

EN

E-00482/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.4.2025)

The EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE¹) provides amongst others financial support for the functioning of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), supporting civil society's participation to policy making, in line with the LIFE Regulation² and the EU Financial Regulation³. Each year, 30 to 35 operating grant agreements are awarded competitively under the LIFE Programme, while annually the amount committed to these grants is around EUR 14,5 million.

These operating grants are awarded following a competitive procedure. Calls published annually⁴ set out the criteria under which the grants will be awarded. Applicants submit proposals that include the description of their work programmes of activities in areas indicated in the LIFE Regulation. This description is annexed to the grant agreement. The work programme may mention, among other activities, advocacy activities.

The Commission does not prescribe the specific applicant's activities in their work-programmes. The Commission also does not require NGOs to advocate in favour or against specific EU policy initiatives as a condition for Union financing, nor does it instruct them to support any specific positions. According to the grant agreements, any opinions expressed, and activities carried out remain the sole responsibility of NGOs. The Commission has recently issued guidance⁵ addressed to all Commission services for all spending programmes, clarifying which activities should not be mandated as a condition for Union financing.

¹ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en

² Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402509

⁴ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/framework-partnership-agreements-fpa-og_en and https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/specific-operating-grant-agreements-sga-og_en

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/guidance-funding-dev-impl-monit-enforce-of-eu-law_en.pdf