

#LIFEprogramme

INVESTING WHERE IT COUNTS

The EU must dedicate at least 1% of its budget to the LIFE programme to better protect our nature and climate

Joint declaration on the future of the European Commission's LIFE Programme

Since its creation in 1992, the EU's LIFE Programme has delivered outstanding performance and high added value. However, the current funds are not sufficient to tackle the major environmental challenges Europe faces. We therefore call for LIFE to be continued after 2020 as a highly effective and efficient instrument, and for its funding to be increased to at least 1% of the overall EU budget. This is a critical investment in healthy ecosystems and key to innovation and meeting the EU's environment, nature conservation and climate change objectives, which will support prosperity, jobs¹ and well-being of EU citizens in a truly sustainable economy.





The LIFE Programme is the only EU funding instrument entirely dedicated to the environment, nature conservation and climate change, offering unique opportunities for cooperation between civil society, industry, SME's, research institutes and public institutions. Since its establishment in 1992, it has proven to be a very efficient and effective tool to finance innovative projects with long lasting impact, delivering innovative and nature-based solutions, whilst rolling out best practice and protecting biodiversity. Not only has LIFE been fostering cooperation between regions and member states, thus bringing Europeans closer together, it has also successfully encouraged local dialogue between stakeholders and helped in overcoming conflicts and strengthened openness and efficiency. The programme is also helping to transfer know-how and make better use of project results to ensure their long-term impact.

There is also strong evidence of a positive cost-benefit ratio when comparing funding to societal gains², and the LIFE Programme contributes to job creation from green investment and innovation for environmentally friendly solutions for industry. A study estimated that between 2009 and 2015, LIFE created 74,500 jobs, an economic growth of 9.3 billion EUR. The non - market value of the results achieved through nature projects alone is estimated to be 43 billion EUR³. For projects of the 2014 LIFE call, for example, the European Commission has estimated the benefit to society to represent four times the cost of the overall budget.

Accounting for only 0.3% of the current EU Budget, LIFE, however, has very limited resources and is thus inadequate to make a sufficient contribution to meeting the EU's commitments in the areas of environment and climate change.

Furthermore, in many countries the uptake of LIFE is at risk due to low co-financing rates. Therefore, the general co-financing rate for action grants should be increased to 75% to overcome financial constraints of applicants.

LIFE costs each European citizen on average less than one Euro per year⁴ - a low cost for our most precious goods: environment, nature and biodiversity, and the prospect of a truly sustainable economy for Europe.

We, the signing organisations, therefore call for a better integration of environmental concerns in the EU budget and support an increase for funding for LIFE to at least 1% of the EU budget in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

1: www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/synthesis/report/0c-executivesummary

2: ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/newsarchive2017/documents/swd_mid_term_evaluation2017_.pdf

3: ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/generalpublications/documents/jobs_growth_study.pdf

4: The LIFE financial instrument costs each European citizen on average less than one Euro per year (71 cent per year) (1.46 billion between 2014-2017, 0.365 billion per year, number of EU citizens in 2017: 511.81 million)

LIST OF SIGNATORIES:

3edata

A.N.C.E.V.-PRO.CIV. - Sede Operativa

Agency for Nature and Forests, Government of Flanders -
Regional authority

Alliance of Associations Polish Green Network

Alternative Energy Innovations SL

Ambiente Italia

Anna-Sophie Pirtscher

ARHEL d.o.o.

ARIEMA

Arnika

Asociación Galega de Custodia do Territorio

Associació la Sorellona

Association Biom

Association Bretagne Vivante - SEPNB

Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable
Development Sunce

Association Hyla

Association Justice&Environment

ASTER

ATEPE Ecosystem Management Ltd

ATEVAL

AUSTRIAN Federal Forests Ecosystem Unit

Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM)

Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia

Baltic Environmental Forum Germany

BatLife Europe

Bears in Mind

Beleco, z.s.

BirdLife Austria

BirdLife Cyprus

BirdLife Estonia

BirdLife Finland

BirdLife Malta

BirdWatch Ireland

BlueLink Foundation

Bodensee-Stiftung (Lake Constance Foundation)



Bodrum Maritime Vocational Schhol, Mugla SK University
BROZ
BRUITPARIF
Buglife
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
CALLISTO, Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society
CEAB-CSIC
CEE Bankwatch Network
Centro Tecnológico Nacional de la Conserva y
Alimentación - CTC
CERESC/UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE 1
Chaloupky - environmental education centre
Città di Lucca
Clean Air Action Group - Hungary
Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
CMI
CNR Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate
CODYECO SPA
COLEGIO OFICIAL DE BIÓLOGOS DE LA COMUNIDAD
VALENCIANA
Consejeria de Medio Ambiente Junta de Andalucía (Spain)
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Midi-Pyrénées
Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels Normandie Seine
ConSORCI del Ter
Costa Edutainment S.p.A.
CSIC, Spain
Cyprus University of Technology
Czech Society for Ornithology
Czech Union of Nature Conservationists - Vlašim
D.R.E.AM. ITALIA
DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE AUTHORITY
Dark-Sky Slovenia
Department of Biodiversity, Faculty of Mathematics,
Natural Sciences and Information Technologies,
University of Primorska
Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.
Development Agency of Cyclades
Diet-Pomos, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
Diputació de Barcelona
Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning / Region
of Crete
DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia
ECOCITY



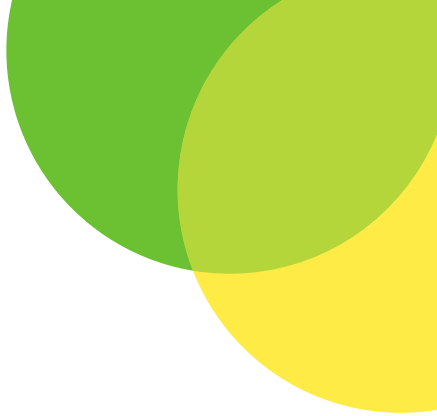
Eesti Maaülikool
Eko-Eko
Energy Cities
Engineering Faculty, Hacettepe University
ENVECO S.A.
Environmental Hydraulics Institute, Universidad de Cantabria (IHCantabria)
Environmental Protection Agency Vrancea County
Estonian Environmental Law Center (Keskkonnaõiguse Keskus)
Estonian Fund for Nature
Estonian Wetland Society
EuroNatur Foundation
European Centre for Eco and Agro Tourism
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology of the Polish Academy of Sciences
Eurosite
EuroVértice
EVISLUSA - CONCELLO DE LUGO
FENCON Consulting Ltd.
Flukar Spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością
Förderverein Naturschutz im Peenetal e.V.
Forest and Nature Conservation Institute
Freie Universität Berlin
Fruta Feia CRL
Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera
FUNDACION BIODIVERSIDAD
Fundacion CEAM
FUNDACIÓN GLOBAL NATURE
Fundación Internacional para la Restauración de Ecosistemas
FUNDACION NATURALEZA Y HOMBRE
Fundación Oso Pardo (FOP)
Fundación para el Desarrollo de las Nuevas Tecnologías del Hidrógeno en Aragón
Fundacja Kupuj Odpowiedzialnie (Buy Responsibly Foundation)
FUNDEM
Galanthus
Global Nature Fund
GOB Menorca
GOBIERNO VASCO
Green Fund
Harokopio University



Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR)
Hellenic Ornithological Society / BirdLife Greece
Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature
Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Ecological
Research
IEFE - Bocconi University
IMAL SRL
IMASDE AGROALIMENTARIA, S.L.
IMMOTEX NV
Institute of Aviation in Warsaw
Institute of Marine Research, Klaipeda University
Institute of Oceanography/Hellenic Centre for Marine
Research
Instituto de Fomento de la Región de Murcia
INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE GALICIA
Institute for Sustainable Development Foundation
Instytut Lornictwa
International Consortium for Advanced Design
International Foundation for Ecosystem Restoration
IRTA
ISPRA - Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and
Research
ITALIA NOSTRA Onlus - Sezione di Viterbo
Italian National Research Council
IUCN National Committee of The Netherlands
Justice and Environment
Landesamt für Umwelt Brandenburg
Landeshauptstadt Bregenz
Latgales Zoo
Latvian Fund for Nature
Latvian Ornithological Society
Legal-informational centre for NGOs Slovenia
LEMNA srl
LIFE CORCONTICA
LIFE in Quarries
Life+Pinzón
LIPU - BirdLife Italia
Lithuanian Ornithological Society
LPN - Liga para a Protecção da Natureza
LPO
Madeira Whale Museum
Manimals S.L.
Mediterranean SOS Network - MedSOS



MGG Power Spain, S. L.
Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Natur- und
Verbraucherschutz des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
Natagora
natur&mwelt asbl
Natural resources Institute Finland
NATURE CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS, NCC
Nature heritage fund
Nature Trust - FEE Malta
Naturlandstiftung Saar
Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU)
NoEsUtopía_Turismo y Desarrollo Sostenible
NTUA
Oceana
Oficina EUROPARC Spain
Parc naturel Haute Sûre Forêt d'Anlier
Piraeus Bank
Planinska zveza Slovenije
Polskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków/Polish Society for
Birds Protection
PROSVETA Publishing House
Province of Zuid - Holland
Raptor Protection of Slovakia
Razvojni Center za Vodikove Tehnologije
Reciclauto Navarra, S. L.
Regierungspraesidium Karlsruhe
Reverberi Enetec srl
Romanian Ornithological Society
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
SEO/BirdLife
shecco
Society for the Protection of Prespa
SOLAGRO
Sorelló, estudis al medi aquàtic SL
SOS/BirdLife Slovakia
Stiftung Umwelt- und Naturschutz M-V
The Czech Union of Nature Conservation
The Municipality of Radom
TU Dresden
Universidad de Granada
Universidad de Oviedo
Università di Bologna
University of Alicante, Spain



University of Barcelona

University of Crete - Natural History Museum of Crete (UoC
- NHMC)

University of Helsinki

University of Patras, Department of Biology

University of Sassari

University of Thessaly, Laboratory of Ecosystem and
Biodiversity Management

University of Turku

UPV

Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij

Waldrappteam

WWF

Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori - XCT

Zeleni Osijek