



Commission invests over €220 million in green and low-carbon projects in Member States

Brussels, 3 November 2016

A LIFE-line for 144 innovative projects investing for a better environment and climate action.

The European Commission has approved an investment package of €222.7 million from the EU budget to support Europe's transition to a more sustainable and low-carbon future. The EU funding will spur additional investments leading to a total of €398.6 million to be invested into 144 new projects in [23 Member States](#).

The support comes from the LIFE programme for the Environment and Climate Action. €323.5 million will go to projects in the field of environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity and environmental governance and information.

Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu **Vella** said: *"I am delighted to see that this year again our LIFE programme will support many innovative projects to address our common environmental challenges. LIFE-funded projects use relatively little funding and with simple ideas to create profitable green businesses that deliver on the transition to a low-carbon and circular economy."*

Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias **Cañete** said: *"With the Paris Agreement entering into force, we must now focus on delivering on our promises. These projects will create the right conditions to promote innovative solutions and spread best practices in reducing emission and adapting to climate change across the European Union. In this way they support the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement."**

The projects illustrate the Commission's ongoing commitment to its flagship circular economy package. A significant number of awards are granted to help Member States best make the transition to a more circular economy. Examples of recognised projects in 2016 include the new energy-saving hydrogen-electric garbage trucks in Belgium, technologies for reducing the health risks of sludge in wastewater pioneered in Italy and a project to help Greek municipalities, such as Olympia, increase recycling rates.

In the field of climate action, the investment will support climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and climate governance and information projects totalling €75.1 million. Selected projects support the EU's target to reduce GHG emissions by at least 40 % by 2030, contributing to the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy. Some examples of 2015 projects include restoration and carbon storage in peatlands in five EU countries (Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland), demonstration of the production of low-emission cement and concrete products in France, enhancing the climate resilience of vineyards in Germany and implementing adaptation measures in urban areas in Cyprus.

The **56 LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency** projects will mobilise €142.2 million, of which the EU will provide €71.9 million. These projects cover actions in five thematic areas: air, environment and health, resource efficiency, waste and water. The 21 resource efficiency projects alone will mobilise €43.0 million that will facilitate Europe's transition to a more circular economy.

The **39 LIFE Nature & Biodiversity** projects support the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. They have a total budget of €158.1 million, of which the EU will contribute €95.6 million.

The **15 LIFE Environmental Governance and Information** projects will raise awareness on environmental matters. They have a total budget of €23.2 million, of which the EU will contribute €13.8 million.

The **16 LIFE Climate Change Adaptation** projects will mobilise €32.9 million, of which the EU will provide €19.4 million. These action grants are awarded to projects in five thematic areas: agriculture/forestry/tourism, adaptation in mountain/island areas, urban adaptation/planning, vulnerability assessments/adaptation strategies, and water.

The **12 LIFE Climate Change Mitigation** projects have a total budget of €35.3 million, of which the

EU will contribute €18.0 million. These action grants are awarded to best practice, pilot and demonstration projects in three thematic areas: energy, industry and land use/forestry/agriculture.

The **6 LIFE Climate Governance and Information** projects will improve governance and raise awareness of climate change. They have a total budget of €6.9 million, of which the EU will contribute €4.1 million.

Descriptions of projects can be found in the [annex](#) to this press release.

Background

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 4 300 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising €8.8 billion and contributing €3.9 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. At any given moment some 1100 projects are ongoing. The budget for the LIFE Programme for 2014–2020 is set at €3.4 billion in current prices, and has a sub-programme for environment and a sub-programme for climate action.

For information on LIFE

Link to [Annex](#)

[LIFE Programme](#)

To contact the relevant national authorities see [here](#).

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