

(Projects funded under the Call 2014 onwards must use this format)



LIFE Project Number

LIFE14 CAP/CZ/0001

Monitoring of project impact no. 1

Covering the project activities from 01/01/2015¹ to 01/03/2017

Reporting Date²

01/03/2017

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym

CZECH LIFE

Data Project

Project location:	Czech Republic
Project start date:	01/01/2015
Project end date:	31/12/2017 Extension date (required): 31/12/2018
Total budget:	€ 566 160
EU contribution:	€ 528 177

Data Beneficiary

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¹ Project start date

² Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

Required structure

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2. Glossary of keywords and abbreviations

CAP	LIFE project on Capacity Building
EC	European Commission
ENV	LIFE projects on Environment and Resource Efficiency
EU	European Union
IP	Integrated project
MoE	Ministry of the Environment
NAT/BIO	LIFE projects on Nature and Biodiversity
NCP	National Contact Point
OPE	Operational Programme Environment
PR	Public Relations

3. Executive summary

The aim of the project is to increase the personnel capacity and service base of the Czech National Contact Point (NCP) in order to increase the publicity of the LIFE programme and its results, raise the number of potential applicants and improve the support provided to them so as to **increase the uptake of LIFE funding in the Czech Republic**.

The project enhances the traditional, already on-going activities of the National Contact Point. The novelty of the project lies in complexity of newly implemented measures and in a systematic approach in working with potential applicants or beneficiaries. All the work normally carried out by the NCP was done simultaneously with the project actions and was not covered from the project budget.

The project was originally set up for three years, since the beginning of 2015 to the end of 2017. The project actions were divided into those that would **increase the capacities of the national contact point** and **increase the applicants' comfort and information support** (creating various supportive tools and instruments) during the preparation of proposals, and into actions focusing on information exchange about LIFE programme and its results, **actions providing financial support for the applicants/beneficiaries** and actions concerning the **management of the project**.

Although the Grant Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) and the European Commission (EC) was signed on 22 September 2015, the costs related to the project implementation have been eligible since January 2015 when the project officially started. The initial phase of its implementation during the first year was significantly influenced by two factors:

1. The revision of the project proposal based on the requirements of the evaluators and, as a result, a postponed signature of the Grant Agreement;
2. A legislation change regarding the Civil Service Act in the Czech Republic.

4. Analysis of impacts and benefits

In this section, read the following information and possibly search for the values shown in the graphs of the following chapters.

4.1 Policy impact

Within the numerous dissemination events the projects team raises awareness about successful examples of LIFE projects which, based on their nature, generally help the environmental legislation, both on the EU and national levels, being further implemented or developed.

The main channels of spreading the information are the information workshops, active participation in workshops organized by third subjects, our individual consultations with the applicants, project website – section newsletter and examples of projects, our cooperation with information centres, or even with advisory companies who found a new market opportunity and are targeting their possible clients.

We assume that this helps to spread information about the EU environmental policy, its needs and initiatives. We also cooperate with the expert departments of MoE while evaluating the implementation of LIFE within national call. They naturally acquire knowledge about the demands of the implementation scope of LIFE in the Czech Republic and thus help to raise awareness on their legislative issues on the national level.

From the perspective of the newly awarded LIFE projects we can monitor which projects and topics are the priority of the applicants and which should be further stimulated by us.

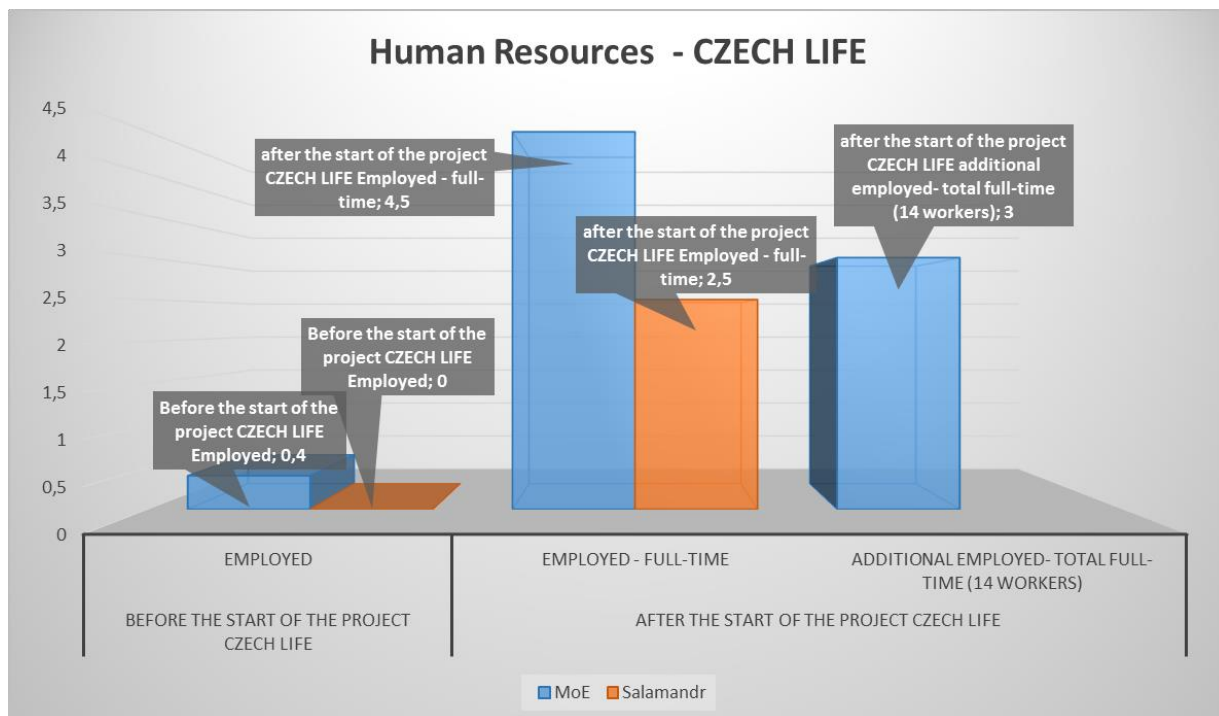
4.2 LIFE proposals improvement

Human resources

Before the project implementation two employees (with overall 0.4 of full-time workload) were focusing on the LIFE programme.

As of 31st March 2017 the Ministry of Environment employed under the CZECH LIFE project 4 people full-time and 1 people part-time (0.5). Partner organization Salamandr employed 3 people with overall working time equivalent to 2.5 full-time employees.

Throughout the duration of the project in total 14 people were involved in the individual activities with overall working time equivalent to ca. 3 full-time employees. Employment contracts ranged from 1 month to 4 months.



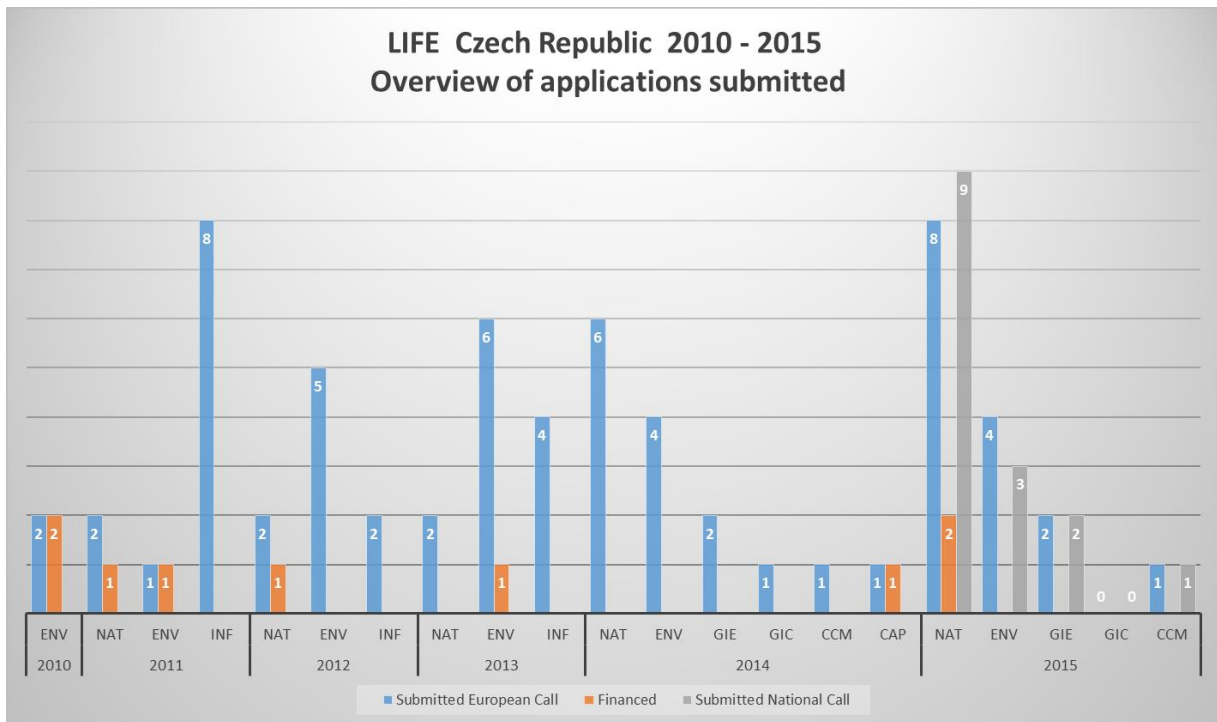
Human Resources – CZECH LIFE

Proposals

The project LIFE 14 CAP/CZ/0001 started on 01/01/2015. In the years 2011 – 2013 the non – funded applications included 15 INF projects, 5 NAT/BIO projects and 9 ENV projects. The reasons for failure were mostly poor quality of the technical and financial aspects of the proposal, insufficient EU added value (especially in the case of information projects), or weak innovative or demonstration benefits.

In 2014 there were 14 applications submitted, only 1 projects was approved – the CAP project itself.

In 2015 there were 15 applications submitted, 2 projects were approved.



Overview of applications submitted 2010 - 2015

We estimate that there could be submitted approx. 30 applications in 2017, out of those 5 could be supported based on the fact that Czech national LIFE Call should start in March and thus mobilize applicants early enough so that they spend the necessary time on preparation. This estimation is based on interest on LIFE Programme raised and also by the quality and quantity of the services provided to the applicants thanks to LIFE CAP project.

Helping tools for applicants

All the above supporting tools were implemented and prepared. Help-desk, website, database of potential applications and stakeholders, manual “Writing a Successful Project”, translated programme documentation, project topics for public institutions, a public support guide, list of complementary programs and contacts.



Program LIFE

EU financial instrument for environment and climate

The National Contact Point

The LIFE Programme

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy legislation by co-financing projects with European added value. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 4306 projects. For the 2014-2020 funding period, LIFE will contribute approximately €3.4 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. >>> [Read more](#)

Search Partners

An important part of every LIFE project is TO FIND adequate PARTNERS who are willing to cooperate on influencing the environmental problem targeted. To find them please register within our database [SEARCH PARTNERS](#).

The National Contact Point

The **Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (MoE)** is the National Contact Point for LIFE Programme. MoE implements LIFE capacity building project "LIFE 14 CAP/CZ/0001 Czech LIFE". Employees of the National Contact Point (NCP) provide information and consultation services to the grant applicants and inform the general public about the outputs of LIFE Programme.

Contact: life@mzp.cz

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Odkazy

Ministerstvo životního prostředí
Program LIFE
Národní výzva LIFE
Projekt Czech LIFE



Ministerstvo životního prostředí

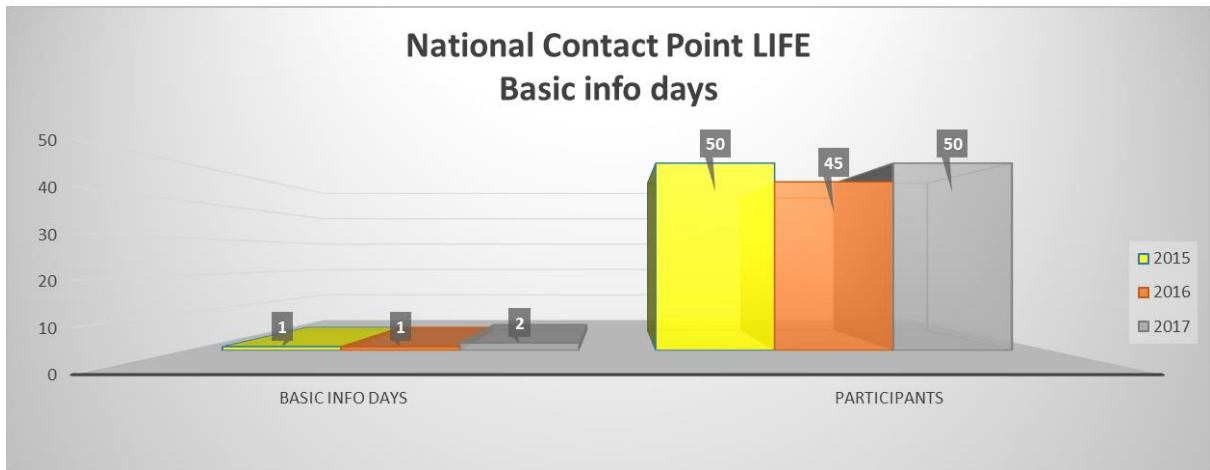
1 2011

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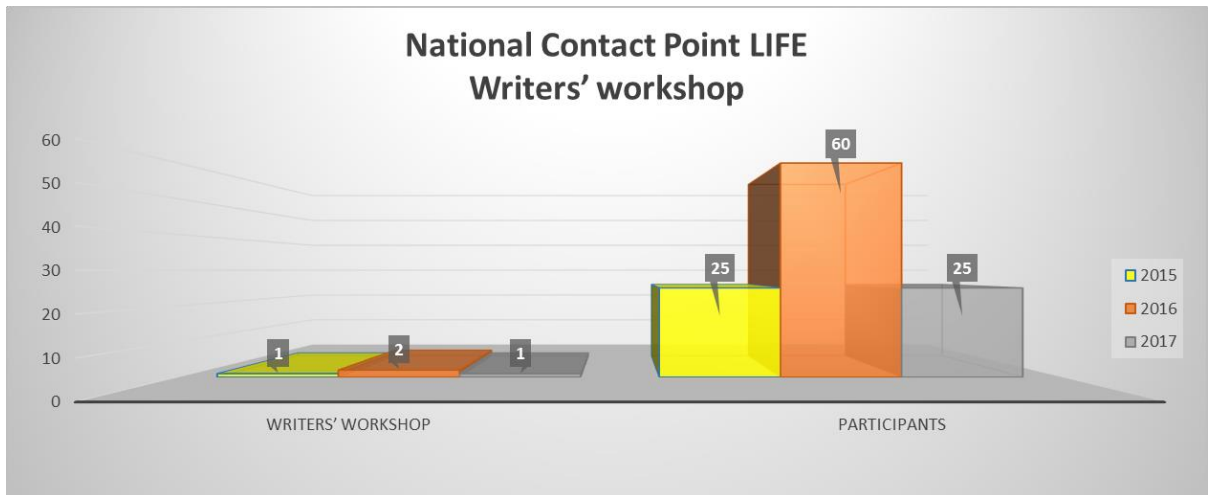
Website – CZECH LIFE

Additional info seminars

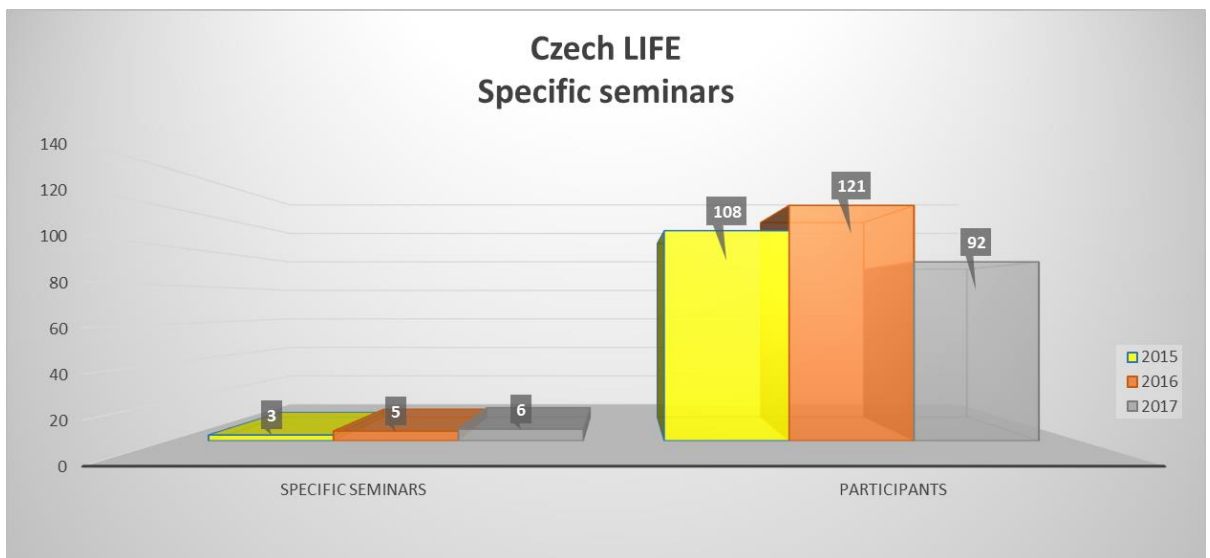
Before the start of the LIFE CAP project there were provided only one basic LIFE Info day and one Writers' workshop. In 2015 we implemented additional 3 specific seminars according to the indicated projects whereas in 2016 we organized 5 specific additional workshops plus so called Consultation day. In 2017 we so far organized 2 basic info days and plan 6 specific seminars, consultation day and Writers' workshop.



Basic info days



Writers' workshop



Specific seminars

4.3 Replication and transferability: Integration, complementarity, synergies and replicability of the LIFE Programme

We perceive that each LIFE project awarded creates significant inspiration or push in order to be replicated or transferred, and mobilizes efforts on overcoming stereotypes and barriers in minds of decision makers.

One of such results is creation of Call for proposals within the National Programme “Environment” coordinated by the MoE and the State Environmental Fund, which enables a direct co-financing of pilot and demonstrative LIFE projects.

Another opportunity offered by LIFE is its ability to support projects and ideas, which are not favoured by specific national authorities due to their reforming impacts or simply due to the lack of funds.

Here there could be mentioned example of project MEDETOX which initially didn't get adequate support from expert sections of the MoE itself, nevertheless its results overtook the well-known “Dieselgate” scandal.

Even stronger impact should be however seen in implementation of Integrated Projects. There are currently 2 LIFE IP proposals of MoE in early stage of preparation.

Regarding the analysis of concrete implemented LIFE projects and their results – so far it is too soon to assess their impact on the integration towards another policies etc. as some projects have been only recently completed and others are at early stages of their implementation.

Nevertheless, a cooperation with another programmes is ensured by LIFE CAP project itself: it helps potential LIFE applicants to identify complementary programmes and financial resources for their project intentions. Our cooperation with Horizon 2020, COSME, OPE and other programmes and our own advisory role (complementary specialist) not only prevent overlaps between those programmes, but also save time of the applicants as they can pay attention only to the most appropriate funding source.

The system of Czech national LIFE Call with its unique form of grant covering part of the costs of preparation of the LIFE application (for 2016 grant amount of approx. € 5,555; for 2017 approx. € 7,400; the costs of the LIFE project preparation are unofficially estimated at approx. € 18,500 – 37,000 by Ernst & Young) helps to create a competitive market for advisory companies, that obviously have absolutely crucial role in successful LIFE countries. Moreover in the existing competition with OPE and other EU Structural funds in the Czech Republic that offer higher chances to receive grants, almost no advisory company participated in the LIFE project preparation.

Mentioned national Call system should therefore sustainably raise the amount of applications submitted and eliminate a crucial barrier for the majority of applicants outside of civil sector. Raising a number of successful projects will then lead to the contribution to the future implementation, design or take-up of regional, national or European legislation.

4.4 Outside LIFE

Over the course of the project implementation, there were number of actions taking place in connection with LIFE programme that are complementary to the Czech LIFE project, however are not financed by the project sources. They were mainly conducted by the members of the LIFE NCP (Ms. Markéta Konečná and Mr. Michal Petrus). These actions followed up with actions that belong to the standard portfolio the LIFE NCP. Annually, a basic LIFE seminar for applicants and a Writer's workshop was carried out. The MoE webpage was regularly updated, meetings were held with applicants or LIFE beneficiaries on their request, mostly regarding possibilities of co-financing or opportunities for mutual co-operation. The administration of the LIFE national Call took place annually. The running LIFE projects in the Czech Republic were provided with support, consultations or direct involvement of the MoE (in case MoE is one of associated beneficiaries). The NCP members were also in charge of communication with the EU and EASME representatives whenever needed, held a couple of meetings with the Ernst & Young company on issues regarding major obstacles or misunderstanding for LIFE applicants or beneficiaries in terms of financial provisions and played the role of official representation of the LIFE Committee on behalf of the Czech Republic.

5. Concluding remark

This summary is the first report that describes the period to mid-term report. The overall evaluation will be provided in the second report, which will make part of the final report.