



Commission invests over €103 million in European strategic environment and climate projects

Brussels, 9 March 2026

Today, the European Commission is investing **more than €103 million** in **seven strategic projects** across Europe with funding under the [LIFE programme](#). They will contribute to strengthening the EU's prosperity, reinforcing economic stability, food systems and environmental ecosystems, while also improving public health and quality of life across the continent.

The selected projects are located in **Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia** and **Spain**. Supporting and accelerating the implementation of EU environmental and climate policies, the projects are focused notably on climate and water resilience, nature restoration, circular economy and sustainable land use. These are expected to mobilise additional national public and private investment.

Seven strategic projects awarded in seven EU Member States

In **Finland**, [ACWA LIFE](#) aims to **restore and protect streams, lakes, coastal waters, river basins and groundwater** to secure water resources and ecosystem health. It will receive €16.5 million from the EU.

The [LIFE ADAPT EST](#) in **France** will **strengthen climate resilience** in the Grand Est region through more expertise on climate, water governance and infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events. The EU will provide €15.6 million to this project.

In **Greece**, [LIFE SIP GR Blue](#) focuses on **restoring marine ecosystems and reducing pollution**, marine litter and underwater noise across coasts and islands, strengthening ocean health and coastal livelihoods. The EU will provide €8.9 million to the project.

In the **Netherlands**, [CEL4LIFE](#) will support Limburg's **transition to a circular economy**. Aiming to halve raw material use in chemicals, manufacturing and construction by 2030, the project will receive €6.9 million from the EU.

In **Portugal**, the [LIFE IP AGRILLOOP](#) will **implement circular solutions** in the Azores, across agroforestry, agrifood and tourism, strengthening resource efficiency in the islands. It will receive €15.8 million of EU funding.

[NatAdaptSK](#) in **Slovakia** includes **nature-based solutions** for water, agriculture, forests and biodiversity to reduce climate risks for affected communities. The EU will provide €10.1 million to the project.

In **Spain**, [LIFE Humedales](#) is the **largest project ever financed under the LIFE Programme**. The project aims to **restore** around 26,200 hectares **of wetlands** across 107 [Natura 2000](#) sites, improving flood protection, water security and biodiversity. It will receive €29.7 million of EU funding.

Background

The [LIFE Programme](#) is the EU's only funding programme entirely dedicated to environment, climate and clean energy objectives. It has co-financed more than 6,500 projects in these fields since 1992 across the EU and associated countries. Funding for the seven strategic projects announced today is part of a wider €5.43 billion budget assigned to the LIFE programme under the 2021-2027 EU long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework). The programme is actively contributing to achieving the EU's climate neutrality objective by 2050 under the [European Climate Law](#). These strategic projects also support goals in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [Water Framework Directive](#), the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#), and the [Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans](#), contributing to the clean transition. The LIFE Programme is managed by the [European Climate, Infrastructure and](#)

[Environment Executive Agency \(CINEA\)](#).

In the [Commission's proposals for the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\)](#), LIFE actions are included, highlighting their integration across various MFF components and notably under the 'clean transition and decarbonisation' area of the European Competitiveness Fund, as well as the 'EU Facility' inside the National and Regional Plans and Programmes.

For more information

[LIFE Strategic Projects – short descriptions](#)

[LIFE Programme](#)

IP/26/542

Quote(s):

"The cost of inaction keeps rising. Investing in climate is not optional – it is essential for our economy, our security and our independence. The business case for accelerating the clean transition is clear and these Strategic LIFE projects are investments that adds on towards our climate goals."

Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth - 09/03/2026

"Long-term strategic LIFE projects are essential to deliver a secure and sustainable Europe. Today's investment strengthens Europe's natural infrastructure – the foundation of our economic security, competitiveness and resilience."

Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy - 09/03/2026

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