



# The new LIFE Programme Sub-programmes, types of projects funded & call for proposals

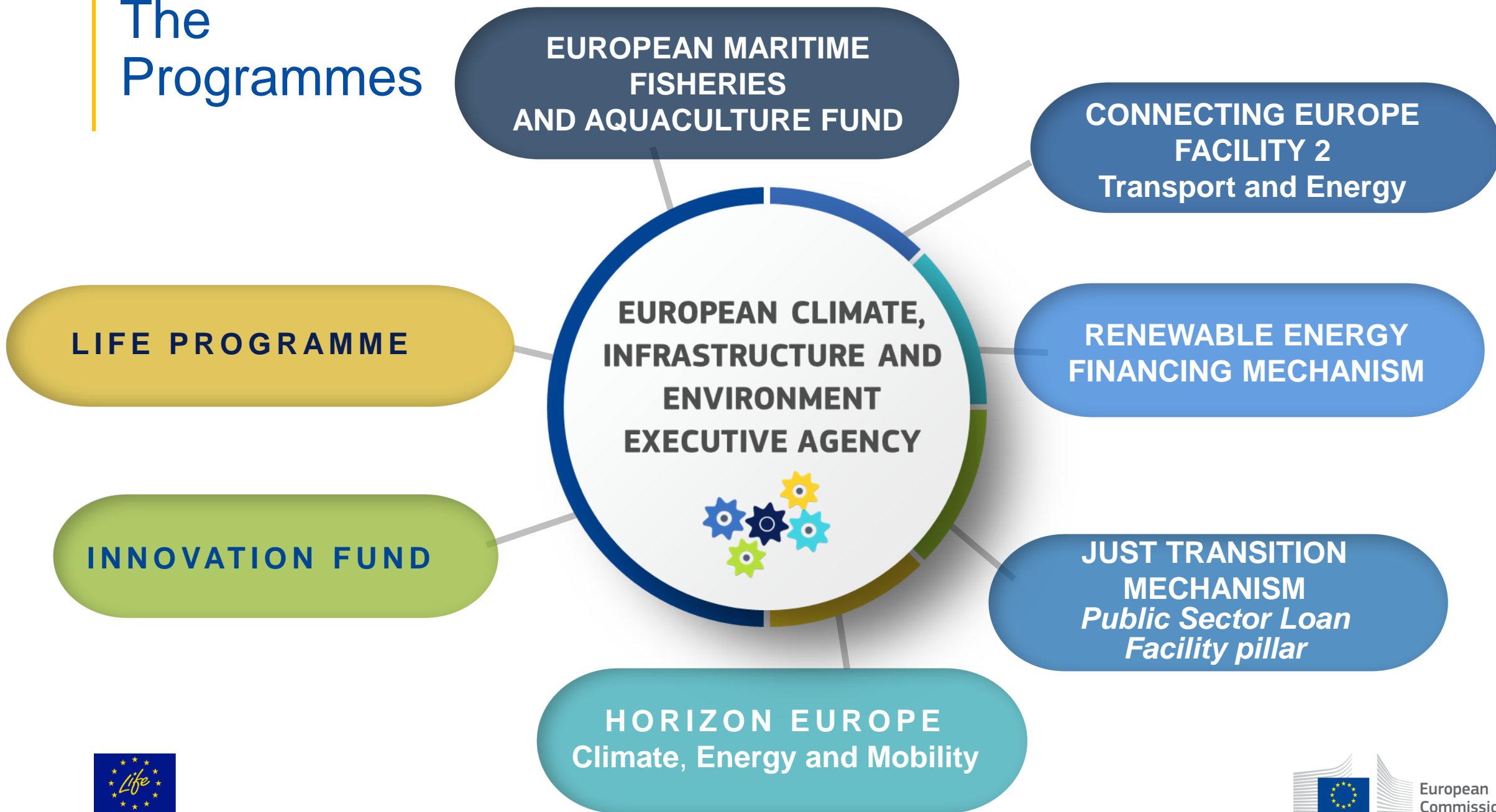
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*Regional ES Delegations European Commission*

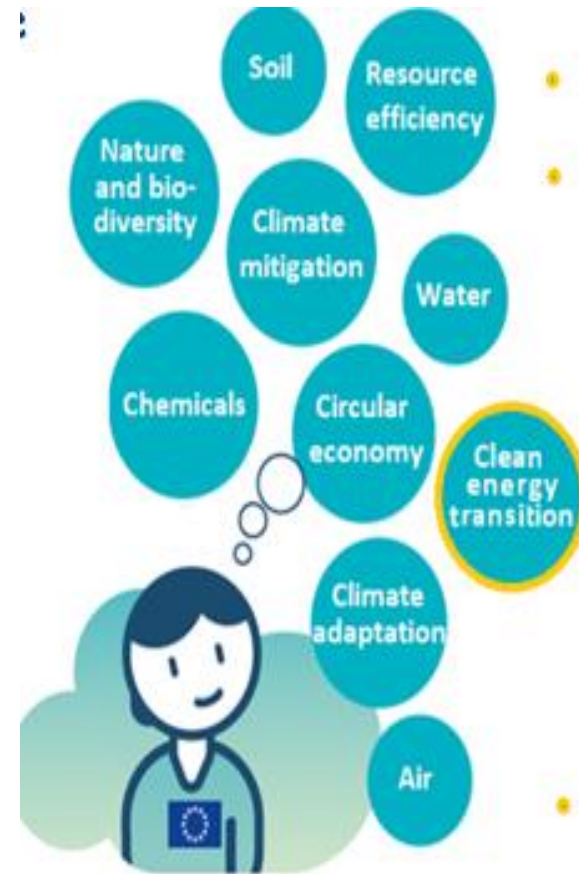
*22 July 2021*

# The Programmes

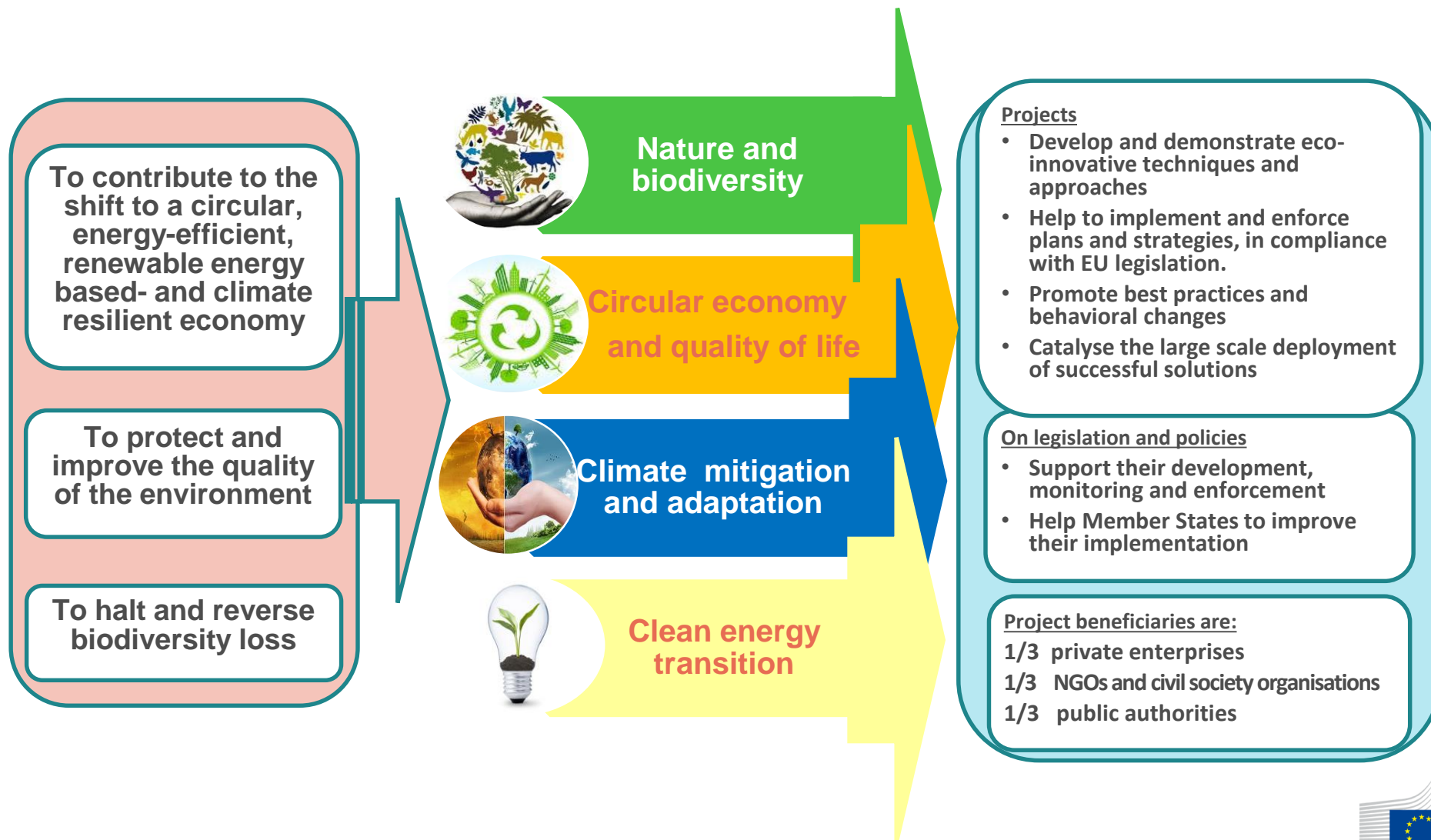


# The new LIFE programme

- 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.
- For the years 2021-2027, a budget of 5.43 billion €.
- The multiannual work programme for 2021-2024 was adopted in July 2021.



# The LIFE Programme 2021-2027



# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity

## Contribution to:

**Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.**

**Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised 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 and Biodiversity Strategy

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



# Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life

## Contribution in the areas of:

**circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, 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.



# Sub-programme Climate 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:

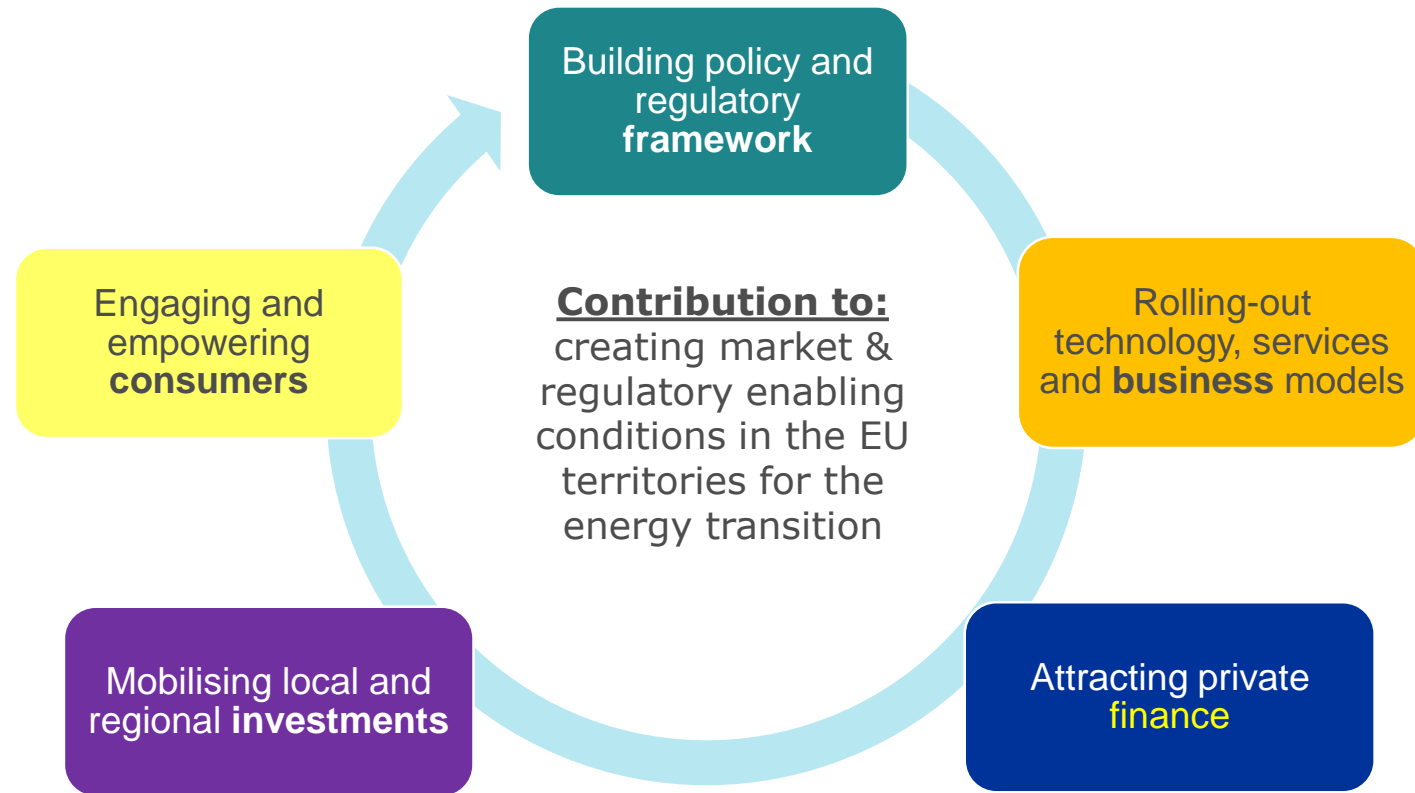
- the 2030 energy and climate policy
- the EU Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

On **climate adaptation**:

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

# The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition

predecessors: Intelligent Energy Europe continued under H2020- SC3- market uptake



**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

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



# Types of activities funded under LIFE

## GRANTS

- Action grants:
  - ✓ Standard action projects (SAPs)
  - ✓ Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)
  - ✓ Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
  - ✓ Technical Assistance (TA)
  - ✓ Other actions (OA) – including Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)
- Operating grants

## OTHER FORMS OF FUNDING

- Procurement
- Prizes
- Blending



# Standard action projects (SAPs)

- ‘Traditional’ LIFE projects aimed to:
  - ✓ develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches;
  - ✓ contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices;
  - ✓ support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
  - ✓ catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance
- Co-financing rate of 60% maximum except:
  - ✓ 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
  - ✓ 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- Maximum 10 year duration



# Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)

- Focused on the implementation of
  - ✓ the Prioritised Action Frameworks pursuant to the Habitats Directive
  - ✓ other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, regional or multiregional level by nature and biodiversity authorities
- Co-financing rate of 60% maximum
- Maximum 20 year duration



# Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)

- Co-financing rate of 60% maximum
- Maximum 20 year duration
- Circular Economy and Quality of Life:
  - ✓ Circular Economy: National or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
  - ✓ Waste: National and regional Waste Management Plans (WMPs)
  - ✓ Water: River basin management plans (RBMPs)
  - ✓ Air: Air quality plans pursuant to the Ambient Air Quality Directive or National Air Pollution Control Programmes (NAPCP)
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:
  - ✓ National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP, Regulation on the governance of the energy union and climate action (EU)2018/1999);
  - ✓ National Energy Efficiency Action Plans' (NEEAP);
  - ✓ National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;
  - ✓ Urban or community-based action plans pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society;
  - ✓ National, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or economy roadmaps contributing to climate neutrality



# Operating grants for NGOs

- Two-steps application
  - ✓ Framework partnership agreement (FPA) - successful applicants sign a long-term agreement (3 years – 2022-2024)
  - ✓ Specific grant agreement (SGA). Only organisations that sign an FPA can be considered for SGA
- Co-financing rate of 70% maximum
- Maximum 1 year duration for SGAs



# Technical assistance projects (TA)

- TA-PP: support to the participation in standard action projects and preparation of SNAPs and SIPs (TA-PP)
  - ✓ Co-financing rate of maximum 60%, maximum LIFE contribution of EUR 70 000
- TA-R: support to the up-scaling and replication of results from other projects funded by the LIFE Programme, its predecessor programmes or other Union programmes and for accessing other Union financial instruments;
  - ✓ Co-financing rate of maximum 60%
- TA-CAP: capacity building of Member States authorities with low effective participation to the LIFE programme
  - ✓ For countries with either low effective participation, i.e. which are among the lowest two-thirds for the number of proposals divided by Member State factor (specific calculation mode) or for the success rate
  - ✓ 1 project per country maximum for 2021-24
  - ✓ Co-financing rate of maximum 95%
- Maximum 5 year duration for all TA projects



# Other action grants

- Coordination and Support Actions for the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency.
- A Small Grant Facility on Biodiversity (BEST); small grants (max EUR 100 000, 100% EU funding) in the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories for biodiversity
- Projects developed in the framework of the cooperation with the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- Action grants benefitting the organisations mentioned in Annex I of the LIFE Regulation:
  - ✓ European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL);
  - ✓ European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE);
  - ✓ European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE).
- Co-financing rate of 95% maximum, except Small Grant Facility on Biodiversity (100%)





# Other action grants – Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)

- CSAs are the standard type of grant for the CET sub-programme
- Breaking market barriers to the clean energy transition through capacity building, dissemination of information and knowledge, awareness raising
- Policy-driven, prescriptive call topics
  - ✓ A tightly pre-defined scope of the proposal;
  - ✓ Engagement of multiple stakeholders and large transnational consortiums;
  - ✓ EU-widely validated results feeding into EU policy making;
- Co-financing rate of 95% maximum
- Usual duration of projects between 18 and 36 months
- No infrastructure costs, mainly labor costs





# LIFE 2021 Calls for proposals



# Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

There are 3 calls for LIFE SAP:

- LIFE Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life
- LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

What is new or changing:

- The maximum eligibility period for SAPs shall be 10 years
- Co-financing: 60% and exceptionally 67% or 75% under sub-program for Nature and Biodiversity
- Updated project topics
- Budget to be pre-allocated to the New European Bauhaus projects (under sub-programme for Circular Economy and Quality of Life)
- Environmental governance is covered by LIFE as in the past but it is split between ENV and NAT (no change for LIFE Climate Action with this regard)



# Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

- Call publication **13 July 2021**
- One stage application procedure (no concept note this year)
- Deadline for submission of full proposals **30 November 2021 (ENV, NAT & CLIMA)**
- Budget for this call +/- 100 M€ for ENV (including Governance and Bauhaus), +/- 127 M € for NAT (including Governance), +/- 69 M€ for CLIMA (including Governance)



# Integrated Projects (SIPs and SNAPs)

## What is new or changing:

There will be 1 call for LIFE IPs covering:

- SNAPs:

(LIFE Nature and Biodiversity)

- SIPs:

(LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life

LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation)

- New Plans or Strategies eligible for IPs
- Increased budget for SNAPs and indicative distribution of the SNAPs per Member State in the period from 2021-2027 in function of the size of the territory of the Member State (see page 18 of the MAWP)
- Maximum duration 20 years.



# Integrated Projects (SNAPs and SIPs)

- Call publication **13 July 2021**
- Deadline for Submission of concept Notes: **19 October 2021 for Concept Notes / 07 April 2022 full proposal**
- Two stage application procedure
- Budget for this call 70 M € (NAT) / 52.8 M € (ENV) / 35 M € (CLIMA)
- Please do not forget that LIFE IP Helpdesk is ready to assist interested applicants - CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu



# Technical Assistance for the preparation of the Integrated Projects (TA-PP)

There will be 1 call for LIFE TA-PP:

- For preparation of SNAPs and SIPs

What is new or changing

- maximum LIFE contribution is now EUR 70 000 (it used to be EUR 100 000).



# Technical Assistance for the preparation of the Integrated Projects

- Call publication **13 July 2021**
- One stage application procedure
- Deadline for submission **22 September 2021**
- Budget for this call +/- 0.8 M€





# Operating grants for NGOs

- Call publication **13 July 2021**
- Submission deadline **28 September 2021** (FPA & SGA)
- Two-step application
  - ✓ Framework partnership agreement (FPA) - successful applicants sign a long-term agreement (3 years – 2022-2024)
  - ✓ Specific grant agreement (SGA). Only organisations that sign an FPA can be considered for SGA
- Budget for this call +/- 37 M €

## What is new or changing

- FPA / SGA application in parallel
- FPA duration extended to 3 years
- Co-financing rate 70%
- Flexibility regarding the maximum requested EU contribution

Don't forget about dedicated info day for NGOs



# What about the remaining LIFE calls?

To be published in autumn 2021:

- Technical Assistance: TA-CAP: capacity building of Member States authorities with low effective participation to the LIFE programme
- Other Actions: A Small Grant Facility on Biodiversity (BEST); small grants in the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories for biodiversity

No details are available at this point in time.



# Award Criteria

## One stage application (or full proposal in stage)

What is new or changing:

- Fewer and simpler award criteria:
  - 1) Relevance
  - 2) Quality
  - 3) Impact
  - 4) Resources
  - 5) Bonus:
    - Synergies
    - Outermost Regions and vulnerable areas
    - Up-scaling
    - Catalytic effect
    - Transnationality
- The award criteria are scored 0-20 and the score of criterion 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1,5.
- The bonuses are based on yes/no criteria. They do not foresee a graduation: either 0 or 2 points are assigned to each proposal



# Award criteria

## Concept Note stage

What is new or changing:

- Small changes to the two award criteria:
  - 1) Relevance and Impact
  - 2) Quality and Resources
- The award criteria are scored 0-20
- Pass threshold: 12 points



# Award criteria

## Strategic Integrated Projects

What is new or changing:

- Fewer and simpler award criteria:

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Quality
- 3) Complementary funding
- 4) Impact
- 5) Resources

- The award criteria are scored 0-20 Attention: unlike for SAPs the score of criterion 'Impact' will NOT be given a weight of 1,5. All scores have same weight.
- Stage 1 (Concept Note) - no change



# Keep in touch with CINEA



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[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)



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