

## Frequently Asked Questions about the LIFE 2014 Call for Proposals

version ~~31 July 2014~~ ~~3 September 2014~~ ~~30 September 2014~~ 4 December 2014<sup>1</sup>

### General:

Question	Answer
Do national authorities have the possibility to comment on proposals, as in previous LIFE calls?	No, under the LIFE Regulation 2014-2020, this is not possible.
The application guides 'strongly recommend' applicants to write their proposals in English. Will applicants who write their application in their own languages be penalised.	No, applicants will not be penalised for submitting proposals in another official EU language. However, it should be considered that project evaluators may not have a good capacity in languages other than English.
For a project involving an Overseas Country or Territory, is it a requirement for the applicant (coordinating beneficiary) to be based in the EU territory.	Yes, for all projects the applicant must be based in EU territory where the EU treaties apply.
The model grant refers to the possibility to transfer up to 20% of the budget between budget lines. Is this 20% of the relevant expenditure type or 20% of the overall budget.	It is 20% of the overall budget
In some circumstances, the rules for awarding contracts to external suppliers foreseen in the grant agreement for integrated projects are different both from National and Regional laws; in these cases, what is the applicable rule?	The beneficiary awarding the contract must apply rules generally applicable to procurements made by its organization. However, the rules concerning the award of contracts as set out in the model grant agreement for integrated projects are applicable where regional or national laws do not require calls for tender, or are otherwise less strict than the rules that are 'generally applicable'.

<sup>1</sup> Updates from 31 July to 3 September are highlighted in yellow; updates from 3 September to 30 September are highlighted in green; updates on 4 December are highlighted in purple.

<p>Which application package should I choose for a proposal that joins Nature &amp; Biodiversity, Environment &amp; Resource Efficiency and Information? May I choose any of them even if the project touches on more than one category?</p>	<p>Indeed, there are different application packages corresponding to the various priority areas under the LIFE programme. In some cases a project may address objectives from more than one priority area, however, you must decide which is the central focus of your project and submit under that priority area. On the web page for the call, you will find a link to a document called "Orientation Document" which may help you in making the choice.</p>
<p>Are individuals who act as freelance experts acceptable as partners for a LIFE programme? Freelance experts do not form part of any organisation.</p>	<p>Article 23 of the LIFE Regulation states that LIFE may fund "public and private bodies". This article should be read in the context of the EU Financial Regulation which makes it clear that "private bodies" does not include private individuals. Therefore both the applicant and any partners (associated beneficiaries) must be "bodies" and not individuals.</p> <p>Individuals can be involved in projects as either employees of beneficiaries or through external assistance contracts, however it should be recalled that external assistance must be tendered so the proposal cannot name a specific individual or company as the provider of the external assistance.</p>
<p>Can a project include a partner in Switzerland?</p>	<p>Yes, provided that the coordinating Beneficiary is based in the EU and that strong evidence is provided that the activities to be carried out outside the EU (i.e. Switzerland) are necessary to achieve EU objectives. Please refer to article 6 of the LIFE Regulation.</p>

<p>Are profits generated after the end of a Project by using the results of the Project considered income to the Project? Will they be deducted from the grant received.</p>	<p>Income received <u>after</u> the end of a project is not considered income to the project.</p>
<p>We are developing a Project that will develop a prototype. In the final stages of testing and demonstrating, we plan to charge users of the prototype (in order to offset some of the costs of its production). How should the resulting income be treated.</p>	<p>In order for the costs of depreciation of a prototype to be considered eligible at 100%, the prototype may not be used commercially during the lifetime of the project. In case of commercial use, depreciation may only be charged to the project as for equipment or infrastructure which is not a prototype</p>
<p>Can a potential applicant submit two applications, one under the ENV sub programme and another one under the CLIMATE sub programme?</p>	<p>An applicant can indeed submit under both subprogrammes, and each application will be evaluated, however if the projects are related, please note that this overlap should be indicated in "form A7 – Other proposals submitted for European Union funding". (Please include the information in response to question 2.) If both of the projects reach the 'revision' phase, the beneficiary would be requested to cut any overlap.</p>
<p>While editing free-text fields in our LIFE-Nature E-proposal, we have tried to follow the rules of the application guide:          ("You may introduce the information either directly into the textboxes or you may copy and paste information in simple text format; note that for security reasons, a text copied and pasted from a Word document or an html page may not be accepted entirely, therefore simple, basic text editors such as Notepad suit better for this purpose;")          However, we were not able not insert text into the e-proposal.</p>	<p>Please try Notepad for this purpose.</p>

<p>In the part of the Coordinating Beneficiary details we have been able to copy a text from Microsoft Office word and paste it directly into the E-proposal. We have tried the same in the part A7 (amongst others), but pasting texts does not work anymore. We have also tried to copy and paste from the Text Editor, but this does not work out either.</p>	
<p>how many countries must be involved in a project for it to be 'transnational', is it as soon as there is more than 1? or does the score increase as more countries are involved? If so, as of how many countries do you get the maximum score?</p>	<p>A 'transnational' project involves more than one country. As per the application guidelines, transnational collaboration is only considered to be a basis for a higher scoring when it can be shown that there is an added value of the transnational approach.</p>
<p>Must an associate beneficiary receive a part of the EU cofinancing awarded to a project? If they do not receive it, does the 2% rule still apply.</p>	<p>An associated beneficiary is not obliged to receive a portion of the EU co-financing (although, on the other hand, each beneficiary must obligatorily make a financial contribution to the project.) The 2% rule applies anyway.</p>
<p>A nature project wants to build some infrastructure that will cost more than €500,000. Annex X (p18) of the model grant agreement states that this makes this large infrastructure which is generally not an eligible cost, but which is allowable in exceptional circumstances upon agreement with the Agency/Commission. Please can you let me know how we get this agreement or whom we should contact to inform them?</p>	<p>The possible agreement of the Agency/Commission would be given only following a successful evaluation and acceptance of the project. In the past, we have accepted well-justified infrastructure that exceeded the 'large infrastructure' threshold, but of course the applicant cannot assume that it will also be accepted in this case. The applicant should therefore set out in the application clear arguments as to why the infrastructure has a high importance for the target species, and why the conservation of the species cannot be assured without it.</p>
<p>Is it correct that the matched funding would have to be received during the duration of the grant which would effectively rule out use of historic reserves?</p>	<p>Pursuant to the application guide, the coordinating beneficiary and any associated beneficiaries are each expected to provide a reasonable financial contribution to the project budget. A beneficiary's financial contribution</p>

	<p>is considered as a proof of its commitment to the implementation of the project objectives – a very low financial contribution may therefore be considered as an absence or lack of commitment. A proposal cannot be submitted if the financial contribution of any of the beneficiaries to the proposal budget is EUR 0. However, the original source of the beneficiaries' contributions is irrelevant, provided that they do not originate from an EU financing programme. Therefore, in principle, historic reserves can normally be used to provide a financial contribution to the project budget. Please note that the beneficiary's contributions may be complemented by co-financing from third parties</p>
<p>The LIFE documents say that "Projects dedicated to the construction of large infrastructure do not fall within the scope of the LIFE Programme and are therefore not eligible. A project is considered to be dedicated to the construction of large infrastructure if the cost of a "single item of infrastructure" exceeds € 500,000". It is possible to establish a plant that will cost more than € 500,000, while part of the funding (€500,000) will come from the LIFE programme and the rest will be funded by one of the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>In order for any of the costs of constructing a new item of infrastructure to be co-financed by the LIFE programme, the overall cost for the construction of the infrastructure must be considered an eligible project cost, regardless of whether part of the cost is covered by co-financing. As stated in the guidelines, in general, this means that the total cost should not be more than 500,000 Euro. However, where the need for constructing an item of infrastructure for a higher cost is clearly justified in the project proposal as being essential to the project objectives (and accepted by the Commission during the evaluation process), the costs will be considered eligible</p>
<p>Can a company from a non-EU country be used as a sub-contractor?</p>	<p>In principle a company from a non-EU country may be used as a sub-contractor, provided that all of the LIFE rules on tendering are complied with, and provided that there are no specific EU constraints on trade with the country in question.</p>
<p>Can I submit an application without confirmed co-financing beyond the first year of the project? And, what</p>	<p>Your application needs to show a balanced budget over the entire lifetime of the project. In case some of the co-</p>

<p>happens if a confirmed co-financer withdraws after the start of a project?</p>	<p>financing is not confirmed at this stage, you can submit the A6 marked 'to be confirmed', but still the potential co-financer must sign it. A 'confirmed' form A6 is required before any grant agreement is signed.</p> <p>In case a co-financer withdraws after a project has started, it will be the responsibility of the coordinating beneficiary to find replacement co-financing.</p>
<p>1. Is it possible to implement similar activities in a LIFE project and in a project funded by another EU financial programme, but in different target countries?</p> <p>2. Can partners from another EU funded project participate in a LIFE project provided that the activities foreseen in LIFE are not double financed by the other programme?</p>	<p>Provided there is no double funding, similar activities can be financed under different EU financial programmes, provided of course that the actions are otherwise eligible.</p> <p>Partners from the other project can also participate in the LIFE project, as long as costs are clearly separated.</p>
<p>May I be the coordinator of the project without having a permanent contractual relationship or even not having any employment contract with the coordinating beneficiary, including my salary as project manager in the section of personal as additional staff?</p>	<p>There is no obligation for a project coordinator to be a permanent employee of the coordinating beneficiary.</p> <p>If the coordinating beneficiary wishes to subcontract the work of project management, all provisions regarding external assistance must be respected including regarding the tendering procedure. I would also recall that, even if the day-to-day project management tasks are</p>

	<p>subcontracted, the coordinating beneficiary remains responsible for the overall management of the project and must establish an appropriate mechanism to ensure adequate oversight.</p> <p>The coordinating beneficiary could also hire a project coordinator on a temporary staff contract for the duration of the project.</p>
<p>What information do I need to provide about affiliated entities, and where should I put this information in the application forms.</p>	<p>There is no need to fill in separate A4/A5 forms for affiliates, although in practice, you have to provide the same information regarding their role in the project as for Associated Beneficiaries. The application must indicate the legal link between the parent company and the affiliate and identify the actions and budget of each affiliate.</p> <p>This should be done as follows:</p> <p>In form A2 (if the parent company is the CB) or A5 (if the parent is an AB) in the text box 'Description', there should be information about the affiliate(s) including the legal link with the parent company. If necessary, reference can be made to an annex which the applicant can upload and attach to the proposal in order to provide evidence of the legal link.</p> <p>In the C forms where the applicants need to indicate 'Responsibilities in case several beneficiaries are implicated', there should be a clear indication when an activity is to be implemented by an affiliate.</p> <p>In the F-forms, the costs should also be distinguished.</p>

	This can be done in the description field.
<p>Can entities recognized by the Italian Supreme Court as "soggetti di diritto" (and having their own assets and the rights to stand in Court and subscribe to agreements with third parties) apply for LIFE grants, even if they do not have a legal personality according to Italian legislation?</p>	<p>Art. 131 of the EU Financial Regulation stipulates that Grant applications may be submitted by legal persons including "entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the entity and offer guarantees for the protection of the Union's financial interests equivalent to those offered by legal persons".</p> <p>Clear evidence must be provided that all criteria listed above are fulfilled</p>
<p>Our project involves use of a research vessel, which is property of one of the beneficiaries which has actual costs to move it (costs for personnel on board, their subsistence (meals), gasoline and maintenance)</p> <p>How should this be budgeted?</p>	<p>The actual costs (without profit and overhead contribution) can be accepted as eligible expenses. For the use of a beneficiary's own vessel you could classify the vessel running costs in "other cost" category, except personnel costs that should be classified under "personnel costs", but in one line "personnel for ship".</p> <p>The running cost per time unit (hour or day) should be calculated on the basis of actual running costs, i.e. personnel, fuel and other ancillary costs (meals for the staff for example), for a period (e.g. the past year) in relation to the time the vessel have been used according to notations/registrations in a log book for that period. The costs to be entered in the budget should be the running costs per time unit multiplied by the time the vessel is estimated to be used in the project, i.e. an amount under personnel (if it is decided to report personnel costs) and other running costs under "other costs". A detailed and itemised calculation of the time unit rate should be kept on file with appropriate reference to accounting data, in particular to show what type of costs are being included in</p>

	<p>the budget if the eligibility of the individual cost items are discussed.</p> <p>It may be in your interest to annex or upload the following documentation to your proposal, but in any event you should, on request, be ready to provide the following documentation:</p> <p>a. a resolution signed by the person responsible for budgetary decisions specifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. – a detailed and itemised calculation of the time unit rate of the vessel being used in the project.</li> <li>ii. - that the cost is real and without profit.</li> <li>iii. - that the cost does not include depreciation, VAT and overheads.</li> </ul> <p>b. – Auditor document endorsing the information in point a.</p> <p>The approval of the costs and therefore their correct classification will be evaluated, if the project proposal passes the evaluation 'award' procedure."</p>
<p>We have seen project with multiple beneficiaries but where all the actions are headed by the coordinating beneficiary. However, the guidelines state (old and new regulations) that the ABs should be responsible for the implementation of one or several project actions. Is it OK (eligibility wise) for an AB to be just involved in an action or must they always be named as the lead beneficiary on at least one action.</p>	<p>The ABs need to be actively involved in one or more project action, they do not need to have the lead however.</p>

General (except Capacity Building projects):

<p>Concerning the 102% rule applicable to public bodies, we understand that this rule does not apply for personnel recruited or for whom their contract is specifically renewed for the duration of the LIFE project, regardless of their statute. Is this correct?</p>	<p>Yes, this is correct. It should be noted that this exemption concerns contract renewals, but not reassignments. Therefore if a staff member already has a permanent contract before the start of the project, their staff costs must be taken into consideration for application of the 102% rule.</p>
<p>How do we interpret the phrase 60% co-financing, does this mean the EC will contribute 40% or 60%? My colleague in finance feels this is not clear from how it is worded. Please could you confirm?</p>	<p>The EU co-financing rate is 60% of the total eligible project costs, which means that the EU will contribute 60% of the total eligible project costs.</p>
<p>Will there be a flat 7% overhead contribution? The guidance says 'Any organisation receiving an operating grant from the EU for the period of the project or parts of the period cannot claim the flat rate for the period in question.' If this applies to the whole University then we would not be eligible. Can you confirm?</p>	<p>If the other EU operating grants cover already the same type of indirect costs for the period of the project or parts of the period, you cannot claim a flat rate for overheads for the period in question. Double funding is not permitted. It is not a problem if your organisation receives other unrelated project grants.</p> <p>Also note that the overhead rate will be set in your grant agreement at a fixed rate which may be up to 7% depending on the type of activities in your project.</p>

Environment sub-programme:

<p>How are national allocations calculated in the Multi-annual Work Programme 2014-2020</p>	<p>The calculation method is the same as used in the LIFE+ programme, and is defined in article 6 of Regulation 614/2007 of the European Parliament and Council. The numbers are rounded to two decimal points in the Multi-annual work programme 2014-2020</p>
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Traditional Projects:

<p>Can you give me your opinion on the following idea for a traditional project .....</p>	<p>Sorry, the Commission is unable to provide any opinion regarding a specific project idea as this would distort competition in the call. However, you may contact your national LIFE contact person for their support and advice. The list of national LIFE contact persons can be found on the main LIFE web site.</p>
<p>What can we base ourselves on to shown that a method is a 'best practice'? Can we base that on our own reasoned judgment or what does the Commission use as a measure to assess the 'best practice' nature of something?</p>	<p>In your application, you should provide a reasoned justification for why you consider that the methods you use is best practice providing solid arguments on appropriateness of the solution proposed including its cost-efficiency and why it is state-of-the-art. You could refer to manuals of best practice, scientific literature, etc. The evaluation committee will consider whatever justification you provide and assess its merit.</p>
<p>Regarding the budget per project under both sub-programmes, can we have an idea as to a maximum budget for 'traditional projects'</p>	<p>Concerning the budget, see section 1.6.4 of the application guides in the Environment sub-programme (1.5.4 in the Climate sub-programme): There is no fixed minimum size for project budgets. While large ambitious projects (i.e. over</p>

	<p>5,000,000 Euro total costs) have been financed several times in the past, very small projects (i.e. below 500,000 Euro total costs) have seldom succeeded due to the limited output and consequently the low added value.</p> <p>When preparing a project budget, applicants should also take into account the indicative national allocations per Member State for projects financed under the sub-programme for environment applicable for the period 2014-2017. A project proposal that requests an EU financial contribution higher than the total indicative national allocation for the applicant's Member State will have a reduced probability of being selected for LIFE co-funding. The national allocations can be found in section 5 of the LIFE multiannual work-programme for 2014-2017 and in the 'Guide for the evaluation of LIFE project proposals 2014'.</p> <p>In other words, it is up to the applicant to define the budget.</p>
<p>When is a bank guarantee required?</p>	<p>See the evaluation guide, p. 15.</p>
<p>Is land purchase an eligible expense for Biodiversity projects? For projects in the climate sub-programme?</p>	<p>Both land purchase and compensation are eligible under both sub-programmes. However, in all cases the criteria described in section II.19.2 of the General Conditions of the Model Grant Agreement apply.</p>

Traditional Projects, Environment sub-programme:

<p>The criteria explained in the text and also formulated in questions (under <i>12 Detailed evaluation forms for Environment proposals</i>) are not always corresponding. This may be confusing. Exemples: In the ENV Evaluation Guidelines, in criterion 7 <i>EU added value</i>, is included the ‘uptake of the results of EU research and innovation programmes’ (p.11). I don’t see this reflected in the <i>12 Detailed evaluation forms for Environment proposals</i>. In criterion 5 <i>EU added value</i>, there is no mention of the uptake of results of the Framework programmes, but this is mentioned under the <i>12 Detailed evaluation forms for Environment proposals</i> (p. 24)...</p>	<p>Thank you for pointing out this inconsistency. Although it is not explicitly mentioned, uptake is indeed an element for criterion 7.</p>
<p>A new obligatory action is introduced within the E section (project management and monitoring): a separate action must be included to collect indicators – quantitative and qualitative (page 32 and 63 guidelines) and refers to the MAWP. However, the indicators described in MAWP section 7.1 seem to be performance indicators of the LIFE programme (% of projects completed etc), not single project related and do not give information which kind of data must be collected. We would like to know what kind of indicators shall be collected (and how often) in this obligatory action to be able to allocate resources to it – both in terms of budget as well as time and staff.</p>	<p>The impact of the programme depends on the impact of the sum of the projects. The indicators on project level therefore need to be defined in view of the indicators regarding the expected outcome of the programme under the respective thematic priority. Thus, e.g., a waste project should define indicators regarding good waste management (e.g. tons per year managed by the entity targeted adequately and/or inadequately at the beginning of the project, and foreseen to be adequately managed and/or inadequately managed at the end of the project; the (expected) financial cost per ton/year adequately managed as compared to the cost per ton/year (in)adequately managed at the beginning of the project; the number of jobs expected to be created through the project during/beyond the project in full-time equivalents; the replication/transfer potential of the project defined by</p>

	<p>regions/EU Member States, where it would be replicates/to where it could be transferred).</p> <p>The indicators should be defined in the proposal and at least an estimate of the state-of-play and the expected outcome and cost and post-LIFE benefit on project level as well as, where relevant, the potential area of replication/transfer of project results should be included in the proposal. These can be corrected in revision of the proposals and in the course of the project. Indicators are obligatory and the monitoring of the environmental impact forms part of the eligible actions.</p> <p>The Commission is working on the definition of indicators on project level in order to facilitate the work of the beneficiaries. This will also enable the Commission to ensure that the data on the impact of the projects on the environment and regarding their replicability and transferability, their socio-economic impact and their dissemination effort as well as their possible multi-purpose effects are reported on coherently and that the data can be aggregated in a meaningful way. The Commission intends to publish these indicators on project level in March 2015.</p>
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Traditional Projects, Climate sub-programme:

<p>I am confused about where to put the action "networking with other projects".</p> <p>The penultimate bullet point in section 2.6.8 on 'Project</p>	<p>"Networking with other projects" should be presented as one distinct obligatory E-category action (ie, under Public awareness and dissemination of results).</p>
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<p>management and monitoring of project progress' of the CLIMA application guide refers to project networking as an obligatory action under 'Project management and monitoring of project progress' (F actions). However, on page 67, it says networking needs to be included under 'E. Public awareness and dissemination of results', (but actually calls them D actions).</p>	<p>It is a mistake that it is mentioned under "2.6.8 Project management and monitoring of project progress" as well.</p> <p>Applicants should follow the instructions and steps in the "eProposal Tool" chapter when creating their applications. As explained in section 4.2.3. 'Detailed technical description of the proposed action (C forms)', applicants should include the obligatory action on project networking under 'public awareness and dissemination of results', i.e. as an E-category action (and not as a D-category action, nor as an F action).</p>
<p>Do we understand well that 100% of the costs of a state of the art prototype are eligible in a LIFE project?</p> <p>Articles II.9 and II.10 of the General Conditions of the Model LIFE Grant Agreement says that the prototype or any of its components should not be used for commercial purposes the project. Could you please help us understand how the Applicant can fulfil this requirement if the prototype will be providing services for citizens?</p>	<p>First you should recall that state of the art technology is not used for prototype applications since state of the art technology has already been tested and its technical and cost efficiency been demonstrated. As stated in the application guide, a prototype is an infrastructure and/or equipment specifically created for the implementation of the project and that has never been commercialised and is not available as a serial product and its technical feasibility needs still to be demonstrated..</p> <p>If the technology can be considered a prototype, it may not be used for commercial purposes during the life of the project as stipulated in Art. II.19.2 of the LIFE Model Grant Agreement. If the technology is used in a commercial context, as it appears to be in your case, the prototype would not be eligible for 100% co-funding. In this case, it would have to be depreciated in accordance with the rules applicable to the purchase of new or second-hand equipment and infrastructure.</p>

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Climate Change Mitigation priority area:

<p>Concerning the priorities mentioned in the climate change mitigation priority area, should it be understood that only projects falling under the 2014 policy priorities (agriculture, forests, biomass, soils) will be retained? To what extent will projects relevant to other priorities be considered.</p>	<p>The link to policy priorities will be taken into account in the context of award criterion number 4, 'extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action. Projects submitted to this subprogramme must contribute to the objectives defined in articles 14,15 or 16 of the LIFE regulation. Projects which contribute to these objectives will receive between 7 and 15 points for award criterion 4 depending on the extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives in these articles and on their contribution to the policy priorities of the EU for 2014.</p>
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Climate Governance and Information priority area:

<p>We notice that in the application guide for Climate Governance and Information it says that the project should include "activities to monitor the impact of the project actions on the main targeted audience <u>and on the climate problem targeted</u>." In contrast for the Environment Governance and Information guidelines it says only "<i>measurable impact on attitudes and behaviours</i>". Is the text in the application guide for Climate Governance and Information correct?</p>	<p>Yes, the approach is different in the two subprogrammes. A GIC project should therefore impact on the main targeted audience <u>and</u> on the climate problem targeted.</p>
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<p>For a Climate Governance and Information project, in the Guidelines for applicants, there is no specific explanation on the logical steps to follow as they are explained in the Guidelines for GIE (p.21-22): problem identification, goal setting, define actions, choose target public, construct indicators. Does that mean that this is less important for the GIC projects?</p>	<p>No. The coherence of the project (i.e. problem identification, definition of actions) will be evaluated as part of the criterion for technical coherence and quality. We will consider having a similar guide for next year's call for GIC projects, also based on the lessons learned from this year's call</p>
<p>Under the Climate Governance and Information priority area, headings in the eProposal system do not match the guidelines in the file <i>Guidelines for applicants 2014 (Climate action)</i>. On B2 form, the headings on eProposal are the same as the LIFE+ 2013 Information &amp; communication guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental problem targeted</li> <li>• Preparatory work undertaken already</li> <li>• Environmental experience</li> <li>• Communication / training experience</li> </ul> <p>While it should be (according to the Guidelines)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate problem targeted and, if applicable, other environmental benefits</li> <li>• State of the art and innovative aspects of the project</li> </ul> <p>Should applicants follow the guidelines of climate action or the eProposal headings ?</p>	<p>Applicants should follow the Guidelines. The B2 form has now been corrected in eProposal.</p>
<p>Climate Governance and Information projects need to be in line with the specific objectives as outlined in Article 16 of the LIFE Regulation. In addition, the application guide there are EU policy priorities listed for 2014 (page 19-22). Does a Governance and Information Project also have to (or preferably should)</p>	<p>LIFE Governance and Information projects preferably should be related to the policy priorities for 2014 listed in the application guide. If not, they will not be rejected for this reason. It should be noted that proposals will also be evaluated i.a. on which extent they contribute to the EU policy priorities for 2014, in the context of</p>

<p>relate to these policy priorities?</p>	<p>considering their EU added value.</p>
<p>Regarding the indicators, it is indicated on the FAQs page that "A climate governance and Information project should impact on the main targeted audience AND the climate problem." The indicators from the indicative list are not really made for measuring the climate impact. What type of indicators might be expected? Could they be similar to what is listed under Climate Mitigation Indicators on page 32 in the application guide?</p>	<p>Yes, the indicators could be similar to the ones on page 32 in the application guide. You can adapt those indicators most relevant for your project and introduce others as well. They should be coherent with the climate problem addressed and the type of activities planned during the project, and they should correlate with the relevant indicators defined in Chapter 7 of the LIFE Multiannual work-programme for 2014-2017.</p>

Environment and Natural Resources priority area:

<p>CORRECTION</p>	<p>Note amendment to page 28 (section 2.2) of the application guidelines for the LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency priority area.</p>
<p>For the priority area "Environment and Natural Resources", can we include a partner outside of the EU. The reason we ask is that in question 5 in the checklist in the "Environment and Natural Resources" guidelines it</p>	<p>Indeed this is an error in the checklist in the "Environment and Natural Resources" guidelines . the text should be the same as that in the guidelines for Nature and Biodiversity, namely "Is the applicant legally registered in</p>

<p>says “Are all beneficiaries legally registered in the EU? In contrast in the guidelines for Nature and Biodiversity it says “Is the applicant legally registered in the EU? In other words, does article 6 of the regulation only apply to nature and biodiversity projects?</p>	<p>the EU? (The correct information is contained in section 1.6.3 of the "Environment and Natural Resources" guidelines.</p>
<p>Does a project to develop a national Restoration Priority Framework fit under project topic 1b?</p>	<p>In principle, to 'fit' this topic a project must be applying an existing Restoration Priority Framework (RPF), which has already been approved at national or regional level. However, work to further develop an RPF which is already under preparation at a national or regional level may be accepted under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- work to develop the RPF should have already started when the project application is submitted (evidence should be provided in the application to show the RPF work started eg. through submission of a draft);</li> <li>- the project's concrete conservation actions (amounting to at least 25% of the project budget) should be aimed at implementing this RPF; and</li> <li>- the adoption procedure should be established in the proposal and accomplished before the end of the project. (In case there is no legal requirement for formal adoption of the RPF, adoption can be understood to mean administrative approval with a clear commitment that the RPF will continue to be implemented, for instance by officially integrating it in other legal planning tools.)</li> </ul>
<p>Section 2.4.5 of the guidelines for LIFE Nature &amp; Biodiversity says that “any land purchase payments, compensation payments or lease payments to public bodies are not eligible, with the exception of</p>	<p>This refers to cases where a public body gets a compensation temporarily (for the duration of the project) - so no one-off compensation is allowed when the land belongs to a local authority.</p>

<p>compensation payments or short-term lease payments to local authorities".</p> <p>Does the term "compensation payments" in the second part of this sentence cover both "one-off compensation payments" and "temporary compensation payments" or only the latter?</p>	<p>In any case, land purchases/lease and compensatory payments are always carefully checked when assessing the LIFE project proposals and are expected to be sufficiently justified.</p>
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Nature and Biodiversity priority area:

<p>Where is form A8 for the priority area Nature and Biodiversity?</p>	<p>Form A8 for priority area Nature and Biodiversity is not available for the moment in eProposal, but this issue will be shortly fixed. In the meantime, please use the Word form LIFE 2014 Nature &amp; Biodiversity – A8 which is available in the application package and upload it in the Attachments section of the proposal in eProposal under 'Other documents'</p>
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Environmental Governance and Information priority area:

<p>The Guidelines for Applicants states that in Section C0 of the eProposal tool, under D – Communication and Dissemination (bottom of page 25), an obligatory activity is Notice Boards describing the project shall be displayed at strategic place accessible to the public. As our project involves awareness raising across Europe, rather than in a specific location, we cannot see how to comply with this obligation. Please advise us on this</p>	<p>In such cases the usual practice is that the notice board is placed outside the premises of the coordinating beneficiary, normally at a location where it can be seen by passers-by.</p>
<p>The Guidelines for Applicants states that auditor costs 'should always be placed under' Form F3 and F7 (page</p>	<p>It should be F7.</p>

62 and 64) – please clarify which is correct	
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Preparatory Projects:

<b>CORRECTION</b>	There is an error on page 22 of the application forms. Please disregard the reference to 'Monitoring of the impact of the project actions'. There should only be three types of actions in a preparatory project (A – Implementation actions; B – Actions for communication and for dissemination of project lessons and C – Project management and monitoring of the project progress).
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Technical Assistance:

Is it possible to submit an application for technical assistance to develop an Integrated Project under the Climate subprogramme	Under the 2014 call, technical assistance is only available under the Environment sub-programme, for the development of future Integrated Project applications in the Environment sub-programme
How much time can there be between the submission of a proposal for TA and the submission of the proposal for the corresponding IP?	Generally speaking, the duration of a Technical Assistance project should not exceed two years. It is expected that a Technical Assistance project aims to prepare a proposal for an Integrated Project for the submission deadline which is directly following the start date of the Technical Assistance project or the submission deadline one year later.
Is it possible to submit a LIFE TA proposal under the sub-programme for Environment in order to prepare an IP under the sub-programme for climate action?	No, the call for LIFE TA projects under the sub-programme for environment is only for preparing an IP proposal under the same sub-programme. Proposals for TA projects for IPs under the sub-programme climate

	actions have to be submitted under the sub-programme for climate action.
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Integrated Projects:

<p>What does the 'large territorial coverage' foreseen for IPs mean in practice in the case of waste management plans? Could the IP be implemented in some separate provinces or should it be a geographically uniform/continuous area?</p>	<p>It is up to the applicant to decide upon its choice of regions or provinces to be covered by the IP but they should correspond to the plan(s) targeted by the project.</p>
<p>If the partners of the integrated project are preparing also Life traditional project applications as well as Horizon 2020 projects, parallel to the integrated one will this synergy contribute to a position evaluation of the integrated project? Is mentioning the complementarity between an integrated project and a traditional one necessary or not? Where and how should it be reported in the concept note?</p>	<p>Synergy with other EU funds is encouraged for integrated project proposals. While of course it is good to ensure complementarity between a LIFE IP and a running/future LIFE traditional project, it is <u>primarily</u> the complementarity with actions financed <u>by other EU funds</u> (including Horizon 2020 funds, regional development funds etc.) that would be positively evaluated. The information should be indicated in the concept note, under 'complementary actions' and 'funds requested' (forms CNe and CNg).</p>
<p>Are projects scored less for not having a transnational partner?</p>	<p>A transnational approach is not required for an integrated project (or for any LIFE project). A transnational project will only be considered for extra points where sufficient arguments for <u>an added value of the transnational approach</u> are provided.</p>
<p>Can a Public Body (i.e. Regional Administrations) directly award a financial contribution to its Regional Agency for the Environment for the implementation of some project activities? If yes, what is the maximum amount?</p>	<p>Yes it is possible. The public body can award a financial contribution to the Regional Agency that will be involved in the project as a beneficiary. There is no maximum amount.</p>

<p>Can the concept note refer to a River Basin Management Plan that has not yet been agreed with the EC?</p>	<p>As indicated in the Application guide (p.14), if the formal adoption has not taken place at the time of the submission of the Concept Note, the applicant should explain the status of the adoption and demonstrate that this adoption will take place before deadline for submission of the full IP proposal.</p>
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Capacity Building Projects:

<p>The application guide for Capacity Building projects (pg. 6) says that costs are eligible retroactively from the date of submission. But this seems to conflict with the information on page 30 of the guide which says that personnel costs are only eligible in relation to new personnel, whose contract is signed or amended after the date of contract signature. Can you please clarify?</p>	<p>The general rule for EU financing is that any costs incurred before the date of submission are ineligible. Furthermore, the LIFE General Conditions (art. II.19.1) clarify that only costs incurred after the start date of the project (or after the signature date if this is before the start date) are considered eligible. (In line with the EU Financial Regulation, the project start date may never be before the date of submission of the proposal.) For personnel costs to be considered eligible, they must meet an additional requirement, namely that the staff are 'new'. "New" is defined on page 30 of the application guide (in the instructions related to form F1) as meaning that the personnel was newly recruited or newly assigned to LIFE related tasks for the first time as of the date of signature of the grant agreement. This definition of "new" gives legal certainty regarding the 100% eligibility of these costs from the grant signature onwards as opposed to the ineligibility of non-new personnel. However, in order to align more closely the</p>
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	<p>notion 'new' personnel with the definition of 'additional' personnel in article II.19.2(a) iii of the General Conditions, it should be noted that staff will be considered as 'new' if the personnel was newly recruited or newly assigned to LIFE related tasks for the first time as of the date of signature of the grant agreement or from the date of the start of the project if that is before the signature date</p>
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