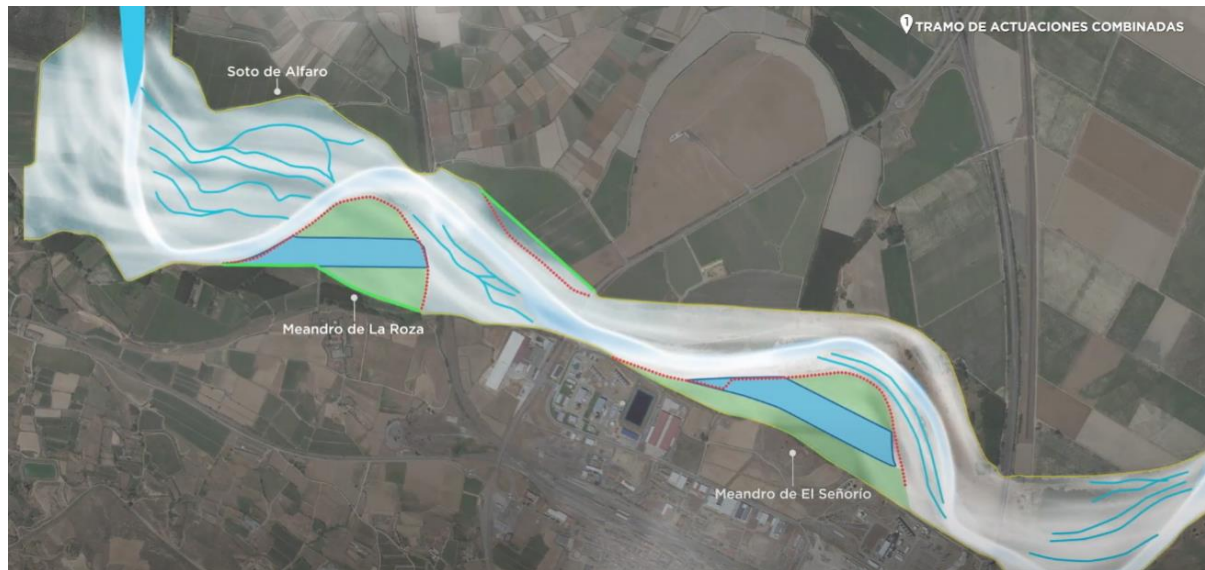
Total budget: 13,310,350 EUR  
UE contribution: 7,318,564 EUR



## LIFE Ebro Resilience

LIFE20 ENV/ES/000327

# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT THROUGH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES AND ADAPTATION MEASURES



**Intervention 1 (dimostration):** recovering river land space



**Intervento 2 (pilot):** controlled flooding of agricultural land



# LIFE16 ENV/ES/156 - NEWEST



Background: the inorganic coagulant “ferric chloride” is commonly used to reduce the phosphorus level in effluent of industrial and urban WWTPs. It is a corrosive and a dangerous product to handle.

The project proposes a new technology based on natural-based coagulants developed and manufactured by the project, safe for people and environmentally friendly.

## Activities:

- design and construction of an industrial-scale production plant (350t, 2 products during the project)
- Demonstration: replacement of inorganic coagulants in wastewater treatment
- Evaluation of the use of the generated sludge in biomethanation and agricultural applications
- Results: produced 397 tons of the blending product (BEWAT NW3) and 57 tons of the original synthesized product (BEWAT MA), which was used for the project trials.

PROJECT BUDGET 2.260.073€

EU Contribution 1.347.627€

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/4635>



# Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) in a nutshell

**Aim is to catalyze the full implementation of the targeted plan/strategy/action plan** and, together with the complementary measures needed to achieve full implementation, **remove all remaining administrative, financial, structural and other barriers** for its implementation.

The set of measures to be foreseen shall also include the following:

- **institutional support** and **capacity building actions**;
- **mobilisation and coordination** of additional finance for complementary actions, in particular from other EU funding instruments and programmes.

Eligible plans for Water:

- River Basin Management Plans (WFD)
- Flood Risk Management Plans (FD)
- Marine Strategies (MSFD)





# Useful information

- LIFE Call for proposal (info soon available about Calls for proposals 2024)  
[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-calls-proposals\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-calls-proposals_en)
- LIFE EU Info Days 2023 info and recordings  
[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/eulife23-info-days-2023-04-25\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/eulife23-info-days-2023-04-25_en)
- The LIFE Project database  
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>
- CINEA funding opportunities  
[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities_en)

# Other funding opportunities – CINEA

The **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)** supports innovative projects that contribute to the sustainable exploitation and management of aquatic and maritime resources.

More info at: [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf_en)

## Horizon Europe - EU Missions

- ["Adaptation to Climate Change"](#), contributes to putting the EU's adaptation strategy in practice by helping the regions to:
  - better understand the climate risks they are and will be confronted with in the future
  - develop their pathways to be better prepared and cope with the changing climate
  - test and deploy on the ground innovative solutions needed to build resilience
- ["Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030"](#) aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments.

# Keep in touch with us



30 years of bringing green ideas to LIFE



[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)



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# Thank you