

Applying successfully for LIFE and avoiding common mistakes

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Key Challenges



- There is significant competition for LIFE funds
- New IT environment and applications forms

- Proposals that fail are either poorly prepared or simply with limited ambition or risk taking
- But: Key to success is always the same!







Read the relevant information

- LIFE Web site https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life en LIFE project database
- Call document (Funding & tender opportunities portal)
 - Themes and priorities, list of countries, eligibility and admissibility conditions, evaluation criteria and procedure, scoring, etc.
- LIFE Regulation and Multi-annual work-programme
- FAQ under the LIFE CINEA Webpage Support to Applicants
- Guidelines designed by your National Contact Point
- Portal Online Manual (for processes)
- Portal FAQ (for general questions)







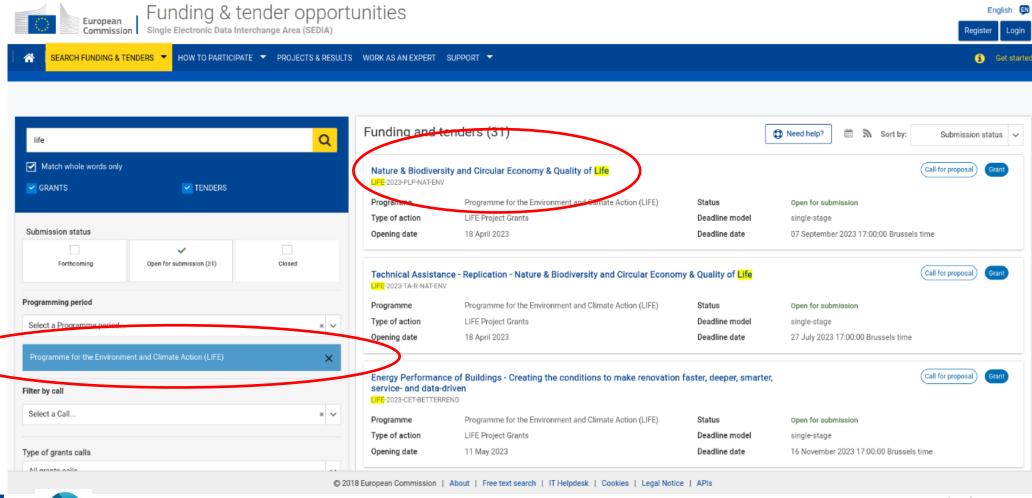


Funding & Tenders Portal





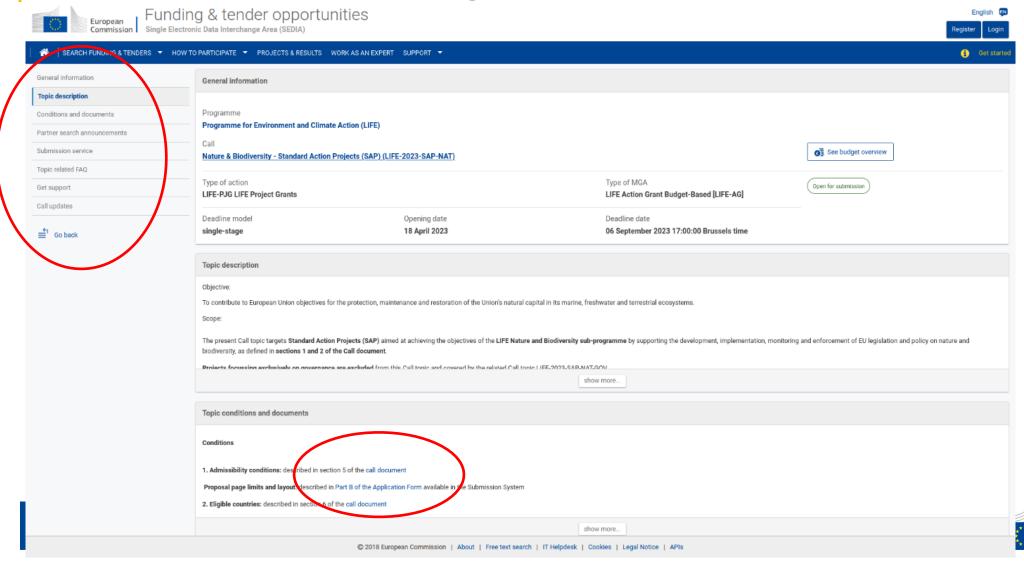




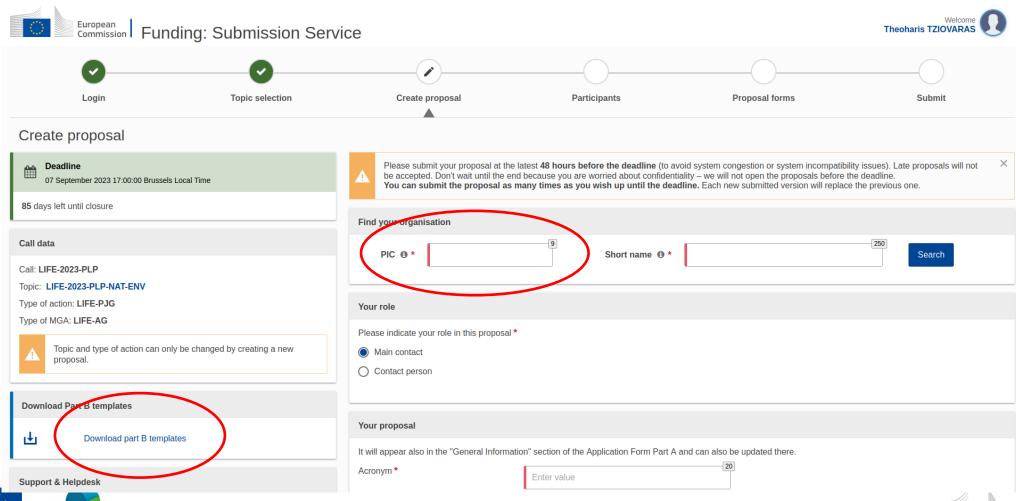








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What is the structure of the proposal?

- Administrative Forms (PART A) generated from information you provide in the Portal
 - Includes the <u>abstract</u> (project summary)
- Technical Description (PART B) download, fill in, and upload as PDF (+ annexes)
 - Relevance
 - Impact
 - Implementation
 - Resources

Fonts no smaller than Arial 10

Page limit (varies, 120 for SAPs)



Do not remove the instructions!

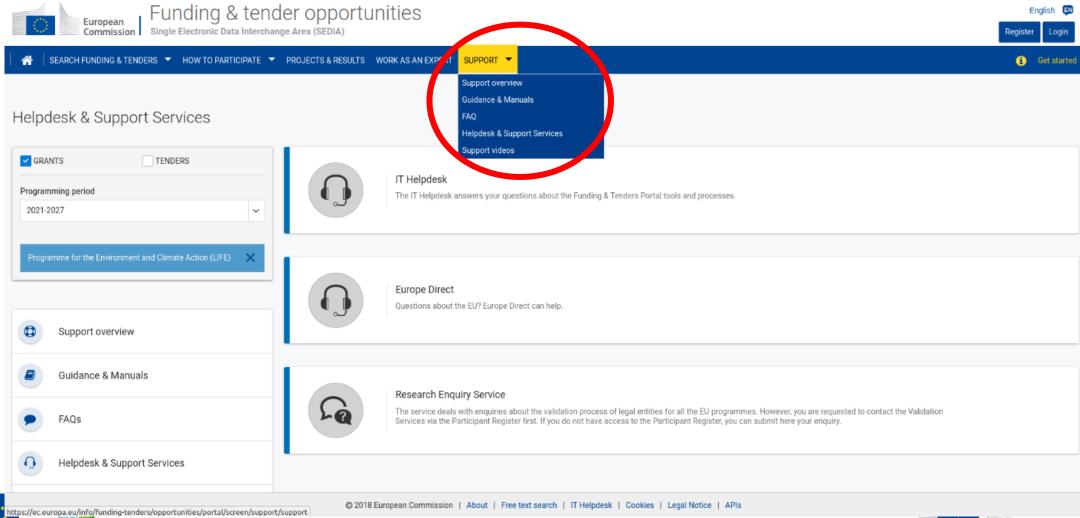
• Part C – additional project data i.e. Key Performance Indicators – fill in directly online







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Award criteria (SAPs) and proposal design







Standard Action Projects (SAPs) Award Criteria

There are 4 Award Criteria:

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Impact
- 3) Quality
- 4) Resources

Possible bonus points:

- Synergies between LIFE sub-programmes
- Outermost Regions and areas with specific needs and vulnerabilities
- Up-scaling results of other European Union funded projects
- Exceptional catalytic potential
- Transnational cooperation among Member States

- The award criteria are scored 0-20 and the score of criterion 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1,5.
- Minimum of 10 score needed on each
- The bonuses are based on yes/no criteria. They do not foresee a graduation: either 0 or 2 points are assigned to each proposal







1. Relevance (0-20 points)

- Relevance of the contribution to one or several of the specific objectives of the LIFE programme and the targeted sub-programme;
- Extent to which the project is in line with the description included in the call for proposals, including, where relevant, its specific priorities;
- Soundness of the overall intervention logic;
- Extent to which the project offers co-benefits and promotes synergies with other policy areas relevant for achieving environment and climate policy objectives.







2. Quality (0-20 points)

- Clarity, relevance and feasibility of the work plan;
- Appropriate geographic focus of the activities;
- Quality of the plan to monitor and report impacts;
- Identification and mobilisation of the relevant stakeholders;
- Appropriateness and quality of the proposed measures to communicate and disseminate the project and its results to different target groups.







3. Impact (0-20 points)

- Ambition and credibility of impacts expected during and/or after the project due to the proposed activities, including potential negative impacts on the other specific objectives of the LIFE programme, including ensuring that no substantial harm is done to those objectives.
- Sustainability of the project results after the end of the project.
- Potential for the project results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places, or to be up-scaled by public or private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources (catalytic potential).
- Quality of the measures for the exploitation of project results.







4. Resources (0-20 points)

- Composition of the project team of a consortium or of a sole beneficiary in terms of expertise, skills and responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure.
- Appropriateness of the budget and resources and their consistency with the proposed work plan.
- Transparency of the budget, i.e. the cost items should be sufficiently described.
- Extent to which the project environmental impact is considered and mitigated, including through the use of green procurement. The use of recognised methods for the calculation of the project environmental footprint (e.g. PEF or OEF methods or similar ones) or environmental management systems (e.g. EMAS) would be an asset.
- Value-for-money of the proposed project.







Project Design - I

- Baseline description should be clear enough as it is essential for evaluating the potential of the project (AW1)
- The sequence of actions should be logical and clearly linked to project description (AW1 - AW2)
- Expected results and quantitative **estimations of projects impacts** (during and after project end) (AW3)







Project Design - II

- Activities/plans to ensure sustainability of the project results are absolutely crucial! (AW3)
- Uptake and Replication needs to be taken into account and related project actions need to be well conceived (AW3)
- Clear description of beneficiary involved in specific actions (AW2 AW4)







Project Design - III

- Limit the number of actions to the ones essential to achieve the project objectives
- Coherence in description and output in Part B and in the Work Packages
- Partnership structure: look for complementarity and avoid redundancy of expertise (key stakeholders should be involved)
- Project duration should take into account:
 - Sufficient time to gather information about the impact of project activities
 - Delays in obtaining permits and authorisations
 - Buffer to allow for unexpected events
- Make sure you meet the communication requirements
 - Think about platform meetings and networking events







Project Design Full Proposal

Good design

Solid analysis of the problem, state of play and solution proposed (baseline)

Key stakeholders involved (incl. users)

Robust assessment of impacts over the life cycle of the solution proposed

Clear strategy on how to sustain and multiply the impacts

Common problems

Insufficient background information (why, who and how)

Rationale for projects is defined during the project

Objectives too broad, too many

Poor partnership (partners don't fit regarding know-how or insufficient budget)

Over-optimistic / unrealistic or lack of quantification of impacts

Replication confused with networking and dissemination

Vague plans to sustain the project/results after project end







A few tips







Build a good consortium

- Be consistent remain relevant to your objective & target group
- Choose well your partners with relevant competences – use Partner search
- Involve the consortium members in the preparation
 avoid surprises after submission
- Keep consortium motivated agree a working method for the proposal phase, make a plan for their input









How to pass the eligibility check?

Admissibility (section 5 of call document)

- Submitted before deadline & electronically
- Complete & using the forms/templates provided
- Readable (no smaller than Arial 10) printable (A4)
- Maximum 120 pages (including the instructions)

Eligibility (Section 6 of call document)

- Eligible participants
- Eligible activities

Geographic location

l 10)







Start early ... start now!

Call opening:

18 April 2023

First submission deadline:

5 September 2023







Final tip!

I'd like to encourage you when completing and submitting your application form to pro-actively give access and request support from your <u>LIFE National Contact Point</u>







Keep in touch with LIFE



30 years of bringing green ideas to LIFE



https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en















Thank you





