



# Information on water related calls and alignment of funding

**EUSDR PA4 22nd SG meeting**

**19 Oct 2021**

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# The European Green Deal

Mostly related to energy now ie:  
Europe - Cluster 5 - Destination 3: Sustainable,  
secure and competitive energy supply  
Development of hydropower equipment for  
hidden hydropower  
02.09.2021 - 23.02.2022



# Horizon Europe Cluster 5

## Topics and Budgets (in million EUR)

Destinations	Thematic Area	# of calls	2021	2022
1 Climate sciences and responses	Climate Science	17	135	137
2 Cross-sectoral solutions	Batteries	17	158	131
2 Cross-sectoral solutions	Breakthrough technologies	4	35	0
2 Cross-sectoral solutions	Citizen and stakeholder engagement	4	18	0
2 Cross-sectoral solutions	Communities and cities	2	19	24
3 Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	Renewable energy	44	317	365
3 Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	Energy system, grids and storage	17	147	176
3 Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	CCUS	3	32	58
3 Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	Cross-cutting issues - energy	3	65	35
4 Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use	Buildings	14	73	120
4 Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use	Industry	4	30	18
5 Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	2ZERO	8	94	102
5 Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	Aviation	5	50	45
5 Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	Waterborne transport	14	94	91
5 Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	Health and environment	3	15	7
5 Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	Cross-cutting issues - transport	1	0	2
6 Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services	CCAM	11	74	86
6 Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services	Multimodal transport, infrastructure, logistics	10	48	91
6 Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services	Transport safety	7	40	32
Other	Other	33	15	31
<b>Total</b>			<b>1 457</b>	<b>1 550</b>

## Climate sciences and responses for the transformation towards climate neutrality



### Indicative budget:

2022: 138 million EUR

- 2022 calls:
  - Opening: 12 Oct 2021
  - Deadline: 2022. Feb 10
- 2022 two-stage:
  - Opening: 12 Oct 2021
  - Deadline(s):
    - 10 Feb 2022 (First Stage)
    - 27 Sep 2022 (Second Stage)



The new LIFE programme covers the following areas:

Nature and biodiversity

Circular economy and quality of life

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Clean energy transition

**LIFE Standard Action Projects (SAP)** Deadline date **30 November 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time**

Projects, other than strategic integrated projects, strategic nature projects or technical assistance projects, that pursue the specific objectives of the LIFE programme. **(SAPs are the ex 'traditional LIFE projects)**

They can be Innovative solutions OR Best practices

- 'innovative' solutions: new when compared to the state of the art at Member State and sector level and implemented at an operational scale allowing the achievement of ambitious and credible impacts (as per the award criterion 'Impact')
- 'Best practice' solutions: appropriate, cost-effective, state of the art (at Member State and sector level) and implemented at an operational scale allowing the achievement of ambitious and credible impacts (as per the award criterion 'Impact')
- 'Innovative' is used strategically in the description of priority topics.
- **Strategic Nature Projects (SNAP) -**
- **Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP) 2 stage: 19 October 2021 17:00:00 AND 07 April 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time**
- **Projects that implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union, while ensuring that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.**
- **Technical Assistance Projects (TA) 22 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time CLOSED**
- **Operating Grants (OG) Deadline: 28 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time CLOSED**

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/FAQs\\_LIFE-2021-Calls\\_last-update%20published-29.09.2021.pdf](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/FAQs_LIFE-2021-Calls_last-update%20published-29.09.2021.pdf)

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-calls-proposals\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-calls-proposals_en)



# Priority topics of new LIFE Circular economy and quality of life Subprogramme

## WATER – a. Water quality & quantity

Improvement of water quality via one or both of the following:

- **Integrated management of nutrients and organic pollution of human** (urban) and/or agricultural origin by directly removing pollution. The solutions foreseen should be innovative and should be identified as a result of a comprehensive gap analysis defining the measures needed on a river basin scale or catchment scale to allow for the achievement of the WFD and MSFD requirements, taking into account what has been delivered via the UWWTD, the Nitrates Directive, the Bathing Water Directive and the Groundwater Directive requirements.
- **Innovative solutions for the reduction of pressures from chemical pollutants in the water environment** by reducing emissions of priority substances and other chemicals identified as river basin specific pollutants at source, through the use of appropriate substitutes or alternative technologies. This should include, where relevant, other pollutants such as pharmaceuticals and (micro) plastics.
- Implementation of **flood and/or drought risk management** actions by applying at least one of the following:
  - **Nature-based solutions consisting in natural water retention measures** that increase infiltration and storage of water and remove pollutants through natural or "natural-like" processes including re-naturalisation of river, lake, estuary and coastal morphology and/or re-creation of associated habitats including flood- and marsh plains;
  - **Innovative prevention and protection tools** and techniques for support of policy, land use planning, risk reduction, postevent resilience and emergency management and/or
  - **Innovative integrated risk assessment and management approaches** taking into account social vulnerability and aiming at improved **resilience** while ensuring social acceptance.
  - **Innovative projects addressing hydro morphological pressures identified in RBMPs** and originating from land or water uses in order to achieve good water status or potential as required by the WFD objectives and attain the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. This could include projects working on development of **sediment transport management techniques** and solutions, ensuring **ecological flow**, removal of obstacles, etc.
- Implementation of **innovative water saving measures** in order to reduce the quantitative and qualitative pressures on water bodies/resources. This includes measures for reduction of **overabstraction of water taking into account** circular economy measures.





## WATER – b. Marine and coastal water management

Application of innovative solutions (tools, technologies or practices) to ensure the protection and conservation of the seas, oceans and their coasts, by fostering sustainable human activities within the marine environment. This would include initiatives aimed at reducing the pressure of human activities on the marine environment, and addressing at least one of the following topics of high concern:

- underwater noise,
- marine litter and/or contaminants (addressed at source or in the sea giving priority to prevention rather than clean-up),
- disturbance of and damage to the sea floor,
- examination & reduction of impacts of deep sea exploitation & exploration,
- over-fishing and/or incidental by-catch,
- nutrient and organic matter inputs from agriculture or aquaculture and/or
- navigation (e.g. dredging navigation channels, shipping highways).





## LIFE -WATER – c. Water services

-Application of innovative technologies and tools for **drinking water and UWWT systems**, through at least one of the following:

- the use of resource efficient processes for the provision of water services ,
- the use of processes to diminish the presence of pollutants of emerging concern,
- the treatment of drinking water and/or waste water for reuse that can ensure highest safety levels, e.g. treatment efficacy for pathogen (viruses, bacteria) removal.

- Application of innovative tools ensuring the resource efficient provision of water services compliant with the revised **Drinking Water Directive and the UWWTD** to population living in rural areas.

- Improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of innovative solutions and/or innovative treatment options regarding recycled/reclaimed water, implementing one or more of the following:

- Concepts for (alternative) **water supply, wastewater treatment, reuse** (where applicable, in accordance to Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 2020 on minimum requirements for water reuse PE/12/2020/INIT )

**recovery and recycling of resources ;**

- **Source control methods and on-site technologies** for decreased discharges of **pollutants of emerging concern** (e.g. pharmaceuticals, nanoparticles, textile fibres) and/or pathogens with wastewater effluent;
- Systematic approaches to avoid loss of water, energy and resources in industrial production and/or in provision of water services.





## LIFE Environmental Governance

1. Activities in support of public administrations' decision-making and voluntary approaches

- Improving the capacity of public administration to implement a holistic vision of the environment, including managing, monitoring, assessing environmental plans, programmes and initiatives, by involving responsible authorities, also through institutional collaboration at different territorial level and/or where appropriate in partnership with private entities, with a view to develop synergies, to reduce administrative burden and/or to optimize environmental outcomes (...) Plans/Programmes targeted:

- National air pollution control programmes
- Air Quality Plans
- **River Basin Management Plans**
- Flood risk management plans;
- Nitrate action plans
- Waste management plans
- National or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
- National Radon Action Plans
- Actions, Measures and Plans to implement the Green City Accord

and/or decisions related to:

- industrial emissions
- waste management
- **water pollution and water abstraction**



## DTP programming is still in progress

- Along new Cohesion Policy & Territorial Cooperation regulations of EC
- Same geographic area – matching EUSDR – (≈ Danube River Basin)
- Lower budget (ca. 20% less - no final allocation yet)
- In line with EUSDR objectives
- Thematic focus, priorities, specific objectives, type of activities mainly finalised



## 4 Priorities

- P01 - A Smarter Europe (innovation and smart specialisation)
- P02 - A greener, low-carbon Europe (renewable energy & biodiversity + )

**S02.2 - promoting climate change adaptation, and disaster management in relation to environmental risks;**

**S02.3 - sustainable water & sediment management**

- P03 - A more social Europe (labour market integration, inclusive education, cultural heritage & tourism)
- P04 - A better cooperation governance (demographic change, severe urban-rural discrepancies + EUSDR coordination)



## **SO2.2 Promoting CC adaptation capacities in DR and disaster management on transnational level in relation to environmental risks (taking into account ecosystem-based approaches)**

- **Focus 1:** Harmonised capacities and data availability in DR scale CC forecasting and vulnerability assessment to support policy making and awareness raising
- **Focus 2:** Coordinated disaster prevention, preparedness and response activities on environmental risks, on floods, droughts, or accidental pollution of rivers on transnational river(-basin) scale and CC related other disasters (e.g. wildfires, heat waves)
- **Focus 3:** Strengthen preparedness and adaptive capacity of society (including disaster management organisations, volunteer rescue teams), economy and nature to cope with impacts of CC and establish climate services to foster the resilience



## **S02.3 Sustainable, integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance**

- **Focus 1:** Capacities for prevention and mitigation of water pollution or for restoration of good quality of transnational water bodies
- **Focus 2:** Harmonising management practises between water management and other key sectors to improve quality and quantity of water and sediment in transnational river systems, taking into consideration the potential impacts of climate change
- **Focus 3:** Transnational coordination of water supply management, especially in relation to basin-wide importance of groundwater bodies



European Union  
European Regional Development Fund



## S02.3 Sustainable water & sediment management – type of actions

- Harmonised data availability, monitoring, modelling systems for transnational water management
- Strengthening capacities to prevent and mitigate water pollution or restore good quality of water
- Improving sediment balance and related morphodynamics
- Potentials of floodplain reconnection to improve water quality
- Monitoring, modelling of transboundary groundwater systems
- Measures ensuring balanced use of water, regarding CC impacts
- Measures in connection to CC induced low water periods on transnational rivers of DRB (sediment, navigation, HPP)



## Common features

- „Soft” type of measures are supported (harmonised, joint strategies, plans, solutions developed and tested in pilot actions, capacity building)
- No major infrastructures financed
- Reasonable mix of activities with clear thematic focus
- Focus on main transboundary river(-basin)s of the DRB (water management, flood management, accidental pollution, etc.)
- Territorially integrated, cross-sectoral approaches
- Taking into consideration potential negative effects of CC



Finalisation of Programme documents: ongoing.

2 step procedure:

Launch of the first step: spring 2022

Launch of 2nd step: not before late 2022

Final approval not (much) before mid 2023

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/programming-period-2021-2027>

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- The Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat remain in the city of Vienna.
- The program area is extended to the Braunschweig (DE) region.
- The call is expected to officially launch on 15 November 2021.
- The first projects are scheduled to start in December 2022

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/apply/newfunding.html>

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/home.html>





- **2021-2027 PO: Interreg-specific objective ISO 1 “Better cooperation governance”**
- [https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Programming\\_Committee/Interreg\\_Europe\\_2021-2027\\_CP\\_final\\_version\\_September\\_2021\\_.pdf](https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Programming_Committee/Interreg_Europe_2021-2027_CP_final_version_September_2021_.pdf)
- **24 and 25 November 2021** at **'Europe, let's cooperate!'** online event.
- The Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat remain in Lille Hauts de France.
- Overall objective of the program: To support regional development policies, capacity building, exchange of experience and innovative approaches by implementing Priority 1: ISO
- Thematic concentration is achieved through the division of the budget:
- 12 pcs Specific Objective 80%
- Remaining specific targets 20%

## Programming 2021-2027

Interreg Europe is in the process of preparing the new programme for interregional cooperation. The provisional timeline presents the key steps in the process.

### The launch

The programming committee of 29 Partner States meets to discuss the new programme.

DEC  
2019



### The priorities

The committee works on the priorities and the focus of the new programme

MAR  
2020



### Draft programme v1

The committee approves first chapters and works on the finance and implementation provisions.

JUN



### Draft programme v2

The committee approves the new chapters and adds communication & evaluation.

SEP



### Draft programme v3

The committee consolidates the draft and works on the SEA and the Partner State agreements.

DEC



### Programme's SEA

The strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the new programme is carried out

FEB  
2021



### Public consultation

The programme draft and its sustainability assessment go through a public consultation

MAR-JUN



### Partners' approval

Partner States approve the programme and sign the Partner State agreements.

JUN-SEP



### Programme ready

The programme goes to the European Commission for comments and approval.

SEP



JAN  
2022

Commission approves



interregeurope.eu

The total budget planned for 2021- 2027 is EUR 379.48 million

The first call is expected in March 2022





## Summary Planned launch of the Interreg DTP, CE, Interreg Europe 2021-2027 programs

Program	Expected first call	Nature of the call	Expected start of approved projects
<b>Interreg Central Europe</b>	Nov 2021	One round	November 2022
Interreg Danube	Nov 2021	Two rounds	January 2023
<b>Interreg Europe</b>	March 2022	One round	January 2023



## International Visegrad Fund

Advancing ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe

### GRANTS FOCUS AREAS

Focus area 2020	%
Culture and common identity	33.19
Education and capacity building	23.71
Innovation, R&D, entrepreneurship	8.62
Regional development, environment, tourism	10.34
Democratic values and the media	7.76
Public policy and institutional partnership	11.64
Social development	4.74

V4 AND V4+ PROJECTS focus on Regional Development, Environment and Tourism

Procedure completely online, opens 4 times a year!  
<https://www.visegradfund.org/>



**Thank you for your attention!**

Find the EUSDR including also the PA4 embedding documents at:

<https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding->

[2021-2027/](https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/)