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POLICY DEPARTMENT
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Economic and Monetary Affairs

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LIFE – How to Use € 3.46 Billion for Environment and Climate Protection

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Study for the ENVI Committee

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES
POLICY DEPARTMENT A: ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC POLICY

WORKSHOP

LIFE – How to Use € 3.46 Billion for Environment and Climate Protection

Brussels, 10 November 2015

PROCEEDINGS

Abstract

This report summarises the presentations and discussions of the Workshop on 'LIFE – How to use €3.46 billion for environment and climate protection', held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Tuesday 10 November 2015. The aim of the workshop was to explore the new features of the LIFE Programme and understand how it can contribute effectively to achieving environmental protection and climate change targets.

This workshop and the respective document were prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

This document was requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CIP	Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
DG CLIMA	Directorate General for climate action
DG ENVI	Directorate General for the environment
EASME	Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECST	European Charter for Sustainable Tourism
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EU	European Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LIFE ENV	LIFE's environmental component
LIFE NAT/BIO	LIFE's nature and biodiversity component
MEP	Member of European Parliament
NCFE	Natural Capital Financing Facility
PF4EE	Private Finance for Energy Efficiency
RRC	River Restoration Centre
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SPEA	Portuguese Society for Bird Studies (<i>Sociedades Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves</i>)
WFD	Water Framework Directive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 10 November 2015 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food and Safety (ENVI) of the European Parliament held a workshop on "LIFE – How to use €3.46 billion for environment and climate protection". The workshop was hosted by Mr Nicola CAPUTO (MEP) and Ms Dubravka ŠUICA (MEP), Co-Chairs of the LIFE Working Group within the ENVI Committee. The first part of the workshop discussed the new LIFE programme while the second part focused on the LIFE procedures and included the presentation of some successful past LIFE projects.

In his introduction, Mr CAPUTO stressed the importance of the LIFE programme as the only funding project solely for the environment. He also noted that, although not specifically designed for the purpose of creating jobs, the LIFE programme has had an impact on the creation of green jobs. Ms ŠUICA also highlighted employment opportunities generated by LIFE and stressed the importance of dissemination and communication. Stating that the focus should be on the quality rather than quantity of projects, she also mentioned the challenges faced by new Member States.

The first speaker, Mr SALSI (EASME), started by describing how the European Parliament has supported the evolution of the LIFE programme over the years and highlighted the increase in the number of proposals received for the programme. He went on to refer to LIFE as an alternative funding tool to the more traditional and complex financing tools, such as the Cohesion Policy funds. Mr SALSI concluded with optimism regarding the recent change in the management of LIFE and emphasised the focus on continuity during this transition phase.

Mr KINŠT (ECA) summarised the key outcomes and improvements of the 2013 ECA report on the effectiveness of the LIFE programme. He stressed that the high numbers of objectives did not correspond with the low financial budget. He also highlighted several other points including the inefficiency of national allocations, the lack of opportunities to evaluate the LIFE programme before the midterm report, the lack of transparency, and the lack of dissemination and replicability.

Mr RANAIVOSON (EIB) presented the two new financial tools for LIFE: the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) and the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF). He started with the PF4EE, emphasising the role of financial intermediaries, i.e. banks, when financing energy efficiency projects. The NCFF introduces a market-based approach requiring borrowers to reimburse funds, which Mr RANAIVOSON noted may be difficult to implement at the beginning given the grant-based mindset of the beneficiaries.

The second section of the workshop began with Mr DOIKOS (NEEMO¹) presenting the experiences within the LIFE Environment component. He mentioned that monitoring projects and selecting best of the best examples would stimulate replication and scaling up of projects. He noted that, because projects are so diverse, there are many different solutions and ways to multiply the impacts.

The objectives of the Life Nature component were presented by Mr JEPSEN (NEEMO), including how LIFE contributes to the Biodiversity Strategy of 2020 and the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. He outlined several best practices, including the introduction of thematic kick-off meetings compared to geographic grouping, and the establishment of a knowledge platform. Finally, he suggested

¹ NEEMO is a European consortium of nine partner companies, comprising 183 experts, that monitor LIFE projects and NGOs that receive funding from the LIFE Programme. They also take care of the communication aspects of LIFE.

alternative approaches to mitigate Invasive Alien Species and managing the Natura2000 areas.

Mr TEODOSIO (SPEA) presented the Portuguese project of 'Safe Islands for Seabirds' which was selected as an example of good practice for communication activities. The projects had several successes, including pest eradication and prevention of extinction of certain bird species found only on the island of Corvo. The project also created jobs and contributed to GDP as well as involved the whole community.

The RESTORE project was presented by Mr JANES (RRC). A result of this project was a stronger European network of River Restoration as well as several guidance documents for planners and developers, and an online 'RiverWiki', a web-based community case study tool. To continue the theme of community involvement, Mr JANES also gave examples of social media used by the project.

Mr MARTIN (DG ENV E4) spoke of the European Commission publication on green jobs creation by LIFE. It includes concrete and practical examples of projects that created green jobs and resulted in changes in the environment. Mr MARTIN also referenced preliminary findings of a new NEEMO study which shows a significant impact on jobs. He concluded that these findings help to demonstrate to politicians that the LIFE programme makes a difference even in the short term.

1. LEGAL AND POLICY BACKGROUND

The LIFE Programme is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU. LIFE is directly managed by the Commission. Given that most of the EU environmental expenditure is integrated into other spending programmes, LIFE constitutes the environmental pillar of EU financing. Its overall objective is to contribute to the development, updating and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value. It therefore serves as a platform for developing and exchanging best practices and for sharing knowledge, to catalyse and accelerate change on environmental and climate issues. In practice, LIFE supports the general (political) environmental priorities set by the European Parliament and the Council in the Environment Action Programmes (EAPs). LIFE began in 1992 and to date there have been four complete phases of the programme. During this period, LIFE has co-financed some 3954 projects across the EU, contributing approximately €3.1 billion to the protection of the environment.

The new LIFE Programme

The LIFE Regulation 1293/2013² established the Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes of the LIFE Programme for the 2014-2020 funding period. The budget for the period is set at €3.4 billion in current prices. In the current period, the LIFE programme will contribute to the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the 7th Union Environmental Action Programme and other relevant EU environment and climate strategies and plans. The new LIFE programme has introduced a series of new features compared to the past LIFE + programme for 2007-2013.

While LIFE is centrally managed by the European Commission (DG Environment and DG Climate Action), the implementation of many components has been assigned to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). External selection, monitoring and communication teams also provide assistance to the Commission and EASME. Another new feature is that the programme also consists of a new category of projects, jointly funded integrated projects co-financed by other EU funds.

The LIFE multiannual work programme also sees the introduction of two new financial instruments. The Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCF) will provide financing opportunities in the form of loans or equity investments for revenue-generating or cost-saving pilot projects promoting the preservation of natural capital, including climate change adaptation projects, while the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency instruments (PF4EE) will provide loans for investments in energy efficient projects prioritised by National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The PF4EE will be managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB), which will lend funds to selected intermediaries - commercial banks - in Member States (initially only one per country). The European Commission will contribute €80 million to PF4EE through the LIFE programme during 2014-2017 which the EIB aims to leverage, raising a minimum of €500 million in long-term financing.

² Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), available at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2013.347.01.0185.01.ENG.

Weaknesses and reforms

The LIFE multiannual work programme for 2014-2017 was adopted by a Commission Decision in 2014³. It contains an indicative budget, explains the selection methodology for projects and for operating grants and establishes outcome indicators for the two LIFE sub-programmes – for Environment and for Climate Action. The LIFE Programme's procedures throughout the project cycle – from project selection and implementation to assessment of projects results and impacts and their dissemination – seek to ensure that the LIFE programme functions as a platform for developing and exchanging good practices and to catalyse and accelerate developments of EU environmental policy.

Early in 2014, however, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published a report on *'Has the Environment component of the LIFE programme been effective?'*⁴ which concluded that the dissemination and replication of LIFE projects was clearly insufficient, reducing the programme's capacity to act as a catalyst for environmental changes. Moreover, the EU Auditors pointed out that the Commission did not sufficiently justify the selection of projects and that, even if some supported projects achieved positive results, the programme did not fulfil its fundamental role to ensure their effective dissemination and replication. In particular, the ECA concluded that the large number of objectives of the programme was not consistent with the limited budget available, and called for the Commission and Member States to restrict eligible applications to limited strategic priorities and to set clear, specific, measurable and achievable objects. Several recommendations to improve the design and implementation of the LIFE programme were put forward, which relate to all phases of the LIFE programme project management cycle.

Many of these claims were also reflected in a Working Document of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control prepared by Rapporteur Tomáš Zdechovský⁵, who in September 2014 recommended the Commission set clear, specific, measurable and achievable objectives for projects to be funded, with particular attention to be paid to the potential of projects to be disseminated, sustained and replicated. According to Zdechovský, this is to be done via clear assessment indicators set by the Commission. The Rapporteur also called for measures to avoid non-transparent selection procedures and to improve project monitoring, as well as consideration to be taken in regards to distortion caused by national allocations. The issue of geographical balance had also previously been raised in an EP Resolution in 2013⁶, as well as laying out specific objectives for the priority area Environmental Governance and Information.

In reply to the Special Report of the Court of Auditors⁷, the Commission agreed that the system of indicative national allocations in place in LIFE+ did not fulfil its objective to ensure a better geographical distribution of the money awarded. The Commission also

³ Commission Implementing Decision of 19 March 2014 on the adoption of the LIFE multiannual work programme for 2014-17, available at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_116_R_0001.

⁴ European Court of Auditors (2014), *Has the Environment component of the LIFE programme been effective?*, Special report (SR 15/2013), available at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/cont/dv/sr_15_2013_/sr_15_2013_en.pdf

⁵ European Parliament, Committee on Budgetary Control, Working Document on European Court of Auditors' Special Report (PE535.987), available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2F%2FEP%2F%2FNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-535.987%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2F%2FEN>.

⁶ European Parliament Resolution on common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of 20/11/2013, available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P7-TA-2013-0482>.

⁷ European Commission, Replies to the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors (COM(2013) 840), available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/reqdoc/rep/1/2013/EN/1-2013-840-EN-F1-1.Pdf>.

considered that dissemination requirements introduced in 2007 with the LIFE+ Regulation improved the dissemination of project results. Nevertheless, the Commission recommended to continue, as far as possible, to improve the dissemination of results.

The 2010 Mid-term review of the LIFE+ Regulation⁸ pointed out obstacles for applicants in new Member States to access LIFE funding at the EU level and at the national level. One of the main shortcomings highlighted was the lack of visibility of the programme in some countries and lack of interest in it from some national authorities. The review also proposed ways of addressing these difficulties and recognised that more active promotion of the programme by the Member State can improve the situation.

In 2011, when presenting its proposal for the 2014-20 programme, the Commission produced an impact assessment⁹ that came to similar conclusions as a number of the ECA's observations. While the LIFE+ Impact Assessment also highlighted the importance of dissemination of information and the transferability of successful policies, it also stressed the benefits of "mutual learning". This would involve discussions of selected projects among practitioners to understand what makes certain policies and practices succeed or fail based on policy design and implementation.

The Final Evaluation of the previous LIFE+ Programme¹⁰, published in December 2012, drew conclusions and recommendations on the implementation of LIFE, highlighting LIFE as an effective tool with EU added value. With regard to the challenges identified, such as the need for more strategic and targeted programming, better measurable monitoring and faster selection procedures, the Commission said that its proposal for 2014-20 sought to address these aspects.

Some of the challenges highlighted by these reports and evaluations have been addressed by the new LIFE regulation. The regulation in fact establishes specific eligibility and criteria for awards as well as a basis for selecting projects. With regard to the issue of lack of dissemination effort, the Commission has also made available on the LIFE programme website toolkits and communication tools¹¹, seeking to avoid the duplication of efforts and opening the door for synergies between different initiatives.

The identification and dissemination of good practice examples of LIFE projects are seen as tools to achieve overarching programme objectives. Following an initiative taken by Sweden and the Netherlands, a set of 'best practice' criteria was agreed in Malmö, Sweden in 2005 to evaluate completed LIFE projects. The results of the Best Projects exercise are published annually and are available on the Commission LIFE website¹².

Finally, the European Commission has highlighted the contribution of LIFE projects in its 2013 publication "*LIFE creating green jobs and skills*"¹³.

⁸ GHK in association with Arcadis and VITO (2010), Mid-Term Evaluation of the Implementation of the LIFE+ Regulation, Final Report, available at: http://life.lifefocus.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/evaluation/documents/LIFEplus_mte_report.pdf.

⁹ GHK in association with Arcadis, Milieu and IEEP (2011), Combined Impact Assessment and Ex Ante Evaluation of the Review of the LIFE+ Regulation: Options Development, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/documents/LIFE_IA_ghk_full.pdf.

¹⁰ European Commission (2012), Final Evaluation of LIFE+, Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/documents/121214_conclusions.pdf.

¹¹ LIFE programme, DG Environment website, Communication tools available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/toolkit/comtools/index.htm>.

¹² LIFE programme, DG Environment website, best practice examples available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/bestprojects/index.htm>.

¹³ European Commission (2013), LIFE creating green jobs and skills, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifefocus/documents/jobs_skills.pdf.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1. Welcome and opening – MEP Nicola CAPUTO and MEP Dubravka ŠUIČA, Co-Chairs of the LIFE Working Group, ENVI Committee

Mr CAPUTO (MEP) introduced the goal for the workshop, which was to provide background information on the LIFE programme as the only EU funding programme fully dedicated to environmental projects, and to elaborate how the new additions to LIFE can contribute not only to environment and climate protection, but also to the creation of green jobs. Mr Caputo noted that although LIFE is a financial instrument primarily dedicated to the environment, it also plays a part in creating permanent jobs and training skills which last beyond the duration of LIFE funding.

Ms ŠUIČA (MEP) stated that the Commission has identified LIFE as an effective tool which, since 1992, has improved conservation and restoration of some 4.7 million hectares of land and increased water quality of approximately 3 million hectares, air quality for around 12 million people, waste prevention of around 300,000 tonnes with a further 1 million tonnes recycled, and 1.13 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions reduced per year. Looking forward, Ms Šuiča noted that the midterm evaluation of the 2014-2020 programme is set for 2017 with a view of tracking progress against a set of indicators as well as monitoring efficiency and the use of resources. By 2023, an ex post evaluation will assess the overall results of the 2014-2020 phase.

2.2. Part I: The new LIFE programme

2.2.1. Introduction by MEP Dubravka ŠUIČA

Ms ŠUIČA (MEP) chaired the first part of the workshop. Ms Šuiča introduced the question of how the new features of LIFE could contribute most effectively to the achievements of environmental protection and climate change targets. She also stressed the importance of the quality rather than the quantity of LIFE projects, including dissemination and communication aspects, and the capacity of green jobs as an important tool to promote the programme. Ms Šuiča noted that, although the European Commission (the Commission, EC) has significantly enhanced its management and control systems since the introduction of LIFE in 1992, there is still room to improve the long term sustainability of financed projects. Ms Šuiča also highlighted several potential obstacles for applicants in new Member States accessing LIFE funding, specifically the level of co-financing and the duration of the selection procedure, as well as low visibility of the programme and lack of interest, especially from national authorities.

2.2.2. The LIFE Programme 2014-2020

Mr Angelo SALSI, Head of Unit, LIFE and CIP¹⁴ Eco-innovation, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)

Mr SALSI reminded the audience that LIFE was proposed by two MEPs many years ago and therefore, if anyone is to be thanked for the existence of the twenty-two years of the

¹⁴ Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme: an EU funding programme between 2007-2013 for small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in all forms of innovation and growth.

LIFE programme, it would be the European Parliament. Mr Salsi noted that LIFE has continued to grow its budget during a time of crisis, which reflects the quality of the work performed by LIFE. While the bulk of the money is still used for grants and traditional projects, LIFE has evolved to include capacity building projects, technical assistance projects, indicative projects, as well as financial instruments. Not only has the ownership of the LIFE instruments moved from one single owner (DG ENVI) to two (DG ENVI and DG CLIMA), it has also moved from one type of grant to seven types, making it a substantially different tool. Mr Salsi reassured his audience that the traditional approach to LIFE will not be discarded as old fashioned as, in fact, the vast majority of money is poured into such projects.

Mr Salsi did admit that the increasing number of requests means that currently one project out of six or seven (or worse) is being financed, compared to earlier when one project out of four or five received funding. While these figures are not yet comparable to Horizon 2020¹⁵ where the selection of projects among a high number of applicants is really difficult, they are getting close. Mr Salsi is convinced this is not the fault of LIFE, but rather the national and local level governments, who have identified LIFE as one of the few places they can find money for their specific objectives.

Despite this, money has been rerouted to new features, the most striking of which are the integrated projects, which attempt to move from a brick by brick approach to building to a much more ambitious approach to long-term implementation for very challenging environmental and climate plans. Mr Salsi gave several examples, including the management of Natura 2000¹⁶, the River Basin Management Plan¹⁷, the Waste Management Plan¹⁸, and the Air Quality Plan¹⁹. When Member States are to implement legislation, the Commission may decide to either do nothing and wait for the Member States to do it, or to provide some sort of support. So far, the institutions have always encouraged the Member States to mainstream, to make the various resources available (structural funds, cohesion funds, rural development, LIFE, and Horizon), and to work in a coordinated fashion. One of the features of such integrated projects, therefore, is to allow people to catalyse their ideas and fill the gaps, using the direct funding from LIFE, which allows greater flexibility than cohesion funds and structural funds. Mr Salsi claimed that so far thirty proposals have been submitted that encompass very large geographical areas with very ambitious financial terms, and while many were more than good, six projects have been financed.

Mr Salsi also touched briefly on other new features of LIFE, including the new financial instruments, noting that they are only starting now, operationally speaking. The Nature Capital Financial Facilities (NCFF)²⁰ already has some projects in the pipeline, while under the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)²¹, financing of the first intermediary is beginning.

¹⁵ Horizon 2020 is the EU framework programme for research and innovation.

¹⁶ The Natura 2000 network is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas with the aim to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

¹⁷ River Basin Management Plans are required by the Water Framework Directive (WFD). All EU Member States are obliged to identify actions to be taken in the river basin district to deliver the objectives of the WFD.

¹⁸ Waste Management Plans are required by the Water Framework Directive (WFD). All EU Member States are obliged to set up a plan to manage waste to deliver the objectives of the WFD.

¹⁹ Air Quality Plans have to be set by EU Member States to assure air quality based on air quality standards set by the EU.

²⁰ The Natural Capital Financing Facility is a financial instrument that combines EIB financing and European Commission funding under the LIFE Programme.

²¹ The Private Finance for Energy Efficiency instrument is a joint agreement between the EIB and the European Commission which aims to address the limited access to adequate and affordable commercial financing for energy efficiency investments.

Mr Salsi concluded his presentation by outlining the changes in management. For twenty-one years LIFE has been managed by DG ENVI and since 2000, by a single unit within that DG. Since 2014 onwards, not only is DG ENVI joined by DG CLIMA, but also the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) now manages the new programme.

2.2.3. Special Report 15/2013 – The effectiveness of the environment component of the LIFE programme

Mr Jan KINŠT, Member of Chamber I - Preservation and Management of Natural Resources, European Court of Auditors (ECA)

In his presentation Mr KINŠT briefly summarised the key conclusions of the 2013 ECA report²² on the effectiveness of the environment component of the LIFE programme and provided some indication of what progress has been made since. He noted that an official follow up report would be done within the next year or two. As the only fund fully dedicated to the environment, despite its relatively small size compared to the Common Agricultural Policy or Cohesion Policy, LIFE should be managed effectively to accelerate environmental change.

The key question of the effectiveness of the environmental component was split into two sub questions: one addressing programme design (objectives compared to the budget, budget allocation among Member States and the design of the project selection and the monitoring process); the second related to implementation (including selection criteria and the success of the project especially in terms of dissemination, sustainability, and replication). Ninety-five projects financed between 2005 and 2010 were assessed, twenty-five were visited (particularly in Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom), and discussions were held with the European Commission and LIFE beneficiaries.

Mr Kinšt began with the programme design, highlighting the large number of objectives compared to the limited budget (130 million euros per year). He stressed that normally the European Court of Auditors (ECA) does not discuss budgets, as these are decided by political authorities; however, he suggested the focus should be on fewer priorities. ECA was also quite critical of the lack of appropriate output and result indicators, with the first real tool to evaluate the programme being the midterm evaluation available only after five years. Further, Mr Kinšt noted that ECA criticised the template of selection phase evaluation, which in his view did not emphasise replicability and catalytic effects.

Regarding programme implementation, the report claimed that the Commission did not always justify the assessment of some aspects considered important (for example replicability, dissemination). Mr Kinšt suggested there should be more transparency regarding how these aspects are assessed and demonstrated. The report also noted differences between projects when calculating costs, with no baseline figures given. Furthermore, the expected role of the programme as a catalyst for environmental policy was reduced due to insufficient and inefficient dissemination, low sustainability, low replication of the project and the fact that out of twenty-three projects, only eight could be considered effective.

Furthermore, Mr Kinšt asserted progress is being made since the recommendations. According to new rules, national allocations will be discontinued and replication and dissemination for potential projects will be better assessed. New financial administrative

²² ECA (2013). Has the environment component of the LIFE programme been effective? Available at: http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR13_15/QJAB13015ENN.pdf.

guidance will provide detailed information on calculating costs, including personal and eligible costs, and all costs foreseen are considered according to national context, project size and objectives.

Mr Kinšt concluded that LIFE still has too many priorities and suggested that effective replicability, sustainability and dissemination should be monitored during the implementation of the project and ex post, and not only during the grant approval stage.

2.2.4. Financial instruments in the new LIFE programme and the role of the EIB

Mr James RANAIVOSON, Managerial Advisor, Climate Change and Environment Division, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr RANAIVOSON started his presentation on the financial instruments of LIFE with a brief introduction to the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE). The European Investment Bank (EIB) and DG CLIMA have dedicated 80 million euros to support this innovative instrument to loan financial intermediaries (banks in Member States) money to on-lend to public and private beneficiaries to finance energy efficiency projects. Mr Ranaivoson stressed that these 80 million euros are not directly financing projects, but give protection to financial intermediaries. They cover any losses incurred by them up to this amount, thus encouraging lending to 'risky' energy efficiency projects. Mr Ranaivoson pointed out there is also technical assistance to help these banks understand LIFE and its priorities, which encourage the capacity building necessary for project implementation. Overall Mr Ranaivoson stated that the PF4EE budget can increase the capacity of the EIB to lend up to sixfold and increase the total investment for projects by around ten times.

Mr Ranaivoson then addressed the second financial instrument of LIFE, called the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCF), which accounts for 50 million euros of LIFE. The idea behind this is to develop a market-based approach where money is lent to projects and later reimbursed. Mr Ranaivoson noted that financing around nature (anything beyond human or economic capital contributing to production) is a new concept, with pilots still underway. For the time being, the market-based approach is limited to four categories, namely green infrastructure, payment for ecosystem services, compensation/offsetting, and pro-biodiversity businesses.

Mr Ranaivoson went into further detail regarding these four categories. He gave examples of projects linked to green infrastructure and explained how the payment for ecosystem services works. This second tool is a contract developed between those who benefit from natural capital (for example, water purification) and those receiving money in order to offset the opportunity cost (for example, those paid not to pollute water). Alternatively, those that destroy nature should pay compensation in some way. Last but not least, Mr Ranaivoson mentioned there are many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) addressing biodiversity or protecting water (green businesses) that could benefit from NCF. While the amount is quite small (limited to the 50 million euros the EIB gets from LIFE as the first loss protection), the EIB is able to lend up to 125 million euros to the projects from its own balance sheet and potentially finance around 5 million natural capital projects. Up until now LIFE has been based on grants, and it may be quite difficult for beneficiaries to transition from receiving grants to borrowing money that must be reimbursed. The idea is therefore to do nine to twelve pilot projects, making sure they are transnational as far as possible. Even talking to countries and national authorities is difficult, but Mr Ranaivoson said the idea was to have three to four operations per year in many countries, with 15 million euros per project invested between 2015 and 2017.

Currently two operations are close to being signed, with one loan already signed with a bank in the Czech Republic and another one very close in Spain.

Mr Ranaivoson finished his presentation by reminding his audience that while these financial instruments must comply with LIFE, the EIB is also a bank and has additional requirements and standards with which to comply, such as environmental and social standards.

2.2.5. Questions & Answers

MEP SERRÃO SANTOS noticed that there is a drive in the EU to invest in the blue economy²³ and questioned what share of the previous LIFE budget was invested in marine-related projects compared to all LIFE projects. Mr Salsi's colleague, Ms BURRIL, answered that around 150 projects out of the more than 4,000 projects in total are related purely to marine issues. Mr Salsi calculated that this is equivalent to 350 million euros mobilised for the marine field. He also mentioned that LIFE has been acknowledged as a major contributor to several topics pursued by the Marine sector. An example of a marine project is MARES²⁴, which identified and designated all marine contributions to Natura 2000 in the whole country of Spain, and it discovered species that were unknown to science. Another example given was the Marmoni project²⁵ in the Baltic Sea, worth 5 million euros. This project reviewed all the biodiversity-related indicators for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive²⁶. Mr Salsi sees great potential to support common objectives between LIFE and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund²⁷ (EMFF) as they are both managed by EASME.

Ms Šuica wondered whether the existing communication strategy of the LIFE programme is enough and whether Member States are well informed. Mr Salsi noted that communication can be done in a very wide range, but there will always be someone who has not been targeted in the way they should. He believed that communication in the LIFE programme at the moment is enough based on the average of 1,500 proposals received annually. However, Mr Salsi also recognised the need to communicate in a smarter way to increase the use of LIFE and the replication of LIFE projects. He believed that the new capacity building feature will help to reach more countries as it addresses fifteen EU countries that have been less successful in LIFE in the past, and it will create capacity at the administrative level.

One particular area where communication can be improved according to Mr Salsi is replication of projects. There is a database with more than 4,000 LIFE projects that is rich in know-how, expertise, and technology. The question is whether this database really reaches the right people at the right time and place in order to enhance replication. One example to improve communication regarding replication is thematic kick-off meetings where similar projects are presented in the same room. This type of communication stimulates people to talk and exchange ideas about their projects. Mr Kinšt clarified that the main concern of ECA was about the communication of results of projects to encourage replication. He gave an example of basic tools such as websites that were not operating for some projects.

²³ The Blue Economy refers to the marine and maritime sectors.

²⁴ Website of the MARES project: <http://www.mares-eu.org/>.

²⁵ Website of the Marmoni project: <http://marmoni.balticseaportal.net/wp/>.

²⁶ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive). Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008L0056&from=EN>.

²⁷ The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020.

Mr Caputo referred to Mr Kinšt's presentation regarding the priorities of LIFE. He asked on which priorities the programme should focus and whether limiting priorities could damage certain fields. Mr Kinšt mentioned that setting priorities is a task for authorities like the European Parliament and Commission. He explained that the current budget is limited to comparing twelve priority areas and welcomed very much the use of integrated projects which creates new sources of funding and enables coverage of more priorities.

2.3. Part II: improving the LIFE programme's effectiveness: are procedures adequate?

2.3.1. Introduction by MEP Nicola CAPUTO

Mr CAPUTO underlined the importance of this part of the workshop on selection, implementation and assessment of LIFE projects because the mid-term evaluation of the LIFE programme 2014-2020 is due in 2017. He mentioned that LIFE is meant to act as a catalyst to promote change in the development and implementation of environmental and climate policies. He agreed that communication is important to exploit LIFE's potential. A platform for exchanging best practices and publishing calls in more EU languages could improve this communication. Finally, Mr Caputo mentioned that LIFE also contributes to Europe's 2020 Strategy for smart sustainable and inclusive growth²⁸, because LIFE projects result in (sustainable) job creation and the development of new, beneficial work skills.

2.3.2. Experience with LIFE ENV

Mr Pavlos DOIKOS, Sector coordinator ENV, NEEMO

Mr DOIKOS presented the LIFE environment component (LIFE ENV). He explained that LIFE's objective is to act as a catalyst and to address changes in development and implementation of policies by providing solutions and best practices. So far 4,349 projects are registered in the LIFE database²⁹ of which 2,745 are related to environment and climate change, including 653 open projects.

Selection is done by consultants and contracting authorities. During the project selection process, a set of detailed criteria is used, such as technical coherence, financial coherence, quality EU added value, contribution to the project topics, and communication. This results in the selection of those projects that are believed to best deliver.

Mr Doikos continued with the implementation phase which is conducted by the monitoring team of LIFE, experts in their fields. The experts help projects' beneficiaries to understand the important elements of LIFE such as bringing environmental benefits and concrete solutions. Moreover, experts inform policy making and explain the importance to replicate the project and multiply the impact. In the last phase, experts of DG CLIMA, DG ENVI, EASME and the LIFE external team monitor and assess projects to provide feedback to policy makers and to think of ways to replicate the results.

Mr Doikos pointed out that best LIFE projects are all around Europe and it is important for people to be inspired, to get ideas and solutions, to understand technologies, and to gain knowledge on how to develop their own initiatives. The greatest challenge for LIFE,

²⁸ Europe's 2020 Strategy website: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm?utm_source=newsletter_72&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=euroclio-newsletter-january.

²⁹ LIFE database: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>.

according to Mr Doikos, is to scale up from demonstration to industrial scale. He mentioned that other instruments are needed to support wide-spread implementation and application of projects. To further improve the EU added value of the LIFE programme, Mr Doikos suggested to mainstream findings and results through financial instruments of other policies such as the Common Agriculture Policy or the Cohesion Policy. He also proposed to scale up best LIFE projects via LIFE and EIB funds and to think of policy driven actions to support projects.

2.3.3. Experience with LIFE NAT & BIO

Mr Bent JEPSEN, Sector Coordinator NAT/BIO, NEEMO

Mr JEPSEN presented information on the LIFE nature and biodiversity component (LIFE NAT/BIO) and ideas to improve the effectiveness and replicability of the LIFE programme. One of the three objectives of the nature and biodiversity branch is to contribute to the development and implementation of EU policy and legislation such as the Biodiversity Strategy³⁰ and the Birds³¹ and Habitats Directives³². Specific objectives are to support the further implementation of the Natura 2000 network and to create and disseminate knowledge on the best practice methods regarding restoring, monitoring, and assessing the conservation status of habitats and species.

The aim of the work of LIFE ENV and Nat/BIO experts is to create a link between the LIFE programme and project beneficiaries and to ensure the best possible communication and exchange of capacity and knowledge. Mr Jepsen suggested that during the selection process, projects are chosen if they are viable and can be implemented smoothly. This means that projects should have the capacity and capability to focus on the objectives of policy implementation and to reach tangible targets such as nature protection. The nature branch of LIFE consists of 1516 projects, of which 490 are ongoing projects. LIFE NAT/BIO assesses all outputs of projects, for example, with reports, studies, and regular visits to projects to ensure close contact with the project beneficiaries. Close contact also enables quick reaction to new requirements of policies. For example, nature and biodiversity projects contribute to EU nature policies as they contribute to the conservation status of species and habitats; they provide useful best practices which can be taken up by others; and they contribute to policy-relevant knowledge and data.

Mr Jepsen provided some examples of how knowledge produced by projects is disseminated, such as thematic meetings and the Biogeographic Process. The latter is a voluntary process to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites to move towards favourable conservation status. Another example of disseminating knowledge is the knowledge platform which is an online database of all LIFE projects which can also be used by people outside the LIFE programme.

Finally, Mr Jepsen presented some ideas to improve the LIFE programme such as to mainstream LIFE's replication into other EU funds and policies as also suggested by Mr Doikos, and to strengthen the uptake of results into Member States' administration. He also suggested exploring new ways to involve stakeholders, for example by developing

³⁰ EC (2011), The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/brochures/2020%20Biod%20brochure%20final%20lowres.pdf>.

³¹ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>.

³² Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>.

more voluntary schemes for nature management and protection to assist the activities undertaken by the authorities.

2.3.4. LIFE+ Safe Islands for Seabirds

Mr Joaquim TEODOSIO, Sociedades Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (SPEA)

Mr TEODOSIO from the Azores in Portugal, representing the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA), presented the 'Safe Island for Seabirds' LIFE project³³. Most of the project activities were implemented on Corvo Island (the smallest Island of the Azores with a huge volcanic crater and only 400 inhabitants). Despite being so small, the LIFE programme has had a huge impact on this island where many species, especially seabirds, can be found.

Mr Teodosio stressed the importance of the project in protecting seabirds, the most threatened group of birds in the entire world. To preserve them, threats need to be decreased. He explained that the main activities consisted of studying the eradication of predators like cats and rats, and monitoring the population of seabirds. One of the results of the project was the installation of a predator-proof fence to protect the area from predators. All cats and rats living inside that area were removed. Moreover, the project dealt with raising awareness among the local population and increasing the tourism value of the area. Mr Teodosio appreciated that the work was performed together with the local community. Students from participating schools grew plants and helped to study the birds. The students who started working on the project six years ago are now still involved in the project. Moreover, the work done monitoring the seabirds resulted in the production of several research papers, not only by Portuguese students, but also by people from other universities. This led to more promotion, more success and efficiency of the project.

Mr Teodosio also mentioned that four jobs were created by the project which means 1% of the island's population was working for the project. The project finished in 2012; however, with the support of the Azores government, one worker continues to implement the actions. Moreover, the investment of half a million euros into the project was important for the gross domestic product of the island. The local population acknowledged the importance of the whole project and requested that the actions of the project continue. The project Safe Islands for Seabirds was evaluated as one of the best LIFE projects of 2013, an award that promoted Corvo Island and the Azores at the international and national levels.

In the second part of his presentation, Mr Teodosio introduced another project, 'LIFE Azores Bullfinch'³⁴, bringing benefit to the Priolo (the local name for the Azores Bullfinch), which used to be one of the most threatened birds in Europe. Mr Teodosio explained that the actions were divided into four major groups: species' habitats management, legislation, monitoring, and education and awareness raising. The results of the project proved to be very good: in 2010, the Priolo was downlisted from critically endangered to endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List³⁵; nowadays it is far from extinction, due to the work that has been done thanks to LIFE. Moreover, almost 400 hectares of nature habitats were restored, which is important regarding biodiversity, water quality and quantity, and preservation of these habitats.

³³ Website 'Safe Island for Seabirds' project: <http://life-corvo.spea.pt/en/>.

³⁴ Website PRIOLO - Azores bullfinch habitat recovery in Pico da Vara/Ribeira do Guilherme SPA: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=2513.

³⁵ Website of the IUCN Red List: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>.

Furthermore, in 2012, the area was awarded by the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (ECST)³⁶, and almost 40 companies have already adopted the Priolo Brand³⁷ and are committed to help maintaining Priolo and its habitats.

Mr Teodosio concluded his presentation by outlining the main benefits as well as challenges of the LIFE programme for the Azores. One of the benefits of the LIFE funding was the creation of jobs and stimulation of the local economy. Within 12 years, more than 3 million euros from the LIFE funding helped to create more than 22 jobs each year in the agriculture area where there is usually lower employment. Mr Teodosio also underlined that, thanks to the implementation of different LIFE projects, most of the significant environmental targets in Portugal were reached. He also appreciated the excellent support from the LIFE unit and external team, especially in helping to solve problems.

Finally, while acknowledging the flexibility of LIFE, he also stressed that sometimes there is too much paperwork and less work on the field, which he considers crucial for success of a project. For example, he complained about the too detailed budget application form (e.g. request to know 4 or 5 years before who is going to travel and where).

2.3.5. EU LIFE+ RESTORE project

Mr Martin JANES, the River Restoration Centre (RRC)

Mr JANES presented the LIFE 'RESTORE' project³⁸ as an example of an information and communication project. Regarding job creation, Mr Janes told that his job and the creation of the River Restoration Centre (RRC) is itself a result of LIFE. The RESTORE project consisted in the idea of providing best practice information, advice, building up a dataset of knowledge, and communicating different policies together. The objectives of the project were to support river restoration practices across Europe, build up existing river restoration network capacity, promote effective river restoration knowledge transfer, and establish long term river restoration knowledge sharing.

Mr Janes gave an example of the restoration of the river Isar in Munich (about 30 million euros investment). The main benefits of this investment were the greater nature capital for the city and the creation of the possibility for people to enjoy the river more, influencing their health and well-being as well as improving biodiversity and ecology.

Mr Janes explained that the project was started by a relatively discrete group of organisations who knew each other and then expanded to cover up to twenty countries. During three years' implementation, they have achieved a stronger and healthier European River Restoration Centre network. They organised 66 events involving 5791 people, and produced publications and guidance materials (e.g. 'River by Design' guide³⁹, and 'Manual of River Restoration Techniques'⁴⁰) targeting planners, developers, organisations and managers of water and biodiversity resources. These materials provided information on the potential benefits of river restoration and how they could influence the economic aspects of building houses.

³⁶ Website of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism available at: <http://european-charter.org/home/>.

³⁷ This brand aims to be a quality seal for companies to establish partnerships with São Miguel Natural Park, regarding conservation actions of the protected areas in the counties of Nordeste and Povoação.

³⁸ Website RESTORE - Rivers: Engaging, Supporting and Transferring knowledge for Restoration in Europe project: <http://www.ecrr.org/>.

³⁹ ECRR (2013). River by Design, Available at: <http://www.ecrr.org/Portals/27/Publications/131223%20Rivers%20by%20Design.pdf>.

⁴⁰ Website ECRRs' Manual of River Restoration Techniques: <http://www.therrc.co.uk/manual-river-restoration-techniques>.

Mr Janes also mentioned the RiverWiki⁴¹, a web-based community. The website covers a wide range of aspects related to river restoration such as economics, farming, agriculture, flood risk, and planning. People can register, add their project, search for other projects, and compare and find information. The tool serves as an easily accessible, big data set, easily updated by multiple people, and provides information on which projects are taking place in different countries. During the project, RiverWiki collected 929 projects, 2331 photos, 7113 registered users, and over 3.1 million views. Moreover, during the last conference of the project, the European River Restoration Prize was awarded to the best project.

The use of social media such as Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube was also mentioned by Mr Janes as a way to disseminate project information. In the end, Mr Janes revealed that, even after its completion, thanks to these knowledge sharing tools, the project is able to continue to spread information on recent practices for river restoration.

2.3.6. LIFE and Green Jobs

Mr Hervé MARTIN, Head of Unit of LIFE Environment (DG ENV E4)

Mr MARTIN started his presentation on the potential for LIFE to create green jobs with a brief introduction of the current state of play. He mentioned that LIFE is well supported by stakeholders from the European Parliament, the Council, the Member States, and regions. According to him, LIFE, despite being a very small instrument, is always under attack in terms of budget cuts. According to Mr Martin, the only way to defend the existence and survival of the LIFE programme is to demonstrate that LIFE makes a difference, especially at times when the environment is not the top priority either in Member States or in the EU.

Mr Martin underlined that there are many differences between projects and that it is difficult to assess the impact on growth overall. Mr Martin noted that the European Parliament was very keen to see the publication of 'LIFE creating green jobs and skills' (2013)⁴² including information on the impact and good examples of LIFE. While stressing the importance of demonstrating concrete and practical examples, he referred to the examples of projects presented during the workshop that have created jobs and had a positive impact on the local economy and environment.

To follow up on this publication, the EC is focusing on the economic potential of LIFE and has commissioned a complete econometric study to evaluate the following issues: 1) Key determinants of the economic impact of LIFE projects during their implementation; 2) Impact of LIFE projects in the post-project phase; and 3) Likelihood of replication and sustainability of LIFE projects. The detailed analysis of the sample of projects is being carried out to calculate the impact of the projects on employment (total persons-days, number of qualified and non-qualified staff) and growth (labour income, output in other sectors, investment) during the lifetime of the projects.

Mr Martin was pleased to present the preliminary results and figures of this study demonstrating that LIFE has a significant impact on job creation. The average project in the sample generated the equivalent of 32 person-years per project. In terms of employed funds, every 1 million euro of EU funding is translated into 43 persons-years of employment. In terms of the impact on labour income, projects in the sample generated about 903,000 Euros of labour income. He considered that this data will help to

⁴¹ Website RiverWiki: https://restorerivers.eu/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page.

⁴² European Commission, 'LIFE creating green jobs and skills' (2013), available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/jobs_skills.pdf.

demonstrate to politicians and insiders that LIFE is making a difference, both in the short and long terms.

Mr Martin concluded his presentation by reminding participants about the next steps, including continuous work on the study to enlarge the scope and dig deeper into the data in order to deliver to the European Parliament and the Council by 2017 concrete figures, because this is the only way to get support from the institutions for the next round.

ANNEX 1: PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP

"LIFE - How to Use € 3.46 Billion for Environment and Climate Protection"

10 November 2015 from 12.30 to 15.00
European Parliament, Paul-Henri Spaak 4B001, Brussels

**Organised by the Policy Department A-Economy & Science
for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
(ENVI)**

AGENDA

12.30-12.40

**Welcome and opening by MEP Nicola CAPUTO and MEP Dubravka ŠUICA,
co-Chairs of the LIFE Working Group, ENVI Committee.**

Part 1

The new LIFE programme *Chair: Ms Dubravka ŠUICA*

12.40-12.50

The LIFE Programme 2014-2020

Mr Angelo SALSI, Head of Unit, LIFE and CIP Eco-innovation, EASME

12.50-13.00

Special Report 15/2013 – The effectiveness of the environment component of the LIFE programme

Mr Jan KINST, Member of Chamber I - Preservation and Management of Natural Resources, European Court of Auditors (ECA)

13.00-13.10

Financial instruments in the new LIFE programme and the role of EIB

Mr James RANAIVOSON, Managerial Advisor Climate Change and Environment Division, EIB

13.10-13.30

Q&A

Part 2

Improving the LIFE programme's effectiveness: are procedures adequate? *Chair: Mr Nicola CAPUTO*

13.30–13.40

Experience with LIFE ENV

Mr Pavlos DOIKOS, Sector coordinator ENV, NEEMO

13.40-13.50

Experience with LIFE NAT & BIO

Mr Bent JEPSEN, Sector Coordinator NAT/BIO, NEEMO

13.50-14.00

LIFE+ Safe Islands for Seabirds

Mr Joaquim TEODOSIO, Sociedades Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (SPEA)

14.00-14.10

EU LIFE+ RESTORE project

Mr Martin JANES, the River Restoration Centre

14.10-14.20

LIFE and Green Jobs

Mr Hervé MARTIN, Head of Unit of LIFE Environment (DG ENV E4)

14.20-14.50

Q&A

14.50-15.00

Conclusions by MEPs, Mr Nicola CAPUTO and Ms Dubravka ŠUICA

ANNEX 2: SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF EXPERTS

Mr Angelo SALSI (Head of Unit, LIFE and CIP Eco-innovation, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, EASME)

Mr Angelo Salsi studied agricultural sciences at the university of Bologna and started his career as an agro-meteorologist. In 1994 he began working for the Nature Conservation department of the Directorate General for Environment at the European Commission for almost ten years. In 2000 he was appointed deputy head of "The Life Unit". This unit was responsible for the management of the whole Life financial program, financing projects covering all possible environmental aspects. In 2005 Mr Salsi moved to a management responsibility as head of a new finance unit. After several years dealing with contracts and invoices he returned to his passion for nature conservation and biodiversity as the responsible person for the Life Nature unit. As the manager of the LIFE and Eco-Innovation unit in the executive agency EASME, Mr Salsi helps Member States and all concerned parties protecting Europe's natural heritage and the environment as well as supporting the EU efforts in the battle against climate change.

Mr Jan KINŠT (Member of Chamber I - Preservation and Management of Natural Resources, European Court of Auditors, ECA)

Mr Kinšt became a Member of the European Court of Auditors on 7 May 2004 and was appointed to Audit Group III "External Actions". From June 2010 to April 2011, Mr Kinšt was the Dean of Chamber III "External Actions" and a member of the Administrative Committee. From May 2011 he was a member of Chamber III "External Actions" and was the member representing Chamber III in the CEAD Chamber from June 2011 until March 2012. Since March 2012, Mr Kinšt is a member of Chamber I "Preservation and management of natural resources". He was Dean of this chamber from November 2013 till March 2014. Before working for the ECA, Mr Kinšt worked for the Czech Ministry of Finance, he was a Member of the Finance Committee of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, and he was assigned as short-term expert to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Between 1997 and 2000 he worked several times as adviser on public expenditure management and performance budgeting for the OECD. He also worked for the Supreme Audit Office of the Czech Republic.

Mr James RANAIVOSON (Managerial Advisor Climate Change and Environment Division, European Investment Bank, EIB)

James Ranaivoson is a Managerial Adviser in the Climate and Environment Division of the EIB "New Products and Special Transactions" Department since 2008. He manages EIB's participations into private equity funds in the sectors of biodiversity & natural capital, land use, carbon & forest carbon and sustainable energy. With his team, he is in charge of implementing 9 to 12 operations for the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) by end 2017. He is also working on "climate/landscape" bond structures that would attract large investments from institutional investors to these "green" sectors. He was previously occupying senior managerial positions in the Finance/Treasury departments of EIB, IADB in Washington, DC and AfDB in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Before joining the supranational institutions in 1994, he held various positions in asset/portfolio management, proprietary trading and financial engineering in Paris, particularly at the Caisse des Depots Group. Mr

Ranaivoson graduated with an MSc in Environmental Management from the University of Bath, UK; with an MSc in Financial Economics from the Université d'Orléans, France; with an Mphil in Mathematics from the Université Pierre & Marie Curie, France; and was a PhD candidate in Finance at the HEC Paris Business School, France.

Mr Pavlos Doikos (Sector coordinator ENV, NEEMO)

Mr Pavlos Doikos is an environmental scientist and holds an MSc degree in Environmental Engineering (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) and an MSc degree in Environmental Management and Policy (Lund University, Sweden). He has been working in the environmental field for over 15 years. He has significant experience in the fields of waste, natural resources and SMEs/eco-innovation. He has worked/led many international environmental projects of various EU programmes (i.e. INTERREG, South East Europe, FP7, MED, Intelligent Energy Europe, URBACT, LIFE) the United Nations and EEA – Norway grants. He has worked as a research associate at two universities, for the public sector, profit companies and NGOs. He also has significant teaching experience as a trainer for project management of EU funded projects and he has published two books on that subject. Further, he has experience in communication and dissemination of projects and has attended specialised training in modern communication tools and techniques. Pavlos has experience in modern financial instruments for the environment, set up by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission. In particular, he has served as a member of the JESSICA Horizontal Studies Steering Committee, an advisory board of 28 experts to the EC DG REGIO. Pavlos has worked since 2011 as a LIFE monitoring expert of projects on various policy areas such as climate change, innovation, chemicals, waste, water and forests. Since February 2013 he has been working as environmental sector coordinator in the LIFE External Monitoring Team (NEEMO).

Mr Bent Jepsen (NEEMO Nature & Biodiversity Sector Coordinator)

Mr Bent Jepsen has a master's degree in Biology and started his career in the Danish public administration, an NGO environmental sector dealing with nature protection, environmental monitoring, watershed management and public participation. He worked for several years for consultancies involved in the restoration of habitats and SPAs included in the Natura 2000 network. For more than 10 years Mr Jepsen has worked in the Baltic States and Bulgaria to support the implementation of International conventions and EU Nature and Environment Directives with a specific focus on approximation of legislation to the EU water directives and the establishment and management of protected areas and networks. Mr Jepsen first entered the Astrale external monitoring team as a monitor of LIFE Environment projects and was appointed LIFE Nature Coordinator in 2005. He took up the position as Sector coordinator for nature and biodiversity in NEEMO in January 2015 and has acquired significant experience in the management of international project teams and possesses strong intercultural communication skills. He has organised two international conferences on the LIFE programme and contributed to a number of regional and EU-wide workshops on nature protection.

Mr Joaquim TEODÓSIO (Project Manager of the LIFE+ Lands of Priolo)

Mr Joaquim Teodósio graduated in Applied Biology on Animal Resources at the Lisbon University in 2000. He wrote his dissertation on *Falco naumanni* (Lesser Kestrel). Since 1996, he has collaborated, on a voluntary and professional level, on several conservation

and awareness projects mostly on birds, mammals and freshwater bivalves. He is specialized in recovery of island habitats and invasive species. Furthermore, he is a frequent collaborator with SPEA (Birdlife International, Portuguese partner) since 1998, and was SPEA's representative at the Bird Refuge Centre (CARE), in Esposende, for birds affected by the Prestige disaster. From 2004 to 2008 he coordinated the LIFE Azores Bullfinch Project (LIFE03/NAT/P/000013) at the island of São Miguel (Azores) which was awarded "BEST OF THE BEST" Life project in 2010 to prevent the extinction of the endemic Azores Bullfinch. From 2009 to 2013 he coordinated the LIFE+ Sustainable Laurel Forest (LIFE07 NAT/P/000630) project also at São Miguel island to restore native laurel forest and bogs. Now he is the project manager for LIFE+ Lands of Priolo (LIFE12 NAT/PT/000527) in São Miguel Island and supports the development of all the activities of SPEA in the Azores including the post life of LIFE+ Safe Islands for Seabirds project (LIFE07 NAT/P/000649) which was awarded "BEST" Life project in 2014, and other monitoring and conservation projects for island birds and habitats.

Mr Martin Janes (The River Restoration Centre)

Mr Martin Janes has direct responsibility for the overall management and business planning of the RRC working closely with, and supported by, the Company's Board of Directors and the associated Advisory Board. His role includes the project management of the core funders' contracts. He also has considerable experience in terms of river restoration delivery and concepts and therefore retains a strong link with the technical side of the organisation. Martin joined the RRC in April 1998 with an MSc in Environmental Water Management, having previously worked with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) compiling the New Rivers and Wildlife Handbook. Between 1994 -1998 he was the project coordinator for the EU-Life funded River Cole and River Skerne demonstration project.

Mr Hervé Martin (Head of Unit of LIFE Environment and Eco-innovation, DG ENV E4)

For several years Mr Hervé Martin has been a medical doctor in Algeria and in France. He joined the Commission in 1987 and started his career as a desk officer. He worked for different Directorate-Generals dealing with Human and Environmental Health in a number of roles. In 2000, he became Head of the Unit 'Biotechnology and Pesticides', just before being appointed Head of the Unit 'Civil Protection' (from 2006 to September 2009). Since 2009 he has had the responsibility for the coordination of a unit in charge of the implementation of the LIFE III and LIFE+ programmes including NGO funding. Finally, he is responsible for the development and implementation of the Eco-innovation Action Plan under the Innovation Union Initiative as well as for managing the corresponding part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

ANNEX 3: PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Mr Angelo Salsi



The slide features a green and white grid pattern at the top. On the left is the LIFE logo, and on the right is the European Commission logo. Below the grid is a horizontal strip of six small images: a woman eating, a bird in flight, a purple flower, a person in a field, a tree, and a person working. The main title is centered in large blue font. Below the title, the presenter's name and role are listed in a smaller green font.

The LIFE Programme 2014-2020

Angelo Salsi – Head of Unit LIFE and CIP Eco-Innovation
EASME



The slide features a green and white grid pattern at the top. On the left is the LIFE logo, and on the right is the European Commission logo. The main title is centered in large blue font. Below the title is a bulleted list of three points, each with a green square icon. At the bottom, there are four circular icons representing different sectors: SME Support (red), Energy (orange), Environment (green), and Maritime (blue).

A new actor in LIFE: Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

- One of 6 Executive Agencies of the EU
- Responsible for managing programmes for the European Commission since 2005 coupled with policy feedback and communication of results to the "parent" DGs
- Programmes managed: LIFE 2014-2017, CIP Eco-innovation, Intelligent Energy Europe, COSME), Horizon 2020 Energy, Environment and Resources and SME instrument, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

SME SUPPORT **ENERGY** **ENVIRONMENT** **MARITIME**

Why LIFE?

- **LIFE is a catalyst:** it provides a **platform** for the development and exchange of best practices and knowledge thereby improving, catalysing and accelerating changes;
- **LIFE** is the ideal instrument to show to regional and national authorities the benefits of investing in the environment sector and incentivising them to **develop strategic frameworks for spending.**
- **LIFE** has been **successfully tested since 1992:** positive feed-back and final evaluation

LIFE – Then and Now

- **LIFE 1992-2013:** more than 3100 projects in the fields of
 - **nature & biodiversity**
 - other **environmental sectors and governance**
 - **environmental information**
- **LIFE 2014 to 2020,** two sub-programmes for:
 - **environment**
 - **climate action**



LIFE 2014-2020 - Legal Framework

- **The LIFE Regulation** (EU Regulation 1293/2013 of 20/12/2013)
- **The LIFE Multiannual Work Programme 2014-2017** (Commission Decision of 19/03/2014)
- The Action/Operating **grant agreements** of beneficiaries with the **Contracting Authority** (including **General Conditions**) or agreements of recipients **with banks**



LIFE 2014-2020 – Objectives

- contributing towards a **resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**; protecting and improving the **environment**; maintaining and improving **biodiversity**, ecosystems and, in particular, the **Natura 2000 network**
- improving the development, implementation and enforcement of **Union environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- **integrating and mainstreaming** of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies
- improving environmental and climate **governance**
- Implementing the **7th Environment Action Programme**



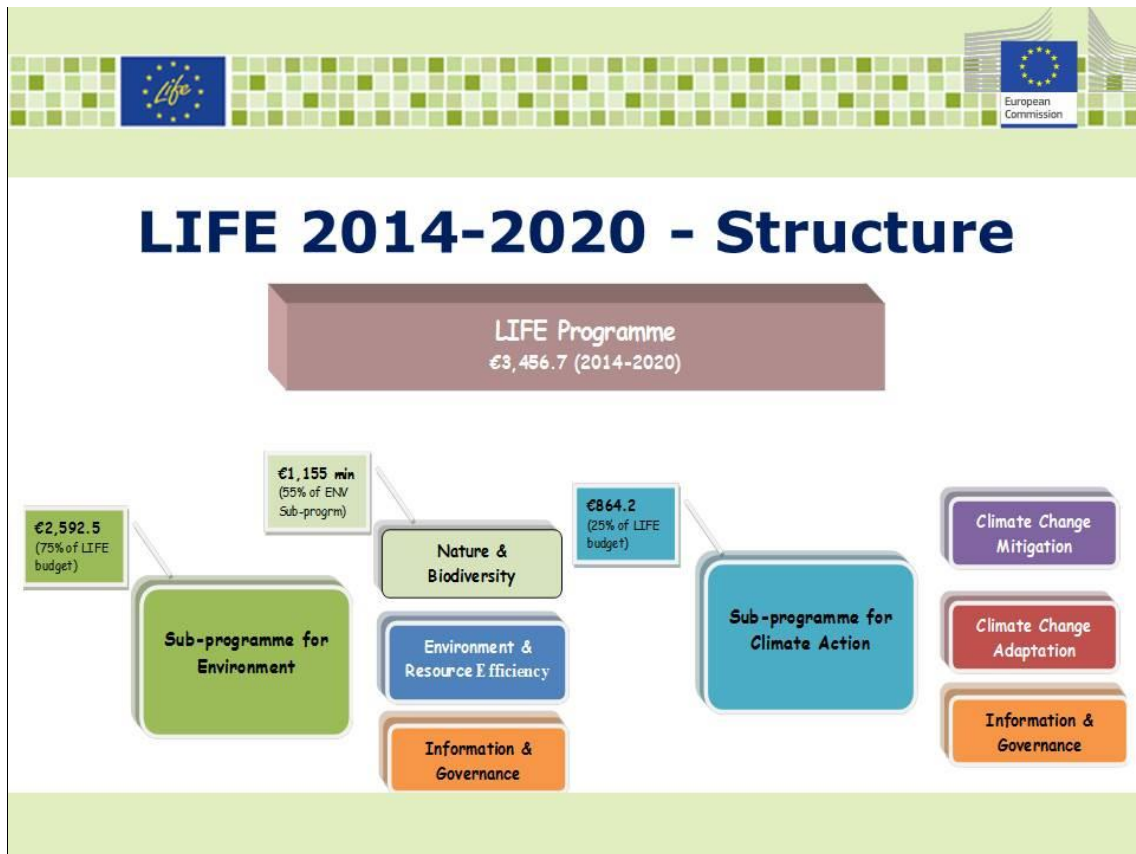


LIFE 2014-2020 – Priority Areas

- Environment sub-programme
 - Environment & Resource Efficiency (ENV)
 - Nature & Biodiversity (NAT, BIO)
 - Environmental Governance & Information (GIE)
- Climate Action sub-programme
 - Climate Change Mitigation (CMM)
 - Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
 - Climate Change Governance & Information (GIC)





LIFE 2014-2020 - Structure


LIFE Programme
€3,456.7 (2014-2020)

- Sub-programme for Environment**
 €2,592.5 (75% of LIFE budget)
 - Nature & Biodiversity**
 €1,155 min (55% of ENV Sub-program)
 - Environment & Resource Efficiency**
 - Information & Governance**
- Sub-programme for Climate Action**
 €864.2 (25% of LIFE budget)
 - Climate Change Mitigation**
 - Climate Change Adaptation**
 - Information & Governance**



LIFE 2014-2020 - Budget

- Total budget of **€3.5 billion**
- For **projects** funded by action grants and financial instruments: **€2.8 billion** (81% of total)
 - Sub-programme for **environment €2.1 billion** for projects
 - Sub-programme for **climate action €0.69 billion** for projects
- **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs €63 million**



LIFE - General features

- **Applicants - SME, NGO, public administrations** active in the field of environment and climate protection
- Emphasis on **replicability/transferability, long-term sustainability, and an EU added value** of the project results
- **Not focussed on research** (↔ H2020)
- **No large infrastructure; not focussed on rural or regional development** (↔ agricultural, structural funds)
- **Support and monitoring:** From Contracting Authority (EASME or Commission) and external monitoring team



LIFE

- **Funding types: Action grants, Operating grants, Innovative financial instruments => NCFE, PF4EE**
- **Projects Types: traditional, integrated, technical assistance, capacity building, preparatory projects**
- **Project topics: for traditional projects under the sub-programme for environment**



LIFE

- **Funding rate: in general 60% of eligible cost in the first 4 years; 100% for capacity building**
- **Actors: EASME for grants except environmental integrated projects and technical assistance under environment sub-programme, and preparatory projects; EIB/intermediary banks for financial instruments; intervention NCP only if desired**
- **National Allocations: Only for environment sub-programme, only until 2017**



Tools: The "traditional" projects

For whom?

- Mainly SME, NGO, public administrations active in the field of environment and climate protection

For what?


- Pursuit of general and specific objectives of the 6 priority areas.
- Sub-programme for environment: additional focus on thematic priorities and on project topics (LIFE multiannual work-programme for 2014-2017)

Average size?


- 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €500,000 to €1.5 million

Co-funding rate?

- **60%**; NAT: for priority habitat/species: **75%**



Important features



- Stronger emphasis on:
 - Long term sustainability of the project
 - Replicability and transferability
 - EU added value
- New requirement – Impact indicators




Long Term Sustainability

- Sustainability of project results should be built in the proposal
- Potential to use project results beyond the project life time
- Particularly important for award criterion 1 Technical coherence and quality




Replicability and Transferability

- Go beyond dissemination of project results and sharing of knowledge
- Include activities and approaches integrated in project actions which aim to facilitate the replication and/or transfer of the project results beyond the project, including in other sectors, regions or countries



EU Added Value

- Each project should demonstrate EU Added Value in terms of:
 - Objectives
 - Replicability/Transferability and
 - Transnational scope



Impact Indicators

- LIFE Programme 2014-2020 puts an emphasis on impact/output indicators – to measure impact of each individual project
- Each project has to report on key indicators during and after the project end
- Social and economic indicators mandatory for ALL projects!



Tools: Integrated projects (IPs)

For whom?

- Mainly public administrations and other entities active in the field of environment and climate protection and capable of coordinating, besides the IP, complementary actions co-funded by additional private, public (preferably EU) funds.

For what?


- Implementing Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017); big scale; complementary actions with additional co-funding; involvement of stakeholders

Average size?

- 2 to 10 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €10 to 15 million; about 3 IPs per Member State.

Co-funding rate?

- **60%**



Tools: Technical Assistance Project (TAs)

For whom?

- For those who would like to submit an IP, but need assistance in finalising the application

For what?


- Support in drafting the IP application; can be applied for a year before the intended IP or in the same year


Average size?

- Maximum 1% of the allocation for IP's => maximum €100,000

Co-funding rate?


- **60%**





Tools: Financial Instruments (FIs)

- **For whom?**
Mainly for SMEs active in the field of environment and climate protection (NCFE), SME's, households, public administrations wishing to improve their energy efficiency (PF4EE)
- **For what?**
Credits/bank guarantees/ ... for environment or climate **projects** (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017)
- **Average size**
1 recipient; EU contribution: €5 to 10 million (NCFE)



Thank you for your attention!

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

For further inquiries:
EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu

Presentation by Mr Jan Kinšt



10 November 2015
European Parliament, ENVI Committee

Special Report 15/2013

The effectiveness of the environment component of the LIFE programme

Jan Kinšt, ECA Member



Audit Scope and Approach

- The audit objective was to answer the question:
'Does the LIFE "Environment" component of the LIFE programme operate effectively?'
- Two sub-questions:
 - Was the programme well **designed**?
 - consistency of objectives with the available budget;
 - budget allocation among Member States;
 - design of project selection and monitoring processes.
 - Was the programme well **implemented**?
 - application of the selection criteria;
 - monitoring, dissemination, sustainability and replication of projects.
- 95 projects funded between 2005-2010 were reviewed, of which 25 visited.
- Five Member States among the largest beneficiaries visited (DE, FR, IT, ES and UK).

Main Observations – Programme Design

- 1) The programme had **too many objectives** for its limited budget. This dissipated the impact of the funds spent.
- 2) The indicative '**national allocations**' hampered the selection of best projects because projects were not only selected based on their merit but also on their Member State of origin.
- 3) There were **not appropriate common output and result indicators** for all LIFE projects, which could then be aggregated periodically to draw meaningful conclusions at programme level. Consequently, the information on the overall performance of the programme was limited.

Main Observations – Programme Implementation

- 1) When selecting projects, the Commission did not always justify the assessment of some aspects that we considered essential for the effectiveness of LIFE projects: their demonstrative or innovative character, the significance of the environmental problem addressed, the quality of the dissemination actions foreseen, or the replication potential expected for the projects' results.
- 2) Checks on the reasonableness of project costs, as well as on their sustainability and replication prospects were insufficient.
- 3) The expected role of the programme as a catalyst for environmental policy development was reduced due to insufficiently effective dissemination and low sustainability and replication of projects.

The Court's recommendations and the new LIFE - 1

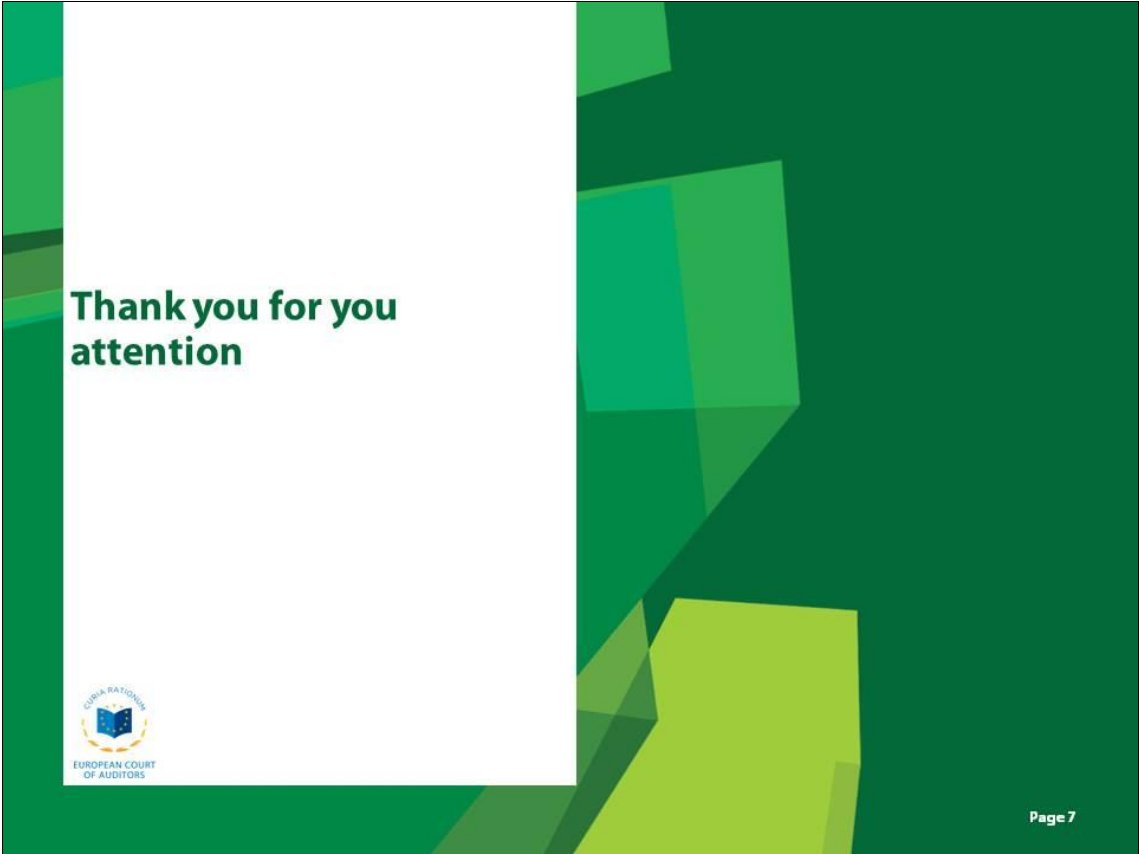
The new LIFE programme, and in particular its first multi annual work programme 2014-2017, contains a some potential significant improvements in line with the Court's recommendations. For example:

- 1) The national allocations will be discontinued for traditional projects from 2018, so best projects will be able to compete EU wide.
- 2) The replication and dissemination potential of project applications will be better assessed before grant approval.
- 3) There are new qualitative and quantitative indicators with targets at programme level and a choice of indicators at project level.
- 4) The risk of funding unreasonably high personnel costs is mitigated.

The Court's recommendations and the new LIFE - 2

...but there are also some question marks. For example:

- 1) LIFE still contains too many priorities to ensure the critical mass of projects necessary to promote meaningful policy developments.
- 2) The prospects for an effective replicability, sustainability and dissemination of projects results should also be monitored during the implementation of the projects and ex-post, not only during grant approval.
- 3) The effective dissemination of successful innovative projects by beneficiaries which are private companies remains uncertain.
- 4) The information concerning the actual sustainability and replicability after project completion will be scarce, since it is based on a limited number of projects visited ex-post.




Presentation by Mr James Ranaivoson



**LIFE:
HOW TO USE €3.46 BILLION FOR
ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE
PROTECTION**

**Financial Instruments in the New LIFE Programme
and the Role of EIB**

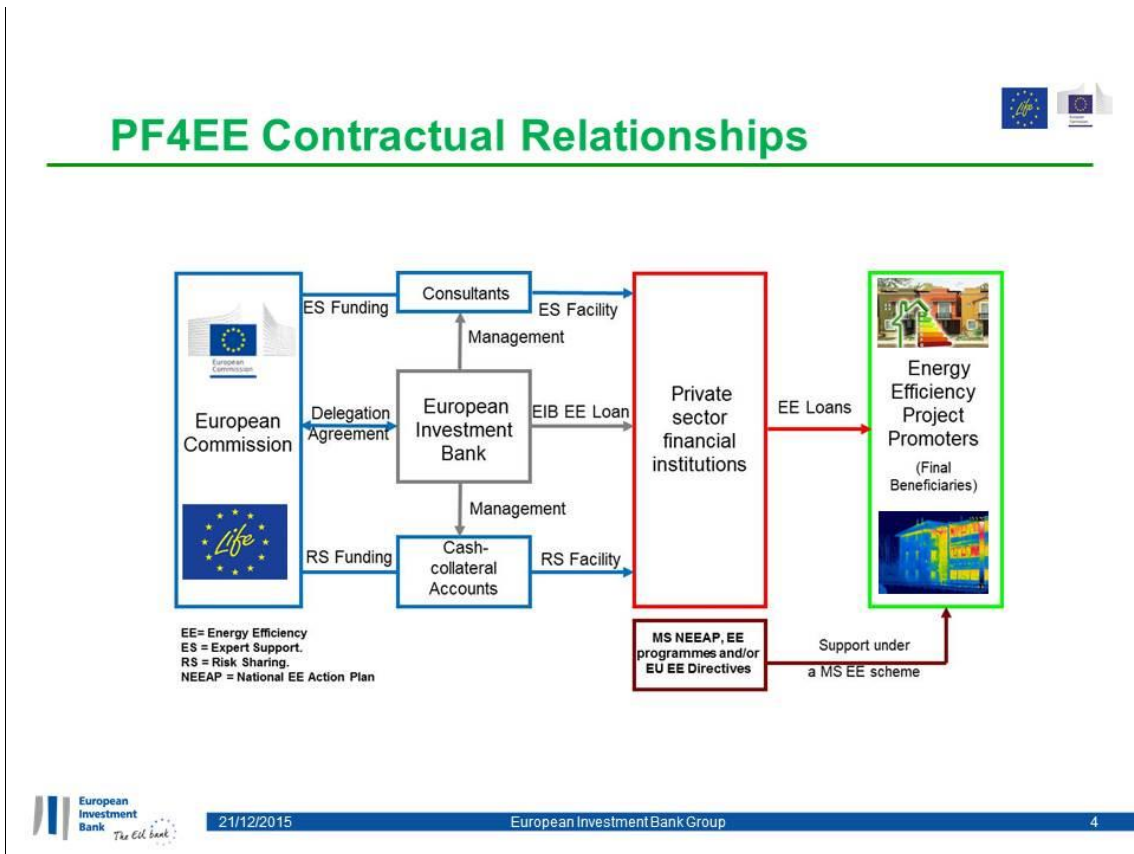
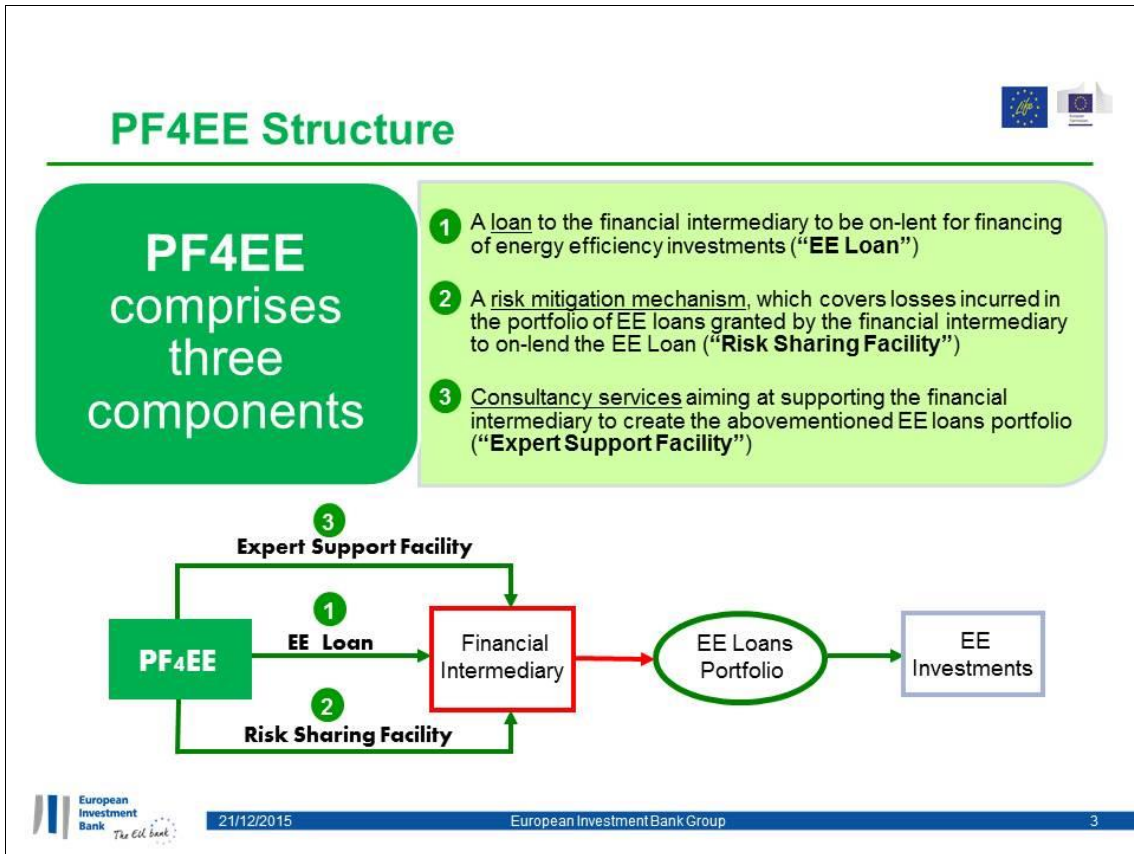
James RANAIVOSON
10 November 2015
13:00-13:10



**Private Finance for Energy Efficiency
PF₄EE**



21/12/2015 European Investment Bank Group 2





Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)

European Investment Bank | 21/12/2015 | European Investment Bank Group | 5

What is Natural Capital?

Natural Capital is the value of nature. It can be defined as the world's **stocks of natural assets** providing a flow of goods and services that we benefit from. Natural assets include air, water, soil, land, biodiversity, forests, ...

In the EU, most of these types of projects are currently financed by public grants. **There is a lack of market-based instruments** because of market failures, untested business models, novelty of the projects, long payback periods, perceived high risks.

However, there are examples of bankable **green infrastructure projects**, deals based on contractual **payments for ecosystem services**, projects designed for biodiversity **compensation / offsetting**, and **pro-biodiversity businesses**.

The Natural Capital Financing Facility

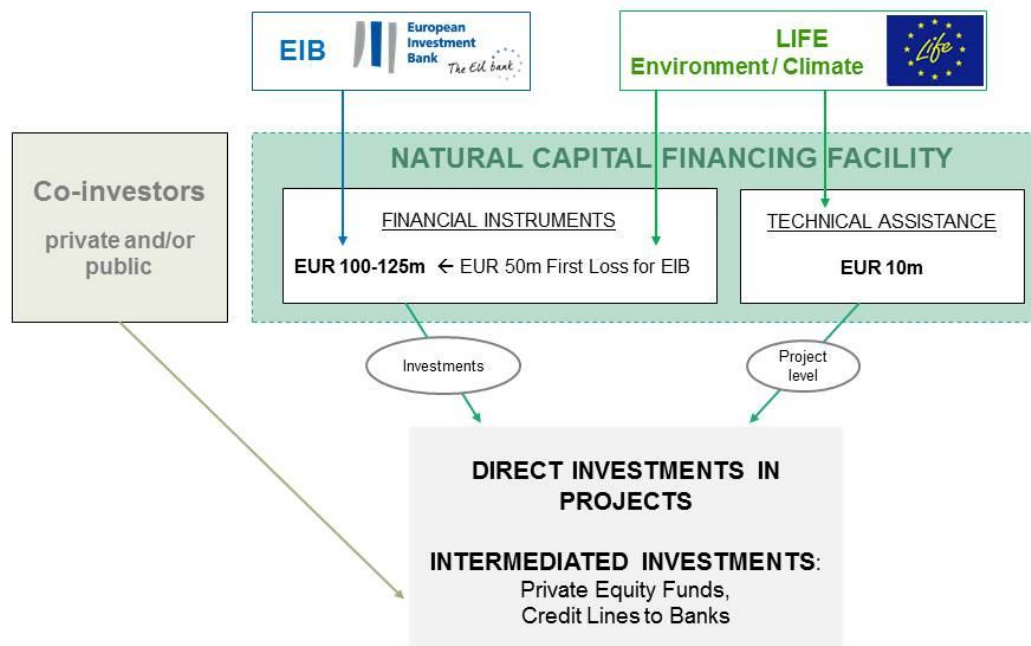
The NCFF is a new initiative to **stimulate financing for conservation, restoration, management and enhancement of natural capital.**

The NCFF will focus on financing **proof of concept / pilot projects** for ecosystem services and climate adaptation benefits, especially challenges related to biodiversity, land use, forestry, soil, water, agriculture and waste.

The facility will focus on **market-based instruments** (particularly to sustain upfront investment) in green infrastructure, biodiversity offsetting initiatives, projects based on payment for ecosystem services (PES), as well as pro-biodiversity businesses/corporates, or a combination.

Final beneficiaries would include both **private and public entities.**

NCFF Structure



Environmental Impact Requirement Procedures

Projects financed by the NCFE are by their typology and nature aimed at addressing environmental issues. In addition:

- While financial additionality may be perceived as the “raison d’être” of the NCFE (too risky and/or too small so that the EIB would not have financed them), eligibility of projects must be validated by DG ENV and DG CLIMA before the EIB enters into formal negotiations with the promoters. The EC services check if the aim of each individual project complies with the EU environmental and climate policies, and aligns with the LIFE objectives;
- Across all EIB activities and practices, the EIB applies its environmental and social standards, be a project financed by its own funds or funded by facilities such as the NCFE or falling under the Juncker Package.

Annex NCFE

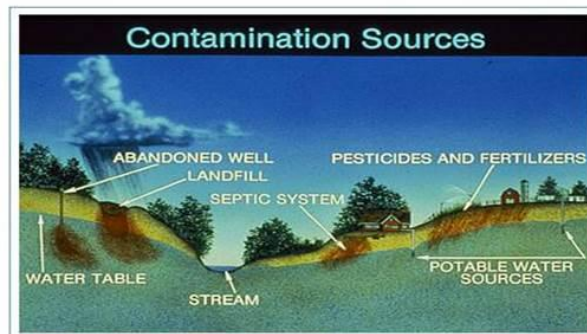
Eligible Projects: Green Infrastructure



Green infrastructure will include projects targeting the provision and maintenance of ecosystems and ecosystem services:

- Restoration of degraded areas
- Habitat corridors, afforestation and fire prevention, flood protection and erosion control
- Water treatment/purification
- Urban green infrastructure such as green roofs etc.

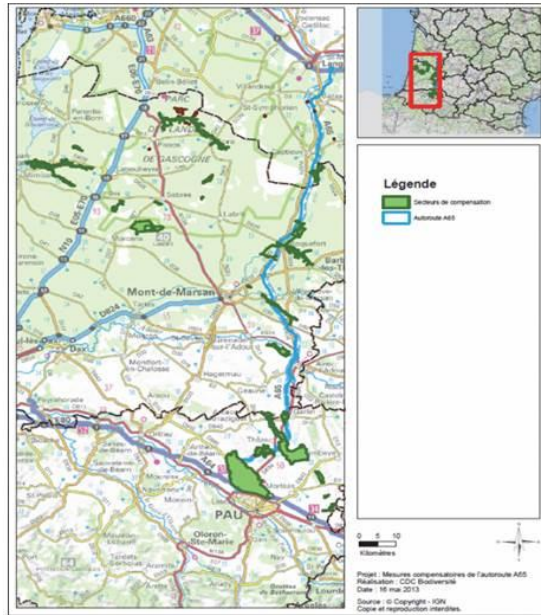
Eligible Projects: Payment for Ecosystem Services



Payment for ecosystem services are voluntary transactions where an ecosystem services beneficiary conditionally compensates an entity responsible for maintaining well-defined ecosystem service(s), especially:

- Protection of water resources
- Protection of forest
- Protection of biodiversity

Eligible Projects: Compensation/Offsetting



Compensation offsets are actions intended to compensate for residual, unavoidable environmental impacts of development by promoting conservation on or offsite of the development:


- On-site offset
- On-demand markets

Eligible Projects: Pro-Biodiversity Businesses



Pro-biodiversity businesses (especially for SMEs) and corporate projects dedicated to natural capital

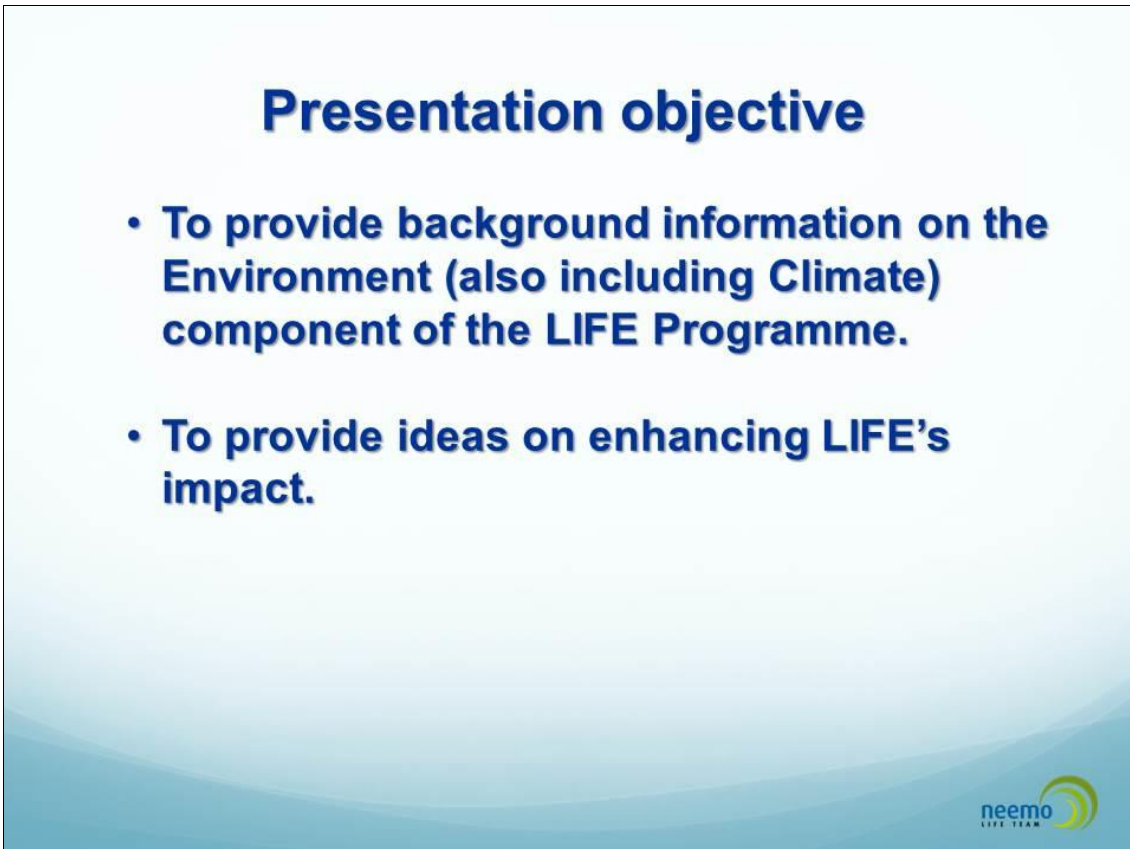

Presentation by Mr Pavlos Doikos



**Experience with
LIFE ENV**


European Parliament Workshop on LIFE Programme
10 November 2015

Pavlos Doikos
Neemo Environment Sector Coordinator



Presentation objective

- **To provide background information on the Environment (also including Climate) component of the LIFE Programme.**
- **To provide ideas on enhancing LIFE's impact.**



LIFE's objective

Act as a catalyst for changes in policy development and implementation by providing and disseminating solutions and best practices to achieve environmental and climate goals, and by promoting innovative environmental and climate change technologies.



Numbers

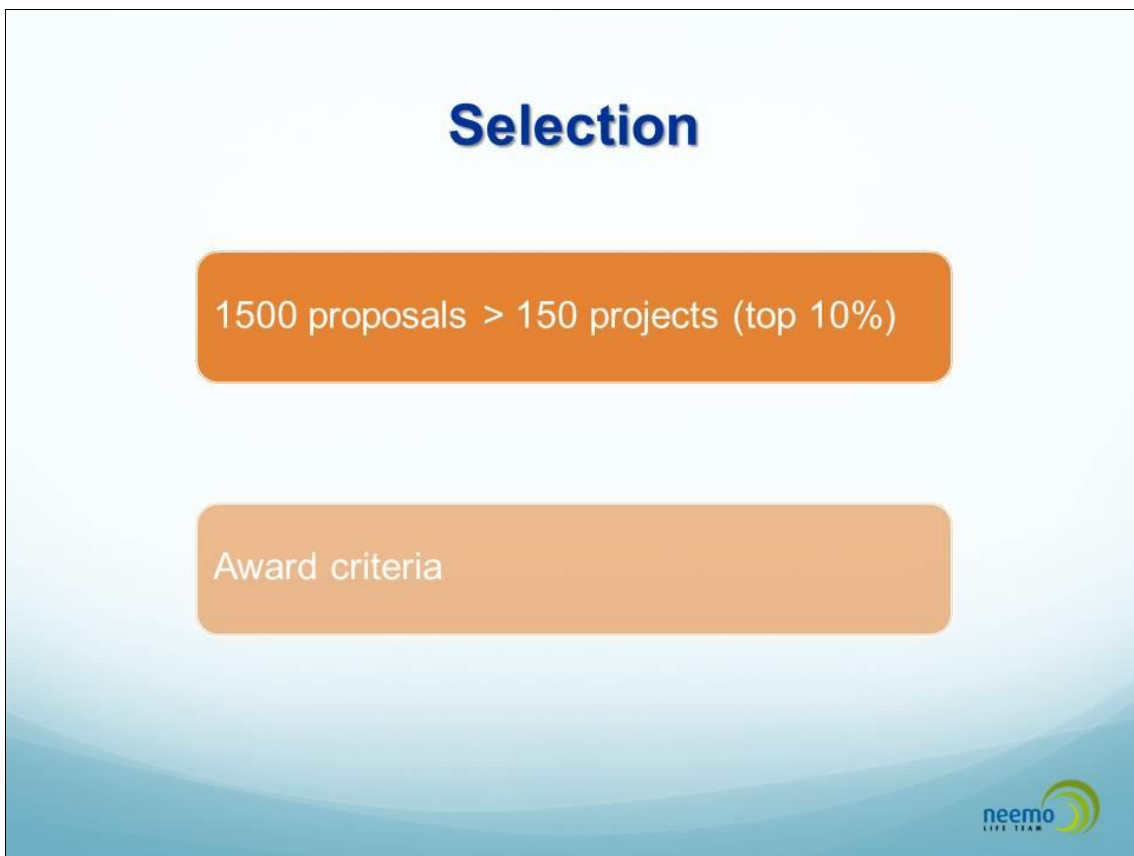
In the LIFE programme's database:

4349 projects

2745 projects (ENV + CC)

653 projects open (ENV + CC)





4. AWARD PHASE

All proposals that were not rejected during the Opening and Technical selection phases are admitted to an in-depth evaluation of their quality in the Award phase using the specific criteria and scoring system for projects submitted under the Environment Sub-Programme:

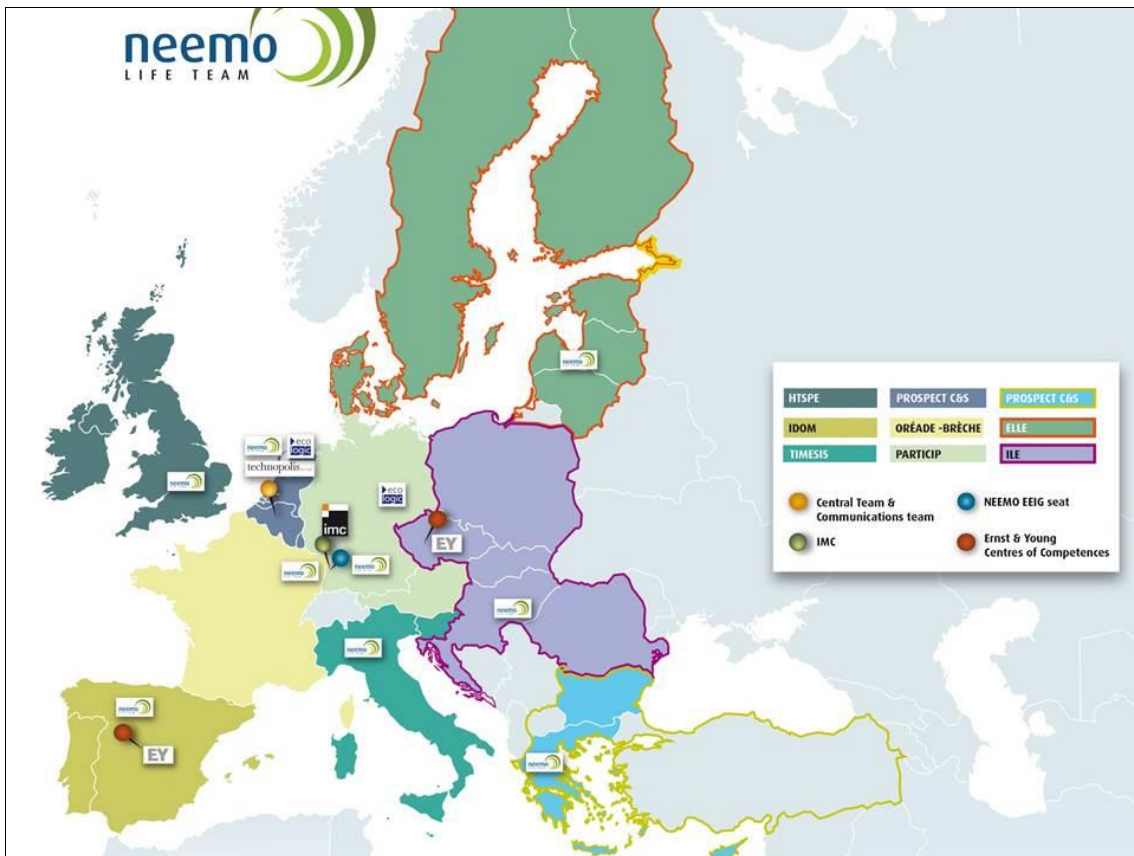
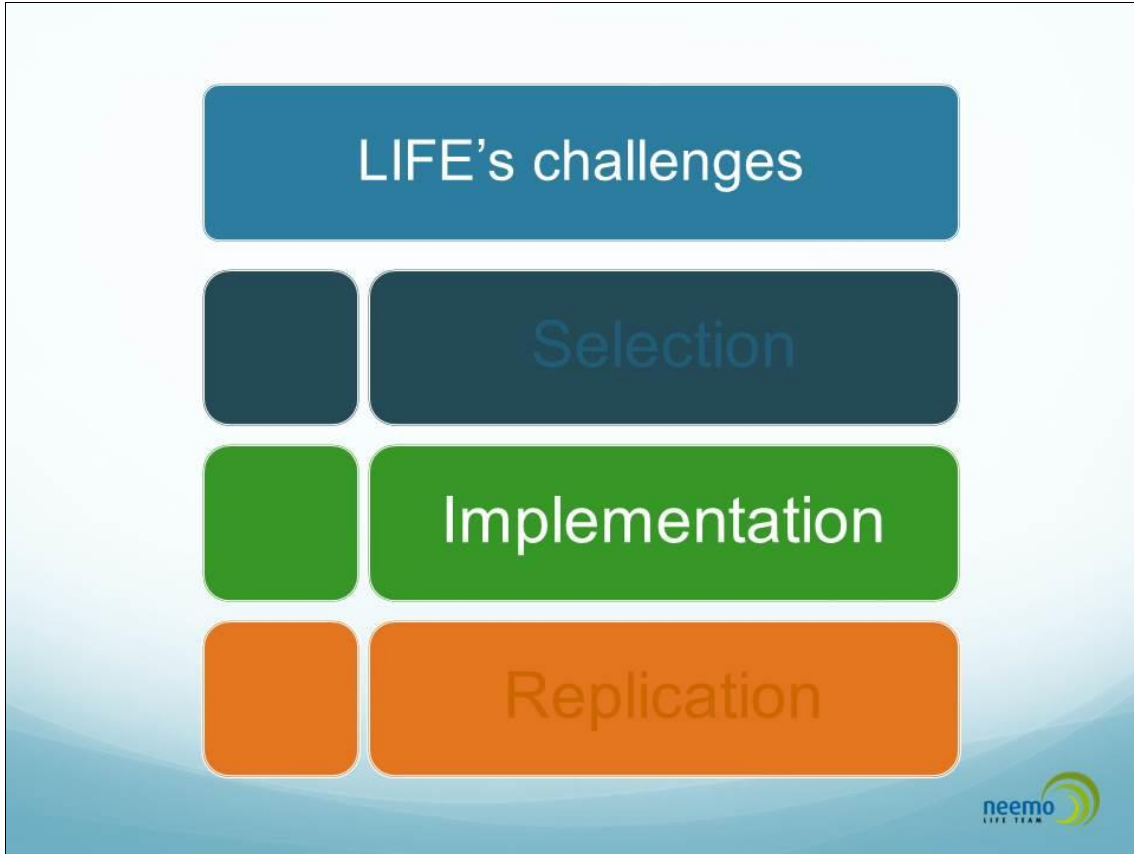
Award Criteria	Minimum pass score*	Maximum score
1. Technical coherence and quality	10	20
2. Financial coherence and quality	10	20
3. EU added value: extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment	10	20
4. Contribution to the project topics	-	10
5. EU added value: multipurpose, synergies, and integration	7	15
6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	5	10
7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	-	5
Overall (pass) scores	55	100

*A project proposal has to reach at least the minimum pass score for each award criterion and also the sum of scores for criteria for which a minimum score has been fixed has to be equivalent to 55 points or more.



Projects well designed to deliver



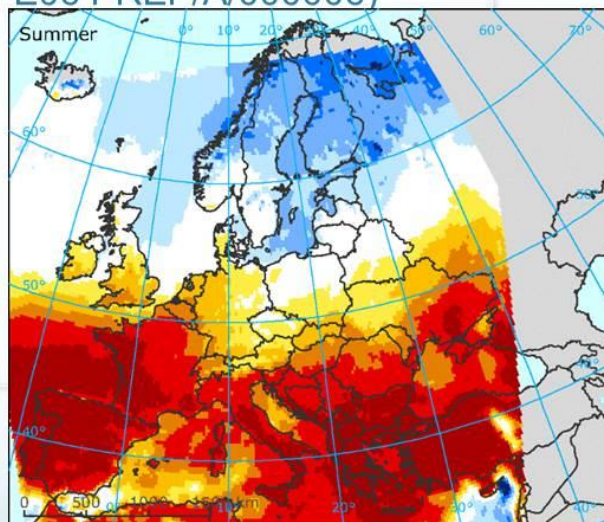


366 LIFE CC-projects classified to allow rapid filtering

EC4MACS (LIFE06 PREP/A/000006)

EU-wide simulation consortium

- evaluation of CC and air pollution measures
- policy and NEC negotiations on EU level



Category: nearly all categories



HYPER BUS (LIFE10 ENV/SE/000041)

Hybrid and plug-in
extended range bus
system

- 80% electric mode
- 81% less fuel
- 75% less CO₂
- 61% less energy
- 20 dBA less noise



Category: Transport



ACUMEN (LIFE11 ENV/UK/000402)

Utilise methane
from 5 old landfills

- prevent CH₄ emissions
- produce energy
- income for landfill owners



Photo: LIFE11 ENV/UK/000402/Stephen Nottingham



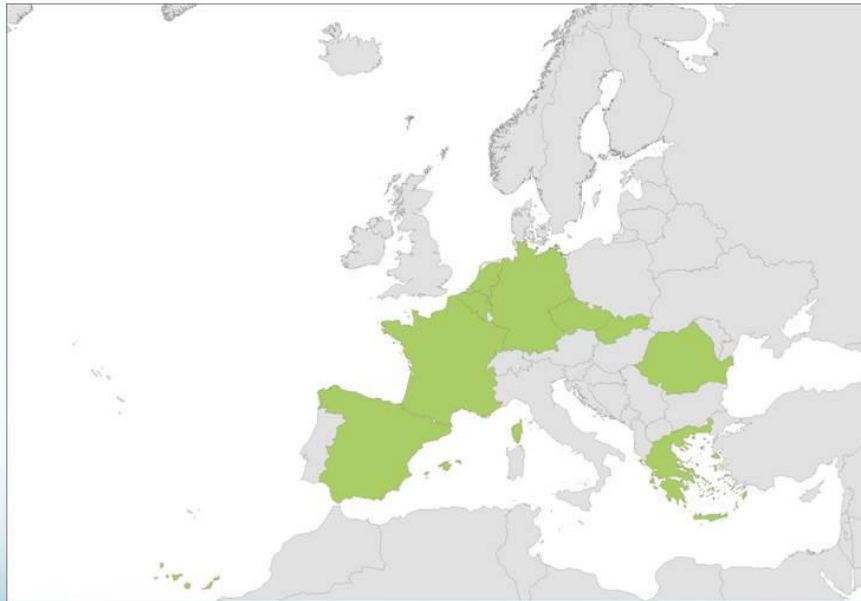
LIFE14 REACH – geographic coverage



LIFE14 AIR QUALITY – geographic coverage



LIFE14 NOISE & IED – geographic coverage



Project Monitoring & Assessment

- **DG CLIMA + DG ENV + EASME + thematic experts (LIFE External Monitoring Team) = meticulous monitoring and assessment of projects + feedback to policy makers + capitalisation of results (market uptake, replication, awareness raising to potential “users” of LIFE results)**

=> Higher Impact



LIFE ENVIRONMENT BEST AWARD WINNERS 2013

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BEST OF THE BEST PROJECTS

FRANCE

THE ENVIRONMENT INDEX FOR WASTE REDUCTION

GERMANY

PROMOTING ENERGY AND PLANTING GRADIENTS

GERMANY

RECYCLING WASTE USING AN IOT FUEL CELL

GERMANY

DEMONSTRATING THE BENEFITS OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE

GERMANY

CREATING BIOMASS ENERGY IN THE FOREST

HUNGARY

INNOVATION IN SOIL QUALITY MONITORING

ITALY

USING WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR FORESTS

ITALY

COMBATING URBAN FLOOD RISK FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

DENMARK

LOWER EMISSIONS THROUGH BETTER QUALITY BIOMASS PELLETS

BELGIUM

TOWARDS A COMMON APPROACH TO HUMAN BIOMONITORING

SPAIN

MONITORING VEHICLE RECYCLING AND REUSE

FRANCE

NEW TECHNOLOGY REDUCES THE STEEL INDUSTRY'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

SPAIN

THEORETICALLY ENGAGING FARMERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SWEDEN

PREPARING A NEW GENERATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE AHEAD

UK

CARBON LABEL USED ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

AUSTRALIA

LIFE ENVIRONMENT PUBLICATIONS

NEEMO LIFE TEAM

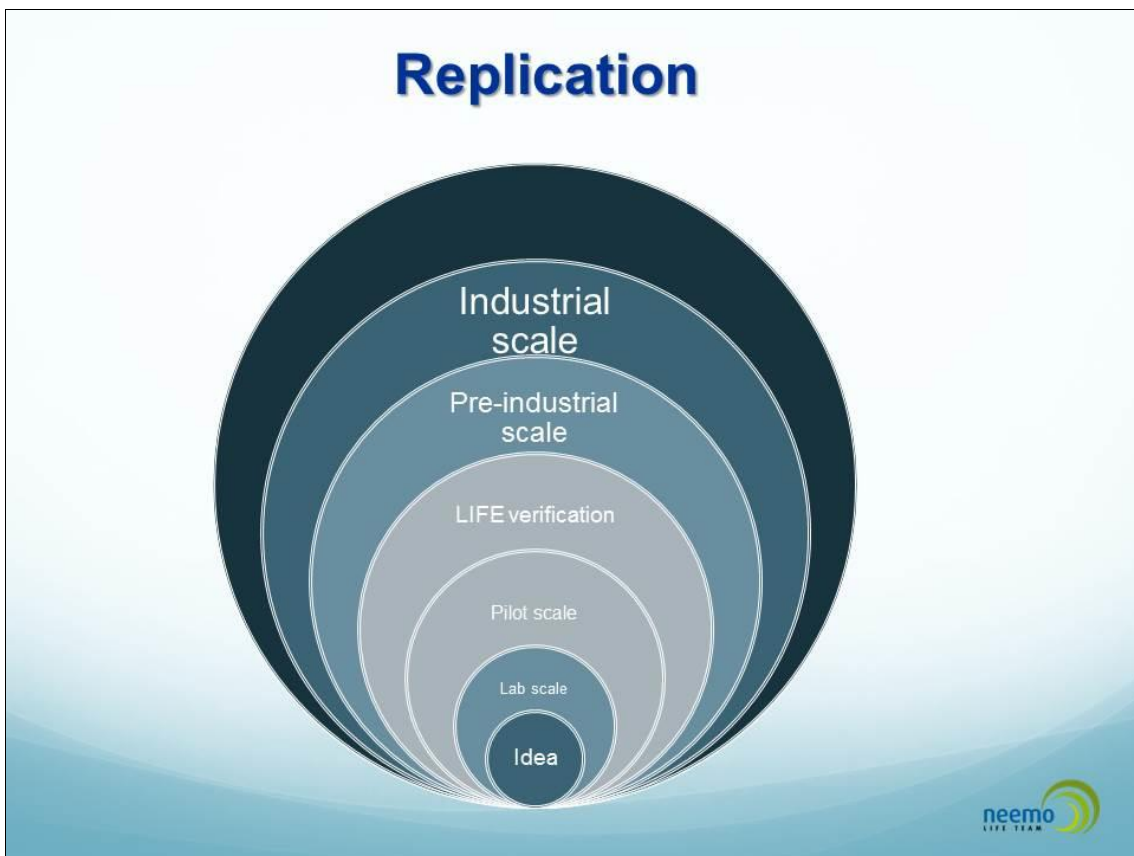
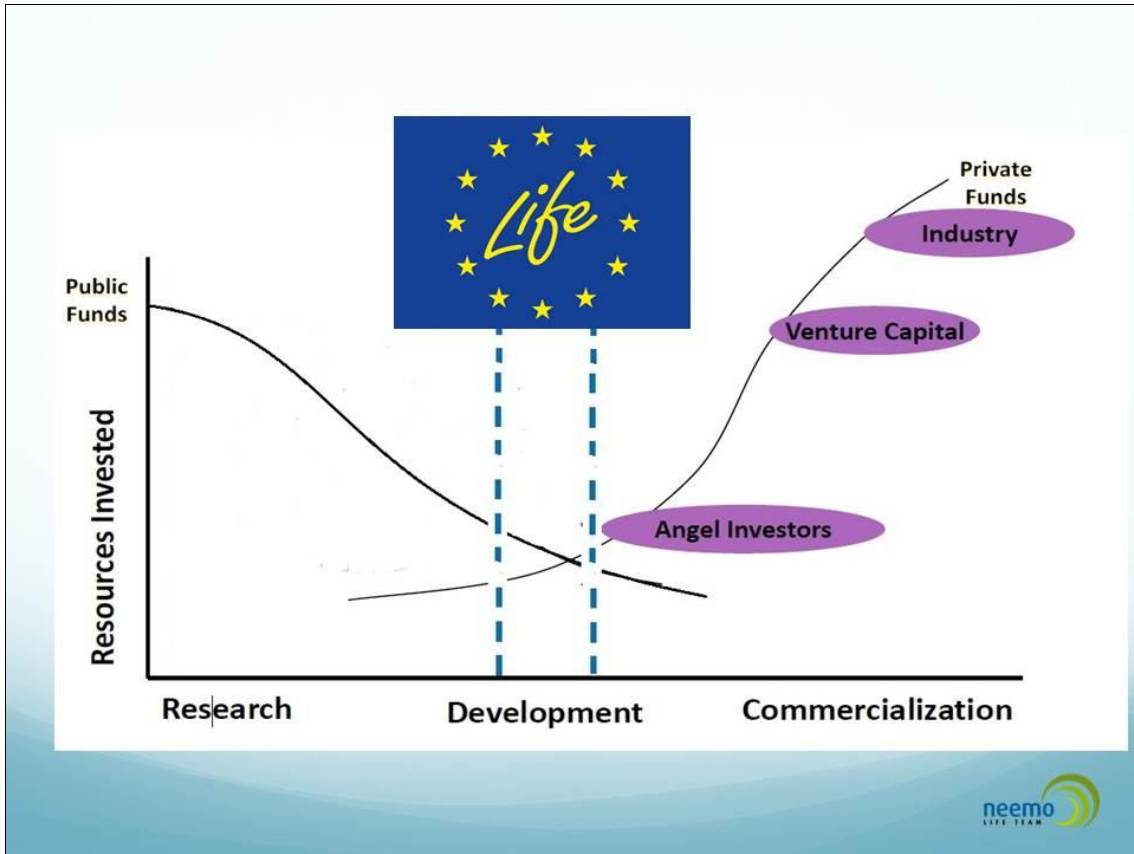
LIFE's challenges

Selection

Implementation

Replication

NEEMO LIFE TEAM



Economic modelling results

1. **[Beneficiary level only]**: The estimated impact on cost savings from the replication of the project LIFE ELINA amounts to €0.6 M in total (2016-2020). The cost savings for that period exceed investment (estimated at €0.1 M), **reflecting the economic viability of the LIFE-funded green technology**.
2. **[Member State level only]**: The impact in terms of cost savings reaches €18.5 M. Under the same scenario, the investment in the EU economy increases by €8.6 M.
3. **[EU level]**: The impact of the pilot technology could reach €91,3 M in terms of cost savings and €24.8 M in investment terms.

Replication: Economic feasibility



LIFE – Key issues

Project diversity is impressive => Multiple environmental solutions.

Replication is the key challenge for the future => multiply LIFE's impact to transform EU economy into a circular decarbonised production and consumption system.



LIFE – Ideas


- 1: Mainstream LIFE's replication into other EU policies (e.g. CAP, Cohesion Policy).**
- 2: More emphasis in post-LIFE results (e.g. LIFE Best Projects to be scaled-up/financed by LIFE + EIB).**
- 3. More policy-driven actions to promote circular economy & decarbonisation business models.**



Thank You!



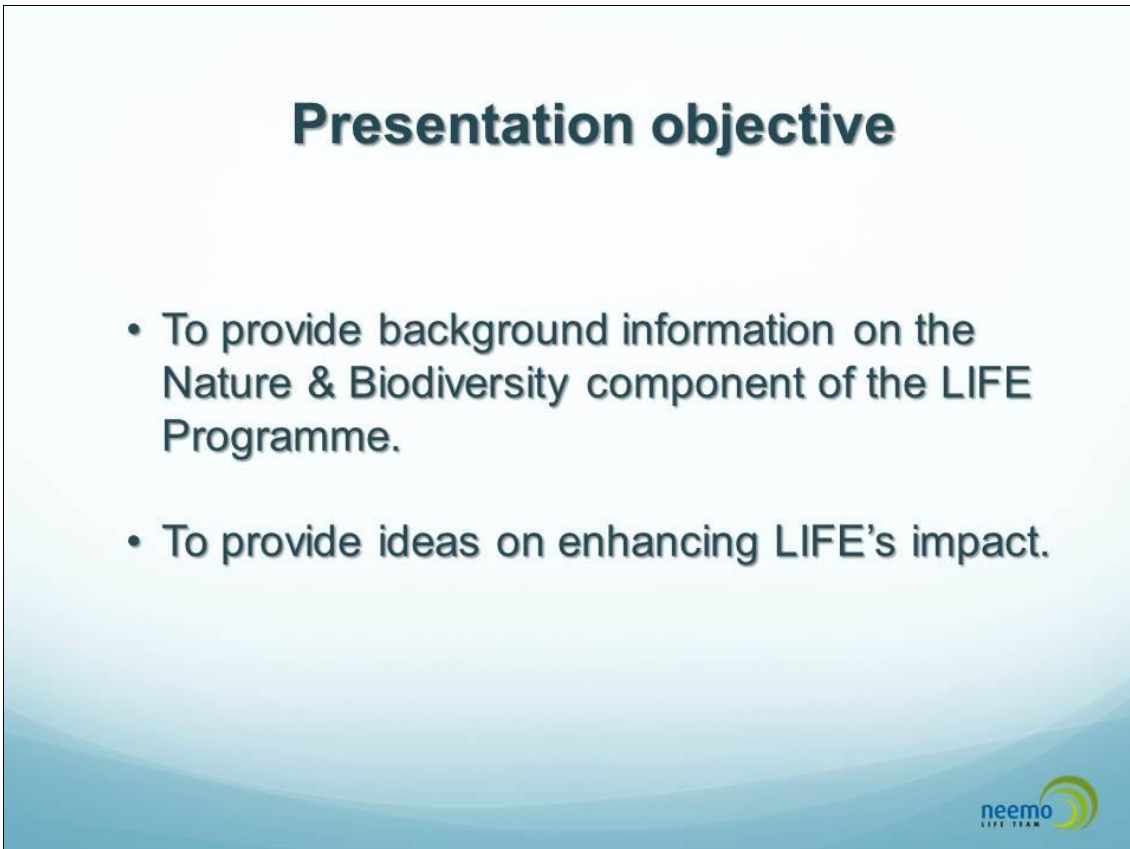

Presentation by Mr Bent Jepsen



**Experience with
LIFE NAT & BIO**


European Parliament Workshop on LIFE Programme
10 November 2015

Bent Jepsen
Neemo Nature Sector Coordinator



Presentation objective

- To provide background information on the Nature & Biodiversity component of the LIFE Programme.
- To provide ideas on enhancing LIFE's impact.



Objective- NAT & BIO

- contributing to the development and implementation of EU policy and legislation: Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, and the Birds and Habitats Directives;
- supporting the further development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network;
- improving the knowledge base for the development, implementation, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of EU nature and biodiversity policy and legislation.



LIFE's challenges

Selection

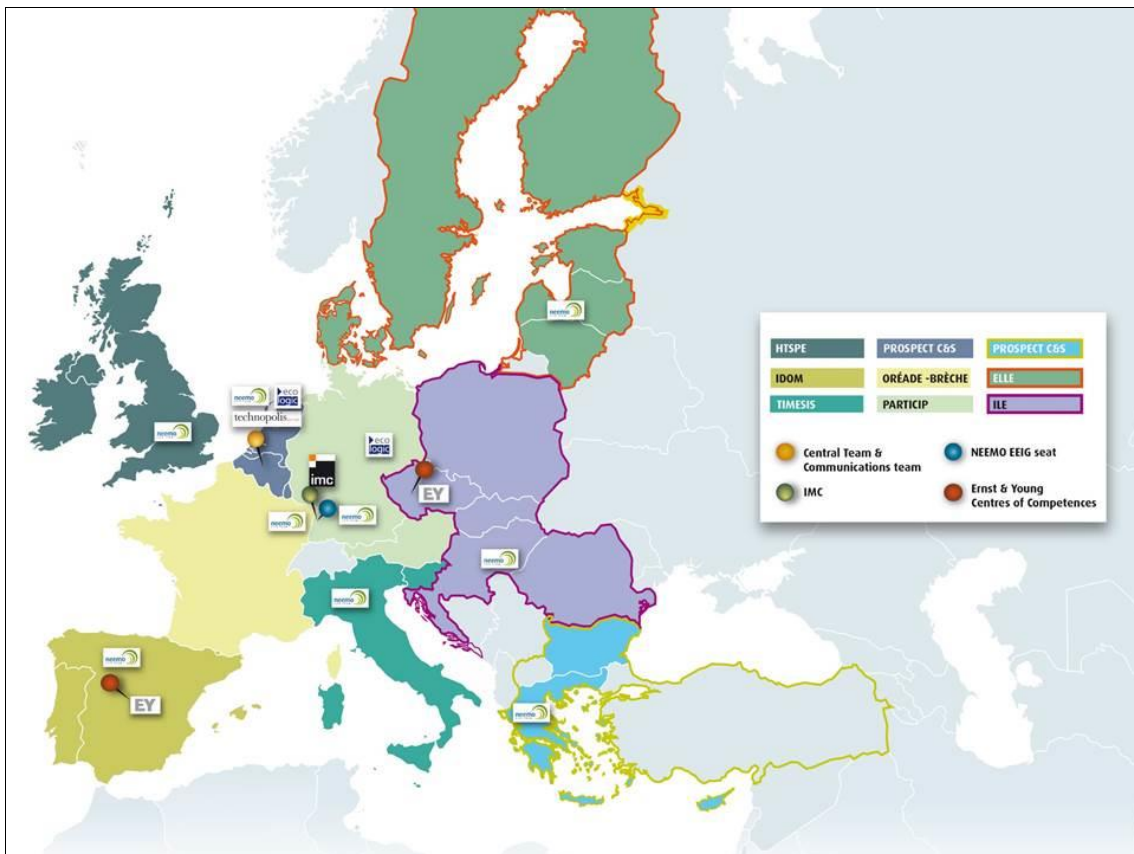
Implementation

Replication



The Monitoring Team: Why?

- Limited human resources at the LIFE Units/EASME
- LIFE projects cover a broad spectrum of themes
- The need for technical advice to evaluate project performance and output
- The need for a national/regional knowledge and physical presence



Selection

- NEEMO not involved in selection of traditional projects
- Involved in selection of Integrated Projects
- Main objectives: ensure quality and consistency of projects
- Ensure successful implementation and impact



Numbers

In the LIFE programme's database:

4349 projects

1516 projects (NAT + BIO)

490 projects open (NAT+BIO)



Implementation

- Monitoring and assessment
- Report/output evaluations
- Visits to projects at least once a year - technical and on site verification
- General Conditions compliance
- Ex-post monitoring missions (closed projects)



LIFE projects & EU nature policies

1. Contributing to overall objectives of the EU nature directives (conservation status of species & habitats)
2. Provide examples of best-practise/demonstration
3. Contribute policy-relevant knowledge & data



Improving Conservation status

Improving the conservation status of species and habitat types of Community importance and improving knowledge.

national biogeographical assessment reports of conservation status and trends (Article 17 Habitats Directive)

→ biogeographical level assessment of conservation status



Best practise

- Demonstration is an important aspect of LIFE NAT
- Thematic platform meetings
- Inputs to the Biogeographic process
- Knowledge platform



New Biogeographic Process

Aim

Optimal management of the Natura 2000 site



Achieving a Favourable Conservation Status



How to achieve this?

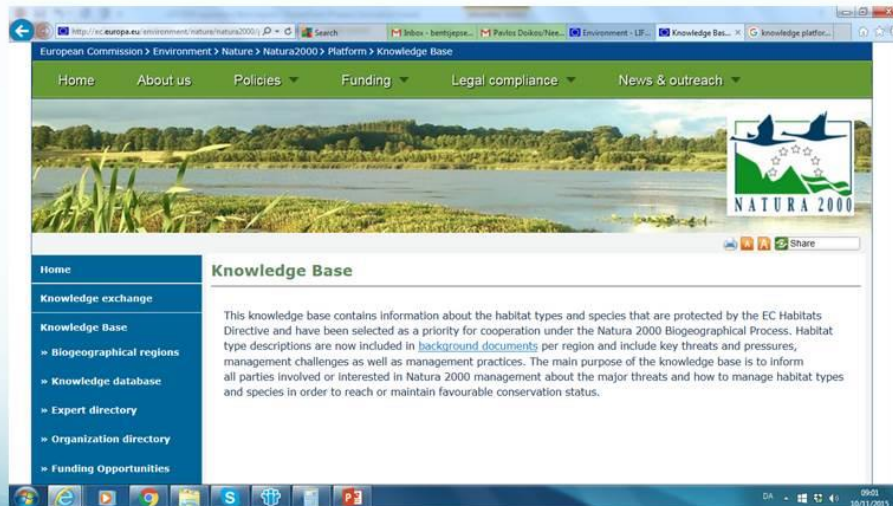


Facilitating the discussion between MS, EC and stakeholders on the measures needed

Basis

- Voluntary cooperation
- Active involvement of MS and stakeholders / NGOs

Knowledge platform



LIFE projects and IAS

Prevention: innovative – best practices on

- Management of pathways of unintentional introduction, e.g. ballast water, cleaning equipment, preventing spread through soil transport, man-made corridors ...
- Management of pathways of intentional introduction, e.g. targeting specific sectors like horticulture, pets, aquaria,...
- Involvement of the custom authorities
- Promotion of native species as alternatives to IAS

LIFE – Ideas

- 1: Mainstream LIFE's replication into other EU policies (e.g. CAP, Cohesion Policy, floods protection).
- 2: Strengthen uptake of results in MS administration
3. Explore new ways of stakeholder involvement.



Thank You!



Presentation by Mr Joaquim Teodósio



Azores LIFE projects

Joaquim Teodósio

Brussels, 10/11/2015



LIFE+ Safe Islands for Seabirds



SPEA (PAPE) RSPB (Birds)



Carlos Filipe Capela




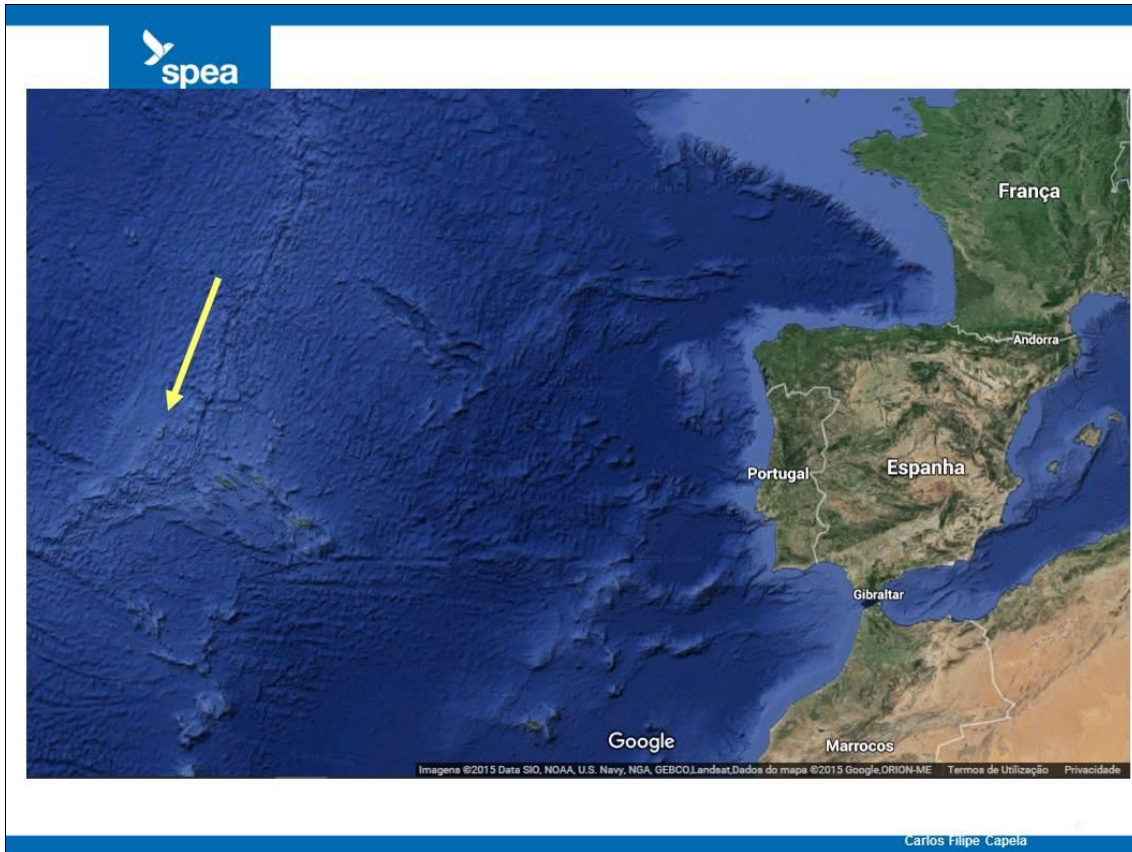
2009 – 2012

Azores, Corvo island

The smallest Azorean island 400 people
Only a small village and a huge volcanic crater
Europe's most western limit




Carlos Filipe Capela




Seabirds from Corvo

One of the largest Cory's shearwater population in Azores


- Manx shearwater just breed in Corvo and Flores
- Little shearwater in inaccessible areas
- Other species?



Cagarros



Estapagado



Frulho

Carlos Filipe Capela



Predators Eradication – Seabirds monitoring (Weather conditions)





- Raising awareness
- Increasing touristic value
- Managing garbage disposal





spea

- **Cooperation with local school (ALL the students of the island)**
- **More than 20.000 native plants produced**

The image contains two photographs. The left photograph shows a nursery area with numerous small plants in black plastic pots, some in white trays, arranged on a grassy area. The right photograph shows a group of people, including children and adults, sitting on a grassy hillside overlooking the ocean. They appear to be engaged in an outdoor activity or lesson.



Results

- Rat Eradication - Technically possible but rather expensive and economically unfeasible
- Lack of political will to enforce bio-security protocol to avoid IAS (E.g. *Rattus norvegicus*)
- Local community involved up to a limited level
- Long term control program for stray cats should be implemented asap and kept running



Socio-economic Impact

- 4.5 direct annual jobs and 1.5 -2.5 indirect ones in the region
- > 0.5 million Euros of European funds were applied in the Azores
- The project contributed with 0.81% of the island Gross Domestic Product
- All the Corvo inhabitants supported the project and most of them were involved in its actions
- Awarded BEST LIFE (2013); promotion of Corvo and Azores at national and international level



Azores bullfinch - 12 years of conservation



www.spea.pt



The Priolo

Azores Bullfinch - “Priolo”

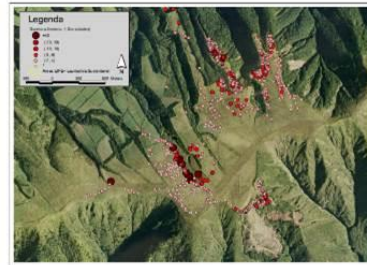
Pyrrhula murina

Godman, 1866





- Habitat management
- Legislation
- Monitoring
- Education



Results of 12 years work

Priolo downlisted to Endangered in 2010

New NATURA2000 Site with management plan

350 hectares native habitats restored: laurel and bogs

Priolo Interpretation Centre with activities for 2000 students/year and 3000 visitants

European Charter Sustainable Tourism for Lands of Priolo

Priolo brand for 40 tourism companies

Scientific research

Specialized teams (average 22 jobs/year)



Economic and Social Impact

+3M€ european funding
>22 direct jobs/year (+4 indirect)
>70% of funding to hire people
+150 Azorean companies (40 LP)
(Azores - 90% of the expenses)



The team...





LIFE Program

Advantages

- allow small NGOs to increase their action
- very important to have the funding at the beginning of the project (and the midterm payment) – positive balance
- excellent support from LIFE unit and external team
- some flexibility and adaptation along the project



LIFE Program

Disadvantages

- very detailed budget application form
(need to know who travels when for a 4 or 5 years project; travel cost along the project changes; new and more effective equipment)
- flexibility and adaptation along the project increase paper work; changes implies more bureaucracy
- Last payment after the end of project can cause financial problems to project partners



The LIFE projects are...

... for Birds



The LIFE projects are...

... for Birds



... for Habitats





The LIFE projects are...



... for People!!



www.spea.pt

joaquim.teodosio@spea.pt



www.facebook.com/spea.Birdlife | twitter.com/spea_birdlife

Presentation by Mr Martin Janes



Restoring Europe's Rivers

The RESTORE project is made possible with the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community



and works in partnership with



EU LIFE+ RESTORE Project [information & communication]

Sept 2010 to Dec 2013

Martin Janes
Managing Director, The River Restoration Centre (UK)

Antonia Scarr
Environment Agency (England)

European Parliament workshop on 'LIFE – How to use €3.46 billion for environment and climate protection'

rrc@therrc.co.uk 01234 752979 www.therrc.co.uk



The River Restoration Centre (RRC)

Working to restore and enhance our rivers

Independent, impartial, specialist, not-for-profit
River restoration expert advisers since 1994



- Expert advice to policy, science and practice,
- Communicating knowledge & understanding,
- Training & technical workshops,
- Building the UK evidence base,
- Best practice technical guidance,
- The UK forum for knowledge exchange.





RESTORE

- Communicating RR across Europe
- Extension of RRC's 20 year UK role
- Expand European River Restoration Centre network
- Objectives
 - Supporting river restoration practices across Europe
 - Build up existing river restoration network capacity
 - Promote effective river restoration knowledge transfer
 - Establish long term river restoration knowledge sharing
- After LIFE..... Hand on to ECRR and its network
 - ECRR, [RESTORE] web pages and RRC website



www.restorerivers.eu
www.ECRR.org

The RESTORE project is made possible with the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community




and works in partnership with





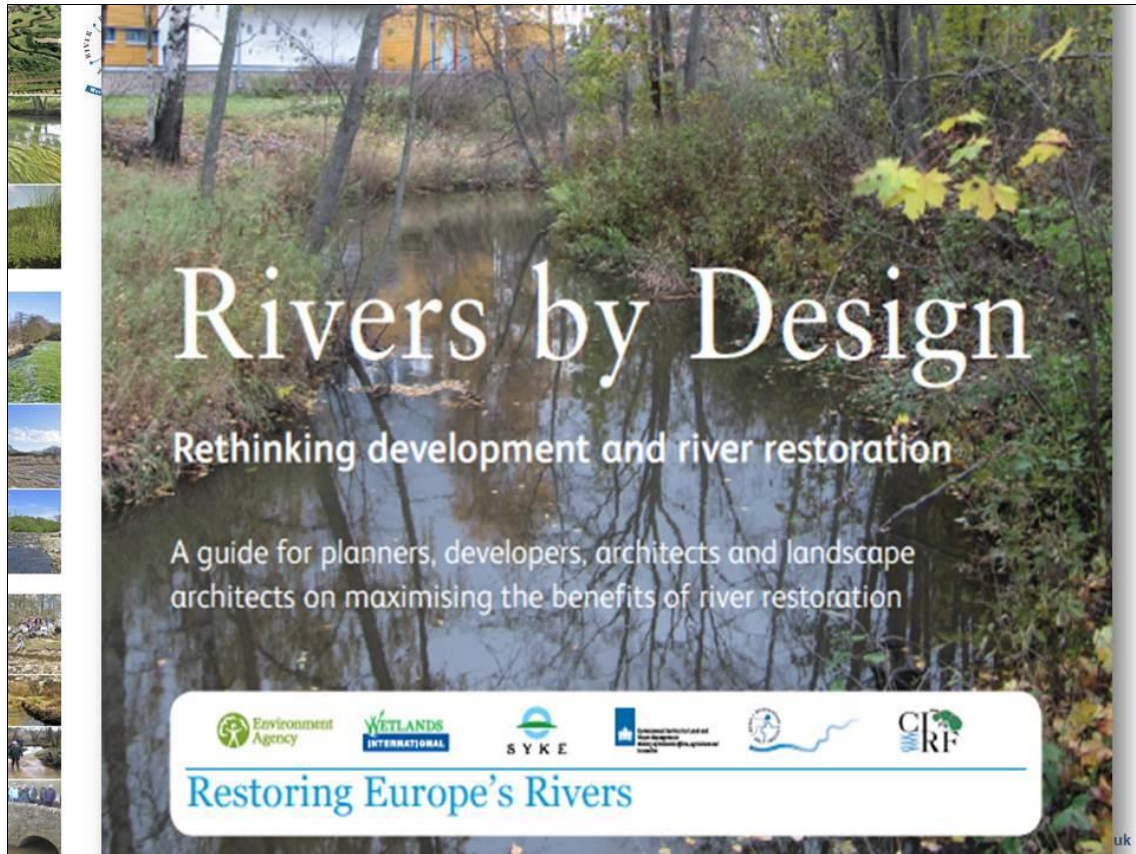
Information, Advice, Learning, Sharing and Communicating Best Practice




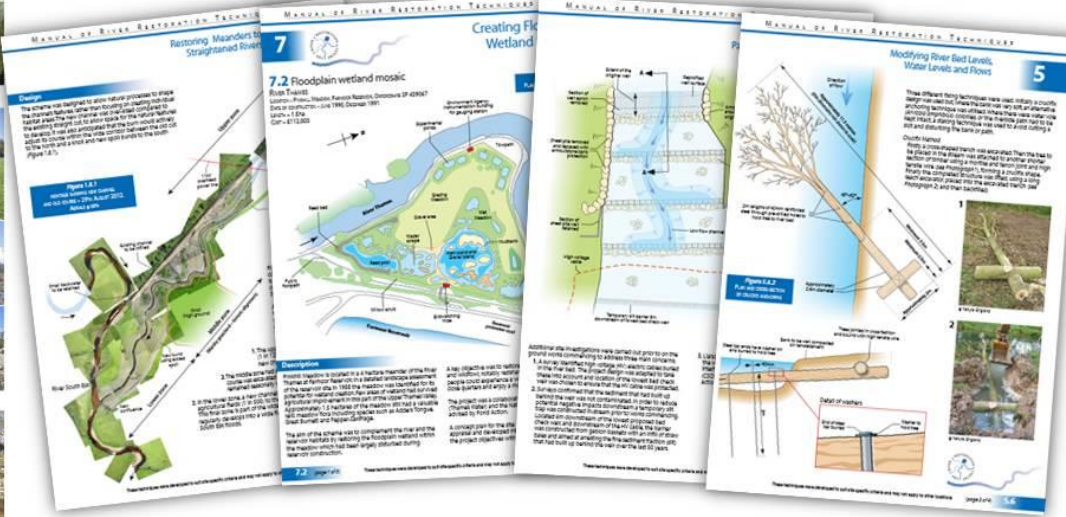
RESTORE impact over 3 years

- Stronger European network of River Restoration,
 - 36 seminars and conferences in 20 countries
 - 66 events for 5791 people
- *'Rivers by Design'* guide,
- New *'Manual of River Restoration Techniques'* examples,
- Web guidance & resources for river restoration,
- *RiverWiki*: web based 'community' case study tool,
- Supporting a 5th EU conference and EU *Riverprize*,
- Social media, articles, bulletins, papers, talks.....
 - 9548 individual contacts...

continues through ECRR 




the Manual of River Restoration Techniques
http://www.therrc.co.uk/rrc_manual.php




- 64 examples, 37 projects, £6M of projects
- Design, application and WFD mitigation measures




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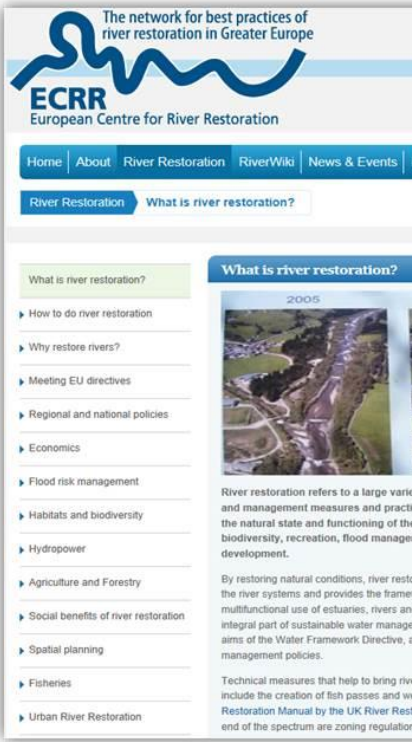




Principles

- Work with natural processes
- More resilient ecosystems
- Delivering multiple benefits
- Based on good science
- Assessing success
- Sharing of experiences
- Presenting work and lessons
- Evidenced based learning

good science & best practice for river management and restoration implementation



The screenshot shows the ECRR website with a navigation bar (Home, About, River Restoration, RiverWiki, News & Events) and a main content area titled 'What is river restoration?' with a list of topics like 'How to do river restoration', 'Why restore rivers?', and 'Meeting EU directives'.



RiverWiki

Search for projects

Create your own case study

Help guide

Select language [Google translate]

900+ case studies from 33 countries – [Brazil, Argentina, USA]



The screenshot shows the RiverWiki website interface. It includes a search bar, a navigation menu with options like 'Main page', 'Search case studies', and 'Create a new case study', and a map of Europe with numbered markers indicating case study locations across various countries.





“the place to be seen”

- 929 project case studies, (2331 photos & 2593 files),
- 7,113 registered users,
- 3,186,700 total views,

Most viewed projects:

- Mayesbrook Climate Change Park, London - 21,302
- Little Waltham Meadows Back Channel, Chelmsford - 20,131
- Day Brook Restoration, Nottingham - 12,040
- Isar-Plan, Munich - 11,808



Cross policy/function Interest

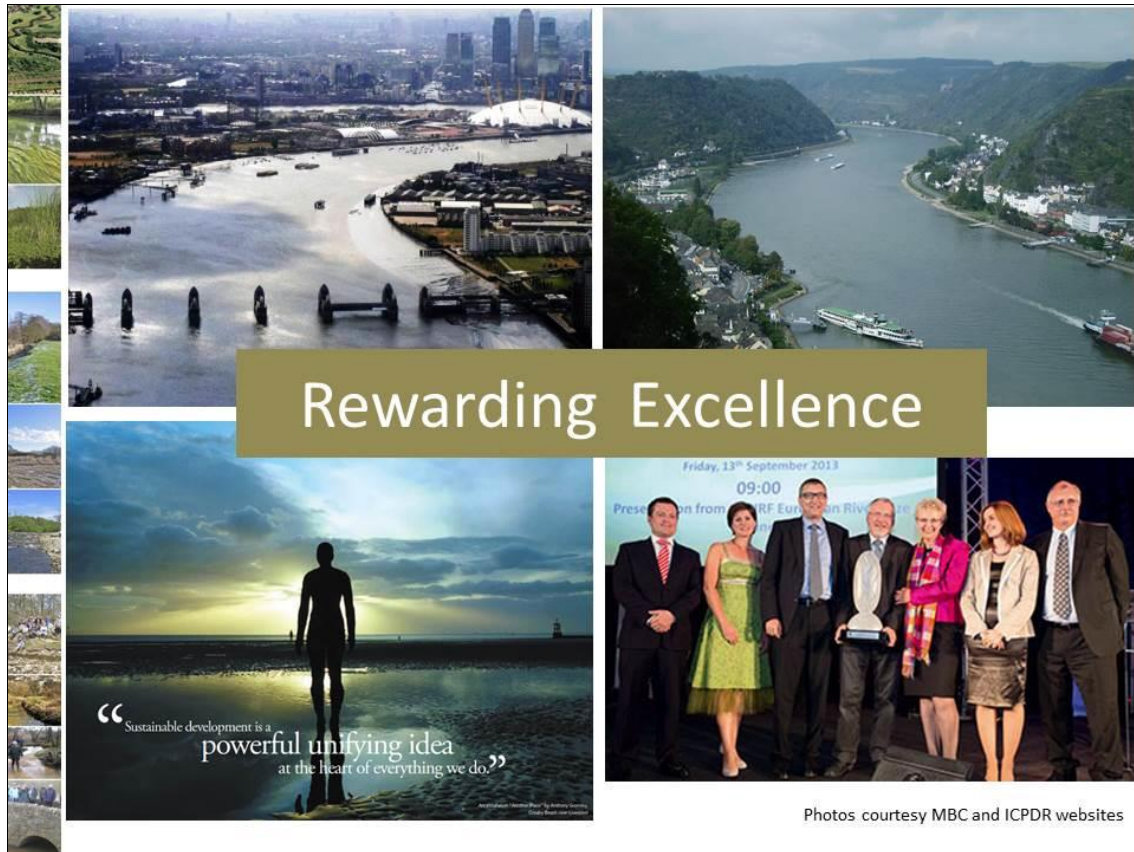
- Habitat and Biodiversity - 757 **(81.5%)**
- Fisheries - 326 **(35.1%)**
- Hydromorphology - 289 **(31.1%)**
- Social benefits – 288 **(31.0%)**
- Flood risk management - 252 **(27.1%)**
- Water quality – 239 **(25.7%)**
- Environmental flows and water resources - 172 **(18.5%)**
- Monitoring – 150 **(16.1%)**
- Economic aspects - 115 **(12.4%)**
- Land use management (Agriculture) – 97 **(10.4%)**
- Urban – 82 **(8.8%)**
- Hydropower - 45 **(4.8%)**
- Land use management (Forestry) - 43 **(4.6%)**
- Spatial planning – 37 **(4.0%)**




RESTORE impact over 3 years

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- 9548 individual contacts: Articles, bulletins, papers, talks,
- Social media channels.

continues through ECRR 



Social Media

Communication - New audiences, new methods, smarter targeting, interlinking into existing media

- Twitter – 1900 followers
 - Signposting, accessing new case studies, auto tweet web entries
 - Tweet of the month..
- Linked In – 403 members
 - Professionals, sharing questions and responses
- YouTube channel - 31 subscribers
 - 5,582 views
- Slideshare –
 - most popular Powerpoint viewed 2442 times (and least 137 times)

Restoring Europe's Rivers

Environment Agency, CEF, SYKE, WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

RESTORE rivers
@RESTORErivers FOLLOWING YOU

RESTORE is about sharing knowledge and promoting best practice on river restoration in Europe. Views expressed are our own. RiverWiki: restorerivers.eu

Europe
restorerivers.eu
Joined January 2013

Tweet to Message

62 Followers you know

56 Photos and videos

TWEETS 798 FOLLOWING 1,309 FOLLOWERS 1,957 FAVOURITES 43 LISTS 2

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos

3:46 a.m. - 30 Oct 2015

RESTORE rivers Retweeted

The RRC @The_RRC · Oct 30
New RRC news bulletin - October 2015 therrc.co.uk/sites/default/...
#RiverRestoration

RESTORE rivers Retweeted

Owen Davies @DaviesUD · Oct 28
looking at an Ordinary Watercourse & opportunity to formalise it as a wet woodland (it does it very well informally)

Presentation by Mr Hervé Martin



LIFE and Green Jobs

Mr. Hervé Martin,
Head of Unit, DG ENV E4



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LIFE is a state of the art programme for financing projects for environment, nature & climate change, but...

- What is its potential to create jobs and to boost growth?
- What is its contribution in the overall economy?
- Are LIFE projects suitable for replication in a market environment?
- What are the best ways to achieve income and growth from LIFE?
- Do we have the necessary data?

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The European Commission has been always keen on the "green" jobs creation by LIFE and has summarised the best examples in a 2013 report

"LIFE creating green jobs and skills"

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/jobs_skills.pdf



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Economic potential of the LIFE programme

➤ **Following up on this initiative, the European Commission is currently focusing at the economic potential of LIFE, and has assigned a complete econometric study to evaluate:**

- 1. Key determinants of economic impact of LIFE projects during their implementation*
- 2. Impact of LIFE projects in the post-project phase*
- 3. Likelihood of replication and sustainability of LIFE projects*


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Size and key determinants of economic impact of LIFE projects during their implementation

- **Detailed analysis of the sample of projects was conducted to calculate the impact of the projects on employment and growth during the lifetime of the projects (that is, during the LIFE financing).**
- Impact on employment (job creation)
 - ✓ *Total persons-days*
 - ✓ *Number of staff: (i) qualified staff; (ii) non-qualified staff*
- Impact on growth
 - ✓ *Labor income (Total amount spent in personnel)*
 - ✓ *Output in other sectors (External assistance – technical and administrative)*
 - ✓ *Investment (Total amount spent in equipment, infrastructure & prototypes).*

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First results obtained from this study are encouraging

- LIFE has a significant impact on jobs creation — the average project in the sample generated the equivalent of **32 persons-years** per project
- In terms of employed funds, **every €1 million of EU funding is translated into 43 persons-years** of employment
- The **impact on labour income:** projects in the sample generated about €903,000 of labour income

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Impact of LIFE projects in the post-project phase

➤ **Sustainability and replicability of LIFE projects are key elements. There are many factors to consider**

- Size of potential market
- Potential cost savings
- Potential optimization of current production
- Size of potential market share
- Potential volume of commercial application
- Job creation etc.

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The next steps to refine the study

- Enlarging the sample
- Digging deeper into the data
- Use Data Mining methods to extract information
- Collect Surveys feedback from monitors and beneficiaries
- Perform Cluster analysis
- Evaluating the financing options
- Possibilities of interaction with initiatives such as EFSI
- Recommendations for enhancing LIFE replication
- Construct a Composite Index to evaluate replicability...

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Thank you!

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>

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NOTES

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