LIFE programme – 2019 calls for proposals
Borough Briefing
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The LIFE Programme

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It is divided into two sub-programmes corresponding to those themes, with several priority areas, covering topics such as biodiversity, carbon neutrality or chemicals. The **LIFE Environment** programme focuses on three. Amongst these, two can be of interest to transport themes and are **open for the 2019 call:**
- **Environment and Resource Efficiency**
- **Environment Governance & Information**

LIFE projects are quite flexible: they can involve public bodies and private organisations (commercial or not), and although they do not require participants to form a consortium, they can involve multiple partners, across EU countries or not. Funding rates vary but are usually around 55-60%. All current projects can be found on the programme's data hub.

Regarding Brexit, this is the statement LIFE provides:

'Please note that, until the United Kingdom leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, when it comes to rights and obligations. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate fully and receive funding under the LIFE programme. Please be aware, however, that the eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring, in particular, that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to be eligible to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of the relevant Articles of the grant agreement.'

Further information is available on LIFE's website: https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life

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Environment and Resource Efficiency traditional projects

Funding: 55%	**Timescale for submitting a concept note: 17 June 2019**
Context	The programme provides action grants for pilot and demonstration projects to develop, test and demonstrate policy or management approaches. It also covers the development and demonstration of innovative technologies, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU environmental policy and law, as well as best practices and solutions. The European Commission is particularly looking for technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.
Scope	**Environment and Health, including chemicals and noise** *Noise.* Reduction of noise from roads inside densely populated urban areas by means of using low-noise surfaces and/or tyres having life cycle costs comparable to those of standard surfaces and/or tyres while achieving a substantial noise reduction. **Air quality and emissions, including urban environment** *Air quality* improvement and emission reduction of particulate matter (PM) in areas with high use of solid fuel like biomass, coal, and peat for domestic heating. *Sustainable road transport mobility* aiming at emissions of air pollutants, focussing on one or more of the following: - cleaner real-world driving - cleaner or electric two- or three-wheelers and/or analysis for and implementation on a test scale of related infrastructure needs - the use of electric or super low emission vehicles - the use of alternative fuels - innovative retrofit programmes for vehicles - alternative drive train technology - high-impact traffic access systems (such as Low Emission Zones and road pricing schemes) through advanced access criteria and/or labels - the use of innovative logistic platforms *Urban environment*. Implementation of integrated urban policies and regulatory approaches for sustainable planning and design and/or for supporting innovative technical solutions to improve at least one of the following aspects: - urban public transport and mobility - energy or resource efficiency or no-/low-emission renewable energy or materials solutions

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Environment Governance and Information traditional projects

Funding: 55%	**Timescale for submitting a concept note: 19 June 2019**
Context	The programme supports projects in the areas of awareness raising, environmental training and capacity building, legislative compliance and enforcement, knowledge development and public and stakeholder participation. It co-finances action grants for information, awareness and dissemination projects that aim to promote awareness raising on environmental matters. This includes cooperation platforms and knowledge sharing on sustainable environmental solutions and practice.
Scope	**Raising awareness on environmental problems, EU environmental policies, tools and/or legislation among the relevant target audiences** Applicants need to provide substantial evidence that a change of awareness levels in the field(s) addressed by the project is a crucial factor supporting correct implementation and/or future development of EU environmental policies tools and/or legislation. The awareness-raising activities should have the widest coverage relevant for the specific issue targeted. The environmental problems, EU environmental policies, tools and/or legislation targeted should be directly linked to one or more of the themes listed below the following three priorities, amongst which *air quality in urban areas and its health effects*. **Activities in support of effective control process as well as measures to promote compliance** Improving the capacity and quality of public administration in relation to plans, programmes, analyses, reviews and assessments and/or to permits, derogations, and other decisions on specific activities, where appropriate also in partnership with private entities, with a view to reducing administrative burden while optimising environmental outcomes and integrating, where appropriate, nature conservation. One or more of the following shall be targeted: - air quality plans - national air pollution control programmes

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LIFE types of projects

- 'Pilot projects' are projects that apply a technique or method that has not been applied or tested before, or elsewhere, that offer potential environmental or climate advantages compared to current best practice and that can subsequently be applied on a larger scale to similar situations.
- 'Demonstration projects' are projects that, put into practice, test, evaluate and disseminate actions, methodologies or approaches that are new or unknown in the specific context of the project, such as the geographical, ecological, socioeconomic context, and that could be applied elsewhere in similar circumstances.
- 'Best practice projects' are projects that apply appropriate, cost-effective and state-of-the-art techniques, methods and approaches taking into account the specific context of the project.
- 'Information, awareness and dissemination projects' are projects aimed at supporting communication, dissemination of information and awareness raising in the fields of the sub-programme for Environment or Climate Action.
- Pilot and demonstration projects under the priority area Environment and Resource Efficiency, and pilot, demonstration and best practice projects under the priority areas Climate Change Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation, must contain actions that lead to substantial and measurable direct effects on the environmental and/or climate action issue(s) targeted.
- Pilot, demonstration and best practice projects under the priority area Nature and Biodiversity, must dedicate at least 25 % of the eligible budget to concrete conservation actions (limited exceptions will be possible in view of the specific policy needs and will be explicitly identified in the application guidelines). Concrete conservation actions are those that have substantial and measurable direct effects on the environmental and climate issue(s) targeted, in this case leading to the improvement or the slowing/halting/reversion of the decline of the conservation status or ecological condition of the species, habitats, ecosystems or ecosystem services targeted (for more details refer to the application guidelines).
- Pilot, demonstration, best practice or information, awareness and dissemination projects under the priority areas Environmental or Climate Action Governance and Information must contain actions that lead to substantial and measurable direct or indirect effects on the environmental and/or climate action issue(s) targeted by causing substantial and measurable direct effects on the environmental and/or climate related governance, information, and/or awareness and dissemination issue(s) targeted.

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