



Environmental Governance & Information

LIFE
PROJECTS 2015

LIFE Environment

Environment



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE-GENERAL**

LIFE (*"The Financial Instrument for the Environment and Climate Action"*) is a programme launched by the European Commission and coordinated by the Environment and Climate Action Directorates-General. The Commission has delegated the implementation of many components of the LIFE programme to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME).

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LIFE Environmental Governance & Information 2015: Commission funds 15 new projects in 10 countries with €13.8 million

The European Commission has approved funding for 15 LIFE Environmental Governance & Information (GIE) projects under the LIFE programme, the European Union's fund for the environment and climate action. The action grants have been awarded to 'beneficiaries', or project promoters in 10 Member States. The projects are led by beneficiaries based in Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

LIFE Environmental Governance & Information in 2015

LIFE Environmental Governance & Information co-finances action grants for information, awareness and dissemination projects to raise awareness on environmental matters. The 15 projects selected for funding will be led by a range of public and private sector nature and/or environmental organisations.

The projects involve a total investment of €23.2 million, of which the Commission is providing action grants worth €13.8 million.

The GIE projects include nine projects that will conduct information, communication and awareness-raising campaigns in line with the priorities of the 7th Environment Action Programme. The total budget for these projects will be €17.6 million.

Six projects will carry out activities in support of effective control process as well as measures to promote compliance in relation to Union environmental legislation, and in support of information systems and information tools on implementation of Union environmental legislation. These have a total budget of €5.6 million.

Background

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

The budget for the LIFE Programme for 2014–2020 is set at €3.4 billion in current prices, administered through the Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes.

The Climate Action sub-programme will provide €864 million in co-financing for climate projects between 2014 and 2020. Its main objectives are to:

- Contribute to the shift towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy;
- Improve the development, implementation and enforcement of EU climate change policy and legislation;
- Support better environmental and climate change governance at all levels; and
- Support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme.

More information on each LIFE Environmental Governance & Information project is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

Contact details for the relevant national authorities can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/life_inf.htm

Index of Environmental Governance & Information projects selected in 2015

Location	Project number	Title of project
AUSTRIA	LIFE15 GIE/AT/001004 LIFE FOR DANUBE STURGEONS	Sustainable protection of lower Danube sturgeons by preventing and counteracting poaching and illegal wild-life trade
BULGARIA	LIFE15 GIE/BG/000977 NaturAll LIFE	Build up acceptance of Natura2000 among key audiences; bring up generation of knowledgeable supporters
GERMANY	LIFE15 GIE/DE/000737 LIFEBioStandards	Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Industry
	LIFE15 GIE/DE/000795 LIFE Legal Actions	Legal Actions on Clean Air
GREECE	LIFE15 GIE/GR/000943 LIFE CHEREE	Chemicals Regulations Enforcement & Inspections - Building Authority Capacity for REACH/CLP and SEVESO III Compliance
HUNGARY	LIFE15 GIE/HU/001048 LIFE-FOODWASTEPREV	Food waste prevention in the food chain to support the implementation of the 7 th Environment Action Programme
ITALY	LIFE15 GIE/IT/000887 LIFE-Food.Waste.StandUp	Awareness-raising campaign for food waste prevention and surplus food management among agro-food SMEs, retailers & consumers
	LIFE15 GIE/IT/000897 Life Net pro Net	Net pro Net for Life: a network of volunteers contributing to the active management of the Natura 2000 network
	LIFE15 GIE/IT/000999 Clean Sea Life	Clean Sea Life
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SLOVENIA	LIFE15 GIE/SI/000770 LIFE ARTEMIS	Awareness Raising, Training and Measures on Invasive alien Species in forests
SPAIN	LIFE15 GIE/ES/000809 LIFE_Redcapacita2015	Networks of knowledge and training for the effective management of Mediterranean forest habitats of Natura 2000
	LIFE15 GIE/ES/000962 LIFE SOUTHERN WOLVES	The wolf of Andalusia: changing attitudes
UNITED KINGDOM	LIFE15 GIE/UK/000867 LIFE TRiFOCAL London	TRiFOCAL London – Transforming City FOod hAbits for LIFE

Sustainable protection of lower Danube sturgeons by preventing and counteracting poaching and illegal wildlife trade

Project background

According to the IUCN, sturgeons are the most threatened fish species worldwide. Of the five surviving sturgeon species in the Danube basin, the IUCN Red List categorises four as 'critically endangered' and one as 'vulnerable'. Population trends for all five are decreasing. Within the EU, the lower Danube and north-western Black Sea area is the only region still holding viable, naturally-reproducing populations.

Overexploitation is the main direct threat to Danube sturgeons. Except for the sterlet in Serbia, national fishing bans for all sturgeon species are in place in all lower Danube and Black Sea countries, and trade in caviar from wild sturgeons is forbidden. The financial loss to affected fishing communities has led to illegal fishing. It is imperative that alternative sources of income for these communities are found. This project builds on the work in Bulgaria and Romania of an earlier LIFE project (LIFE11 INF/AT/000902), which created a network of sturgeon advocates.

Project objectives

The overall objective of the LIFE FOR DANUBE STURGEONS project is the survival and recovery of sturgeons in the entire lower Danube region and their long-term protection against illegal fishing and trade. In so doing, the project will contribute to meeting the goals of Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, as well as to three of the goals of the Sturgeon 2020 programme (capacity-building and law enforcement, socioeconomic measures in support of sturgeon conservation, and raising public awareness).

The project will focus on determining the needs of the most crucial target groups. An evidence-based impact evaluation tool will be applied to rate levels of commitment and a change in attitude. Specifically, the project aims to:

- Increase the capacity of authorities to enforce laws banning illegal sturgeon fishing and trade;
- Increase acceptance of the need for a ban among fishing communities;
- Increase willingness to find alternative income sources; and
- Increase retailers' awareness of the ban and the need for its enforcement.

LIFE15 GIE/AT/001004
LIFE FOR DANUBE STURGEONS



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Duration of project:

51 months (01/10/2016 – 31/12/2020)

Total budget in euro:

1,851,678.00

EC contribution in euro:

1,107,794.00

Expected results

- Development of improved norms and procedures for law enforcement;
- Training of more than 150 law enforcement officials to police sturgeon crime and act as multipliers in their agencies;
- Establishment of a pilot alert system in Romania to report sturgeon crime;
- Recruitment of 30 volunteer 'sturgeon watchers' in Romania to support enforcement agencies;
- Intensification and expansion of the existing sturgeon advocate network to encompass Ukraine, Serbia and the Black Sea coast;
- 20 fishermen taking part in demonstration sturgeon research and conservation action in Bulgaria;
- Assessment of alternative income sources in key fishing communities in the project region;
- A survey of the domestic sturgeon meat and caviar markets conducted in the four participating countries; and
- At least 200 organisations in the fish supply chain (wholesale markets, shops, restaurants and street vendors) informed about relevant legal requirements to protect sturgeons.

Build up acceptance of Natura2000 among key audiences; bring up generation of knowledgeable supporters

Project background

The Natura 2000 network has been in place in Bulgaria since the country's accession to the EU in 2007. Despite the fact that the network now covers 34.4% of Bulgarian territory and represents 3.75% of the total Natura 2000 network, there is widespread public misunderstanding of the aims of the network and the rules pertaining to Natura 2000 network sites.

This lack of awareness is also a result of targeted campaigns led by large-scale developers interested in the same sites that wish to stigmatise Natura 2000 as a spatial protection tool that is restrictive and has a strict conservation regime. This has resulted in increasingly negative perceptions of the network, especially among rural communities and businesses.

Project objectives

The NaturALL Life project will deliver a series of carefully planned communication and information actions designed to raise awareness in Bulgaria of the Natura 2000 Network. This communication campaign is expected to trigger positive behavioural changes among the following target groups: managers of ecosystems; the country's 600 000 farmers (who directly manage some 50% of the national Natura 2000 network); and elementary and middle school children and their teachers.

The project's actions are in line with the priority objectives of the EU 7th Environmental Action Programme:

- To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital by raising awareness of the benefits and development potential of the Bulgarian Natura 2000 network;
- To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy by promoting and advocating sustainable, traditional extensive agriculture practices (potentially affecting almost half of all land in Bulgaria) and encouraging sustainable hunting;
- To maximise the benefits of the EU's environment legislation by improving the implementation of the Birds and Habitats directives through building informed support for their principles.

The successful delivery of the project objectives will boost Bulgarian efforts to conserve ecosystems and their services within the framework of the Natura 2000 network. The project will communicate with a range of informed supporters, joined in volunteer networks and armed with

LIFE15 GIE/BG/000977
NaturAll LIFE



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Duration of project:

30 months (01/08/2016 – 31/01/2019)

Total budget in euro:

576,389.00

EC contribution in euro:

305,902.00

the belief that standards of living do not necessarily depend solely on gross domestic product.

Expected results

- A Natura 2000 stakeholder analysis based on the results of a nationwide opinion poll. This will underpin the development of a strategy for communicating Natura 2000 to target stakeholder groups. The initiative 'Natura 2000 on wheels' will reach at least 5 400 farmers, hunters and managers of Natura 2000 network sites;
- The initiative 'Natura 2000 Imaginaria' will reach at least 32 000 middle and elementary school pupils and 120 teachers each year. The project will also establish a support network among teachers interested in Natura 2000;
- At least 60 events held at national and regional level as part of a media campaign designed to reach 300 000 people; and
- Impact of the actions on the three target groups of stakeholders measured. The project is expected to increase awareness of the benefits of Natura 2000 in terms of quality of life, ecosystem services and income generation and wellbeing in rural communities.

Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Industry

Project background

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 underlines the importance of motivating the corporate sector to reduce its negative impacts on biodiversity. Intensive agriculture is one of the main reasons for biodiversity loss because of its use of heavy machinery, pesticides and synthetic nitrogen fertilisers, land consolidation and drainage practices. As a result, the food sector can considerably improve its biodiversity performance, especially within its supply chains, by adjusting standards and labelling.

Project objectives

The overall objective of the LIFE BioStandards project is to improve biodiversity performance in the food chain. It aims to advance implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 by developing standards that are then applied by pioneering companies in the food industry.

Specifically, the project aims to:

- Include efficient biodiversity criteria in standards and labels for the food sector and encourage food processing companies and retailers to include efficient biodiversity criteria in their sourcing guidelines;
- Improve biodiversity measures in certified farms by applying the Biodiversity Performance Tool and through capacity building;
- Train certifiers/auditors, assessors and managers of certified farms;
- Demonstrate the applicability of biodiversity criteria and measures to standard organisations by implementing five pilot projects in certified farms on arable crops, vegetable production, permanent crops, dairy production and meat production;
- Monitor the impact on biodiversity with a two-level monitoring system;
- Raise awareness among procurement and product managers;
- Establish a Europe-wide sector initiative, Biodiversity Performance in the Food Sector; and
- Compile guidelines on how to ease approval procedures and suggest operating conditions.

Expected results

- 500 business associations and 5 000 companies informed of the recommendations on the biodiversity standards;
- 40 standards bodies having improved at least 50% of their criteria and 30 companies their supply chain rules;

LIFE15 GIE/DE/000737

LIFE BioStandards



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Duration of project:

42 months (01/08/2016 – 31/01/2020)

Total budget in euro:

3,056,775.00

EU contribution in euro:

1,830,615.00

- Regional/national decision-makers taking recommendations into consideration when drafting programmes for the food sector;
- The Biodiversity Performance Tool applied by 30 standards organisations;
- 360 certifiers/assessors trained, with a baseline of around 3 000 trained certifiers in four target countries;
- Biodiversity Action Plans implemented in pilot projects involving five types of agricultural production in 50 farms;
- Biodiversity Guidelines delivered to 5 000 food companies;
- Seven Biodiversity Fact Sheets distributed to around 30 000 product/quality managers;
- 20 standards organisations and companies joining the two-phase monitoring system;
- 40 organisations participating in the “Biodiversity Performance in the Food Sector” initiative; and
- A comprehensive dissemination strategy carried out, targeting publication of 40 articles on biodiversity issues in media outlets in four countries, attendance at 20 sector-specific events, networking with 10 000 people in the food sector and at least 500 organisations.

Legal Actions on Clean Air

Project background

Air pollution is responsible for some 430 000 premature deaths in the EU each year. Major sources of air pollution are urban transport, heavy industry and household heating. The European Commission has begun infringement proceedings against 16 Member States for non-compliance with the Air Quality Directive and has given Germany and the Czech Republic a final warning for exceeding PM₁₀ limit values. Where limit values are breached, individuals directly affected have the right to demand that action is taken and the Aarhus Convention, which has been signed by the EU, grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice. Legal action initiated by NGOs and citizens can motivate the responsible authorities to meet their obligations. However, few citizens know about their rights regarding clean air and their options to act against violations of legislation. Many NGOs complain about the lack of access to information, particularly on air quality measurements, and the barriers to participating in the decision-making process. It is thus important to strengthen the commitment of citizens and NGOs to enforce these rights.

Project objectives

The LIFE Legal Actions project aims to empower NGOs and citizens to take part in public participation processes on the development or revision of air quality plans. It also aims to improve their access to justice by supporting their demand for air quality measures or as a last resort to initiate legal action. The project further aims to improve the relationship between citizens and government as well as government accountability, transparency and responsiveness. Specifically, the project aims to:

- Empower and motivate EU citizens and NGOs to campaign for effective air quality measures by providing information about the sources and effects of air pollution and potential solutions, and by providing advice on their right to participate in decision-making processes and to take legal action if necessary; and
- Motivate political decision makers to improve air quality legislation and implementation by advising them on existing national and European funding schemes, promoting green public procurement (GPP) as part of a resource-efficient economy, and transferring examples of best practice.

The project activities will be carried out in seven EU Member States with a particular focus on Germany and the Czech Republic. The activities and the results will be relevant, transferable and replicable in all Member States.

LIFE15 GIE/DE/000795

LIFE Legal Actions



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Duration of project:

40 months (01/08/2016 – 30/11/2019)

Total budget in euro:

869,936.00

EU contribution in euro:

521,834.00

Expected results

- 13 million citizens in at least seven EU countries reached by press articles, TV and radio items and social media;
- NGOs and citizens participate in at least 15 decision-making processes leading to a revision of air quality plans and legal action, if necessary.
- Publication of specialist newsletters and workshops targeting 200 NGOs and legal experts;
- Background briefing notes reaching 1 000 political decision-makers, authorities and experts, of which 200 will dialogue with the project;
- Networking with 500 administrations, NGOs and coordinators of related projects to facilitate uptake of activities in other EU countries;
- 100 municipalities informed about GPP and 20 motivated to file an application to implement air quality measures;
- 100 representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and Brussels-based NGOs and business associations contacted; and
- More investments in air pollution reduction measures in the long run, such as accelerated change to public bus fleets, improved infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians and best available technology to reduce industry emissions.

Chemicals Regulations Enforcement & Inspections - Building Authority Capacity for REACH/CLP and SEVESO III Compliance

Project background

The SEVESO-III Directive, which is aimed at preventing major accidents involving dangerous substances, entered into force in October 2015 in Cyprus and in February 2016 in Greece. However, there is still a lack of concise information on many chemicals. In addition, market inspections in both countries have found non-compliance with the EU's REACH Regulation on chemicals for a range of products and substances. Both Member States aim to ensure compliance with SEVESO-III by duty holders. To facilitate compliance with SEVESO-III and REACH, as well as the CLP Regulation on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, there is a need to train inspectors. Duty holders within companies also require compliance training.

Project objectives

The project aims to support the harmonisation of knowledge in order to help enforce EU regulations on the sustainable use of chemicals and to expand the added value of environmental prevention in handling hazardous chemicals. The project aims to improve knowledge within the inspection community, the capacity of relevant authorities, the culture of compliance for effective enforcement of the REACH/CLP regulations and the SEVESO-III Directive. Particular attention will be paid to good practices, including guidance, training and support for inspectors and duty holders in Greece and Cyprus. The project will also implement Best Available Techniques (BATs) in REACH/CLP and SEVESO-III enforcement strategies, practices and infringement identification, and compliance procedures. Specifically, the project will:

- Develop a structured inspection system for REACH/CLP and SEVESO-III inspections and Health Safety & Environment (HSE) chemicals-related issues;
- Carry out a series of inspectors' training courses, common visits and pilot inspections in the two Member States; and
- Share knowledge and good practices via an e-platform with two Information Centres, customised e-tools and an extended e-campaign tailor-made for inspectors and duty holders.

Expected results

- A set of common inspection criteria for Greece and Cyprus covering all stages of a inspection system to satisfy REACH/CLP and SEVESO-III legislation;
- Analysis of the needs of the core target audience (National Enforcement Authorities and duty holders) in Cyprus and Greece as regards national priorities, inspection strategies, best practices, training, IT applications for reporting

LIFE15 GIE/GR/000943

LIFE CHEREE



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Duration of project:

42 months (01/10/2016 – 31/03/2020)

Total budget in euro:

1,055,041.00

EU contribution in euro:

633,024.00

- of inspections, and transfer of knowledge among CAs;
- Development of a structured programme for REACH/CLP and SEVESO-III inspections, including good practices, guidelines and training for inspectors on HSE issues common with other inspections;
- Four inspectors' training courses in the two Member States (producing 110 trained inspectors from five enforcing/cooperating authorities in REACH/CLP and SEVESO-III controls);
- Four common visits by inspectors and 10 pilot inspections by local inspectors in different industrial sectors in Greece and Cyprus, with 100 inspectors participating;
- Four workshops in Greece and Cyprus tailor-made for duty holders and authorities (with 240 participants from eight industrial sectors);
- Development of an e-platform including two Information Centres on the systematic support of SMEs handling hazardous chemicals. The web-based platform and its materials will be available in Greek and English for widespread dissemination; and
- An e-campaign targeting 15 NEAs and other inspection bodies and 500 duty holders (via the e-platform and e-tools) to support effective implementation of inspections and systematic information for the control of chemical hazards, with pilot implementation of the HazChem Information Centre in the two Member States.

Food waste prevention in the food chain to support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

Project background

The EU Roadmap for a Resource-efficient Europe programme has identified food production and consumption as key sectors where resource efficiency should be improved. This initiative is aimed at the whole food supply chain with the ambition of significantly reducing the amount of edible food waste disposed in the EU by 2020. The European Commission calls for close cooperation among stakeholders, experts and Member States in developing good practices and sharing experiences on this issue. In line with the requirements of the Waste Framework Directive, Hungary has developed a National Waste Management Plan for 2014-2020.

To support these efforts, the NFCSO is drafting a national food waste strategy for Hungary. According to recent calculations, households play the most significant role among all food chain stakeholders, with a share of 30-42% of total food waste generated. In recent studies, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and United Nations Environment Programme estimate the quantity of food waste generated in Hungarian households to be 39 kg per capita, or 385 000 tonnes/year in total.

Project objectives

The LIFE-FOODWASTEPREV project aims to change attitudes to food waste in Hungary, leading to a reduction in the quantity of such waste generated by Hungarian households. Specific objectives are to:

- Raise awareness about food waste among primary school children;
- Establish four working groups to develop good practices for stakeholders in the food chain;
- Feed conclusions from the working groups into the legislative process on food waste;
- Network with other EU countries to learn from their experiences of food waste prevention campaigns; and
- Disseminate widely the results of the project by networking with organisations across the EU.

Expected results

- A reduction in the quantity of food waste generated in Hungary by 4 kg per person per year (to 35 kg per capita per year);
- 9.1 million citizens reached with the project's food waste prevention communication campaign;
- 5 000 schoolchildren to participate in a food waste prevention competition called the NFSCO School Pro-

LIFE15 GIE/HU/001048
LIFE-FOODWASTEPREV



Beneficiary:

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Duration of project:

48 months (07/07/2016 - 30/06/2020)

Total budget in euro:

964,468.00

EC contribution in euro:

578,680.00

gramme. The four most outstanding classes in the competition (around 120 pupils) will be invited to participate in a summer camp as a reward;

- As part of its educational outreach, the project will develop a textbook and activities for pupils and lesson plans for teachers. At least 200 teachers will take part in the project;
- Four working groups to develop good practices for stakeholders. Trade associations will participate in the working groups, which will draft guidance documents for distribution to at least 230 food chain operators;
- Networking with at least 60 experts, including attendance at relevant conferences and seminars; and
- Networking with international organisations and food chain operators to discuss legal frameworks for the handling and re-use of food waste.

Awareness-raising campaign for food waste prevention and surplus food management among agro-food SMEs, retailers & consumers

Project background

Each year, some 1.3 billion tonnes of food is lost or wasted worldwide, representing one third of all food produced for human consumption. The greatest food waste occurs in high-income countries. In the EU, an estimated 89 million tonnes/yr of food is wasted, coming from households (42%), the manufacturing sector (39%), retail/wholesale (5%) and food service/catering (14%). The environmental impact of this waste is considerable, equating to 170 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent/yr, as well as placing stress on water and land resources, soil and biodiversity. Costs associated with food waste are enormous (some 2 300 billion euros/yr worldwide, when environmental and social impacts are taken into account). The main causes of food waste include lack of consumer awareness and lack of communication along the supply chain. Anti-waste initiatives typically address only consumers, neglecting the agro-food companies and retailers. Cross-cutting initiatives are therefore necessary.

Project objectives

The LIFE-Food.Waste.StandUp project's main objective is to raise awareness of surplus food management and food waste prevention among: agro-food companies, food retailers and consumers. It will carry out a coordinated information campaign. Specific project objectives are to:

- Promote and disseminate information among agro-food companies and food retailers about existing opportunities and tools for the recovery and donation of unsold food products;
- Strengthen awareness of food waste prevention practices and promote responsible behaviours;
- Support the implementation of the Italian food waste prevention strategy, contributing to the EU objective to reduce food waste by 30% by 2025;
- Encourage national and local institutions to introduce incentives for food redistribution (such as tax reliefs and simplified procedures); and
- Ensure dialogue and knowledge exchange among food supply chain actors in Italy and the wider EU.

The project supports the implementation of the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, which calls for ambitious action to tackle food waste. Project activities are in synergy with the European Commission's Circular Economy Package, which puts forward objectives for food waste reduction in the EU and includes a proposal for Member States to develop national food waste preven-

LIFE15 GIE/IT/000887
LIFE-Food.Waste.StandUp



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Duration of project:

36 months (07/07/2016 – 30/06/2019)

Total budget in euro:

1,571,100.00

EU contribution in euro:

942,660.00

tion strategies to reduce food waste by at least 30% by 2025. The project will contribute to this goal by supporting the activation and further reinforcement of existing Italian national food waste prevention programmes.

Expected results

- At least 20 000 Italian agro-food companies involved in the anti-food waste awareness campaign;
- 200 000 food and drink enterprises informed across the EU about best practices and models for managing and donating surplus food;
- Improved knowledge of food waste reduction practices in 12 000 food retail outlets;
- 190 local branches of the food industry and retail distribution federations trained on how to prevent food waste;
- Info-points about preventing food waste in 59 cities across 15 regions of Italy;
- 10% increase in recovery of food waste from agro-food companies and retailers;
- 10% increase in the number of new food donors among agro-food companies and retailers; and
- 30% increase (baseline 2012-2014) in the number of awareness-raising events on food waste prevention held by food enterprises.

Net pro Net for Life: a network of volunteers contributing to the active management of the Natura 2000 network

Project background

The managing authorities of Natura 2000 network sites are responsible - under the EU Habitats and Birds directives - for monitoring the species and habitats of Community interest found on their sites. However, according to international, national and regional surveys, this monitoring activity has been found to be deficient in Italian Natura 2000 network sites.

A lack of updated monitoring data is reflected in the inadequate level of inputs and updates to the Natura 2000 database, managed by the Italian Ministry of the Environment. One of the key causes of these deficiencies has been identified as a lack of dedicated staff and resources.

Project objectives

The objective of Life Net pro Net is to create a network of volunteers to contribute to the management of Natura 2000 sites and to help spread knowledge and awareness about the Natura 2000 network to local communities. The project will develop a model to support the active management of Natura 2000 sites based on a structured, national network of volunteers. The idea is that such a model could be easily replicated in other EU countries.

The specific project objectives are to:

- Use multimedia tools to create a recruitment campaign for local conservation groups, called GLCs, targeting volunteers interested in being involved in the active management of Natura 2000 sites, and in helping to make local people more aware of the importance of the Natura 2000 network;
- Make GLC actions especially effective, through training and a volunteer coordination process for carrying out monitoring and surveillance at selected Natura 2000 sites;
- Enable the GLCs to raise awareness among local people and local stakeholders at selected Natura 2000 sites; and
- Establish good collaboration between the GLCs and the management authorities at selected Natura 2000 sites.

Expected results

- A recruitment website providing online training and exchange of information collected by volunteer groups;

LIFE15 GIE/IT/000897

Life Net pro Net



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Massimo SOLDARINI

Duration of project:

30 months (11/07/2016 – 31/12/2018)

Total budget in euro:

631,389.00

EU contribution in euro:

375,149.00

- Selection of 15 Natura 2000 sites to implement the project and monitor the bird species;
- A communication plan;
- Recruitment of a minimum of 150 new volunteers in 15 GLCs, responsible for monitoring and overseeing the selected (15) Natura 2000 sites;
- A 70% increase in the knowledge of volunteers on topics relating to the Natura 2000 network by the end of the training programme;
- An increase (by at least two species) of the number of bird species listed in the annexes of the Birds Directive, for which scientific data will be updated in the selected sites;
- A reduction by at least 40%, of the threats or damage to species in Annex I of the Birds Directive or their habitats, thanks to the GLC surveillance;
- A database containing the information and data collected at the selected sites;
- Local stakeholder participation in events relating to the Natura 2000 network in the Lombardy region;
- Good cooperation achieved between the GLCs and the majority of the managing authorities of the selected Natura 2000 sites; and
- Some 70% of the relevant managing authorities will receive, by the end of the project, data for the bird species of Community interest monitored by the GLCs.

Clean Sea Life

Project background

Marine litter has been recognised as one of the major threats to marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean Sea. Tourism, fishing and recreational activities are among the main sources of this litter. Marine mammals, seabirds, turtles, fish and invertebrates have all been reported to ingest marine debris, especially plastic.

In particular, entanglement in marine litter has been reported for at least 20 pinniped (seal) species, at least 14 cetaceans, all seven species of marine turtles and more than 56 species of seabirds.

Project objectives

The overall aim of the Clean Sea LIFE project is to support the application of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and EU biodiversity policy relating to marine litter. The specific objectives are to:

- Increase awareness of marine litter, empowering citizens to become part of the solution;
- Remove existing litter, including lost fishing gear, and prevent further littering;
- Promote “fishing for litter” initiatives and to train fishing industry professionals in responsible practices; and
- Provide guidelines for the management of marine litter, increase exchange of knowledge and the uptake of best practices and assist authorities in achieving a good environmental status of the sea, as required under the MSFD.

Expected results

- Increased awareness through reaching 300 000 people, having the code of conduct signed by 20 000 stakeholders, and ensuring that some 600 diving teachers and school teachers highlight the problem in their curriculum;
- Training of 200 coastguards and 100 teachers;
- Organisation of litter clean-ups on 160 beaches and 128 seafloors with 3 000 participants and assessment of litter clean-ups on 100 beaches and 128 seafloors;
- At least 640 beach and coastal operators and local authorities committed to organising more than 1 000 clean-ups; and
- A mapping of critical areas of litter accumulation and the identification and ranking of its types and sources for policy purposes, in order to increase

LIFE15 GIE/IT/000999

Clean Sea Life



Beneficiary:

Name of beneficiary

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Pierpaolo CONGIATU

Duration of project:

49 months (30/09/2016 – 31/10/2020)

Total budget in euro:

2,060,705.00

EU contribution in euro:

1,233,863.00

understanding of the problem of marine litter. The maps will be distributed to stakeholders.

Alien Species Awareness Programme

Project background

The EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation highlights the benefits of preventing the spread of invasive alien species (IAS) in terms of biodiversity and cost. Increased public awareness and effective early warning systems and management are essential to this task. In Italy, there is a need for more public awareness of the problem, in particular of the role of the pet and ornamental plants trade, and more complete data about the rates of introduction and impacts of IAS.

Project objectives

The LIFE ASAP project seeks to limit the spread and impact of IAS in Italy through public awareness and participation. Specific objectives are to:

- Translate into Italian the European voluntary codes of conduct and guidelines for managing IAS and circulate this material to key stakeholder groups that can help prevent the spread of IAS (e.g. florists, horticulturists, landscape architects, pet shops, aquarists, anglers and hunters);
- Train personnel from public administrations in how to support the implementation of the new EU Regulation on IAS;
- Draft a national IAS blacklist in collaboration with the Italian scientific community and propose a set of priorities for the Italian government; and
- Train knowledge multipliers (teachers, conservation professionals, zoos, botanical gardens) about IAS and with their input develop an information campaign focused on schools and the general public. The awareness campaign will make use of a range of media channels, including information displays in zoos, botanical gardens, national parks and airports, online activities (social media, website etc.) and citizen science activities using apps.

Expected results

- Adoption of codes of conduct and voluntary practices by the different stakeholders and target groups (500 hunters and at least one national hunting association, 500 anglers and at least one national angling association, 500 nature professionals (foresters, agronomists, landscape architects, biologists and veterinarians), 200 relevant businesses (hatcheries, aquaculture companies, pet shops, florists and garden centres), and adoption of guidelines on IAS management in at least four protected areas;

LIFE15 GIE/IT/001039
LIFE ASAP



Beneficiary:

Name of beneficiary

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Piero GENOVESI

Duration of project:

42 months (30/09/2016 – 30/03/2020)

Total budget in euro:

3,140,305.00

EU contribution in euro:

1,844,005.00

- 115 representatives of public administrations trained to apply the IAS Regulation;
- At least 50 scientists involved in drafting a national IAS blacklist and a horizon scanning/priority setting proposal for the Italian government;
- Training of at least 100 IAS knowledge multipliers from zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and museums, and a further 300 knowledge multipliers among teachers, academics and nature professionals; and
- 800 pupils and members of the public taking part in IAS information activities.

The project's actions will increase public awareness and reduce both the deliberate and accidental spread of IAS (with a particular focus on the sale of pets and ornamental plants).

You have right to effective protection of nature

Project background

Police statistics show that there are between 5 000 to 10 000 infractions of nature protection law in Poland each year. The annual material losses from these is estimated at between €120 000 and €550 000. There are some 400 police prosecutions per year for nature crime in Poland, but only 50-60 of these result in a conviction. Similarly, of the 404 cases prepared by the Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection since 2010, only 13 people have been convicted of causing environmental damage. Thus, there is a demonstrable need to improve enforcement of nature protection legislation through training for legal professionals and relevant public agencies.

Project objectives

The main goal of the LIFEJustice for Nature project is to increase the efficiency of the implementation of national and EU legislation on nature protection (mainly the Habitats and Birds directives) as well as to facilitate law enforcement in the field of nature protection (by improving coordination between different bodies - the judicial authorities, law enforcement authorities and regional directorates of environmental protection) through pilot educational activities for all stakeholders involved in the nature conservation process.

The specific goals of the project include:

- Raising the level of awareness and knowledge of nature protection of judicial and law enforcement authorities and conducting pilot educational activities to facilitate enforcement of nature crimes;
- Building public awareness of and support for the need to prosecute nature crimes and building general competence in the field of legal protection of nature;
- Improving local cooperation between the judicial authorities (criminal and administrative), law enforcement authorities (police, prosecutors and inspectors from the Regional Directorates of State Forests) and regional directorates of environmental protection; and
- Raising awareness of the legal aspects of nature protection in Natura 2000 network sites.

The project contributes directly to implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, specifically point 3c under Target 1 that encourages the EU to facilitate enforcement of the nature directives by providing specific training programmes on Natura 2000 for judges and

LIFE15 GIE/PL/000758
LIFEJustice for Nature



Beneficiary:

Name of beneficiary

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Name of contact person

Renata PUTKOWSKA-SMOTER

Duration of project:

41 months (01/08/2016 – 31/12/2019)

Total budget in euro:

898,242.00

EC contribution in euro:

538,945.00

public prosecutors, and by developing better compliance and promotion of capacities.

Expected results

- Increased knowledge of the legal aspects of nature protection (including on the issues of the Natura 2000 network) and opportunities for cooperation among target groups;
- Increased awareness among 350 judges of the legal aspects of nature protection, in particular relating to Natura 2000 network sites;
- Increased awareness among law enforcement authorities in Poland of the legal aspects of nature protection, in particular relating to Natura 2000 network sites. Some 10% of all police units involved in prosecutions of environmental crime will have been targeted by this awareness-raising action;
- 10% more successful prosecutions of nature crime in Poland; and
- At least 50 000 stakeholders and members of the public informed about the environmental impact of nature crime.

Awareness Raising, Training and Measures on Invasive alien Species in forests

Project background

In Slovenia, problems caused by invasive alien species (IAS) have been overlooked for many years, partly due to a lack of systematic research and monitoring, which has so far only provided limited data to evaluate trends. A 2012 survey revealed that, between 2000 and 2011, the number of alien plant species increased by 11% while alien animal species increased by 22%. Several IAS invade forests and affect the health of trees or alter ecosystem structures and functions. It is therefore essential to set up an efficient early warning system to enable foresters to limit further ecological and economic damage.

Project objectives

The LIFE ARTEMIS project aims to contribute to the reduction of the harmful impacts of IAS on biodiversity by increasing public awareness and by setting up an efficient early warning and rapid response (EWRR) system to manage their impacts on forests. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- Increase awareness among the general public and forest owners on the question of IAS in forests;
- Establish a national institutional framework and information system for early detection and rapid response (EWRR) to alien species in forests; and
- Improve national capacity to manage the EWRR by mobilising and training both professionals and volunteers.

The project will contribute significantly to achieving Target 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, specifically in terms of identifying IAS and their pathways by 2020, controlling or eradicating priority species and managing pathways to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS. The project will also directly contribute to the implementation of the *Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species* and to the *EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector*.

Expected results

- A 20% increase in Slovenian public awareness of IAS, with 27 000 people participating in at least one of the campaign events;
- 450 professionals and 350 volunteers trained to actively participate in the EWRR by detecting and reporting IAS in forests;

LIFE15 GIE/SI/000770
LIFE ARTEMIS



Beneficiary:

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Maarten DE GROOT

Duration of project:

52 months (07/07/2016 – 31/10/2020)

Total budget in euro:

1,091,953.00

EC contribution in euro:

647,701.00

- The establishment of a national information system for collecting data on forest IAS, with at least 30 000 observations;
- Participation of at least 80 volunteers in site-based actions to mitigate IAS impacts in an urban protected area of 509 ha. They will help create an inventory of alien plants and remove IAS from at least 20 ha of high-priority sites within the urban protected area;
- Involvement of at least 50 stakeholders in developing a long-term IAS Action Plan for the urban protected area;
- Participation of at least 225 forest owners in events dedicated to canker on maple trees - at least 50% of the maple trees infected with canker will be subsequently felled by the landowners; and
- Establishment of long-term cooperation and data exchange with the forestry institutions of the four neighbouring countries (Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Italy).

Networks of knowledge and training for the effective management of Mediterranean forest habitats of Natura 2000

Project background

The EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 and the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change each stress the importance of addressing climate change through the effective management of Natura 2000 sites. It is necessary to integrate adaptation to climate change in biodiversity policies, including those that relate to Natura 2000 site management. Some 27% of Spanish territory is part of the Natura 2000 network and thus legally protected. One of the goals of the 2014-2020 work programme of Spain's National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change is the "development of guidelines for integrating adaptation into instruments of management of natural resources and planning and management of protected areas".

Project objectives

LIFE_Redcapacita2015 aims to improve the management of forests in the Spanish Mediterranean regions included in the Natura 2000 network by incorporating objectives of biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change. This objective will be achieved through the training of Natura 2000 managers and the development of management tools for Natura 2000 forest areas that explicitly incorporate scientific knowledge and expertise to improve management effectiveness. To achieve its goal the project has defined several specific objectives:

- Providing benchmarks for evaluating the conservation status of Mediterranean forest habitats;
- Incorporating criteria for biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change in forest planning and management; and
- Ensuring the transfer of knowledge to the target audience and stakeholders through improved capacity building (training, exchange of expertise, enhanced access to information).

Expected results

- Creation of benchmarks for evaluating the conservation status of Mediterranean forest habitats. These will include: the creation of a network of reference forests, consisting of at least 15 forests identified as having a good conservation status (at least one reference forest for each Mediterranean forest habitat type); and the creation of an online knowledge platform that enables users to answer queries and learn more about the network of reference forests;

LIFE15 GIE/ES/000809
LIFE_Redcapacita2015



Beneficiary:

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Duration of project:

38 months (01/09/2016 – 31/10/2019)

Total budget in euro:

590,154.00

EC contribution in euro:

354,092.00

- Sharing of at least 20 case studies of forest management good practices on the online knowledge platform;
- Publication of guidelines to assist in the design and implementation of forestry management on Natura 2000 sites that meets conservation and adaptation objectives;
- Approval of management plans for pilot projects in 5 000 ha of Mediterranean forest based on protocols developed by the project;
- Demonstration restoration actions on 10 ha of Mediterranean forest;
- Actions to improve the condition of 6 ha of mature Mediterranean forest;
- Pilot actions to manage 50 ha of forests in accordance with the project's criteria for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation;
- Inform 100% of the target audience of forest owners, foresters, NGOs and policymakers of the actions and result of the project;
- Improve the capacity for forest management in Natura 2000 network sites of at least 80% of the target audience; and
- Transfer of the results to an international audience.

The wolf of Andalusia: changing attitudes

Project background

The Iberian wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*) is a subspecies of grey wolf found in north-west Spain and northern Portugal. Its prey includes both game species and livestock. This is a source of conflict with those who make a living from these animals. Minimising wolf-human conflicts is a necessary condition for the conservation of the Iberian wolf, which is categorised as “near threatened” by the IUCN.

This project focuses on the Iberian wolf’s southernmost distribution area: the central-eastern area of the Sierra Morena mountain range in Andalusia. The wolf population of this area is “unfavourable bad with negative trends”, according to the most recent conservation status assessment under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, with only 42-49 individuals remaining. Here, large private estates are used for game hunting, leading to conflicts of interest between landowners, game wardens and the wolf population.

Project objectives

The main objective of the LIFE SOUTHERN WOLVES project is to improve the coexistence of the Iberian wolf population with key economic activities in Andalusia, thereby improving its conservation status. To this end, the following specific objectives are proposed:

- Changing the negative perception of some game wardens, game reserve managers and owners in the Sierra Morena area;
- Raising the awareness of local rural populations of the issues relating to the preservation of the Iberian wolf and promoting a more positive image of the animal. By increasing awareness, in particular among those working in the game and livestock sectors, it is hoped that acceptance of the wolf will increase by restoring its former cultural meaning and acceptance;
- Assessing the attitude of the local population towards the Iberian wolf; and
- Raising awareness of the added value the Iberian wolf can bring to the rural economy.

Expected results

- Some 65% of game wardens in Andalusia taking part in training courses on wolf conservation and 60% signing the “Covenant of the Wolf in Andalusia”, a voluntary code of conduct;
- At least 60% of landowners within the distribution area of the Iberian wolf signing the Manifesto for the

LIFE15 GIE/ES/000962
LIFE SOUTHERN WOLVES



Beneficiary:

Name of beneficiary

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Duration of project:

46 months (01/09/2016 – 30/06/2020)

Total budget in euro:

1,644,871.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

921,352.00

- Iberian Wolf and becoming members of the “Friends of the Wolf” network;
- 60% of cattle herders and shepherds within the wolf distribution areas involved in project actions;
- At least 36 local associations participating in the project and 80% of municipal councils becoming members of the Municipal Network for the Iberian wolf;
- At least 70% of local schools taking part in the project, involving a total of 4 000 pupils;
- At least 500 citizens participating in the project and 10 000 signing the “Covenant of the Wolf in Andalusia”;
- Benchmarks for the project’s communication activities: 200 press releases, 5 000 visits to a travelling exhibition and 12 000 visits to the project website;
- Compilation of proposals from citizens of how to improve human-wolf coexistence; and
- Development of wolf-related eco-tourism (two signposted trails; training courses for tour operators, rural development groups and local authorities; creation of an inventory of heritage references linked to the Iberian wolf).

TRiFOCAL London – Transforming City F0od hABits for LIFE

Project background

An estimated 89 million tonnes of food goes to waste in EU countries each year. Modelling suggests this could increase to over 120 million tonnes by 2020. Managing the food system in complex and growing capital cities such as London is a major challenge. London's households throw away an estimated 900 000 tonnes of food each year, of which 540 000 tonnes is avoidable. Transporting and landfilling such waste produces methane emissions and costs more than €60 million per annum in London. Nevertheless, the capital city aims to eliminate the landfilling of this waste by 2025 and reduce the amount of household waste by 20%. The target is also to increase the re-use of municipal waste from around 6 000 tonnes a year in 2008 to 30 000 tonnes a year in 2030, through recycling or composting.

Project objectives

The LIFE TRiFOCAL London project aims to pilot a holistic communications campaign to encourage sustainable food systems in cities in line with the EU Roadmap for Resource-Efficiency. The project will also support the new circular economy strategy, which includes actions to prevent food waste. One key innovation is assimilating messaging on healthy diets and consumption as part of a food waste communications campaign. This component will address societal challenges linked to health and wellbeing supporting the EU 2020 health strategy 'Together for health'. The campaign will encourage the prevention of food waste by changing planning, shopping, storage and meal preparation. It will also promote healthy and sustainable eating and the recycling of unavoidable food waste. The project will moreover address the need to increase the redistribution of food and boost consumer savings on food. It will increase food security and encourage the purchasing of local produce. As a result of the project, an interactive, multi-stakeholder food waste behavioural change 'Resource Bank' will be created to facilitate replication across the EU.

Expected results

- A communications campaign reaching all 33 London Boroughs, 1 000 hospitality and food service outlets (including 10 000 of their customers and staff), 20 community groups and 24 schools;
- 20% reduction in avoidable food waste generated by Londoners, from around 63 kg per resident per annum to around 49 kg per resident per annum;

LIFE15 GIE/UK/000867
LIFE TRiFOCAL London



Beneficiary:

Name of beneficiary

The Waste and Resources Action Programme

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Charlotte HENDERSON

Duration of project:

36 months (01/09/2016 – 31/08/2019)

Total budget in euro:

3,201,132.00

EU contribution in euro:

1,920,678.00

- £330 million savings in annual living costs for Londoners, or £37 per resident;
- Reductions in global CO₂ equivalent emissions of 430 000 tonnes per annum;
- Global water savings of 70 million m³;
- 5% increase in the amount of unavoidable food waste recycled by households across London;
- 20% increase in the number of Londoners aware of key actions they need to take to eat more healthily and sustainably; and
- Five EU replication cities signed up at the start of the project and at least a further five signed up by the end of the project.

LIFE "L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement" / The financial instrument for the environment

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action

Period covered 2014-2020

EU funding available approximately €3.46 billion

Allocation of funds Of the €3.46 billion allocated to LIFE, €2.59 billion are for the Environment sub-programme, and €0.86 billion are for the Climate Action sub-programme. At least €2.8 billion (81% of the total budget) are earmarked for LIFE projects financed through action grants or innovative financial instruments. About €0.7 billion will go to integrated projects. At least 55% of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported through action grants under the sub-programme for Environment will be used for projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity. A maximum of €0.62 billion will be used directly by DG Environment and DG Climate Action for policy development and operating grants.

Types of projects Action Grants for the Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes are available for the following:

- > "Traditional" projects – these may be best-practice, demonstration, pilot or information, awareness and dissemination projects in any of the following priority areas: LIFE Nature & Biodiversity; LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency; LIFE Environmental Governance & Information; LIFE Climate Change Mitigation; LIFE Climate Change Adaptation; LIFE Climate Governance and Information.
- > Preparatory projects – these address specific needs for the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation.
- > Integrated projects – these implement on a large territorial scale environmental or climate plans or strategies required by specific Union environmental or climate legislation.
- > Technical assistance projects – these provide financial support to help applicants prepare integrated projects.
- > Capacity building projects – these provide financial support to activities required to build the capacity of Member States, including LIFE national or regional contact points, with a view to enabling Member States to participate more effectively in the LIFE programme.

Further information More information on LIFE is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/life>.

How to apply for LIFE funding The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals. Full details are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>

Contact

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