



Life Capta  
BG



Ministry of Environment  
and Water



# LAYMAN REPORT

LIFE CAPTA: Joint Actions for Environment



**BULGARIA** is a small country with varied nature and landscape, abundant flora and fauna, mountains and marine territories.



# LIFE Programme

We live in a limited space, where everything is related - through the food chain to the cycles of water and rocks. There is some flexibility in nature, but serious disruption of these cycles, for example through air pollution with hotspots, inappropriate agricultural practices, irrigation projects, large-scale industrial fishing, destabilize the balance in nature.

## The LIFE programme in a nutshell:

- LIFE could support your project related to protecting environment, nature and biodiversity or climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- LIFE supports government institutions, SMEs, large businesses, NGOs
- LIFE supports environmental policy development and implementations
- LIFE is open to innovation and environmental business ideas that are Close-to-Market

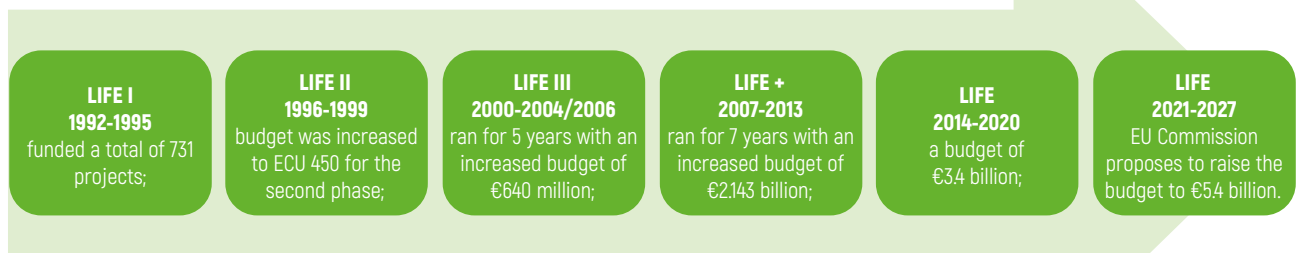
## Did you know that...?

The LIFE programme is the oldest European environmental programme - it began in 1992 and has to date co-financed more than 5,400 projects.

The LIFE programme is a financial instrument of the European Union, supporting projects for protection of the environment, nature and climate in the territory of the EU. The programme is designed to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environment and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

The programme ran each funding period with an increased budget, it seeks to expand the range of measures to meet the new challenges facing each EU member state.

The approach is through cooperation between institutions, sectors, civic engagement and concrete steps on specific issues.



The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 will be increased by about 30%.





# Capta BG Project: First Step Towards Change

This is a project designed to build Bulgaria's capacity to participate more effectively in the LIFE Programme by raising awareness, promotion activities of the LIFE programme, widening media and stakeholder coverage and enhanced policy uptake.

The key achievements of the project are: raised awareness of the LIFE programme opportunities by enhancing the support for potential beneficiaries and applicants in the programme's calls and improved capacity by effective and efficient organization of the LIFE Contact point in Bulgaria.

## Four specific goals on focus:

1

Systematic analysis, streamlining and enhancing the beneficiary consultancy and support process;

2

Increasing the capacity of the National Contact Point (NCP) and creating a better equipped, interactive and spatially distributed focal point;

3

Established Regional Contact Points with regularly trained experts and improved capacity;

4

Enhancing the LIFE policy integration, multiplication of project results, and coordination between funding sources, stakeholders' networking and institutional interactions;





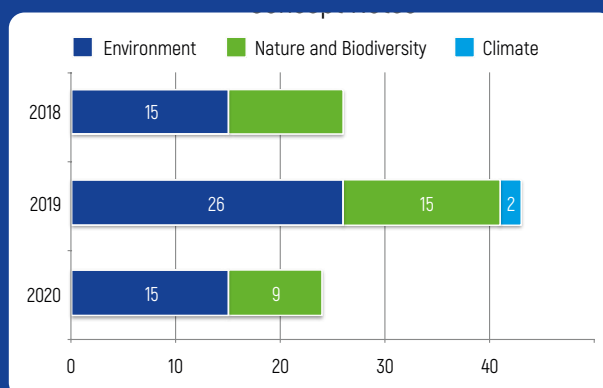
## Before/ After or what has been achieved:

During the LIFE 2017 Call, the potential beneficiaries in Bulgaria submitted 23 project proposals, of which the MOEW supported directly with letters of support (Form A8) 16 projects from 23 applications requesting support;

10 Concept Notes were approved and the First Integrated project for Bulgaria, with Coordinating Beneficiary – Sofia Municipality was approved. At the second stage – development of full project proposals, the NCP issued 9 letters of support;

During the LIFE 2019 Call, Bulgarian beneficiaries submitted 47 project proposals for the LIFE 2019 Call, 2 of which were for the Climate action sub-programme. The NCP issued 3 letters of support for LIFE climate proposals.

### Concept Notes



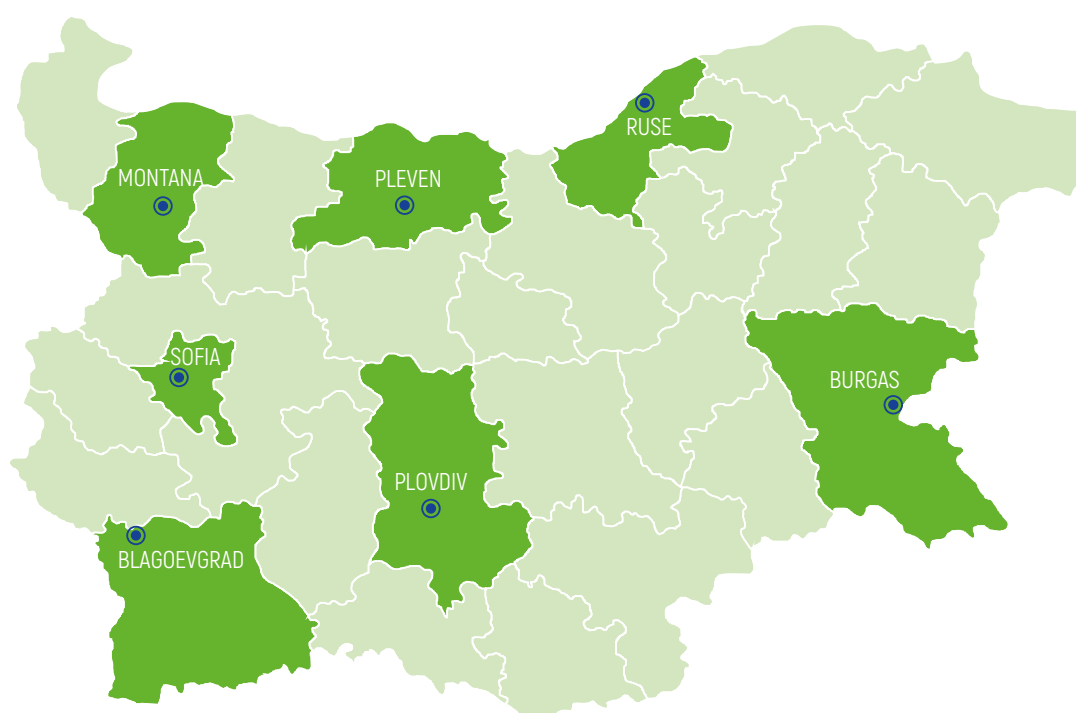
## Strong Support from NCP

With the support of the Project Team, the establishment of the Regional Contact points and the increased awareness and information spread about the LIFE Programme, the CAPTA BG Project reached a wide variety of stakeholders on regional level and nationwide.

As there is improved access to applicants to open calls for proposals and there is a partner search platform in place, there is an increased number of submitted Bulgarian proposals, many of these involve international partners.

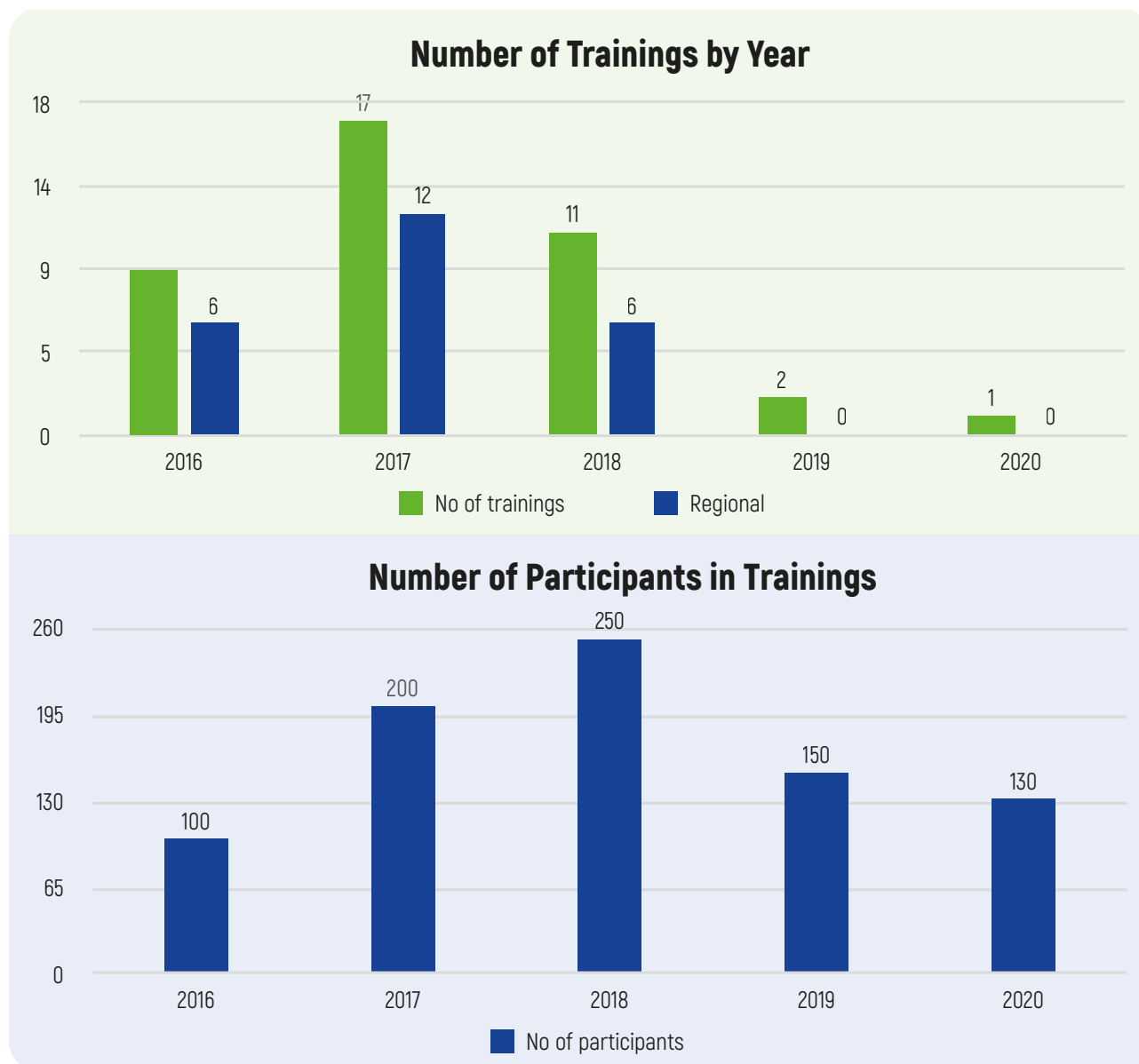
An opportunity for establishing cooperation and partnerships internationally was also provided through a number of exchange visits in countries that traditionally are very successful in the LIFE programme like Italy, Spain, Finland, Denmark, Latvia, etc.

Structuring the National Contact Point (NCP) and the regional contact points (RCP):



# Support to Applicants and Beneficiaries

A training programme was launched and implemented at national and regional level with more than 780 participants in 40 trainings and information days throughout the country. In 2020, despite the great interest, due to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prevention measures the Info day and training was on-line. It was a one-day webinar with 130 participants. In 2019 there were 2 trainings and info days with a total number of 150 participants.



## Coaching Meetings and Consultancy

Initially, in 2016 – 2017 several coaching meetings were held for discussing project proposals, related to the calls for proposals. Besides, there were 4 thematic workshops carried out in 2017, with a total number of 103 participants; over 730 individual consultation video trainings elaborated and uploaded on Climate topics and Financial topics; over 90 consultations (including FAQ) made.

The Guides accompanying each call have been translated into Bulgarian since 2018 to reach more potential applicants.







# Partner Search Tools

In response to the enormous interest and due to various reasons, matchmaking events were transferred to electronic. With the launch of the website though and the special partner search tool are developed. Besides the participants in matchmaking events through the years, there are 91 organizations (including 7 foreign) who are in search of partners. The networking platform ([www.life-Bulgaria.bg](http://www.life-Bulgaria.bg)) is popularized via the Facebook project page and other media channels.

The screenshot displays the 'Partners search' section of the LifeBulgaria website. The header includes the LifeBulgaria logo, navigation links (HOME, ABOUT US, LIFE PROGRAMME, CAPTA BG PROJECT, NEWS, EVENTS, BLOG, FORUM, WEBINARS, USEFUL LINKS, PARTNER SEARCH), and user options (LOGIN, REGISTER, CONTACT EMAIL: lifencp@moew.government.bg). The main content area is titled 'Partners search' and features a grid of six partner profiles, each with a green header, a silhouette or photo, a role, a category, and a country (all listed as Bulgaria). The profiles are: 1. БАН (Coordinating beneficiary, NATURAL PERSON); 2. Агенция за икономическо развитие Варна (АИР Варна) (Associated beneficiary, PRIVATE NON-COMMERCIAL (INCLUDING NGOS)); 3. Евроалтернатива ООД (Coordinating beneficiary, COMPANY); 4. Assen Zlatarov University (Expert, EDUCATIONAL AND/OR RESEARCH INSTITUTION); 5. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Dragomir Dobrudzhaliev (Expert, NATURAL PERSON); 6. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Dragomir Dobrudzhaliev (Expert, NATURAL PERSON). To the right of the grid is a search filter sidebar with sections: 'Keywords' (input field), 'Area of interest' (checkboxes for Nature and Biodiversity, Environment and Resource Efficiency, Environmental Governance and Information, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Governance and Information, Integrated Projects, Climate Change Mitigation), 'Legal status' (input field), 'Type of cooperation' (checkboxes for Associated beneficiary, Coordinating beneficiary, Co-financer, Subcontractor, Expert), and 'Country' (input field). A blue 'SEARCH' button is located at the bottom right of the sidebar.

There is a steadily increasing number of submitted project applications from Bulgaria, as the variety of beneficiaries is also increasing as types and project topics. This comes to show that the programme becomes more familiar and the capacity of potential beneficiaries is improving. The introduction of two-step application also contributes to this development.



# Improving the Visibility of the Life Programme

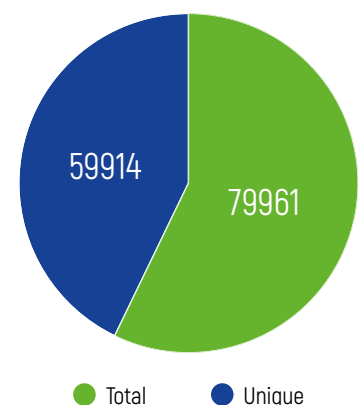
An interactive website for conducting webinars, remote support and helpdesk - a fully operational programme website was developed and launched to become a powerful visibility and communication tool. It is in both languages – English and Bulgarian <http://www.life-bulgaria.bg/>; the contents and functionalities of the website are being continuously updated and enriched. There is a webinar section that is used for trainings and there is also a partner search tool.



Besides the website, a Media campaign for LIFE funding opportunities and NCP support was held that included special radio spots, TV broadcasts, videoclips and audio advertisements. The materials are: 519 radio airings (228 in 2018 and 291 in 2019; 3.8% increase from the planned ones); 213 TV airings (108 in 2018 and 105 in 2019; 326% increase from the planned ones); 3 video clips and 3 audio advertisements were produced in March 2018 and during the webinar, held on 16th June, 2020 TV clips were spread to all participants.

Publicity materials were also produced and given out at various events. These included: More than 5000 pcs (leaflets, bilingual and giveaways) elaborated: 5000 pcs in 2017 and 2018; 4200 pcs in 2019; 500 new leaflets promoting the job and functions of the NCP and the RCP.

Page views by May 31, 2020





# Our Success Stories

# 37

PROJECTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION IN BULGARIA:

- 26 Nature Protection and Biodiversity
- 3 Governance and Information
- 2 Climate Change Mitigation
- 2 Environment
- 1 Integrated Project – Bulgarian Clean Air
- 2 Technical Assistance Projects
- 1 Capacity Building Project







LIFE12NAT/BG/001218



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# What Comes Next

As a result of direct support to beneficiaries, a form of local community stakeholders' collaboration was identified.

The CAPTA BG project team will continue its targeted support to potential applicants and beneficiaries.

- A strong need to establish an operational financial instrument to support applicants in co-financing of their project ideas;
- Encouraging institutions to apply in promoting environmental and climate change policies;
- Support of beneficiaries in LIFE project management through targeted support from the NCP and regional contact points;
- Highly targeted, focused specific trainings to applicants, with hands-on experience and practical trainings on all steps of developing a successful project;
- Continued awareness raising campaigns and promotion of the programme, emphasizing on successful Bulgarian projects and providing examples to stakeholders and interested potential applicants.



## Beneficiary Data

Project start and end date	01/01/2016 - 31/07/2020
Project name	CAPacity Building Technical Assistance to the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water for Implementing the LIFE Programme - LIFE14/CAP/BG/00013
Total budget	€ 520.995 of which € 511.833 EU contribution
Beneficiary	Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW), Co-ordination of EU Affairs and International Co-operation Directorate
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Project Website	<a href="http://www.life-bulgaria.bg/">http://www.life-bulgaria.bg/</a>