



EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

Second Stakeholder Seminar of the
Water Quality (PA4) and the Environmental Risks (PA5) Priority Areas

"EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WATER SECTOR"

THE LIFE PROGRAMME 2014-2020

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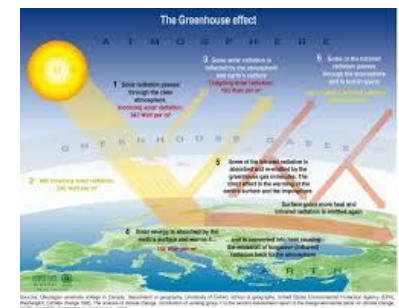
Regional Coordinator of the External
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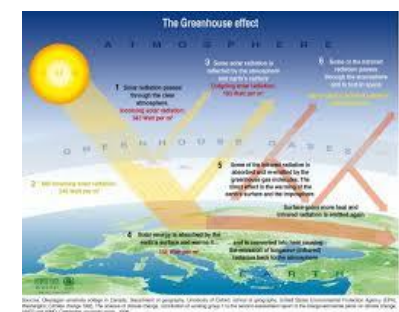
Why LIFE?

- **LIFE is a catalyst:** it provides a **platform** for the development and exchange of best practices and knowledge thereby improving, catalysing and accelerating changes;
- **LIFE** is the ideal instrument to show to regional and national authorities the benefits of investing in the environment sector and incentivising them to **develop strategic frameworks for spending.**
- **LIFE** has been **successfully tested since 1992:** positive feed-back and final evaluation (4349 projects in the database)



General characteristics of the Programme

- **A source of funding for environmental cooperation and integration in the framework of the EUSDR**
- 1. Transnationality is an added value
- 2. Integrated projects: need to mobilise other funds, including EU funds related to other EU policies (e.g. ERDF and CF Funds)
- 3. Non – EU countries can participate (under certain conditions)
- 4. Covers all the main topics of the Environmental Pillar Priority Areas





LIFE 2014-2020 - Budget

Total budget of **€3.5 billion**

For **projects** funded by action grants and financial instruments: **€2.8 billion** (81% of total)

- Sub-programme for **environment €2.1 billion** for projects
- Sub-programme for **climate action €0.69 billion** for projects
- **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs €63 million**





LIFE 2014-2020 – Objectives

- contributing towards a **resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**; **protecting and improving the environment**; maintaining and improving **biodiversity**, ecosystems and, in particular, the **Natura 2000 network**
- Implementing the **7th Environment Action Programme**
- Priority to the following projects:
Water, floods and drought — Annex III, Section A, points (a)(i)-(ii)
WFD, UWWT, MSFD, Nitrates, Groundwater, Bathing water





LIFE 2014-2020 – Geographical Coverage

Principle: Applicable where the Treaty on European Union applies

Participation:

Certain Third Countries may participate on the basis of and in line with the conditions of a cooperation agreement

Cooperation with International Organisations is possible when necessary to reach LIFE objectives





Activities outside of the EU

May be included if:

- Necessary to achieve Union environmental or climate objectives
- **Necessary to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Member States' territories to which the Treaties apply**
- The Coordinating Beneficiary is established in the EU





LIFE - General features

- **Applicants - SME, NGO, public administrations** active in the field of environment and climate protection
- Emphasis on **replicability/transferability, long-term sustainability, and an EU added value** of the project results, **pilot or demonstrative projects, priority to projects that put into practice, test, evaluate and disseminate actions**, methodologies or approaches that are new or unknown Union wide. Indicators!
- **Not focussed on research** (↔ H2020)
- **No large infrastructure; not focussed on rural or regional development** (↔ agricultural, structural funds)
- **Support and monitoring:** From Contracting Authority (EASME or Commission) and external monitoring team



LIFE

- ▣ **Funding rate:** in general **60%** (**75%** priority habitats) of eligible cost in the first 4 years; **100%** for capacity building
- ▣ **Actors:** **EASME** for **grants** except environmental integrated projects **DG ENV** technical assistance under environment sub-programme, preparatory projects; **EIB/intermediary banks** for **financial instruments**; intervention **NCP** only if desired





Tools: The "traditional" projects

For whom?

- Mainly SME, NGO, public administrations active in the field of environment and climate protection

For what?

- Pursuit of general and specific objectives of the 6 priority areas.
- Sub-programme for environment: additional focus on thematic priorities and on project topics (LIFE multiannual work-programme for 2014-2017)

Average size?

- 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €500,000 to €1.5 million

Co-funding rate?

- **60%**; NAT: for priority habitat/species: **75%**
-



Tools: Integrated projects (IPs)

For whom?

- Mainly public administrations and other entities active in the field of environment and climate protection and capable of coordinating, besides the IP, complementary actions co-funded by additional private, public (preferably EU) funds.

For what?

- Implementing Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017); big scale; complementary actions with additional co-funding; involvement of stakeholders

Average size?

- 2 to 10 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €10 to 15 million; about 3 IPs per Member State.

Co-funding rate?

- 60%



Tools: Technical Assistance Project (TAs)

For whom?

- For those who would like to submit an IP, but need assistance in finalising the application

For what?

- Support in drafting the IP application; can be applied for a year before the intended IP or in the same year

Average size?

- Maximum 1% of the allocation for IP's => maximum €100,000

Co-funding rate?

- **60%**



LIFE Call 2015 Indicative planning

Traditional projects

Call published
1 June 2015



Submission
Sept/Oct
2015



Revision Oct
2015-May
2016



Reserve list
grants signed
May/June
2016

Integrated projects

Call published
June 2015



Submission
concept
note Oct.
2015



Submission
full proposal
Apr. 2016



Grants signed
Sept 2016

LIFE and water projects

- 2014 call: 171 (16)
- 2013 call: 228 (19)
- 2012 call: 250 (24)
- 2011 call: 202 (18)

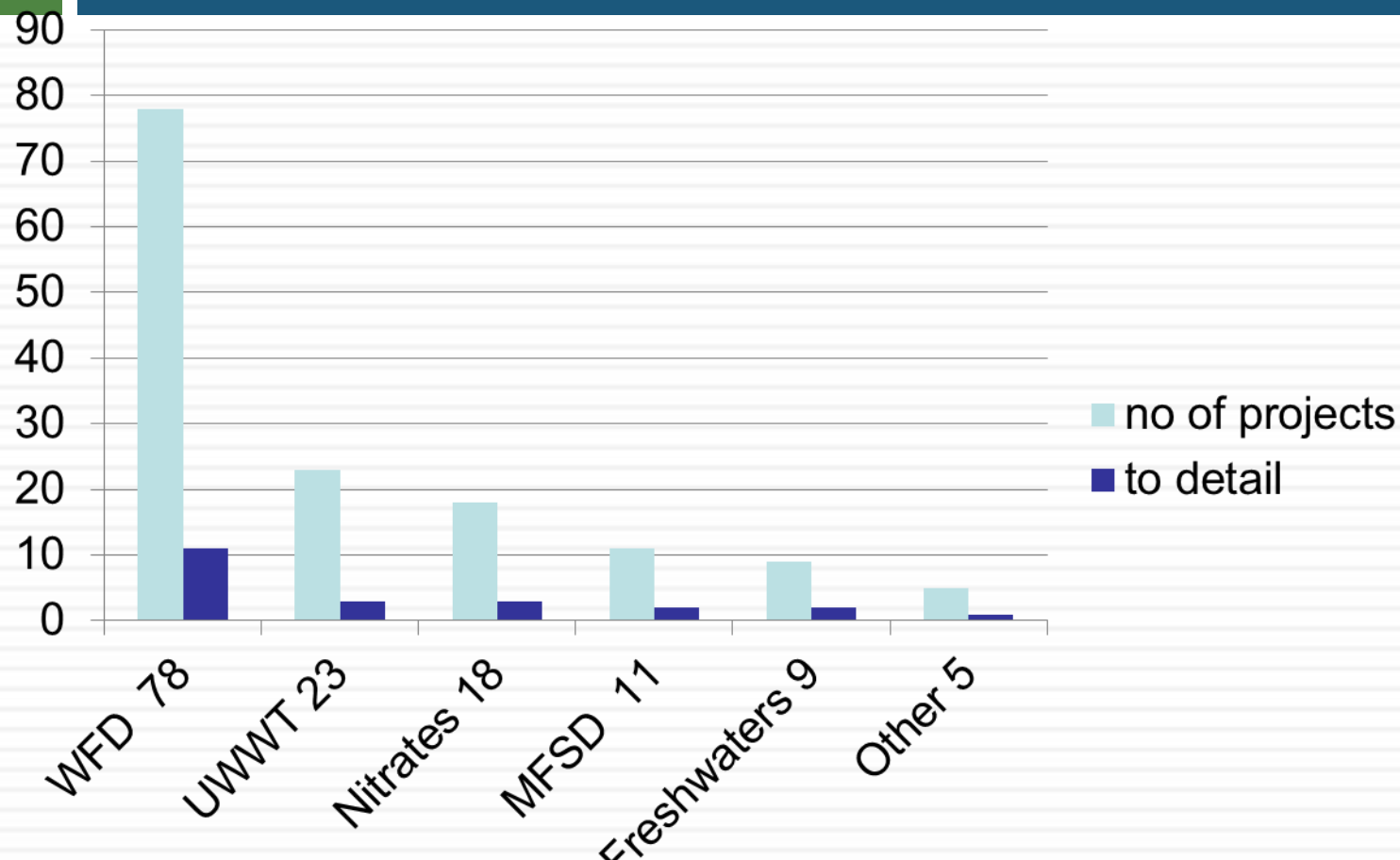
Env: 10% SUCCESS RATE of applications.

- Danube 17
- Altogether water 434

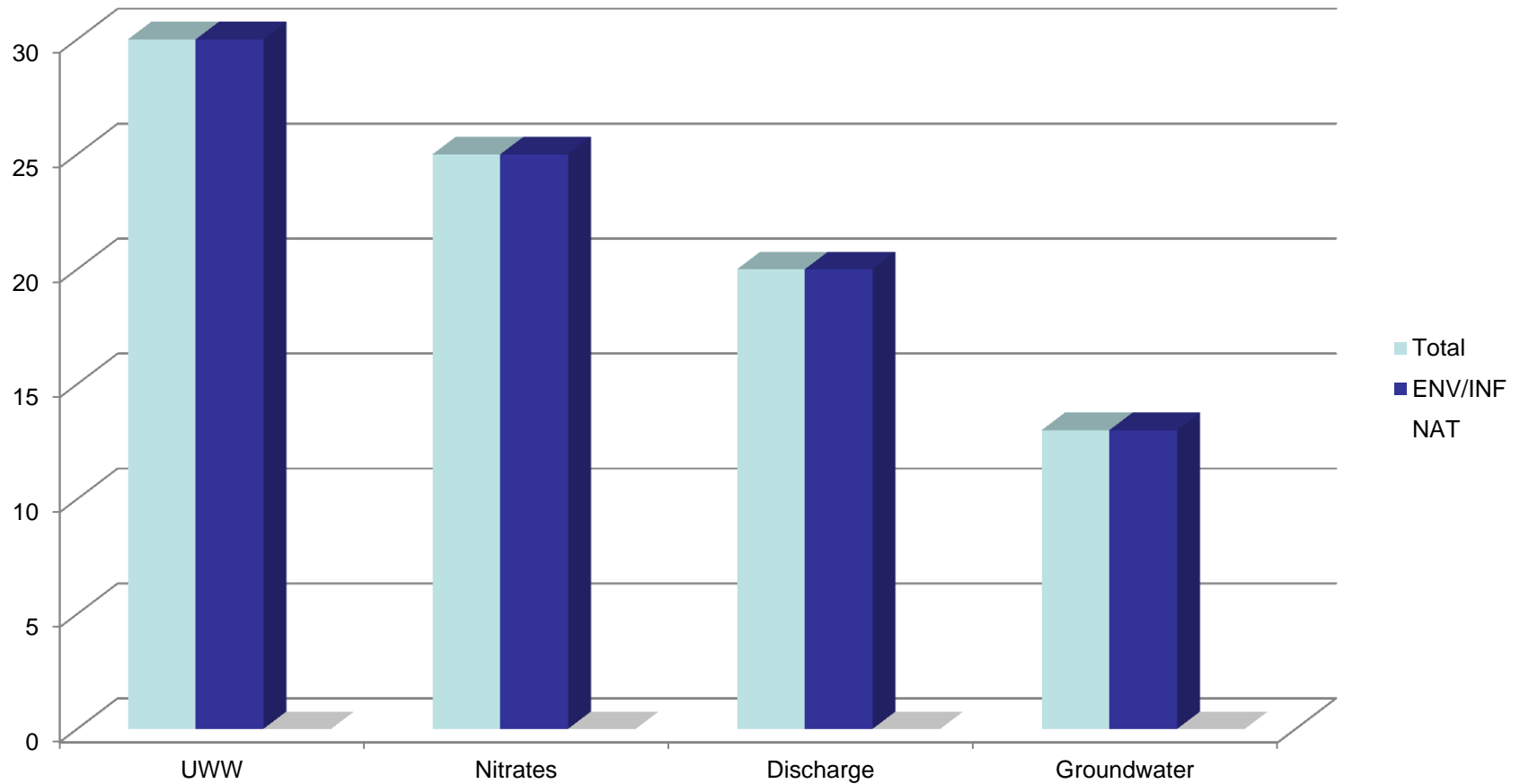




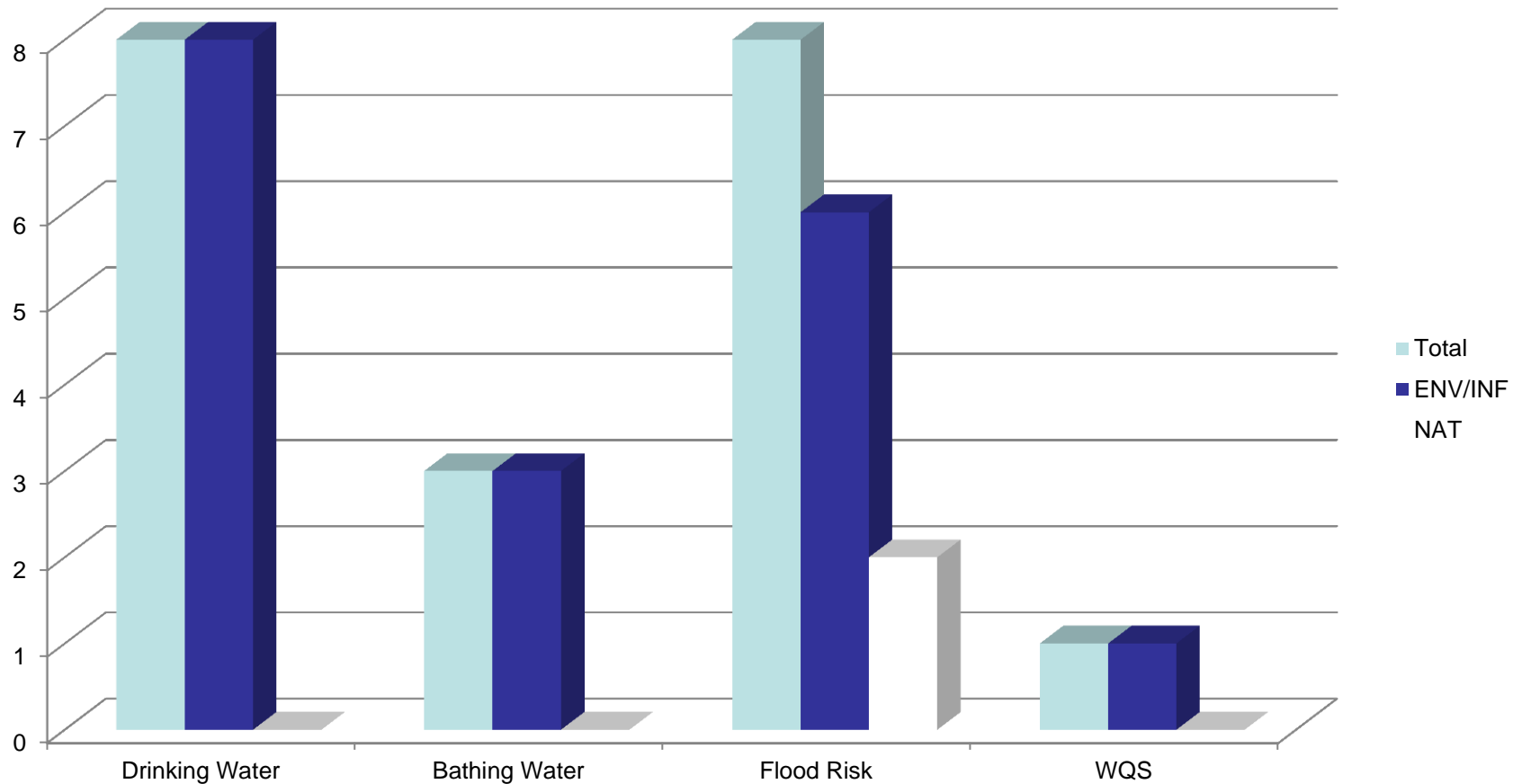
Number of Life projects related to specific legislation



Pollution Control



Human Health & Infrastructure





What makes a good project ?

- Clear targets: the project is ready and only co-financing is needed
- Connection between the aims, actions and expected results
- Results can be measured and visible –Indicators!
- Partnership is effective
- Deadlines of results and milestones are correctly planned
- Plan and calculate ahead for risks and alternative solutions
- Good disseminations strategy
- Expertise, promptness, flexibility and patience
- Replicability, long term sustainability, EU added value built in



Recommendations

- Think about it:
 - What the aim is exactly
 - With whom, how, when, where, and for how much it can be implemented
 - Which financing mechanism suits the project the best



ONLY AFTER THAT you should start.



CALL PAGE:

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

National contact points:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/index.htm>

e-proposal:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eproposalWeb/>

Thank you for your attention!