



**INTERREG V-A COOPERATION PROGRAMME
GREECE – BULGARIA 2014 – 2020**

**Reinforcing Protected Areas Capacity through an Innovative
Methodology for Sustainability**

– BIO2CARE –

(Reg. No: 1890)

Deliverable 5.2: Targeted workshops regarding biodiversity preservation, circular economy and symbiotic activities

Financing biodiversity conservation

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...in brief

- **Policy framework**
 - Prioritised Actions Framework
 - European Green Deal & relevant strategies (Climate law, Biodiversity Strategy, Forest Strategy & Farm to Fork Strategy)
 - Common Agricultural Policy
 - Next Generation EU
- **Operational funding mechanisms**
 - National and regional operational programs for the environment and agriculture (incl. forestry)
 - Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)
 - LIFE
 - Interreg
 - Green Fund
- **Best practices in fundraising**
 - LIFE Task force
 - LIFE publications
 - INCREdible
 - EIP-Agri

Policy framework: Setting the scene 1/2

Prioritised Actions Framework & EU Biodiversity Strategy

- **What it is ?** Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) are strategic multiannual planning tools, aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the measures that are needed to implement the EU-wide Natura 2000 network and its associated green infrastructure, specifying the financing needs for these measures and linking them to the corresponding EU funding programmes.
- **Are they important?** All EU funds (European Regional Development Fund -ERDF), Cohesion Fund and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund [EMFF], LIFE, Interreg etc) and CAP Strategic Plans will need to take into account or require that nature related funding should be conditional on submission of the PAF.
- **National competent authority for PAF:** Min. of Environment (drafting by Green Fund)

Policy framework: Setting the scene 2/2

- **European Green Deal: the overall policy framework of EU for the next 30 years**
 - Climate law: climate neutrality, adaptation and mitigation for all sectors (energy, raw materials)
 - Biodiversity Strategy: Protection (30%!), ally on climate change, landscape (+agricultural land) outside PA's, food, restoration, genetic diversity, soils, marine environment, urban & peri-urban environment
 - Forest Strategy: Strict protection of old-growth forests, agroforestry, resilience, climate change mitigation, material replacement
 - Farm to Fork Strategy: less inputs, organic farming, circular economy, sustainable, affordable high quality food, biodiversity, animal welfare, traditional seeds, food security, sustainable food processing, increase share of NWFP food

- **Next Generation EU: EU Post pandemic recovery plan. Will reinforce several pro-environmental strategies and financial instruments**

- **Common Agricultural Policy: 5 out of the 9 specific objectives are promoting directly or indirectly the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of natural resources**

Operational programs for the environment and agriculture: objectives

- Biodiversity: 30% of EU under protection, of which 10% strictly protected, ecological corridors, nature restoration, no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030, nature back to agricultural lands
- Climate change (adaptation and mitigation): reduction of energy use and other inputs with high energy footprint (esp. energy from fossil fuels)
- Sustainable use of natural resources (water resources, soil protection, circular economy,
- Organic farming, affordable high quality food, biodiversity, animal welfare, traditional seeds, food security, sustainable food processing, increase share of NWFP food
- Promotion of employment, growth, gender equality, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry

Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)

- The Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) offers funding to projects that promote the conservation, restoration, management and enhancement of natural capital for biodiversity and adaptation benefits, including ecosystem-based solutions to challenges related to land, soil, forestry, agriculture, water and waste inside the EU. It consists of a combination of the following two components:
- The finance facility can provide financing of a minimum amount of EUR 2 million and a maximum amount of EUR 15 million
- The technical assistance facility can provide each project with a grant of up to a maximum of EUR 1 million for project preparation, implementation and the monitoring of the outcomes

The NCFF combines EIB financing and the Commission's funding under the LIFE Programme, the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The facility is currently in a pilot phase and can sign projects until the end of 2021. The first loan was signed in April 2017.

<https://www.eib.org/en/products/blending/ncff/index.htm#>

LIFE

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action created in 1992. The current funding period 2014-2020 has a budget of €3.4 billion. It began in 1992 and has to date co-financed more than 5,400 projects. Until 2013, LIFE had contributed approximately €3.1 billion to the protection of the environment.

- The 2014-2020 program is divided into two sub-programs, one for environment (representing 75% of the overall financial envelope) and one for climate action (representing 25% of the envelope). There is also a new category 'jointly funded integrated projects', which will operate on a large territorial scale.
- For the 2021-2027 EC proposes to raise the budget of the LIFE programme to €5.4 billion. The new LIFE would have four sub-programs: **nature and biodiversity; circular economy and quality of life; climate change mitigation and adaptation** and **clean energy transition**.

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/life/life-history-life>

Interreg

Interreg is one of the key instruments of EU supporting cooperation across borders through project funding. Its aim is to jointly tackle common challenges and find shared solutions in fields such as health, environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy and more.

- For the 2014-2020 Interreg Europe has a budget of EUR 10.1 billion. It supports:
 - Research and innovation
 - SME competitiveness
 - Low-carbon economy
 - Environment and resource efficiency

- For the 2021-2027 a major restructuring is under way. Its final shape is expected not earlier than March, 2021.

<https://interreg.eu/about-interreg/>

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/

Green Fund

Green Fund is a Greek public agency aiming at the sustainable development by providing administrative, financial and technical support to actions, projects and programs, in line with the overall environmental policy of Greece.

- GF's financial resources are:
 - Various taxes and compensatory payments
 - European funded programs
 - Donations
 - Revenues from the management of its property.

- Funding of actions, projects and programs is provided after public calls. Current funding regards:
 - Various actions for natural environment
 - Forest protection and restoration
 - Actions and projects regarding the marine environment
 - Urban green infrastructure

<https://www.prasinotameio.gr/#>

Best practices in fundraising

Effective fundraising is a key component of successful biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management. Considering the multiform needs and goals for sustainable use of resources and the conservation of biodiversity in a protected area, integration and mobilisation of different funding sources seems to be the best way. Special editions, web platforms and organisations can provide ideas, tools and communication channels in this direction:

LIFE Greek Task Force: It aims at the effective participation of Greece in LIFE projects.

<http://www.lifetaskforce.gr>

➤ DG Envi web page about financing Natura 2000

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm

➤ A LIFE special edition with non-traditional cooperation for nature conservation

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c451afab-cfc6-11e5-a4b5-01aa75ed71a1>

➤ European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI)

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

Thank you

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THE GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
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