



LIFE PROGRAMME IN BULGARIA

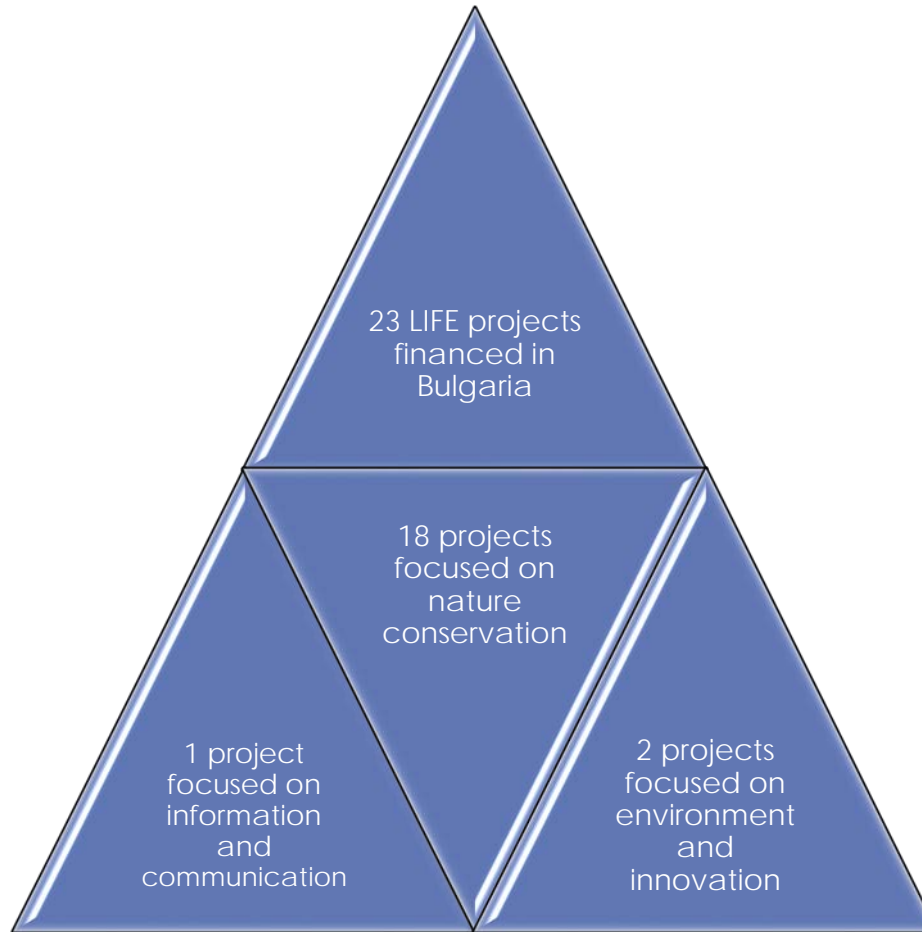
INFO DAY FOR THE LIFE PROGRAMME
Athens, Greece
18 May 2017



Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

Programme LIFE in Bulgaria

- The first Bulgarian LIFE project started during LIFE+ (2007-2013)



• 1 environmental governance and information project and 1 capacity building project under LIFE 2014-2020

LIFE14 CAP/BG/000013 (CAPTA BG)

- The Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) is the National contact point (NCP) for LIFE

- Project CAPTA BG started in 2016

- Objectives



- ❖ widening the outreach of LIFE programme by enhancing the support for potential beneficiaries and applicants in the programme's calls
- ❖ Improving the capacity of the LIFE Contact point in Bulgaria

Progress in 2016 :

- ❖ 6 Regional contact points were established and trained
- ❖ Number of trainings and face-to-face consultations for potential beneficiaries (NGOs, municipalities, SMEs, banks, etc.) were carried out
- ❖ Number of letters of support were issued
- **25 project proposals were submitted (compared to 14 submitted project proposals in 2015)**

CAPTA Team in Action



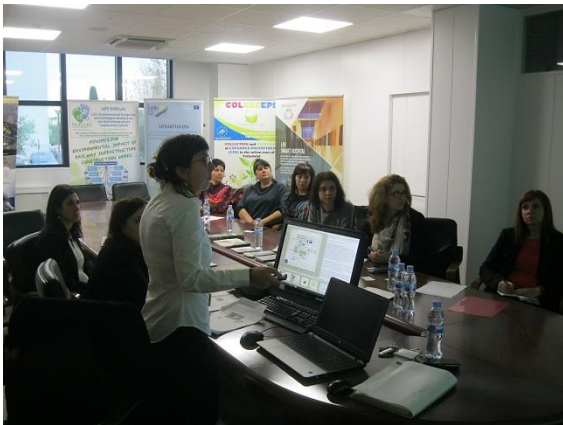
Trainings for the RCP and the NCP, Sofia, Bulgaria



Participation of 2 NCP experts in the LIFE platform for Integrated projects, Helsinki, Finland



Trainings for potential beneficiaries from Bulgarian municipalities, Sofia, Bulgaria



3 experts from NCP, 3 experts from RCP trained, Madrid, Spain



12 experts from RCP and 6 from NCP, Sofia, Bulgaria



Trainings for potential beneficiaries from business sector, Sofia, Bulgaria

Bulgarian LIFE projects

- The LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 18 projects (8 completed and 10 ongoing)
- **Main achievements of the completed projects:** Conservation of the population of threatened birds, conservation and restoration of habitats, collection of valuable genetic material, reforestation and planting, creation of reserves for highly endangered plant species
- **Main objectives of the ongoing projects:** improving the conservation status of the Egyptian vulture in Greece and Bulgaria; conservation of the imperial eagle and the lesser kestrel in Bulgaria, infrastructure for water management and control of a coastal lagoon; conservation and restoration of fish and mollusc species; preserving key forest habitats; etc.
- Beneficiaries: mainly NGOs, but as well regional and national authorities, research institute, large enterprise



Conservation of imperial eagle and saker falcon in key NATURA 2000 sites in Bulgaria

- Project LIFE07 NAT/BG/000068 – NOMINATED FOR A GREEN AWARD
- Project duration: 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013
- Project budget: 2,045,756.00 €
- **Coordinating Beneficiary:** Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/ BirdLife Bulgaria
- **Partners:** Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – UK, MME/BirdLife – Hungary, Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna- Bulgaria, Central Balkan National Park - Bulgaria



Achievements

- Raised breeding success of imperial eagles - 9 new breeding pairs formed during the project, bringing the national breeding population up to 25 breeding pairs
- Eliminated threat of electrocution in nesting territories of seven pairs of imperial eagles
- New agri-ecological measure supporting the imperial eagle was produced for the Rural Development Programme of Bulgaria
- Gained new knowledge about the imperial eagles' migration routes, wintering grounds and main threats
- Proposal for continuation of the project activities through LIFE12 NAT/BG/000572 (LIFE for Safe Grid) - approved and started in 2013. Outputs from the follow-up work will insulate dangerous electricity infrastructure in South-eastern Bulgaria, where the main imperial eagles' population is located.
- Positive socio-economic effect in terms of providing jobs and hiring local people in a region with the highest unemployment rate in Bulgaria.

For more information: <http://saveraptors.org/index.php?l=En>



Return of the Neophron - Urgent measures to secure survival of the Egyptian vulture in Bulgaria and Greece

- **Project duration:** 1 October 2011 to 31 December 2016
- **Project budget:** 2,625,742.00 €
- **Coordinating Beneficiary:** Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (NGO)
- **Partners:** Hellenic Ornithological Society – Greece, World Wildlife Fund – Greece, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - United Kingdom



Achievements

- Currently stabilized population of the *Egyptian vulture* in the project area (even slightly increasing in Bulgaria).
- 1,400 farmers submitted applications for subsidies under AE measure and Natura 2000 measure.
- Additional financial resources (430,000 €) attracted and invested through the Project networking activities, including in low-income countries in the Balkans and Africa.
- Two main pillars of follow-up: (1) Anti-poison work in the Balkans, and (2) conservation of the species along the flyway.

For more information: <http://lifeneophron.eu/en/about-the-project.html>





Thank You!



Ministry of Environment and Water
EU Affairs Coordination and International Cooperation Directorate
Sofia, 1000, "Kn. M. Louiza" bul. 22
Tel: +359 (2) 940 62 44, Fax: +359 (2) 987 38 67

<http://www5.moew.government.bg/>