



The LIFE Programme

Funding for food waste reduction and prevention initiatives

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European Commission/Executive Agency for SMEs - EASME

10th Meeting of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste



EASME
Executive Agency
for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

18 March 2021

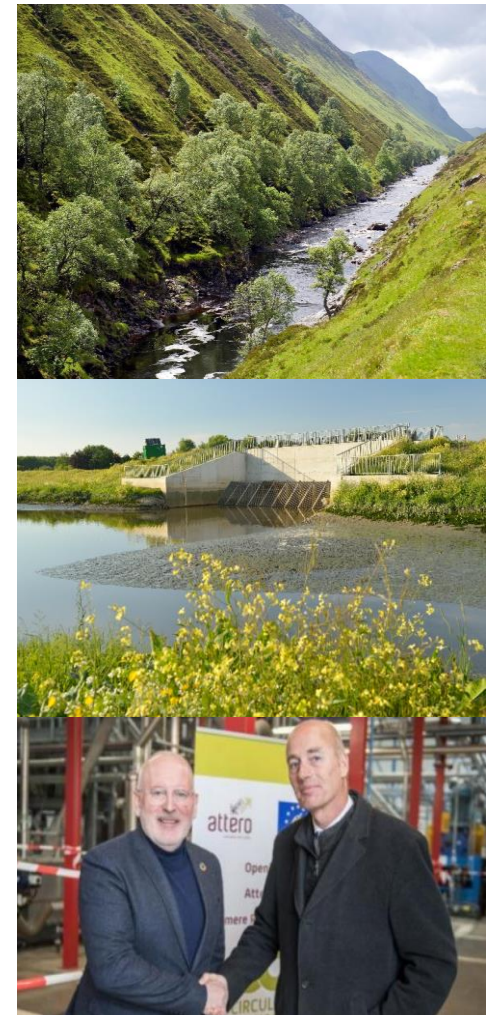
LIFE programme – core of the European Green Deal



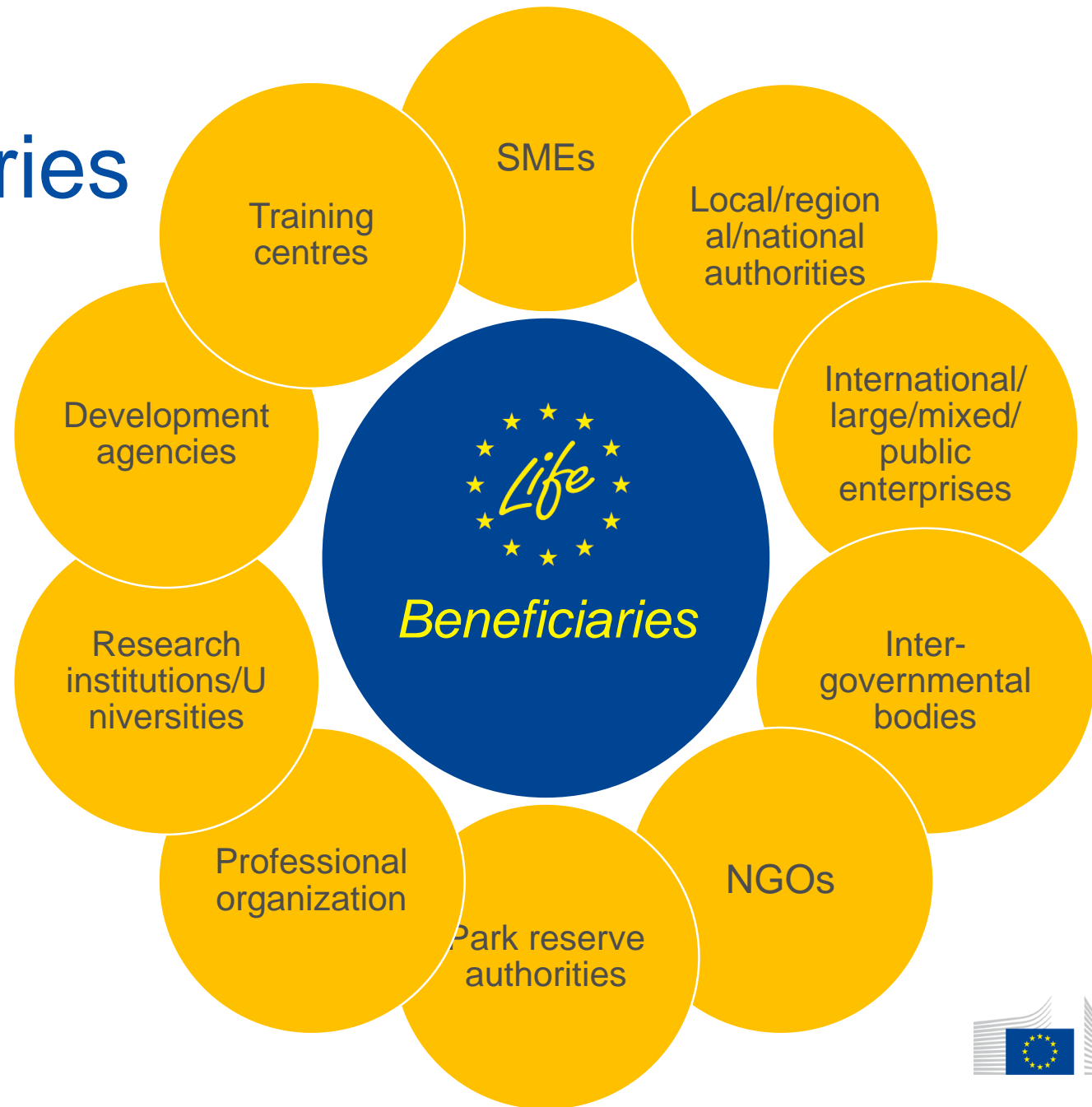
- Proposals for revisions of relevant **legislative measures** to deliver on the increased climate ambition: e.g. Emissions Trading System Directive; Effort Sharing Regulation; Land use, land use change and forestry Regulation; Energy Efficiency Directive; Renewable Energy Directive; CO2 emissions performance standards for cars and vans, Fluorinated greenhouse gas Regulation ...
- New **Farm to Fork Strategy** sets the framework for a more sustainable and climate-friendly food systems in the EU
- New **Circular Economy Action Plan** - one of the main blocks of the European Green Deal and crucial link with the new LIFE regulation
- Strategy for **green financing** and a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan
- New **EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change**

Advantages of **LIFE** funding

- Great **flexibility** embedded in the LIFE programme:
 - ✓ No minimum/maximum specifications for project **budgets**
 - ✓ No minimum/maximum specifications for project **partners** and/or MS involved
- LIFE puts great emphasis on **environmental benefits/impact, sustainability** and **replicability/transferability** in the evaluation of the proposals
- **Standard Action Projects** (former Traditional projects) and **Technical assistance** projects are co-financed up to **60%** (exception: projects in nature and biodiversity sub-programme can receive up to **75%** in specific cases)
- **Strategic Integrated Projects** are co-funded with up to **60%**



The variety of **LIFE** beneficiaries



LIFE Programme 2021-2027

LIFE remains the only EU programme exclusively dedicated to the environment, nature conservation and climate action

Total indicative budget 2021 -2027

~ € 5.43 billion

- Sub-programme **Nature and Biodiversity** (€ 2 billion)
- Sub-programme **Circular Economy and Quality of Life** (€ 1.35 billion)
- Sub-programme **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation** (€ 0.95 billion)
- Sub-programme **Clean Energy Transition** (€ 1 billion)

Changes

- Expanded use of strategic integrated projects
- Extend eligibility to OCTs
- Centralised financial instruments
- Greater flexibility to target key emerging issues



Integrated Projects examples – CIRCWASTE

- LIFE IP on waste: towards circular economy in Finland

Finnish Environment Institute SYKE– research institution

+ **17 partners** (research institutes and universities, municipalities and regions, companies and public enterprises)

- **LIFE15 IPE/FI/000004**
- **2016 – 2023**
- **€ 18.79 million** (Total Budget) **€ 11.11 million** (EU contribution)
- The aim of the project is to **implement the National Waste Plan of Finland (NWP)** which promotes **efficient use of material flows, waste prevention and new waste and resource management concepts**

Food Waste related actions:

- Finding **solutions to redistribute surplus food**
- **Testing decomposition and manufacturing of new products from byflows** originating from the food industry
- **‘Love Every Crumb’** campaign to reduce food waste - Circwaste project supports the visibility of the campaign and participates in the production of materials
- **Examples of results: Reduced food waste** in participating **canteens by 10-20% by 2019** and in **buffet serving by 30%** (by increasing food donations in the participating canteens), **reduced edible food waste** in the studied case-products **by 10-20% by 2019**



Integrated Projects examples - LIFE-IP CEI-Greece - Circular Economy Implementation in Greece

Ministry of Environment and Energy – national authority

+ **19 Partners** (research institutes and universities, municipalities and regions, companies and public enterprises)

- **LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013**
- **2019 – 2027**
- **€ 15.93 million** (Total Budget) **€ 9.56 million** (EU contribution)
- The aim of the project is to **reduce the amount of municipal waste sent to landfills** and to **promote waste prevention and re-use**, based on circular economy principles

Food Waste related actions:

- Commission the **first baseline study for food waste generation** in specific sectors (post-harvest losses, food processing industry, wholesale and retailers, households, and hospitality/catering sector)
- Create a **Platform for Food Waste Prevention**, linking at least 1 000 donors with 500 charities, to redistribute at least t40 of surplus food per year
- Create a **Food Waste Prevention Forum** to be adopted by different sectors and stakeholders involved in the food waste generation chain



Traditional Projects examples - LIFE BIOCOPACPlus

- Bio-based coating from tomato processing by-products for food packaging

Experimental Station for the Food Preserved Industry (CB, research institution)

Azienda Agricola Chiesa Virginio - bio-refinery / SME

Salchi MetalCoat – a metal packaging company

CFT Food Technology S.p.A. – a global supplier of processing and packaging equipment



- LIFE13 ENV/IT/000590
- 2014 – 2017
- € 2.06 million (Total Budget) € 1.02 million (EU contribution)
- Technology for the production of a bio-lacquer obtained from tomato by-products and to be used as coating for food contact applications in metal cans

- **Start-up launched** for project's solution commercialization (TomaPaint)
- **Financing secured** – Climate-KIC (H2020), Seals of Excellence – SME Instrument
- **Pilot plant in operation** since 2016, **industrial plant in construction**



Traditional Projects examples - LIFE CITRUSPACK

– Revalorization strategies within the circular economy for the use of citrus waste in green packaging and cosmetics

FUNDACIN AITIIP - technological centre, research institution

EROSKI S. COOP - supermarket chain

Organic Waste Systems nv – waste management

PLASTIPOLIS – plastics competitiveness cluster

Slovenian Tool and Die Development Centre – research centre

AMC INNOVA JUICE AND DRINKS S.L – computer software company



- LIFE16 ENV/ES/000171
- 2017 – 2020
- € 1.71 million (Total budget) € 1.02 million (EU contribution)
- Supporting implementation of circular economy by enabling treated wastes from the citrus industry to be used in packaging and cosmetic products

- A **competitive market solution** for bio-based and biodegradable plastics
- High TRL, commercial competitiveness, replicability and transferability
- Indirectly **contributing** to the Commission’s target of **banning recyclable material in landfills by 2025**



Traditional Projects examples – Governance & Information

- TRiFOCAL London - TRansforming City FOod hAbits for LIFE



Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) - NGO-Foundation

London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) – a partnership of the Mayor of London and the London boroughs to improve waste and resource management



- LIFE15 GIE/UK/000867
- 2016 – 2020
- € 3.20 million (Total budget) € 1.92 million (EU contribution)
- Holistic awareness raising & communications campaign to encourage behavior change & sustainable food systems in cities, prevent avoidable food waste, promote healthy and sustainable eating, and encourage the recycling of unavoidable food waste

- Example of **Governance & Information** implemented project
- Working with multiple stakeholders: **citizens, schools, businesses and communities**
- **Project's transferability and replicability** – already 11 replication cities successfully signed up (e.g. Dublin, Brussels, Vienna, Barcelona,..)



Traditional Projects examples - FLAW4LIFE - Spreading ugly Fruit Against food Waste



Fruta Feia CRL - non-profit consumer cooperative, SME

CML (Câmara Municipal de Lisboa) – city council

IST (Instituto Superior Técnico) – research centre

- LIFE14 ENV/PT/000817
- 2015 – 2018
- € 0.57 million (Total budget) € 0.32 million (EU contribution)
- Project aimed to **change food consumption habits** and create an alternative market for 'ugly' (or less than perfect-looking) fruit and vegetables by **changing consumer behavior** and involving local farmers

- **Winner of 2 LIFE Awards 2020** (Award for Best Project in the Environment category and the Citizen's Prize)
- Fruta Feia saves **5.6 tons/week** of food waste at its five delivery points
- Project **exceeded expectations**: Fruta Feia increased the number of delivery points to 11 and the amount of food waste saved to **12 tons/week**



Traditional Projects examples - Governance & Information - LIFE-Food.Waste.StandUp - Awareness-raising campaign for food waste prevention and surplus food management among agro-food SMEs, retailers & consumers

Federalimentare Servizi Srl – professional organisation

FD (Federdistribuzione) – trade association

FBAO(Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus) – think tank

UNC(Unione Nazionale Consumatori) – consumer association



- LIFE15 GIE/IT/000887
- 2016 – 2019
- € 1.57 million (Total budget) € 0.94 million (EU contribution)
- Main objective of the project was to **raise awareness of surplus food management and food waste prevention** among three key actors of the food supply chain: **agri-food companies, food retailers and consumers**



- A **70% increase** in the number of **events to raise awareness** on food waste prevention held by food enterprises; **38% increase** in the **amount of food waste recovered** from retailers; **25% increase** in **food waste recovered** from agri-food companies; **9% increase** in the number of **new food donors** among agri-food companies; **27% increase** in the number of **new food donors** among retailers
- A **121% increase** in the **amount of recovered food waste** by food donors overall (from 40 767t in 2016 to 90 411t in 2018)



LIFE programme – next milestones

End of spring 2021

- LIFE Regulation 2021-2027
- Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 2021-2024

Early summer 2021

- LIFE Call for Proposals 2021

LIFE National Contact Persons: Information on eligibility and support in proposal preparation <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/life/life-national-contact-points>

Food sector Publication as a result of the cooperation between LIFE and SMEUnited

- **The aim of cooperation is to support SMEs in sustainable transition** and the publication aims to share with SMEs a pool of **hands-on tips** to facilitate their first steps in the food sector towards becoming greener
- The publication will be presented at the Webinar on **'How to finance the greening of you food chain'** on **24 March 2021** – registrations are open now:

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/webinar-how-finance-greening-your-food-chain>

- More details to follow in the **next presentation by Mr Guido Lena**, Director for Sustainable Development of **SME United**

Thank you and stay safe



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