# LIFE Info Day – April 30, 2020

## What is LIFE? Highlights for LIFE Call 2020

Presentations – Agenda:

**What is LIFE? Highlights for LIFE Call 2020** by Angelo Salsi, Head of LIFE and Eco-Innovation Unit

**The application process** by Maja Mikosinska, Head of Sector "Nature and Biodiversity"

**Applying successfully for LIFE –How does it work?** By Fabio Leone, Head of Sector "Environment and Resource Efficiency" & Anne Vermaelen, Head of Sector, Finance Unit, EASME

**Find the link of video with the presentations *here***

( the Question & Answer session starts at 1h30)

Find a pdf of the presentations *here*

## Basics:

### *Environment sub-programme*
- Nature & biodiversity: conservation projects
- All other environmental sectors: environment and resource efficiency – air, chemicals, green & circular economy, marine and coastal management, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment; especially technologies & solutions
- Governance & information: awareness raising, environmental training and capacity building, legislative compliance and enforcement, knowledge development and public and stakeholder participation

### *Climate action sub-programme*
- Climate change mitigation: renewable energies, energy efficiency, farming, land use, and peatland management.
- Climate change adaptation: resilience to water scarcity, droughts, forest fires or floods, adaptive technologies for economic sectors, and safeguarding natural resources.
- Climate governance and information: awareness raising, training and capacity building, law compliance and enforcement, knowledge development and stakeholder participation

### *What kind of projects?*
- Traditional projects, capacity building, Technical assistance and integrated projects (to implement certain plans and strategies), preparatory projects (addressing specific needs for implementation of EU law), NGO grants, financial instruments, preparatory projects
- Average size and duration: no limits, you decide! Whatever fits your projects best, total flexibility
- Attention, LIFE offers only co-financing, ~55% up to 75% (conservation)

## Novelties of this call 2020:
- Covid-measures (deadline extended, pre-financing increased, flexibility measures)
- For the very first time: bilateral chats to discuss about project proposals
- Financial support to third parties (non-profit organizations, local authorities or citizen groups)
- Support to start-ups; limits the financial risk also for SMEs
- Private land conservation by engagement of private owners (not buying the land!)

- Invertebrates: EU pollinators initiative (promoting crop diversity, alternative use of pesticides, data collection and monitoring of pollinators)
- EU and IUCN red list species (that are NOT listed in the Habitat's directive)
- Reduced reporting
- Reduced monitoring
- Reduced auditing
- No VAT certificate required
- 2-stages-approach

## Tipps for a successful proposal (Fabio Leone)

Good preparation is essential, chances from concept to project stage is only ~15% (max 20%), then 40-50% of these get actual financing

Take care of your design:

**Good design**

- Solid analysis of the problem, state of play and solution proposed (baseline)
- Key stakeholders involved (incl. users)
- Robust assessment of impacts over the life cycle of the solution proposed
- Clear strategy on how to sustain and multiply the impacts

**Common problems**

- Insufficient background information (why, who and how)
- Rationale for projects is defined during the project
- Objectives too broad, too many
- Poor partnership (partners don't fit regarding know-how or insufficient budget)
- Over-optimistic / unrealistic or lack of quantification of impacts
- Replication confused with networking and dissemination
- Vague plans to sustain the project/results after project end

European Commission