



PART 3: HOW TO PREPARE



Which EU Programme? LIFE vs H2020

- **Pilot & demonstration** projects
- **Best practices** (for nature)
- **Information** & dissemination, **governance**
- **Need to justify the need for action in IL**
- **Research** and innovation actions with a strong research component
- **Innovation** actions more focused on prototypes, demonstration and market replication
- **SME instrument**: Three phases (feasibility/viability, demonstration at pilot level, commercialisation) –risk finance



LIFE vs H2020

- **Scope:** in LIFE most areas of environment and climate policy are covered by the project topics. **The project topics broader and indicative, and no project topics for Climate.**
- **Applicants:** no restriction
- **Participating countries:** **EU MS**, Art.5 and Art. 6
- **Co-financing rate:** 60-75%
- The topics are **strictly defined**- anything outside **not eligible**
- **Applicants:** consortia involving a minimum of **three** legal entities from **three** Member States
- **Participating countries:** EU MS, Third countries partnership agreement like **IL**
- **Co-financing rate:** 70-100%



Which EU Programme?

- My project is essentially in agricultural/forest land with no environmental elements: ENPARD;
- ENI has various regional projects that could also be of interest (SWITCH-MED, SWIM II) but call for proposals still under definition



What kind of project?

- **Traditional or Integrated projects?** IPs must aim towards the full implementation of a relevant plan or strategy under EU Law
- **Innovation/Piloting/demonstration:** transferability of the technology/approach to the EU
- **Best practice project:** only for nature and in some cases biodiversity need to link to cross-border habitats, migratory species
- **Governance and information projects:** linked to international obligations or information campaigns need a wider approach



What issue? Project Topics

In Environment Sub-Programme

10 (or 5) extra points

Check them carefully!!



Which subprogramme?

Environment

- Projects falling under one of the project topics
- Climate mitigation or adaptation is a by-product but not the central objective
- Clear link to the specific objectives for the three environmental priority areas

Climate

- Climate mitigation or adaptation is the main goal
- Clear link to the specific objectives for the three climate action priority areas





River restoration

- Main objective of the project is to **restore a river habitat or species** of EU concern, then **Nature**.
- Main objective is to **address current or projected impacts** of climate change: **Climate Adaptation**
- Main objective is testing and **applying innovative management schemes** addressing water related **ecosystem services** as potential for funding- **Biodiversity**
- Main objective is to contribute to the implementation of the **Water Framework Directive** and related legislation: **Env and Resource Efficiency**



Soil carbon management

- Main objective of the project is **improving management to reduce soil sealing**, and better managing runoff and general nutrient protection, would fall under LIFE **Environment and Resource Efficiency**
- Main objective of the project is to conserve, enhance, or **restore the carbon content** of soils through improved management, then LIFE **Climate Change Mitigation** (if conserving or restoring) and/or LIFE **Climate Change Adaptation** (if enhancing carbon content)



Biogas management

- Main objective of the project is to ensure the **improved efficiency of biomass use** – whether from forests or from annual crops – and approaches the accounting of value from a carbon cycle perspective, then LIFE **Climate Change Mitigation**
- Main objective of the project is to **ensure the improved efficiency of biomass use** – whether from forests or from annual crops - and approaches the accounting of value from an economic, design or cost-efficiency perspective, then LIFE **Environment and Resource Efficiency**



Air emissions

- Main objective of the project is **non-greenhouse gas air emissions, or mixed emissions** where the emphasis is primarily on the non-GHG or where the non-GHG air emissions constitute the most significant focus of the project, then LIFE **Environment and Resource Efficiency**
- Main objective of the project is targeting **solely or primarily greenhouse gas air emissions** should be submitted under LIFE **Climate Change Mitigation**.



How many partners, which budget, which contribution?

- As many partners as needed to ensure the effectiveness of a project
- The budget required to ensure the effectiveness of a project (depends on the type of project)
- **Associated beneficiaries must contribute technically AND financially (even if only 1 EUR)**
 - A beneficiary's financial contribution is considered as a proof of its commitment to the implementation of the project objective



The evaluation of EU added value

Award Criteria	Minimum pass score*	Maximum score
1. Technical coherence and quality	10	20
2. Financial coherence and quality	10	20
3. EU added value: extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment	10	20
4. Contribution to the project topics	-	10
5. EU added value: multipurpose, synergies, and integration	7	15
6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	5	10
7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	-	5
Overall (pass) scores	55	100



Finding an EU partner

- Contact the National Contact Points
- Use your contacts in EU Member States
- Subscribe to the LIFE Newsletter
- Visit the LIFE Project Data Base



Submitting an application eProposal (for traditional projects)

- Full online process
 - Preparation / Submission
 - Communication
 - Revision
 - Amendment
- Structured data
- Can allow third parties to see applications in development
- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eproposalWeb/>



Evaluation Process

Traditional Projects:

- ➔ Selection and Award criteria based on multi-annual work programme
- ➔ Details in the Evaluation Guide



Evaluation Process

Traditional Projects:

At end of 'award' phase, projects will be ranked, in each sub-programme, based on:

- Score
- 55% for nature (environment sp)
- National Allocations (environment sp)



Evaluation Process

Traditional Projects:

"Revision" for projects up to budget available, with additional projects "revised" if funds become available



Evaluation Process

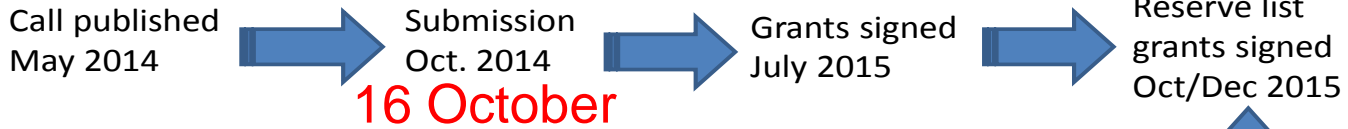
Integrated Projects:

- Concept note evaluation
 - Question phase
 - Evaluation of full proposals
- A first time for all of us....

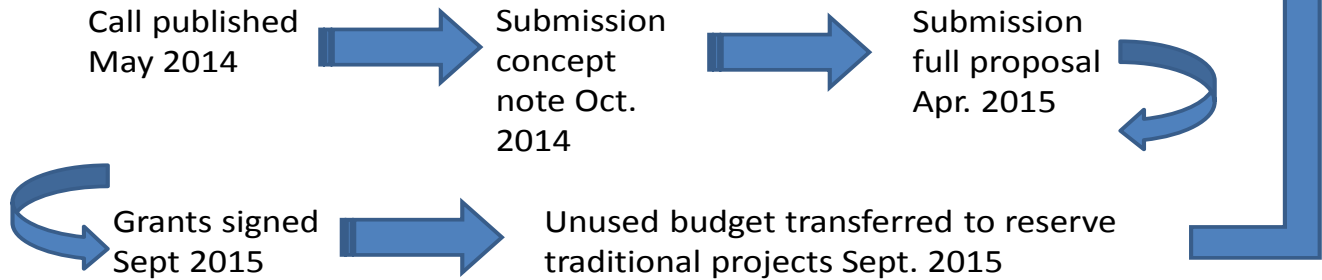


LIFE Call 2014 Indicative timetable

Traditional projects



Integrated projects





Some advice

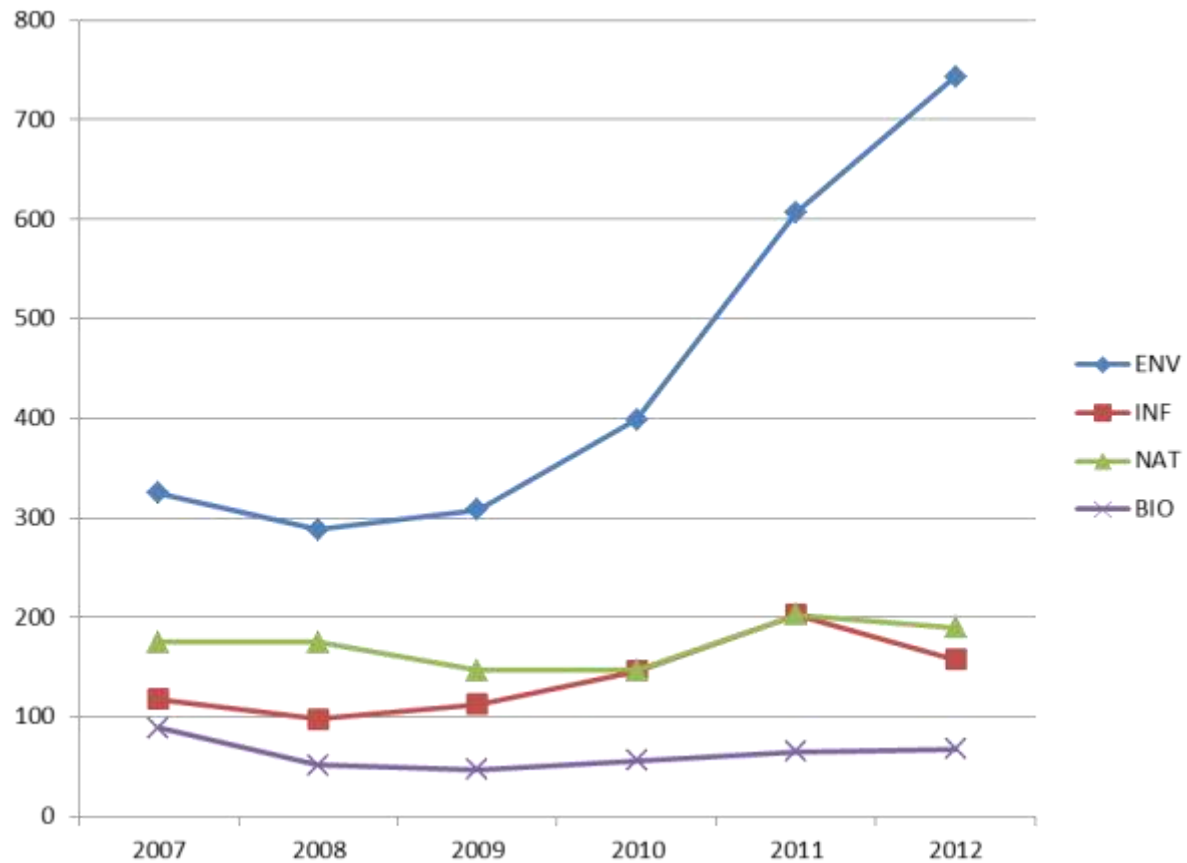


Facts of LIFE

1) There is significant competition for LIFE funds

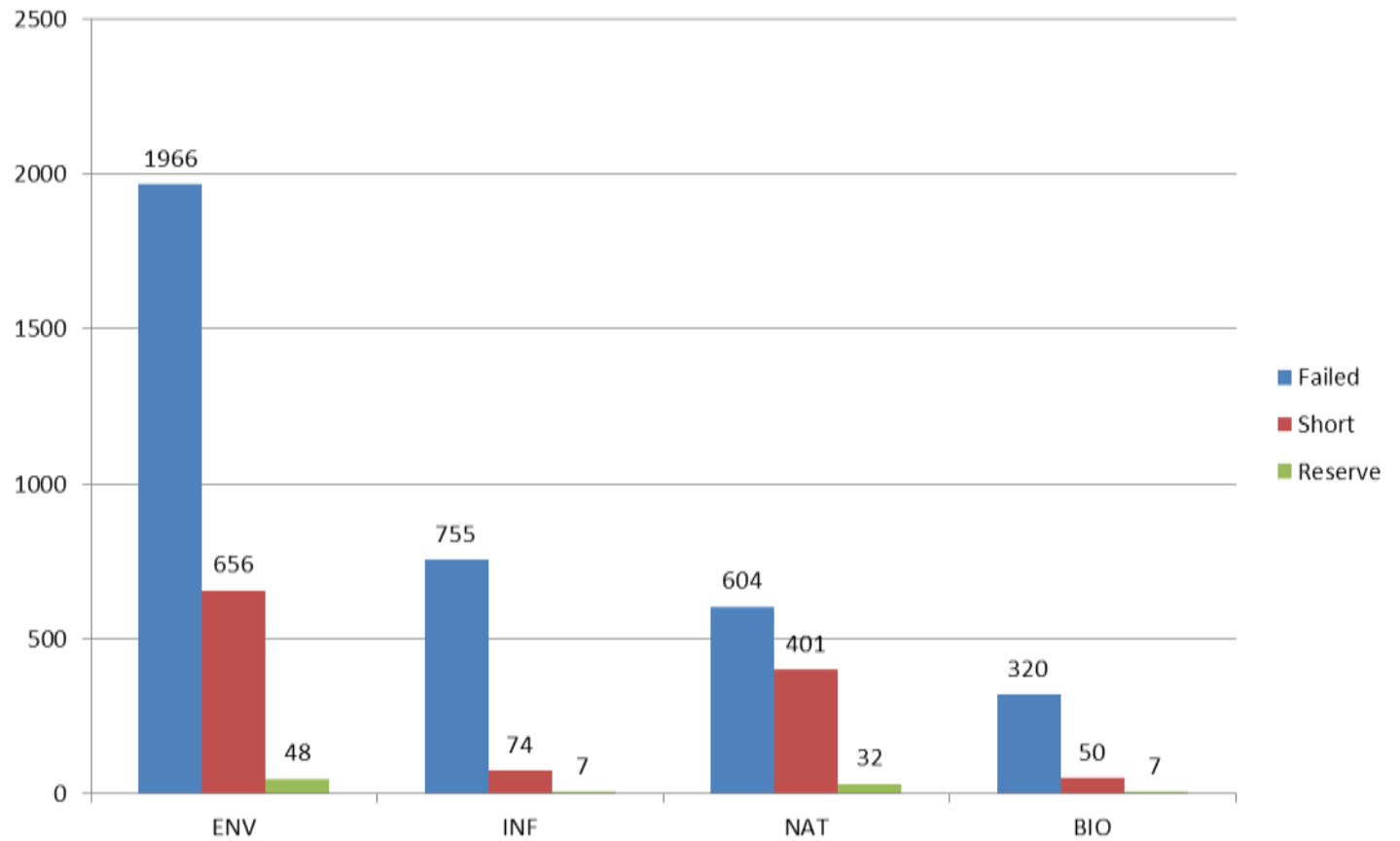


Submission trend 2007 – 2012 (Total)





Success rate





2012 Call for Proposals

Event	RETAINED	NOT RETAINED
Submitted:	1159	0
SELTEC:	1014	145
AWARD:	302	712
Withdrawals:	300	2
ADMISSIBILITY:	295	5
SELFIN:	291	4
Withdrawals:	289	2
REVISION:	279	10
LONG LIST:	270	9



Facts of LIFE

2) You do not get funded if you do not submit an application



Facts of LIFE

**3) Look for a good partner
and demonstrate the EU
Added value: why
activities in IL matter**



Approximate Dates

- Call for Proposals: launched
- Deadline for submission by applicants: October 2014
- Earliest project start date: 16 July 2015



Facts of LIFE

4) It takes time and money to prepare an application



Facts of LIFE

5) Proposals that fail are poorly prepared.



Information Sources

- LIFE Regulation
- MAWP
- LIFE Web page
- Application Packages



Components of the 2014 LIFE Call

- "Traditional" Projects:
 - LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)
 - LIFE Nature and Biodiversity (NAT and BIO)
 - LIFE Environmental Governance and Information (GIE)
 - LIFE Climate Change Mitigation (CCM)
 - LIFE Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
 - LIFE Climate Governance and Information (GIC)
 - Preparatory Projects
 - Integrated Projects (environment sub-programme)
 - Technical Assistance Projects (environment sub-programme)
 - Capacity Building Projects
- (Separate: NGO Operating Grants; Financial Instruments)³²



Application Package (per project type, per priority area)

- Guidelines for Applicants (and forms)
- Evaluation Guidelines
- Model Grant and Common Provisions

- Comparative Document (is LIFE the right instrument? Which strand?):
 - vs. Horizon 2020 (vs. structural funds)?
 - NAT vs. BIO vs. ENV vs. CCA vs. CCM // GIE vs. GIC?



Be AWARE

- ➔ READ the application guidelines
- ➔ Be SURE that LIFE is the appropriate funding programme for you:
LIFE is not a structural fund: do not see it as an operational business financing tool
- ➔ Be AWARE of all the exceptions that may apply to you
- ➔ Ensure financial coherence; Watch COST EFFECTIVENESS
- ➔ FOCUS - Do NOT include actions not related to the objective of your proposal
- ➔ Remember: If your project doesn't fit a priority project topic, you will receive fewer points!

- The SELECTION procedure of LIFE is very tough, thorough and detailed.



Common Reasons for Failure

- Less than 25% Concrete Conservation actions (NAT/BIO)
- Not convincingly demonstrative or pilot (for specific topics in BIO; all of ENV, CCA and CCM)



Remember

- Life does not finance:
 - Compensatory action under Art. 6 of the Habitats directive
 - Actions that should be (or are) financed under Structural Funds or CAP
 - **Research projects**

- Be clear and precise – applications are evaluated on what is submitted (not on the potential of the idea)

- Read documents

- Read about and talk to ongoing projects

➤ **START EARLY!!!**



Thank you for your attention!

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

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