Targeted Consultation on the future of the LIFE Programme

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With the new European Green Deal, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has placed climate and environment at the top of the political agenda. The goals include carbon neutrality by 2050 and a review of the 2030 targets, a European Climate Pact, leadership in the circular economy and clean technologies, a new biodiversity strategy for 2030 and a drive towards zero pollution.

The LIFE Programme is the only EU fund dedicated to the environment and climate. During the next programming period (2021-2027) LIFE will help Europe deliver those ambitions, by contributing to:

- The shift towards a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and resilient economy;
- The protection and improvement of the quality of the environment;
- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss and tackling the degradation of ecosystems.

The general objectives of the programme have been provisionally agreed, and the task is now to draw up the first Multiannual Work Programme covering the period 2021-2024.

As part of the consultation process for the next programming period (2021-2024), the Commission is seeking to consult a broad range of stakeholders on the details of the future implementation of the LIFE programme.

Completing the questionnaire should take you no more than 20-25 minutes. The questionnaire is structured as follows:

- Section 1: About you Information on respondents
- Section 2: Priorities and strategies Are the draft programme priorities supported by stakeholders? Are there any significant gaps?
- Section 3: Implementation (only relevant and visible to those that are familiar with the call for proposal procedure under LIFE or Horizon 2020) Questions on the possible financing of small grants for nature and biodiversity and project selection procedure.
- Section 4: Additional comments: if you wish to provide additional information, comments and suggestions.
- Section 5: Follow up Information about contact details and privacy settings

The consultation findings will be taken into account during the preparation of the Multiannual Work Programme for LIFE. All interested citizens and organisations are invited to respond to the consultation. We value your opinion on the future direction of the LIFE Programme.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please do not add any personal information to your contribution unless you agree to the personal data protection provisions.

The European Commission (hereafter 'the Commission') is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy according to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (see link <u>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.295.01.0039.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:295:TOC</u>) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001). Please consult our privacy statement.

Personal data protection provisions:

 I agree with the personal data protection provisions (see the link https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/privacy_statement_targeted_consultations.pdf)

SECTION 1: About you

1.1 Which country are you, or the organisation you are representing, located in?

Single Choice Question

- O Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Oprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- 🔘 Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- 🔘 Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Other

Text of 1 to 200 characters will be accepted

1.2 In what capacity are you participating in this consultation?

Single Choice Question

Other

*If other please specify

Text of 1 to 200 characters will be accepted

Non-profit trade association

1.3 Please indicate your primary areas of knowledge / interest (you can tick more than one box):

Multiple Choice Question

between 1 and 5 choices

- Air & noise
- Chemicals
- Circular economy
- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Energy
- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency
- Environmental management
- Industry & production
- Information & governance
- Land use & planning
- Nature / biodiversity
- Resource efficiency
- Risk management
- EU budget
- Services & commerce
- Waste
- Water
- Other

*If other please specify

Text of 1 to 200 characters will be accepted

1.4 For private sector respondents please indicate the type of your organisation from the list below:

Single Choice Question

- Large Private Commercial Organisation (i.e. any privately owned organisation with profit-making goals, which employs 250 or more people, an annual turnover exceeding 50 million EUR, and/or an annual balance sheet total exceeding 43 million EUR)
- Small and Medium Private Commercial Organisation (i.e. any privately owned organisation with profitmaking goals, which employs less than 250 persons, an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million EUR, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million EUR)
- Private Non-profit making Organisation (i.e. any privately constituted non-profit organisation, including nongovernmental organisations, NGOs)
- European Economic Interest Group
- Other, please specify:

*If other please specify

Text of 1 to 200 characters will be accepted

1.5 Have you personally participated (whether as a coordinator or beneficiary) in a grant financed under the LIFE or the Horizon 2020 programmes?

Single Choice Question

- (a) Yes, in the LIFE programme
- (b) Yes, in the Horizon 2020 programme
- (c) Yes, in both the LIFE and Horizon 2020 programmes
- (d) No, but I have participated in a grant financed by another European Funding scheme
- (e) No, I have never participated in a grant financed by any European Funding scheme
- (f) I do not know / no opinion

If (a), (b), or (c) please specify which year(s):

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

2014-2020

If (d), please specify which scheme:

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

SECTION 2: Priorities and strategies

Given its size and characteristics, the LIFE programme is not meant to solve all environmental and climate problems but is rather designed to act as a catalyst to promote changes in the environment and climate fields. The LIFE programme provides several types of grant funding, but it is not one of the EU's structural investment funds, aimed at providing large-scale investments to support regional development and cohesion policy.

The types of activities that each grant can support include capacity building, governance support, testing / demonstration, awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, definition and implementation of strategies and action plans, spurring policy and legislative change, promoting best practices etc.

According to the Commission's proposal (see link<u>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?</u> uri=COM%3A2018%3A385%3AFIN), the new LIFE Programme offers support under four sub-programmes:

1. In the environment field:

a. <u>The sub-programme 'Nature and Biodiversity'</u>, which aims at halting and reversing biodiversity loss and tackling the degradation of ecosystems.

b. <u>The sub-programme 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life'</u> will support the other aspects of the Union's environment policy, particularly the transition to a circular economy, the protection, restoration and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the air, water and soil, and the promotion of good environmental governance.

2. In the climate field:

a. The sub-programme 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation', which aims at co-financing all those projects that contribute to the development and implementation of the climate related elements of the European Green Deal and the Union's climate policy framework.

b. <u>The sub-programme 'Clean Energy Transition'</u> that aims to facilitate socioeconomic transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency in Europe.

2.1 Do you feel that the current programme design (with the four sub-programmes described above) has a sufficiently broad scope to capture your current environmental / climate-related problems? (please tick one response for each of the four sub-programmes)

Your response

	Nature and Biodiversity	Circular Economy and Quality of Life	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Clean Energy Transition
Yes				
No				
l do not know / no opinion				

If you think that any areas are missing/ should be added, please specify them here:

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

2.2 The tables below provide an overview of the measures that have previously been supported in each of the sub-programmes along with some new suggestions. Please indicate your views on the prioritisation of these measures within each of the LIFE sub-programmes:

Sub-programme: Nature and biodiversity

	Essential	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority	l do not know/ no opinion
Conservation actions on the ground in line with the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directives						V
Conservation of nature/biodiversity beyond the scope of the Birds/Habitats directives (such as, Red list species not covered by the Directives)						
Support to projects aimed at developing, demonstrating or promoting innovative techniques, methods and best practices to protect, restore and improve nature and biodiversity (the so-called "traditional projects")						
Support the implementation of integrated action plans on nature and biodiversity developed by Member States' authorities (the so-called "integrated projects")						
Protecting, restoring and improving nature and biodiversity in the urban environment						
Financing small actions in order to mobilise local organisations/capacities (small grants)						
Other (please specify below)						

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

Sub-programme: Circular Economy and Quality of Life

	Essential	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority	l do not know/ no opinion
Development and implementation of action plans on air, water and waste in Member States, regions and local communities (the so- called "integrated projects")		V				
Support to projects aimed at developing, demonstrating or promoting innovative techniques, methods and approach on water, air, waste, soil, circular economy, noise, management of chemicals, resspource efficiency, etc. (the so- called "traditional projects")	V					
Improving the knowledge base to support a more effective implementation of environmental policy and legislation						
Support for projects to mitigate pollution downstream (end-of-pipe solutions, recovery and recycling, clean-up and decontamination)	V					
Prevention and reduction of the pollution at source (prevention, better design, re-use, etc.)	V					
Removing market barriers to green and sustainable products and services						
Support to the preparation of new investments on green products and solutions	V					
Improving environmental governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private		V				

actors and the involvement of civil society			
Promoting sustainable circular products			
Promoting circularity in value chains and sectors			
Promoting stakeholder engagement and empowering consumers to participate in the circular economy			
Other (please specify below)			

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

Sub-programme: Climate Change adaptation/mitigation

	Essential	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority	l do not know/ no opinion
Support to development and implementation of Member States' national energy and climate plans (NECPs)	V					
Support to development and implementation of EU mid-term and long-term climate strategy	V					
Support regions, local communities and civil society in raising awareness of climate change mitigation/adaptation and bringing about behavioural changes (European Climate Pact)						
Promoting mitigation/adaptation in key EU policy and funding areas (agriculture, fisheries, cohesion policy)	V					
Facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for climate change mitigation strategies and	V					

action plans, at local, regional or national level			
Contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative climate change mitigation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for replication, transfer or mainstreaming			
Support capacity building and assistance to project promoters			
Other (please specify below)			

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

Sub-programme: Clean energy transition

	Essential	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority	l do not know/ no opinion
Development and implementation of strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks						
Support to developing, demonstrating and mainstreaming innovative technologies, methodologies and processes	V					
Removing market barriers to the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency	7					
Improving professional skills	V					
Supporting innovation and digitalisation	V					
Development, demonstration and mainstreaming of new business models and services		V				
Development, demonstration and mainstreaming innovative financial instruments						

Capacity building and assistance to project promoters to mobilise investments			
Developing and mainstreaming green public procurement approaches			
Awareness raising to educate and empower citizens to participate in the energy transition	V		
Protecting vulnerable groups and territories			
Other (please specify below)			

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

SECTION 3: Implementation

This section of the questionnaire is about the detailed design of the programme, therefore it is only open to stakeholders with experience in LIFE/Horizon 2020 (based on your answer in section 1.5).

3.1. It is envisaged that in future the sub-programme "Nature and biodiversity" might include a new element, namely small grants (for example less than 100.000 EUR, possibly with higher co-financing rate than traditional projects), in addition to integrated projects and traditional projects. <u>These small grants would be aimed at unlocking the potential of local actors to deliver practical conservation actions</u>. Do you agree that there is a need to provide these small grants, to finance small-scale local actions for nature and biodiversity conservation?

Single Choice Question

- (a) Yes, all over the European Union
- (b) Yes, but only in the Outermost Regions and in Overseas Countries and Territories taking into account their rich biodiversity and their specific needs
- (c) No
- (d) I do not know/ no opinion
- (e) Other

If "Other", please specify

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

3.2. What do you think would be an appropriate amount for "small grants" to finance local biodiversity conservation actions?

Single Choice Question

- (a) less than 30 000 EUR
- (b) less than 60 000 EUR
- (c) less than 100 000
- (d) I do not know/ no opinion
- (e) Other

If "Other", please specify

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

3.3 Calls for future LIFE proposals can be organised in a one or two step procedure.

- Under the one-step procedure, applicants submit a full project proposal, which is then evaluated. Depending on the call for proposals, 1 out of 5-10 project proposals is typically awarded a grant.
- The two-step procedure asks applicants to first submit a 10-page concept note, which is evaluated. Applicants who are successful in the first step are then invited to submit a full project proposal, which is evaluated. Around half of the full project proposals are typically awarded a grant. The two-step procedure results in a longer process for the applicants than the one-step call but requires less initial investment. However, the information that can be submitted in a concept note is limited and applicants might find it difficult to provide a good description of all the relevant aspects of their project in this limited space.

Which process do you prefer?

Single Choice Question

- (a) A one-step for proposals
- (b) A two-step call for proposals
- (c) I do not know / no opinion

Please, elaborate on your answer here:

Text of 1 to 500 characters will be accepted

A two-step call for proposals allows applicants to minimize the time and resources invested in the first step and commit to a full-fledged proposal only if their project idea is likely to be funded. Secondly, it allows applicants to have enough time to prepare and anticipate what their proposal needs to be successful in the second-stage.

A two-step approach should not take longer than the one-step application procedure.

3.4 Calls for proposals can either define broad themes that proposals should address or be more detailed and specific.

- <u>Broader calls for proposals</u> rely on the existence and attraction of good ideas, and arguably provide more flexibility for applicants.
- <u>More detailed calls for proposals</u> provide more guidance to applicants on the challenges to be addressed, the scope of the work or the results to be achieved.

To what extent do you think the call for proposals should prescribe the challenges, scope and results of activities that applicants should respond to? *Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 what you consider to be the right level of detail and request for specific results (i.e. 'prescriptiveness') of the call, with 1 being relatively broad and general calls and 5 being very detailed and specific.*

	Nature and Biodiversity	Circular Economy and Quality of Life	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Clean Energy Transition
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
l do not know/ no opinion	V			

Level of detail in the call of proposals

SECTION 4: Additional comments

4.1. If you wish to add further information, comments or suggestions – within the scope of this questionnaire – please feel free to do so in the box below (max. 1000 characters) or upload / submit your own document (at the end of questionnaire):

Text box:

Text of 1 to 1000 characters will be accepted

The focus of the 2021-2027 LIFE programme on the socio-economic context, within which renewable energy operates, is of paramount importance and we very much welcome its new "Clean Energy Transition" sub-programme.

However, we are concerned that the proposed changes to the funding rules will prevent important stakeholders from participating in cross-border EU market uptake projects. We believe the ideal LIFE programme would have the breadth of the 2007-2013 Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and the co-financing rates and efficient online procedures of the 'Horizon' programmes.

Regarding the co-financing rates, those of the next generation LIFE risk being substantially lower compared to those of Horizon. Under LIFE 2021-2027 beneficiaries would only be eligible to a co-financing rate of 60% for direct costs and 7% for indirect costs. If this materializes, participation in future Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) would become financially unattractive or even unviable.

SECTION 5: Follow up

If you are willing to be contacted for follow up questions on this survey:

5.1. Please indicate your name (non-mandatory)

Text box:

Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted

Sabina Potestio

5.2 Please indicate the name of your company, organisation or institution you represent (non-mandatory):

Text box:

200 character(s) maximum

WindEurope

5.3 Please provide a contact email address (non-mandatory and will not be published)

Text box:

Text of 1 to 200 characters will be accepted

sabina.potestio@windeurope.org

Please indicate your preference for the publication of your response on the Commission's website: (Please note that regardless of the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under public access requirements to European Parliament, Council Regulation 1049/2001 and Commission documents. In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable data protection rules)

- Output the name given: I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- Anonymously: I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Useful links

Proposal for a new LIFE Programme (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A38 3AFIN)

Contact

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