



Writing LIFE Integrated Project

Lessons learnt and to be learnt

Based on the experience of FRESHABIT - Towards Integrated Management of Freshwater Natura 2000 Sites and Habitats (Finland)

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STRUCTURE

- General criteria for the Concept Note
- Lessons learnt from the Concept Note Phase
- Final Application – Process and Content
- Key Lessons Learnt

LIFE IP CONCEPT PHASE

Criteria to be met

- Targeted to one theme (**Natura 2000**, water, waste, air, climate)
- Linked to relevant national, regional strategy/plan (**PAF**)
- Ensuring involving of relevant stakeholders for the objectives (implementation, transferability and sustainability)
- Promoting the coordination and mobilisation of (at least one, in practice much more) relevant EC, national or private funding source
- Integrating/mainstreaming environmental/climate policy in other EU (and national) policies
- Logical, actions targeting the threats/problems, quantitative outcomes, sustainability, STRATEGIC CAPACITY BUILDING

CONCEPT NOTE – LESSONS LEARNT

- Time consuming (mostly due to large number of areas and beneficiaries)
- LIFE expertise and experience needed together with substance competence
- Leaders: encouragement, positive attitude
- Select relevant beneficiaries for the objectives but also consider diversity (private – public – NGOs – research – authorities – national – regional – local – different sectors)
- Note that the competent authority for the strategy targeted has to be an associated beneficiary (note also other relevant authorities linked to the project actions and sustainability)

CONCEPT NOTE – LESSONS LEARNT

- Show clear links between the strategy, project objectives and outcomes; provide a logical story
- Committed team, regular meetings
- Communication, consider using participatory methods
- Focus on capacity building and multipurpose
- Try to remain at strategical level but still indicate quantitative results
- Be ambitious also with the complementary projects (only small fraction needs to be guaranteed, others can be more like a wish list)

FINAL APPLICATION



- Special attention to EU added value (replicability, uptake, transferability, capacity building; form B3)
- Road map to the implementation of the PAF
- Careful consideration of stakeholders; highlighting also the uniqueness of the consortium
- Capacity building in focus; PAF group, training, uptake (MoE new beneficiary)
- Negotiations on financing; own funding, co-financing and complementary projects
- Special attention to the key ministries (MAF, MoE)
- Details for first period needed (we provided for the whole period)

FINAL APPLICATION



- Final action list (not required in the concept phase)
- What, where, when and outcomes in detail for the first time!
- Not simplified application forms
- Budget as detailed as in traditional LIFE projects!
- Delivered only in electronic format
- The most voluminous application of Metsähallitus; over 400 pages

FINAL APPLICATION



Writing of the application

- Roles divided: general parts, administrative forms, descriptions of project areas, action descriptions and financial forms

Administrative forms (A)

- 30 beneficiaries; lots of signatures (one added in the revision)
- Signed commitment forms from all ongoing, applied and foreseen complementary projects; challenges in convincing in how binding the form is...
- Only scanned copies needed!

FINAL APPLICATION



Technical application forms (B)

- 10 pages for the summary
- Site descriptions
- Very much like traditional LIFE project!

Technical application forms (C)

- All actions described in full and indicated which part covered during the first period
- The overall outcomes for the whole duration (subject to change!)
- Time planning, deliverables and milestones for the total project period



FINAL APPLICATION

Financial application forms (F)

- Detailed as in traditional project for the first 2 year cycle
- Only! cost per budget category/beneficiary/action for the remaining period; requires the budget to be made almost to the same level of detail as in traditional life!
- All subject to change!!!

Revision

- Very relaxed, lot of questions + online meeting
- Providing the final application in paper format
- Revision very close to the initial starting date



KEY LESSONS

- IP is more about the additional value than the euros!
- Focus on national gaps, novelties, consortium, be ambitious!
- The preparation phase was for us a learning process and eye opener
- Open process; from top down to bottom up!
- Reserve competent team with LIFE and substance experts
- Engage beneficiaries at an early stage
- Focus on PAF and how to implement it
- Focus on capacity building, uptake, transferability, multipurpose
- Concept note has to be based on solid ground
- The 2nd phase requires lot of effort (apply for technical assistance)



FRESH HABIT =



Developed with the help of project
'Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania'



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