



# Environmental Governance & Information

LIFE  
PROJECTS 2014

LIFE *Environment*

Environment



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE-GENERAL**

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# LIFE Environmental Governance & Information 2014: Commission funds 6 new projects in 4 countries with €4.5 million

The European Commission has approved funding for six new LIFE Environmental Governance & Information (LIFE GIE) projects under the Environment sub-programme of LIFE, the European Union's fund for the environment and climate action. The 2014 grants have been awarded to beneficiaries in four Member States and will raise awareness on environmental matters. The projects are led by 'beneficiaries', or project promoters, based in Germany, Greece, Italy and the United Kingdom. They represent a total investment of €7.5 million, of which the EU will provide €4.5 million.

## LIFE Environmental Governance & Information in 2014

LIFE Environmental Governance and Information (GIE) co-finances action grants for information, awareness and dissemination projects to promote awareness raising on environmental matters.

The Commission received 151 proposals for its first call for LIFE GIE projects in 2014. Of these, six projects were selected for LIFE funding. The projects will be carried out by a range of public and private sector nature and/or environmental organisations located in Germany, Greece, Italy and the UK. Their areas of focus cover awareness of and remedial actions for: waste reduction; energy impacts; pollution; wildlife crime; forest-fires; and for the development of new patterns of sustainable consumption e.g. through encouragement of green public procurement (GPP). Networking is also important, fostering a greater culture of cooperation on environmental concerns across countries, industry sectors and organisations.

Together, the projects represent a total investment of €7.5 million, of which the EU will provide some €4.5 million.

## Background

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

The budget for LIFE 2014–2020 is set at €3.4 billion in current prices, administered through the Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes. The Environment strand

of the LIFE programme covers three priority areas: Environmental Governance & Information; Environment & Resource Efficiency; and Nature & Biodiversity. The 'Climate Action' strand covers the priority areas of: climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; and climate governance & information. The Commission launches one call for LIFE project proposals per year.

LIFE Environmental Governance & Information (sub-programme for Environment) incorporates elements of the former LIFE+ Information & Communication strand. It will support action grants for information, awareness and dissemination projects to promote awareness raising on environmental matters. This includes generating public and stakeholder support of EU policy-making in the field of the environment; and to promote knowledge on sustainable development and new patterns for sustainable consumption. It will also support communication, management and dissemination of information on environmental issues, and facilitate knowledge sharing on successful solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms among stakeholders and training. In addition, it will promote and contribute to more effective compliance with and enforcement of EU environmental legislation.

More information on each LIFE Environmental Governance & Information project is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

Contact details for the relevant national authorities can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/life\\_inf.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/life_inf.htm)

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# CLEAN HEAT: Reducing particulate matter caused by wood burning

## Project background

The amount of particulate matter (PM) and soot – both health and climate damaging pollutants – caused by private wood burning is growing significantly within the EU. In Germany, wood burning is responsible for emissions of 28 000 tonnes of PM10 every year – more than emitted by cars, trucks and motorcycles together. In Denmark, stoves and boilers produce about 70% of overall PM2.5 emissions, which added up to about 20 500 tonnes PM2.5 from residential wood burning in 2013. The issue of particulate matter caused by wood burning has yet to be appropriately addressed.

## Project objectives

The CLEAN HEAT project aims to significantly reduce PM caused by wood burning in seven EU Member States (by about 15-20% in the medium term). In order to reach this goal, the following objectives will be pursued:

- Increase awareness and promote better handling/management of stoves;
- Increase market share of stoves with fewer emissions;
- Promote alternatives to wood burning;
- Exchange of information, good governance and more ambitious regulation;
- Press ahead with development of better stoves/boilers; and
- Promote labelling and measurement procedures for wood burning stoves.

A photo competition, a short film, a mobile exhibition and talks by experts will be organised to raise awareness, and discuss technical and political approaches for a reduction in air pollutants caused by wood burning. The results will be disseminated in workshops in other European countries.

## Expected results

In total, the project is hoping to reach over 17 million consumers in at least seven European countries:

- Some 150 000 consumers educated with flyers about using stoves with fewer emissions and improved building efficiency;
- Some 20 000 people watch the short film on YouTube and at events;
- Some 60 000 consumers visit the mobile exhibition at events;
- Some 100 000 people visit the project website;
- Transfer of activities to at least five other Member States;

LIFE14 GIE/DE/000490

LIFE - CLEAN HEAT



### Beneficiary:

#### Name of beneficiary

Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.

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Dorothee SAAR

### Duration of project:

42 months (01/08/2015 – 31/01/2019)

### Total budget in euro:

1,191,440.00

### EU contribution in euro:

714,204.00

- Comprehensive media work leading to at least 200 articles reaching a wide readership and six million consumers informed by reports on TV and radio;
- At least 75% of participants stating they are better informed about wood burning, who will then optimise their handling of existing stoves and consider buying better stoves;
- Several thousand decision-makers and experts better informed through printed material, the mobile exhibition and talks;
  - Networking activities and newsletter reach a further 500 persons all over Europe; and
  - In the medium-to-long term, 10 municipalities include stricter regulations on wood burning in their air pollution policies, the labelling of stoves is brought forward with stricter limit values for particulate matter, and the market share of stoves with fewer emission (including particle filters and eco-labels e.g. 'Blauer Engel') increases by 20%.

# Promoting awareness of wildlife crime prosecution and liability for biodiversity damage in NATURA 2000 areas in Crete

## Project background

In Crete there is a lack of prosecution of wildlife crime and measures for remediation of damage to biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites. The EU, however, introduced the Environmental Liability Directive in 2014 to remedy biodiversity damage and establish wildlife crime as a separate area of prosecution. Local communities have a role to play in this procedure.

## Project objectives

The LIFE Natura Themis project aims to:

- Inform and raise awareness of stakeholders, targeted audiences and the general public in Crete about environmental crime and wildlife crime, in particular, as a special case of prosecution;
- Inform and raise awareness about liability for preventing and remediation of biodiversity damage;
- Change attitude in Crete so that support and engagement in EU environmental law enforcement is seen as an important tool to protect biodiversity and support local development and social cohesion;
- Provide stakeholders and target audiences with the appropriate skills to engage in the prosecution procedure for wildlife crime, to require measures for remediation of damage to biodiversity and to integrate biodiversity issues in regional and local policy;
- Highlight the wider benefits of conserving Natura 2000 sites; and
- Communicate the importance of EU environmental legislation implementation for human health to other Natura 2000 site managers in Greece.

## Expected results

Relationships between wildlife crime, biodiversity damage and healthy ecosystems will have been highlighted and practices for tackling wildlife crime, promoting liability on biodiversity conservation and enforcing EU environmental legislation will have been demonstrated. An Environmental Law Observatory of East Crete, Environmental Law Observatory of West Crete are established and a national and international conference held.

The project will have produced two radio and two TV ads, 10 press articles, three technical guides, an application for environmental damage reporting and an on-line GIS database for mapping wildlife crime hotspots. 26 workshops, three press conferences and nine training seminars will have been held. Other specific targets reached include:

LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026  
LIFE Natura Themis



### Beneficiary:

#### Name of beneficiary

University of Crete

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#### Name of contact person

Michalis PROBONAS

### Duration of project:

60 months (01/10/2015 – 30/09/2020)

### Total budget in euro:

1,580,117.00

### EU contribution in euro:

935,782.00

- Some 80% of the stakeholders (judges and state prosecutors, lawyers, public officers of the Decentralised Administration Authority of Crete, environmental NGOs operating in Crete), 80% of the journalists, investigators and the rural population and 65% of the general public are made aware of the importance of wildlife crime prosecution and of triggering liability for biodiversity damage in ecosystems and livelihoods;
- At least 350 judges and state prosecutors, 600 lawyers, 150 members of environmental NGOs and 100 public officers of the Decentralised Administration Authority of Crete are trained on wildlife crime and liability for biodiversity damage;
- At least 100 users of the smart device application for environmental damage reporting;
- At least 50% of all people of the target audiences identify wildlife crime as a separate case of prosecution;
- At least 30% more of the target audiences are aware and fully appreciate three of the most important pieces of European legislation on biodiversity: Birds and Habitats Directives, Environmental Liability Directive and EU Biodiversity Strategy; and
- At least 30% increase of environmental claims involving wildlife crime and liability for biodiversity damage.

# Building cooperation, developing skills and sharing knowledge for Natura2000 forests in Greece

## Project background

Mountains and forests are prominent features of the Greek landscape. Forest area covers half of the surface area of the country, with high forests accounting for 30.2% and wooded land another 20.5%. High forests have shown some increase since 1990 while wooded land has decreased. Around 77% of forest areas are publicly owned, with the church, municipalities and individuals owning the remaining 23%. Some 43% of the terrestrial Natura 2000 sites of Community importance (SCIs) are covered by forest habitat listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

The main environmental problem is the degraded conservation status of forest habitats in Natura 2000 sites caused by a low level of knowledge, a lack of guidance, and a lack of best management practices. The skills of forestry personnel and others involved in forest management are inadequate to deal with the problems.

## Project objectives

The LIFE ForestLife project aims to support the exchange of best practices and the development of skills of forest Natura 2000 managers in Greece. Specific objectives are to:

- Facilitate knowledge sharing by developing an online Collaboration Platform for Forests (CPF);
- Foster the development of skills of forest-related target groups through training; and
- Increase the capacity of forest managers by providing tools that aim to reduce human disturbance from forest users, to support and exchange experience and best practice, and to enhance cooperation.

## Expected results

- An online CPF will have been created. Around 2 000 people will have visited the site in its first four months and at least 150 users will register as members. A fivefold increase in visits is expected by the end of the project, with at least 15 000 visits annually.
- Eight training seminars will have been organised. Around 460 individuals from target groups will have been trained in seminars and another 300 will have participated through live streaming. Training material uploaded on the project website and on the CPF.
- An App called 'Forest LIFE' and an e-book, 'Forests of Greece' will have been produced. Around 20 000 downloads are expected.

LIFE14 GIE/GR/000304  
LIFE ForestLife



## Beneficiary:

### Name of beneficiary

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### Name of contact person

Luiza NIKOLAOU

## Duration of project:

48 months (16/07/2015 – 15/07/2019)

## Total budget in euro:

1,021,628.00

## EU contribution in euro:

607,546.00

- More than 80% of the target audiences in Greece are aware of the project's objectives, actions and results. Increased levels of information and awareness of the target groups and the wider public achieved through extensive presentations of the project on TV and radio stations as well as through social media.
- More than 107 500 people are informed of the project through leaflets, flyers, noticeboards and the Layman's reports.
- 350 000 people will have been informed through project presentations in events.

Overall, the project expects, among others, to bring about improved conservation and sustainable management of Natura 2000 forests, through the use of the CPF; and to have promoted more sustainable and environmentally-friendly behaviour/attitudes of the target groups and the general public towards the forests of Greece.

# Integrated information and awareness campaign for the reduction of plastic bags in the marine environment

## Project background

Litter is a major problem for the marine environment, with plastic bags being one of the most common and persistent pollutants affecting coasts and waters. Each year, more than eight million plastic bags end up as litter in the EU. Current recycling rates are only 6.6%, which are difficult to increase because the thinness and lightness of plastic bags means they have a low recycling value.

Plastic bags are blown by the wind and washed away by rain and snowmelt into rivers and drainage systems, eventually reaching the marine environment. Threats to marine life from bags, bottles and other plastic waste are due to ingestion and entanglement, causing direct physical damage and possibly toxicological harm. Over 267 animal species are known to suffer from entanglement and ingestion of marine debris, including 86% of sea turtles, 44% of seabirds, and 43% of marine mammals. Plastic waste also constitutes an aesthetic problem in tourist areas such as natural parks and beaches. Since over 80% of marine litter comes from land-based sources, preventing the litter at the source is very important. However, an integrated approach to tackling plastic waste is lacking, and there remains ignorance of its environmental impacts. It is therefore crucial to inform consumers and to promote reusable bags as an alternative to single-use plastic bags.

## Project objectives

The main objective of the LIFE DEBAG project is to develop and implement an integrated information and awareness-raising campaign for the prevention and reduction of plastic bag pollution in the marine environment. The aim is for this to change consumer behaviour.

Specific project aims are to:

- Improve the knowledge base and create awareness of the problem of plastic bag use and disposal at the national level, and to intensively inform and educate the public on Syros island;
- Ensure a sense of public ownership to build support for relevant measures;
- Improve educational efforts directed towards teachers and pupils; and
- Contribute to changing Greece from a throwaway society to a sustainable society starting with plastic bags, a central and visible aspect of today's disposable culture.

LIFE14 GIE/GR/001127  
LIFE DEBAG



### Beneficiary:

#### Name of beneficiary

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George PAPTAEODOROU

### Duration of project:

31 months (01/09/2015 – 31/03/2018)

### Total budget in euro:

1,257,545.00

### EU contribution in euro:

754,527.00

## Expected results

- Detailed understanding of the current situation in Greece with respect to marine litter;
- Design and development of a holistic, multidisciplinary educational experience using a variety of features;
- Enhanced knowledge and awareness on marine litter and plastic bags in particular, through an integrated communication and information campaign;
- Organisation of two annual 'Plastic Bag Free' weeks, consisting of different events targeting the local population, visitors and stakeholders (reaching at least 4 200 households and 30 000 people in the Syros project focus area);
- Motivation of national stakeholders through six thematic stakeholder consultation forums;
- Information exchange with similar European projects;
- Reduction by 10% of plastic bag litter input from Syros to the marine environment; and
- Increase the penetration of the project's key messages to young people through social media networks, TV and radio features, and publications in print and electronic media, including interviews given by beneficiaries.

## Best practices exchange and strategic tools for GPP

### Project background

The most recent European Public Procurement Directive emphasises the need for including environmental and social aspects in procurement procedures, while promoting a lifecycle costing approach. However, Green Public Procurement (GPP) is still not a common and established practice, underlining the evident gap between policy and its implementation. The lack of effective governance of public procurement processes and of GPP in particular has two main causes:

- GPP is not recognised as a strategic policy tool and as a result there are no procedures or information systems in place for aiding the inclusion of environmental objectives in procurement practices; and
- The public administration often does not have the necessary planning tools and skills to actually exploit all opportunities linked to the implementation of GPP.

### Project objectives

The LIFE GPPBest project's overall objective is to contribute to the promotion of new patterns of sustainable consumption and to the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches, in order to highlight the benefits of GPP and to favour its wider application. In particular, its aims are to:

- Improve governance of procurement policies ensuring that they are oriented towards the achievement of sustainable development objectives;
- Improve skills in the planning and the implementation of GPP policies and plans;
- Improve information on the economic and environmental benefits of GPP;
- Transfer the 'Sardinian model' for the design, management and implementation of a GPP Plan to other public administrations;
- Improve skills and tools for the verification of green criteria in the evaluation of offers and in the management and implementation of contracts;
- Support the diffusion of green procurement processes;
- Improve methods and practices for GPP accounting;
- Create GPPbest Activators internal working groups and define Roadmaps for GPPbest implementation in each region and in Romania; and
- Improve Sardinia's own plan and define new implementation tools that will then be transferred to other public administrations.

LIFE14 GIE/IT/000812  
LIFE GPPbest



#### Beneficiary:

##### Name of beneficiary

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Elio MANTI

#### Duration of project:

33 months (01/10/2015 – 30/06/2018)

#### Total budget in euro:

1,365,934.00

#### EU contribution in euro:

809,724.00

#### Expected results

- At least 20 best practices will be identified and transferred via the GPPbest catalogue
- Two 'regional action plans' for GPP (one in Basilicata and one in Lazio), with at least 50% of regional and local authorities reached in each region;
- One pilot action for the adoption of a GPP policy in Romania with at least 500 Romanian GPP stakeholders reached (including at least 50 public authorities);
- GPPbest guidelines for implementation of the project model in large public bodies;
- Eleven samples of green tenders with verification schemes (seven implemented);
- A green procurement code (developed and adopted) in three central purchasing agencies;
- A monitoring system for the uptake of GPP policies and green tenders;
- A cost-benefit analysis of nine green purchases;
- At least 30% of regional and local authorities that were reached by GPPBest implementation will realise a green purchase within the project duration; and
- Project dissemination events in at least three Member States.

# European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment

## Project background

Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme estimate the cost of international environmental crime to be \$213 billion (c. €188 billion) annually. This problem affects the EU as it does other regions. High levels of environmental crime can be partly attributed to inefficient and ineffective prosecution and sanctioning. Wildlife crime is notoriously difficult to prosecute because the law in this area is complex and because criminal circles are small, highly organised, closed and hard to penetrate. Chemical pollution and waste crimes also adversely impact biodiversity and many EU rivers are falling short of Water Framework Directive targets. Additionally, large-scale pollution incidents are complex, requiring transnational cooperation to successfully prosecute.

## Project objectives

LIFE ENPE's objectives include:

- The building of a network of environmental prosecutors;
- Improving the sharing of information on environmental crime; and
- Improving capacity and consistency for combating transnational waste, wildlife and chemical crimes.

The project will help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public bodies responsible for tackling environmental crime, by building a network of prosecutors and judges to share information and develop best practices. It will foster a greater culture of transnational cooperation between prosecutors and judges.

It will provide training to prosecutors and judges, supported by case studies and training packages on judging, sanctioning and prosecuting environmental crime. ENPE working groups will focus on waste, wildlife and chemical crimes. Through the ENPE Sanctioning, Prosecuting and Judicial Practice working group, ENPE will also respond to the uneven and inadequate implementation of EU environmental legislation.

## Expected results

- **Objective 1:** To build a self-sustaining network of environmental prosecutors:
  - Agencies responsible for prosecuting and judging environmental crime in 39 targeted countries will be identified/mapped;
  - A Stakeholder Matrix will be provided outlining the roles and responsibilities of target audience/stakeholders;

LIFE14 GIE/UK/000043  
LIFE-ENPE



### Beneficiary:

#### Name of beneficiary

Environment Agency

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#### Name of contact person

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### Duration of project:

60 months (16/07/2015 – 17/07/2020)

### Total budget in euro:

1,072,400.00

### EU contribution in euro:

643,439.00

- The ENPE network will be established (minimum of 25 countries represented); and
- At least 10 examples of transnational cooperation that lead to the successful prosecution of environmental crime;
- **Objective 2:** Better information on environmental crime:
  - A capitalisation and gap-filling report supplied to environmental prosecutors and judges throughout the Member States;
  - Outputs from working groups will be supplied to judicial and prosecution agencies;
  - Five annual conferences will be held to share information with Member States; and
  - Website and common online resources developed;
- **Objective 3:** To improve capacity and consistency for combating transnational waste, wildlife and chemical crimes:
  - Four working groups will be established, each holding multiple workshops annually, and producing best practice and training material;
  - Training will be provided to prosecution or judicial agencies based on material developed by the working groups; and
  - At least 10 agencies will adopt elements of ENPE best practice in their environmental crime work.

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