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23rd November 2015

LIFE NEWS

LIFE 2014 call results published - € 160.6 million invested in 96 new environment projects..

...including 7 in the UK – 33.6 million

LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency (2 projects – 5.6 million)

ECAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme - WRAP): The objective of the ECAP project is to divert clothing waste from landfill and incineration, to deliver a more resource-efficient clothing sector with a reduced carbon and water footprint. Using the principles of a proven UK scheme, the project will establish a European Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (ECAP) as a framework to encourage circular business thinking and economic growth.

[Project summary](#)

LIFE 2014 CRM Recovery (Waste and Resources Action Programme - WRAP): The objective of the project is to facilitate the recovery of critical raw materials (CRM) from waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). It will collect 100 tonnes of WEEE (display and consumer electronics, computers and small household appliances) with the goal of increasing by 5% the recovery rate of the following types of CRM: graphite, cobalt, antimony, tantalum, rare earths, silver, gold and platinum group metals. The project will contribute to a European infrastructure plan for recovery of CRM from WEEE. It will also investigate the potential use of positive price mechanisms to reduce the amount of WEEE shipped to non-OECD countries. [Project summary](#)

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity (4 projects – 26.9 million)

Bure LIFE (Natural England): The main aim of the project is to restore the naturally eutrophic lake habitat of Hoveton Great Broad and Hudson's Bay in the Broads Natura 2000 network site (Norfolk, England) to a species-rich, clear-water state. The restoration work will consist of minimal carbon footprint project actions that also benefit EU priority habitats, such as calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and Annex II-listed Habitats Directive species

including the otter, wigeon, gadwall and shoveler. [Project summary](#)

MoorLIFE 2020 (Peak District National Park Authority): The aim of the project is to protect the priority habitat 'active blanket bog' within the South Pennine moors. Actions will protect the integrity of around 9 500 ha of the target habitat and the ecosystem services it provides. The project will raise water tables, remove invasive species and introduce appropriate plant species to stop erosion of the peat body, reduce wildfire risk and increase habitat resilience. The carbon benefits of the capital works programme will be included in the project's accounting. [Project summary](#)

LIFE14 Roseate Tern (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds): The goal of the project is to improve the conservation prospects of the roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*) in the UK and Ireland by enhancing habitat management and reducing threats at three principal colonies. It will also provide the conditions needed for expansion of tern areas and identify long-term options for the management and establishment of tern colonies across north-west Europe, in view of predicted changes to the climate and coastlines. The UK roseate tern population is expected to increase from 73 to at least 100 breeding pairs and the population in Ireland from 1 413 to 1 710 pairs as a result of the project. [Project summary](#)

Scurious LIFE (Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts): The project aims to develop early warning/rapid response mechanisms to prevent the invasive grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) colonising (or re-colonising) areas of Wales, England and Northern Ireland where populations of the native Eurasian red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) are found. ScuriousLIFE will also mitigate the impact of grey squirrels on urban woodlands with high biodiversity and tourism value and inform the development of a long-term management framework for the species in the UK. [Project summary](#)

LIFE Environmental Governance & Information (1 project – 1.1 million)

ENPE (Environment Agency): The project aims to create a self-sustaining network of environmental prosecutors to facilitate the sharing of information on waste, wildlife and chemical crimes. It also aims to improve the capacity and consistency for combating transnational environmental crime, fostering a greater culture of cooperation between prosecutors and judges. [Project summary](#)

Overall summary of results published on the LIFE portal...

The Commission has approved an investment package of €264.8 million to support Europe's environment, nature and green growth. The investment covers 96 new projects spanning to 21 Member States, funded under the LIFE programme for the Environment. The projects cover actions in the field of environment and resource efficiency, supporting the transition to a more circular and sustainable economy, nature and biodiversity, and environmental governance and information. EU will co-finance the projects by providing € 160.6 million.

The Commission received 1, 117 applications in response to a call for proposals that closed in June 2014. Of these, 96 were selected for co-funding through the programme's three components.

The 51 LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency projects will mobilise € 103.3 million, of which the EU will provide € 56.2 million. These projects cover actions in five thematic areas: air, environment and health, resource efficiency, waste and water. Out of these close to half the funds will be dedicated to 14 resource efficiency projects that will facilitate Europe's transition to a more circular economy.

The 39 LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects improve the conservation status of endangered species and habitats and contribute to the EU's goal of halting biodiversity loss. They have a total budget of € 153.9 million, to which the EU will contribute € 100 million.

The 6 LIFE Governance and Information projects aim to raise the awareness of environmental issues. They have a total budget of € 7.5 million, to which the EU will contribute nearly € 4.5 million.

Further background and descriptions of **all 96 projects** can be found on the [LIFE portal](#)

European Parliament LIFE workshop outlines effective ways forward; implications for the 2016 call? ..

At a recent workshop at the European Parliament - 'LIFE – How to use €3.46 billion for environment and climate protection' (10th November), - [Angelo Salsi](#), head of unit, LIFE and CIP Eco-innovation, EASME, said that the increased budget for LIFE in the 2014-2020 funding period was an "*endorsement of the quality of work*" performed by the programme.

The workshop, which was organised by the European Parliament's ENVI Committee, in cooperation with the LIFE Working Group, explored ways in which the current edition of LIFE can make an effective contribution to the achievement of environmental protection and climate change targets. It was aimed at members of the ENVI

Committee and [all participants of the LIFE programme.](#)

The event was chaired by Italian MEP [Nicola Caputo](#) and Croatian MEP [Dubravka Suica](#), who are the co-chairs of the LIFE Working Group, ENVI Committee. The first part examined the new programme, while the second half of the workshop focused on improving the LIFE programmes effectiveness and the promotion of good practices.

Mr. Salsi told attendees that the programme was now a "*substantially different type of tool*". He said that it had moved from a '*brick-by-brick*' approach to '*one of providing complementary support for wide-reaching national plans on, for example, rivers, energy efficiency and waste reduction and recycling. 'Mainstreaming' these plans into Member States' national policy is the way forward,*' he said.

Looking forward to the 2016 call.

The workshop was also an opportunity for [Jan Kinšt](#) of the European Court of Auditors to summarise the findings of the latest audit of the programme. He advocated '*focusing on fewer objectives and greater evaluation during the implementation of projects. The replication of project results would be improved with more extensive and continued dissemination*', he added. Mr Salsi said '*that rather than simply more communication, "smarter communication" is needed in order to ensure replication.*'

The workshop concluded with a few words from [Hervé Martin](#), head of unit of LIFE Environment, who reaffirmed the belief that the programme is enabling green growth. In order to further advance this aspect of LIFE, he said that '*it was necessary to ask whether project results are suitable for replication in a market environment.*'

Slides of the presentations, including 2 LIFE projects, can be downloaded from the [European Parliament's website.](#)

Please let me know if you require any further background about these results or preparations for the next call opening scheduled for 2016.

Steve Bradley - UK LIFE National Contact Point.

The verdict is in: Europe's nature laws are fit for purpose...

..according to *Bird Life International*, the first findings are out from the European Commission's review of key European nature laws – and it says they deliver far more benefits than they cost,

A study carried out by international experts for the Commission has published its initial findings of a [Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme](#) (REFIT) process on the [Birds and Habitats Directives](#).

It's feared the laws, also known as the Nature Directives, could be re-opened, merged or weakened as part of a drive for 'better regulation'. But the evaluation study, compiled by a panel of technical experts, has found no reason for merging the directives and says they are also coherent with other EU policies and laws. Further, it spells out the huge benefits provided by the laws when compared with how much they cost. The [Natura 2000](#) network of protected areas, which the laws are responsible for, costs an estimated 5.8 billion EUR per year, but generates benefits in ecosystem services running to 200-300 billion EUR per year and a further 50-85 billion EUR per year for local economies. Overall, the directives make positive contributions to sustainable development and allow economic development which is compatible with maintaining biodiversity.

Further news will be announced in due course following a high-level conference scheduled for last Friday [20th November 2015] in Brussels to present and discuss with Member States and other stakeholders the preliminary conclusions emerging from the assessment of evidence and information gathered, and it has stated it will not prejudge the outcome of the fitness check.

CONTACT

E-mail: life@betatechnology.co.uk

Telephone: 01302 322633

Web: www.betaeurope.co.uk

Beta Technology Ltd. Barclay Court, Doncaster Carr, Doncaster DN4 5HZ

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