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28 April 2015

## LIFE NEWS

### LIFE 2014 anticipated results schedule

I understand that; the results schedule for the Climate Action projects is ahead of the Environmental assessments; according to discussions last week at the Programme Committee meeting in Brussels, and a discussion note published today on Linked-In by the Italy LIFE NCP, negotiation and rejection letters will be 'sent on ESAP in the next few days', and the exercise completed by 15th May.

Hopefully this will involve good news for those eagerly anticipating news of the applications submitted last October, so good luck to all those involved..

### LIFE Programme call 2015 – update on closing dates

As part of an attempt to avoid the frustrations and delay around the pressures on the e-proposal platform on the closing date, the cut off dates have been slightly phased but are comparable to last years call schedule. The revisions were announced as part of a recent LIFE Programme Committee meeting in Brussels last week, and are listed below.

Call **opening date**: 1 June 2015

Call **closing dates** for LIFE applications:

- Climate Action: 15 September 2015
- Environment & Resource Efficiency : 1 October 2015
- Nature & Biodiversity/Environmental Gov. & Info: 7 October 2015
- Climate Action Integrated Project ( Concept Note): 1 October 2015
- Climate Action Integrated Project (Full proposal): Mid-April 2016

I trust this is helpful to those in the midst of preparing their applications.

### LIFE announces the 'Best Projects' of 2014

The objective of the Best Projects exercise is to identify and raise awareness of those projects whose results, if widely applied, could have the most positive impact on the environment. The system for evaluating completed projects funded through the LIFE programme considers projects' contribution to immediate and long-term environmental, economic and social improvement; their degree of innovation and transferability; their relevance to EU policy; and their cost-effectiveness.. The most inspiring LIFE projects completed during 2014 will be honoured at a prestigious award ceremony taking place during [EU Green Week](#) in June 2015.

In all, some 42 Best Projects have been selected across three categories: Environment; Nature; and Information & Communication. Of these, **13** are recognised as being particularly exemplary and will be awarded Best of the Best project status. The 42 outstanding projects come from 16 EU Member States. In this 10th year of the LIFE Best

Project Awards they include the first winners from the Czech Republic and Malta.

In the Environment category, there are six Best of the Best projects and a further 16 Best projects. The Nature winners include four Best of the Best projects and nine Best projects. The seven outstanding Information & Communication projects consist of three Best of the Best projects, as well as four Best projects.

The full list of the 13 Best of the Best winners is available on the LIFE portal, including the UK Information project [RESTORE](#) (LIFE09 INF/UK/000032).

“The RESTORE project boosted knowledge transfer on European river restoration by setting up a website containing information on restoration projects. It also set up ‘RiverWiki’, a complementary open source website offering more than 500 river restoration case studies from 31 countries.”

There is more about all 42 winning projects at the [Best Projects](#) section of the LIFE website, which hopefully is of interest as we approach the 2015 call opening in June.

## Bringing peatlands back to life

Peatlands are formed in waterlogged wetland areas by the accumulation of dead plant material, in particular peat mosses (Sphagnum species), and are home to many rare and protected species. They provide important ecosystem services such as flood prevention and filtering of drinking water, as well as recreation opportunities and palaeo-environmental archives. (Such habitats hold a record of past climates and their anaerobic conditions mean peat bogs can preserve archaeological and organic remains.)

On top of that, peatlands are a major store of carbon: they contain up to 10 times more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than mineral soils. In an active state, peatlands continue to take up and lock away both CO<sub>2</sub> and methane; they can hold four times as much methane as CO<sub>2</sub>. But when degraded, they release greenhouse gases whilst the land remains drained and the peat continues to oxidise.

Restoring degraded peatlands is therefore vital for mitigating and adapting to climate change as well as improving biodiversity. [Several projects](#) co-funded by the LIFE programme in various EU Member States including the UK, have improved the condition of such sites, using some or all of the following “best practices” - restoration approaches re-wetting peatland, clearing trees and shrubs, and managing the land to prevent regrowth of unwanted species.

Some examples of recently completed projects can be found on the LIFE [website](#).

EVENTS

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#### Beta Technology

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- 2) Assistance with project planning, partner searching, proposal writing and preparation.
- 3) Liaison with UK government and the EC. If you have a question or query we are happy to ask it on your behalf.
- 4) Website [www.betaeurope.co.uk](http://www.betaeurope.co.uk)

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