



Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend  
Nederland



# LIFE

l'Instrument Financier pour  
l'Environnement

INTERREG2SEAS event

The Hague, Netherlands

30 September 2022

Rogier Vogelijn

Simon de Wachter

Teun Bolder

>> *Duurzaam, Agrarisch, Innovatief  
en Internationaal ondernemen*

# 30 years of LIFE



## The future is green. The future is *Life*

Discover the EU's LIFE programme for the environment and climate action

**5 500+**

**LIFE projects**

since 1992

**1 100**

**projects**

in action

**€5.4**

**billion**

in funding for  
2021 - 2027

**€598**

**million**

in funding for  
2022

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)

# Four subprograms



LIFE consists of four sub programs



Nature and Biodiversity (NB)



Circular economy and  
quality of life (CE)



Climate mitigation and adaptation  
(CLI)



Transition towards clean energy  
technology (CET)



# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



Nature and Biodiversity

## Contribution to:

- **Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.**
- **Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised Action Frameworks.**
- **Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.**



## Typical actions

Projects supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.

Species protection.

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of Biodiversity Strategy

Financing of small-scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions



## 1st order priority topics:

- Space for Nature
  - improve habitats with unfavourable (or declining) status
  - E.g.:
    - > Restoring (semi) natural habitats (within/outside existing PA's)
    - > Creating additional protected areas
    - > Green infrastructure
    - > New site management approaches
- Safeguarding our species
  - Target species w. high risk of extinction (EU / IUCN red lists)
    - > From hard infrastructural work to raising awareness



## 2nd order prio topics

- EU Birds and Habitats Directive
  - Natura 2000, PAFs
  - Reducing mortality/ stakeholder conflicts, improving co-existence
- Invasive Alien Species Regulation
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
  - More protected areas
  - restoration of C-rich ecosystems (forest, sea, peat)
  - improve health and resilience of managed forests
  - recovery of number of pollinators
  - Nature-inclusive agriculture
  - greening of cities
- Enforcement + access to justice

# Example project



**MICA**  
Management of Invasive Coypu  
and muskrAt in Europe



## LIFE MICA (2018)

- Broad cooperation between NL, GE, BE partners, coordinated by Waterboard Rivierenland
- Management & monitoring of invasive species
- Result: improved conditions in Natura 2000 areas and reduced damage to dykes
- Total Budget: € 3 mln, €1,7 mln of which from LIFE



Projectcode: LIFE18 NAT/NL/001047



Looptijd: jul 2019 – dec 2024



Lead Partner: Waterschap Rivierenland



Totaalkosten: € 3,030,869



LIFE-thema: Natuur



Contactpersoon: Margreet van Willegen



Subsidiebedrag: €1,658,234 (55%)



Partners in: Nederland, Duitsland, België



E-mail: [margreet.van.willegen@wsrl.nl](mailto:margreet.van.willegen@wsrl.nl)



# Sub-programme Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



Climate Change  
Mitigation and  
Adaptation

## Contribution to:

- The transformation of the European Union into a climate-neutral and -resilient society, especially through:
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Climate Change Adaptation & Related Governance



On **climate mitigation**, projects that contribute significantly to the implementation of:

- the 2030 energy and climate policy
- the EU Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans
- European Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy

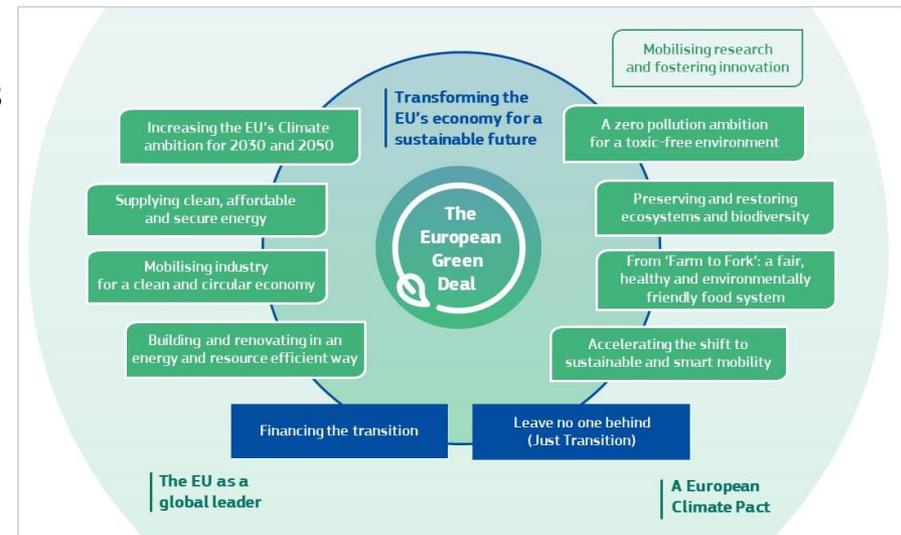
On **climate adaptation**:

- projects that support the implementation of the new EU adaptation strategy and related national implementation



# Climate Mitigation

- Contributions toward climate neutral economy by 2050
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Recovery of ozone depleting substances in foams
  - Reduce HFCs (F-gases)
- Support the shift to zero emission mobility on the road, especially urban mobility plans
- Decarbonise non-road transport
- Improvements on the ETS-system
- Increased production of biogas from waste and residues.
- Land and sea management that affect greenhouse gas emissions
- ... and more ...



# Climate Adaptation



- Make adaptation smarter – more systemic – and faster
- Adaptation of policy development
- Adaptation modelling
- Adaptation monitoring and evaluating
- Nature based solutions in land, forest, coastal and marine areas
- Adapting cities and regions to climate change
- Climate proofing of infrastructure and buildings
- Adaptation solutions for farmers and nature managers
- Water management (floods, droughts)
- Prepare for extreme weather events
- Develop new financial instruments

# Example climate adaptation



## Climate project 2020

### **Municipality of the city of Groningen**

Climate adaptation in the inner city:

#### **“COOL SQUARE”**

€ 1 million subsidy on € 1.9 million project cost.

Climate Change Adaptation issues in a dense urban area with limited space

- climate adaptive, multifunctional square, sponge city,
- counteract heat island effect

# Life Cool Square

The risk of flooding and heat stress is increasing in urban areas all over the world, including Groningen. Spatial measures are needed to make the city cooler and to limit flooding. For Damsterplein we created the LIFE COOL SQUARE project. This project looks at solutions and ideas to transform the stony public space into a green and liveable environment.



## A place for relaxation and activities

The square will provide space for small events and activities. Benches will be placed so that visitors can sit in the sun (or in the shade).

## Greening and more biodiversity

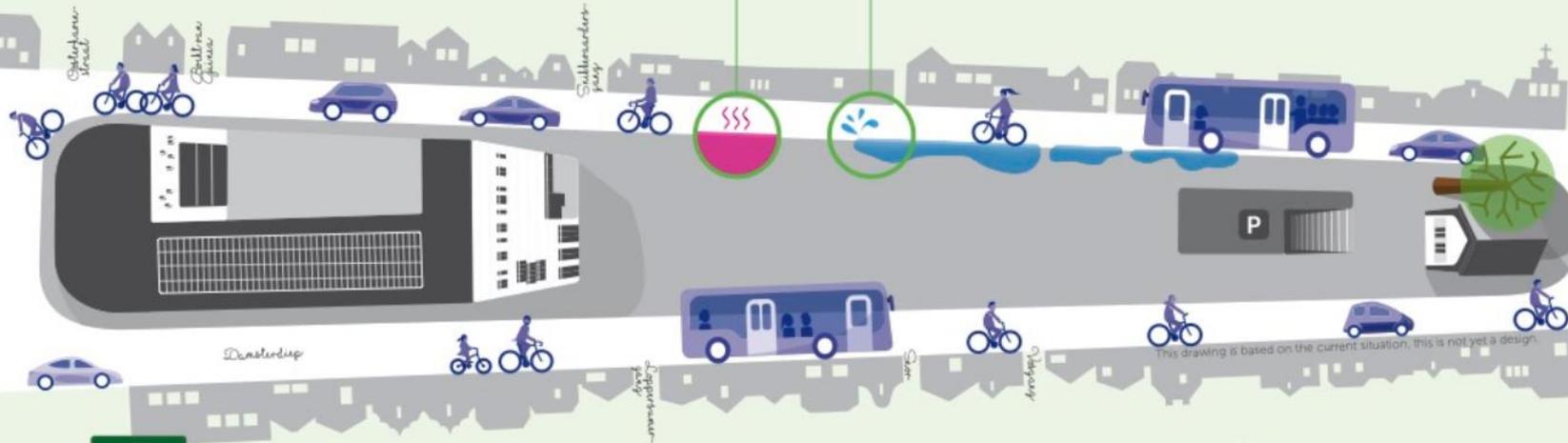
We create green islands on the square, consisting of different tree and plant species. This increases biodiversity.

## Combatting heat stress

Heat lingers longer in the city than in the countryside. We want to bring the temperature down by, among other things, creating shady places with plants and trees.

## Limit flooding

We use natural solutions to limit flooding. Removing bricks makes it easier for the soil to absorb water. We are also looking at options for water storage.



## Involvement of local residents, raising awareness

Local residents are involved in the development of the plans from the start. Local residents are given the opportunity to create facade gardens and contribute to a green environment.



## Reuse of water in dry periods

The water that we collect in the water storage can be used for the plants and trees during dry periods.



## Collecting/sharing knowledge

Together with the Hanze University of Applied Sciences, we are mapping out the effects of the new layout. We share the knowledge and experiences we gain during the project with local residents, knowledge institutions and cities throughout Europe.



## Creating a nice meeting place

Benches will be built around the trees and plants. Damsterplein must become a square for everyone. That is why we pay a lot of attention to good accessibility.



Life cool square  
Gemeente Groningen  
Hanze Hogeschool Groningen University of Applied Sciences  
Life cool square.groningen.nl

The LIFE COOL SQUARE project receives funding from the LIFE Program of the European Union.



# Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life



Circular Economy  
and Quality of Life

## Contribution in the areas of:

- circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment.



## Typical actions

Support to public authorities and other stakeholders to implement EU environment legislation.

Support to technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy.

Promote upscale and access to finance.



Priority topics (details in call text):

1.CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE

2.SOIL

3.AIR

4.NOISE

5.WATER

6.CHEMICALS

7.NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

8.ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

# Project example



## Closing the loop

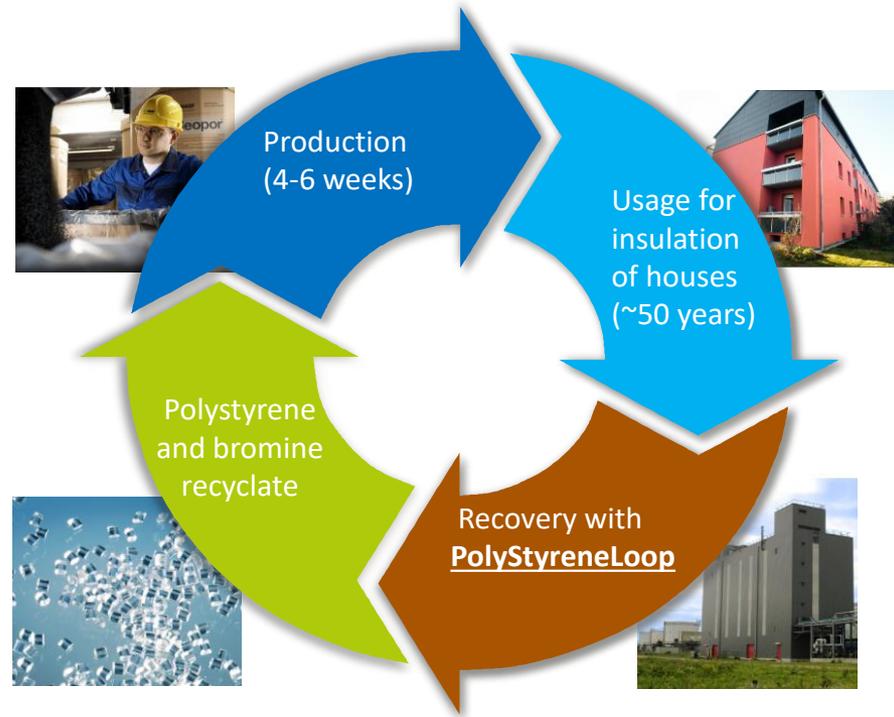
### PolyStyreneloop

[www.polystyreneloop.eu](http://www.polystyreneloop.eu)

- > Total budget: 8.4 mln
- > LIFE funding: 2.7 mln



With the contribution  
of the LIFE financial  
instrument of the  
European Community  
LIFE 16 ENV/NL000271



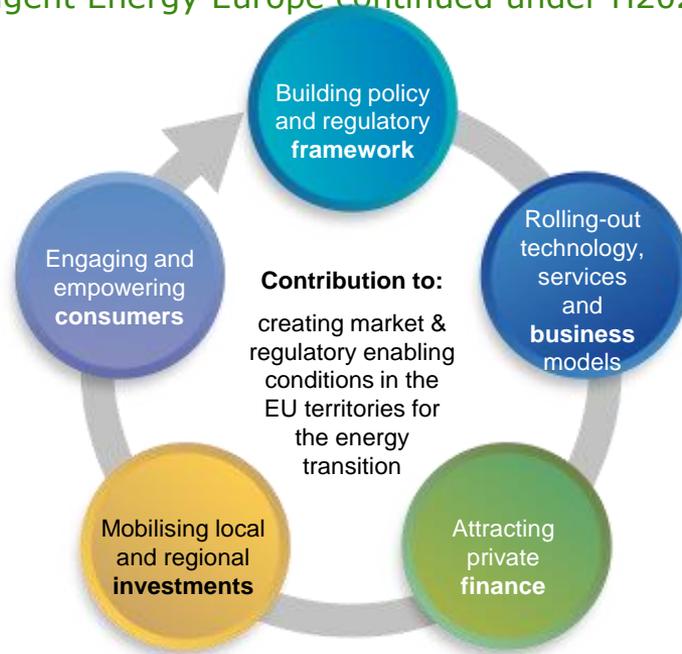


## The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition

predecessors: Intelligent Energy Europe continued under H2020- SC3- market uptake



Clean Energy Transition



# LIFE- CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

## AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Building a national, regional and local **policy framework** supporting the clean energy transition

Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, **new markets, services and business models** and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market

Attracting private **financing** for sustainable energy

Supporting the development of local and regional **projects**

Involving and **empowering citizens** in the clean energy transition



## LIFE- CET, Clean Energy Transition

- Non technical projects that bring the energy transition closer to reality.
- The descriptions in the call text are top down. Which means that the projects have to fit the requirements.
- 18 calls in 5 areas of interest.
- For most calls, but not for all, international collaboration between at least 3 EU countries is a prerequisite.
- Costs are mainly personell cost. Max 95% subsidy. Project cost usually between € 1 en 2 million.
- Typical project duration from 1,5 to 3 years.

# LIFE data hub



[LIFE programme 2014-2020 data hub \(easme-wehttps://life.easme-web.eu/b.eu\)](https://life.easme-web.eu/b.eu)



## LIFE call 2022

Open: 17 May 2022

Deadline full proposal: 4 Oktober 2022

Deadline CET proposals: 16 November 2022

Start subsidised projects: July 2023

Generally: 60% subsidy

Nature also 67 and 75%

CET: 95%



# Recommendations

- Start early....start now!
- Read the relevant information
- Limit your objectives and build a credible intervention logic
- Build a relevant consortium
- Link the budget to activities – check value for money
- Follow the templates and instructions carefully
- Submit on time



## Advice:

- Check the fit of your project in LIFE after publication of call!

> your NCP can help you! <

( [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-european-countries\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-european-countries_en) )

# Dutch and Flemish NCP's for LIFE



## **Nature & Biodiversity:**

Astrid Hamer  
Rogier Vogelij

## **Climate:**

Astrid Hamer  
Teun Bolder  
John Heynen

## **CE and Quality of Life:**

John Heynen  
Teun Bolder

## **Clean Energy Transition:**

Teun Bolder  
Simon de Wachter (B)

## **Team management:**

Joyce Emid

**Netherlands:** [life@rvo.nl](mailto:life@rvo.nl)

**Flanders:** [veka.eufinanciering@vlaanderen.be](mailto:veka.eufinanciering@vlaanderen.be)

[www.rvo.nl/life](http://www.rvo.nl/life)



# THE KEY TO SUCCESS:

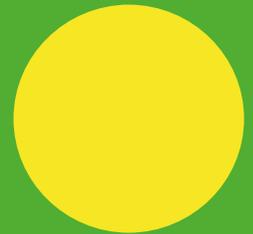
~~Ask the EC to fund your project~~

Help the EU to solve its problems!

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)



30 years of bringing green ideas to LIFE



your logo

# Thank You!



WEBSITE



@FACEBOOK



@TWITTER



YOUTUBE



LINKEDIN



@INSTAGRAM

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)