

# LIFE programme - Country Factsheet



## LATVIA Overview



**This document provides an overview of LIFE in Latvia.**

**It showcases success stories and ongoing initiatives, indicates how to find further information on the projects and provides a list of recently closed and ongoing projects in Annex.**

Since the launch of the LIFE programme by the European Commission in 1992, a total of 44 projects have been co-financed in Latvia. Of these, 14 focus on environmental innovation, 27 on nature conservation and biodiversity, one on climate change mitigation and one on capacity building. These projects represent a total investment of €52 million, of which €34 million has been contributed by the European Union.

Since 2014, the traditional LIFE projects have been accompanied by a new sub-programme for Climate Action (focusing on Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, and Climate Governance and Information). The new LIFE programme has also been expanded to include several new types of projects - integrated, technical assistance, capacity-building and preparatory projects, and operating grants - as well as two new financial instruments, the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCF) and the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) tool. For details, please visit the LIFE website ([ec.europa.eu/life/](http://ec.europa.eu/life/)).

Every year a call for project proposals is launched covering the LIFE programme's priority areas.

## LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency

This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to environmental challenges, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

To date, the LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency strand (formerly the LIFE Environment Policy and Governance component) has co-financed 14 projects in Latvia, representing a total investment of €12.5 million, of which €6.5 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects covered a wide range of themes: coastal protection, sustainable tourism (the development of a sustainable tourism management model for the Natura 2000 site, the Slitere national park), water management, integrated environmental management (EMAS II implementation by local authorities in new Member States), energy-labelling of apartments, the management of municipal waste, and climate change (aiming to ensure that climate change impacts on hydrological processes are adequately investigated and taken into account in the city's planning system). The average project duration was 30 months and there was a wide range of beneficiary types: four NGOs, one university (Riga Technical University) with two projects, one local and one regional authority, a development agency and an SME.

There are three ongoing projects in Latvia. One project, which is being carried out by a public enterprise - Latvijas dzelzceļš - over a 36-month period, aims to demonstrate a new means of reducing rail noise pollution and to adapt and apply the Dutch "Reken en Meetvoorschrift Railverkeerslawaaï '96" (RMR) method for estimating noise from Europe's railways. Another project will assess ecosystems and their services for nature biodiversity conservation and management. It will be carried out over a 48-month period by the Latvian Nature Conservation Agency. The most recently financed project, which started in October 2015 for a 54-month period, aims at assisting SMEs in the management/substitution of chemicals. The coordinating beneficiary is the Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia.

The project presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Environment project in Latvia. It was selected as one of the 17 "Best" LIFE Environment projects in 2013.



### **Integrated Strategy for Riga City to Adapt to the Hydrological Processes Intensified by Climate Change Phenomena (HydroClimateStrategyRiga) LIFE08 ENV/LV/000451**

All of the HydroClimateStrategyRiga project activities were successfully implemented and the expected project results and objectives were achieved.

The project produced a detailed analysis and assessment of the existing situation and future trends with regards to flooding in Riga. These were published in a comprehensive report on hydrological processes affecting the territory of Riga City and their current and potential future impacts.

It also developed a Flood Risk Management Plan for Riga, which includes specific flood risk prevention measures and considers different funding options. The project produced a series of best practices and approaches in the identification, planning and management of flood risk zones in four European cities: Riga (Latvia); Rotterdam (the Netherlands); Antwerp (Belgium); and Hamburg (Germany).

Finally, it also developed methodological guidelines for territorial planning in flood risk zones, helping to develop the knowledge and capacity of officials and planners at Riga City Council, as well as representatives of other municipalities in the EU.

For further information:

<http://www.rigapretpludiem.lv/>

## LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to contribute to the development and implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

To date the LIFE Nature component (now called Nature and Biodiversity) has co-financed 28 projects in Latvia. These projects represent a total investment of €38 million of which €24 million has been contributed by the European Union.

Completed projects have mostly dealt with the conservation, restoration and management of habitats (wetlands, coastal/marine protected areas, floodplains and raised bogs) and species (spotted eagle and black stork). One of the projects aimed to restore the biological diversity of a military training area and Natura 2000 site ("Adazi"). The projects were mainly carried out by NGOs, national parks and universities and had an average duration of 48 months.

There are 11 ongoing projects in Latvia. These focus on the conservation, restoration and management of habitats (wetlands and forest habitats in the Gauja National Park, corncrake habitats in the Dviete floodplain Natura 2000 site, and bittern habitats in two coastal lakes in Latvia), and on the conservation of species (priority beetle species, rare reptiles and amphibians, specially protected bird species in the "Adazi" Natura 2000 site, and the lesser spotted eagle). One project specifically aims to restore the hydrological functions of the Kemeru National Park, while another seeks to develop concepts for assessing the conservation status of marine biodiversity in the Baltic Sea (including species and habitats) – examining the impacts of various human activities. Another project intends to set up a national conservation and management programme for Natura 2000 Sites in Latvia. There is one ongoing Biodiversity project, which aims to ensure the maintenance of valuable grasslands by introducing an ecological assessment, and the restoration and/or management of grassland ecosystems, as well as by increasing the use of grassland biomass in economically sustainable management models. The beneficiaries include the University of Daugavpils, the municipality of Daugavpils, two NGOs, the State Centre for Defence, Military Objects and Procurement, and the Nature Conservation Agency). The projects have an expected duration of between 43 and 54 months.

Presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Nature project from Latvia.



Photo: Aivars Silcāns

### **Restoration of Raised Bog Habitats in the Especially Protected Nature Areas of Latvia (Raised Bogs) LIFE08 NAT/LV/000449**

The management plans prepared by the Raised Bogs LIFE project for four protected areas of raised bog habitat in Latvia - Aizkraukle Mire and Forests, Aklais Mire, Melnais Lake Mire and Rožu Mire Nature Reserves - were approved by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development. These plans serve as guidelines for the implementation of restoration actions on these Natura 2000 sites and, as such, are a useful tool for helping the Nature Conservation Agency, Regional Environment protection boards and land owners/managers ensure sustainable conservation of the sites.

Hydrological studies of active raised bog were conducted before the concrete conservation activities, which included the building of dams on drainage ditches at all four project sites using an excavator. The total restored habitat area was 488 ha (instead of the originally foreseen 290 ha). Monitoring results showed that the water was raised to a new stable level and that typical raised bogs' vegetation was gradually regenerating.

Public awareness has been increased through various activities (leaflets, a 244-page book, a travelling exhibition, a documentary film, an international conference and networking activities with other similar LIFE projects in Germany and Wales).

The conservation actions on active raised bog should benefit up to eight priority habitats of the Habitats Directive, including degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration, transition mires and quaking bogs, depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion, and natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, along with the many species these habitats support.

For further information:

<http://www.purvi.lv/>

## Sub-programme for Climate Action (LIFE 2014-2020)

### LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and LIFE Climate Change Adaptation

The Climate Change Mitigation priority area will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notably by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

The Climate Change Adaptation priority area will support efforts to increase resilience to climate change, in particular by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

To date, the Climate Change Mitigation strand has financed one project in Latvia. This project's objective is a sustainable and responsible management and re-use of degraded peatlands in Latvia. It started in September 2015 and will have a duration of 48 months. The total investment will amount to €1.8 million, of which the EU will provide €1.1 million.

More details about this project can be found in the box below. The project's website and results will be added in due course.



#### **Sustainable and responsible management and re-use of degraded peatlands in Latvia (LIFE REstore) LIFE14 CCM/LV/001103**

The main objectives of the LIFE REstore project are: to develop a methodology to quantify Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from managed wetlands in Latvia, in accordance with IPCC (industrial emissions) guidelines for national GHG inventories; to perform an inventory and develop a database for degraded peatlands in Latvia; to develop a decision-support tool for land re-use planning in degraded peatland areas, which achieves an optimal balance between ecological restoration for biodiversity, economic benefits, and GHG emission reductions; and to support policy-makers, by providing a strategic framework for implementing sustainable re-use of degraded peatlands within the National Peat Strategy.

The LIFE REstore project aims to promote sustainable and responsible management of degraded peatlands. This will enhance the capacity of governments, businesses and civil society in decision and policy-making processes regarding alternative approaches for degraded peatland re-use. In particular, the project expects to: develop a management plan for the Natura 2000 area 'Lauga Mire Nature Reserve'; to create a GIS database, with degraded peatland areas identified through surveys; to develop a methodology for GHG accounting, for key emission source categories in managed wetlands, in accordance with IPCC guidelines; to develop criteria for peatland classification; to estimate the natural capital of degraded peatlands; to develop a land re-use and management planning support model for the optimal re-use of degraded peatlands; to develop a selected land re-use optimisation models and management scenarios implemented for peatland re-use in demonstration areas; to conduct ecosystem services impact assessment for degraded peatlands; and to provide recommendations for the application of financial and other governmental and municipal tools that are available for implementing land re-use scenarios in degraded peatlands.

It is estimated that the above-mentioned activities will result in CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions of approximately 2 227 metric tonnes per year, and a CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity of 838 metric tonnes per year in Latvia.

## Find out more about LIFE and LIFE projects

### Surf on the LIFE website

The LIFE website provides a wealth of information on the LIFE programme: <http://ec.europa.eu/life/>



### Search the LIFE projects database

For further information on LIFE projects in Latvia or LIFE projects in general, please consult the online LIFE projects database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

This easy-to-use database is the authoritative source of information on all ongoing and completed LIFE projects. It also provides information on the beneficiaries, their contact details, and the projects' websites.



### Search via social media:

[http://twitter.com/LIFE\\_Programme/](http://twitter.com/LIFE_Programme/) / [www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme](http://www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme) / [www.flickr.com/photos/life\\_programme](http://www.flickr.com/photos/life_programme)

### Contact

#### The National Contact Point for Latvia

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development

**Name:** Ilona Mendziņa, Deputy Director of Department of Nature Protection, Head of Division of Species and Habitats Protection  
**Address:** Peldu 25  
LV- 1494 Rīga  
Latvia  
**Tel:** +371 67026432  
**Fax:** +371 67820442  
**E-mail:** [ilona.mendzina@varam.gov.lv](mailto:ilona.mendzina@varam.gov.lv)  
**Website:** Latvian Environmental Protection Fund  
(<http://lvafa.gov.lv/default.asp?menu=514&layout=standart&fileid=141>)

#### The Monitoring Team for Latvia

NEEMO EEIG ELLE

**Address:** Skolas iela 10-8  
LV - 1010 Rīga  
Latvia  
**Tel:** +371 6 7242411  
**Fax:** +371 6 7242466  
**E-mail:** [elle@neemo.eu](mailto:elle@neemo.eu)



<b>Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency projects</b>				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Proposals for environmental policy and governance based on demonstration of environmental, social and economic benefits from tourism in the Slitere national park - A NATURA2000 territory (POLPROP-NATURA)	LIFE07 ENV/LV/000981	<a href="http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/prof/proj/PolProp/PolProp_lv.html">http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/prof/proj/PolProp/PolProp_lv.html</a>		02/2010→ 11/2012
Integrated Strategy for Riga City to Adapt to the Hydrological Processes Intensified by Climate Change Phenomena (HydroClimateStrategyRiga)	LIFE08 ENV/LV/000451	<a href="http://www.rigapretpludiem.lv/eng/">http://www.rigapretpludiem.lv/eng/</a>		02/2010→ 11/2012
Innovative Solutions for Railway Noise Management (ISRNM)	LIFE11 ENV/LV/000376	<a href="http://www.troksnisaizsienas.lv">http://www.troksnisaizsienas.lv</a>		08/2012→ 07/2015
Assessment of ecosystems and their services for nature biodiversity conservation and management (LIFE EcosystemServices)	LIFE13 ENV/LV/000839	<a href="http://ekosistemas.daba.gov.lv/publi_c/">http://ekosistemas.daba.gov.lv/publi_c/</a>		06/2014→ 05/2018
Baltic pilot cases on reduction of emissions by substitution of hazardous chemicals and resource efficiency (LIFE Fit for REACH)	LIFE14 ENV/LV/000174	N/A		10/2015→ 03/2020

<b>Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature &amp; Biodiversity projects</b>				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Restoration of Raised Bog Habitats in the Especially Protected Nature Areas of Latvia (Raised bogs)	LIFE08 NAT/LV/000449	<a href="http://www.purvi.lv/">http://www.purvi.lv/</a>		02/2010 → 08/2013
Restoration of Corncrake habitats in Dviete floodplain Natura 2000 site (DVIETE)	LIFE09 NAT/LV/000237	<a href="http://www.dvietespaliene.lv">http://www.dvietespaliene.lv</a>		10/2010 → 09/2014
Innovative approaches for marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment of conservation status of nature values in the Baltic Sea (MARMONI)	LIFE09 NAT/LV/000238	<a href="http://marmoni.balticseaportal.net/wp/">http://marmoni.balticseaportal.net/wp/</a>		10/2010 → 03/2015
Conservation of rare reptiles and amphibians in Latvia (Life-HerpetoLatvia)	LIFE09 NAT/LV/000239	<a href="http://www.life-herpetolatvia.biology.lv/">http://www.life-herpetolatvia.biology.lv/</a>		09/2010 → 08/2014
Management of Fennoscandian wooded meadows (6530*) and two priority beetle species : planning, public participation, innovation (EREMITA MEADOWS)	LIFE09 NAT/LV/000240	<a href="http://www.eremita-meadows.lv">http://www.eremita-meadows.lv</a>		01/2011 → 07/2015

Forest Habitat Restoration within the Gauja National Park (FOR-REST)	LIFE10 NAT/LV/000159	<a href="http://for-rest.daba.gov.lv/public/">http://for-rest.daba.gov.lv/public/</a>		09/2011 -> 08/2015
Restoring the hydrological regime of the Kemeru National Park (HYDROPLAN)	LIFE10 NAT/LV/000160	<a href="http://hydroplan.daba.gov.lv/public/">http://hydroplan.daba.gov.lv/public/</a>		09/2011 -> 08/2016
National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites in Latvia (NAT-PROGRAMME)	LIFE11 NAT/LV/000371	<a href="http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/lat/projekti/life_nature1/nat_programme/">http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/lat/projekti/life_nature1/nat_programme/</a>		09/2012 -> 02/2017
Restoration of Bittern habitats in two coastal lakes in Latvia (LIFE COASTLAKE)	LIFE12 NAT/LV/000118	<a href="http://ldf.lv/lv/projects/liela-dumpja-biotopa-atjaunosana-divos-piekrastes-ezeros-latvija-life-coastlake">http://ldf.lv/lv/projects/liela-dumpja-biotopa-atjaunosana-divos-piekrastes-ezeros-latvija-life-coastlake</a>		09/2013 -> 08/2017
Improving of the conservation status of specially protected bird species in Natura 2000 site "Adazi" (LIFE Birds in Adazi)	LIFE12 NAT/LV/000509	<a href="http://www.vamoic.gov.lv/LIFE.aspx">http://www.vamoic.gov.lv/LIFE.aspx</a>		11/2013 -> 10/2017
Conservation and Management of Priority Wetland Habitats in Latvia (LIFE_Wetlands)	LIFE13 NAT/LV/000578	<a href="http://www.mitraji.lv">http://www.mitraji.lv</a>		06/2014 -> 11/2017
Conservation arrangements for Lesser Spotted Eagle in Latvia (LIFE AQPOM)	LIFE13 NAT/LV/001078	N/A		10/2014 -> 09/2019
Alternative use of biomass for maintenance of grassland biodiversity and ecosystem services (LIFE GRASSSERVICE)	LIFE12 BIO/LV/001130	<a href="http://grassservice.balticgrasslands.eu/">http://grassservice.balticgrasslands.eu/</a>		10/2013 -> 12/2017

<b>Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and LIFE Climate Adaptation projects</b>				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Sustainable and responsible management and re-use of degraded peatlands in Latvia (LIFE REstore)	LIFE14 CCM/LV/001103	N/A		09/2015 -> 08/2019