

JNCC took on the UK LIFE National Contact Point from 01 January 2016 and these presentations/documents are from events under the previous LIFE NCP, Beta Technology. For further information on UK LIFE please see the dedicated webpages at: [jncc.defra.gov.uk/UKLIFE](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/UKLIFE)



21st September 2015

## LIFE NEWS

### 2015 LIFE call deadlines...

With the **Climate Action** deadline already passed (15th Sept) the remaining deadlines for **Environment & Resource Efficiency (1st Oct)**; **Nature & Biodiversity and Environmental Governance & Information (7th Oct)** are fast approaching, for those intending to submit a project proposal, a well developed draft should already be lodged on the e-proposal system, before the time pressures of deadlines become more 'challenging', ready for any final amendments.

The applicants guidance documents provide specific advice, e.g. Nature & Biodiversity guidance to applicants on page 43 states – '*You may introduce the information either directly into the textboxes or you may copy and paste information in simple text format; note that for security reasons, a text copied and pasted from a Word document or an html page may not be accepted entirely, therefore simple, basic text editors such as Notepad suit better for this purpose.*' with the strong recommendation to '*Always click on the 'Save' button before switching to another form.*'

Please note some people have encountered problems with the e-proposal system in trying to upload word content via Notepad, and a suggestion that alternative web browsers to Explorer, such as Firefox or Chrome, have proved a successful tactic. The IT helpdesk may be able to respond with some additional positive suggestions, but nearer the deadline this may be more 'problematical'.

### Anticipated timescales regarding formal publication of the results of 2014 LIFE call...

The question around when the results of the 2014 call will be formally published has been raised several times in recent weeks.. Unfortunately, EASME who fully manage the LIFE 2014 call for traditional projects have confirmed that as the exact amounts of funds to be made available for additional reserve list projects will only be known towards the end of the year, they are unable to provide a final list of funded and reserve list projects until the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016.

Whilst this means there will be a delay in a formal announcement, for those individual applicants still awaiting final news of the results following the revision process, the LIFE e-proposal portal will remain the most appropriate 'news' channel to learn of the results, and subsequent grant agreement arrangements.

One applicant, the **Environment Agency (EA)**, has already announced completion of the evaluation arrangements for their project, with over €640,000 granted to help in its bid to tackle environmental crime, including the illegal shipment of waste. The funding will develop the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), and was secured from a partnership with prosecutors in Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as the European Judges' network, EUFJE. The funding means that ENPE will commence a five year programme that will aim to reinforce the capacity for prosecutors to tackle environmental crime, in particular illegal waste exports and crimes relating to industrial discharges and chemicals. More details are available at [CIWM](#) portal.

### News updates on environmental issues...

**Pan European Networks** provide relevant and up to date information for the use of not only the European Commission, but all government agencies and departments across the continent of Europe. Their portal states

*'whether it is from a scientific, educational or ground-breaking news perspective..' their '..goal is to make sure that both the public and private sectors have the ability to communicate at the same level...publications will give opportunity to some of the leading figures from across Europe to discuss current and future projects, policy change and problematic issues within science, technology, education, health, defence and wider governance.'* This includes a specific section on the environment, with several news articles worth considering, in date release order, such as recently;

- New research from the UK's Met Office has shown that regional temperature and worldwide rainfall will be affected by significant changes in key patterns in the global climate system.
- A new project that aims to secure the future of red squirrels in the UK could receive a £1.2m (~€1.6m) from the national Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Further information available at [Pan European Networks](#)

## Momentum Building for the Welsh Marine Energy Sector...

The profile of Wales as a potential location for marine energy projects has increased dramatically over the past 12 months, attracted initially by Wales' excellent wave and tidal stream resource, the announcement of two marine energy Demonstration Zones and the allocation of €100.4 million of EU Structural Funds prioritised by the Welsh Government for marine energy have served to cement Wales as one of the preferred locations for marine energy development on a worldwide scale.

More information at [Offshore Wind](#) portal.

## Soil area the size of Berlin lost each year due to water erosion in the EU...

Soil erosion by water accounts for the greatest loss of soil in Europe compared to other erosion processes, such as wind. A recent assessment carried out by the EU's Joint Research Centre estimates that water erodes 970 million tonnes of soil every year in the EU. This would mean a one metre-depth loss of soil from an area corresponding to the size of the city of Berlin, or a one centimetre loss from an area twice the size of Belgium. A new high resolution map (100 m) of soil erosion by water in the EU (2010) is now available, providing details of soil erosion by water across the EU. The map of soil loss by water erosion delineates areas of concern that will require special protection measures, such as financing more sustainable land management practices. As soil erosion has huge impacts on ecosystems, food production, drinking water, carbon stocks and biodiversity, the EU has called for quantitative assessments of soil rates at EU level, and put soil protection at the heart of its environmental agenda.

More information at the [JRC](#) portal.

## Mapping a Green Infrastructure network for Europe...

JRC scientists are also the main authors of a recent article in Environmental Science & Policy that describes a new methodology to identify and map green infrastructure (GI) based on multifunctional ecosystem services and ecological networks, and illustrates its use by mapping a European GI network. The approach integrates the natural capacity of areas to deliver ecosystem services with the core habitats and wildlife corridors for large mammals. The methodology can be tailored to different objectives and spatial scales for use in research, planning or policy implementation.

This new methodology can be used to help target investments that sustain and enhance the ecological, economic and social benefits of using multi-functional natural alternatives to grey infrastructure, as proposed by the European Commission. Further information at [JRCs](#) portal.

## EVENTS

### Save the date - UK LIFE Information Day, 9th November 2015...

A UK LIFE Information day hosted by Defra will take place at Europe House, London on 9th November 2015. The agenda is in the process of being finalised and registration details will be circulated shortly. The event is expected to take place between 10.00 and 16.30 and will provide updates on the current programme, presentations on LIFE finances, lessons learnt from previous proposals submitted, scoping your project for fit etc. More details to follow, which will be made available as usual on the Beta Europe portal...

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Beta Technology

The services Beta Technology provides are on behalf of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, these services are free and confidential.

- 1) Helpline providing information ranging from general questions about LIFE funding to detailed advice on proposal content.
- 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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