

# The EU LIFE Programme, funding for environment and climate action: the Call 2023 is now Open!

## LIFE Projects share their experiences



10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management Chania

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Kalispera!



# My name is Nikos Psimmenos

I will highlight the EU LIFE Programme architecture  
and the Green Fund's structure

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# Who is Who

## Green Fund



Climate Change and energy expert

## LIFE Programme



National Contact Point LIFE/ Circular Economy and Quality of life





ΠΡΑΤΙΝΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ

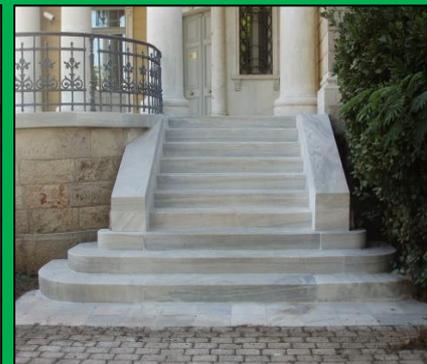


# Green Fund is located at Villa Kazouli

<https://villa-kazouli.inventus.com.gr/>



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ  
ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ  
& ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΣ



# Green Fund | Intro

- ❑ Public law entity
- ❑ Established in 2010
- ❑ Reports to the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy
- ❑ Continuation of Special Fund for the Implementation of Regulatory and Urban Plans

# Green Fund | Beneficiaries

Two types of beneficiaries:

- ❑ Public bodies and
- ❑ Private non-commercial organisations (including NGOs) with environment related scope



## Green Fund | Scope

- To enhance development through environmental protection
- To support the country's environmental and energy policy
- To serve public and social interests through the management of Green Resources

## Green Fund | Responsibilities

- To create environment-oriented Programmes
- To assess, select and monitor funding proposals
- To put into place the procedures necessary to select individual implementing organizations to be funded



# Green Fund | Resources

- The Resources of the Special Fund for the Implementation of Regulatory and Urban Plans (Green Resources)
- The Resources of the Special Forest Authority (Green Resources)
- The Resources of the special code "Environmental Balance Fund" (Green Resources)
- The Resources from the contributions of the energy distributors
- Fines for the construction and maintenance of arbitrary buildings
- Revenues from the operation or rental of special works
- Any other resource that has been institutionalized in favor of the Special Fund
- Funding from EU
- Profits, Sponsorships and donations
- Revenues from the management, exploitation and utilization of its property
- Grants from the state budget



# 145

mil Euros

## Green Fund | 2023 Funding programmes

### 2023 Funding programmes

### Budget in Euros

Protection of the Marine Environment & Prevention of the Marine Pollution (Blue Fund)

2.532.491,88

Forest Protection & Restoration

10.000.000,00

Natural Environment & Innovative Actions

7.871.794,19

Environmental Balance Actions

26.451.184,40

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Auction Revenues' Programme

61.266.323,72

### **EU LIFE Programme**

**3.000.000,00**

Operating costs

12.805.000,00

# Green Fund | LIFE Programme (1/2)

## □ Green Fund as Coordinator in Capacity Building Project:

- GREEK LIFE TASK FORCE PLUS (NEW!!)
- LIFE EL-BIOS

## □ Green Fund as Beneficiary of Integrated LIFE Projects:

- LIFE-IP 4 NATURA
- LIFE-IP Adapt In GR
- LIFE-IP CEI-Greece



# Green Fund | LIFE Programme (2/2)

## □ Green Fund as Beneficiary in traditional LIFE Projects:

- LIFE REWEEE (finished)
- LIFE TERRACESCAPE (finished)
- LIFE GRECABAT
- LIFE PROWhIBIT
- LIFE PROFILE

## □ Green Fund as Beneficiary in preparatory LIFE Projects:

- NET4LIFE

## □ Green Fund as a funding source for on going Life Projects

- 462.000 Euros for 2023



# Greek LIFE Task Force plus

## Capacity Building projects:

providing support to activities required to develop the capacity of Member States, with the aim of enabling Member States to participate more effectively in the LIFE program

## Duration:

01/01/2023 – 31/12/2025

Budget: 424,940.00 EUR

EU Contribution: 403,693.00 EUR

## Project Partners:

Green Fund - Coordinator and MEEN - Beneficiary



# Greek LIFE Task Force plus | scope

## Main objectives

(a) strengthening the capacity of the Greek National Contact Points to provide appropriate information, training and guidance to applicants wishing to access LIFE funding in GREECE

b) improving the quality and quantity of well-focused proposals eligible for funding

## Key expected results:

i) +50% increase in proposals / SAPs per year submitted by Greek LIFE applicants compared to proposals of the 2020 invitation

(ii) submit and fund 1 SIP or SNAP for the period 2023 - 2026



# What is LIFE?

- ❑ EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action
- ❑ Strong emphasis on:
  - Long-term sustainability
  - Replicability and transferability
  - Impact (quantified 'impact indicators')
- ❑ Regulation
- ❑ Multiannual Programmes
- ❑ Calls



# Who may submit a proposal?

- Public bodies
- Private commercial organisations and
- Private non-commercial organisations

# How does a LIFE project look like?

- Average number of beneficiaries per project: 4-6
- Average eligible budget: 1,5 - 2,5 million €
- General and specific objectives & thematic priorities
- Types of projects - pilot, demonstration, best practice, information



# The LIFE programme

- The LIFE programme as a whole constitutes a 100% contribution to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.
- The only EU programme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- LIFE is over 30 years 'young'
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €.
- The multiannual work programme for 2021-2024 was adopted in July 2021.
- Call 2023 budget: 611 million €



# LIFE 2021 – 2027

5,4 bil.

€3.5 billion going to Environment  
and €1.9 billion to Climate

Nature and  
biodiversity



Circular economy  
and quality of life



Climate change  
mitigation  
and adaptation



Clean energy  
transition



# Types of projects

- ❑ Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs) **No call in 2023**
- ❑ Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
- ❑ **Standard action projects (SAPs) 60%\***
- ❑ Technical Assistance (TA)
- ❑ Other actions (OA)
- ❑ Operating grants



# The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

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

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



**Nature and Biodiversity**



**Circular Economy and Quality of Life**



**Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**



**Clean Energy Transition**

## Projects

- Develop and demonstrate innovative techniques and approaches to solving environmental challenges
- Help to implement plans and strategies, required by EU legislation.
- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions

## Impact

- Support the development, monitoring and implementation of EU environment & climate policy
- Provide models to copy and upscale

## Project beneficiaries are:

- 1/3 private enterprises
- 1/3 NGOs and civil society organisations
- 1/3 public authorities



# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



Nature and  
Biodiversity

## Contribution to:

- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
- Supporting Natura 2000 network and Action Frameworks.
- Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.

## Typical actions

Projects supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.

Species protection.

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of PAF or other plans under the Biodiversity Strategy; mainstreaming biodiversity

Financing of small-scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions



## What is LIFE Nature and Biodiversity?



**LIFE is the main EU fund for nature conservation**



**€3 billion funding spent on 1 800 projects**



**LIFE contributed to the conservation of >750 different species and >6 000 Natura 2000 sites**

# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity

There are two topics under this call:

## **LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE – Nature and Biodiversity**

based implementation of EU nature legislation or targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- Topic budget: EUR 145.000.000
  - Funding rate: 60%-67%-75%
- Deadline: 06/09/2023**
- ✓ priority and non- priority habitats and species
  - ✓ EXCLUSIVELY priority habitats and species

## **LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance**

EU nature and biodiversity legislation-related compliance assurance, public participation and access to justice

- Topic budget: EUR 3.400.000
- Funding rate: 60%

**Deadline: 06/09/2023**



# Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Contribution in the areas of:

- circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment.



## Typical actions

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

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

Integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy. Promote upscale and access to finance.

Topic budget: EUR 81.000.000

Funding rate: 60%

**Deadline: 06/09/2023**

# Priority topics



## Circular economy and quality of life

- 1. Circular economy and waste:** (waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), batteries and accumulators, end of Life vehicles (ELVs) and end-of-Life ships, construction works or buildings, plastics, bio-waste, textiles, composite and multilayer materials, critical raw materials, packaging, waste containing hazardous substances, product durability, reuse and repair, including upgrading and remanufacturing, industrial symbiosis & creation of circular value chains, digital product passports)
- 2. Soil:** practices of soil and land management, prepare for extreme weather events, combat desertification, effective nature based solutions, soil health, soil loss
- 3. Air:** emissions of PM, sustainable road transport mobility, real world driving conditions, sustainable mobility other than road transport, reduction of ammonia, methane and PM emissions from agriculture
- 4. Water:** water quality, management of nutrients and organic pollution, reduction of pressures from chemical pollutants, flood and/or drought risk management actions, nature-based solutions, innovative prevention and protection tools and techniques, innovative integrated risk assessment and management approaches, hydro morphological pressures, water saving measures, marine and coastal water management, water services
- 5. Noise:** substantial reduction of noise inside populated urban areas through solutions with high environmental and economic sustainability; (e.g. by using low noise surfaces and/or tyres having life cycle costs comparable to those of standard surfaces and/or tyres, low height barriers with low landscape impact and eco-friendly materials, or lowering noise from railway traffic or airports)
- 6. Chemicals:** prevention and reduction of the impact on the environment or human health, of hazardous substances and chemical production
- 7. Environmental governance:** Activities in support of public administrations' decision-making and voluntary approaches, National air pollution control programmes, air quality plans, river basin management plans, flood risk management plans, nitrate action plans, waste management plans, national or regional circular economy action plans, strategies, environmental compliance assurance and access to justice, behavioral change and awareness-raising initiatives
- 8. New European Bauhaus:** proposals focused on a holistic reduction of environmental impacts of new buildings. Proposals on circular districts involving creation of circular value chains to boost urban economies and producing urban and territorial regeneration. Proposals for maintaining or restoring biodiversity

# Sub-programme Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



## Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

### Contribution to:

- The transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through:
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation & Related Governance

On **climate mitigation**, projects that contribute significantly to the implementation of:

- the 2030 energy and climate policy
- the EU Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

On **climate adaptation**:

- projects that support the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and related national implementation

Topic budget: EUR 66.350.000

Funding rate: 60%

**Deadline: 06/09/2023**



# 2023 Call: Scope and areas of intervention for **Climate Change Mitigation**

## Scope and areas of intervention

Actions to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** in the sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System, including the reduction of use of fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances

Actions which **enhance the functioning of the Emissions Trading System** and which have an impact on energy and greenhouse gas intensive industrial production

Increase the generation and use of **renewable energy and improvement of energy efficiency** (as far as not covered by specific calls for proposals under the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme)

The **development of land and sea management practices** which have an impact on emissions and removals of emissions, conservation and enhancement of natural carbon sinks

# 2023 Call: Scope and areas of intervention for **Climate Change Adaptation**

## Scope and areas of intervention

Adaptation policy development, and adaptation strategies and plans, should help national, regional and local authorities to further develop and improve effective and science-based adaptation policies and strategies

State-of-the art tools and solutions for adaptation

Nature-based solutions in the management of land, forests, coasts and marine areas

Adapting cities and regions to climate change

Climate-proofing and resilience of infrastructure and buildings

Adaptation solutions for farmers, forest managers, Natura 2000 managers and other land managers

Water management

Preparedness for extreme weather events

Financial instruments, innovative solutions and public-private collaboration on insurance and loss data





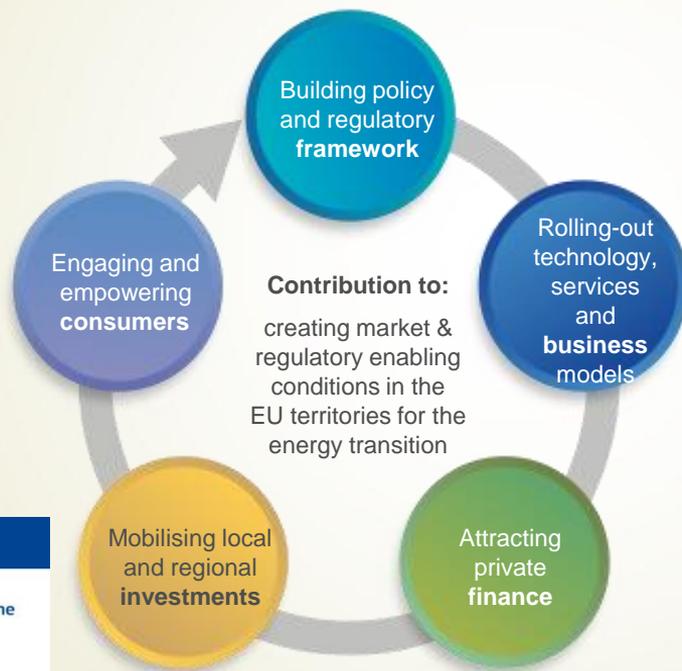
# 2023 Call: Scope and areas of intervention for Climate Governance and Information

Scope and areas of intervention	
Support to the operation of the <b>European Climate Pact</b>	Implementation/further development of national <b>2030 climate and energy strategies plans and/or long-term strategies</b>
Incentivising <b>behavioural change</b> , mainstream emission reduction and resource and energy efficiency actions	Development and implementation of <b>greenhouse gas accounting</b> and climate change mitigation in the land use sector
<b>Awareness-raising activities</b> addressing adaptation and mitigation needs	<b>Assessment of the functioning of the EU ETS</b>
Activities linked to the development and implementation of the <b>Sustainable Finance actions</b>	Building capacity, raising awareness among <b>end-users and the equipment distribution chain of fluorinated greenhouse gases</b>
<b>Greenhouse gas emission monitoring and reporting</b>	<b>Climate policy</b> monitoring, assessment and ex-post evaluation

# The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition



Clean Energy Transition



- Deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> **November 2023**
- +/- **100 mEUR** available for +/- 60 grants
- Most funding topics: **minimum of 3 (eligible) entities from 3 different eligible countries** (average number of partners is higher)
- **95% co-funding rate**

Type of activities: developing and spreading best practice, mobilising investments, improving skills, removing market barriers, raising awareness, educating, empowering.



# Clean Energy Transition: areas of intervention



Clean Energy  
Transition



Building a national, regional and local **policy framework** supporting the clean energy transition



Accelerating **technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models** and enhancement of the related **professional skills** on the market



Attracting private **finance** for sustainable energy



Supporting the development of local and regional **investment projects**



Involving and **empowering citizens** in the clean energy transition



# LIFE CET – Call 2023 Funding topics (I)

## Citizens in the clean energy transition

- Supporting European households to alleviate energy poverty and vulnerability
- European Energy Communities Facility

## Decarbonisation of buildings and H&C

- Energy Performance of Buildings
- District heating and cooling: investment plans and skills
- Boosting heat pump deployment: alternative models and skilled installers

## Building skills and capacity of industry and the service sector

- BUILD UP Skills – Upskilling and reskilling
- Supporting the clean energy transition of European businesses

# LIFE CET – 2023 Funding topics (II)

## Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition

- Cities and regions: Technical support to clean energy transition plans and strategies in municipalities and regions
- Effective implementation of key legislation in the field of sustainable energy
- Maximising use of and valorising EPREL data

## Facilitating investment projects at local and regional level

- One-Stop-Shops - Integrated services for buildings and businesses
- Project Development Assistance

## Attracting private finance for sustainable energy

- Crowding in private finance: Mainstreaming and Innovative financing schemes

# Third countries associated to LIFE

The following non-EU countries have signed association agreements to LIFE:

- Iceland
- Ukraine
- Moldova

Entities from these countries can participate to LIFE programme and apply for LIFE calls under the same conditions as EU-27 entities.

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Negotiations are ongoing with **North Macedonia**. Entities from this country can apply under LIFE 2023 calls but the grant agreements will be concluded only if an association agreement is signed on time.

# What to consider?

- Success rate under LIFE calls is low and competition is very high:
  - Only very good quality proposals will be financed - there is no point to submit multiple poorly prepared proposals, it is better to present one that is well designed
  - Allow sufficient time when preparing a proposal - it takes several months to prepare an application that responds well to all the evaluation criteria; do not forget obligatory annexes; use the correct application forms
  - Remember: even experienced LIFE applicants from the EU are often unsuccessful and need to re-submit their proposals several times before getting a grant

Submitted through Funding & Tenders Portal



# PROJECT DESIGN

## Good design

**Solid analysis of the problem, state of play and solution proposed (baseline)**

**Key stakeholders involved (incl. users)**

**Robust assessment of impacts over the life cycle of the solution proposed**

**Clear strategy on how to sustain and multiply the impacts**

## Common problems

**Insufficient background information (why, who and how)**

**Rationale for projects is defined during the project**

**Objectives too broad, too many. Specific priority topic not clearly identified**

**Poor partnership (partners don't fit regarding know-how or insufficient budget)**

**Over-optimistic / unrealistic or lack of quantification of impacts**

**Replication confused with networking and dissemination**

**Weak plans to sustain the project/results after project end**

# I want to apply for a SAP...

- Please take time to learn in particular about:
  - Main evaluation criteria
  - Key required elements (impact, KPIs, replication, sustainability)
  - Policy priorities (project topics) - ask yourself whether LIFE is the right funding instrument for your project
  - Financial rules and construction of the budget

## Applying as a Partner?

- Consider teaming up with applicants from EU-27 - you can learn from their experience and if your project covers more than one country, chances are the impact (and therefore the score during evaluation) will be higher.
- Use LIFE [virtual networking tool](#) to find project partners.

# Calls 2023 – Overview

Call	Budget (M€)	Starting date	Submission	Grand Agreement
SAP – Nature and Biodiversity	148,4	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP – Circular economy and quality of life	81	18/04/23	06/09/23	June 2024
SAP – Climate Change Mitigation and adaptation	66,3	18/04/23	21/09/23	June 2024
CSA – Clean energy transition	99	11/05/23	16/11/23	June 2024

# Award Criteria

There are 4 Award Criteria:

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Quality
- 3) Impact
- 4) Resources

Possible bonus points:

- Synergies between LIFE sub-programmes
- Outermost Regions and areas with specific needs and vulnerabilities
- Up-scaling results of other European Union funded projects
- Exceptional catalytic potential
- Transnational cooperation among Member States

- The award criteria are scored 0-20 and the score of criterion 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.
- Minimum pass score: 55
- The bonuses are based on yes/no criteria. They do not foresee a graduation: either 0 or 2 points are assigned to each proposal



# 2023 Call

# Life



**Submit now**

# Thank you!

## €611 mil. to fund your project

**Thank you!**

For more info please get in touch with me: [npsimmenos@prasinosameio.gr](mailto:npsimmenos@prasinosameio.gr)

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