



Relevance of the LIFE IP concept as a tool for implementing EU/national strategies

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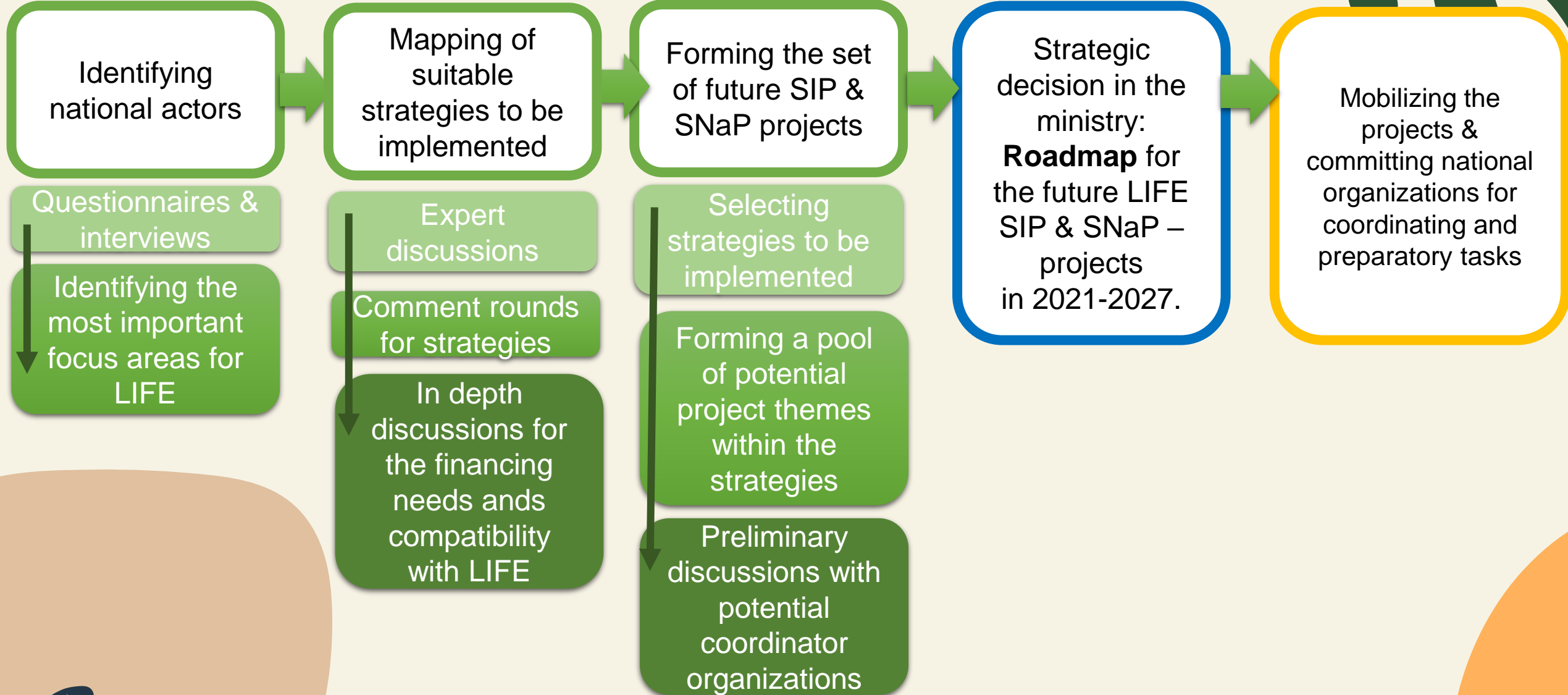
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Strategic Life projects: basics

- The purpose of the Strategic LIFE projects is to support the implementation of national and EU-level nature, environment, and climate strategies. Strategic projects started in 2014 onwards.
- The national body responsible for the strategies (in Finland, FiMoE) is responsible for initiating the project application process and acts in strategic guidance of the planning.
- Strategic projects are more diverse in their objectives and methods than conventional LIFE projects. In addition, the projects have large budgets (typically 20M€).
- The practical preparation is the responsibility of the coordinator chosen by the Ministry of the Environment.
- Projects have been selected based on national needs and for strategies that need a boost in implementation.



How do we create strategic LIFE projects in Finland?



The Finnish LIFE Roadmap for 2022-2027

● Nature & BD –sub-programme ● Circular economy & quality of life –sub-programme ● Climate change mitigation & adaptation –sub-programme

Timeline for Strategic LIFE -projects	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
● Freshabit 20 M€	2,9	2,9													
● Circwaste 18,5 M€	2,3	2,3	2,3												
● Canemure 15,3 M€	2,2	2,2	2,2	2,2											
● Biodiversea 19,9 M€	fp	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5						
● PlastLIFE 18,8 M€	cn	fp	2,7	2,7	2,7	2,7	2,7	2,7	2,7						
● Priodiversity Life 50 M€		cn	fp	6,3	6,3	6,3	6,3	6,3	6,3	6,3	6,3				
● ACE Life (20 M€)		cn	fp	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5				
● "Water basin management plans" Life (20 M€)			cn	fp	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5			
● "Climate change adaptation" Life (20 M€)				cn	fp	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5		
● Strategic programme to promote a circular economy (20 M€)					cn	fp	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5
Combined annual (mean) budget	7,4	9,9	9,7	16,2	16,5	19	21,5	2028 Next funding period							
% growth in relation to 2021		134	131	219	223	257	291								
		cn	Project preparation, cn=concept note submitted												
		fp	Project preparation, fp=full proposal submitted												
		2,7	Project ongoing, number indicates the mean annual budget in M€												

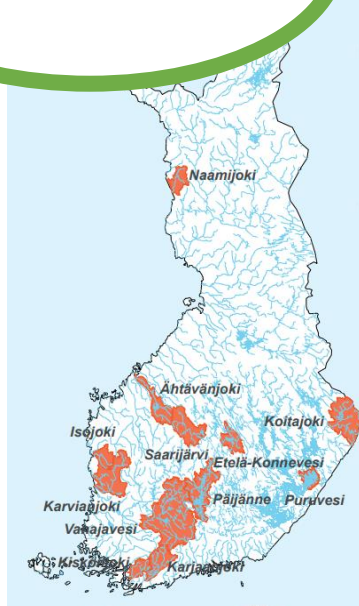


Completed

Metsähallitus
Luontopalvelut
/ 2016–2022

Budget 20 M€

Täydentäviä
hankkeita >80
kpl: yht. 86 milj.
€

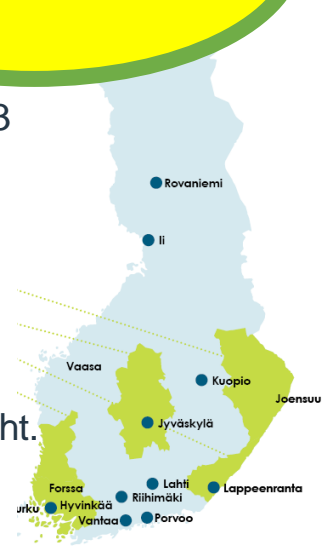


Completed!

Suomen ympäristökeskus
SYKE / 2016–2023

Budget 18,5 M€

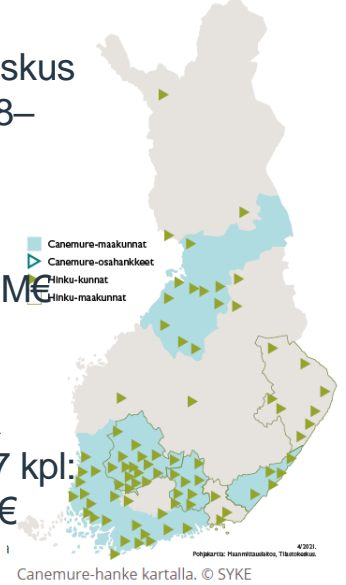
Täydentäviä
hankkeita 21 kpl: yht.
41 milj. €



Suomen ympäristökeskus
SYKE / 2018–2024

Budget 15,3 M€

Täydentäviä
hankkeita 27 kpl:
yht. 32 milj. €



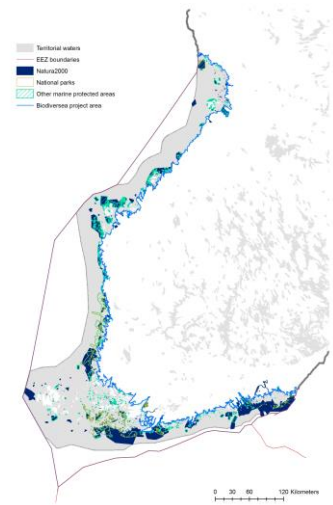
BIODIVERSEA



Metsähallitus
Luontopalvelut /
2022–2029

Budget 19,9 M€

Täydentäviä
hankkeita
suunniteltu 240
milj. €



PlastLIFE IP

2023-2029

Budget: 20 M €



Suomen ympäristökeskus SYKE

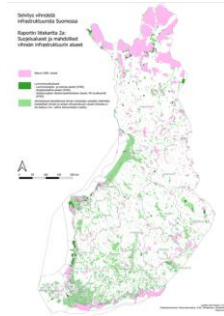
Strategy: Plastic Roadmap'

Objective: Among other things, promoting plastic recycling, reuse, and the advancement of alternative materials.

Priodiversity LIFE

2024-2031

Budget: 50 M €



Coordinator: Metsähallitus

Strategy: PAF, EU BD, Helmi

Program Objective: To provide solutions to challenges related to biodiversity at the national level.

The application has been approved by the commission

Starting 12/2023.

ACE LIFE

2024-2031

Budget: 20 M €



Suomen ympäristökeskus SYKE

Strategy: KAISU

Objective: Climate change mitigation measures in the effort-sharing sector.

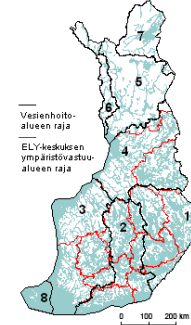
The application has been approved by the commission

Starting 12/2023.

Vesien- ja merenhoito SIP LIFE

SIP LIFE

2025-2032; 20 M€



ELY centers

Strategy: Water Management Plans, Marine Management Plan

Application: The first phase application was submitted in September 2023

Why a top-down project?

- We ensure the effectiveness of the measures in terms of strategic objectives
- We are able to direct the few projects to targets where their impact is as great as possible.
- We ensure the timeliness of projects in relation to the implementation of strategies
- We establish a dialogue already during the preparation phase of the strategies.
- Proactive planning will also help various actors (especially coordinators) to allocate resources in advance for project preparation.
- With its strategic planning of projects, Finland has achieved the role of a model student in the EU: so far, we have had all the strategic projects we applied for approved.



Finnish LIFE projects (2014-)



Nature & BD

Circular Life

Climate change

Traditional projects

Saimaa Seal 2: 7M€
LIFE Boreal wolf 5,5M€
LIFE Revives 9,5M€
Beetles Life 2,7M€
Flying Squirrel 8,9M€
Finvasive LIFE 2,5M€
CoastNet LIFE 8,7M€
Hydrology LIFE 8,9M€
WildForestReindeer 5,2M€

Green Foundry 2,1M€

LIFE EconomisE 0,9M€
OPAL LIFE 2,0M€

Strategic projects

BIODIVERSEA 19,8M€
FRESHABIT 20M€
PRIDIVERSITY 50M€

LIFE CIRCWASTE 18,2M€
PLASTLIFE 19M€
ACE-LIFE 19M€

LIFE CANEMURE 15,2M€



In strategic projects Finland is in the class of its own



1. Key findings of the European assessment on Life Integrated Projects

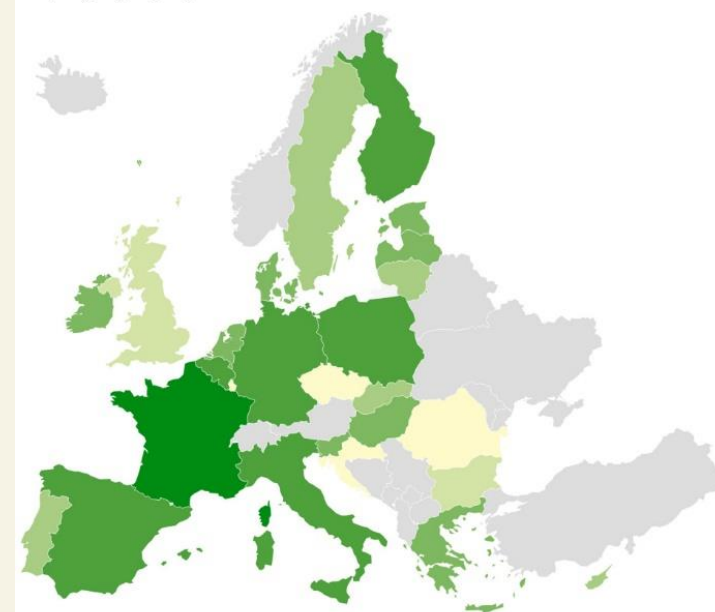


We wanted to reach a comprehensive overall understanding on how successful the EU Life integrated projects have been – from the project leaders themselves.

LIFE IP self assessment results have been collected in August-September 2022 from 54 projects.

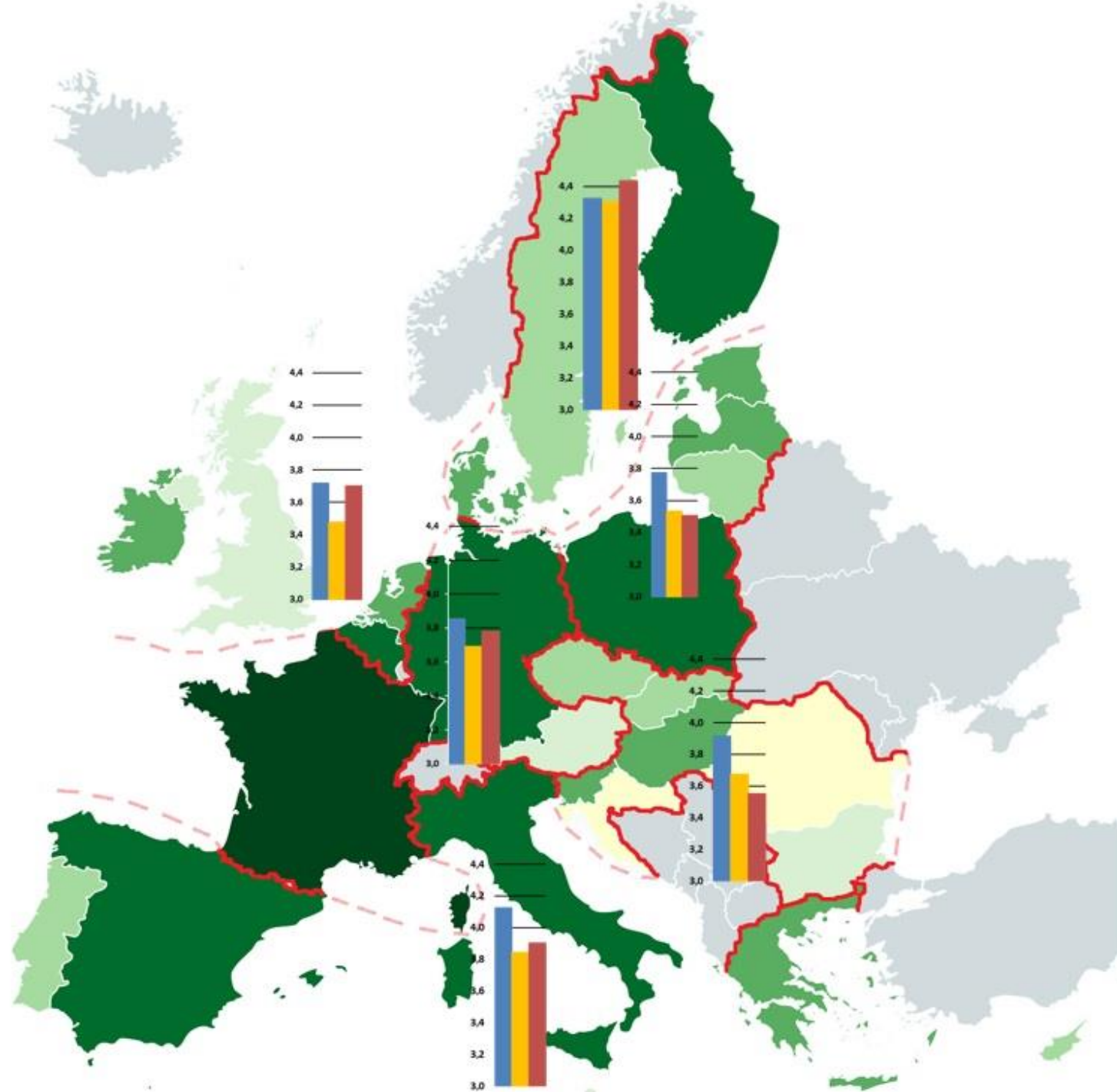
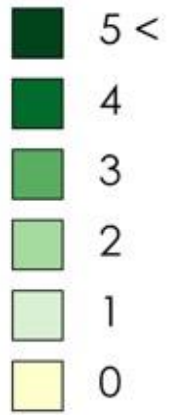
They represent 77% of all the 70 Life Ips.

Integrated Projects in the EU



Project organization and cooperation	ENV	NAT	CLIMA	all
Organizing the project	4,0	4,2	4,1	4,0
Steering group operation	3,6	3,9	3,8	3,7
Coherence of project internal human resources	3,8	3,8	3,7	3,8
Cooperation with Commission monitoring consultant	4,3	4,6	4,4	4,4
Suitability of the number of partners in project consortium	4,3	4,1	3,8	4,1
Budget and amount of complementary projects	4,0	4,3	3,5	3,8
General project working atmosphere	4,4	4,3	4,3	4,4
Amount of project bureaucracy (in relation to reporting to the Commission)	3,1	3,1	3,2	3,1
Timeline, budget and dissemination	ENV	NAT	CLIMA	all
Actualization of estimated project timelines	3,4	3,6	3,6	3,5
Ability to solve problems and issues faced along the way	4,0	4,2	4,2	4,0
Accuracy of estimated project budget	3,3	3,8	3,6	3,4
Distribution of budget between project partners	3,7	3,8	4,1	3,9
Ease of agreeing on the ownership/exploitation of project results	4,1	4,2	4,1	4,1
Dissemination and communications with project partners	4,0	4,0	3,9	3,9
Dissemination cooperation with complementary projects	3,1	3,6	3,3	3,2
Success of communications and dissemination online: project web site & social media	3,8	3,9	3,7	3,8
Success of communications and dissemination in seminars & press releases	3,8	3,9	3,9	3,8
International cooperation in the project	3,5	3,5	3,4	3,5
Actualization of project publication plan	3,6	3,6	3,8	3,7
Amount of feedback received from project external stakeholders	3,6	3,5	3,5	3,6
Targets achieved and impact	ENV	NAT	CLIMA	all
Achievement of project targets	3,7	3,7	4,0	3,8
Success of chosen project strategy	3,9	4,0	4,1	3,9
Success of cooperation with partner organizations	4,0	4,0	4,1	4,0
Development of methodologies (research, technology, conservation methods)	3,9	4,1	4,2	4,0
Development of new cooperation networks	3,7	3,9	4,1	3,9
Exploitation of results	3,6	3,8	3,9	3,7
Impact of project results	3,4	3,6	3,9	3,6
Concrete environmental benefits from the project	3,5	3,3	3,6	3,5
Synergies from complementary projects relevant to project targets	3,6	3,5	3,6	3,6
Opportunity to develop further future projects	3,9	4,1	4,1	3,9
Average	3,74	3,86	3,85	3,78

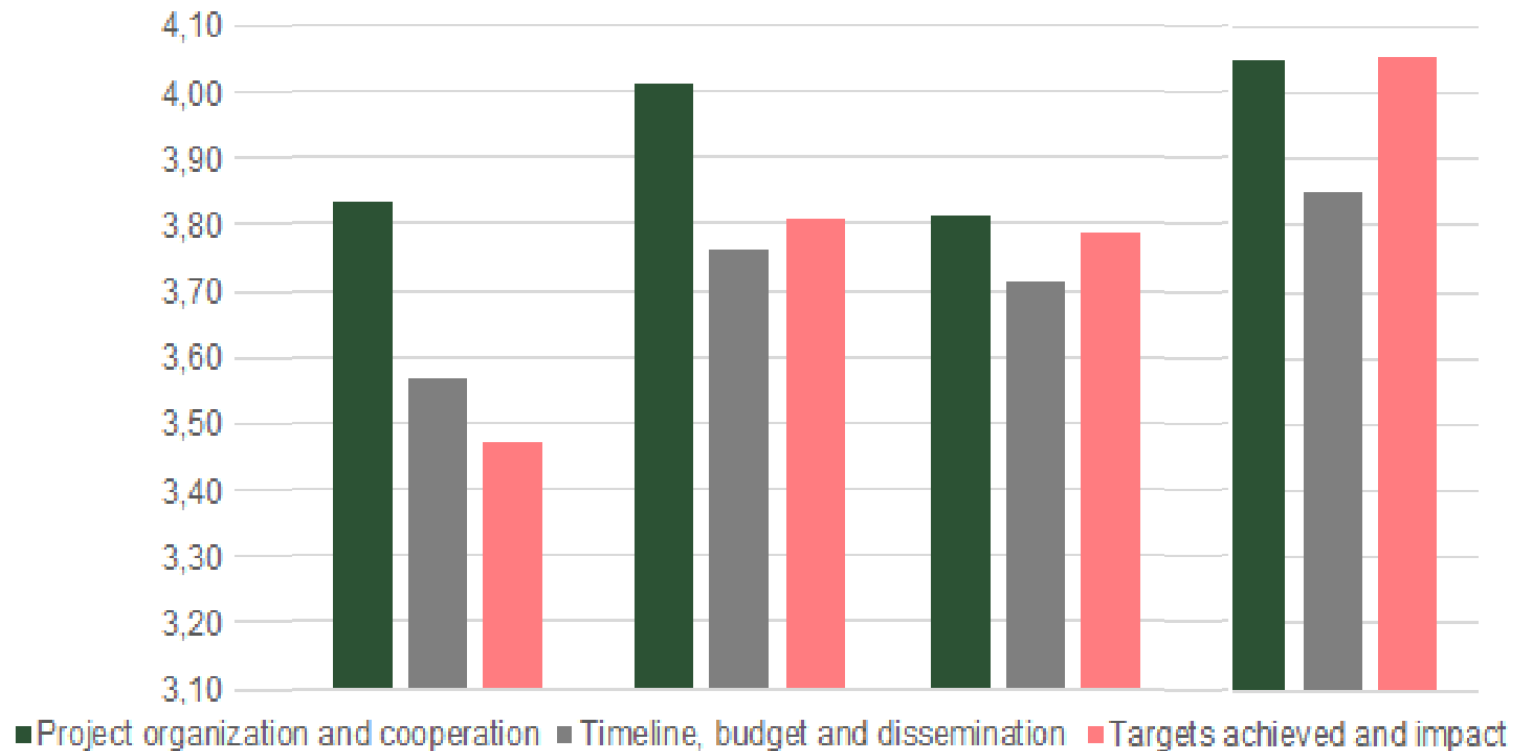
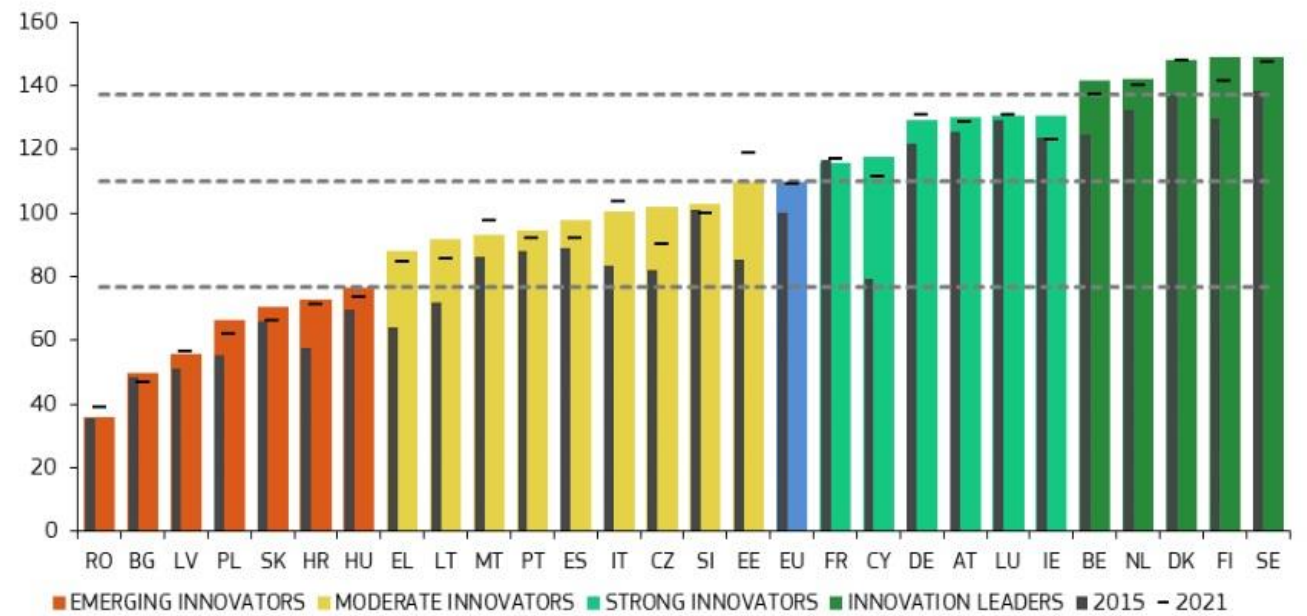




We analyzed every question by four European innovation performance groups. The aspects with the highest difference between the highest and lowest innovation performers are

- Development of new cooperation networks (difference: 1.0)
- Ability to solve problems and issues faced along the way (0.9)
- Opportunity to develop further future projects (0.8)
- Success of communications and dissemination in seminars & press releases (0.7)
- Development of methodologies (research, technology, conservation methods) (0.7)

These aspects indeed are the characteristics that one would expect to be found in a well working European innovation system.





2. Project leaders' opinions: **Strengths** and weaknesses of Life IPs

Strengths:

- Strong **top-down** strategical nature, based on national strategy
- A **long enough** project period gives enough time to cooperate and make things happen – creates new network possibilities
- very good experiences in project **organization**: LIFE IPs bring all organisations to work with a common goal; over time participants become almost family
- General **project atmosphere** is good in Life IPs because of real engagement and respect
- Co-operation with **monitoring team** has been generally fluent, swift and very useful. They help in understanding the bureaucracy.
- IPs work well as platform for **new co-operation**. Life IP **complementary** funding is particularly good in this.





2. Project leaders' opinions: Strengths and weaknesses of Life IPs

Weaknesses:

- **Commission bureaucracy** is generally seen as the weakest point
- **Reporting** is too frequent, too long, overlapping. The report structure is not adapted/suitable for an integrated approach - is there too much focus on concrete results? IPs are more 'soft' projects focusing on transformational change.
- **KPIs** are especially very challenging. It is difficult to monitor targets and impact for a strategic/integrated 'soft' project. KPI systems should be more flexible and the indicators should better motivate and be applicable also elsewhere than in bureaucracy
- CINEA/Commission is often **slow to respond**, delaying decision-making
- Difficult to get **NGOs** to join LIFE IPs because of the rather large own funding and low overheads.
- **Complementary projects** important at the strategic level, but the amount of **bureaucracy** can become excessive.



Summing up: the LIFE IP concept can be highly effective tool for implementing EU/national strategies ...especially if you have these three preconditions for success in your country:

- 1. Your ministry knows how to use it strategically**
- 2. Your national innovation environment is okay**
- 3. You have highly qualified and experienced coordinator organizations**

The LIFE Programme 2021-2027

To contribute to the shift to a circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy based- and climate resilient economy

To protect and improve the quality of the environment

To halt and reverse biodiversity loss



Nature and Biodiversity



Circular Economy and Quality of Life



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Clean Energy Transition

Projects

- Develop and demonstrate eco-innovative techniques and approaches
- Help to implement and enforce plans and strategies, in compliance with EU legislation.
- Promote best practices and behavioral changes
- Catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions

Their implementation on legislation and policies

- Support their development, monitoring and enforcement
- Help Member States to improve

Project beneficiaries are:

- 1/3 private enterprises
- 1/3 NGOs and civil society organisations
- 1/3 public authorities

The sub-programme Clean Energy Transition

predecessors: Intelligent Energy Europe continued under H2020- SC3- market uptake



Clean Energy
Transition



Type of activities: developing and spreading best practice, mobilising investments, improving skills, removing market barriers, raising awareness, educating, empowering.