



Nordic-Baltic InterLIFE 2026



News on LIFE

2026-2027 calls 😊

2028 and beyond? ☹️

László Bécsy, CINEA

Vihula, 10 September 2026

LIFE calls and main dates



LIFE Calls for proposals 2026 - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
Which call and subprogramme?

- **Closing of 2026 main call:**

22 September 2026

✓ Except for Strategic Projects:

3 September 2026 (Stage one)

✓ Except for LIFE CET:

16 September 2026

- **Publication of 2027 main call:**

April 2027

- **Standard Action Projects (SAPs)**

- LIFE Nature & Biodiversity
- LIFE Climate Action
- LIFE Circular Economy & Quality of Life

- **Strategic Projects (SIP and SNAP)**

- LIFE Nature & Biodiversity
- LIFE Climate Action
- LIFE Circular Economy & Quality of Life

- **TA – PP**

- LIFE Nature & Biodiversity
- LIFE Climate Action
- LIFE Circular Economy & Quality of Life

- **Other Actions: Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)**

- LIFE Clean Energy Transition

- **Other Actions: Policy and Legislative Priority Projects (PLPs)**

- **NGO Framework Partnership Agreements and Specific Grant Agreements**

Indicative budgets 2026 (in EUR)



Activity	SIP/SNAP	SAP - GOV	SAP Bauhaus	SAP - other	LIFE CET grants	LIFE CET IBA	TA-PP	TA-PLP	NGO
Percentage of first pre-financing	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	60%	30%	60%
09 02 01 - Nature and Biodiversity	75.000.000	7.500.000	3.000.000	166.000.000	0	0	500.000	10.000.000	6.500.000
09 02 02 - Circular Economy and Quality of Life	58.000.000	6.500.000	1.000.000	75.000.000	0	0	300.000	3.500.000	2.750.000
09 02 03 - Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	30.000.000	4.000.000	0	56.000.000	0	0	200.000	0	2.500.000
09 02 04 - Clean Energy Transition	0	0	0	0	85.550.000	5.500.000	0	4.500.000	2.750.000
TOTAL	163.000.000	18.000.000	4.000.000	297.000.000	85.550.000	5.500.000	1.000.000	18.000.000	14.500.000

And the future *beyond* 2028?



LIFE actions in NRPP and ECF? ...

NRPP (European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security) – shared management

EC proposal:

- NRP Plans should include strategic projects based on LIFE projects
- EU Facility (**direct management by EC**), Annex XV – point n :
“**LIFE actions** including strategic nature projects, strategic integrated projects and **strategic** action projects that address environmental policy priorities with a cross-border or transnational dimension”

Council proposal:

- EU Facility: “.... and **standard** action projects ...”



And the future? - ECF



ECF (European Competitiveness Fund) – direct management by the EC

EC proposal – Art 33. 1 a) eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0555

***"LIFE activities"**: providing support to bottom-up projects for the demonstration, testing and market uptake of innovative solutions and best practices in clean transition and industrial decarbonisation and awareness raising on climate to relevant governance levels."*

Council proposal – Article 33 1 a) <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10625-2026-INIT/en/pdf>

***"LIFE activities"**: providing support to bottom-up projects and all relevant stakeholders for the demonstration, testing and market uptake of innovative solutions and for developing best practices in the clean transition and industrial decarbonisation, including circular economy, nature and biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation and clean energy transition, as well as awareness raising on climate and environment to all relevant governance levels and stakeholders;"*

And the future? EP-Council



- **EP Budget Committee (30/04)** calls for dedicated and predictable funding for LIFE projects in the next MFF, earmark €3 billion for LIFE actions under ECF and €2.4 billion under the NRPP EU Facility. Clear signal : discontinuing the LIFE programme as a standalone fund in the MFF proposals would be a strategic mistake. However, they stopped short of explicitly calling for a standalone LIFE programme.
- **NRPP: ENVI committee amendments** call for a dedicated amount of funding but not for a LIFE standalone programme. No info on other amendments ...
 - vote in BUDG Committee in November 2026; adoption in EP plenary in December 2026.
- **ECF: Over 3,800 amendments**, including requests for earmarking and for a standalone LIFE programme.
 - vote in ITRE on 10 September 2026; plenary vote foreseen for 19–22 October 2026.
- **ENVI Council (26/06):** ‘LIFE is beautiful’: 14 member states back ring-fenced environmental funding in next EU budget
- *Trilogues and adoption sometime in 2027, but programming work starts soon ...*



Thank you!



Updates from the Commission

Diarmaid Ó CUANACHÁIN, DG ENV

10 September 2026

Nature Restoration Regulation

- Deadline for submission of draft National Restoration Plans has now passed (1 September 2026)
- Still waiting to receive all submissions.
- The Commission now has six months analyse the draft NRPs with the support of the European Environment Agency.
- After which the Member States will have another six months to revise. The final NRPs will be completed within one year.

First National Restoration Plan

- Contains information on how Member States intends to meet each of the restoration targets up to 2030.
- Providing a strategic overview of targets and actions planned in 2040 and 2050.
- They must correspond to the individual targets and obligations (terrestrial, marine, agricultural, urban, etc.)
- They will need to include (Article 15 NRR)
 - quantification of the area to be restored
 - a description of the restoration measures planned
 - an indication of non-deterioration measures
 - timing of putting restoration measures in place
- These will subsequently be reviewed in **2032** and **2042, including supplementary measures..**

European Natura 2000 Award 8th Edition



To the heroes
of nature
conservation

#Natura2000

FINALIST 7TH NATURA 2000 AWARD EDITION: *Nest boxes
for raptors in Natura 2000 farmland: demonstrating the biological
control of the common vole in Spain*



What is the application process?



Application forms are available in all EU languages



Applications can be submitted via Natura 2000 Award Website until 30 September 2026



Applications are assessed by an independent evaluation team



Finalists announced in early March 2027



High-level jury selects winners

21 May 2026

Call for applications launched

30 September 2026

Application deadline

March – April 2027

Online public vote

May 2027

Award Ceremony

All types of public and private organisations managing Natura 2000 sites are eligible to apply

Award categories



Conservation on land

Habitat types / species must be in Habitats Directive Annex I and/or Birds Directive Annex I or regularly occurring migratory bird

Terrestrial species



Marine & coastal Organisations

Habitat types / species must be in Habitats Directive Annex I and/or Birds Directive Annex I or regularly occurring migratory bird

Marine or coastal species



Public engagement

Focus on communication measures and awareness raising around Natura 2000 Network



Towns & cities

Urban and peri-urban sites

Stepping stone habitats

Urban citizens' involvement



Community benefits

Socio-economic, cultural, heritage values...

Stemming from Natura 2000



Citizens' Award

The public's favourite finalist



Why apply?

Get the recognition you deserve



Get the recognition
you deserve



Show-case your
efforts to a Europe-
wide audience



Connect with Natura
2000 practitioners,
policymakers, and
stakeholders



Questions on the Natura 2000 Award



Visit the Natura 2000 Award Website:
https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/natura-2000-award_en



Contact the Natura 2000 Award Secretariat
[**n2000awards@adelphi.de**](mailto:n2000awards@adelphi.de)



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