

EU LIFE2018 Information and Networking Day

4 May 2018

Follow-up to the Sli.do questions

Please read carefully the applicants packages that are published under the <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2018/index.htm>

More Frequently Ask Questions are available on <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2018/faq.htm>

Please note that the questions were not edited; therefore some spelling mistakes or syntax weaknesses may be detected.

General

Questions	Answers
Is the national allocation of budget maintained?	No. The national allocation mechanism has not been renewed in the new Multi-annual Work Programme 2018-2020.
Can universities and university colleges apply within this programme?	Yes. A proposal may be submitted by any legal person (private or public organisation) registered in the European Union
Regarding affiliate institutions: what if they are from non-EU member states such as Switzerland? Are they eligible?	Affiliated entities need to comply with the eligibility and non-exclusion criteria applying to applicants and should have a structural link with the beneficiary concerned (i.e. a legal or capital link) that is neither limited to the project nor established for the sole purpose of the project implementation (so the link would exist independently of the award of the grant; it should exist before the call for proposals and remain valid after the end of the project).
Can the same consortium be eligible for different LIFE subprograms? e.g.: LIFE NGO Grant, LIFE Environment and LIFE Climate Action	Yes, this is possible. Please be reminded that the beneficiaries must inform the Contracting Authority about any related funding they have received from the EU budget, as well as any related ongoing applications for funding from the EU budget. The beneficiaries must also check that they are not receiving on-going operating grants from LIFE (or other EU programmes) that could lead to double financing.

What is the minimum amount of entities allowed in a LIFE project? 2 or 3?	There is no minimum number of associated beneficiaries. A proposal can be submitted by a single applicant.
---	--

Evaluation of projects

Is "Replication and transfer" argumentation enough for transnational collaboration?	Replication and transfer can be instrumental to the transnational character of the proposal if relevant entities in other countries are engaging in concrete replication and transfer actions in the framework of the project activities.
'Replication' has become a prominent element e.g. in Life IP, but also traditional projects. What is Commission's expectations to the outcome of replication?	The replication is essential to ensure significant long-term environmental and/or climate benefits. The applicant should ensure that the replication/transfer strategy is concrete ambitious and credible and that this strategy is implemented thanks to a series of actions.
Which is the percentage of success?	The percentage of success varies at each call and for specific priority area. In 2017, it ranged from a minimum of 20% (environment and resource efficiency) to a maximum of 40% (nature and biodiversity). In 2017, on average, the success rate has been of 29%.
What will be the role (if any) of the national authorities in reviewing the project concepts?	The national authorities are not involved in proposals' evaluation. They can be consulted by the potential applicants.
Is it compulsory a transnational consortium to get the higher punctuation in transnational evaluation criteria?	The evaluation of the transnationality will depend on the consortium and the role of each beneficiary, and the expected environmental/climate impact in the different EU member states targeted by the project.
Is co funding of the project by relevant stakeholders a surplus point in the evaluation?	There is no criterion assessing the co-funding by stakeholders. Please note that the involvement of the relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of the action is assessed under the Award criterion 1 at the full proposal stage.
How many EU member states does the project have to be successful in?	In the Guidelines for Applicants, there is no requirement to implement action in more than 1 EU member states. However transnationality is an EU added-value. Please refer to the sections 1.6.7 and 1.6.10 of the guidelines for applicants under the sub-programme Environment and 1.5.7 and 1.5.10 of the Guidelines for applicant LIFE Climate Action.
What are the most important reasons for rejection and the most important success factors for proposals	The list of reasons were presented during the EU LIFE2018 Information session. Please refer to the presentation delivered that can be found at

	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m0X1n4R_Aq1AjVTgVFs8eSP4qfQda-Se
--	---

2-stage application process

Site for replicability: should it be contextualized in the concept note?	Ideally yes. At the Concept Note level, the replication/transfer action should be included; however due to space limitation the information on the sites must be synthetic and as much as possible comprehensive.
What is the probability to be successful at stage 2 when you will have been granted to pass stage 1?	Concept note will be ranked by merit. The list of applicants invited to submit a full proposal will include the best ranked concept notes for which the sum of the EU contributions requested 2 to 2.5 times the available budget.
Are close to market proposals under Environment and Resource Efficiency under the two stage or one stage process?	Environment and Resource Efficiency priority area is under the 2-stage application procedure.
Is better put the name of the partner in the concept note or only the expected role in the project (without concrete name of partner)? Do we need to specify the identity of all the associated beneficiaries in the concept note or could be possible to define "profiles" to be completed in stage 2?	It is important to include the information enabling the evaluation of the feasibility and the partners' roles are indeed essential. There is a specific tab under the Form B1 to insert the project partnership, its structure and list the various associated beneficiaries and role. There is no specific forms to include the details of the associated beneficiaries. The fact that main partners is not yet identified at level of the concept note may question the maturity of the project design.
Now that the process is 2-stage, does this imply any difference about the negotiations that used to happen in 1-stage submission process?	No. There is no difference regarding the revision phase that will be conducted on the proposals recommended to be funded, after the conclusion of the Award phase stage.
Budget changes Regarding the concise concept note, why submit a detailed budget that we are only allowed to change 10% in the full proposal? What are the limits for budget change between the 2 stages?	The budget to be submitted at the level of Concept Note is not detailed. It is limited to the main items (overall amounts per cost category). The applicants that will be invited to submit a full proposal will have to provide a detailed budget. If deemed necessary, the budget can be changed. The only limitation is a maximum increase of 10% of the requested EU contribution. Please be reminded that any major changes should be detailed in a specific tab under the Form A7 at the full stage.
Why did you start simplification with environment and not climate?	We are piloting the 2-stage approach for the Environment sub-programme, where most proposals are received. If successful, we will consider expanding

	it to the Climate action.
How about the number of figures that could be added in 1st stage? Is there any limit- based on the limit 10-page proposal? Thanks!	At the concept note level, eProposal does not allow to upload any figures, attachments and pictures. Only text is possible.
About the integrated projects, there is also a 2 stages application. What is then the difference with traditional project application ?	For the Integrated Projects, the applicants are not submitting in eProposal. In addition, the evaluation process and criteria are different.
Partnership changes Is it possible to modify the partnership between stage 1 and stage 2? Can you switch the co-ordinating beneficiary from a UK registered entity to a EU registered entity after the submission of the concept note?	Changes in the partnership including the coordinating beneficiary are possible but please note that such changes are considered a major alteration to the proposal and may lead to unequal treatment of proposers or call into question the passing to the 2 nd stage. Such changes should be explained in Form A7.
Which is the minimum score to pass to the 2 stage?	The minimum overall score is 15; the minimum score for Award 1 is 5 and for Award 2 is 10.
Will you provide feedback on the concept note to project passing to step 2? If yes, how detailed will it be?	Yes. A concise evaluation report will be provided with the main strengths and weaknesses of the Concept Note. This report will be around one page.
Is the call exclusive during waiting period and after invitation to send full proposal?	Yes. After the closing dates of the Concept Note stage, eProposal will not be accessible to the applicants that are not invited to submit a full proposal.

Close-to-market

Are the projects close to market still so important? Is the probability of funding for these projects higher?	No, there is no higher probability to get funds for close to market projects.
Can you give a definition of close to market project? How will the evaluators decide that a proposal is close to market?	Close to market projects are defined in the Guidelines for applicants 2018 LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency under section 2.3.1.
Will close-to-market proposals receive special attention during the evaluation process?	All proposals receive the same attention during the evaluation process
Which TRL should have a LIFE proposal to have more possibilities to be financed?	As a general principle (independently from the TLR), higher is the extent and quality of the environmental expected impacts higher is the chance for a project to be successful in the evaluation process. Of course, granted that the other main award criteria are addressed by the proposal.

Finance

Is the life funding reduced from 60% to 55% for all types of partners and for both life environment and life climate?	The co-funding rate is not applied to an individual partner but is considered at project level. The reduction from 60% to 55% applies to both sub-programme environment and climate action. LIFE Nature and Biodiversity priority area, capacity building and integrated projects are exempted by this reduction.
Did I hear correctly that 25% of eligible costs have to be dedicated to conservation?	Under the Nature and Biodiversity priority area, one of the eligibility criteria is that "At least 25% of the total eligible budget of a <i>LIFE Nature</i> or <i>LIFE Biodiversity</i> project must concern "concrete conservation" actions". Please refer to the specific guidelines for applicants 2018 LIFE Nature and Biodiversity under section 2.4.1.
Are company operating revenues to be considered as co-financing?	If generated during the project this may be part of the 'own funding'
As for simplification, are there any thoughts about introducing pre-financing modalities similar to those in H2020? That would make LIFE attractive.	Simplifications for the next LIFE programme have not yet been finalised and decided.
Can a co-financer be added during the implementation of a project?	Yes. This is possible.
In which cost category should 'dissemination cost' be listed?	Under 'Other costs'
Are financing investment considered as eligible costs? Same question for operation costs such as purchases for operation?	Costs related to financing (loans) are not eligible, operating costs are normally covered under the indirect cost flat rate.
Is purchase of R&D studies an eligible costs?	These costs could be, in principle, eligible when needed for the implementation of the project. However, these costs should not be substantial, as the LIFE programme does not support R&D projects. The rationale for a R&D study should be explained. Depending on the subject of the project, its implementation and role and importance of R&D subcontracted, an external study may indicate a weakness (e.g. lack of knowledge or skills by the proposed consortia).
Can start-up company (less than 3 years old) answer to the call?	Yes, it can participate.
Is the rental of a plot of land eligible cost on ENV-RE to dry river deposits/mud Rental in cheaper than transport to waste treatment plant. (see also under "Specific questions")	From a financial point of view rental costs are eligible under subcontracting if deemed necessary for the implementation. However, under ENV-RE, land purchase/Long-term lease of land/one-off compensations are not eligible costs.
Could you please deeply explain differences between durable goods and	First you should recall that state of the art technology is not used for

<p>prototypes in terms of concept and cost eligibility?</p>	<p>prototype applications since state of the art technology has already been tested and its technical and cost efficiency been demonstrated. As stated in the application guide, a prototype is an infrastructure and/or equipment specifically created for the implementation of the project and that has never been commercialised and is not available as a serial product and its technical feasibility needs still to be demonstrated.</p> <p>If the technology can be considered a prototype, it may not be used for commercial purposes during the LIFE of the project as stipulated in Art. II.19.2 of the LIFE Model Grant Agreement. If the technology is used in a commercial context, the prototype costs would have to be depreciated in accordance with the rules applicable to the purchase of new or second-hand equipment and infrastructure.</p>
<p>What is the minimum and maximum amount of possible funding?</p>	<p>There is no fixed minimum size for project budgets. While large ambitious projects (i.e. over 5,000,000 Euro total costs) have been financed several times in the past, small projects (i.e. below 500,000 Euro total costs) have seldom succeeded due to the limited output and consequently the low added value.</p>
<p>Tax credits that are eligible for particular countries in H2020 projects, are eligible also for LIFE projects?</p>	<p>Tax credits (in the context of social security) could be eligible as they are under H2020, however, in case of a re-fund the year after, the pro-rata part related to the project costs need to be declared under the revenue side.</p>

Integrated Projects

<p>Could you detail what are exactly the differences between traditional project and integrated projet? And, is the amount of money available different?</p>	<p>There are two specific call for proposals for Integrated Projects under the two sub-programmes Environment and Climate action.</p> <p>Integrated Projects shall aim towards the full implementation of the targeted plan or strategy. In particular, the IP shall include some strategic actions to catalyse a process and mobilise supplementary commitments and funding that will lead, in due time, to the full implementation of the plan or strategy.</p> <p>IP should target large territorial scale, in particular, regional, multi-regional,</p>
--	---

	<p>national or trans-national scale, Integrated Projects shall promote the coordination with and mobilisation of other relevant Union, national or private funding sources for the implementation of the complementary measures or actions outside of the Integrated Project in the framework of the targeted plan or strategy, giving preference to Union funding. Within the IP itself, however, co-funding may not come from other Union funding sources.</p> <p>Integrated Projects shall ensure that the main stakeholders are actively involved in the design and implementation of the given project. This involvement is expected to be achieved by including them - where possible and reasonable - as associated beneficiaries of the IP, or through their active participation in the implementation of the IP itself and/or of the complementary actions.</p>
Does the principle of no national allocation also apply to integrated projects? E.g. can a member state be granted more than one IP for climate action?	The national allocation mechanism for the Integrated Project is different. Please refer as well to the section 5 'Set up of the "Preliminary Long Lists" of the Guide for the evaluation of the LIFE Integrated Project proposals 2018 that explain how the conditions set out in the LIFE regulation apply.
Will evaluators of a Life IP concept note know the contents the (approved) Technical Assistance application? Can you deviate from it? Build on it?	The evaluation is done based on the information provided in the concept note. The evaluators are not looking to the Technical Assistance project.

Technical questions

Is there a general database where you can find all the approved project since the start of this LIFE-programme?	The LIFE website contains a database with all projects funded since 1992. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm
If you get stuck in eProposal (websites freezes, some buttons don't seem to work), is there a Helpdesk telephone number you can call? Is there a manual?	The information related to eProposal is included in the Guidelines for Applicants. There is a contact email eProposal Help Desk: env-clima-life-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu