(Projects funded under the Call 2014 onwards must use this format)

LIFE Project Number

LIFE18 CAP/HR/000001

Final Report

Covering the project activities from 01/04/2019 to 30/09/2024

Reporting Date

30/09/2024

LIFE PROJECT NAME

Capacity Building project for Croatia's National Contact Point for the LIFE Programme

Data Project	
Project location:	Croatia, all regions
Project start date:	01/04/2019
Project end date:	31/03/2023; **Extension date:** 30/09/2024
Total budget:	727.835,00 €
EU contribution:	727.835,00 €
(%) of eligible costs:	100%

Data Beneficiary	
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2. Glossary of keywords and abbreviations

AB	Associated Beneficiary
AR	Annex reference number
MEE	Ministry of Environment and Energy
CAP	Capacity Building
CASME	Croatian Agency for SMEs
CB	Coordinating Beneficiary
CBRD	Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development
CO	Communication and Event Officer
EIB	European Investment Bank
EPEEF	Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund
FE	Financial and Procurement Expert
GA	Grant Agreement
GA-A	Grant Agreement Amendment
H2020	Horizon 2020 Programme
HABOR	Croatian Bank for Construction and Development
HD	Help Desk
HD CET	Help Desk Officer for Clean Energy Transition
HD CLIMA	Help Desk Officer for Climate Action
HD NAT	Help Desk Officer for Nature and Biodiversity
HR PRES	Croatian presidency of the Council of the EU
IP	Integrated Project
CAEN	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature
MEPGT	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition
MRDEUF	Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds
MS	European Union Member States
NCFF	Natural Capital Financial Facility
NCP	National Contact Point
NEM	Neemo external monitoring team
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PA	Project Assistant
PC	Project Coordinator
PM	Project Manager
PF4EE	Private Finance for Energy Efficiency
RDP	Rural Development Programme
Q&A	Questions and answers
ToT	Training of trainers
SI	Slovenia
VAT	Value-added tax
CCE	Croatian Chamber of Economy
EEN	European Enterprise Network

3. Executive summary (maximum 1 1/2 page)

The main goal of the project "Capacity Building for Croatia's National Contact Point for the LIFE Programme" HR NCP LIFE (LIFE18 CAP/HR/000001) implementation was to raise the level of knowledge of potential applicants about LIFE programme and to more effective participation which will increase the number of project applications. Specifically, it aimed to strengthen the capacity of HR NCP, maintaining the staff knowledge level achieved during the previous CAP and educating them further so they could raise knowledge of potential beneficiaries on how to apply for a successful LIFE project.

Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy started implementing the project as coordinating beneficiary. During the project ministries changed twice. First in 2021 to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and second time in 2024 to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition with assumed jurisdiction as National contact point for the LIFE programme. These changes caused considerable difficulties in procedures in a period of reorganisation.

Activities were impacted due to a COVID pandemic. All travels, networking events, meetings and gatherings were prohibited for a while and online forms and home-officing were common. The team used that as an opportunity to embrace video conferencing tools to reach out to stakeholders.

First employment of CAP team, after delays due to Croatia EU presidency was completed in 11/2020 with 5 personnel. Completely new team was employed in 4/2022 and started catching up with late actions. CAP team was established (A.1) with three helpdesk officers: 1 CET, 1 CLIMA and 1 NAT, Communication and event officer, Project assistant and Project manager.

Necessary equipment for the team was purchased 6 laptops and 8 desk chairs. Also, all other amenities – 10 headphones, 2 USB hubs, 1 pointer for presentations and 2 external memory disks. Project team gained required knowledge and skills through 4 internal and wider range of external educations from different areas related to LIFE programme.

Through promotional campaigns on social media and Google search engine, LIFE programme reached more media mentions and social media followers than foreseen, while communication activities were increasing. More than 500 successful consultations with potential beneficiaries were provided via e-mail or phone and through meetings, which is more than planned.

National co-financing with EPEEF was facilitated every year with significant number of applications and 10 co-financed projects since 2020. Additionally, annual co-financing of Government's Office for cooperation with NGOs was promoted through our events and social media channels.

Series of informational events were organized, for potential applicants to become acquainted with the Programme funding opportunities: 7 general info days, 4 thematic info days and a series of speed meetings were organised. Info days reached over 1,000 representatives of various sectors. In cooperation with Europe Direct centres, regional meetings with target groups reaching around 80 potential applicants (from academia, local and regional authorities and private enterprises) were prepared on how to prepare a LIFE project application for their scope of interests and needs. Four LIFE project writing workshops were held, during which 288 people were educated about the LIFE project logic and evaluation criteria. Also, potential applicants were given advice by project experts on how to prepare and apply their project more successfully. Video of one of these events is available at the project website and YouTube channel, as well as a series of presentations in text format.

Through the project, the NCP team improved cooperation and created synergies with institutions which are competent for other sources of financing. Seventeen meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds, the Horizon 2020 Program, and other Union programmes. An international conference on sea pollution was

organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. LIFE programme was presented at "Union programmes 2021-2027" conference and at 4 online workshops "Online presentation of Union programmes intended for potential users at the level of Croatian regions" in cooperation with Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds.
Special emphasis was placed on the identification of target groups and the team approached them individually to provide the most relevant information related to their area of interest. To reach this goal LIFE was presented at 25 informational events (conferences, webinars, expert meetings etc.) organized by numerous institutions and organizations related to EU programmes and funds and areas eligible for funding from the LIFE programme.
Several exchanges of experiences with other NCPs took place during the project aiming to improve existing knowledge and adopt good practices from other countries. In cooperation with the Slovenian NCP, a study visit to LIFE projects in Slovenia was organized, where potential applicants from various sectors had the opportunity to learn and achieve further collaborations, while the NCP simultaneously exchanged experiences and practical advice with Slovenian colleagues. Members of the team participated in NCP training and a visit to LIFE projects organized by the Estonian NCP. A two-day NCP networking meeting was also organized in Zagreb, where representatives of national contact points from 14 countries gathered to exchange knowledge, information and experiences aiming to achieve better performance of NCP's.
To achieve visibility of LIFE programme, various promotional and informative materials were produced: 3 brochures (Introduction to LIFE programme, LIFE projects in Croatia 2018 – 2022 and LIFE CET projects in Croatia 2021 – 2022), 3 leaflets (LIFE programme 2021 – 2027, LIFE programme 2021 – 2027 – Strategic projects and 30 Years of LIFE programme). LIFE national contact point has over 1,600 followers on social networks and over 1,500 subscribers to the newsletter. Project website has been regularly updated with all the necessary information and annual publication of FAQs. Increased presence in the online media has contributed to increased interest for participation at informative events and consultations.
NCP for LIFE programme in Croatia invested high efforts in promotion of the LIFE programme in the Republic of Croatia achieving positive impact. Level of awareness as well as interest for the LIFE programme in Croatia is constantly growing. It is expected that in the coming period number of applicants and quality of project applications as a result of this project will continue to grow.

4. Technical analysis of progress and impacts (maximum 15 pages)

4.1. Technical progress, per Action – Qualitative assessment

A. Implementation actions

A.1 Recruitment of new staff

Foreseen start date:	01/2019	Actual start date:	05/2020
Foreseen end date:	04/2019	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	03/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
New CAP project team established	6 staff members recruited • Project Manager • Project Assistant • Communication and Event Officer • Helpdesk officer CLIMA • Helpdesk officer NAT • Helpdesk officer CET

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Two recruitment procedures have been undertaken. First one, with mostly internal transfers from other MESD sectors, resulted in establishment of a complete project team only in 11/2020. First team operated in full capacity for only 9 months. Second recruitment procedure relied on public tenders and resulted with completely new team as of 4/2022. Only the PA was retained from the previous team.

A.2 Procurement of equipment

Foreseen start date:	06/2019	Actual start date:	01/2021
Foreseen end date:	09/2019	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	03/2023

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
Necessary office equipment procured: • 3 laptops • 1 pointer • 2 external backup HDD • 8 office chairs • 5 drawer units • 5 storage cabinets • 2 desks	Equipment procured: • 6 laptops • 1 pointer • 2 external backup HDD • 8 office chairs • 12 Headsets • GoTo Webinar licence • Zoom licences • 2 4-port USB hubs

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Necessary durable goods were procured, together with some consumables and video conferencing tool licences:

- 6 Dell Latitude 5520 laptop computers (11/2021, durable goods)
- 1 Presenter Logitech R400 (9/2022, consumables)

- 2 External hard disks Seagate Expansion Portable 4TB (9/2022, consumables)
- 8 Opera-T office chairs (10/2021, durable goods)
- 10 Logitech H340 headsets and 2 Logitech H800 wireless headsets (10/2020, consumables)
- GoTo Webinar Service Pro, license for 12 months (11/2020, other costs)
- Zoom Standard Pro and Webinar 500, license for 12 months (3/2022, 3/2023, other costs)
- 2 4-port USB hubs (2/2023, consumables)

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

After the merger of two ministries MESD provided joint office space for the whole project team with new personal computers and all the necessary office furniture (desks, drawers, cabinets), together with all the necessary office supplies (basic office supplies, registries, whiteboards, etc) so there wasn't any need to procure any office furniture besides office chairs nor rent the office space. Budget intended for rent of the office space was reallocated.

With the advent of pandemic, it was necessary to adapt to new circumstance that included home-officing and increased use of online tools. Headsets were acquired for the whole team with additional pair of wireless ones for guest speakers in online and hybrid events. Video conferencing tools licences were procured for 2021, 2022 and 2023, but was not prolonged as the Ministry started working in Microsoft Teams App.

The laptops acquired in scope of the previous project became increasingly unreliable and couldn't perform in line with present day requirements. They were written-off by the MESD IT department and new laptops were procured for the whole team. NEM approved the procurement of increased number of laptops, together with some other unforeseen costs (portable USB hubs), due to pandemic conditions.

A.3 Educational trainings and workshops

Foreseen start date:	11/2019	Actual start date:	10/2020
Foreseen end date:	03/2022	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	04/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
Education plan for project team developed	N/A – changed with GA-A
7 staff members trained	9 staff members trained (PA, PM, PC, 3 SAs, HD NAT, HD CLIMA, HD CET)

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

First project team started working in a time where travel and gatherings weren't possible and most of their education was online via webinars, in addition to internal educations by the PC. Education plan was partially developed and not implemented. The only cost incurred in this action was organising a LIFE projects management course for previous PM, who didn't have necessary experience for managing the project before taking the position. In scope of that course the whole team has been trained in specifics of management of a LIFE project by PM of the previous CAP.

Second team started actively implementing late actions and underwent internal educations, together with LIFE NCP training and EU LIFE info days, and were mostly learning-by-doing,

attending meetings and drafting written responses to potential applicants under guidance of PC and PM.

Promotion of the LIFE programme on digital platforms was an important part of the project goals. For that purpose, education on digital marketing topics was organised in 7/2023 for 4 team members. The education was led by a marketing expert with topics on meaning and methods of reaching the target audience through the website (SEO), Facebook and LinkedIn profiles and YouTube channels as media platforms.

Having completed a two-day “Education on project cycle management with a focus on the LIFE Programme 2021-2027.” in 7/2023, the second team acquired knowledge in the LIFE project cycle, project logic, LIFE application forms, and budget preparation. Education was held by successful Slovenian LIFE project expert who also made a document with recommendations for preparing LIFE project proposals and shared it with the HR NCP LIFE team to be at our disposal for future use. The team subsequently shared this knowledge with potential applicants at NCP-organized project writing workshops.

The team attended "train-the-trainer" program in 9/2023 for the purpose of gaining necessary public speaking and presentation skills, through a combination of workshops, practical exercises, and mentoring, which were held by experienced public speaking trainer and used in upcoming events for promoting the LIFE programme.

In 3/2023 5 team members attended two days NCP training in Bruxelles. On the first day, the team was introduced to policy priorities, results of 2021 call and updates on 2022 call, Call 2023 and Seal of Excellence. On the second day, team members attended Sub- programme sessions separately, and after that all participants were introduced to new monitoring Framework Contract, Update on C2M projects, Overview of Strategic projects call, Financial clarifications, Update on TA-R and Communication in LIFE, in which our project activity of celebrating 30 years of LIFE and the picture framework was highlighted as the example of good practice. After the NCP training, team attended back-to-back Net4LIFE project meeting, team had learned about providing more efficient, consistent, and professional NCP services through the exchange of knowledge and experience, best practices, and tools. All this was intended to result in improved NCP services and ultimately increase the number of successful project applications.

Second team also attended online NCP training in 4/2024, as well as CINEA LIFE Info days in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

Inability to find proper educational courses during the pandemic was the biggest issue for the first project team that lacked previous necessary experience in this field of work. Lack of project management capacity was partially rectified by 1-month long education on project management by the PM of the previous CAP project.

The team has been actively engaged in the lookout for educational webinars and educations focusing on enhancing their knowledge of the LIFE Programme, writing LIFE project proposals, and disseminating information to both broad and targeted audiences. Therefore, creating a formal Education plan document was unnecessary for team to achieve the necessary education.

A.4 Participation at networking events in EU countries

Foreseen start date:	10/2019	Actual start date:	01/2021
Foreseen end date:	11/2022	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	06/2023

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
17 networking events in the EU attended (in the EU attended) • 11 networking events in the EU attended (changed with GA-A)	8 networking events in the EU attended

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

The project team participated on 8networking events:

- Final conference of the Greek LIFE Task Force project (7/2021) - online
- Final conference of the LIFE Cyclamen Project (11/2021) - online
- 4 LIFE Welcome Meetings (10/2020, 11/2021, 10/2022, 10/2023) - online
- LIFE SIP/SNAP Welcome Meeting (3/2023) - online
- LIFE NCP Networking Meeting (6/2023) - Estonia

Final Conference & International Workshop of Greek LIFE Task Force project took place in 7/2021, and HR NCP was invited to have their contribution with a presentation (as capacity building project or as national contact point). The final conference was online, and the presentation was 10-15 minutes long, addressing the results of Life Capacity Building project and the LIFE programme in Croatia. The goal of the event was knowledge exchange and networking between countries in order to achieve better results in future calls.

Two Helpdesk Officers, participated in the LIFE NCP Networking Meeting in Estonia. By participating in the networking meeting, representatives of the Croatian National Contact Point gained key insights into cross-border cooperation, synergies with other funds and different ways to promote the LIFE programme. This knowledge has been used to further promote the LIFE programme in Croatia and to provide advice to potential applicants. Relevant examples from the visited projects were presented to potential applicants at LIFE Info Days and workshops organized by the LIFE team.

LIFE Welcome Meetings for new projects were attended annually in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, as well as LIFE SIP/SNAP Welcome Meeting in 2023, where useful information regarding rules of project implementation were acquired.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

Inability to travel and lack of online networking events contributed to lower implementation of this action. Given these considerations, the decision was made to attend the NCP Networking Meeting in Estonia. This event was specifically chosen to provide the Helpdesk Officers with an opportunity to engage in face-to-face exchanges of experience with colleagues from other MS, acquire new knowledge and skills for promoting the LIFE Programme, and gain valuable hands-on experience that would enhance their ability to effectively advise potential beneficiaries.

A.5 Organisation of NCP networking workshops

Foreseen start date:	02/2021	Actual start date:	11/2022
Foreseen end date:	09/2022	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	11/2022

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
1 NCP workshop organised	1 NCP workshop organised in Zagreb

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

NCP workshop in hybrid format was organised in Zagreb (11/2022). NCPs from 14 member states and Iceland participated live, along with NCPs from an additional 7 member states online during the first day of the Workshop. Altogether 26 participants gathered live, along with 23 participants via Zoom platform. The first presentation was given via Zoom by Anne Burrill in front of CINEA. The second presentation was given by Estonian NCP on lessons learned from supporting SIP/SNAP projects. Finnish NCP presented Finland's positive experience with these projects in the last programming period. The third presentation was given by the Polish NCP with a presentation of the data collected on different models of LIFE co-financing. The fourth presentation was given by the Cyprus NCP about the project to strengthen international cooperation among NCPs Net4LIFE. In the fifth presentation, the position paper of the Spanish NCP was presented on the emerging lack of transparency within the LIFE programme (e.g. the unavailability of evaluations) and the impact on the work of NCPs, which may result in a decline in interest in the LIFE Programme. Draft of the position paper addressed to EC and CINEA regarding the role of NCPs and access to information about projects that applied for the Calls was read and NCPs were called in to give their comments and support it.. On the second day, four presentations of Croatian LIFE projects together with LIFE quiz and lively panel discussion were held in more informal settings.

A.6 Creation of multi-sector network

Foreseen start date:	09/2019	Actual start date:	04/2021
Foreseen end date:	01/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
8 meetings of advisor network for LIFE programme organised Preparation of reports on HR LIFE project's policy uptake	1 Introductory meeting of advisor network organised Continuous cooperation established. Reports on HR LIFE project's policy uptake

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

The goal of the activity was to form a working group (network) of experts who will advise on certain thematic and national priorities to help the NCP in its work. Invitation was sent to 15 relevant authorities possibly involved in activities which could be covered with LIFE projects. Altogether 28 representatives from HR competent authorities were proposed and appointed as a part of this multi-sector network.

Introductory meeting for all members was held in 4/2023. Presentation of general aspects of LIFE programme, examples of good practice projects and examples of successful cooperation was presented by the representatives from the Directorate for Nature Protection.

Members of the working group were contacted according to specific needs and were invited to all the events organised by NCP (info days, conferences etc.) and thereby informed on project activities involved in activities and networking and could be a sectoral support to possible relevant thematic topic.

The survey on the impact of LIFE projects results on policies is sent in September 2023 to the LIFE projects that have been implemented or are currently being implemented in Republic of Croatia. 15 projects responded to the survey, which results are presented in the Survey report.

A.7 Analysis of the weaknesses leading to low participation and low success rate in LIFE programme

Foreseen start date:	09/2019	Actual start date:	07/2020
Foreseen end date:	12/2020	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
1 guidelines for increased participation in LIFE programme produced • LIFE programme survey report (changed with GA-A) • Preparation of 2 tips and tricks documents (changed with GA-A)	2 LIFE programme survey reports 1 Tips and tricks document prepared (available on project website)

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

A list of 54 rejected project proposals from the 2020 call has been analysed with the most common mistakes highlighted. Experiences from the several available project proposals from the 2021 call have been added. Two surveys with key questions were prepared (3/2023 and 9/2024) detecting the reasons for low participation in LIFE programme. 216 people participated and answers were analysed in detail to be used in improving our identification of target groups and optimization of existing services. Tips and tricks document partially based on conclusions from the first survey was prepared in 8/2023 and published on project website and sent to stakeholder contact list.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

Within GA-A, the creation of two Tips and Tricks documents was planned. One document has been completed, based on a detailed analysis of the most common mistakes found in the evaluations of 54 rejected project proposals. This 40-page document provides fundamental information about the LIFE programme, eligible applicants, and a comprehensive explanation of the evaluation criteria for project proposals, including relevant examples and the most frequent errors identified in the evaluations. Additionally, the document offers a detailed explanation of KPIs in LIFE projects and concludes with useful links. This up-to-date document is available on the project's website for all potential applicants to use it in the future. The creation of the second Tips and Tricks document has been severely hindered due to NCPs losing access to project proposal evaluations on the Funding and Tenders Portal.

A.8 Networking with coordinators of other EU and national networks and funds

Foreseen start date:	10/2019	Actual start date:	05/2021
Foreseen end date:	01/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
20 meetings with coordinators of other EU and national funding sources organised • Organisation of and participation in 12 meetings with managers of the EU funding sources (changed with GA-A)	17 meetings organised with or participated with managers of the EU funding sources

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Seventeen meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, the Horizon 2020 Program and other Union programmes, as a most important holders of EU funds administrative bodies. Cooperation with Europe direct centres was achieved during the organization of regional meetings with target groups. Meetings with Ministry of Foreign Affairs were held in purpose of organization of international conference on sea pollution. Working group meeting for monitoring the implementation of Union programmes in Croatia was held in 3/2024 as well as 4 online workshops "Online presentation of Union programs intended for potential users at the level of Croatian regions", both in cooperation with Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds.

A complete contact list of HR coordinators of other EU funds has been drafted. PC attended a meeting of a Working Group for monitoring of implementation of the Union Programmes in HR and held a presentation on LIFE in 5/2021.

A comprehensive list of potential synergies between the Common Agricultural Policy and LIFE has been sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, after they contacted NCP, after receiving input from EC on the CAP strategic plan for HR.

Europe Direct organised meeting with their partners in 10/2023 where LIFE team presented possibilities of funding. In cooperation with Europe Direct, our team presented LIFE programme at four regional workshops, in Rijeka, Koprivnica, Zadar and Šibenik.

Bilateral meeting with the EKO FOND - Fund for Environmental Protection of Montenegro was held in 11/2023 to discuss potential cooperation based on MNG interest to participate in the LIFE programme.

EUSAIR Conference on the protection of waters and seas from plastic and microplastic pollution was held in 11/2023. During Croatia's Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), where one of the priorities was the preservation of seas and waters and the prevention of plastic and microplastic pollution, HR NCP presented the LIFE Programme as a potential source of funding for improving the environmental situation and showcased LIFE projects that have developed solutions to reduce plastic use in sectoral activities (shellfish production, etc.).

A.9 LIFE projects networking platform with Croatian beneficiaries

Foreseen start date:	09/2019	Actual start date:	05/2021
Foreseen end date:	01/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
18 meetings with LIFE beneficiaries organised	16 meetings with LIFE beneficiaries organised

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

A joint online meeting with LIFE beneficiaries was held in 6/2021, as a first step to creating a networking platform. Representatives of 14 projects were present. This created a pool of LIFE beneficiaries which serves as basis for exchange of knowledge and experience, strengthening the network of contacts and creating new partnerships.

NCP team attended online LIFE Euroturtles final conference in 12/2021, and two more final conferences in person. LIFE Lynx final conference was attended by two team members, in Zadar, 9/2023, where details on the history of the Dinaric SE Alpine lynx population, international conservation and management of the Eurasian lynx, and genetic management for the future viability of the Dinaric-South eastern Alpine lynx population were presented. HD NAT attended two days LIFE Artina final conference in Seget Donji 5/2023. The conference was a platform for presenting project findings, sharing experiences from similar projects, and engaging in discussions about future guidelines for seabird conservation. Two LIFE Artina project online webinars in 3/2023 and 6/2023 were also attended.

HD CLIMA and HD CET attended one day LIFE4GREENBROADBAND conference in Osijek 11/2022, in which the panels focused on the potentials of solar, wind, and geothermal energy, and the need for regulatory changes to accelerate the energy transition in Croatia. Four NCP team members also attended final event of the LIFE4GREENBROADBAND project in Zagreb 6/2024.

Head of Department and PA attended LIFE CROLIS visibility event in Zagreb 10/2023, where speakers emphasized the project's importance in meeting European climate change goals and presented various aspects of the project, from developing data models to integrating with existing systems.

HD CLIMA and HD CET attended CET HEAT and HeatMineDH conference in Zagreb 6/2024, where participants presented the latest research, technologies, and projects related to efficient and sustainable heating, with a particular focus on the use of renewable energy sources and the reduction of harmful emissions.

HR NCP and HD NAT attended LIFE RESTORE for MDD project presentation event in Noskovci 2/2024. Participants also cycled through the Mura-Drava Regional Park, the cross-border Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve, the Natura 2000 ecological network, and the European Green Belt, and they discovered the rich biodiversity of wetland habitats and learn about the vital role these ecosystems play in maintaining biodiversity and a healthy climate.

HD NAT physically attended first day of the Dinara back to LIFE conference “Working Together Towards Grasslands Sustainability (Cross-sectoral Approach)” in Sinj, 3/2023. Few days after, five members of the NCP team, within the same conference, attended one day project locations field visit, in which participants observed the results of grassland restoration,

including controlled burns and mechanical shrub removal, and saw examples of restored infrastructure for livestock and biodiversity.

Six members of NCP team visited LIFE Wild Wolf project, in Zagreb, 3/2023. Presentation detailed the project's activities, which are designed to balance wolf conservation with the needs of local communities. NCP team gained knowledge of how the combination of scientific research, education, and collaboration with various stakeholders during the project promotes the sustainable coexistence of humans and wolves in Croatia. Visits to LIFE projects provide an invaluable source of information and insights for the NCP, enabling the NCP to gain a deeper understanding of project implementation, identify best practices, recognize potential challenges, and gather valuable feedback to improve future NCP activities and support for potential applicants. These visits are a key element in the learning and development process of the Helpdesk Officers, who have gained insights into the challenges faced by individual projects and how they were successfully addressed, improved cooperation with partners, the impact of projects on local communities, and successful communication strategies. This knowledge was subsequently used in providing advice to potential applicants at consultations and various events.

As a part of the 3 Info days and 4 regional workshops, NCP invited LIFE beneficiaries to present their projects, share experiences in project writing and implementation and organised “project fairs” as an opportunity for networking and transfer of know-how to be presented to potential applicants.

In 12/2022, NCP team organised networking event for Croatian LIFE beneficiaries and multisector network, where presentation of 17, mostly new, LIFE projects were held, in relation to key sectoral politics, with the aim of successfully implementing existing and potentially realizing new projects in the future.

Another LIFE beneficiaries' networking event took place in 2/2024, providing a platform for sharing practical experiences in project implementation, application, and post-project sustainability. HR NCP presented the possibilities of applying for a project under the TA-R Call. Participants also strengthened their collaboration with the national contact point team.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

Due to circumstances described under section 4.2 and action A.1 this action has been modified in implementation to achieve results and the approach showed even better outcome.

A.10 Translation of various documents

Foreseen start date:	04/2020	Actual start date:	10/2020
Foreseen end date:	05/2020	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
4 LIFE application packages translated • Translation of 4 important documents (changed with GA-A)	3 important documents translated

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Two important documents were translated by the midterm report: Model LIFE grant agreement (11/2020) and Multiannual work programme 2021-2024 (8/2021). It was decided to translate

the "Annotated Grant Agreement" (AGA), a comprehensive guide to the administrative and financial rules governing the LIFE Programme for the 2021-2027 funding period, released in 5/2024, which provides detailed explanations and examples for each clause of the Grant Agreement. The goal is to enhance the accessibility and comprehensibility of the LIFE Programme for potential applicants and thereby boosting the number of Croatian applications. The translation of this document was complete in 9/2024, and once it is formally approved after a thorough review by the NCP team, it will be made available on the HR NCP's website for all potential Croatian applicants. Additionally, we have reached out to the Croatian NCPs for the Horizon Europe programme, as part of our synergistic activities, with the intention to publish the document on their websites as well, ensuring its accessibility to all relevant applicants.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

New LIFE programme brought completely different applicant packages with a large number of similar documents. It was decided not to translate them all and rather focus on specific, most useful documents.

A.11 Helpdesk consultations on project proposals

Foreseen start date:	04/2019	Actual start date:	04/2019
Foreseen end date:	03/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
400 potential beneficiaries consulted	more than 500 potential beneficiaries consulted
4 FAQ documents published	4 FAQ documents published

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

This is a flagship action of the project and one of the few that was implemented in every moment through efforts of the PC and, previously, SAs. The project team was participating through drafting written response and attending meetings. The FAQ document was updated every year and published on the project’s website.

A.12 Facilitation of national co-financing

Foreseen start date:	04/2019	Actual start date:	04/2019
Foreseen end date:	03/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
4 calls for national co-financing prepared and published • 6 calls for national co-financing prepared and published (changed with GA-A	6 calls for national co-financing prepared and published

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

The project team successfully prepared and published 6 public calls in cooperation with the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (EPEEF) for years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. NCP team published public calls for national co-financing every year during the project on project's website, social networks and via newsletter.
To simplify the national co-financing application process, NCP team in cooperation with EPEEF simplified the application form, and the team took the responsibility for creating the co-financing declarations for the projects that applied for the national cofinancing, thereby reducing the administrative burden on applicants. The Fund signs this declaration with a "to be confirmed" status. These simplifications, combined with comprehensive NCP support, have led to a substantial increase in project applications for both national co-financing and the LIFE Programme as a whole in 2024, when 16 applications for national cofinancing were received.

A.13 Study visit to best practice LIFE projects

Foreseen start date:	04/2019	Actual start date:	04/2019
Foreseen end date:	03/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	10/2023

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
1 study visit for up to 25 participants organised	1 study visit with 29 participants organised

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

A two days study visit to Slovenia in 10/2023 was organized by the HR NCP team, with help from SI NCP colleagues who provided us with meeting venue and catering on the first day of visit. The visit aimed to provide 29 participants (representatives from relevant institutions, as possible applicants) with firsthand experience of implementing LIFE projects and their impact on environmental protection. Participants visited projects focused on climate change, circular economy, water management, and biomass utilization (LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE, LIFE turn to E-circular, LIFE HIDAQUA, LIFE BioTHOP and three other LIFE projects in which TECOS Company is partner). The visit highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing and cooperation between countries in addressing environmental challenges and expanded the possibility of cooperation between Croatian and Slovenian applicants on future LIFE projects. A survey conducted after the visit showed that 100% of the participants were completely satisfied with the organization, and they highlighted most valuable aspect of the trip to be gaining knowledge in implementing LIFE projects and addressing administrative challenges as well as establishing new contacts.

Slovenian NCP colleagues, with their valuable experience in LIFE projects, are available to provide guidance and support for any future questions from the interested potential applicants, especially regarding the possibility of applying for an Croatian IP project.

A.14 Organization of Writer's workshops

Foreseen start date:	06/2019	Actual start date:	06/2020
Foreseen end date:	07/2022	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
8 workshops organised and 400 participants trained • 6 workshops organised and 120 participants trained (changed with GA-A)	Organisation of 4 writers' workshops with 280 participants

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Two writer's workshops were organised in cooperation with NEM, who could provide applicants with concrete answers to their questions:

- Extended FAQ session with NEM for LIFE-ENV & NAT 2020 call (hybrid, 6/2020, 13 participants)
- Extended FAQ session with NEM for LIFE-CLIMA 2020 call (online, 9/2020, 6 participants)

With external assistance from Slovenian expert, 21participants were educated through detailed insight into project logic for LIFE proposal and implementation skills. Workshop was organised live in 7/2023. In addition to engaging an external expert to lead the workshop, the procurement included the venue and catering.

To reach more possible applicants and workshop attendees, writer's workshop was held in 9/2024 in cooperation with experienced successful Croatian applicants who held a joint presentation covering the entire process of writing a LIFE project proposal. The presentation included the logic of preparing a project proposal, budget categories, structure of application forms, selection process, bonus points, and practical examples of budget compilation, with a special emphasis on budget items and the issue of involving volunteers. Throughout the workshop, participants asked questions via chat and the Q&A section, and HD Officers provided answers. This workshop was recorded and published on project website and social networks. Workshop was attended by 240 participants.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

The workshops held were useful to project applicants, although not delivered in a detailed technical level as in previous CAP. First two writer's workshops were organised online and hybrid due to circumstances described under section 4.2 and action A.1. After opening the possibility for live gatherings, workshop was organised but with only 21 participants. This led to a conclusion that workshop in online form could bring more opportunity for possible applicants out of Zagreb as during other activities (such as regional meeting with target groups) participants showed greater interest. Due to that, the workshop in 9/2024 was held online and was attended by 240 participants which showed the right approach to reach more people.

A.15 Meetings with potential IP beneficiaries

Foreseen start date:	09/2019	Actual start date:	02/2021
Foreseen end date:	10/2022	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
24 meetings organised • 10 meetings organised (changed with GA-A)	5 meetings organised
1 LIFE IP/SIP/SNAP concept note facilitated	2 LIFE IP/SIP/SNAP concept notes facilitated

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

CAP team organised or attended 5 meetings with stakeholders interested in applying for a IP/SIP/SNAP:

- Waste IP related meeting (7/2019)
- Facilitated meeting with IP applicants and EASME (9/2020)
- Water IP related meeting (2/2021)
- SNAP related meeting (5/2022)
- Climate IP related meeting (7/2022)

We sent out multiple emails detailing the opportunities for applying for LIFE strategic projects across various sectors, including nature, climate, waste, water, and energy.

The number of meetings and consultations was larger than reported in the project beginning and it resulted in 2 (unsuccessful) IP proposals:

- LIFE19 IPE/HR/000014 Implementation of Croatia's waste management plan
- LIFE20 IPE/HR/000002 National Joint Actions of Water and Nature in Croatia

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

Major identified problem is lack of capacity of HR public bodies for preparation of a SIP/SNAP, although the level of interest and understanding is rising. Nevertheless, ESI funds remain the main source of funds and focus for environmental topics. CAP team increased the promotion of TA projects to address the issue and continued to reach out towards potential SIP/SNAP applicants and provided the necessary support.

C. Actions for communication and for dissemination

C.1 Meetings with target groups

Foreseen start date:	04/2019	Actual start date:	05/2019
Foreseen end date:	03/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	05/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
50 meetings attended with 2.500 stakeholders informed • 25 meetings attended with 2.500 stakeholders informed (changed with GA-A)	25 meetings attended with 2.000 stakeholders informed

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

CAP team managed to organise or attend 25 meetings with target groups:

- Presentation on EU funding possibilities for INA oil company workshop (physical, 6/2019, acca 20 participants)
- Presentation on workplace health conference (physical, 5/2019, 65 participants)
- Three-day meeting of Angelo Salsi with potential applicants (physical, 1/2020, 40 participants)
- Presentation on Office for Cooperation with NGOs info day (online, 3/2021, 100 participants)
- Presentation on gathering of nature protection sector public institutions' expert services (physical, 9/2021, 107 participants)
- Presentation at a webinar on funding of green transition (online, 5/2022, 21 participants)
- Dissemination of informational materials at Greencajt festival (physical, 6/2022, 980 informational materials disseminated)
- Presentation on a project consortium meeting organized by the HR Chamber of commerce (hybrid, 7/2022, 22 participants).
- Presentation on gathering of nature protection sector public institutions' expert services (physical, 10/2022, 108 participants)
- Expert meeting - Waste management, circular economy (physical, 5/2023, 45 participants)
- Expert scientific Conference on urban and peri-urban nature (physical, 9/2023, 109 participants)
- Presentation on gathering of nature protection sector public institutions' expert services (physical,10/2023,135 participants)
- Meeting with the Institute for Nature Protection (physical, 8/2023,8 participants)
- Croatian Association of Employers Conference: Opportunities for financing the energy transition from the LIFE Programme and the Innovation Fund (physical,3/2024, 52 participants)
- International Biodiversity Day and Nature Protection Day - "Wildlife Day" (physical, 5/2024, 35 participants)
- Expert meeting – Waste management, circular economy (physical, 5/2024, 70 participants)
- Regional meetings with target groups in cooperation with Europe Direct centres for business and academic sector stakeholders in Rijeka (5/2024), Zadar (5/2024) and

Šibenik (5/2024) and for private and public bodies in Koprivnica (5/2024); (all 7 workshops physical, 5/2024, 81 participants)

C.2 Organization of Info days

Foreseen start date:	04/2019	Actual start date:	06/2020
Foreseen end date:	02/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	06/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
18 info days organised with 1.600 participants informed • 14 info days organised with 2.300 participants informed (changed with GA-A)	10 info days organised with 1.233 participants informed

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Ten info days were organised:

- LIFE info webinar (online, 6/2020, 152 participants)
- LIFE info webinar - presenting project results (online, 5/2021, 81 participants)
- LIFE info day - new LIFE 2021-2027 (hybrid, 7/2021, 239 participants)
- LIFE thematic info day - SAPs (online, 10/2021, 71 participants)
- LIFE launch info day (hybrid, 5/2022, 250 participants)
- LIFE thematic info day - CET (online, 10/2022, 58 participants)
- LIFE info days (hybrid, 5/2023, 191 participants - 118 on site and 73 online)
- LIFE thematic info webinar - CET (online, 6/2023, 51 participants)
- LIFE info day (physical, 5/2024, 98 participants)
- LIFE thematic info webinar - CET (online, 6/2024, 42 participants)

Preparation of the Info days was done through the CAP team's internal meetings where agenda, presentation topics and event materials were defined and agreed. Experts from Ministry of Economy and sustainable development, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection Fund and Institute for Environment and Nature were invited to present information regarding relevant national policies and trends and national co-financing. Also successful national LIFE projects were contacted and invited to share their experiences with project preparation and implementation and present project results. HD Officers presented subprograms for which they are in charge. Target groups were invited by e-mails sent to project contact list, invitations published on the project website and Facebook page and newsletters were sent. Additionally, invitations were disseminated through various networks, such as "ProNatura" and "UZP" (network of experts for nature protection).

INFO days were very successful. Evaluations of questionnaires show that activity objectives were successfully achieved. Participants expressed high satisfaction with key elements of the events: quality of presentations; content adjusted to participants needs; information's about LIFE Programme; improved knowledge after the workshop.

C.3 LIFE Conference

Foreseen start date:	01/2021	Actual start date:	06/2022
Foreseen end date:	01/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
2 LIFE conferences organised • 3 LIFE conferences organised (changed with GA-A)	3 LIFE conferences organised + co-organisation of 1 joint EUSAIR conference
2 conferences live-streamed	N/A (changed with GA-A)

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

The new project team organised a conference in a form of celebration of 30 years of LIFE event in 6/2022. It was a less formal event with live music and prize contest, together with interactive project presentations. 88 attendees were present. Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development attended the conference and gave the opening speech, and also Angelo Salsi addressed the audience via video connection.

The second conference was the EUSAIR Conference on the protection of waters and seas from plastic and microplastic pollution that was held in 11/2023, in hybrid format. HR NCP presented the LIFE programme as a potential source of funding for improving the environmental situation and showcased LIFE projects that have developed solutions that address plastic pollution in waters.

Third conference "LIFE programme – Catalysator of Green Transition" with 97 participants was organised in 9/2024. High-ranking government representatives from nature and EU funds sector were present. Eight beneficiaries presented their experience with LIFE project preparation and implementation. Panel discussion with 4 participants was organised with focus on the objectives of green policies, challenges in their implementation and financing possibilities with an emphasis on the possibilities of the LIFE Programme. With snacks and networking, a project fair was held in the adjacent hall where 20 LIFE projects presented their work in interaction with visitors and promotional materials. Short interviews with project representatives were also recorded, parts of which were included in the promo video about the conference (published on website and YouTube channel).

Final conference marking the closure of the project was held in 9/2024 with 36 guests as long-time collaborators, friends of LIFE, a network of experts, representatives from the MEPGT, institutions close to the LIFE Program and LIFE projects. The main goal was to present achievements of the project and afterlife plan as well as to encourage those present to think about possible strategic project where NCP offered assistance.

C.4 Communication with media

Foreseen start date:	04/2019	Actual start date:	05/2020
Foreseen end date:	03/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
Communication plan developed	Communication plan developed
Media list updated	Media list updated
35 press releases disseminated • 4 press releases disseminated (changed with GA-A)	7 press releases disseminated
30 newsletters disseminated • 36 newsletters disseminated (changed with GA-A)	34 newsletters disseminated

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

A media list was created in the previous CAP and updated in the current project and further periodically revised. Communication plan was developed in 5/2023 with NCP's communication activities listed and described in detail for further use and since then its goals have been followed and implemented.

Internet portals often picked up news from the project's website which resulted in 120 internet media mentions and 129 news on LIFE projects. Altogether 7 press releases were disseminated and 34newsletters were sent through email to a project's contact list.

C.5 Website and social media

Foreseen start date:	04/2019	Actual start date:	05/2020
Foreseen end date:	03/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
Website regularly updated and maintained with 2 design upgrades undertaken	Website regularly updated and maintained with 1 design upgrade undertaken
Content on social media regularly posted	Content on social media regularly posted

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Previous CAP established a webpage with all the necessary information on the LIFE programme for HR beneficiaries. In 2021 it was redesigned and updated with new functionalities (e.g. find a partner database). A new feature introduced to the website in 2022 was a universal contact form designed to facilitate inquiries from potential applicants (by the end of the project, 29 inquiries had been recorded through the contact form).
Marketing agency was engaged to monitor the usefulness in term of number of consultations requests received and to facilitate stakeholder targeted campaigns on Google, LinkedIn and Facebook. SM posting increased, especially with new LinkedIn company page established. Additional attention was given to LinkedIn since it is a professional networking platform where

stakeholders can be targeted more precisely. Paid campaigns promoting LIFE programme were launched on LinkedIn, Facebook and Google ads. Additionally, strategy document for Internet marketing regarding the needs of NCP was developed by marketing expert engaged in project.

Social media presence was established through 3 platforms (LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook) with 1583 combined followers and posting is mostly regular (important news, sharing other LIFE projects news) and more than 450 SM posts shared, news articles published on the website and all video materials from events uploaded to project's YouTube channel continuously since the beginning of the project.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

Social media and website related activities were going mostly as planned. Additional rise in quality and quantity was made with subcontracting a marketing agency which facilitated stakeholder targeted campaigns and boosted posts on all 4 communication channels.

C.6 Procurement and dissemination of promo materials

Foreseen start date:	10/2019	Actual start date:	11/2020
Foreseen end date:	11/2022	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	04/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
10.000 pieces of promotional materials procured • 7.200 pieces of promotional materials procured (changed with GA-A)	7.100 pieces of promotional materials procured
4 roll-up banners procured	4 roll-up banners procured

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Four batches of promotional materials were procured, all eco-friendly promoting the idea of sustainability, together with 4 roll-up banners, and were disseminated and used in events and meetings:

- 500 facemasks, 500 handbags, 500 wireless earbuds, 500 octopus multi-charge USB cables (11/2020).
- 800 stainless steel straws, 500 thermos bottles, 800 cotton bags, 800 eco pens, 300 bamboo pen sets and & 300 pencils sets, 600 A5 notebooks (11/2021).
- 2 project themed roll-up banners (7/2021)
- 2 LIFE logo roll-up banners (10/2021)
- 400 calendars with coasters (1/2023)
- 600 promo T-shirts (4/2024)

C.7 Informational materials

Foreseen start date:	10/2019	Actual start date:	06/2021
Foreseen end date:	01/2023	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
2 brochures produced • 3 brochures produced (changed with GA-A)	3 brochures produced
3 leaflets produced	3 leaflets produced
2 Natura 2000 factsheets produced • 1 factsheet produced (changed with GA-A)	NO
Layman's report produced	Layman's report produced

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Informational materials were produced by the project and are being disseminated in events and meetings. Design was subcontracted while the project team prepared the content.

Three brochures, each in 600 copies, were produced:

- Two brochures in A4 format were produced, one regarding LIFE projects in Croatia (LIFE-NAT, LIFE-ENV and LIFE-CLIMA) and another regarding LIFE projects in Croatia (LIFE-CET), both for the period 2018. till 2022.
- One brochure in A5 format was produced with basic information, named Introduction to LIFE programme

Three leaflets were produced:

- Two classical folding leaflets, one with information on the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 was produced in 2.000 copies in 7/2021 and another with information on SIP/SNAP in 750 copies in 5/2022. Design was subcontracted while the project team prepared the content.
- An A4 format leaflet that can be folded into an origami frog was produced in 500 copies in 5/2022 for celebration of 30 years of LIFE programme. Front side design was borrowed from CINEA's leaflet on the topic with information on 30 years of LIFE in Europe, while the back side has information on 30 years of LIFE in HR for which the project team prepared the content.

Layman's report was produced in 50 copies immediately after the end of all project activities.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

Based on previous CAP and other projects' experiences, general intention was to reduce the number of printed materials. Reconsiderations of necessary budget and number of copies resulted with decrease in number of Layman's report copies (reduced to 50 copies as digital version is available on project website) and dropping printed copies of Natura 2000 factsheets with replacement to additional two videos about LIFE in Croatia and also about experiences in LIFE projects implementation and green policies objectives (available on project website and social media, with Croatian and English subtitles).

C.8 Promotional video

Foreseen start date:	01/2019	Actual start date:	06/2024
Foreseen end date:	04/2022	Actual (or anticipated) end date:	09/2024

Deliverables/milestones planned (GA):	**Achieved**
1 video produced	3 videos produced

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:

Three promotional videos were produced by the project:

- Short interviews with project representatives during conference "LIFE programme – Catalysator of Green Transition" were recorded, parts of which were included in the promo video with a purpose of promoting LIFE programme (published on website and YouTube channel). Recording and scripting was subcontracted and NCP team prepared questions and provided interviewing
- Short video with information about LIFE programme and its subprogrammes and statistics about Croatian participants and number of Croatian projects (with scenes recorded during "LIFE programme – Catalysator of Green Transition" conference)
- Animated video presenting subprogrammes of the LIFE programme was prepared. The video uses attractive animated visuals and narration to improve understanding of the LIFE programme and subprogrammes and to motivate potential applicants to submit project applications to the LIFE programme. The video concludes with NCP's contact details for further inquiries and it is published on website and YouTube channel.

Identified problems, deviations, and corrective actions:

As already mentioned in C.7, overall intention was to reduce the number of printed materials so the Natura 2000 factsheet was replaced with animated video that could also provide main information about LIFE Programme but could reach much more people as it was sent to a contact list and was promoted on all public events.

Preparation of the "After-LIFE plan"

After-LIFE plan was prepared and will be delivered with Final Report.

4.2. Analysis of impacts and benefits

Policy impact

Policy impact may seem limited, but previous and current CAP enhanced the visibility of LIFE greatly. All the major stakeholders from public administration are now aware of LIFE purpose and benefits. This is especially true for nature protection and climate sectors where directorates of MESD/MEPGT are coordinating beneficiaries on LIFE projects (LIFE Crolis, LIFE Contra Ailanthus, Improve River LIFE). In this way they are directly achieving goals of national and EU legislation in areas of IAS and LULUCF. Also, LIFE as a source of funding is being included in all the major planning documents (such as Prioritisation Action Framework, Low-Carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia Until 2030 with a view to 2050, Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for Croatia for the period 2021-2030)

LIFE proposals improvement

During the duration of this project, the Republic of Croatia had increased number of applications (while NCP has access to some project applications, our visibility into the total number of submissions is limited during the current year), and 77 projects were approved for funding from the LIFE programme.

We can conclude that interest in the LIFE programme is increasing and that the quality of applications is improving.

Replication and transferability

The project organised events in which the results of LIFE projects were actively promoted, both to stakeholders and general public, and in that way promoted potential replicability and integration in policies.

A system of national co-financing has been initiated and it’s functioning from 2016. In the meantime, the government’s Office for Cooperation with NGOs started co-financing LIFE projects for NGOs and cooperation with them has increased.