

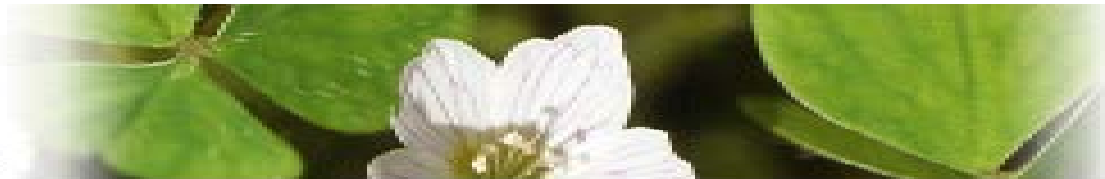


An introduction to the **LIFE Programme 2014-2020**

Seosamh Ó Laoi
IE LIFE National Contact Point

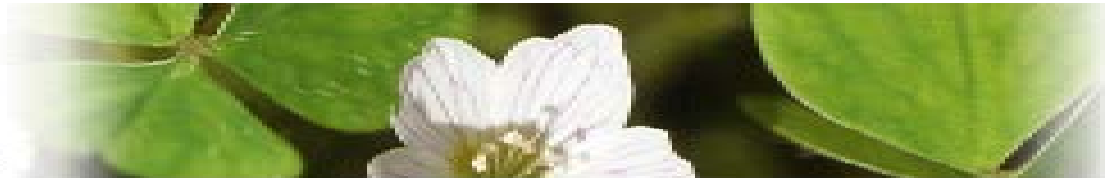


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Environment, Community and Local Government



What is the LIFE Programme ?

- **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 feedback and final evaluation, more than 3100 projects funded



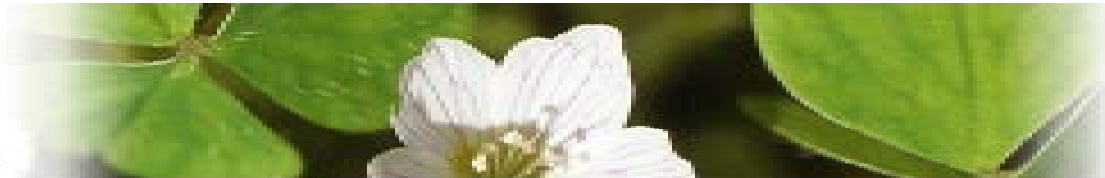
LIFE: Then and Now

LIFE 1992-2013: more than 3100 projects in the fields of

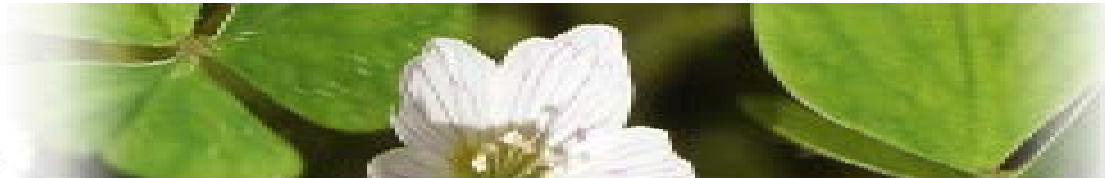
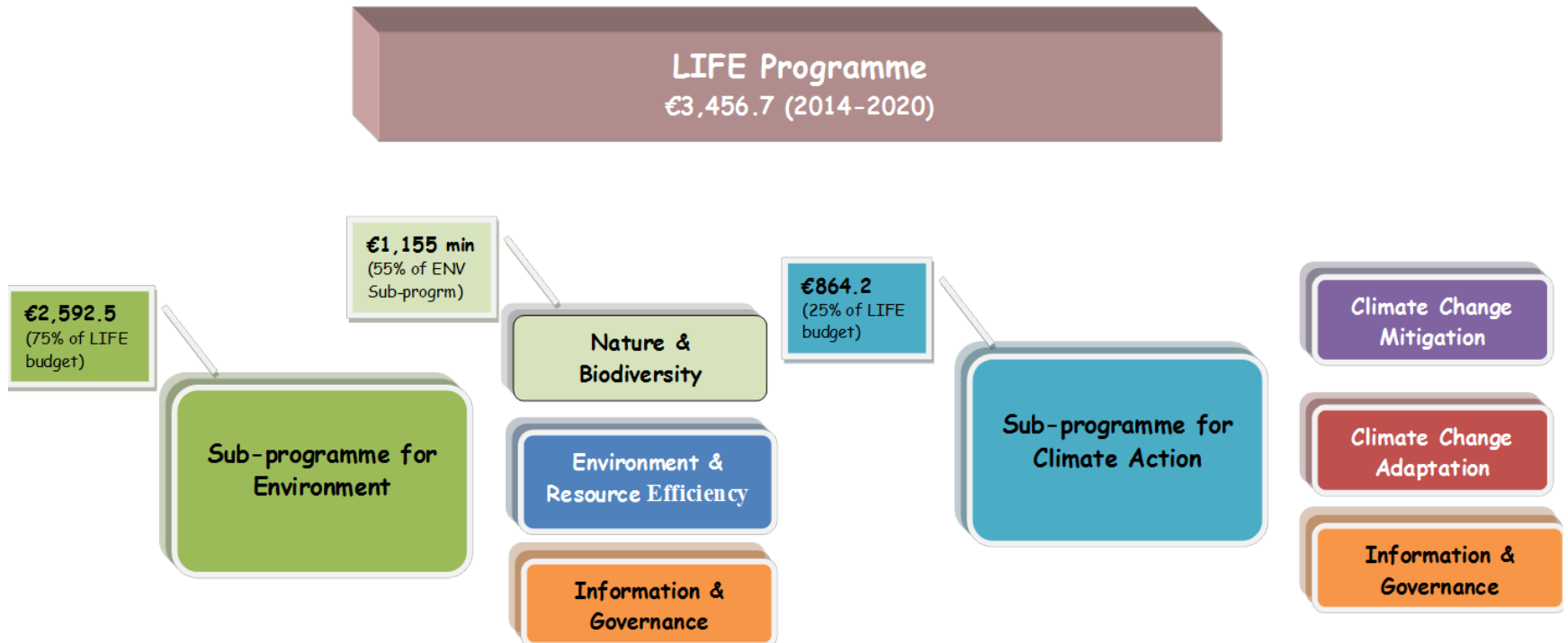
- **nature & biodiversity**
- other **environmental protection**
- **information and governance**

LIFE 2014 to 2020, subdivided in:

- Sub-programme for **environment**
- Sub-programme for **climate action**



Structure for 2014-2020



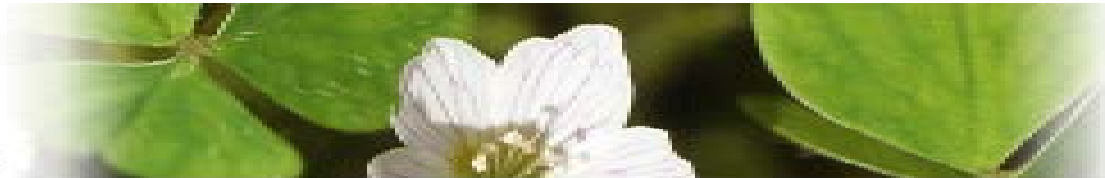
LIFE 2014-2020 - Overview

Sub-programme for Environment

- Environment & Resource Efficiency (ENV)
- Nature & Biodiversity (NAT, BIO)
- Environmental Governance & Information (GIE)

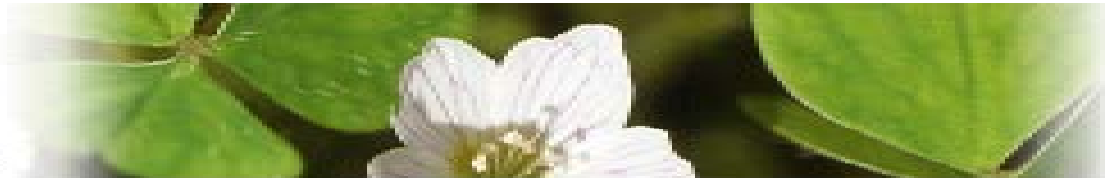
Sub-programme for Climate Action

- Climate Change Mitigation (CMM)
- Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
- Climate Change Governance and Information (GIC)



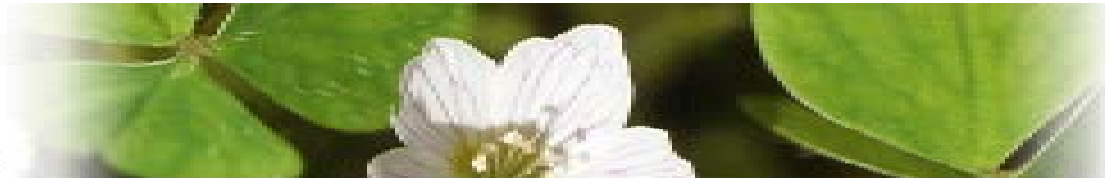
LIFE: The Legal Framework

- The **LIFE Regulation** (Regulation (EU) 1293/2013 of 20/12/2013)
- The **LIFE multiannual work programme 2014-2017 [MAWP]** (Commission Decision of 19/03/2014)
- The Action/Operating **grant agreements** of beneficiaries with the Contracting Authority or agreements of recipients with banks



Objectives of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020

- **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**
- the implementation of the **7th Environment Action Programme**



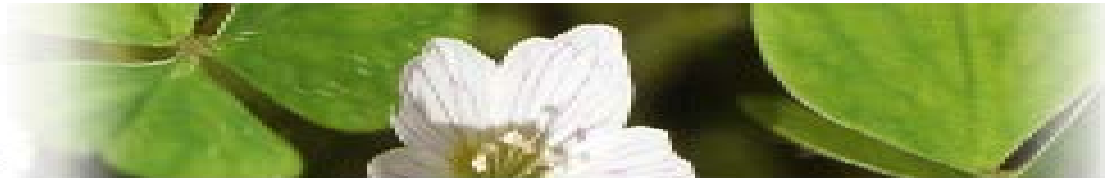
LIFE 2014-2020: The Budget

- 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**
- **Nature & Biodiversity** including related governance and information at **least 55% of Env sub-programme**
- Sub-programme for **Climate Action €0.69 billion**
- **Operating grants** to environmental and climate NGOs
€63 million



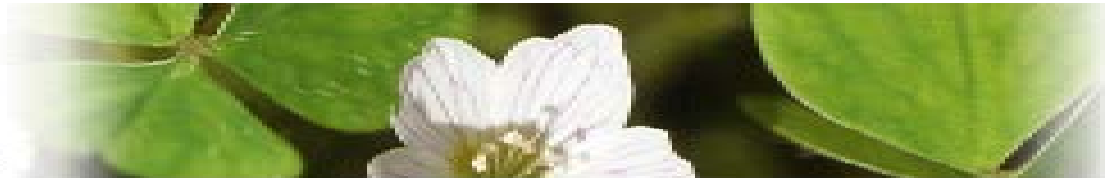
National Allocations

- For the duration of the first multiannual work programme (2014-2017), national allocations applicable only to traditional projects under the ENV sub-programme
 - **IE allocation 2014-17 = €11,458,751**
 - **UK allocation 2014-17 = €74,254,393**
- From the second multiannual work programme (2018-2020), national allocations are phased out, selection is only merit based
- Selection for traditional projects under the Climate sub-programme merit based only for the duration of the whole Programme (2014-2020)



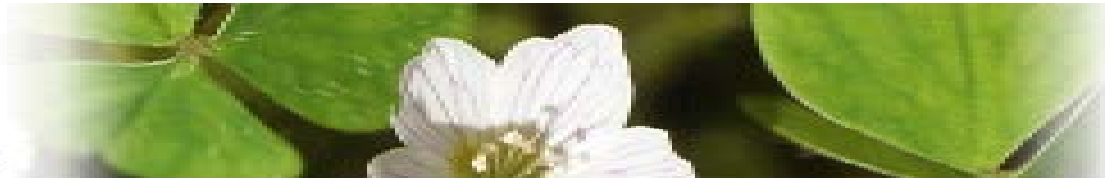
LIFE 2014-2020:Overview

- **E-Proposal** submission tool for traditional projects
- Separate **application** and **evaluation guidelines**
- **External evaluators**
- **Monitoring teams**
- **No research** or only limited investment for project implementation
- Emphasis on **replicability/transferability** of project results



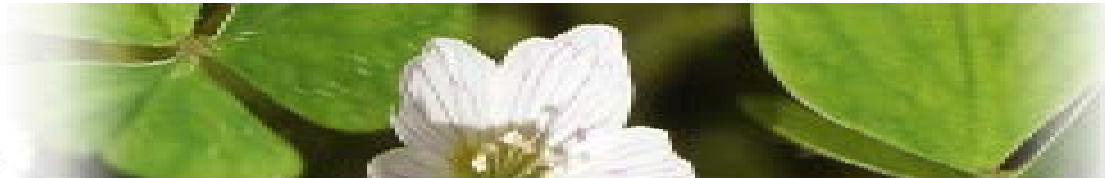
LIFE 2014-2020: Overview

- A **new priority area: Climate Action**: Mitigation and Adaptation
- **Multi-annual work programmes** MAWP (4+3 years)
- **New types of projects**: Integrated, technical assistance, capacity building, preparatory projects
- **Project topics** for traditional projects under the sub-programme for environment
- **Governance** component = from INF to GIE/GIC
- **Innovative financial instruments** = NCFF, PF4EE



LIFE 2014-2020: Overview

- **Funding rate:** max 60% of eligible costs 2014-17 55% for 2018-2020;
- **Actors:**
 - ✓ **EASME** for grants except ENV Integrated Projects;
 - ✓ **EIB**/intermediary banks for financial instruments;
 - ✓ **National Contact Points** role explicitly acknowledged in the LIFE Regulation
- **Submission directly to EASME/European Commission** and no LIFE Committee vote on the list (+ no national priorities and comments)



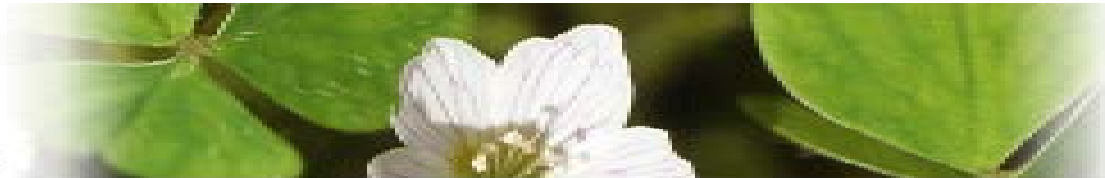
The Types of Funding: overview

Projects

- Action grants for both traditional projects and Integrated Projects (a new element of LIFE); technical assistance grants for IPs; capacity building grants
- Innovative financial instruments to finance projects (Natural Capital Financial Facility & Private Finance for Energy Efficiency).

Operating grants and Other types of funding

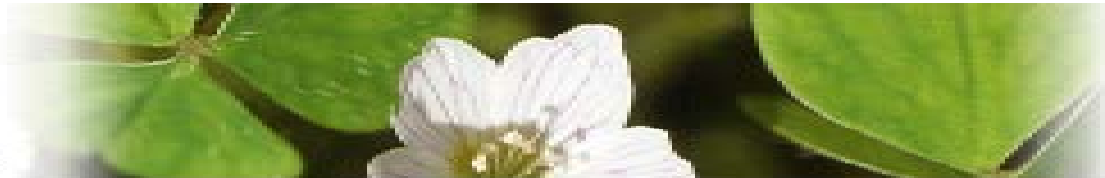
- Operating Grants (NGOs, IMPEL)- no earmarking but about 3% of the Programme - 70% co-financing rate;
- Other types of funding - public procurement (e.g., studies, conferences, service contracts, technical assistance for the monitoring of LIFE, etc.)- no earmarking but about 15% of the Programme



Types of Projects

At **least 81%** of the budget for the Programme (approx. €2.8 billion):

- **Traditional projects:** best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects (similar to LIFE+)
- **Integrated projects:** projects aimed at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air
- **Technical assistance grants:** to facilitate the start up phase of an Integrated Project
- **Capacity building grants:** financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE (not applicable to Ireland)



Types of Projects: Traditional

Who can apply?

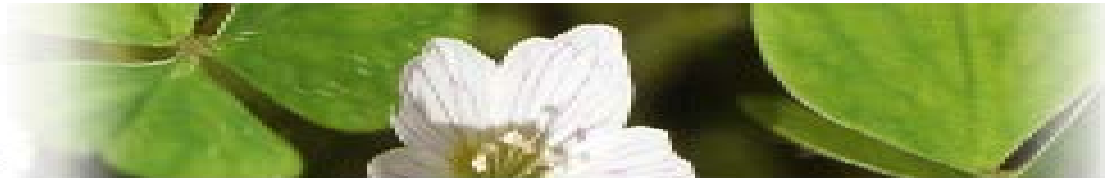
- SMEs, NGOs, Universities, public bodies. Individuals cannot apply.

What project topics are covered by the programme?

- Specific project topics for all programmes except Climate Action. (See MAWP or guidelines). Projects meeting one or more of the project topics are awarded extra marks during assessment
- General priorities published by DG Clima annually and published in Climate Action programme guidelines. No extra marks available

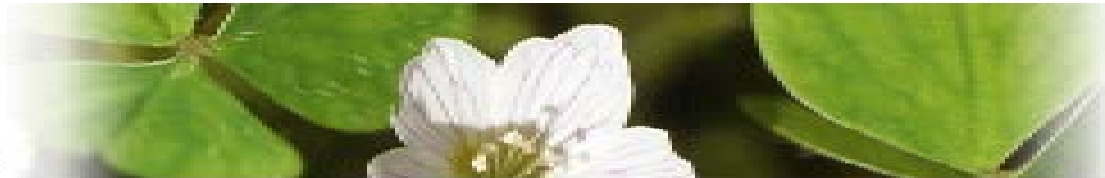
What is the average project size?

- 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €500,000 to €1.5m, 3 to 5 years ... but larger and longer projects possible



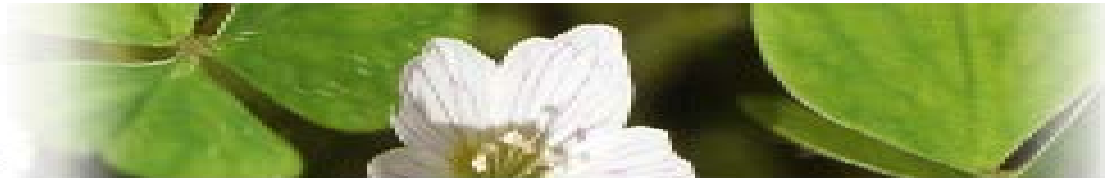
Max EU co-financing Rates

- **Traditional Projects** under the sub-programme of Climate Action and traditional projects under the sub-programme for Environment (Environment & Resources Efficiency and Environment Governance & Information Projects):
 - 60% co-financing during the first multiannual work programme (2014-2017)
 - 55% co-financing during the second multiannual work programme (2018-2020)
- Traditional **Nature** and **Biodiversity** Projects: **60% co-financing** but **75% for projects targeting priority habitats & species**
- **Integrated projects** and **technical assistance** projects: 60% co-financing
- **Capacity building projects**: 100% co-financing (not applicable to Ireland or UK)



Co-funding options

- Projects have one coordinating beneficiary and can have any number of associated beneficiaries. **Each beneficiary must provide funding and must have a role in the project.**
- Finance can also be provided by Co-financiers. No requirement for a co-financier to have a formal role in a project.
- Staff time can be used as a means of co-finance. Public bodies should be aware of 2% rule.
- In-kind payments are not possible under LIFE financial rules. Transactions must be transparent and be fully auditable.
- No-profit rule.
- Crucial in order to avoid problems during implementation that all financial transactions are transparent, realistic and that co-funding commitments from partners are absolutely nailed down.



Types of Projects: Integrated

Who should apply?

- 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.

What can a project cover?

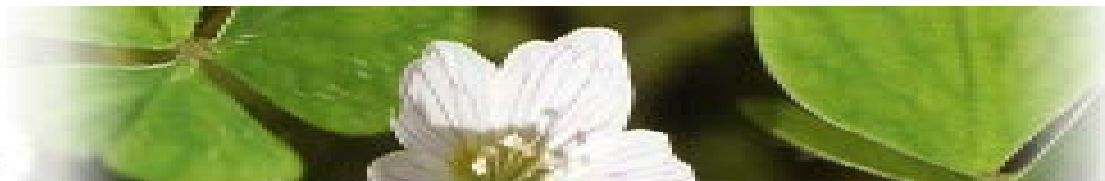
- Implementing Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017); large scale; complementary actions with additional co-funding; involvement stakeholders

Average size?

- **Several beneficiaries; EU contribution: ~10 M€; 5-8 years long**

Co-funding rate = 60%

Three IPs per MS envisaged in the period 2014-2020.



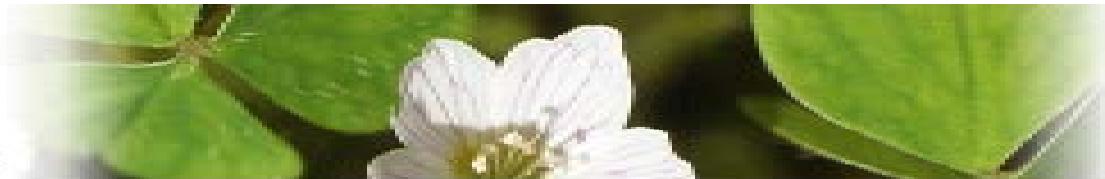


The Environment Sub-Programme

Seosamh Ó Laoi,
LIFE National Contact Point



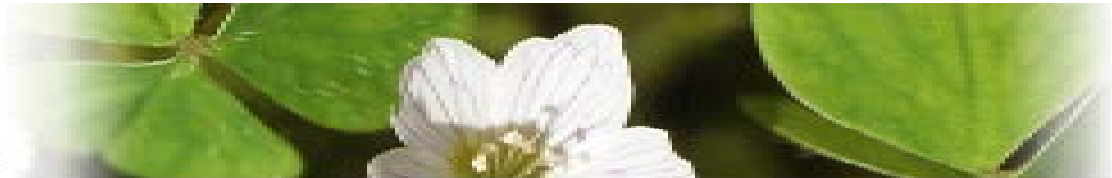
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Sub-programme for Environment

Structure:

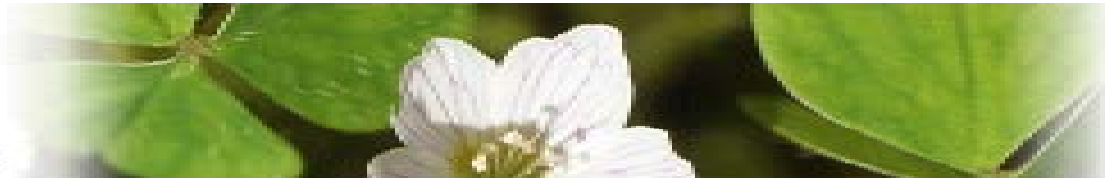
- Environment & Resource Efficiency
- Nature and Biodiversity
- Environmental Governance & Information



Sub-programme for Environment

Thematic Priorities for funding (defined in Annex III):

- Thematic Priorities for **Nature** and for **Biodiversity**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Water**, including the marine environment;
- Thematic Priorities for **Waste**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Resource Efficiency**, including soil and forests and green and circular economy;
- Thematic Priorities for **Environment** and **Health**, including chemicals and noise;
- Thematic Priorities for **Air Quality** and **Emissions**, including the urban environment;
- Thematic Priorities for **Information** and **Governance**



Sub-programme for Environment

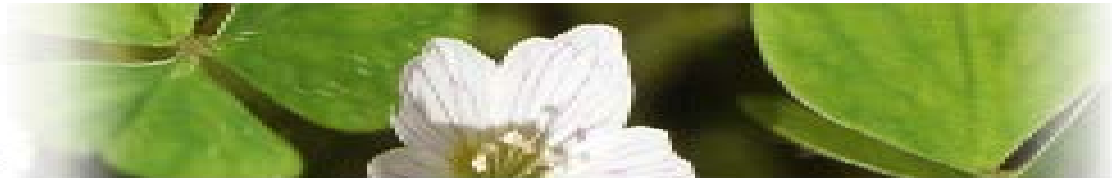
ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

What for?

- ✓ Innovative/demonstrative/pilot projects for all environmental sectors

Pay attention to

- Climate related projects are covered by CLIMA sub programme
- Project topics
- Potential overlap with Horizon2020 (guidance in 'Orientation' doc in 2014 application pack)



Sub-programme for Environment

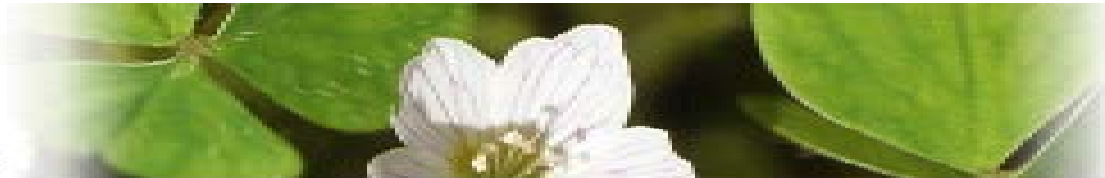
NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

What for?

- ✓ Birds and Habitats Directives
- ✓ Biodiversity strategy

Pay attention to:

- Demonstration/Innovation not obligatory for BIO, but ...
... Read project topics carefully!
- Avoid ongoing and recurrent actions
- At least 25% Concrete Conservation Actions (CCA)



Sub-programme for Environment

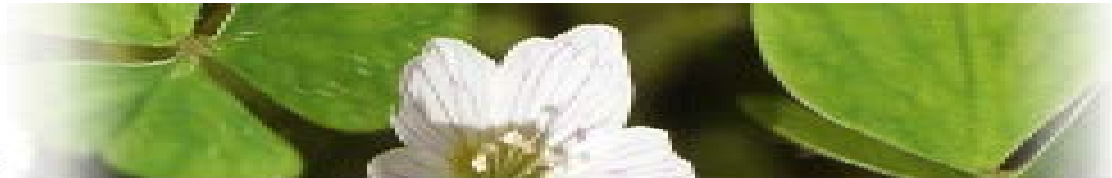
Governance and Information

What for?

- Information and awareness raising; control and compliance.

Pay attention to

- Project topics (more top down approach)
- New Governance and Enforcement area



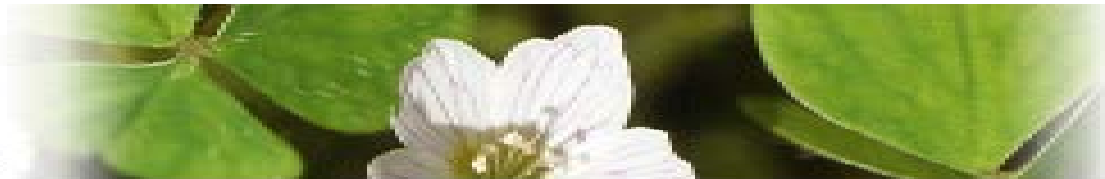


The Climate Action Sub-Programme

Seosamh Ó Laoi,
LIFE National Contact Point



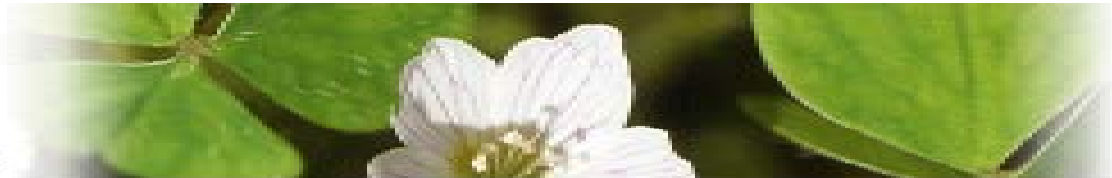
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Sub-programme for Climate Action

Structure:

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Governance & Information



Sub-programme for Climate Action

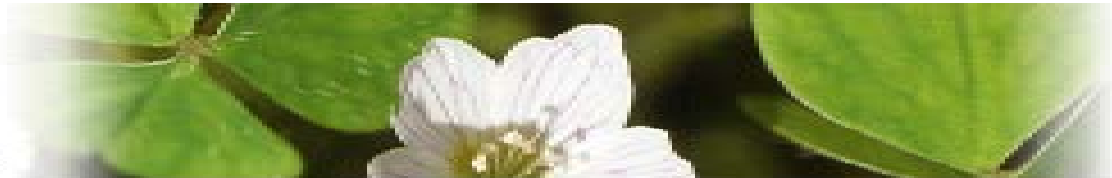
Priority areas and their objectives:

- **Climate Change Mitigation** contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- **Climate Change Adaptation** supports efforts leading to increased resilience to climate change
- LIFE Climate Governance and Information

Specific objectives:

Implement and develop Union policy and legislation and mainstream activities across policy areas

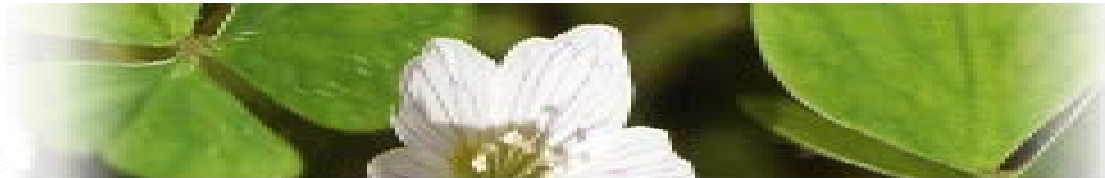
- Improve and apply knowledge base in practice
- Develop and implement integrated strategies and action plans
- Develop and demonstrate innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments for replication, transfer or mainstreaming



Sub-programme for Climate Action

Climate change adaptation: Priority areas

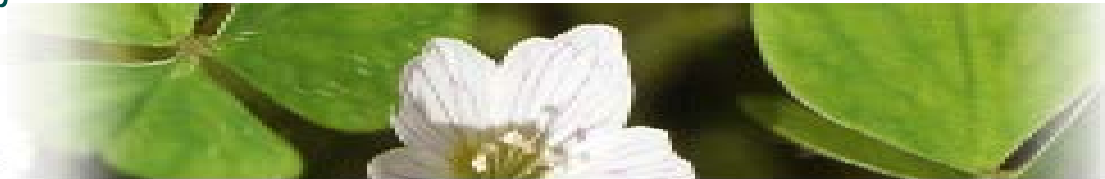
- **Vulnerable areas** indicated in the EU Adaptation Strategy:
 - cross-border floods management, cross-border coastal management
 - mountain and island areas
 - drought-prone areas (water, desertification, fire risks)
- **Green infrastructure** and **ecosystem-based approaches**
- **Vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies**, including those with a cross-border nature
- Encourage proposals on **urban adaptation**



Sub-programme for Climate Action

Climate change adaptation in the urban environment

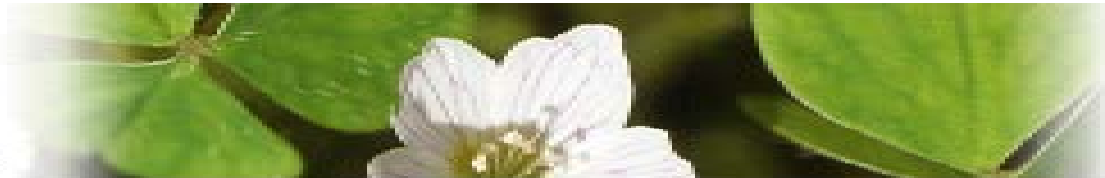
- developing and implementing **local adaptation strategies** in the framework of "Mayors Adapt";
- developing and deploying **innovative adaptation technologies** in urban areas, including in the water, energy and construction sectors;
- promoting and developing **green infrastructure in cities**, including combating the urban heat island effect (through green roofs or networks of green space as ventilation areas) and/or controlling flood risks (through multi-use retention areas);
- **low carbon projects** contributing at the same time to climate mitigation and adaptation as well as nature conservation and biodiversity objectives in urban areas.



Sub-programme for Climate Action

Climate Change Mitigation Priority Areas

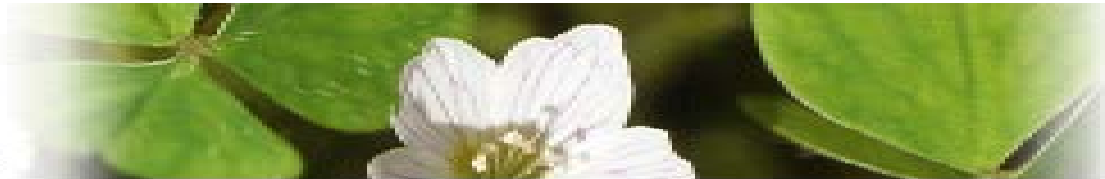
- **Energy Intensive Industries:** e.g. Development and demonstration of **innovative/ cost-effective technologies** to reduce emission intensity of manufacturing & process industries
- **Replacement of Ozone Depleting Substances e.g;** innovation/demonstration projects showing the **use of low Global Warming Potential (GWP) alternatives to current practises**
- Sustainable use of solid **biomass**;
- **Agriculture:** implementation of **low carbon farming practices** with a transformational impact and analysis and development of improvements for existing climate measures under CAP, LULUCF etc.



Sub-programme for Climate Action

LIFE Climate Governance and Information Priorities

- Knowledge of global **emission reduction strategies** and the consequences on the agricultural and land use sectors locally
- **Awareness of biomass production** in an integrated perspective (biodiversity, forest, other land)
- **Dialogue with business** on future energy and climate investments
- Evaluation of functioning of **EU ETS** and its impact on policy tools
- Awareness on **best practice in the field of climate policy evaluation** to support development of cost-effective climate action
- Exchange of best practice on enabling mechanisms and **innovative solutions for industrial processes and production methods** to facilitate low carbon transition of industry, transport

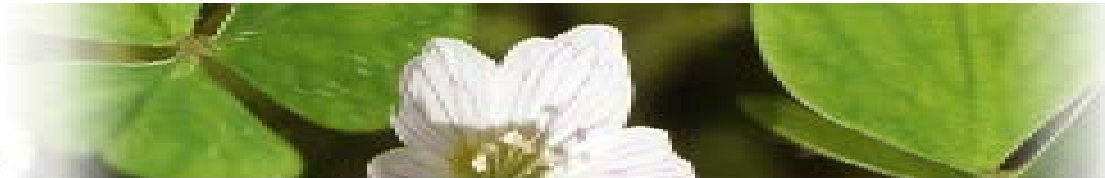


LIFE: Financial Instruments (FIs)

- Overall objective: Pilot concepts for "green" financial instruments; widen the financing opportunities for "green investments"

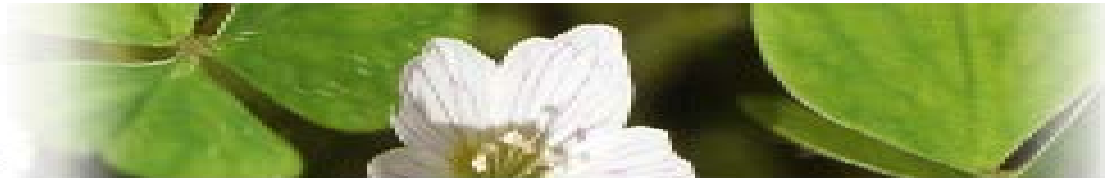
Two FIs (pilot in 2014-2017)

- Private Financing for Energy Efficiency (**PF4EE**): €80m from LIFE Climate Action. Link with the EIB's initiative "DEEP Green"
- Natural Capital Financial Facility (**NCFF**): € 30m from LIFE Environment and €30m from LIFE Climate Action; plus matching funds from EIB of €50m



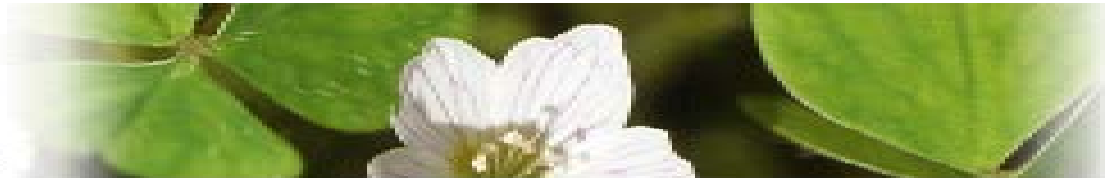
Objectives of PF4EE

- To make energy efficiency lending a more sustainable activity across financial institutions (FIs) in Europe;
- To encourage private commercial banks and other financial intermediaries to address the energy efficiency sector as a distinct market segment;
- To increase lending for energy efficiency in response to priorities identified by Member States' National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs).



Objectives of NCFE

- **Why?** Financing gap for biodiversity and adaptation; emerging market opportunities for investments in natural capital
- **Market failures:** perceived high risks, lack of track record, long pay-back periods
- To encourage investments in revenue-generating or cost-saving projects promoting the conservation of natural capital to meet biodiversity/adaptation objectives and support green growth;
- Demonstrate to private investors the attractiveness of natural capital projects; build project pipeline.

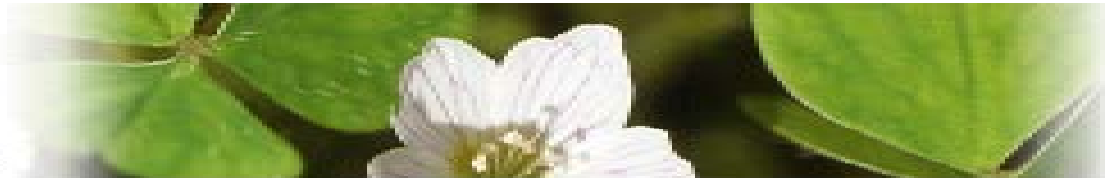


2015 LIFE Calendar

LIFE Information Day 2015: 27 May 2015, Custom House, Dublin(register by email LIFE@environ.ie). NI groups are encouraged to attend

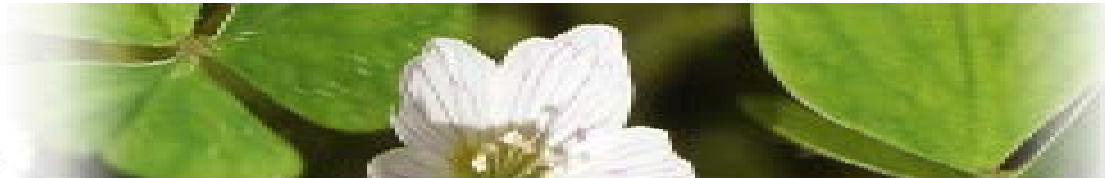
2015 Call Deadlines for Traditional Projects

- call opens 1 June 2015
- Different deadlines depending on programme
 - Climate Action: 15 September 2015
 - Environment: 1 October 2015
 - Nature/Biodiversity & Env Info and Governance: 7 October 2015



Some basic guidance

- Research previous projects online
- Read the LIFE guidelines
- Identify a clear, specific and measurable project aim
- Link that project aim to one of the LIFE project topics(if applicable)
- Scope out your project idea using a project planning tool such as logical framework planning.
- Be ambitious but don't try and cover too many policy areas.
- Focus on EU added value. You need to be able to justify your project idea at an EU level(e.g. read 7th EAP etc)
- It is absolutely crucial that you approach the public bodies responsible for policy in the area you have chosen as soon as possible especially if you are looking for co-funding (NPWS in ROI, NIEA in NI)
- A good application will take time to put together.



Keep in touch!

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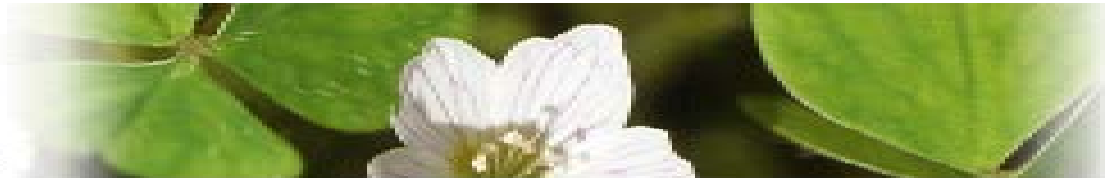
**Steve Bradley, Beta
Technology**

**UK LIFE National Contact
Point**

Email: life@betatechnology.ie



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More LIFE information at:

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



<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/LIFEProgramme>

2014 LIFE call documentation:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/index.htm>

LIFE Projects database:

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



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