



## **Life + Programme**

Life + programme is divided into two working periods (2007-2010) and (2011-2013)

### **Objectives of the programme:**

- Support the development and implementation of environmental policy and EU legislation related to it;
- Integrating environmental policy into other policies;
- Support implementation of the Sixth Action Program for the Environment (2002 - 2012).

### **Components of the programme:**

Nature and biodiversity - the protection of animal species and their natural environment.

*Objective 1* - surveillance, protection, preservation, restoration, development and facilitating the functioning of natural systems, natural environments to live, wild fauna and flora;

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Objective 2 - stopping the loss of species, to preserve genetic diversity of sources across the EU until 2010

**Types of activities:**

- Further development and implementation of the NATURA 2000 network - this includes the coastal and marine habitats and their natural environment;
- Further implementation of Community policies and legislation on nature and biodiversity - in particular the directives on birds and their natural environment;
- Support the creation and implementation of tools for monitoring and assessing the nature and diversity of species and factors affecting them;
- Enrichment of knowledge on the impact of genetically modified organisms on ecosystems and biodiversity, methods for risk assessment.

**A. Climate change - Prevention, reductive and adaptive measures:**

Objective 1 - early effects of climate change to be controlled so as to ensure a good quality of life of citizens of the EU;

Objective 2 - to contribute to long-term stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level to prevent dangerous changes in the climate system (global warming above 2 degrees Celsius).

Types of activities:

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- Implementation of the commitments undertaken by the EU relating to the Kyoto Protocol and developing a strategy and a programme after 2012;
- To ensure adaptation of the economy, society, nature and biodiversity, water resources and human health in the EU's climate change and to mitigate their effect.

B. Environment, health and quality of life:

**Water quality** - the goal is to achieve high quality of surface water, groundwater and water for bathing, by preventing pollution and promoting rational use of water;

**Air Quality** - the goal is to achieve high quality of air, so as not to come to unwanted risks and damage human health and the environment;

**Soil** - the objective is to protect soils and their properties and to ensure their appropriate use, avoiding the threats, the mitigation of harmful effects and restore damaged land areas;

**Chemicals** - the aim is to improve and protect the environment and health risks of chemicals to 2020, in particular the application of legislation in the system REACH ( 'Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemical substances' - Registration, evaluation and approval chemicals);

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**Urban living environment** - to improve the quality of life through a comprehensive approach focused on particular cities;

**Noise** - to understand better the consequences of human exposure to noise in its environment and to prevent and reduce the harmful effects of exposure to this noise.

Types of activities:

**Water:**

- exchange of best practices and relevant information related to water;
- effective implementation of the EU Marine Strategy;
- strengthen the integration in the scientific field and the exchange of results, to assist member- states in the preparation of management plans for river beds.

**Air:**

- implementation of the specialized strategy of air pollution.

**Soil:**

- implementation of the special strategy for soil protection;
- providing protection and restoration of soil diversity.

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### **Urban living environment:**

- contribute to the implementation of local level policies and existing EU legislation in this area and encourage local authorities to a more integrated approach to managing the urban environment.

### **Noise:**

- reduce and prevent the harmful effects of exposure to loud noise.

### **Chemicals:**

- exchange of best practices and relevant information related to chemicals;
- increased integration of research results in policy development of chemicals and strong technical support of REACH.

### C. Natural resources and waste:

*Objective 1* - promoting the efficient management and utilization of natural resources and proper storage of waste;

*Objective 2* –differentiation between the pace of the economic growth and the environmental impact of misuse of natural resources (including production and dealing with waste);

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*Objective 3* - to promote the transition to production and consumption, according to the environment (e.g. through integrated policy for the production);

*Objective 4* - to promote the transformation of the EU in a territory in which waste is recycled.

Types of activities:

- Reducing the impact of the life cycle of products, production and consumption patterns;
- Promote appropriate use of natural resources, taking into consideration the social and economic aspects and the environment;
- Promotion of the limitation of waste recovery and recycling, with emphasis on ecological way of thinking, ecodesign and development of the market for treatment of waste.

*D. Monitoring the forests:*

*Objective 1* - measures to prevent forest fires;

*Objective 2* - give specific information on forests in relation to climate change (impact on forest ecosystems), biodiversity, forest fires, forest conditions and protective functions of forests (water, soil, infrastructure);

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Objective 3 - contribution to the protection of forests from fire.

Types of activities:

- Promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning forests and interactions between forests and the environment;
- Promote the harmonization and effectiveness of monitoring activities and systems for collecting information and making use of synergies by creating links between monitoring mechanisms at local, regional, national, European and global level;
- Promoting joint activities and initiatives in the field of environmental legislation (EU soil, 2000, a Directive on water systems, etc.);
- appropriate use and management of forests through the collection of data related to the improved Pan-European indicators for appropriate forest management;
- Capacity building at national level and at Community level to enable coordination and direction to the monitoring of forests.

**Budget:**

The total budget for Life+ programme is 2097.9 million euro

**Information:**

Further information regarding Life + programme can be found on:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

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