



# LIFE Strategic Projects

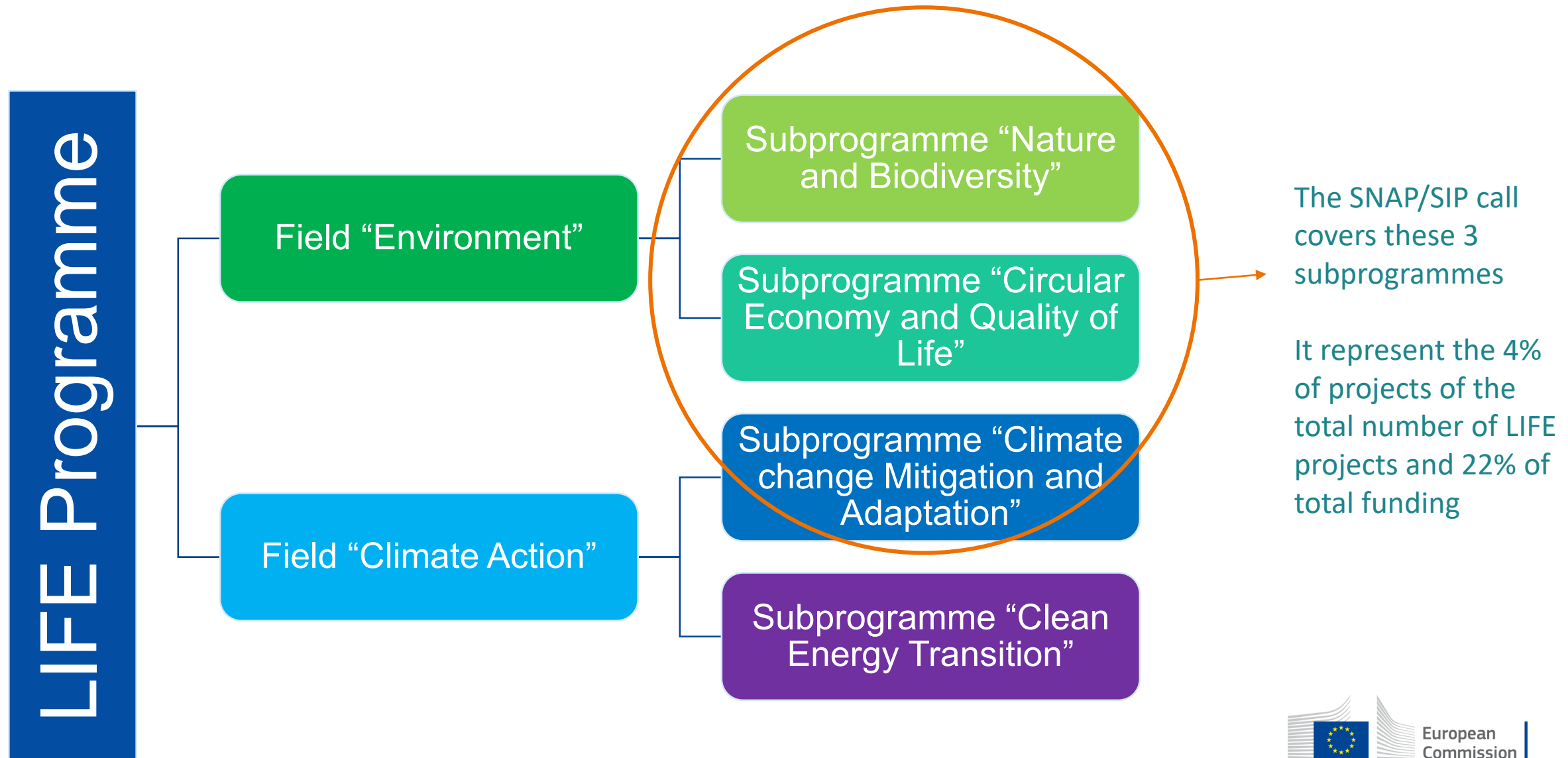
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**LIFE Project Advisers – CINEA**



*EU LIFE Info Days*

# The LIFE Programme 2021-2027



# Objective of the Strategic Projects:

**Catalyze the full implementation of the targeted plan/strategy/action plan** and, together with the complementary measures needed to achieve full implementation, **remove all remaining administrative, financial, structural and other barriers** for its implementation.

The set of measures to be foreseen shall also include the following:

- **institutional support** and **capacity building actions**;
- **mobilisation and coordination** of additional finance for complementary actions, in particular from other EU funding instruments and programmes.

SNaPs → Normally include:

- **concrete conservation measures**, in particular where these cannot be supported through other EU funding programmes.



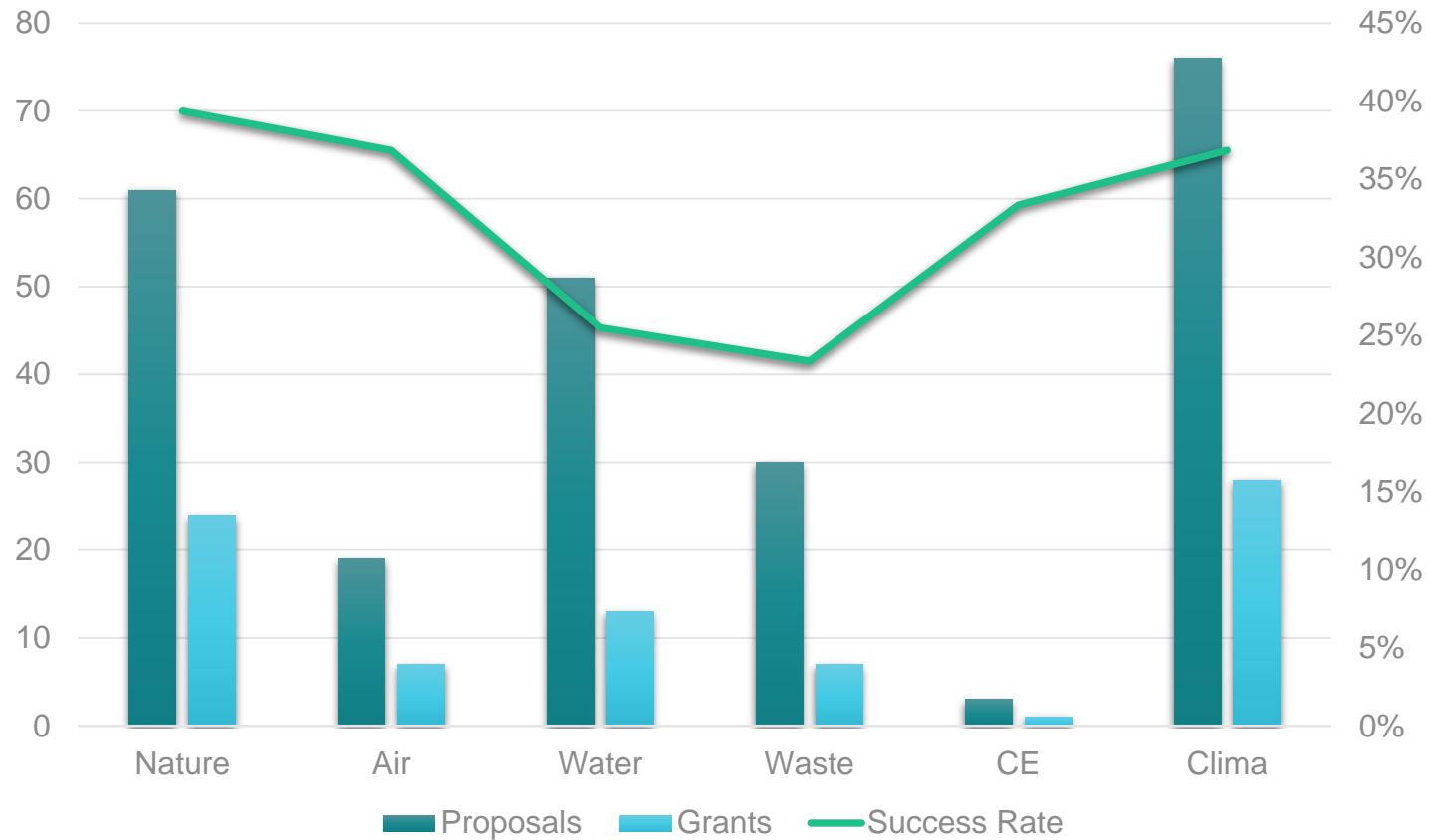
# Strategic Projects key aspects are...

- ... designed to implement certain **plans and strategies**
- ... at a **large territorial scale**
- ... with full engagement of **stakeholders**
- ... to mobilise, engage & coordinate **complementary funding** sources
- ... to **mainstream LIFE's objectives** and priorities into other policies



# What have we learned so far?

## Success rate STRAT



- Success rate between 25% and 39% considering both periods 2014-2020/ 2021-2027
- Higher competition in Clima, Water and Nature sector



# Strategic Project Calls & funding in 2023 – 2024

- **2023:**
  - ✓ SIP **ENV**: **52,8** M€. Range - EUR 10-30 million, 3 - 4 projects
  - ✓ SIP **CLIMA**: **30** M€. Range - EUR 10-20 million, 2 - 3 projects
- **2024** (provisional budget) :
  - ✓ SIP **ENV**: **52** M€
  - ✓ SIP **CLIMA**: **30** M€
  - ✓ **SNaP** bi-annual: **60** M€



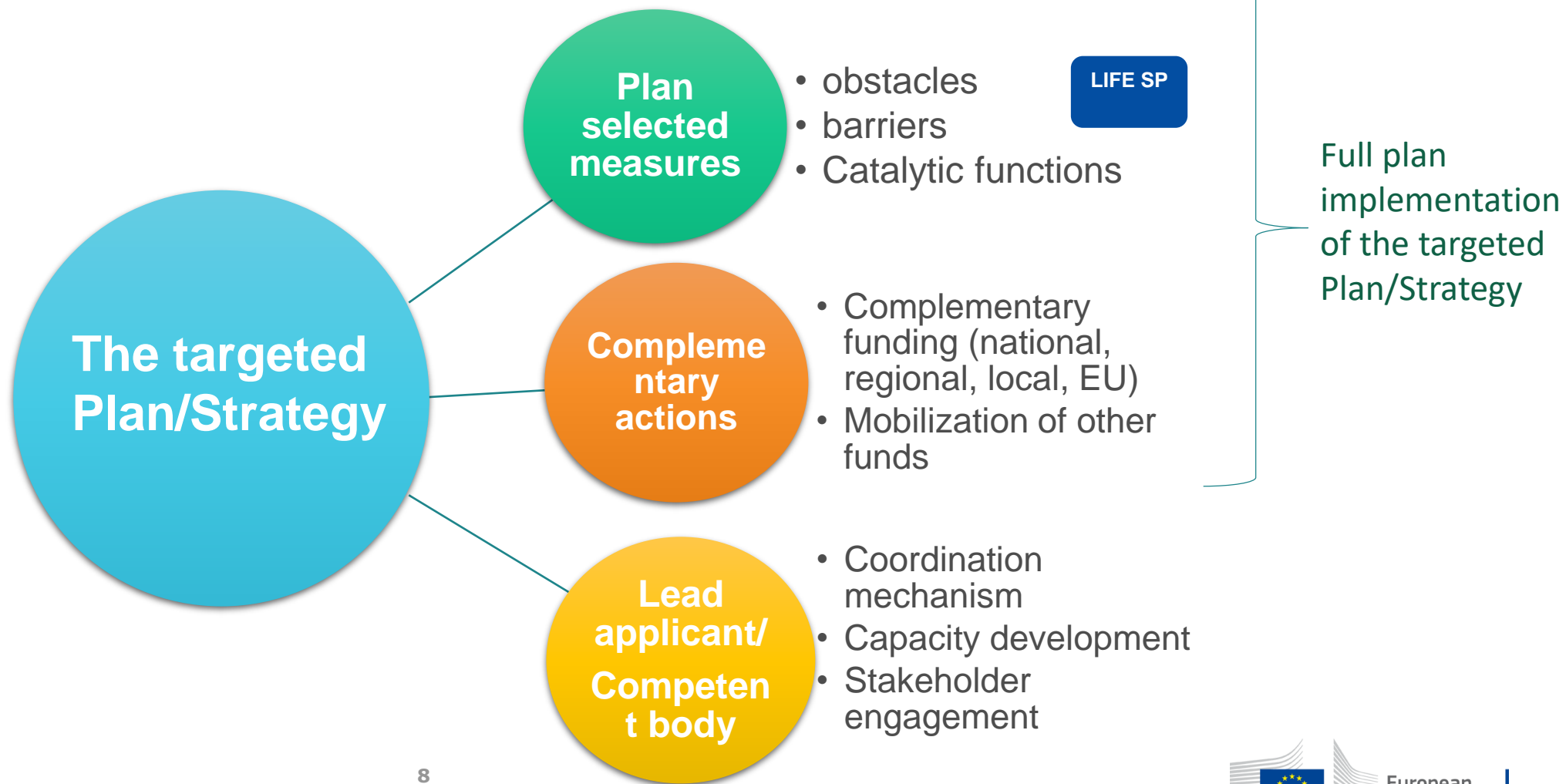
# Requirements for a successful SP

Present clear and quantifiable information on:

- the **expected level of implementation of the strategy or plan** as a direct consequence of (a) the actions foreseen in the SP and (b) the complementary actions;
- the **geographical area covered** by these measures (which can span across national borders e.g. in river catchment areas).
- the **specific gaps** to be addressed (e.g. climate risks and vulnerabilities for CLIMA SIP) and how the project's actions help to minimise them
- the **level of involvement and commitment of the relevant competent authorities** and stakeholders at local, regional and national level;
- the **contribution to mainstreaming climate change action / environment / nature & biodiversity priorities** into different sectors.



# Design of a Strategic Project:





# Plans and strategies indicated in the STRAT Call

## SNAPs

- **Prioritised Action Frameworks** under the Habitats Directive
- **other plans** or strategies adopted at international, national, multiregional or regional level by nature and biodiversity authorities, that implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation

## SIP ENV

- **Circular Economy SIPs** - National or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
- **Water** – River Basin Management Plans under the Water FD & Flood Risk Management Plans & Marine Strategies
- **Waste** – Waste Management Plans and/or Waste Prevention Programmes under the Waste FD
- **Air** - Local and regional Air Quality Plans, and National Air Pollution Control Programmes

9

## SIP CLIMA

- **National Energy and Climate Plans**
- **National Energy Efficiency** Action Plans
- **National or regional adaptation** strategies or action plans
- **Urban or community-based action plans** pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society, including climate-neutral cities plans and actions, for instance in the context of the EU Mission 'Climate neutral and smart cities' and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans
- **National, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation** strategies or low carbon economy roadmaps



# Call 2023 - Evaluation criteria

## Concept Note stage

- 1) Implementation of plans or strategies
  - 2) Territorial coverage
  - 3) Coordination of complementary funds
  - 4) Involvement of key stakeholders
- These are yes/no criteria. Concept note must meet all four criteria for the applicant to be invited to present full proposal.

## Full proposal stage award criteria

- 1) Relevance
  - 2) Quality
  - 3) Complementary funding
  - 4) Impact
  - 5) Resources
- The award criteria are scored 0-20, the weight of all is the same.
  - To pass:
    - at least 10/20 in each, and
    - total score at least 55



# Lessons learnt from last calls: common mistakes

- Relevance:
  - ✓ Problem analysis is too general and only partially demonstrates the need for the STRAT. Plan implementation uncertain.
  - ✓ Main gaps identified in the plan, e.g. the low stakeholders awareness, is insufficiently addressed
- Impact:
  - ✓ Impacts are general, e.g., “improved adaptation capacity”
  - ✓ Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of project actions is limited
  - ✓ Project sustainability uncertain



- Quality
  - ✓ Risk analysis insufficient, risks underestimated
  - ✓ Stakeholders missing. Their mobilisation and commitment uncertain.
  - ✓ Project sites not defined
- Resources
  - ✓ Costs are not sufficiently justified and detailed.
  - ✓ Poor reference to green project management measures
- Complementary funding
  - ✓ Complementary actions links to the project vague.
  - ✓ No clear explanation on how sectors not covered by the STRAT will be addressed to fully implement the plan/strategy.



# Call 2023: LIFE-2023-STRAT-two-stage

## ❖ Funding & Tenders Portal

- LIFE-2022-STRAT-ENV-SIP-two-stage
- LIFE-2022-STRAT-CLIMA-SIP-two-stage

## ❖ 2 stages Call for proposal:

### Stage 1 (concept note):

- Applicants provide less info
- **Deadline** to submit: **05/09/2023**

### Stage 2 (full proposal):

- Only if applicant passes stage 1
- **Deadline to** submit: indicative **05/03/2024**



# Support available - Technical Assistance Projects (TAs)

- To support preparation of Strategic Projects (SIPs & SNaPs)
- Main objective: prepare & submit a full proposal
- Co-financing rate 60%
- Maximum grant: 70.000 €
- Maximum duration: 2 y
- New Call: LIFE-2023-TA-PP



# Support available to prepare a proposal

- National Contact Points to organise meetings with potential beneficiaries
- Technical assistance projects
- Info in [LIFE Calls for proposals web](#), including FAQs
- [Integrated projects factsheet](#) and infographic available on the CINEA LIFE website.
- You can contact CINEA @ [CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu)
  - ✓ For general questions on STRATs
  - ✓ For specific questions related to STRATs Call documents, application forms etc
  - ✓ Facilitate networking with successful ongoing projects
- CINEA cannot:
  - ✓ Read or consult on draft applications



Questions?





# Thanks and... Good luck!

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# LIFE IP Rich Waters - creating momentum for implementing the WFD in Sweden



Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management

Rosita Ericsson  
Communication officer  
County Administrative Board of Västmanland

# Rich Waters: The first integrated LIFE project in Sweden



Project period: 2017 – 2024

Total budget: € 30 million (of which €10  
EU funding)

Goal: Boosting the implementation  
of the Water Framework  
Directive



Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management



# Gaps analysis

- Insufficient knowledge and data to identify the most cost-effective measures and to set priorities
- Lack of efforts to develop new technology and innovative measures
- Lack of best-practice working methods for strategic water planning
- Need for more and better examples and pilot projects
- Lack of eco systems approach and insufficient consideration of climate issues



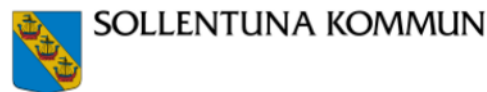
# For the benefit of our common waters



Havs  
och Vatten  
myndigheten



ECOPELAG  
FÖR EN LIVSKRAFTIG ÖSTERSJÖ



# Action through 5 thematic areas



Improve water planning



Reduce eutrophication from agriculture, wastewater and storm water



Reduce eutrophication from internal loading



Create free fish migration passages

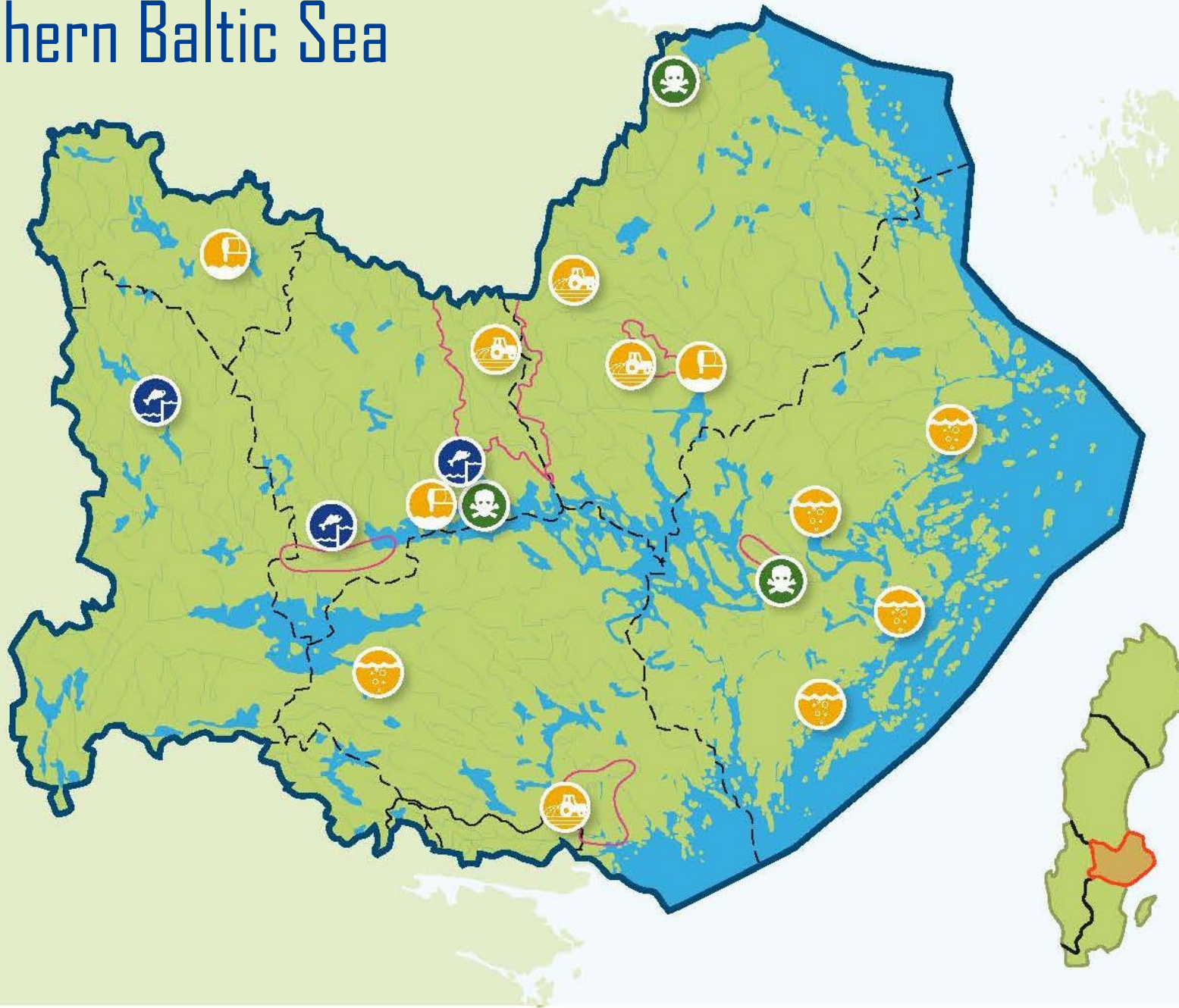


Reduce environmental pollutants



Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
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# Northern Baltic Sea RBD



Free fish migration



Environmental pollutants



Eutrophication - internal loading



Eutrophication - agriculture



Eutrophication - waste and storm water



Water planning

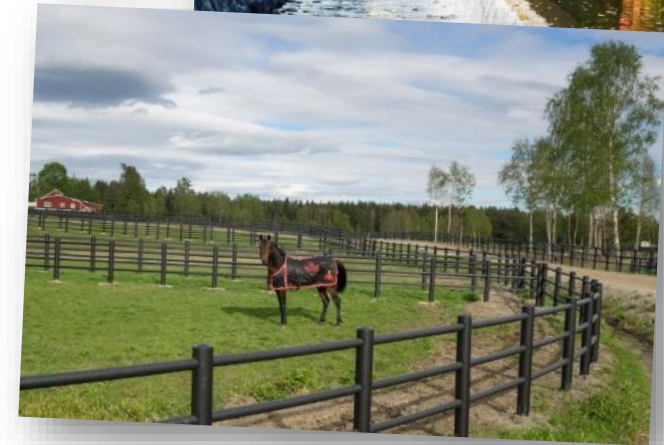


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# Concrete measures – good examples

- Measures against nutrient leakage from horse keeping
- Multifunctional water parks
- Full lake aluminium treatment
- Sediment removal through low-flow dredging technique
- Mussel farming
- Fauna passages, connectivity restoring
- Remediation of contaminated areas using salix plantation
- Boat bottom washes







# Some lessons learned

- Phase amendments are a blessing!
- Be clear about division of responsibilities between coordinating partner and beneficiaries!
- Think about the After-LIFE plan and sustainability of results at the outset!
- Document lessons learned continuously!
- Milestones and deliverables – who is the user?
- A lot will happen at the end of the project – be prepared!



Complex project design

Already strained staff

Heavy EU-administration

Budgetary difficulties

Is it worth it?  
What is the real value?



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for Marine and  
Water Management



# Keep in touch!



[www.richwaters.se](http://www.richwaters.se)



[facebook.com/LIFE.RichWaters](https://facebook.com/LIFE.RichWaters)

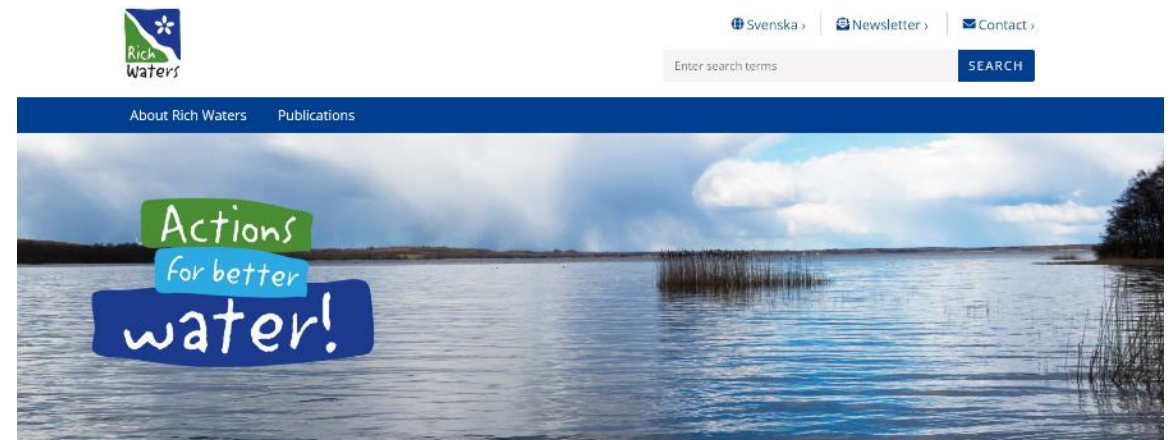


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## LIFE IP Rich Waters

LIFE IP Rich Waters tackles some of the most serious environmental problems that affect the quality and vitality of the water bodies of the Northern Baltic Sea River Basin – eutrophication, barriers to fish migration and environmental pollutants. LIFE IP Rich Waters aims at developing new and better methods to combat these problems in a cost-effective way.



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