

The LIFE Programme and Natura 2000

Updates – Opportunities - Challenges



Jan Sliva, ELMEN EEIG



4 N2K Biogeographical Seminar for CON-ALP-PAN-STE-BLS Regions, 25-27/06/2024, Prague, CZ

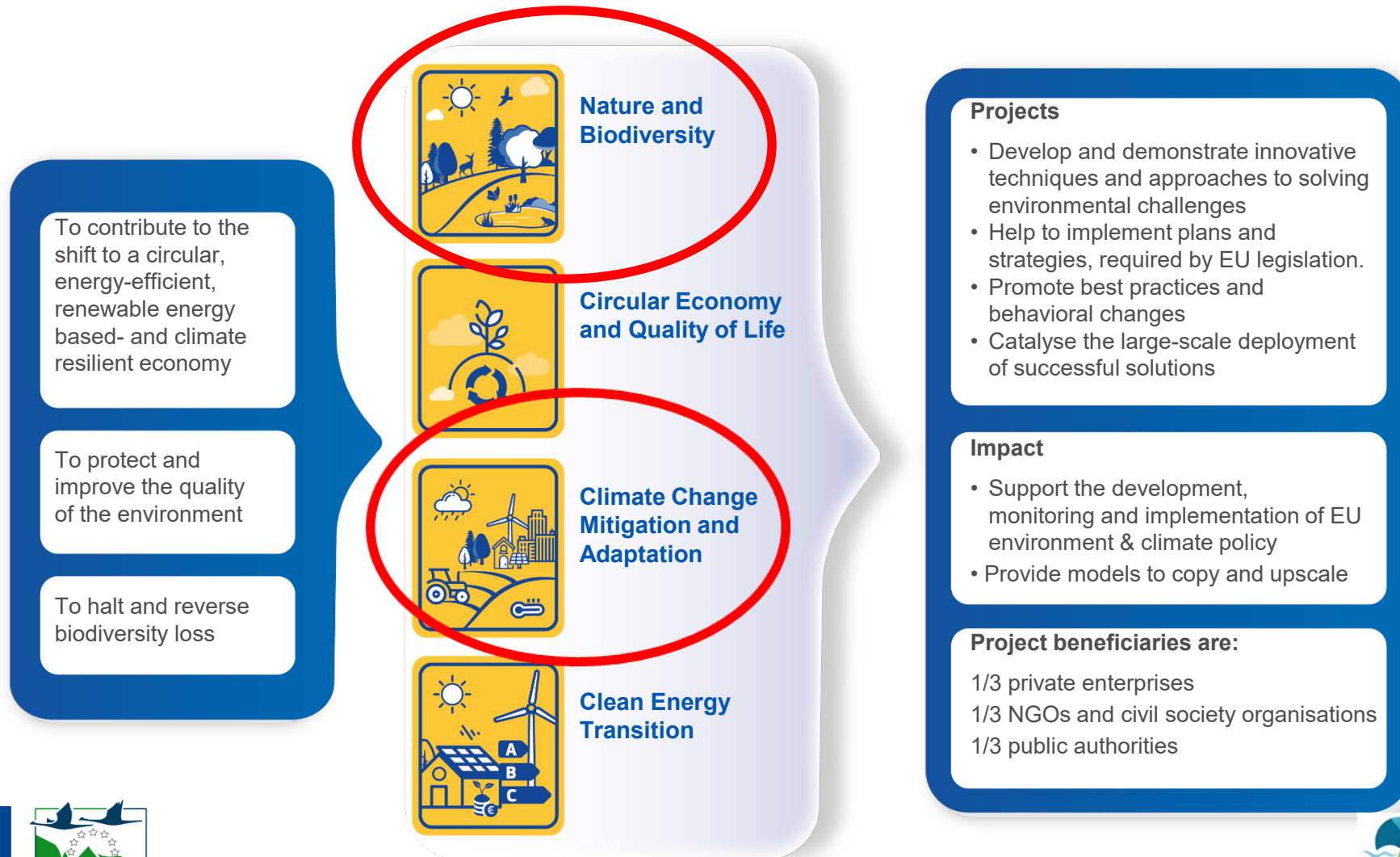


The LIFE programme

- The LIFE programme is the only EU funding scheme dedicated exclusively to the environment, nature conservation and climate action.
- The LIFE programme fully contributes to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.
- LIFE has funded over 6,000 projects in the last 32 years
- For the years 2021-2027, LIFE has a budget of 5.43 billion €
- **Budget for Calls 2024 : 571 million €**



The LIFE Programme 2021-2027



Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



Nature and
Biodiversity

Contribution to:

- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
- *Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised Action Frameworks.*
- Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.

Typical actions

Projects **supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.**

Species and habitat protection

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of PAF or other plans under the Biodiversity Strategy; **mainstreaming biodiversity**

Financing of small-scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions



Sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Climate Change
Mitigation and
Adaptation

Contribution to:

- The transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through:
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation & Related Governance

On **climate mitigation**, projects that contribute significantly to the implementation of:

- the 2030 energy and **climate policy**
- the EU Member States' National Energy and **Climate Plans**
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

On **climate adaptation**:

- projects that support the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and related national implementation



Types of activities funded under LIFE

Grants

- **Action grants:**
 - **Standard Action projects (SAPs)**
 - **Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)**
 - Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
 - Technical Assistance (TA-R)
 - Other Actions (OA)
- **Operating grants** (*call restricted to entities that signed a LIFE Framework Partnership Agreement*)



Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

There are numerous calls for LIFE SAPs in 2024:

- LIFE Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life
- LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- LIFE Clean Energy Transition

One stage application procedure

Key dates:

Calls open:

18/04/2024

application deadlines: 19/09/2024 (CEQL& NAT, CET), 17/09/2024 (CLIMA)



Source: <https://ied.eu/blog/life-climate-change-mitigation/>



4 N2K Biogeographical Seminar for CON-ALP-PAN-STE-BLS Regions, 25-27/06/2024, Prague, CZ



European
Commission



Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

‘Traditional’ LIFE projects aiming to

- **develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches;**
- contribute to the knowledge base and to **the application of best practices;**
- support the **development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy**, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
- catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, **integrating related objectives into other policies** and into public and private sector practices, **mobilising investment and improving access to finance.**



Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

Indicative budget: Nature+Biodiversity 158.5 M€, CCM+CCA 62 M€

Co-financing rate

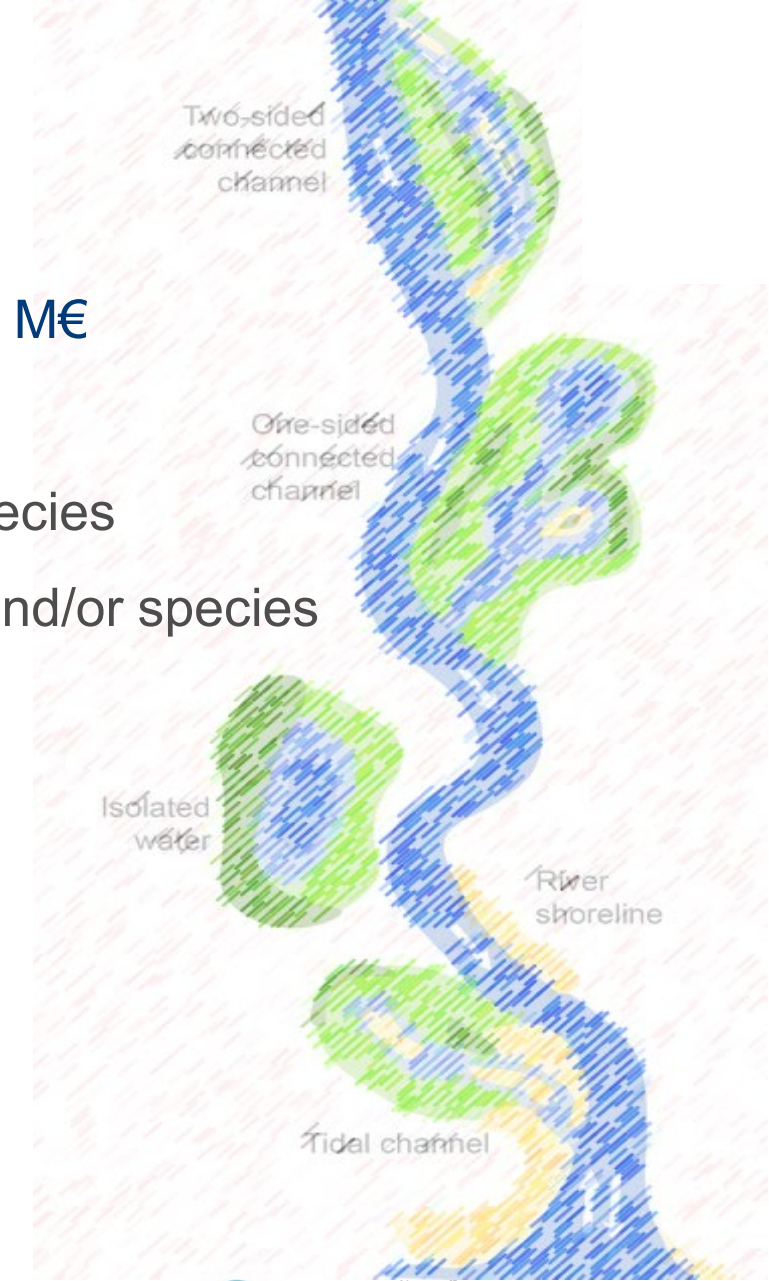
- 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
- 60% all other projects

Maximum 10-year duration

Best practice, demonstration, innovation...

- Projects focusing on best-practice are perfectly eligible.

Eligible and suitable for the implementation of pledges





Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

Two areas of intervention:

- “Space for nature”
- “Safeguarding our species”

Nature & Biodiversity legislation & policy priorities:

- Support to the implementation of EU legislation : EU Birds and Habitats directives (incl. Natura 2000) and the IAS Regulation
- Support to the targets under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Trans-European Nature Network & EU Restoration Plan

Any proposal that falls into at least one of the two areas of intervention AND at least one of the two policy priorities could be financed through a Standard Action Project under LIFE Nature and Biodiversity



Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs) indicative budget 70 M€

Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) indicative budget 30 M€

SNaPs:

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

SIPs:

LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life

LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

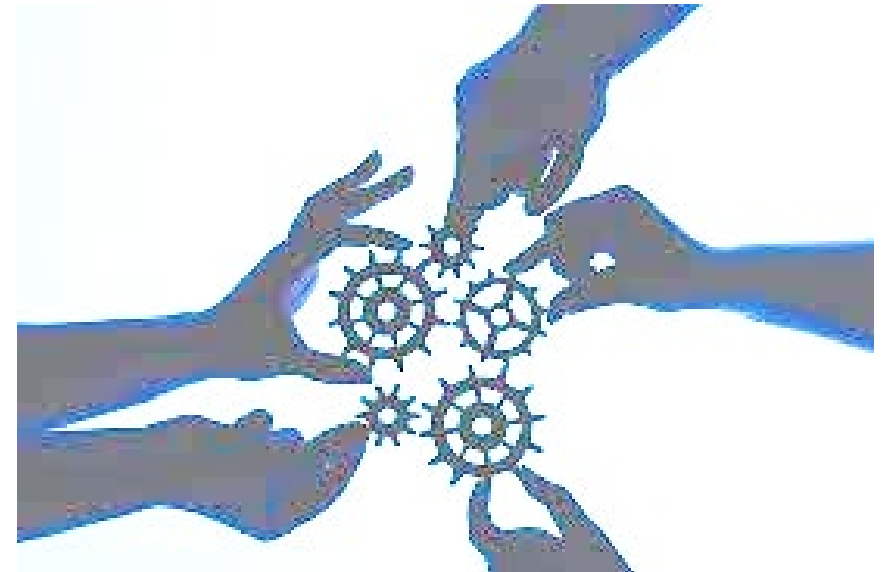
Two-stage application procedure

Key dates:

Call open: 18/04/2024

Application deadlines: 05/09/2024 (Concept Note)

06/03/2025 (Full Proposal)



Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)



- Focussing on on the implementation of
 - the Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) under the Habitats Directive,
 - **other plans or strategies** that implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation on international, national, regional or multiregional level
 - **eligible and suitable for the implementation of pledges**
- Require integrated approaches and complementary funds mobilisation
- Require mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives into other policies and instruments
- Co-financing rate of 60% maximum, max. 14-year duration



Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)

Key issues to be considered

Prioritised Action Frameworks (**PAFs**) under the Habitats Directive

Other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, multiregional or regional level by the authorities, that implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation, e.g.:

- EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
- EU Forest Strategy 2030
- EU Pollinators Initiative
- Nature Restoration Law
- EU Green Infrastructure Strategy
- EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species



Strategic Nature Projects (SNaPs)

Key issues to be considered



The **national (regional) authorities competent for nature and biodiversity and responsible for PAF implementation**, shall participate in the SNaP proposals, either as **applicant (coordinating beneficiary)** or, in duly justified cases, as associated beneficiaries.

To ensure the highest possible **geographical coverage of SNAPs** by 2027, regional authorities are strongly encouraged to team up with other regions when preparing their proposal.

Transboundary SNaPs: A coordinated implementation of SNAPs between Member States is strongly encouraged.



Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)

- Co-financing rate of 60% maximum
- Maximum 14-year duration
- **Circular Economy and Quality of Life:**
 - Circular Economy: national or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
 - Waste: national and regional Waste Management Plans and/or Waste Prevention Programmes
 - **Water: River Basin Management Plans, Flood Risk Management Plans, Marine Strategies**
 - Air: Air quality plans pursuant to the Ambient Air Quality Directive, National Air Pollution Control Programmes
- **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:**
 - National Energy and Climate Plans;
 - National Energy Efficiency Action Plans;
 - **National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;**
 - Urban or community-based action plans pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society;
 - **National, regional** or industry-/sector-specific **greenhouse gas mitigation strategies** or economy roadmaps contributing to climate neutrality



Technical Assistance Projects (TA-R)

Which sub-programmes?

- LIFE Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Key dates

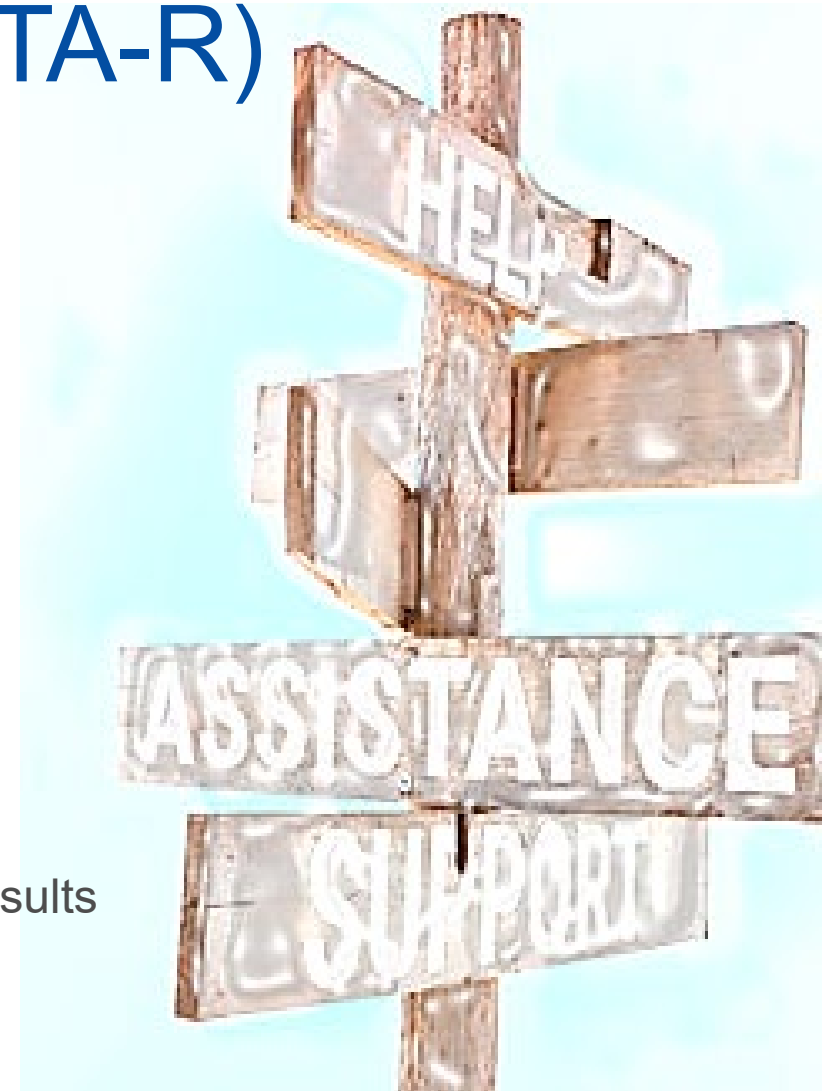
One-stage

Call opens: 18/04/2024

Application deadline: 18/09/2024

What is this about?

Preparation for facilitating the **wide up-scaling and replication** of results from other projects funded by the LIFE Programme, its predecessor programmes or other EU funding programmes.



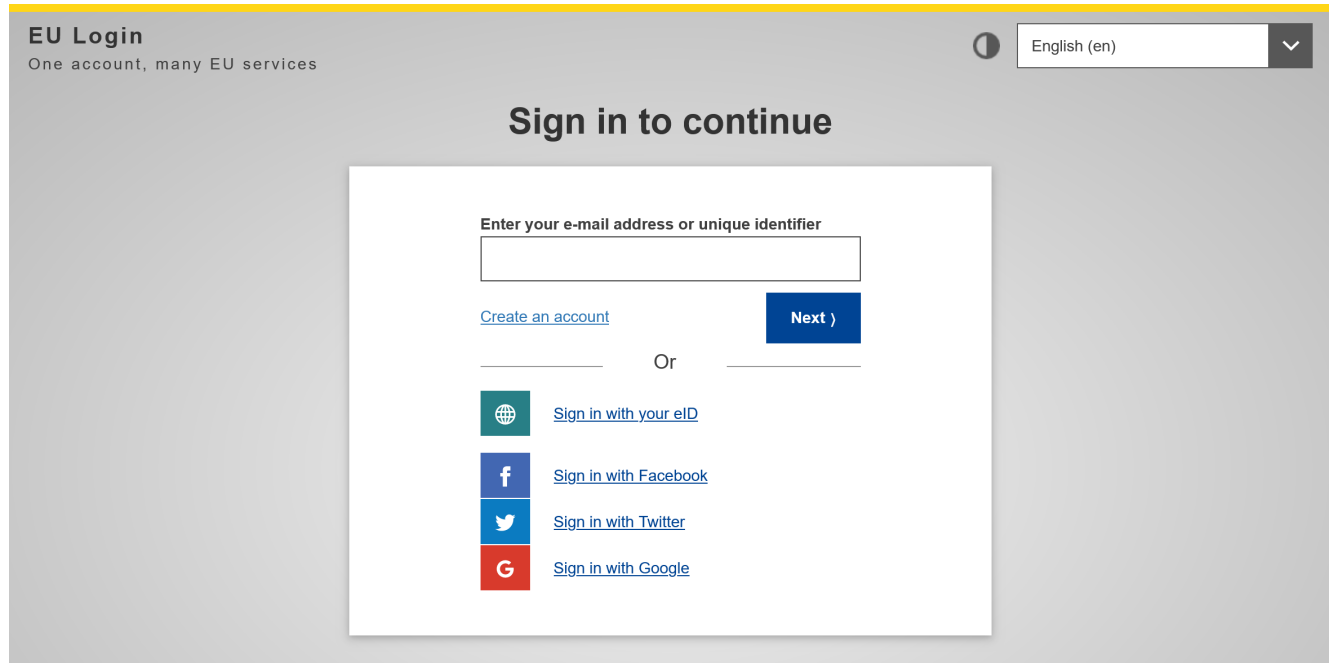
Key Challenges



- There is **significant competition** for LIFE funds
- New **IT environment** and **applications forms**
- Proposals that **fail are either poorly prepared** or simply with **limited ambition or risk taking**
- But: Key to success is always the same!



How does Funding & Tenders Portal work?



EU Login
One account, many EU services





English (en)

Sign in to continue

Enter your e-mail address or unique identifier

[Create an account](#) [Next \)](#)

Or

-  [Sign in with your eID](#)
-  [Sign in with Facebook](#)
-  [Sign in with Twitter](#)
-  [Sign in with Google](#)

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/login?>



4 N2K Biogeographical Seminar for CON-ALP-PAN-STE-BLS Regions, 25-27/06/2024, Prague, CZ



European
Commission

How does Funding & Tenders Portal work?

The screenshot shows the European Commission's Funding & tender opportunities portal. The 'SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS' button is highlighted with a red circle. The search results are filtered for 'Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)'. The results list three funding opportunities, all of which are 'Closed'.

Topic	Programme	Type of action	Opening date	Status	Deadline model	Deadline date
Climate Change Mitigation	Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	LIFE Project Grants	13 July 2021	Closed	single-stage	30 November 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
Climate Change Adaptation	Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	LIFE Project Grants	13 July 2021	Closed	single-stage	30 November 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
Climate Governance and Information	Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	LIFE Project Grants	13 July 2021	Closed	single-stage	30 November 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time



4 N2K Biogeographical Seminar for CON-ALP-PAN-STE-BLS Regions, 25-27/06/2024, Prague, CZ



European Commission

How does Funding & Tenders Portal work?

The screenshot shows the 'Funding & tender opportunities' page for the 'Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)'. The 'SUPPORT' menu is highlighted with a red circle, containing the following items: Support overview, Guidance & Manuals, FAQ, Helpdesk & Support Services, and Support videos. Below the menu, there is a 'Helpdesk & Support Services' section with a notification about COVID-19 measures. On the left, there are filters for 'GRANTS' and 'TENDERS', a 'Programming period' dropdown set to '2021-2027', and a 'Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)' tag. On the right, there are three service cards: 'IT Helpdesk', 'Europe Direct', and 'Research Enquiry Service'.



4 N2K Biogeographical Seminar for CON-ALP-PAN-STE-BLS Regions, 25-27/06/2024, Prague, CZ



European Commission

Thank you – Díky!

Keep in touch with us



https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en



[LIFE Programme](#)



[@LIFEprogramme](#)
[@CleanEnergy_EU](#)



[LIFE Programme](#)



[LIFE Programme](#)



[@LIFEprogramme](#)



[LIFE Newsletter](#)
[Clean Energy Newsletter](#)



European
Commission



4 N2K Biogeographical Seminar for CON-ALP-PAN-STE-BLS Regions, 25-27/06/2024, Prague, CZ