

2008 LIFE+ application package

The most important changes compared to the 2007 package are the following:

1. Changes have been made to the guidelines for applicants:
 - a. Some general changes to all documents.
 - b. The former general guidelines for applicants and the guidelines for filling in the financial forms have now been integrated into the specific guidelines for each of the 3 strands of LIFE+.
 - c. LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity: considerable changes have been made to the guidelines.
 - d. LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance: certain changes, including the addition of more specific definitions for "innovation" and "demonstration".
 - e. LIFE+ Information and Communication: substantial changes have been made in order to strengthen the specifications of the type of projects the EC would like to see as far as their objectives, content and structure are concerned.
2. Certain changes have been made to the technical application forms:
 - a. Form A4 has become A2, A2 has become A3 and A3 has become A4.
 - b. Some information fields have been modified and some removed, in order to better define what information we want and avoid duplication and requesting information which is not necessary.
3. There are no longer two potential types of public coordinating beneficiaries (public bodies / public authorities) > only public bodies + a new annex is required in these cases (the Public Body Declaration).
4. National annual priorities (NAPs) enter into effect. A related award criterion now exists for the evaluation. Applicants should consult whether their Member State has defined NAPs for 2008, on the LIFE+ website.
5. A more explicit clarification has been added regarding the employment by public bodies of temporary personnel hired specifically for the project (in which case they do not fall into the "2%" civil servant's personnel costs rule).
6. "Eligibility phase" has been replaced by "Admissibility, exclusion and eligibility phase", and the relevant criteria have been re-categorised accordingly.
7. Changes have been made in the award criteria, which will now include the NAPs, but are reduced in number from 7 to 6 because some have been merged together.
8. Applicants will now be required to define output monitoring indicators in their proposal. Specific forms for this purpose are now included in the application package and the corresponding guidelines on how to complete them have been added in the guidelines for applicants.
9. Submission format: applicants are requested to submit the application forms as 2 separate pdf documents, one scanned to pdf (A forms) and another converted to pdf (B and C forms, financial forms and output indicator forms), in order to reduce file sizes.
10. More specific guidelines on after-LIFE communication/conservation plans have been added in the guidelines for applicants.