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Life

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LIFE - III

The Financial Instrument for the Environment

Launched in 1992, LIFE (The Financial Instrument for the Environment) is one of the spearheads of Community environment policy.

LIFE cofinances environmental initiatives in the European Union and certain third countries bordering on the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea, and in those EU candidate countries that have decided to participate.

To read **full details of the history of environmental funding in the EU** and **further background details about the LIFE programme**, click [here](#).

For a chronology of legislative and other important documents relating to the LIFE programme, click [here](#).



Essential facts about LIFE

Financing

400 million euros were allocated for the first phase (1992-1995), approximately 450 million euros were allocated for the second phase (1996-1999), the third phase, "LIFE III" (2000-2004) had a budget of 640 million euro. LIFE III was extended (2005-2006) by Regulation (EC) No 1682/2004 of 15 September 2004 with a budget of 317 million euro.

Objectives

LIFE contributes to the implementation, development and enhancement of the Community environmental policy and legislation as well as the integration of the environment into other EU policies. LIFE also supports the development of new solutions to environmental problems facing the EU. LIFE works towards the implementation of Community policy defined by the [Sixth Action Programme for the Environment](#) based on a practical approach.

Participation

LIFE is open to all 'legal persons'; projects financed by LIFE must meet the following general criteria.

1. Correspond to the priorities established at Community level and contribute to the objectives defined above;
2. Be submitted by technically and financially sound participants;
3. Be feasible in terms of technical content, timetable and budget and offer good value for money

Thematic approach

LIFE consists of three thematic components: [LIFE-Nature](#), [LIFE-Environment](#) and [LIFE-Third countries](#).

Calls for proposals

Each year a call for proposals is published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ). Proposals are sent via the Member States and evaluated by the Commission, which is responsible for the financial control and monitoring of the implementation of LIFE projects. Accompanying measures ensure the on-site monitoring of projects, dissemination of results and, in the case of LIFE-Nature, encourage certain forms of cooperation and exchange of experiences between similar projects (Starter and Co-op measures).

Projects

2478 LIFE projects were supported from 1992 to 2004:

- 876 LIFE-Nature projects,
- 1404 LIFE-Environment projects,
- 198 LIFE-Third Countries projects

To search for information on projects, go to the [Projects Database](#).



For more background information, visit:

- [History of LIFE](#)
- [Chronology of legislative and other important documents](#)
- [LIFE-Nature](#)
- ["Starter" and "Co-op"](#)
- [LIFE-Environment](#)
- [LIFE-Third countries](#)

Read also:

- [Community environmental Policy](#)
- [Natura 2000](#)

■ **LIFE brochure**  (~3.4 MB)

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