

This presentation is from JNCC's UK LIFE Application writing workshop held in Cardiff 2016.

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CARDIFF TRAINING WORKSHOP

LIFE APPLICATIONS AND KEY EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR

LIFE ENVIRONMENT & LIFE CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS

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SUB PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT – AWARD PHASE

ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY; NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY
ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE & INFORMATION

SUB PROGRAMME CLIMATE ACTION – AWARD PHASE

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION; CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION
CLIMATE GOVERNANCE & INFORMATION

- Meets all administrative selection criteria
- Complies with Eligibility criteria
- Complies with one of the technical criteria
 - Contributes to general objectives as set out in Article 3 of the LIFE Regulation and the specific objectives of Articles 10,11,12 (LIFE Environment) & Articles 14, 15 and 16 (LIFE Climate Action) .
 - Falls within scope of the priority area (set out in Article 9 of the LIFE Regulation) for the LIFE sub-programme for the Environment and Article 13 for the LIFE Climate Action programme.
 - Is one of the following project types: Pilot Project; Demonstration Project; Best Practice Projects or Information, Awareness and Dissemination Projects
- Has a focus different than on research or the construction of large infrastructure
- Takes place in the Union and/or territories to which the Treaties and relevant acquis apply (with certain additional opportunities for UK Overseas Territories)
- The applicant clearly has the professional competencies and qualifications to complete the project



LIFE NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY (NAT) - AWARD STAGE

- For Pilot, Demonstration and Best Practice – 25% of budget allocated to concrete conservation actions (which are defined)
- Exceptions
 - Marine site designation projects (with confirmation from Competent Authority for Completion)
 - Article 11 projects for the support and/or the further development of the surveillance of the conservation status of natural habitats and species covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives
 - Competent Authority must be a beneficiary of the project
 - Routine monitoring or local improvements to routine monitoring are not considered an exception
- Conservation of domestic species or varieties is not eligible
- Actions must implement objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives
- Actions must concern conservation measures for species and habitats covered under those Directives (LIFE Nature)
- Actions must fulfil Target 2-5 of the Communication “Our life insurance, our natural capital: An EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM(2011) 244) (Life Biodiversity)
 - By improving or restoring natural biodiversity or ecosystem

LIFE ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

- Demonstration and/or pilot nature is spelt out in form B2 and/or B3



Sub Programme	Priority Area	Projects Eligible
Environment	Environment & Resource Efficiency	Demonstration & Pilot only
Environment	Nature and Biodiversity	Best Practice, Demonstration and Pilot
Biodiversity Project Topic 4	Innovative ways of direct or indirect financing	Demonstration & Pilot only
Biodiversity Project Topic 5	Green Infrastructure	Demonstration & Pilot only
Environment	Environmental Governance & Information	Information, awareness & dissemination projects
Climate Action	Mitigation & Adaption	Best Practice, Demonstration and Pilot projects
Climate Action	Climate Governance and Information	Information, awareness & dissemination projects

Award Criteria – Environment Projects

Award criteria	Minimum pass score (*)	Maximum score
1. Technical coherence and quality	10	20
2. Financial coherence and quality	10	20
3. EU added value: extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment	10	20
4. Contribution to the project topics	—	10
5. EU added value: multipurpose, synergies, and integration	7	15
6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	5	10
7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	—	5
Overall (pass) scores	55	100

(*) A project proposal has to reach at least the minimum pass score for each award criterion and also the sum of scores for criteria for which a minimum score has been fixed has to be equivalent to 55 points or more.

Award Criteria - Climate action projects

AWARD CRITERIA	Min pass score	Max score
1. Technical coherence and quality	10	20
2. Financial coherence and quality	10	20
3. EU added value : Extent & quality of the contribution to an increased climate resilience &/or to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.	7	15
4. EU added value: Extent & quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action	7	15
5. EU Added value: quality of multipurpose, synergies & integration.	7	15
6. EU added value: replicability & transferability	5	10
7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	-	5
Overall (pass) score	55	100
*A project has to reach at least the minimum pass score for each award criterion and also the sum of scores for criteria for which a minimum score has been fixed has to be equivalent to 55 points or more		



Technical Coherence – Potential 20 marks

- The pre-operational context is thoroughly described
- A clear link exists between the problems and threats, the project objectives, the proposed actions and the expected results
- All actions are properly described and QUANTIFIED
- Actions must all contribute directly to project actions to be eligible
- It must be clear how, where, when and by whom each action in the proposal will be undertaken
- Clarity, feasibility and sustainability of actions
- Sustainability – medium to long term
- Evaluators must be able to assess from the proposal that the consortium has the technical means and expertise to deliver
- Time planning must be realistic and key difficulties assessed and addressed

Pass score 10 – Practically a score of 17 or higher is needed for success



Comments

- Technical coherence is critical to successful projects
- Get this right and Financial coherence and quality is straightforward
- Most UK bids fail on this criteria due to lack of quantification
- UK public sector applicants are afraid of failure and set unambitious if any targets, setting the project up for a low technical score
- Applicants are too focused on the immediate deliverables but fail to consider the wider EU implications
- The pre-operational context is not set against a European perspective, remains local and parochial and of little interest to the EU
- Sustainability often remains an after thought
- A consistent story cannot be followed through the bid document
- LogFrame and problem tree analysis are not used to get this right
- Applicants allow insufficient time to find the right partners and to get them aligned behind a common problem



Financial Coherence & Quality 20 Marks

- Evaluators expect to be able to track technical deliverables against technical outputs and allocate costs
- Costs need to be clearly linked to actions
- Costs need to be realistic and value for money
- All EU rules need to be followed; Life Guidelines; General Conditions of the LIFE Model Grant Agreement and the LIFE Regulation
- Broad percentage rules will be applied
- Evaluators will home in on projects that have outlier percentage costs and question their coherence and quality unless clear justification is given
- Projects with poor technical scores usually get poor financial scores and fail on both these two key parameters

Pass score 10 Practically a score of about 17 or higher is needed for success



FINANCE FORMS IN BID DOCUMENTS

ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS PERCENTAGE COSTS

A-G – APPROVED PROJECTS H-I FAILED PROJECTS

PROJECT	PERSONNEL	TRAVEL	EXT ASST	DURABLE GOODS	LAND	CONSUMABLES	OTHER	OVERHEADS
A	56.43	2.31	29.56	1.5	0	1.26	2.39	6.54
B	20.85	2.69	66.41	0	0	3.51	0	6.54
C	52.11	3.01	35.8	0	0	1.83	0.71	6.54
D	48.11	5.83	34.12	0	0	3.56	1.82	6.54
E	57.75	8.89	20.14	0	0	0.03	7.15	5.86
F	57.44	4.27	5.99	0	0	0.37	25.38	6.54
G	48.46	4.21	33.52	0	0	6.56	0.7	6.54
H	30.13	0.48	61.09	0.64	0	1.05	0.06	6.54
I	63.97	3.62	25.38	0.2	0	0.21	0.09	6.54

The above figures are for LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency projects and include no LIFE Nature Projects where Land Acquisition/concrete measures would change percentages.



EU Added Value - 20 Marks

extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment

- The project makes a significant contribution to the priorities of the LIFE sub-programme
 - Articles 10/11/12 Environment sub-programme
 - Articles 14/15/16 Climate Change sub-programme
- Environmental benefits should be clear, substantial, ambitious and credible
- The project should make a substantial contribution to the implementation, updating and development of EU Environmental policy and governance
- These should be easy marks if applicants read the guidance and focus in on the right issues
- For LIFE Nature & LIFE Biodiversity the impact on the conservation status of habitats and species will be assessed.

Pass score 10 – Practically a score of 15 or higher is need for success



EU Added Value 10 marks - *contribution to the project topics*

- For NAT & GIE Proposals either 10 or 0 points will be awarded based on whether the project fully complies with one or more of the priority project topics for the chosen priority area
- For ENV 5 easy marks for fully complying with 1 or more of the priority topics defined in the LIFE Regulation or MAWP
- For ENV 5 more easy marks if the proposal is new or unknown Union wide (evidence is needed)
- Requires the applicant to have read and understood the EU documents
- Requires the applicant to have a knowledge about what is going on in Europe
- Applicants should be looking for 10 marks for all ENV projects.

No pass score – these are easy marks aim for a 10 score.



EU added value - 15 Points *multi-purpose, synergies, and integration*

- Projects have a well-conceived multi-purpose delivery mechanism;
- Projects improve integration of specific environmental objectives in other policy areas;
- Projects create synergies with other Union policies and contribute to economic and social objectives
- Requires a wide understanding of current EU thinking in the 7th Action Framework and current EU issues under debate and key documents being produced;
- Lack of EU reporting in the UK National Press often means applicants are ignorant of current issues and easy scores are missed

Pass score 7 – these are easy marks aim for 10 or higher



EU added value -10 Points: *replicability and transferability*

- Putting the techniques, methods and strategies developed or applied into practice elsewhere
- Outlining a clear strategy to multiply the impacts of the projects solutions
- Concrete proposals to replicate and transfer the project's solutions to other sectors, entities, regions and countries
- Methods to reach critical mass during the project or shortly thereafter are outlined
- UK applicants often miss out on this score through lack of effective EU contacts or understanding of EU institutions through which delivery is possible

Pass 5 – Practically a score to 10 should be the aim for this criteria



EU added value – 5 points. Transnational, green procurement, uptake

- 3 easy points for being transnational as long as added value is clear
- 1 easy point for demonstrating green procurement
- 1 easy point for showing uptake of EU research outputs from Research and Innovation Programmes
- UK applicants miss easy points by being unaware of EU Research and by organisations not having in place green procurement (easy points for instance for the Environment Agency)

No pass mark – applicants should aim for 5 points



Summary for Environment Strand

Easy -

7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	- target 5
4. EU Added Value : Contribution to the project topics	-target 10
5. EU added value: multipurpose, synergies, and integration	- target 10
6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	- target 10
3. EU added value: extent & quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment	-target 15
2. Financial coherence and quality	- target 17
1. Technical coherence and quality	- target 17
Total	Pass 55
	- target 84

Hard

CURRENTLY UK BIDS ARE RING FENCED SCORE 73+ TO HAVE A CHANCE



Award Criteria CLIMATE ACTION – As per Environment Strand

- Technical coherence
- Financial coherence
- EU Added value : multi – purpose, synergies, and integration
- EU added value: replicability and transferability
- EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake



LIFE CLIMATE ACTION

EU Added Value – Extent and quality of the contribution to an increased climate resilience and/or to the reduction of green house gases

15 Points Available

- Demonstrate a transformative impact on increased climate resilience and/or
- Demonstrate a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low carbon and climate-resilient economy
- Assessed at the level of the project and taking into account the wider impact of the project's results achieved during and after the project

Pass Score 7 Target score needs to be 12 or above



LIFE CLIMATE ACTION

EU added value: 15 points available

- Extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action
- Contributes to the specific objectives and priorities of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate as set out in Articles 14,15,16 of the LIFE Regulation
- Contributes to the EU policy priorities in the LIFE Climate Action Guidelines
 - Section 2.3.3 Climate Change Mitigation
 - Section 2.4.3 Climate Change Adaptation
 - Section 2.5.3 Climate Governance and Information

Pass 7 Target Score needs to be 12 or above



Summary for Climate Action Sub-Programme

Easy -

7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	- target 5
4. EU Added Value : Cont. to the LIFE sub prog for Climate Action	-target 12
5. EU added value: multipurpose, synergies, and integration	- target 10
6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	- target 10
3. EU added value: extent & quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action	-target 12
2. Financial coherence and quality	-target 1
1. Technical coherence and quality	- target 17
Total	Pass 55 - target 83

Hard

**YOU ARE COMPETING AGAINST ALL EU BIDS – NO RING FENCE FOR UK BIDS
IT WILL HAVE TO BE A TOP QUALITY BID TO SUCCEED**