



LIFE+ as a tool for climate change mitigation and adaptation

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1. LIFE+: The current instrument

- The only EU financial instrument specifically targeting the environment and climate action.
- Since 1992, financed over 3100 projects contributing to over €2.7 billion to the protection of the environment.
- Public authorities, including cities are lead beneficiaries in LIFE+ (42% in 2007-2008).
- Climate action theme under the Environment component.
- It is considered a very successful instrument with a high EU added value by all evaluations.

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Context

- The next EU **Multi-annual Financial Framework (2014-2020)** sets out budgetary framework and main orientations for delivering Europe 2020 strategy.
- Commission's intention to increase the proportion of **climate related expenditure to at least 20%** in the next EU budget.
- Climate and environment as **integral parts** of all main instruments and interventions.
- But, mainstreaming does not address all environmental and climate needs, thus **a need for a specific instrument – Commission legislative proposal for a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) – COM(2011)874 final.**



2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Why LIFE?

LIFE is too small to address all needs but:

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 helps creating **synergies across EU Funds:** increasing the effectiveness and impact of the EU intervention;

LIFE is a good instrument to show to local, regional and national authorities the benefits of investing in climate and the environment and incentivising them to **develop strategic frameworks for spending.**



2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Impact Assessment

- LIFE is a successful instrument.
- EU Action for Environment & Climate is necessary.

But...

- Better thematic prioritisation is needed.
- Further simplification is possible.
- Management can be improved.

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Stakeholder consultation & evaluations

The proposal draws on an extensive analysis and **broad consultation with stakeholders** (2010-2011):

- 2 **conferences** (one on Nature and one on Environment);
- Ex-post **evaluation** of the LIFE Programme (1996-2006) and the Mid-term evaluation of the LIFE+ Programme (2007-2009);
- **studies** commissioned from external consultants;
- an open online consultation on '**Your Voice in Europe**';
- a consultation conducted by the **Committee of the Regions**;
- a consultation of the **LIFE+ Committee** members and Member States' environmental attachés, and an **ad-hoc stakeholder meeting**.

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) General objectives

- LIFE should be used as a **catalyst**;
- LIFE should promote **implementation and integration** of environment and climate objectives in other policies and Member State practice, including mainstreaming;
- Emphasis will also be placed on **better governance**;
- Specific **link to EU priorities**: resource efficiency, biodiversity loss and climate adaptation and mitigation.



2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Structure

Creation of **two sub-programmes**:

- LIFE sub-programme for **Climate Action**
(€0.9bn)
- LIFE sub-programme for **Environment**
(€2.7bn)

Total proposed budget of **€ 3.6bn** (2014-2020)

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Architecture

- ***LIFE sub-programme for Environment***

Three priority areas

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

translated into

Specific objectives

- ***LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action***

Three priority areas

- **Climate Change Mitigation**
- **Climate Change Adaptation**
- **Climate Governance and Information**

translated into

Specific objectives

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Sub-programme for Climate Action

Priority areas for mitigation and adaptation:

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

Specific objectives:

- implement and develop **Union policy and legislation** and **mainstream activities** across policy areas
- improving 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



2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Sub-programme for Climate Action

Priority area for governance:

- **LIFE Climate Governance and Information**

Specific objectives:

- contribute to **raising awareness**
- **communication, networks, cooperation platforms**
- raise compliance and enforcement of legislation,
- **better governance** and **dissemination** on climate mitigation and adaptation actions



2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Types of funding

- **Action Grants**, both traditional and larger, Integrated Projects (IP);
- **Operating Grants (NGOs);**
- **Other types of funding** (e.g., studies, conferences, etc.);
- Possibility to make contributions to **innovative financial instruments.**

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Types of funding: Traditional projects

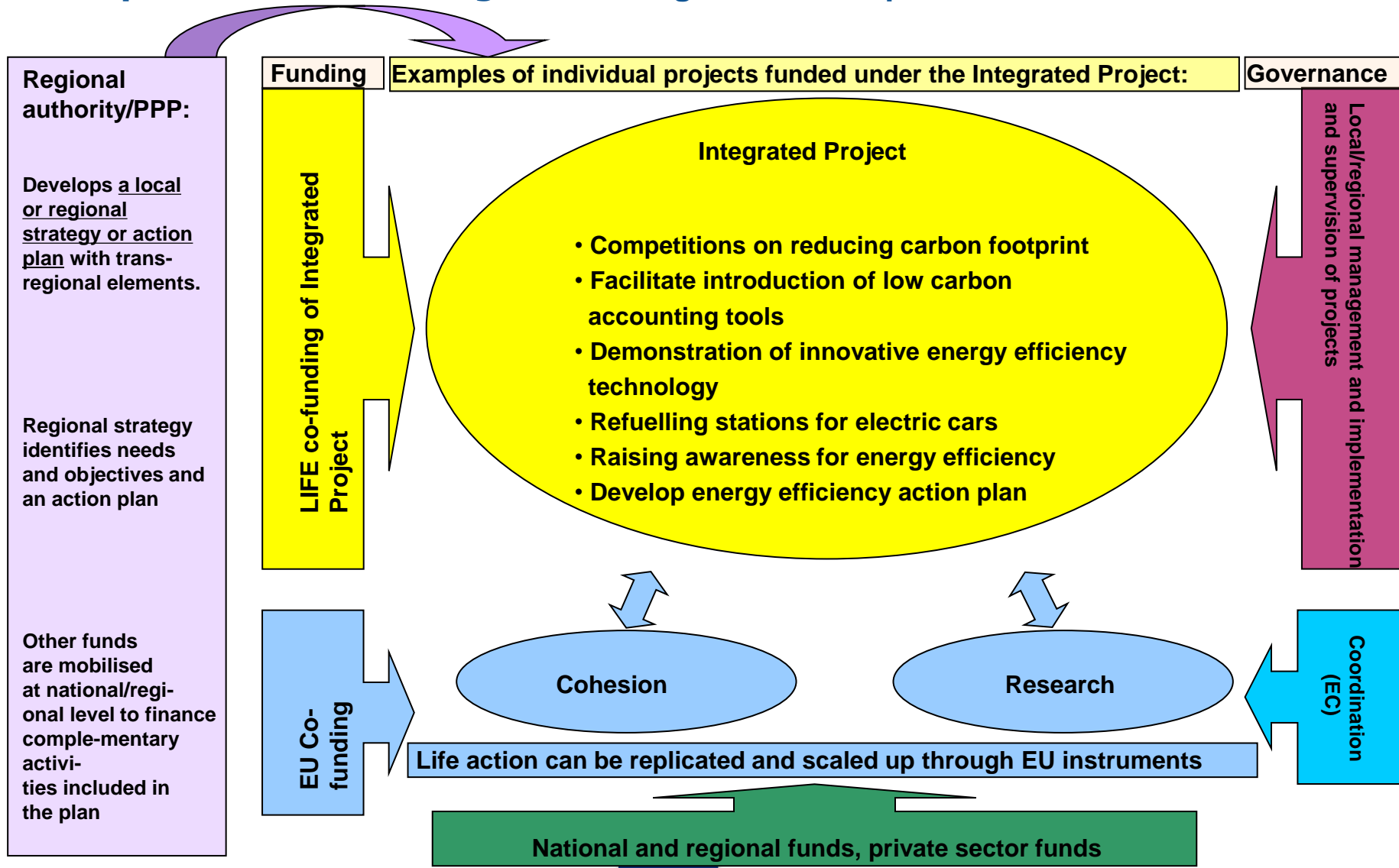
- **Pilot** projects;
- **Demonstration** projects;
- **Best practice** projects;
- **Technical assistance** projects;
- **Preparatory** projects;
- **Information, awareness** and **dissemination** projects;
- Any other projects to achieve the objectives of the programme.

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020)

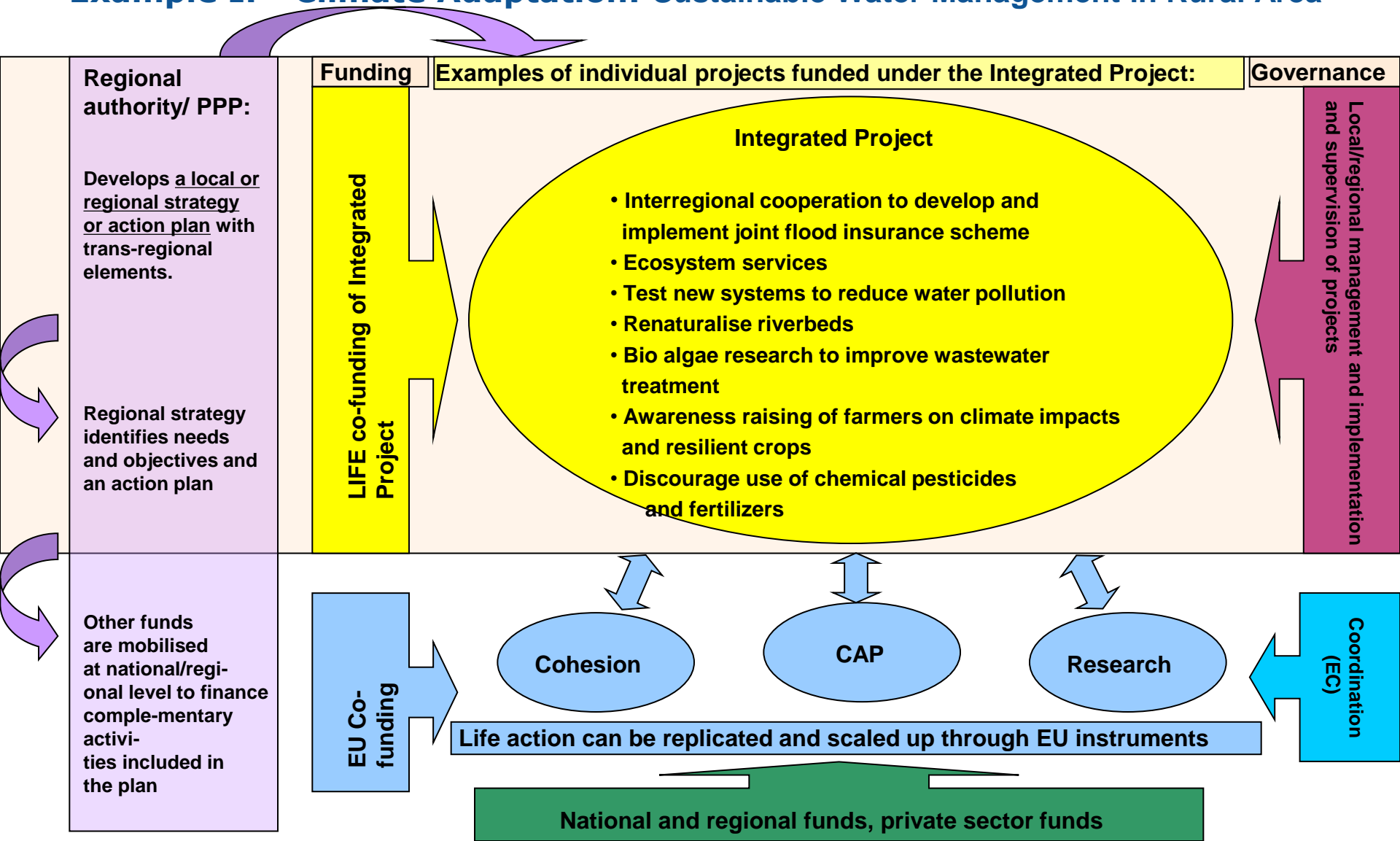
Types of funding: Integrated Projects

- Aimed at **implementing plans, programmes or strategies** required by EU environmental or climate legislation or pursuant to other acts or developed by MS authorities;
- **Larger scale**, e.g., regional, multiregional, national;
- Primarily in **the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate mitigation and adaptation**;
- **Inclusive**: broad range of stakeholders should be involved;
- **Sustainable and mobilisation of other EU funds**;
- Integrated Projects shall ensure **geographical balance** in line with the principles of responsibility sharing and solidarity.

Example IP- Climate Mitigation: Integrated Urban plan to reduce GHG Emissions



Example IP- Climate Adaptation: Sustainable Water Management in Rural Area





2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Territorial scope

Possible participation of **Third Countries** (as per current LIFE+).

Possible co-operation with **International Organisations** (e.g., international studies such as TEEB).

Activities outside the Union possible in exceptional cases:

- Action outside the EU is **indispensable** to achieve EU environmental/climate objectives; or
- To ensure the **effectiveness** of interventions carried out in the MS; and
- The **coordinating beneficiary** is based in the EU.

2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Simplification and complementarity

Lighter Procedures, improved use of IT tools and larger projects, simplified rules on eligibility of costs.

LIFE (2014-2020) proposes a **positive complementarity**:

- **Consistency** with other EU priorities;
- Commission and MS shall ensure **coordination** between the LIFE Programme and Common Strategic Framework instruments (EARDF, ERDF, ESF, CF, EMFF), particularly in the context of **Integrated Projects**;
- Take up of solutions developed under LIFE (“**multiplier effect**”).



2. Next LIFE Programme (2014-2020) Timetable

- Presentations and discussions in ENV Council Working Party since January 2012
- Orientation debate in ENV Council (9 March)
- Expected “Partial General Approach” agreement in ENV Council in June 2012
- Opinion of the European Parliament ENVI Committee in September 2012
- General Affairs Council Agreement on the next Multi-annual Financial Framework in December 2012.

Thank you for your attention!

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

