

Basic information	
2018/0209(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed 19/03/2019: MFF 2021-2027/ Progress report - state of play in the Council
Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027 Repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 2011/0428(COD)	
Subject 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 3.70.03 Climate policy, climate change, ozone layer 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		TORVALDS Nils (Renew)	02/07/2019
			Shadow rapporteur WIEZIK Michal (EPP) RÓNAI Sándor (S&D) NIINISTÖ Ville (Greens/EFA) VONDRA Alexandr (ECR) BEIGNEUX Aurélia (ID) KOKKALIS Petros (GUE/NGL)	
	Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		GERBRANDY Gerben-Jan (ALDE)	16/05/2018
	Former committee for opinion		Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli (ALDE)	11/07/2018
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

	REGI Regional Development	ZOANĂ Maria Gabriela (S&D)	20/06/2018
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	SIEKIERSKI Czesław Adam (PPE)	09/10/2018
	PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Environment	3666	2018-12-20
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Environment	VELLA Karmenu	
European Economic and Social Committee			
European Committee of the Regions			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
01/06/2018	Legislative proposal published	COM(2018)0385 	Summary
14/06/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
20/11/2018	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
26/11/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0397/2018	Summary
10/12/2018	Debate in Parliament		
11/12/2018	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0487/2018	Summary
11/12/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/12/2018	Matter referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations		
21/03/2019	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations		
17/04/2019	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0405/2019	Summary
17/04/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
01/12/2020	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations after 1st reading in Parliament		
14/12/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		

14/01/2021	Approval in committee of the text agreed at early 2nd reading interinstitutional negotiations		
19/03/2021	Council position published	06077/1/2020	Summary
25/03/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
16/04/2021	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
20/04/2021	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A9-0130/2021	
29/04/2021	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T9-0153/2021	Summary
29/04/2021	Debate in Parliament		
29/04/2021	Final act signed		
29/04/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/05/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2018/0209(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 2011/0428(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 61 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 192-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/04713

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE627.845	17/09/2018	
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE623.976	16/10/2018	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE625.424	18/10/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE629.443	23/10/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE629.534	23/10/2018	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE625.571	06/11/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0397/2018	26/11/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading				

/single reading		T8-0487/2018	11/12/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0405/2019	17/04/2019	Summary
Committee draft report		PE691.300	14/04/2021	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A9-0130/2021	20/04/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T9-0153/2021	29/04/2021	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	06077/1/2020	19/03/2021	Summary
Draft final act	00014/2021/LEX	29/04/2021	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2018)0385 	01/06/2018	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2018)0292 	01/06/2018	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2018)0293 	01/06/2018	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2019)440	08/08/2019	
Commission communication on Council's position	COM(2021)0128 	17/03/2021	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_CONGRESS	COM(2018)0385	24/07/2018	
Contribution	RO_CHAMBER	COM(2018)0385	03/10/2018	
Contribution	DE_BUNDESRAT	COM(2018)0385	23/10/2018	
Contribution	CZ_SENATE	COM(2018)0385	26/10/2018	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR3653/2018	09/10/2018	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES3317/2018	17/10/2018	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2021/0783
OJ L 172 17.05.2021, p. 0053

Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027

2018/0209(COD) - 19/03/2021 - Council position

The Council adopted its position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

The proposed Regulation aims at establishing a programme for environment and climate action (LIFE) for the duration of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

Objective

The LIFE programme aims to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environment and climate policies and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

Its main aim is to:

- contribute to the just transition towards a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and climate-resilient economy;
- protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment, including air, water and soil, and;
- halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and combating the degradation of ecosystems, in particular by supporting the implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network so as to contribute to sustainable development.

Budget

The financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for the period 2021-2027 should be EUR 5 432 000 000 in current prices.

The indicative distribution of the amount is:

- EUR 3 488 000 000 for the field 'Environment', of which: (i) EUR 2 143 000 000 for the subprogramme 'Nature and Biodiversity', and (ii) EUR 1 345 000 000 for the subprogramme 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life';
- EUR 1 944 000 000 for the field 'Climate Action', of which: (i) EUR 947 000 000 for the subprogramme 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation', and (ii) EUR 997 000 000 for the subprogramme 'Clean Energy Transition'.

At least 60% of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported by action grants under the Environment area should be devoted to grants for projects supporting the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme.

Climate mainstreaming and biodiversity ambition

The Council's position reflects the agreement of the European Council on the MFF to increase the target for budget wide climate related spending from 25% to at least 30%. 61% of the financial envelope of LIFE is expected to contribute to the achievement of that target

Accordingly, the LIFE Programme should contribute to mainstream biodiversity action in the Union policies and to the achievement of the overall ambition of providing 7.5% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.

Implementation of funding

The Council's position provides that at least 85% of the LIFE budget should be allocated to grants to finance, inter alia, strategic nature conservation projects under the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme, strategic integrated projects under the Circular Economy and Climate Action sub-programmes and technical assistance projects.

Co-financing rates for eligible actions should be a maximum of 60% of eligible costs and 75% for projects financed under the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme which concern in particular priority habitats or species or bird species for which funding is considered a priority, where this is necessary to achieve the intended conservation objective.

Award criteria and geographical balance

The Council's position states that quality should be the general criterion for awarding projects under the LIFE programme and that the Commission should seek to ensure a real geographical coverage of the whole territory of the Union, based on the quality of the projects.

Funding should be provided for capacity building for activities by Member State authorities to improve effective participation in projects under the programme.

The maximum amount allocated to grants should be EUR 15 million, with maximum co-financing rates not exceeding 95% of eligible project costs.

Multi-annual work programmes

The Council position foresees that the first multi-annual work programme should run for four years and the second multi-annual work programme for three years.

The work programmes should be adopted by means of implementing acts and should include performance indicators for each sub-programme, as well as indicative timetables for calls for proposals, the selection procedure and award criteria for the submission of projects.

The Commission should ensure consultation of stakeholders during the preparation of the work programmes.

Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027

2018/0209(COD) - 29/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution approving the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme for environment and climate action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

The proposed Regulation aims at establishing a programme for environment and climate action (LIFE) for the duration of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

Objective

The overall objective of the LIFE programme for the period 2021-2027 is to contribute to the transition to a clean, circular, energy-efficient, climate-neutral and climate-resilient economy, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity.

Budget

The financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for the period 2021-2027 is **EUR 5 432 000 000** in current prices, with the following indicative breakdown:

- Environment ('Nature and Biodiversity'; 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life'): EUR 3 488 000 000;

- Climate Action ('Climate change mitigation and adaptation'; 'Clean energy transition'): EUR 1 944 000 000.

This budget reflects the agreement of the European Council on the MFF to increase the target for budget wide climate related spending from 25% to at least 30%. 61% of the financial envelope of LIFE is expected to contribute to the achievement of that target.

Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027

2018/0209(COD) - 26/11/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the report by Gerben-Jan GERBRANDY (ALDE, NL) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows.

Objective: the proposed Regulation aims to establish a **Programme for the Environment and Climate Action** (LIFE), covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.

Members stressed that LIFE is the only programme specifically dedicated to the environment and climate and as such it plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of EU legislation in these areas. It shall contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of **at least 25%** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives over the MFF 2021-2027 period, and an **annual target of 30 %** as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

The general objective of the Programme is to:

- contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, net-zero emission and climate-resilient economy;
- protect and improve the quality of the environment;
- halt and reverse biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

To this end, the Programme shall:

- promote innovative techniques and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action, including the transition to clean, renewable energy and increased energy efficiency;
- contribute to the knowledge base, effective management and application of best practice, in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network;
- support the implementation of General Union Environment Action Programmes and improve environmental and climate governance at all levels, including by enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society.

Budget: the financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be **EUR 6.44 billion in 2018 prices** (EUR 7.27 billion in current prices) as opposed to EUR 5.45 billion in current prices proposed by the Commission).

The indicative distribution of the amount shall be:

Environment: EUR 4.71 billion at 2018 prices, of which: (i) EUR 2.82 billion for the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme and (ii) EUR 1.88 billion for the Circular Economy and Quality of Life sub-programme;

Climate Action area: EUR 1.95 billion of which: (i) EUR 950 million for the sub-programme 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation' and (ii) EUR 1 billion for the sub-programme 'Clean energy transition'.

Synergies: LIFE shall facilitate integration, particularly in major EU funding programmes. Since environmental and climate requirements shall be integrated into the definition and implementation of all EU policies and actions, Members stressed the need to **promote synergies and complementarity with other EU funding programmes**, in particular by facilitating: (i) the funding of activities that complement strategic integrated projects and strategic nature projects; (ii) the uptake and replication of solutions developed under the Programme.

The Commission and Member States shall take steps to prevent administrative overlap and burden on project beneficiaries, arising from reporting obligations from different financial instruments.

In addition, the Programme shall **involve all stakeholders** and sectors involved in a clean energy transition, such as the building sector, industry, transport and agriculture.

Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027

2018/0209(COD) - 11/12/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 580 votes to 41, with 45 abstentions, **amendments** to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

The matter was referred back to the committee for interinstitutional negotiations.

The main amendments adopted in plenary concerned the following issues:

Objective: the proposed Regulation aims to establish a **Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)**, covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.

Parliament Members stressed that LIFE is the only programme specifically dedicated to the environment and climate and as such it plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of EU legislation in these areas. It shall contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of **at least 25%** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives over the MFF 2021-2027 period, and an **annual target of 30 %** as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

The general objective of the Programme is to:

- contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, net-zero emission and climate-resilient economy;
- protect and improve the quality of the environment;
- halt and reverse biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

To this end, the Programme shall:

- promote innovative techniques and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action, including the transition to clean, renewable energy and increased energy efficiency;
- contribute to the knowledge base, effective management and application of best practice, in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network;

- support the implementation of General Union Environment Action Programmes and improve environmental and climate governance at all levels, including by enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society.

Budget: the financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR 6.44 billion in 2018 prices (EUR 7.27 billion in current prices) as opposed to EUR 5.45 billion in current prices proposed by the Commission).

The indicative distribution of the amount shall be:

- **Environment: EUR 4.71 billion at 2018 prices**, of which: (i) EUR 2.82 billion for the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme and (ii) EUR 1.88 billion for the Circular Economy and Quality of Life sub-programme;
- **Climate Action area: EUR 1.95 billion** of which: (i) EUR 950 million for the sub-programme 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation' and (ii) EUR 1 billion for the sub-programme 'Clean energy transition'.

Synergies: LIFE shall facilitate integration, particularly in major EU funding programmes. Since environmental and climate requirements shall be integrated into the definition and implementation of all EU policies and actions, Members stressed the need to **promote synergies and complementarity with other EU funding programmes**, in particular by facilitating: (i) the funding of activities that complement strategic integrated projects and strategic nature projects; (ii) the uptake and replication of solutions developed under the Programme.

Implementation: the Commission shall ensure that implementation is easy to understand, and should promote genuine simplification for project developers. Projects with the highest potential of being replicated and taken-up by the public or private sector or of mobilising the largest investments or financial resources (catalytic potential) shall benefit from a bonus in their evaluation.

The just transition should be achieved in consultation and dialogue with **social partners and the regions and communities affected**. These should also be included to the extent possible in the development and implementation of projects.

In addition, the Programme shall involve all **stakeholders** and sectors involved in a clean energy transition, such as the building sector, industry, transport and agriculture.

Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027

2018/0209(COD) - 01/06/2018 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) for the period 2021-2027.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the EU is a global leader in environmental protection and climate action. The Commission considers **the shift towards a clean, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy to be a priority**.

The programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE), established by Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 for the period 2014 to 2020, is the latest in a series of Union programmes over 25 years which support the implementation of environmental and climate legislation and policy priorities. Through its catalytic role, the programme supports small scale actions intended to initiate, expand or promote sustainable production, distribution and consumption practices, as well as to protect natural heritage.

The Commission considers that this **approach should be continued in the multiannual financial framework for the period 2021-2027**. An enhanced LIFE programme would play an important role in developing climate action and clean energy investments across Europe. It would also help the EU meet its climate objectives and commitments under the Paris Agreement and the UN's sustainable development goals.

The Commission [proposal](#) for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework set a more ambitious goal for climate mainstreaming across all EU programmes, with an overall target of **25% of EU expenditure** contributing to climate objectives.

CONTENT: the proposed Regulation - presented for a Union of 27 Member States – seeks to establish the **environment and climate action programme (LIFE)**. It lays down the objectives of the programme, the budget for the period 2021-2027, as well as the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.

Programme objectives: the proposed programme aims to achieve the Union's objectives as set out in international environmental, climate and clean energy legislation, policy, plans and commitments. Its overall objective is to contribute to the shift towards:

- a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, including a transition to clean energy;
- protecting and improving the quality of the environment;
- halting and reversing biodiversity loss, including in marine ecosystems, so as to contribute to sustainable development.

In particular, the new LIFE programme shall:

- mobilise **investment** and support energy efficiency activities, particularly in European regions lagging behind in the shift towards clean energy;
- support projects promoting best practice in relation to **nature protection and biodiversity**, as well as 'strategic nature protection projects' for all Member States, including measures to protect the marine environment;

- contribute to the **transition to a circular economy model** through financial support targeting a variety of actors (businesses, public authorities and consumers), in particular by applying, developing, and replicating best technology, practices and solutions tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including through integrated approaches for the implementation of waste management and prevention plans;
- support the other aspects of the Union's environment policy, such as the protection and improvement of **air and water quality** in the EU, implementing the **2030 climate and energy policy framework** and meeting the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement. Actions taken under the programme are expected to contribute 61 % of the overall financial envelope of the programme to climate objectives.

The Commission proposes to **simplify** the programme management procedures and allow for a wider geographical access. **Synergies** would be developed with 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, Horizon Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility and InvestEU.

Proposed budget: EUR 5.45 billion in current prices for the period 2021-2027. The indicative breakdown of this amount is as follows:

- **Environment: EUR 3.5 billion** of which: (i) EUR 2.15 billion for the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme; (ii) EUR 1.35 billion for the Circular Economy and Quality of Life sub-programme;
- **Climate action: EUR 1.95 billion** of which: (i) EUR 950 million for the sub-programme Climate change mitigation and adaptation; (ii) EUR 1 billion for the sub-programme clean energy transition.

Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027

2018/0209(COD) - 17/04/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 578 votes to 39, with 34 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amended the Commission proposal as follows:

Objectives

The general objective of the LIFE Programme shall be to:

- contribute to the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy;
- protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment, including the air, water and soil;
- halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to tackle the degradation of ecosystems, including through supporting the implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network.

The LIFE programme is the only programme dedicated specifically to environment and climate action, and therefore plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of Union legislation and policies in those areas. Parliament considered that the LIFE Programme should contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of at least 25 % of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives over the MFF 2021-2027 period, and an annual target of 30 % as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

Budget

Parliament proposed that the financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for the period 2021-2027 should be set at **EUR 6.44 billion at constant 2018 prices**, i.e. EUR 7.27 billion at current prices (compared to EUR 5.45 billion at current prices in the Commission's proposal).

The indicative breakdown of this amount shall be as follows:

- Environment: EUR 4.71 billion at 2018 prices, of which: (i) EUR 2.82 billion for the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme and (ii) EUR 1.88 billion for the Circular Economy and Quality of Life sub-programme;
- Climate Action area: EUR 1.95 billion of which: (i) EUR 950 million for the sub-programme 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation' and (ii) EUR 1 billion for the sub-programme 'Transition to clean energy'.

At least 60 % of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported by action grants under the 'Environment' domain shall be devoted to grants awarded for projects supporting the 'Nature and Biodiversity' sub-programme.

Projects under the new Clean Energy Transition sub-programme shall focus on capacity building and the dissemination of knowledge, skills and innovative solutions to achieve the objectives of EU legislation and policy on the transition to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.

The LIFE Programme may finance technical and administrative assistance activities by the Commission for the implementation of the LIFE Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities including corporate information technology systems and network activities supporting the LIFE Programme's National Contact Points, including training, mutual learning activities and events to share experience.

Implementation and forms of Union funding

At least 85% of the LIFE programme budget shall be allocated to grants for projects financed by other forms of financing and financial instruments in the context of mixed financing operations.

The co-financing rates for certain strategic nature protection projects, certain integrated strategic projects, technical assistance projects and standard action projects would be a maximum of 60 % of the eligible costs and 75 % in the case of projects financed under the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme which concern in particular priority habitats or species or bird species for which funding is considered a priority, where this is necessary to achieve the desired conservation objective.

The evaluation of projects and the award process in the LIFE programme shall be governed by the quality criterion while seeking to ensure effective geographical coverage across the Union, including by supporting Member States to increase the quality of projects through capacity building.

Technical assistance projects concerning the activities of Member States' authorities should improve effective participation in the LIFE programme, support the activities of Member States with a low effective participation rate and improve the services of the National Contact Points in the Union as well as the overall quality of the proposals submitted.

Award criteria

The Commission shall set out award criteria in the multiannual work programme referred to in Article 17 and the calls for proposals taking into account the following principles:

- projects financed by the LIFE Programme shall be of Union interest and shall promote the use of green public procurement;
- projects shall ensure a cost-effective approach and be technically and financially coherent;
- projects with the highest potential of being replicated and taken-up by the public or private sector or of mobilising the largest investments or financial resources (catalytic potential) shall benefit from a bonus in their evaluation.