



After-LIFE Plan

Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania

LIFE LT

LIFE14 CAP/LT/000008

2021

Vilnius

About the project

Project “Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania” lasted five years (01.04.2016-31.03.2021). The main purpose of this project was to develop Lithuania’s capacity to submit quality applications for funding for projects under the subprograms for Environment and Climate Action. This project was also about making better use of the LIFE program by supporting on-going and closed projects and to make sure that the results of successful LIFE projects are picked up and used widely.

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania is LIFE National Contact Point that is responsible for the LIFE program at national level. The Ministry of Environment has shared the information about LIFE, advised potential applicants and been a link between European Commission and the applicants.

Before the project, Ministry of Environment organized one LIFE information day per year after the call for proposals was announced. Two employees of Ministry of Environment acted as LIFE NCP’s. One person in EU investment and the economic instrument department in EU investment implementation division and one in Climate Policy group. They advised potential applicants.

Since 1992 LIFE projects in Lithuania were focused on nature conservation and biodiversity, other fields have not been so recognized. The number of beneficiaries has been limited because of lack of awareness or too high self-financing rate. In this case since 2009 in Lithuania, the Ministry of Environment has been co-financing up to 25 % (for priority species up to 35 %) of the beneficiary’s contribution of the LIFE projects.

To make LIFE program more visible in Lithuania, we increased the number of events and organized them in different cities around Lithuania. New webpage www.lifeprojektai.lt and account “lifeprojektai” in Facebook were created and all relevant information about the program was published. Also, articles about LIFE in newspapers, press releases and brochures were published. The 3 minutes video was created, and specific Facebook and Yuotube Campaign was successful. In order to improve the quality of the applications, we organized trainings with external experts from Finland, France, Belgium, Italy, Latvia, Spain, Sweden. The guidelines and Grant Agreement were translated into Lithuanian language which helps applicants to understand the rules better. Also, new tools partner search and project database, LIFE guide were created.

After LIFE plan

In order to ensure the continuity of LIFE LT project activities, we plan to implement the LIFE technical assistance project, which aim is to provide methodological assistance to potential LIFE program applicants so that Lithuania can participate more successfully in the LIFE program. Project objectives:

- to publish information about the LIFE program;
- to train and to give advises for applicants;
- to collect, to store and to systematize information on LIFE Co-financing projects.

The estimated duration of the LIFE technical assistance project is from 1st of June in 2021 until 31st of December in 2022. Subject to the terms of the European Commission's call for technical

assistance projects for direct LIFE funding, namely the identification of eligible activities and costs, the start date of the project and the start date of eligibility of costs, this co-financed LIFE technical assistance project may end earlier and take over Project funded by the European Commission. Planned project activities:

1. Publicity of the LIFE program
2. Information and training events
3. Advising applicants
4. Systematization of information on LIFE Co-financing projects
5. Ensuring the sustainability of LIFE technical assistance
6. Project management.

Environmental Projects Management Agency

Environmental Projects Management Agency will continue administration of the developed on-line partner search tool and project idea database. Expenses of the administration of the on-line partner search tool and project idea database will be fully covered by Environmental Projects Management Agency.

Website www.lifeprojektai.lt started on May 15 of 2016. During the project it was updated successfully, and it will be updated regularly at least 2 years after its ending date.

The *partner search and project database* (<https://db.lifeprojektai.lt/>) allows to see all Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian organizations implementing LIFE projects or wanting to find partners for new projects. Already 72 institutions and organizations in Lithuania have LIFE projects themselves.

The tool *LIFE guide* (<http://gidas.lifeprojektai.lt/en/>) is the first step offered by our project for LIFE project proposals. This tool has also been prepared in English language for 2 priority areas of Environment sub-programme (Nature and Biodiversity; Environment and Resource Efficiency). LIFE guide and Budget form were updated for Call 2020.

LIFE project *budgeting form* - an Excel file will help to prepare the project budget properly, and a 2-part video has been made to make it easier to do so. The first part shows how to budget a LIFE project. The second part reviews the project budget forms. A project budgeting instruction was prepared for those who like to read.

Dissemination material

The *brochure "LIFE projektai Lietuvoje"* was prepared in Lithuanian language and printed in 500 copies. These brochures will be distributed at every information day. Also, electronic format of this brochure will be on website www.lifeprojektai.lt. There is the main information about 21 Lithuanian LIFE project results.

Video about the LIFE program and ongoing LIFE projects in Lithuania was created and uploaded to YouTube. This is also published on website www.lifeprojektai.lt.

Roll ups promoting LIFE program were created at the beginning of the CAP project and will be kept by Environmental Projects Management Agency.

Ministry of Environment and LIFE national contact point

LIFE national contact point will continue their activities with new capacities gained during the project.

The Ministry of Environment will announce the call for proposals of national co-financing for LIFE projects.

Ministry of Environment will continue to support new LIFE technical assistance projects.

Dissemination

- The web site has been visited more than 139,907 times.
- The project account 'lifeprojektai' has 973 Facebook fans and 1003 followers.
- 44 events have been organized, that have been visited by 2604 participants.
- 19 presentations about LIFE program have been shown at events of other institutions or organizations (1223 participants).
- 30 press releases have been announced.
- 12 articles in national or regional press have been produced.
- 13 newsletters were sent to 62-308 subscribers.
- More than 170 articles about LIFE projects were published in our website www.lifeprojektai.lt.
- One video and 2 shortcuts (30 seconds and 60 seconds) were made (358970 views).
- The project has generated 3 information roll ups.
- 900 leaflets were made in Lithuanian language.
- Dissemination materials with LIFE logo: 300 pens, 200 tee strainers, 200 USB, 100 notebooks with pens, 90 reusable shopping bags, 5 bags from recycled materials.

