

## **The LIFE Programme**

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

During the current Programming Period the LIFE Programme has two sub-programmes:

The **Environment** sub-programme

- Environment and Resource Efficiency
- ii. Nature and Biodiversity
- iii. Environmental Governance and Information

## The Climate Action sub-programme

- i. Climate Change Mitigation
- ii. Climate Change Adaptation
- iii. Climate Governance and Information

## Your National Contact Point

Your National Contact Point for the LIFE Programme is the Department of Environment.

In addition, the Department of Environment is now running a LIFE Project, called LIFE Cyclamen. Through this project the Department has created a team of experts who further empower your National Contact Point.

The whole team is ready to help you during the submission of your proposal, during your actual project with whatever is troubling you, but also help you after the end of your project. In other words we are here to help you succeed!



## The LIFE Cyclamen Team



Meet our Environment and Resource Efficiency Expert.

### Chara Mavronicola

Chara Mavronicola holds a degree in Environmental and Natural Resources Management (B.Sc., M.Sc) from the University of Ioannina. She has also completed postgraduate studies in Environmental Engineering (M.Sc) from the University of Cyprus. Chara has worked in Cyprus providing consultancy services on various issues of environmental character.

## **Our Article**

## **Climate Change: Facing the challenges**



It is now undeniable that the climate is changing on a global scale. Europe is experiencing the worst heat wave in its modern history, while fires, floods and sky-high temperatures are making the headlines on a daily basis.

**Human activity**, such as the use of fossil fuels, deforestation and livestock, contribute to increased amounts of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, causing the greenhouse effect and global warming. Unfortunately, each of the last three decades has been warmer than the previous.

## Who is affected?

Climate change affects all regions of the world. The ice is melting at the polls resulting to sea level rising, some areas are more often affected by extreme weather conditions and rainfall, while others are suffering from high-intensity heat waves and extensive periods of drought. At the same time the effects of climate change are expected to intensify in the coming decades.

**Public health** is also greatly affected by climate change. Those who are most likely to be affected are vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, the less privileged, those who are already suffering from illness and those who do not have access to public health services.

## What is the cost?

Climate change is also affecting the global economy. Sectors like agriculture, forestry, energy and tourism, which are directly dependent on the temperature levels and rainfall, are greatly affected. Indicatively, between 1980 and 2011, floods affected more than 5.5 million people and caused direct economic losses of over  $\in$  90 billion.

Climate change is also largely affecting many plant and animal species, which are trying to adapt to the new climatic conditions. For example it has been observed that many inland species, as well as fresh water and seawater species are moving to new areas. If the average temperature of the planet continues to rise uncontrollably then certain plant and animal species will be facing serious risk of extinction.

## How do we face the challenge?

**In an effort to respond** to these new challenges the European Union (EU) has set climate change mitigation

and adaptation as a major priority. Based on this priority, the EU has set up a special sub-programme for Climate Action under the LIFE Programme. The general objective of the LIFE Programme is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

This sub-programme covers three priority areas, vis-à-vis, mitigation of Climate Change, adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Governance and Information.

The LIFE Programme has funded since 1992 more than 45 projects in Cyprus with a total budget exceeding 45 million euros. An example of such a project that is currently funded by the LIFE Programme is the LIFE MEDEA project (LIFE16 CCA / CY / 000041), which aims to demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of an adaptation strategy to Desert Dust Storms, and to better inform EU policy-making by providing a field-based evidence for the adoption of a strategic plan for mitigating the health effects of DDS events in south-east Europe. From a policy point of view, the project aims to enhance informed decision-making along with the population's resilience, preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, in line with the EU adaptation strategy. 16 —

## A Winning LIFE Proposal

For

TIPS

01	EE	Read first Read the Guidelines for Applicants and the Evaluation Guide before you start writing.
02	1	Write small sentences Make sure your sentences are small and to the point. You don't want the evaluator to miss your point.
03	2	Why you? Describe your competences and why YOU are the best organisation for the job.
04		Target environmental legislation Describe clearly the environmental legislation your project is targeting and implementing.
05	<b>1</b>	Sustainability is King Explain how the results of your Project will be sustainable after the completion of the Project.
06	Ēa	Support your claims Always support your claims through citation or documentation.
07	4	Explain the problem Make sure you explain the problem that you claim needs to be tackled.
08		Describe the EU added value Clearly describe the EU added value of your idea. Explain what, when, how and give numbers.
09	ŝ	Target audience & stakeholders Explain what is your target audience and who are your stakeholders.
10	$  \oplus$	Targeted actions All the actions described in your proposal need to work towards a solution of the problem targeted.
11	٩	Coherence There needs to be coherence between the: problem targeted, suggested strategy, actions & expected results.
12		Results The expected results need to be quantified.
13	10101010 00100000 0011	Indicators Indicators should be specific & relevant so they can measure outputs or expected results.
14		<b>Monitoring</b> You need adequate monitoring activities & indicators for monitoring the project's progress, impact & results.
15	€	Value-for-money The value-for-money of your idea should be clear and high.
16	C	Get free advice from your NCP Reach out to your National Contact Point for free advice & support on 22408926.

## Did you know...?

# The LIFE Cyclamen Team held a meeting at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute



The LIFE Cyclamen team organised a short LIFE presentation at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, for the Institute's Department of Environmental Education, on Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the Advisors of the Institute, as well as the Officers of all Environmental Education Centres of the Institute, about the LIFE Programme. These Environmental Education Centres are situated in Athalassa, Acrotiri, Pedoulas, Salamiou and Cape Greco.

During the event, participants were introduced to the LIFE Programme, with an emphasis on the two Sub-Programmes and their thematic priorities as described in the Multiannual Action Programme for 2018-2020. Furthermore, special reference was made to the different services the National Contact Point (NCP) offers to applicants and beneficiaries of ongoing projects. Lastly, the new way of submitting LIFE proposals, for the Environment sub-programme following a 2 Stage approach, was explained.

Some of the participants had previous experience with LIFE Projects and expressed their interest and will to participate in new LIFE Projects with education - related actions.

The LIFE Cyclamen team will remain in close contact with the Pedagogical Institute and will provide its staff with any assistance they might need.



# The LIFE Cyclamen team offered a subsidy for participating in EU events

The LIFE Cyclamen Project announced an Open Call on the 17th of September 2018, inviting interested parties to request a subsidy for participating in an EU event (conference, workshop, seminar, networking event, etc.) about the environment and climate change.

The aim of the participation was to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices with other EU Member States, with the purpose of enhancing the diffusion of project results (possible reproducibility and marketisation) at national and EU level, so as to boost potential reproducibility and lead to the submission of new LIFE Proposals.

We were excited to receive a plethora of applications for this subsidy. Following the evaluation we are now



pleased to announce that the following applicants will be able to benefit from our subsidy:

- Paris Fokaides, Frederick University Cyprus
- Jonilda Kushta, Cyprus Institute
- Marios Philippou, Green Dot (Cyprus) Public Co. Ltd

For those who were not as lucky, or who didn't manage to submit an application, stay tuned with the LIFE Cyclamen team, as we will be announcing a new Open Call in 2019!

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