

**CALL FOR EVIDENCE
FOR AN EVALUATION**

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	LIFE programme 2021-2027 (midterm evaluation)
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	DG ENV A3 - Green Knowledge & Research Hub, LIFE
INDICATIVE TIMETABLE (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Planned end date Q4-2024
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	LIFE (europa.eu)

A. Political context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Political context

The programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE programme) was launched on 29 April 2021 with [Regulation 2021/783](#). Under the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027, the LIFE programme is the only EU programme specifically dedicated to the environment and climate action. It is therefore instrumental for EU environmental, climate and clean energy legislation and policies.

The LIFE programme fully aligns with the objectives and targets of the [European Green Deal](#), in particular a fair and prosperous society with a modern, energy- and resource-efficient, renewable-based and competitive economy with zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, an economic growth that is decoupled from resource use, the protection and enhancement of the EU's natural capital, a high standard of health and well-being for citizens, and protection from environment- and climate-related risks and impacts.

In line with Article 20 of the LIFE Regulation, the Commission is required to carry out a midterm evaluation of the programme.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this midterm evaluation is to improve the implementation of the LIFE programme and help inform the proposal for the subsequent programme.

It will cover activities under the LIFE sub-programmes, namely: Nature and Biodiversity; Circular Economy and Quality of Life; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; and Clean Energy Transition over the period 2021-2024, and will focus on whether and the extent to which the programme is achieving its objectives and maintaining its strategic focus.

While some of the programme's expected effects may not yet be apparent, the analysis will make the best use of all the information currently available, i.e. results of projects that are about to end or that are in a very advanced phase of implementation. The analysis will also consider the extent to which the programme has built on the achievements of the previous environmental programmes, as well as the new elements the current LIFE programme has introduced, including:

1. strengthened action on nature and biodiversity with an extended scope and a dedicated support to coordinated programmes of action in the Member States;
2. 61% target for expenditures supporting climate objectives;
3. strengthened action on energy efficiency and renewable energies with the introduction of the new LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme;
4. extended opportunities for synergies with other funds and programmes;
5. increased impact to meet societal challenges by combining efforts with Horizon Europe, in particular its Missions;
6. expanded geographical scope involving overseas countries and territories (OCTs).

The evaluation report will also cover the LIFE programme's coherence with environment, climate and clean energy actions funded by other EU spending programmes and initiatives, and how national environmental, climate and energy funding by Member States complements EU funding.

This midterm evaluation is an integral part of the Commission's policymaking process and allows decision makers to take decisions based on the best available evidence. The evaluation will produce a critical, evidence-based assessment, using robust and reliable data drawn from a range of sources and analysed in an appropriate manner. It will present a clear chain of logic between the data, analysis and conclusions and will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the programme.

Finally, the midterm evaluation will recommend adjustments to the way the programme is currently designed and run in order to improve its performance in the second part of the implementation period and to provide input for the preparation of the post-2027 period.

B. Better regulation

Consultation strategy

To support the evaluation, various consultation tools will be used to collect data and views from a wide range of stakeholders. These include:

- a targeted consultation in the form of a survey to be launched in Q1-2024 to gather feedback on different aspects of the LIFE programme's implementation and on the evaluation questions; and
- targeted interviews with key stakeholders to be carried out in 2024.

A synopsis report, summarising the results of consultation activities will be prepared.

Data collection and methodology

The evaluation will be supported by a study by an external contractor that will draw on official and best available information and evidence, including:

- programme monitoring and reporting indicators; and
- information and evidence related to projects supported under the LIFE programme

Additional evidence will be gathered through various consultation activities targeted to key stakeholders.

The assessment will take other evaluations into account, in particular the impact assessment of the 2021-2027 LIFE programme and the final evaluation of the 2014-2021 LIFE programme. To assess the continuity of the LIFE programme's objectives and activities in subsequent programmes, this midterm evaluation will also look at previous projects, in particular in terms of impacts, success stories and lessons learnt.