

THREE BILLION ADDITIONAL TREES BY 2030

3 BILLION TREES PLEDGE

Financing Guide

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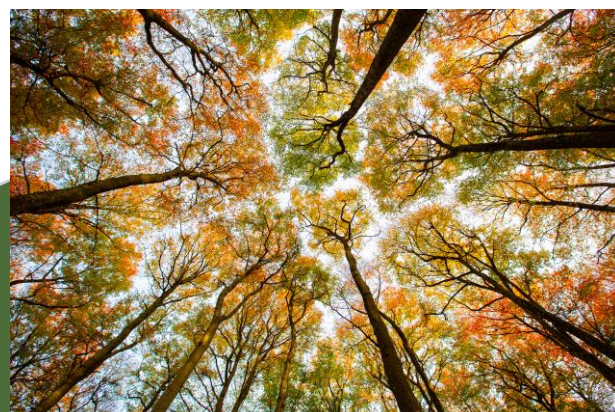
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Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CF	Cohesion Fund
EEA	European Environment Agency
EGD	European Green Deal
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
JTF	Just Transition Fund
MS	Member State
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
PO	Policy Objective
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EIB	European Investment Bank
RFF	Recovery and Resilience Facility



Chapter 1:

INTRODUCTION: THIS GUIDE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING FOR TREE PLANTING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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This financing guide has been created within the project of the European Commission, DG Environment 'Support for implementing the 3 Billion Trees Pledge' implemented by a consortium led by Milieu Consulting SRL with the participation of Ecologic and Strith.

The 3 Billion Trees Pledge is an EU commitment to promote the planting of at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030, which was expressed in EU strategic documents such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030¹ and the EU Forest Strategy for 2030². Organisations and citizens who want to join the EU pledge can register the trees they have planted through the Forest Information System for Europe managed by the European Environment Agency (EEA)³ or through the [MapMyTree web App](#), respectively.

The EU pledge aims to address the climate and biodiversity crises and for that reason requires all planting initiatives to be subject to several eligibility conditions, including ecological criteria, which are described in specific documents, such as the Staff Working Document "The 3 Billion Trees Pledge for 2030"⁴ and the Afforestation Guidelines⁵. More information about the pledge and its progress can be accessed on the dedicated website of the European Commission⁶.

While the EU pledge will not solve the climate or the biodiversity crisis by itself, planting new trees can contribute to a broader conservation action. Additional action at global and European level is needed to promote forest conservation, environment and biodiversity protection and substantial greenhouse gas emissions' reduction. Since trees take decades to grow and the effects of carbon sequestration also need decades to be materialised, action must be taken now to achieve the additional carbon reduction needed in the future⁷.

Lack of funding and information on funding possibilities is one of the main obstacles that stakeholders mentioned during the outreach events organised within the 'Support for

implementing the 3 Billion Trees Pledge' project. The stakeholders involved are already implementing their tree planting initiatives or are interested in such actions. While there is not a specific funding instrument linked to the 3 Billion Trees Pledge, an broad array of possibilities at EU and national level have been identified within this guide. This publication therefore aims to support stakeholders interested in tree planning in seeking financial support for their initiatives.



OBJECTIVES AND TARGETED AUDIENCE

The main objective of this financing guide is to provide information to stakeholders interested in finding (additional) funding sources for their tree planting initiatives and, potentially, in being registered in the EU tree counter devoted to the EU pledge. The guide can also be useful to anyone interested in implementation of projects with tree planting components or in implementation of projects with a broader scope relating to biodiversity and nature protection, in particular at the intersection with forestry, urban and agricultural land use planning. Since most of the funding instruments described in this guide provide funding primarily or even exclusively for institutional stakeholders such as public authorities, companies and organisations, this guide will be most useful for such types of stakeholders. Nevertheless, the guide can also inform individuals who are interested in getting involved in projects supporting tree planting and nature protection about the existing financing opportunities and types of stakeholders who are implementing such projects.

With regard to the effective inclusion of trees into urban landscape (including along transport infrastructure), stakeholders who intend to implement tree planting initiatives are recommended to consult the local authorities for urban green spaces.

¹ Communication: [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – Bringing nature back to our lives](#).

² Communication: [New EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#).

³ [Forest Information System for Europe, How can I join?](#)

⁴ [SWD\(2021\) 651](#)

⁵ [Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting](#)

⁶ European Commission, [3 Billion Trees Pledge](#)

⁷ [SWD\(2021\) 651](#)

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TYPES OF MEASURES COVERED

The Guide provides information on funding instruments for tree planting measures with the objectives of ensuring biodiversity conservation and climate change. It is meant to serve the planting of native species or species that are not regarded as commercially profitable but have environmental benefits and the preservation of genetic diversity within and between tree species. This excludes the planting of invasive alien species. The EU pledge is not only about planting but also about nurturing, which requires long-term planning and securing the survival of the planted trees over decades.

Other measures that can benefit from this guide include re-planting in case of loss and support for tree nurseries.

The EU pledge covers planting trees in forests areas, in agricultural areas and in urban areas, or along transport or energy infrastructures.

programmes, on-line platforms and other guides related to the financing of projects with a focus on environment and biodiversity, which can be used as additional sources of information for the potential investors and beneficiaries of projects with tree-planting components.

Readers interested in practical information on how to access funding in a specific Member States are advised to consult primarily Chapter 5.

Chapter 5 contains **country-specific information** and guidance about accessing EU funding as well as national funding sources at Member State level.

Country-specific information is divided into sub-sections dealing with EU funding under shared management, EU funding under direct management, national funding sources, and innovative funding sources. A summary of funding sources in the form of a table with practical information including contacts is placed at the end of each country-specific section.



CONTENTS OF THE GUIDE

The guide is organised as follows.

Chapter 2 presents the **typology of the funding sources**, explaining the main features of the funds falling in each category, including the way they are managed, and the methods of disbursement of the funding. For each funding category, an indication is provided regarding its relevance for tree planting.

Chapter 3 provides more detailed and practical information about the **selected funds** which have been identified as the most relevant in each of the categories. This section is organised as a compilation of fiches devoted to each selected funding instrument, with useful links and examples of projects which have been funded.

Chapter 4 presents information about advisory

Chapter 2:

T TYPOLOGY OF THE FUNDING SOURCES RELEVANT FOR TREE PLANTING

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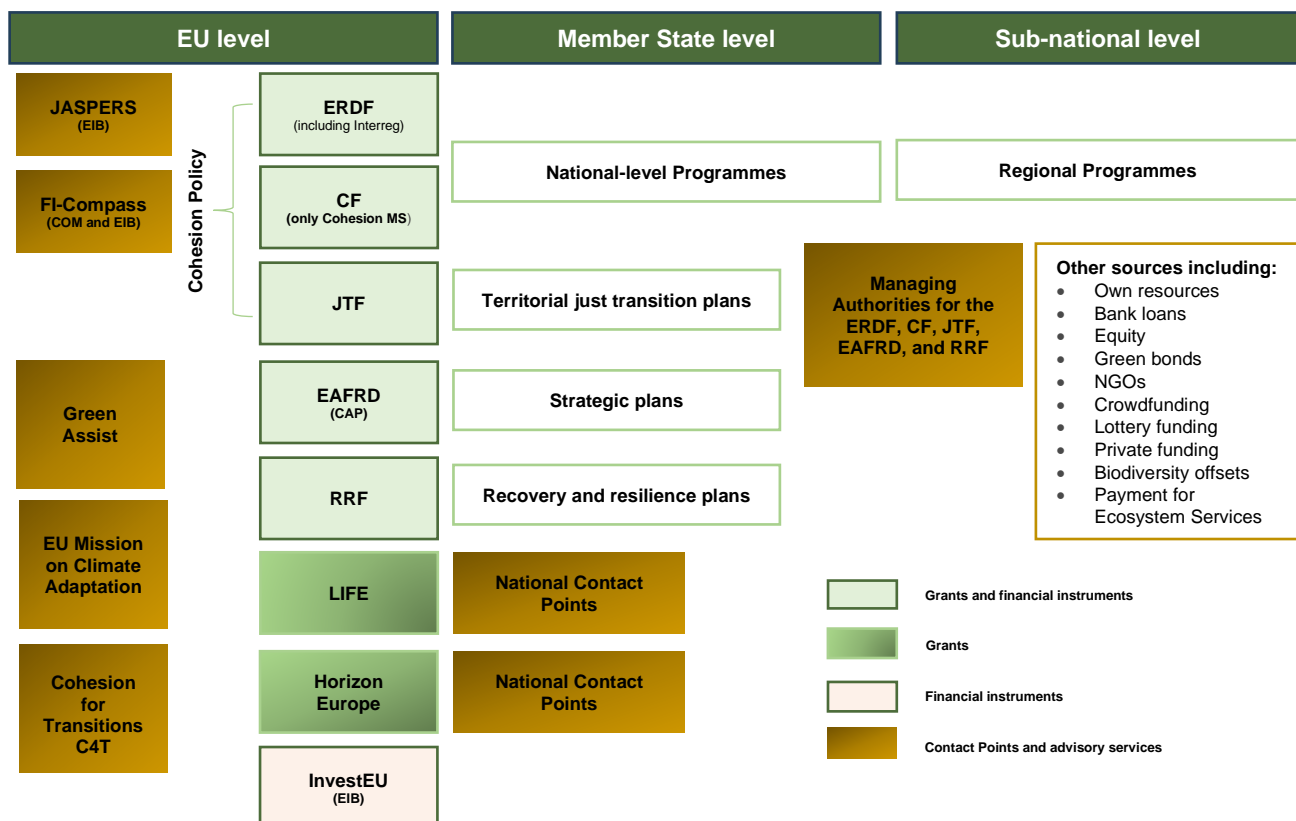
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This financing guide focuses primarily on EU funding and national funding sources relevant for financing projects focusing on biodiversity and nature protection, as these are the key general objectives of the 3 Billion Trees Pledge. Additional types of funding instruments include international (other than EU) funding, and innovative funding sources, which may be used both in national and international contexts. Furthermore, stakeholders planning to implement tree-planting activities can use private market instruments such as loans from financial institutions and a variety of subsidies and financing programmes provided by public institutions at various administrative levels. Since the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities includes “afforestation” and “reforestation”⁸, such types of measures are likely to be prioritized by the financial institutions/programmes which aim at promoting sustainable investments.

Figure 1 below presents the typology of funding sources as presented in our guide. In the figure, the managing authorities refer to national and sub-national authorities in Member States which are responsible for management of programmes that guide the distribution of EU funding. These may be ministries and regional offices as well as their subordinate institutions acting as implementing bodies. Some examples of other sources of funding (other than EU funding) are listed in a box within the figure: these vary per Member State (see Chapter 5 for country-specific information).

Figure 1 Typology of funding sources



The following subsections provide more information about these types of funding sources, while Chapter 3

⁸ For more information about the EU taxonomy, see the dedicated European Commission's [website](#)

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provides more detailed information about the selected funds.



EU FUNDING

The 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (MFF) together with NextGenerationEU, the recovery instrument, form the largest funding opportunities for biodiversity conservation and climate change objectives in the EU budget. As adopted in December 2020, the MFF provides EUR 1 074 trillion for 6 years of which at least 7.5 % in 2024 and 10 % in 2026 and 2027 should be devoted to biodiversity. As a whole, the MFF is meant to provide a total support to the biodiversity spending ambition of about EU 15 billion by 2026⁹.

The **NextGenerationEU** recovery package provides an additional EUR 750 billion in loans and grants through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) which will provide EUR 672.5 billion in loans and grants up to 2026 as well as through REACT-EU, Just Transition Fund, Rural Development, InvestEU, rescEU, and Horizon Europe. The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 states that EU 20 billion a year should be unlocked to finance biodiversity¹⁰.

EU funding that can be used for tree planting is integrated into various EU funds, linking biodiversity goals with broader themes, such as management of land and natural resources, and climate adaptation. EU funds can be divided into two main groups: funds under shared management and funds under direct EU management. **Shared management** means that most of the activities related to planning and management of the funding is carried out by Member State managing authorities, under supervision and guidance of the European Commission. Cohesion Policy and Common Agricultural Policy funding fall into this category.

Direct management means that the European Commission and/or its implementing agencies are responsible for all the steps of programming and management of the funding programmes while the implementation of the projects is done at national/local level. LIFE and Horizon Europe are the principal funding instruments falling into this category. An additional category of funds under **indirect management** can be distinguished, with the European Investment Bank (EIB) funding being the main funding source in this category.

EU funding under shared management

Under shared management rules, it is up to EU Member States and regions to set up priorities and decide how to distribute the available funding across the principal priorities and how to set up the Programmes that award funding to the specific projects.

A group of EU funding instruments under shared management encompasses three funds that are relevant, among others, for environmental (including biodiversity) and climate-related goals: the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**, the **Cohesion Fund (CF)**, and the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**. The ERDF and the CF are defined as structural funds; these funds, together with the European Social Fund (ESF) and **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** are building blocks of Cohesion Policy while the EAFRD reflects the objectives of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). Since the ESF focuses on social policy with the main area being employment and skills, it is not considered relevant for tree planting initiatives. The JTF, on the contrary, may be relevant, as it focuses on transition towards climate neutrality.

Among the Cohesion Policy funds, the ERDF seems to be the most relevant funding instrument for tree planting initiatives. As opposed to the CF

⁹ Financing Natura 2000, EU Funding Opportunities in 2021-2027, May 2022.

¹⁰ [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#)

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and the JTF, it is implemented in all EU regions (the CF and the JTF are targeted at less developed regions and/or territories most affected by the transition to climate neutrality). The CF and the JTF are often used jointly with the ERDF to support national or regional programmes. The ERDF is implemented using two main types of programmes: Member State-specific programmes and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes, referred to as Interreg. These two strands are tackled separately in our guide.

The principal objectives and rules governing the ERDF, CF and the JTF can be found in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) for the period 2021-2027, which sets out five Policy Objectives (POs) for the financing period 2021-2027¹¹. Two of these objectives are the most relevant for tree-planting activities, namely¹²:

- PO 2: 'A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility';
- PO 5: 'A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives'.

The EAFRD can provide funding support contributing to one or more of the nine specific objectives of the CAP, which include among other sustainable management of natural resources, tackling climate change and preserving landscape and biodiversity. The EAFRD is one of the two EU funds under the CAP, dealing with rural development. In addition, the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) is mainly used for direct payments to farmers that are linked to a set of rules, including measures aimed at

biodiversity protection that could be implemented through tree planting. This guide does not present the EAGF in more detail, since direct payments for farmers and their conditionality is not seen as an area falling within the scope of the pledge¹³. However, it is worth noting that there is a new interesting element of the EAGF called the 'eco-schemes', which are voluntary direct payments offering opportunities to use the EAGF to fund annual management commitments on farms contributing to environment, climate or animal welfare, including measures to achieve Natura 2000 site management objectives.

EU funding under direct management

Among directly managed funds, **LIFE** is the largest EU funding instrument that can be used for tree planting initiatives. LIFE supports exclusively environmental and climate-related projects. **Horizon Europe** is the EU instrument supporting the development of innovative projects, including projects aimed at tackling climate change and promoting sustainable development. The third source of funding in this category that is partly relevant to supporting tree planting initiatives is the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RFF)**, which comprises green transition as one of its pillars. Both LIFE and Horizon programmes are managed by the CINEA agency which organises open calls for proposals¹⁴. Another implementing agency, REA, manages and provides advisory services concerning Horizon Europe funding in cluster 6 – funding for food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment¹⁵. The RFF funding is disbursed according to multi-annual programmes (Recovery Plans) prepared by each Member State and approved by the European Commission.

¹¹ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1060](#)

¹² See Article 5 of the CPR.

¹³ According to the [SWD 2021 \(651\)](#), section 1.1.3, trees planted due to legal obligations do not count towards the 3 billion trees pledge.

¹⁴ [CINEA](#), Horizon Europe

¹⁵ European Research Executive Agency, [REA](#), Cluster 6: Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment.

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EU funding under indirect management

In addition to funding under shared management and direct management, one can also distinguish EU funding under indirect management, which applies to situations when the European Commission selects a partner institution for the management and disbursement of EU funding. The European Investment Bank (EIB) serves as such an institution, and InvestEU is a flagship initiative of this type. InvestEU supports, among others, sustainable infrastructure, which may imply projects with tree-planting components (e.g. within a broad category of nature-based solutions).



NATIONAL FUNDING

National funding may take various forms, including aid dedicated to environmental programmes and funds, support to afforestation and land management programmes, funding provided by regional and municipal governments, by non-governmental organisations and foundations or even donors. National-level funding is also needed to complement EU funding, which may provide up to 100 % of funding for individual projects (this is the case for most forest-related interventions under the CAP). In our guide, an overview of institutional national funding opportunities is provided in the country-specific information provided in section 5.



INNOVATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

Innovative funding sources that are covered in our guide include primarily green bonds, payments for ecosystem services (PES), carbon farming and

crowdfunding. In these Guidelines, the concept of PES follows the broad definition set in the [Commission Guidance on the development of Public and Private Payment Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services](#)¹⁶.

National researchers engaged in country-level research have identified several interesting examples of innovative funding sources – these are integrated in the Member State-related sections. It was noted that both green bonds and crowdfunding are becoming increasingly popular in most Member States; however, the relevance of green bonds for tree planting is often difficult to assess. Examples of PES were found in a few Member States (i.e; Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Croatia), with several others being in a testing stage (Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Spain). It can be noted, however, that the CAP payments in the form of agri-environmental measures that are used throughout the EU, can be seen as particular examples of broadly understood PES. CAP payments, however, cover only compensation for income foregone and additional costs incurred¹⁷. On the contrary, under the new State aid Guidelines, Member States will be able to grant an additional incentive for PES beyond income foregone/additional costs.

Furthermore, carbon farming, i.e. land management practices to enhance the uptake and storage of CO₂ in soil and biomass, is gaining popularity, and can also be seen as an innovative, PES-like funding source. Planting trees and other plants is also to be considered carbon farming, as highlighted in the Communication “[Sustainable Carbon Cycles](#)”. This type of measures is supported in the EU within the CAP as well as within LIFE and Horizon Europe funding programmes¹⁸. Moreover, the proposed EU-wide carbon removal certification framework will scale up carbon removal activities, including for planting trees. The proposed regulation sets out rules to certify carbon removals, based on high-quality criteria and a sound process to monitor, report and

¹⁶ See also the [Commission's Guidance on the Development of Public and Private Payment Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services](#).

¹⁷ See for example [Payments for Ecosystem Services](#)

¹⁸ European Commission, Climate Action – [Carbon Farming](#)

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verify the authenticity of these removals, to create financial incentives for land managers through the generation of certificates.

Carbon farming and other initiatives involving tree planting with a goal of generating carbon credits exist both on a national and on a global level. For example, the French initiative „Label Bas-Carbone” is an example of national measure (see country-specific information about France for more details). A project in Spain involves the development of a carbon footprint [Registry](#) established and managed by the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge to promote planting trees initiatives subject to biodiversity and other ecological criteria and with the purpose of offsetting CO₂ emissions (see the country-factsheet). Global voluntary carbon market currently undergoes rapid development, with demand for carbon credits projected to increase by a factor of 15 or more by 2024 and up to 100 by 2050¹⁹. Global certification and registry such as Verra and Gold Standard ensure credibility of the transactions.



INTERNATIONAL (OTHER THAN EU) FUNDING

International sources of funding beyond EU sources can also be used for tree planting initiatives. These include, among others, EEA and Norway grants, funds from the Council of Europe Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and Global Environment Facility (GEF). These funds are, however, dedicated to a limited number of Member States and, except for the GEF, are not fully dedicated to environmental initiatives – they focus primarily on economic and social transition, including among its goals sustainable development and tackling climate change. Due to their limited relevance, they are not developed in this guide.

¹⁹ See Arbonics, 2022

Chapter 3:

INFORMATION ON THE SELECTED FUNDING PROGRAMMES

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ERDF: MEMBER STATE-SPECIFIC FUNDING

Key characteristics: Part of Cohesion Policy, with the main objective of strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion across the EU. Available in all EU regions.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: Two of the Policy Objectives set out for Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: PO2 (Greener Europe) and PO 5 (Europe closer to citizens) are most likely to support biodiversity-related goals. The range of sectors covered by the ERDF is very broad, including preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, as well as climate change adaptation and resilience, taking into account ecosystem approaches²⁰.

Volume of funding: Total volume of the ERDF in the financial period 2021-2027 amounts to over EUR 300 billion. In June 2023, PO2 (Greener Europe²¹) had a planned allocation of EUR 104.4 billion from the ERDF, while PO5 (Europe closer to citizens) had a planned allocation of EUR 26.9 billion²².

Management and disbursement: Shared management, with Programmes on national and regional levels in Member States. The programmes are drafted according to common guidelines and are approved by the European Commission. Managing authorities in each Member State are responsible for designing and implementing the programmes and for the selection of the specific projects to be funded.

Financing mechanisms: mostly grants but other financial instruments such as loans, guarantees or prizes are also possible, depending on the choice of the relevant Managing Authorities.

Co-financing rate: Varies from 40 % for more developed regions to 85 % for less developed regions.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Depending on the programme; a broad range of beneficiaries are eligible, including local authorities, enterprises, civil society organisations, and individuals.

Advisory services: Advisory services are provided by Managing Authorities of programmes relevant to the country and/or region of the planned intervention. However, not all Member States include advisory services promoting afforestation or other types of tree planting initiatives. More information about the ERDF (including information about all Programmes per Member State) can be found under the following links:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes_en

Information about the use of financial instruments in the ERDF can be found using the following link:

<https://www.fi-compass.eu/funds/erdf>



Project example:

Improving the conservation status of forest habitats in the Natura 2000 network in Southwestern Bulgaria

The project contributes to improving the conservation status, coverage and connectivity of forest habitats in Southwestern Bulgaria. Planned activities include afforestation and care for the young forests and planting of over 2 million trees falling within seven protected areas of the Natura 2000 network. Total budget of the project: EUR 6.4 million, with EUR 5.4 million of support from the ERDF.

<https://kohesio.ec.europa.eu/en/projects/Q4697435>

Information about additional projects can be found on the following website:

<https://kohesio.ec.europa.eu/en/>

²⁰ [ERDF Regulation](#)

²¹ Under this Policy Objective, the most relevant is the specific objective 2.7: "Enhancing protection and preservation of nature,

biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution".

²² [Cohesion Open Data Platform](#), 23 June 2023. Note that the allocations are amended during the programming period.

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ERDF: INTERREG

Key characteristics: Interreg is a part of Cohesion Policy; it is an implementing instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation financed by the ERDF. It supports joint actions of national, regional and local actors from different Member States. Interreg is divided into four main strands of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A, supporting cross-border cooperation), transnational (Interreg B, involving regions from several countries); interregional (Interreg C, including Interreg EUROPE, INTERACT, URBACT and ESPON) and outermost regions' cooperation (Interreg D)²³.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: Two of the Policy Objectives set out for Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: PO2 (Greener Europe) and PO 5 (Europe closer to citizens) are most likely to support biodiversity-related goals. A number of Interreg programmes (see Annex [below](#) with a list of selected programmes) have set the promotion of biodiversity as one of their priorities, and therefore, they are potentially relevant to the tree planting initiatives.

Volume of funding: In the financing period 2021-2027, the Interreg programmes will have an overall budget allocation of almost EUR 9 billion²⁴. EUR 8 billion will be allocated from the ERDF funding, whereby EUR 900 million will be available from the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation instrument – Global Europe (NDICI)²⁵ and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) grants²⁶.

Management and disbursement: After consultations with the Member States, the funding has been allocated to the specific Interreg programmes in a 2022 Commission Implementing Decision. Managing Authorities of each of the programmes are responsible for the drafting and

implementation of the programmes and for the selection of the beneficiaries.

Financing mechanisms: mostly grants but other financial instruments such as loans, guarantees or prizes are also possible, depending on the choice of the relevant Managing Authorities.

Co-financing rate: Varies from 40 % for more developed regions to 85 % for less developed regions.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Depending on the programme; a broad range of beneficiaries are eligible, including local authorities, enterprises (especially SMEs), civil society organisations, and individuals.

Advisory services: Advisory services are provided by Managing Authorities of each of the programmes. More information about the Interreg, including programmes per participating Member State can be found under the following links:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes_en



Project example:

The (Interreg VI-A) Germany/Mecklenburg Western Pomerania/Brandenburg-Poland programme (for the 2014-2020 financing period) comprised Investment Priority 6D - Common Conservation and development of biodiversity. The project INT142 - Avenues as refuges for biodiversity promoted protection of street avenues as ecological corridors and habitats for the preservation of biodiversity in the Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship and in the Vorpommern-Greifswald district.²⁷

Information about additional projects can be

²³ Interreg: [European Territorial Co-operation](#)

²⁴ [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/74](#) of 17 January 2022 setting out the list of Interreg programmes and indicating the global amount of the total support from the European Regional Development Fund and from each external financing instrument of the Union for each programme and the list of the amounts transferred between strands under the

European territorial cooperation goal for the period 2021 to 2027 (notified under document C(2022) 131).

²⁵ The new 'NDICI - Global Europe' (2021-2027)

²⁶ Interreg: [European Territorial Co-operation](#)

²⁷ [Avenues as refuges for biodiversity, https://keep.eu/projects/22791/Avenues-as-refuge-areas-of--EN/](https://keep.eu/projects/22791/Avenues-as-refuge-areas-of--EN/)

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found on the following website:

<https://keep.eu/projects/>

COHESION FUND

Key characteristics: CF is one of the building blocks of Cohesion Policy, with the main objective of strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion across the EU. It is available in Member States with a gross national income per capita below 90 % of the EU-27 average (BG, CZ, EE, EL, HR, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK).

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: Two of the Policy Objectives set out for Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: PO2 (Greener Europe) and PO 5 (Europe closer to citizens) are most likely to support biodiversity-related goals. CF primarily supports investments in transport and environmental infrastructure, including in particular the renewable energy sector. 37 % of the total financial spending from CF are expected to contribute to EU climate objectives²⁸.

Volume of funding: Total volume of the CF in the financing period 2021-2027 amounts to ca. EUR 49 billion. PO2 (Greener Europe) has a planned allocation of EUR 24.6 billion from CF (PO5 - Europe closer to citizens does not receive CF allocations)²⁹.

Management and disbursement: Shared management, with Programmes at national and regional levels in Member States. The programmes are drafted according to common guidelines and are approved by the European Commission. Managing authorities in each Member State are responsible for designing and implementing the programmes and for selection of the projects to be funded.

Financing mechanisms: Mostly grants but other financial instruments such as loans, guarantees or

prizes are also possible, depending on the choice of the relevant Managing Authorities.

Co-financing rate: Varies from 40 % for more developed regions to 85 % for less developed regions.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Depending on the OP; a broad range of beneficiaries are eligible, including local authorities, enterprises, civil society organisations, and individuals.

Advisory services: Advisory services are provided by Managing Authorities of programmes relevant to the country and/or region of the planned intervention. More information about the CF (including information about all the programmes per Member State) can be found under the following links:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/cohesion-fund_en

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes_en

Information about the use of financial instruments in the CF can be found using the following link:

<https://www.fi-compass.eu/funds/erdf>



Project example:

Development of green infrastructure by supporting allotment gardens

The project will distribute funding through a garden association to organise allotment gardens in Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot (Poland). Expected effects include increasing green areas, reduction of 'urban heat islands', increasing the scale of rainwater retention, and improving the living conditions of wild animals, with the overall goal of the preservation and development of biodiversity in cities. Total budget of the project: EUR 11.1 million, with full support from the CF.

²⁸ [Cohesion Fund Regulation](#)

²⁹ [Cohesion Open Data Platform](#), 23 June 2023. Note that the financial allocations are amended during the programming period.

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<https://kohesio.ec.europa.eu/en/projects/Q4423140>

Information about additional projects can be found on the following website:

<https://kohesio.ec.europa.eu/en/>

JUST TRANSITION FUND

Key characteristics: Part of Cohesion Policy, with the main objective of supporting territories most affected by the transition to climate neutrality. JTF is available in the selected territories of the following Member States: AT, BE, BG, CZ, CR, CY, DE, DK, HR, EL, ES, FI, FR, IE, LT, LV, LU, PT, SK, RO³⁰.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: The objectives of JTF include environmental rehabilitation, land restoration and supporting green infrastructure³¹.

Volume of funding: Total volume of the JTF in the financing period 2021-2027 amounts to ca. EUR 25.9 billion³².

Management and disbursement: Shared management, with the requirement to develop territorial just transition plans in each Member State, which must be approved by the European Commission. Managing institutions in each Member State are responsible for designing and implementing the programmes and for the selection of the projects to be funded.

Financing mechanisms: A combination of grants and loans. The InvestEU instrument has a dedicated scheme to support projects approved under just transition plans³³; for the public sector beneficiaries, there is a special loan facility (Public Sector Loan Facility, PSLF) available, with calls for proposals managed by the CINEA³⁴.

Co-financing rate: Varies from 50 % for more developed regions to 85 % for less developed regions.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Depending on the relevant territorial plan; a broad range of beneficiaries are eligible, including local authorities, enterprises, civil society organisations, and individuals.

Advisory services: Advisory services are provided by Managing Authorities of the territorial programmes (often integrated with the programmes guiding the disbursement of the ERDF and CF). More information about the JTF can be found under the following links:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund_en

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund/just-transition-platform_en

EAFRD

Key characteristics: EAFRD is a part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), with the main objective to support EU farmers and populations living in rural areas.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: Three of the objectives set out for the CAP period 2023 – 2027³⁵ are the most relevant for tree planting: (d) 'to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration (...)', (f) 'to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes' and (h) 'to promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry'³⁶. The EAFRD Regulation states that investments in afforestation should be

³⁰ [JTF Territories](#)

³¹ [JTF Regulation](#)

³² [Cohesion Open Data Platform](#), 23 June 2023

³³ [Just Transition Scheme under InvestEU](#)

³⁴ [Just Transition Mechanism Public Sector Loan Facility call for proposals](#)

³⁵ Contrary to other EU funds, the new CAP funding period started from 2023, with financial allocations for 2021 and 2022 being still implemented under the rules for the previous financing period.

³⁶ [EAFRD Regulation](#)

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consistent with the principles of sustainable forest management.

Volume of funding: Total volume of the EAFRD in the financing period 2021-2027 amounts to ca. EUR 95.5 billion³⁷.

Management and disbursement: Shared management, with strategic plans in each Member State, as approved by the European Commission, guiding the spending. Managing institutions in each Member State are responsible for designing and implementing the plans and for selection of the projects to be funded. A part of the funding (at least 5 % of the EAFRD contribution to the strategic plans) must be disbursed with the use of LEADER local action groups.

Financing mechanisms: Mostly grants but other financial instruments are also possible, depending on the choice of the relevant Managing Authorities.

Co-financing rate: Co-financing rate (contribution to the total public allocation) varies depending on the type of region, normally it is up to 85% for less developed regions. Support rates can reach up to 100 % of costs³⁸.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Mostly farmers, but also other beneficiaries undertaking relevant activities in rural areas.

Advisory services: Advisory services are provided by Member States, usually through a network of agricultural advisory centres.

More information about EAFRD can be found on the dedicated website:

https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-2023-27_en

Information about the use of financial instruments in the CF can be found using the following link:

<https://www.fi-compass.eu/funds/eafrd#anchor-2021>

³⁷ [Common Agricultural Policy Funds](#). It should be noted that during the years 2021 and 2022, the 2014-20 CAP regulations continued to apply, as set out in the [transitional regulation](#). Since January 2023, the [CAP strategic plans](#) set out the planning framework.



Project example:

Na-Tür-lich Dorf - Nature conservation at the doorstep

The project aims to motivate residents to develop individual small-scale projects supporting biodiversity protection in their communities. Flower strips, wildflower meadows, native perennials, shrubs and fruit trees been planted. In addition, nature garden consultations and online lectures on topics such as nature gardens, green roofs, wild bees, etc. have been organised.

Total budget EUR 653 926, EAFRD contribution EUR 425 052.

https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/projects-practice/na-tur-lich-dorf-nature-conservation-doorstep-0_en.html

Information about additional exemplary projects can be found on the following website:

https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/policy-in-action/projects-practice_en.html

LIFE

Key characteristics: LIFE is the only EU financial instrument dedicated exclusively to biodiversity and climate. The general objective includes contribution to the reversal of biodiversity loss and tackling the degradation of ecosystems as well as supporting the climate neutrality goal.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: Two of the four LIFE sub-programmes are the most relevant for tree planting initiatives: "Nature and Biodiversity" and "Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation"; however, the remaining sub-programmes: "Circular Economy and Quality of Life" and "Clean Energy transition" may also

³⁸ [According to Article 73\(c\) of the EAFRD Regulation, support rates for afforestation, establishment and regeneration of agro-forestry systems and land consolidation in forestry can reach up to 100% of costs.](#)

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support projects with tree planting elements³⁹.

Volume of funding: Total volume of LIFE in the financing period 2021-2027 amounts to ca. EUR 5.4 billion⁴⁰.

Management and disbursement: Direct management. The programme is managed by the European Commission and its executive agency CINEA, which publishes calls for proposals.

Financing mechanisms: Mostly grants (85 % of the budget) but other support is also possible, including procurement contracts, prizes and technical assistance. In addition to funding single projects, LIFE supports non-profit organisations active in the area of nature protection.

Co-financing rate: Co-financing rate varies depending on type of project (standard action projects, strategic nature projects, strategic integrated projects), with a maximum set at 95 % of the project costs. For standard action projects under the nature and biodiversity sub-programme, the co-financing can be up to 75 %.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Public or private legal entities (not for individuals).

Advisory services: CINEA provides technical assistance and support for applicants, information can be reached via a dedicated website:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-support-applicants_en

Advisory services are also provided by Member States, through a network of National Contact Points. Information about the National Contact Points can be found under the following link:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-european-countries_en



Project example:

LIFE UNCINATA: Restoration, conservation, and resilience of mountain pine forests on limestone in the Pyrenees

The project aims to improve the ecological integrity and resilience of *Pinus uncinata* forests in the Pyrenees. Challenges such as climate change and land use threaten the pine forests' habitat in the Pyrenees. The activities of the project will contribute to making this habitat less vulnerable to negative impacts and to make human activities more compatible with its conservation. Catalonia and Navarra regions are partners in this project while other regions will participate in Coordination and Expert Advisory Committees.

Total budget: EUR 3.7 million, EU contribution EUR 2.8 million.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/101074730>

Information about additional exemplary projects can be found on the following website:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>

HORIZON EUROPE

Key characteristics: Horizon Europe is the EU financial instrument supporting research and innovation, with addressing global challenges including climate change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among its objectives.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: The objectives of Horizon Europe include restoring Europe's ecosystems and biodiversity, and sustainable management of natural resources to ensure a clean and healthy environment. The largest part of the budget is divided into so-called 'Global Challenges', with Climate, Energy and Mobility' and 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' being the most relevant for tree planting⁴¹.

Volume of funding: The budget of Horizon Europe in the financing period 2021-2027 amounts to EUR 95.5 billion, with over EUR 15 billion

³⁹ LIFE Regulation

⁴⁰ The future is green. The future is LIFE leaflet 2023

⁴¹ Horizon Europe Regulation

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dedicated to the Global Challenge 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' and approximately EUR 9 billion dedicated to the Global Challenge 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'⁴².

Management and disbursement: Direct management. The programme is managed by the European Commission and its executive agencies CINEA⁴³ and REA⁴⁴ which publish calls for proposals and provide advisory services.

Financing mechanisms: Mostly grants but other support is also possible. Horizon Europe strongly encourages international partnerships – for most of calls for proposal, it is required that the applicants for a team of at least 3 partner organisations from various Member States.

Co-financing rate: The co-financing rate varies depending on the type of project and beneficiary, with a maximum reaching 100 % of costs for non-profit organisations.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Public or private legal entities (not for individuals). Many funding calls require a team of partner organisations to apply rather than just one stakeholder.

Advisory services: CINEA and REA provide technical assistance and support for applicants, information can be reached via dedicated websites:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon-europe/climate-action-horizon-europe_en

[Horizon Europe - Cluster 6: "Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment"](#)

Advisory services are also provided by Member States, through a network of National Contact Points. Information about the National Contact Points can be found under the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>



Project example:

100KTREES: Decision Toolbox for cities to improve air quality, biodiversity, human wellbeing and reduce climate risks by planting more trees in our cities

The project will build a solid business case for planting new trees. A mapping and modelling toolbox will allow optimisation of the planting of trees and monitoring of their health. The project will also provide a valuation of key attributes of a tree, such as pollution absorption, cooling effect, noise abatement, flood risk reduction and support for biodiversity. Sofia and Copenhagen will act as pilot cities. The project will also attract third-party sponsorships to support tree planting.

Total budget: EUR 2.2 million, EU contribution EUR 355 250.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101082551>

Information about additional exemplary projects can be found on the following website:

<https://cordis.europa.eu/projects>

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

Key characteristics: The RFF is a building block of the NextGenerationEU – the EU's plan to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic⁴⁵. The Facility entered into force in February 2021.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting: The RRF supports green transition, including biodiversity goals. 37 % of the financial allocations of the recovery and resilience plans, which are guiding the spending in each Member State,

⁴² [Horizon Europe, Budget](#)

⁴³ [CINEA](#), Horizon Europe

⁴⁴ European Research Executive Agency, [REA](#), Cluster 6: Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment.

⁴⁵ [The Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

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should encompass measures that effectively contribute to green transition. Member States must ensure that all the projects receiving support from the RFF are aligned with the 'do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle⁴⁶.

Volume of funding: The volume of funding amounts to ca. EUR 723 billion, including EUR 338 billion in grants and EUR 385 billion in loans⁴⁷.

Management and disbursement: Direct management. The fund is managed by the European Commission, which approves the recovery and resilience plans prepared by each Member State. Country-specific information is available on the dedicated Commission's website: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages_en

Financing mechanisms: Funds are disbursed directly to Member States based on their progress in the implementation of the recovery plans. The way the funds are distributed depends on each Member State. Implementation of the specific elements of the plans may be delegated to intermediaries.

Co-financing rate: Co-financing rate for specific projects varies depending on the arrangements made by each Member State.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: Various types of organisations may be eligible, depending on the types of projects envisaged in the plans. Some projects are identified *a priori* in the recovery plans, others are selected through tendering procedures.

Advisory services: Advisory services may be provided by Member States, usually through an institution which manages the recovery and resilience plan.



Project example:

The Madrid Metropolitan Forest⁴⁸

This Forest project, with 75 km of woodland to encircle Madrid, has been selected by Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, to receive EUR 2.6 million from the EU Next Generation funds. Specifically, they will be used to finance the recovery of the Manzanares-Gavia-Bulera riparian ecosystem. The objective is to reduce the risk of flooding and improve the state of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem of these streams. The period to carry out the project runs from September 2023 to December 2025 and it also has the support of the regional administration of the Community of Madrid. The Metropolitan Forest, when ready, will feature a million new holm oak, poplar, ash, elm and strawberry trees and will link existing parkland areas, reclaim landfill sites and create space for new sports facilities, including an educational adventure park for children. Besides providing recreational amenities, the project should also provide environmental benefits for residents, such as mitigating the urban heat island effect, improving air quality and flood resilience, and absorbing up to 170 000 tonnes of CO₂ when the trees reach maturity within about 12 years.

Information about additional exemplary projects can be found on the following website:

https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en

INVEST EU

Key characteristics: The InvestEU Programme supports sustainable investment, innovation and job creation. Three building blocs of the

⁴⁶ [RRF Regulation](#)

⁴⁷ [The Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

⁴⁸ [Madrid](#) – News of the project Metropolitan Forest of Madrid - portal of the Madrid City Hall

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Programme are: the InvestEU Fund, The InvestEU Advisory Hub, and the InvestEU Portal⁴⁹.

Key objectives relevant to tree planting:

InvestEU is divided into four 'policy windows' with the 'Sustainable Infrastructure' window being the most relevant for tree planting (the remaining policy windows are related to research and innovation, SMEs, social investment and skills). Annex II of the InvestEU Regulation lists areas eligible for financing, which encompass 'the enhancement and restoration of ecosystems and their services including through the enhancement of nature and biodiversity by means of green and blue infrastructure projects' and climate adaptation⁵⁰.

Volume of funding: The volume of funding to be mobilised amounts to ca. EUR 372 billion, through an EU budget guarantee of EUR 26.2 billion, which can be used in combination with the funding from the EIB and other financial institutions involved⁵¹. An indicative amount dedicated to the policy window 'Sustainable Infrastructure' amounts to EUR 9.9 billion⁵².

Management and disbursement: Indirect management (through the EIB and other financing partners).

Financing mechanisms: Budget guarantees.

Co-financing rate: n/a (the financial support does not have a form of grants). The budgetary guarantee can be used by the implementing partners to cover their financing of eligible projects or to provide financial guarantees to intermediaries, who in turn provide loans or equity to the final beneficiaries.

Types of eligible beneficiaries: The final beneficiaries can include natural and legal persons, such as public sector entities, public-private partnerships, private companies and NGOs.

Advisory services: InvestEU Advisory Hub is the central point for project promoters and intermediaries seeking advice on project financing. The hub provides advisory support throughout the

whole project cycle. More information is provided on the following website:

https://investeu.europa.eu/what-investeu-programme/investeu-advisory-hub_en

Furthermore, the InvestEU Portal provides an opportunity to bring together investors who wish to cooperate on projects or who would like to gain knowledge about on-going and planned projects:

https://investeu.europa.eu/what-investeu-programme/investeu-portal_en

Final beneficiaries can also directly apply for support to the implementing partners – the list of such partners can be found on the following website:

https://investeu.europa.eu/what-investeu-programme/investeu-fund/how-get-financing_en



Project example:

Prêts Relance Tourisme - 2023 (Framework Operation)

This Framework Operation implemented in France focuses on tourism infrastructure including leisure parks, hotels, museums, etc. Sub-projects will contribute to the InvestEU window 'Sustainable Infrastructure' as well as to the French recovery and resilience plan objectives focusing on sustainable tourism.

InvestEU operation amount: EUR 67 million.
https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-operations/prets-relance-tourisme-2023-framework-operation_en

Information about additional exemplary projects can be found on the following website:
https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-operations_en

⁴⁹ [InvestEU](#)

⁵⁰ [InvestEU Programme Regulation](#)

⁵¹ [InvestEU Fund](#)

⁵² [Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme](#)

Chapter 4:

SELECTED GENERAL ADVISORY PROGRAMMES, ON-LINE PLATFORMS AND OTHER FINANCING GUIDES

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GREEN ASSIST

GREEN ASSIST is an advisory programme coordinated by DG Environment and managed by the European Climate Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). It is delivered under InvestEU with funding from the LIFE programme. It provides free, on-demand and customised advisory services for project promoters who develop green investment projects.

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/green-advisory-service-sustainable-investments-support-green-assist_en

FI-COMPASS

Fi-compass is a platform offering advisory services on financial instruments that can be used within the framework of the EU shared funds. It is managed jointly by the European Commission and the EIB. Fi-compass offers general advice, practical tools and learning opportunities for managing authorities, financial intermediaries or any other parties interested in the use of financial instruments under each of the EU shared management Funds. More information is available on the dedicated website:

<https://www.fi-compass.eu/>

JASPERS

JASPERS is a programme providing assistance to managing authorities and project promoters in preparing projects eligible for EU funding (Cohesion Policy, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, and the Connecting Europe Facility), covering many areas, including protection of biodiversity and carbon neutrality. JASPERS assistance is provided by the

European Commission and the EIB. More information is provided on the dedicated website: <https://jaspers.eib.org/index.htm>

EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

The Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change supports implementation of the EU adaptation strategy⁵³. The Mission provides support to EU regions, cities and local authorities in implementing actions enhancing climate adaptation and resilience. Interested regional and local authorities can sign the Mission Charter and join the Mission. The Mission's portal provides knowledge, data and tools to support the process of climate adaptation, including information about relevant funding opportunities. More information about the Mission can be found on the following website:

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en

Cohesion for Transitions (C4T) Community of Practice

The C4T is a community-based platform which supports EU Member States and regions in making a better use of EU funds for sustainability transitions in line with the European Green Deal. C4T GROUNDWORK offers tailored technical assistance for EU Member States and regions to streamline sustainability transitions with funding from ERDF and CF, covering in particular the scope of the Policy Objective 2 of Cohesion Policy: "A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe". Climate change adaptation and protection and

⁵³ [EU Adaptation Strategy](#)

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preservation of nature are included among the themes covered by this initiative. More information is available on the following website:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/cohesion-4-transition_en

OTHER FINANCING GUIDES

Several other guides exist which may be useful for organisations, companies and individuals looking for funding support for tree planting initiatives, including:

- [Find your EU funding programme for the environment](#): this guide provides a detailed description of EU funding programmes in 2021-2027 that can support projects contributing to EU environmental policy objectives;
- [Financing Natura 2000](#) – EU Funding Opportunities in 2021-2027: this guide focuses specifically on opportunities for financing investments in Natura 2000 sites.
- Information about combining various financial instruments under shared management funds can be found in the dedicated factsheet issued by the European Commission and the EIB: [Combination of financial instruments and grants](#).
- [Kohesio](#) is a database of projects supported by EU funding organised by Policy Objective and Fund. By consulting the database, potential beneficiaries may gain a better understanding what types of projects are eligible for funding. The database includes projects funded by the following financing instruments: CF, ERDF, ESF, the European Neighbourhood Instrument, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, and Youth Employment Initiative. The website features an interactive map, which allows projects per country to be searched.

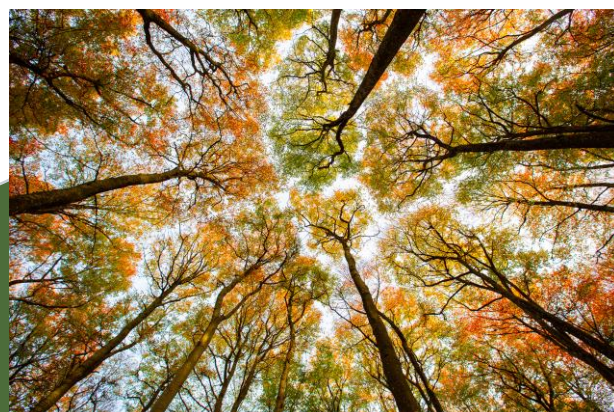
Chapter 5:

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

FINANCING SOURCES IN AUSTRIA

Abbreviations used

BMBWF	Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
BMK	Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
BML	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CF	Cohesion Fund
EARDF	European Agricultural and Rural Development Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
GRRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
FGR	Forest genetic resources
FFG	<i>Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft</i>
FRM	Forest reproductive material
ÖROK	Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
TJTP	Territorial Just Transition Plan



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Projects for biodiversity, climate and nature in Austria are primarily funded by the following sources:

- Programmes using European Union (EU) shared funding instruments (in particular, ERDF), as well as other dedicated EU funds, such as the LIFE programme;
- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
- National and regional funding options;
- Public and private foundations.

Widespread funding sources under **shared management at EU level** are the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural and Rural Development Fund (EARDF). Directly managed funds, such as the LIFE Programme and Horizon Europe, are also used.

At **national level**, the budget for landscape and nature is allocated to two major funding options: the biodiversity fund and forest fund. Both are coordinated by the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK). However, the main public funding sources within Austria are managed and allocated at **regional level**, as Austria is a highly federal country, with nature conservation (among others) coordinated by provincial governments. One of the central funding mechanisms is the contractual nature conservation that constitutes the cooperation of official nature conservation with farmers and forestry managers on a partnership basis. Additional landscape and nature funding is available in most of the regions.

Beyond the official options, funding is also available from some **public and private foundations** for biodiversity, climate or nature conservation-related projects. However, afforestation does not seem to be a topic of great interest in Austria, as forest is perceived as a dominant and healthy ecosystem, and which sees continual increases in terms of its total area.

The following sections provide some brief information about possible funding opportunities for tree planting in Austria, divided into EU funding

sources under shared management, EU funding sources under direct management, national funding sources, and innovative funding sources. These sections are followed by a summary table, which includes practical links and contact information, allowing potential beneficiaries to identify suitable financing sources for their tree-planting initiatives.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The **EU funds**, such as the **ERDF**, the **Cohesion Fund**, the **EAFRD**, the **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** and the **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)**, aim to reinforce economic, social, and territorial solidarity (cohesion) in the EU. They are among the most relevant financing sources for projects on biodiversity, climate and regional development. Under the ERDF “Investment for Jobs and Growth” goal, in the 2021-2027 period, Austria receives EUR 521 million ERDF to promote projects that invest in jobs and growth, focusing on innovation, digital economy, and a greener, low-carbon circular economy⁵⁴. In addition, Austria’s Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP) identifies 12 areas in four provinces (Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Steiermark) in which a total of EUR 136 million of JTF funds will be invested in the period 2021-2027. Funded projects are supported to manage the transition to a climate-neutral economy effectively⁵⁵, and are partly implemented under the Austria-wide programme ‘Investments in Jobs and Growth Austria 2021-2027, ERDF & JTF’, and partly under the Austrian-wide ‘ESF+ programme employment Austria & JTF 2021-27’. Furthermore, Austria benefits from EUR 220 million under the European territorial cooperation goal, to support cooperation projects with other countries.

In the current funding period (2021-2027), the Austria-wide programme ‘Investments in Jobs and Growth Austria 2021-2027, ERDF & JTF’ is managed by the Austrian Conference on Spatial

⁵⁴ Government of Austria, [EU-Förderung für regionale Entwicklung](#), 2023

⁵⁵ Government of Austria, [EU-Förderung für regionale Entwicklung](#), 2023

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Planning (ÖROK). Fifteen federal and State-level funding agencies are responsible for awarding ERDF and JTF funding and are the first point of contact for interested parties. Enterprises, municipalities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientific institutes and universities, among others, are eligible to apply for funding for projects.

For the funding period 2023-2027, the national Strategic Plan of the EU **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** replaces the previous rural development programmes (in Austria: Austrian Rural Development Programme 2014-2020) as the funding instrument for rural areas. It is funded by the EU and supported by national and regional funding. The process under the CAP is coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML). The Strategic Plan integrates both pillars of the CAP and is implemented through around 100 measures in Austria⁵⁶, including 'expanding high levels of resource and climate protection (e.g. by promoting biodiversity and organic farming)'.

Agricultural environmental support from the **EAFRD** is funnelled through the Austrian Programme for the Promotion of Environmentally Sound, Extensive Agriculture that Protects the Natural Habitat (ÖPUL), an agri-environmental programme in place since 1995. The special guideline ÖPUL 2023^{57, 58} were issued by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)⁵⁹. Funding is already available to farmers and supports 24 agri-environmental measures, comprising 50% EU funding and 50% national funding – divided between the federal government and the provinces in a ratio of 60/40⁶⁰.



EU Funding sources under direct management

Directly managed funds at EU level can also be used for tree planting. **The LIFE Programme 2021-2027** provides operating grants to public or private bodies and organisations, state institutions and NGOs, and includes four different sub-programmes, e.g. for nature and biodiversity, and for climate protection and adaptation.

Biodiversity projects in Austria are also funded through grants from **Horizon Europe**. For both EU funding sources, the advisory services are given by *Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft* (FFG). Most recent and relevant projects targeting forest measures are listed in the box below. Generally, the LIFE projects in Austria do not specifically target forest ecosystems (except alluvial forests).

Sample projects funded by LIFE and Horizon Europe

LIFE

LIFE WILD Island started in 2021 and ends in 2027. It aims to strengthen ecological connectivity and preserve the natural wilderness, especially the priority Habitats Directive habitat type 91E0* (*Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior**), with coordinated, Danube-wide conservation and restoration actions for the Danube islands. The project has a budget of EUR 14.2 million, with EUR 9.1 million contributed by the EU⁶¹.

LIFE+ project Wilderness Wetland Wachau started in 2015 and ended in December 2022. The project aimed to restore alluvial and riparian forests and to improve the conservation status of several species protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives. The EU contributed EUR 1.94 million to the EUR 3.9 million

⁵⁶ BML, [GAP-Strategieplan von der Kommission genehmigt](#), 2023

⁵⁷ BML, [Sonderrichtlinie ÖPUL 2023](#), 2023

⁵⁸ BML, [Sonderrichtlinie ÖPUL 2023 \(inklusive Öko-Regelungen\)](#), 2023

⁵⁹ BML, [Agrarumweltprogramm ÖPUL 2023 \(inklusive Öko-Regelungen\)](#), 2023

⁶⁰ Land Salzburg, [ÖPUL \(inklusive Öko-Regelungen\)](#), 2023

⁶¹ European Commission, [Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor](#), 2023

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project⁶².

Horizon Europe

OptFORESTS (2022-2027): OptFORESTS will support the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources (FGR) by: i) conducting research on the selection of diverse forest reproductive material (FRM), including mixtures, adapted to future climates, ii) fostering sustainable use and resilience of natural forests, iii) helping to expand and diversify nursery production, iv) developing nature-based solutions, tools (e.g. expanded information systems) and cultural trajectories to promote forest biodiversity and ecosystems, and v) demonstrating biodiversity restoration solutions. The EU funding contribution was EUR 8 million⁶³.

Austria submitted its Recovery and Resilience Plan (GRRP) to the European Commission to receive funds from the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)** and received approval in June 2021. With around EUR 3.57 billion of EU funding, 46% should be spent on climate protection and 41% on digitisation⁶⁴.



National funding sources

Austria is a highly federal state, with many competences delegated to regional level. The most significant national funding in the context of nature and forest:

- **Forest Fund (Waldfonds):** The Forest Fund Act was passed in the National Council on 7 July 2020. It comprises an investment of EUR 350 million for six years

and is one of the largest packages of measures for domestic forests in recent years⁶⁵. The measures of the Forest Fund aim to develop climate-smart forests, promote biodiversity in the forest, and increase the use of wood as a raw material as an active contribution to climate protection. Funding is granted by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)⁶⁶.

- **Biodiversity Fund (Biodiversitätsfonds):** The Biodiversity Fund supports projects by private individuals, organisations (e.g. NGOs), companies, municipalities and other legal entities, with up to 100% of the eligible costs. The total funding volume for the protection and recovery of natural diversity currently amounts to EUR 80 million. EUR 50 million of this comes directly from the RRF and thus represents funding from NextGeneration EU funds, with the remainder from the national budget. Coordinated by the BMK, the Fund runs until 2026, with all deadlines aligned with the RRF⁶⁷. Funded projects include [initiatives to protect wild bees](#), [three demonstration gardens](#) for biodiversity, [peatland restoration](#) and [sea eagle monitoring](#).

Additional funding options are available at regional level. For instance, **nature conservation funding** is available in Styria, Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Salzburg, Burgenland and Tyrol (see summary table). Some of the funding options are linked to the EAFRD via co-funding. In Carinthia, this seems to be the main funding flow for landscape management and nature protection⁶⁸. In all instances, coordination is handled in the respective offices of the provincial government.

Regional governments also offer **area subsidies for contractual nature conservation**, which is understood to be the cooperation of official nature conservation with farmers and forestry managers

⁶² European Commission, [LIFE+ Wilderness Wetland Wachau](#), 2023

⁶³ European Commission, [OptFORESTS](#), 2023

⁶⁴ Bundeskanzleramt, [Der EU-Aufbauplan: Wirtschaftliches Comeback mit "grünem" und digitalem Schwerpunkt](#), 2023

⁶⁵ Waldfonds, [Der Waldfonds. Das Zukunftspaket für unsere Wälder](#). <https://www.waldfonds.at/>

⁶⁶ BML, [Waldfonds](#), 2023

⁶⁷ BMK, [Biodiversitätsfonds](#), 2023

⁶⁸ Land Kärnten, [Projektförderung Naturschutz](#) (LE 14-20) (UW-L25), 2023

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on a partnership basis⁶⁹. Contracts are signed with landowners to refrain from all agricultural and forestry activities, as well as the practice of hunting, on their land (*Transparenzportal Österreich*, 2023). In Styria, different programmes of contractual nature conservation are available for biotope conservation, nature forest and Natura 2000⁷⁰. Other regions do not have individual programmes and instead fund contractual nature conservation through ÖPUL measures.



Innovative funding sources

In Austria, funds for nature protection and restoration projects can come from private or public **foundations**. These are based on private donations from philanthropists or companies, or established by environmental NGOs to acquire funding for their projects. Most of the foundations collect money (via donations) for their own projects. Crowdfunding initiatives are rarely used for afforestation activities (see some examples in the summary table).

In 2023, Austria placed a **green bond** with a maturity of six years. Coordinated by the BMK, the aim of the bond is to increase the participation of institutional investors in financing domestic environmental and climate-relevant measures⁷¹.

While there is no evidence of integration of **payments for ecosystem services (PES)** in any established processes, it was part of the Horizon 2020 project led by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) that ended at the beginning of 2022. The project used a value-chain approach and applied **monetary and non-monetary economic valuation** methods (e.g. cost-based and multi-objective preference-based methods) to assess consumer and provider preferences on the provision of forest ecosystem services in Europe and identify **innovative**

sustainable management concepts for multi-functional forest management. The region of Ausseerland in Styria (montane to subalpine mixed forests) served as a case study, addressing important stakeholders, such as the *Österreichische Bundesforste* (unofficial translation: Association of Austrian Federal Forests)⁷².

Based on these results and the other PES Horizon projects (SINCERE and InnoForEST), a new LIFE project LIFE ProForPES started in 2023. The project aims to collect, synthesise and integrate the knowledge and know-how at national and EU level on PES and PES-like schemes⁷³. While BOKU is a partner in the project, no direct project activity is taking place in Austria.

⁶⁹ Land Styria, [Vertragsnaturschutz](#), 2023

⁷⁰ Land Styria, [Vertragsnaturschutz](#), 2023

⁷¹ BMK, Innovation and Technology, [Grüne Staatsanleihe – erster österreichischer Green Bond](#), 2023

⁷² BOKU, [NOBEL project](#), 2023

⁷³ European Commission, [Promoting effective forest PES through the EU financial and state aid programs](#), 2023

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF, JTF	Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK)	15 funding agencies at federal and state level are responsible for awarding ERDF & JTF funding. A comprehensive list is given here	Research and Innovation, Digital agenda, Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Low-carbon economy, sustainable urban development and community-led local development in rural areas	Grants	Investment for Jobs and Growth Austria 2021-2027, ERDF & JTF programme 2021-2027	
EAFRD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)	Digital Funding Platform (DFP), see website	Food security, biodiversity, organic farming, climate resilience, etc.	Grants, subsidies	Austrian CAP Strategic Plan; current funding period 2023-2027	
EU funding sources under direct management						

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
LIFE	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)	FFG Nationale Kontaktstelle Horizon Europe, see website	Nature protection, climate protection, circular economy, energy transition	Grants	Current funding period 2021-2027	Project examples
Horizon Europe	Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)	FFG Nationale Kontaktstelle LIFE, see website	Innovative projects, including projects related to climate protection and health	Grants		
RRF	Chancellor's Office	Contact and processing offices are dispersed between different ministries and other services. An overview is given here .	Climate-friendly measures, sustainability, digitalisation, just transition	GRRP	Total RRF funding is around EUR 4.5 billion (including national support).	Project examples
National funding						
Biodiversity Fund	BMK	BMK, see website	Measures promoted to achieve the goals set out in the national Biodiversity Strategy	Grants	Current funding period 2022-2026, funding can be up to 100% of eligible costs	Project overview

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Funding guideline 'Waldfonds'	BMK	Official internet portal from Waldfonds , coordinated by the BMK:	Nature protection, forest restauration, biodiversity, climate adaptation of forests, research on climate-smart forests, forestry-timber-paper value chain	Grants	Investment volume of EUR 350 million, funding period 2020-2026	
Regional and local funding (examples)						
General nature conservation funding and species conservation projects, Styria	Office of the Provincial Government of Styria	Office of the Provincial Government of Styria, Department 1 3 Environment and Spatial Planning, see website	Activities or projects to be funded must have a Styrian connection and fall within the priorities of official nature conservation	Grants, transfer payments	Funding started in 2013 (indefinite)	
General environment funding	Office of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government	Office of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government, Directorate of Environment and Water Management, see website	Different topics can be funded, such as soil protection, climate mitigation and adaptation, nature conservation	Grants, transfer payments	Funding started in 2018 (indefinite)	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Nature conservation funding campaign 'Nature-active Upper Austria'	Office of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government	Office of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government Department of Nature Conservation, see website	Creating new habitats for endangered plants and animals, biodiversity, enrichment of landscape	Grants	EUR 130 000 earmarked for 2023, people, communities and schools can be funded; funding does not have time limit	
Lower Austrian Landscape Fund	Lower Austrian Provincial Government	Office of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government, Finance Department, F1, see website	Landscape and nature management, forest, species protection, waters	Grants, transfer payments	Funding started in 1994 (indefinite)	
Funding for small projects for climate and environment	City of Vienna	City of Vienna - environmental protection, see website	Climate and environmental protection	Grants, transfer payments	Funding period 2022-2026; Non-profit institutions, companies, universities or private individuals can apply for up to a maximum amount of EUR 10 000	
Funding for climate protection and climate	Province of Tyrol	Province of Tyrol, Sustainability and Climate	Contributions to the sustainable development	Grants	Maximum funding amount is EUR 10 000	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
change		Coordination, see website	of society and the protection of nature and species		per project	
Contributions to protection forest rehabilitation, Vorarlberg	Office of the Vorarlberg Provincial Government	Office of the Vorarlberg Provincial Government Department of Forestry see website	Forest rehabilitation and maintenance	Grants	Funding started in 2011 (indefinite)	
Conservation Association Funding	Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government	Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government, see website		Grants	Funding started in 2013 (indefinite)	
Environmental funding - Urban greening	City of Graz	City of Graz, see website	Greening of facades, tree planting, communal gardens	Grants	Funding period 2021-2023 for operators of community gardens and building owners; max. funding of EUR 40 000 per object	
Burgenland Landscape Maintenance Fund	Office of the Provincial Government of Burgenland	Office of the Provincial Government of Burgenland Department 4 Agriculture, Nature and Climate	Funding actions to achieve the objectives of the Burgenland Nature Conservation and	Grants	Established in 1990	Project example: Biotope protection program

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Protection, see website	Landscape Management Act			
Contractual nature conservation	Offices of the provincial government	<p>Contact points of information from the provincial governments:</p> <p>Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government, Salzburger Nationalparkfonds, see website</p> <p>Office of the Provincial Government of Burgenland, see website</p> <p>Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia, see website</p> <p>Office of the Provincial Government of Styria, see website</p>	Compensation for nature conservation via contracts	Grants	Funding started in 2013 (indefinite)	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>City of Vienna, see website</p> <p>Office of the Provincial Government of Upper Austria, see website</p> <p>Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria, see website</p> <p>Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol, see website</p>				
Innovative funding						
Foundation Naturparke	Stiftung Naturparke	Official contact	Safeguarding the 48 nature parks in Austria	Donation	Donations support the activities and projects of the foundation	Project overview
Foundation for nature	Nature Conservation Association Upper Austria	Official contact	Acquiring and permanently securing areas of	Donation	Donations support the activities and projects of the	Overview of areas

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			importance for species and habitat protection in Upper Austria		foundation	
Zum Urwald zurück Foundation	Zum Urwald zurück,	Official contact	Securing intact forests in Austria by buying forest areas	Donation	Donations support the activities and projects of the foundation	Example area: Höbersbrunn

FINANCING SOURCES IN BELGIUM

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EEA	European Environment Agency
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gas
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Fund
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



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There are several sources of funding for projects concerning biodiversity, climate and nature in Belgium, primarily European Union (EU) funding, regional funds and private funding.

EU funding opportunities come from different EU policies and programmes, such as the EU Cohesion Policy, which includes the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF). Funding is also available from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the LIFE Programme.

Due to the internal structure of Belgium, funding for biodiversity, climate and nature is managed at regional level. The three regions developed funding opportunities in the context of nature and biodiversity and, more specifically, for afforestation. They have also issued green or sustainable bonds as a way to invest in the protection of biodiversity, climate and nature. Cities and municipalities, such as Leuven⁷⁴ and Maasmechelen⁷⁵ play a role by granting subsidies. Other innovative financing sources, such as crowdfunding, are also emerging.

The following sections provide short information about funding opportunities potentially relevant for tree planting in Belgium in division into EU funding sources under shared management, EU funding sources under direct management, national funding sources, and innovative funding sources. These sections are followed with a summary table, which includes practical links and contact information allowing the potential beneficiaries identify suitable financing sources for their tree planting initiatives.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Different EU funds are dedicated to the protection of biodiversity, climate and nature at national level. They include the Cohesion Policy (through the ERDF and the Just Transition Fund), NextGeneration EU, CAP and the LIFE Programme.

Nearly EUR 3 billion has been allocated to Belgium as part of the **EU Cohesion Policy** for green and digital transition and economic growth 2021-2027⁷⁶. The ERDF will allocate about EUR 400 million to renewable energy, energy efficiency and the reduction of GHG emission. The ERDF is implemented through dedicated Programmes. There is a programme for the Region of Brussels-Capital⁷⁷, for Flanders⁷⁸ and for the Walloon Region⁷⁹. The managing authorities are, respectively, the Brussels Regional Public Service, the Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship Agency and the Public Service of Wallonia. Belgium received EUR 183 billion from the JTF to develop a low-carbon, circular and energy-efficient economy.

Belgium issued two different **CAP Strategic Plans**, one each for Flanders (EUR 1.3 billion) and Wallonia (EUR 1.5 billion). The CAP Strategic Plans are funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European agricultural guarantee fund (EAGF). Of the EUR 2.8 billion dedicated to Belgium, more than EUR 900 million will be allocated to environmental and climate goals and eco-schemes⁸⁰.

Under the **RRF**, which forms part of NextGenerationEU, Belgium is set to receive EUR 5.9 billion to finance investments and reforms

⁷⁴ ROBTV, [Leuvenaars kunnen voortaan subsidie aanvragen om een boom in de voortuin te planten](#), 2022

⁷⁵ Mariotti, M., [Wie hagen of loofbomen plant krijgt tot 500 euro per jaar](#), HLN, 2020

⁷⁶ European Commission, [EU Cohesion Policy: almost €3 billion for Belgium's green and digital transition and economic development in 2021-2027](#), 2022

⁷⁷ Europe in Belgium, [Brussels-Capital Region ERDF](#)

⁷⁸ Europe in Belgium, [Flanders ERDF](#)

⁷⁹ Europe in Belgium, [Wallonia ERDF](#)

⁸⁰ European Commission, [The Commission approves the CAP Strategic Plans of Belgium \(Flanders and Wallonia\)](#), DG AGRI, 2022

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aimed at securing the green transition, supporting the digital transition, and reinforcing economic and social resilience. The RRF is intended to support Belgium to invest in climate change adaptation through measures to restore biodiversity⁸¹. Of the EUR 5.9 billion, EUR 400 million will be used to implement measures to manage water availability sustainably, reconnect ecosystems, and enhance protected natural areas, forests and wetlands. Belgium complemented the EU budget, with a recovery plan totalling EUR 7.5 billion, which will fund 145 projects by the end of 2026⁸². The projects were decided before the RRP was approved.

For example, the Walloon Region will build and support five key pieces of infrastructure to develop the sustainable agri-food sector throughout its territory. The budget allocated by the EU and the Walloon Region is EUR 30 million.



EU Funding sources under direct management

In Belgium, there are two national contact points for nature and biodiversity as part of the **LIFE Programme** – one in Wallonia and one in Flanders⁸³. Potential beneficiaries can receive guidance and support on funding opportunities, applications procedures, events, and project results. About 300 projects were (co-)funded in Belgium through the LIFE Programme since 1992, 82 of which were devoted to nature and biodiversity⁸⁴. The budget for 2021-2027 amounts to EUR 5.4 billion. Examples of projects co-funded from LIFE are presented in the box below.

Examples of projects co-financed from LIFE Programme in Belgium

The [project](#) 'Most-Keiheuvel: nature restoration on the gradient from bog to quicksand' helped to preserve and restore the natural environment in the Kempen area. The main objective was to restore protected habitat types in Europe, including inland dunes, moorland, shifting bog and domestic deciduous forests. The project was supported by a number of partners, such as Nature and Forests (Flemish government) and the Zuiderkempen Forest Group (non-profit organisation). Along with the LIFE grant, they secured a total budget of over EUR 4 million.

'Ecological restoration of rivers and forests in the steep valleys of the Ourthe, Amblève, Vesdre and Our basins' is the first Walloon LIFE [project](#) addressing the overall ecological restoration of valleys. More specifically, it is a 2020-2028 project that intends to rehabilitate the forested slopes of the Ardennes's steep valleys. The project was initiated by the non-profit association Domaine de Bérinzenne, collaborating with the Public Service of Wallonia - Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environment. Wallonia and the LIFE grant secured a budget of almost EUR 9 million.

Belgium has three National Contact Points (NCPs) for Horizon Europe, one in Brussels-Capital⁸⁵, one in Wallonia⁸⁶ and one in Flanders⁸⁷.

Under the **RRF**, which forms part of NextGenerationEU, Belgium is set to receive EUR 5.9 billion to finance investments and reforms aimed at securing the green transition, supporting the digital transition, and reinforcing economic and social resilience. The RRF is intended to support Belgium to invest in climate change adaptation through measures to restore biodiversity⁸⁸. Of the

⁸¹ European Commission, [Belgium's Recovery and Resilience Plan](#)

⁸² NextGenBelgium, [Heropbouw voor de volgende generaties](#)

⁸³ European Commission, [NCPs - National Contact Points Nature & Biodiversity](#)

⁸⁴ European Commission, [LIFE in European countries](#)

⁸⁵ NCP Brussels, [We are your national contact point for Horizon Europe](#)

⁸⁶ NCP Wallonie, [Découvrez comment le NCP Wallonie peut vous aider dans vos projets européens](#)

⁸⁷ NCP Flanders, [NCP Flanders Team](#)

⁸⁸ European Commission, [Belgium's Recovery and Resilience Plan](#)

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EUR 5.9 billion, EUR 400 million will be used to implement measures to manage water availability sustainably, reconnect ecosystems, and enhance protected natural areas, forests and wetlands. Belgium complemented the EU budget, with a total **RRP** of EUR 7.5 billion, which will fund 145 projects by the end of 2026⁸⁹. The projects were decided before the RRP was approved.

For example, the Walloon Region will build and support five key infrastructures to develop the sustainable agri-food sector throughout its territory. The budget allocated by the EU and the Walloon Region is EUR 30 million. Information about the managing authorities for the RRF is provided in the summary table.



National funding sources

The Belgian institutional system features distribution of competences, with environmental matters managed at regional level⁹⁰. **Regional funds** for environmental protection constitute an important source of funding for biodiversity-related projects in the three regions. These are described separately for each region below.

Brussels-Capital Region

Any organisation wishing to promote sustainable development (e.g. nature conservation awareness, waste sorting, gardening courses) can apply for a **project grant**⁹¹. The cabinet of the responsible minister will decide whether or not to support the project. Approval will lead to the preparation of a subsidy decree, possibly with an agreement on the nature, scope, terms of use and justifications to be provided. The procedure then varies according to the amount that is granted (e.g. above EUR 30,000, the file must be approved by the regional

government).

Afforestation is entirely under the responsibility of the municipality of Brussels. Brussels has also developed the **Plan Canopée**⁹², which aims to make the region more resilient and liveable. The Plan encourages sponsorship of trees in citizens' streets and assistance with greening of tree roots by adding plants to the bed surrounding the trees.

Flemish Region

Flanders supports projects that constructively combine agriculture and nature and are beneficial to both. For example, the Department for the Environment, the Department for Agriculture and Fisheries, the Flemish Land Agency and the Agency for Nature and Forests select four projects each year and grant them up to EUR 20,000 each⁹³. Flanders also grants **subsidies for afforestation, reforestation and agroforestry** (see below).

There are also funds at a lower level. For example, in 2022, the Province of West Flanders and the intercommunal associations of WVI and Leiedal combined efforts to invest in resilient regions and established a **Fund for Nature** (EUR 30 million)⁹⁴. Examples of projects under this fund include the expansion of an ecological park in Vichte with forest and other natural elements, and the expansion of the *de Bonte Os* reserve⁹⁵.

Subsidies for afforestation and reforestation

As the Flemish government wants to protect nature reserves and expand existing forests, it **subsidises new forest owners**. The application needs to be submitted before the plantation, via a [form](#) and the forest must be maintained for at least 25 years. Both natural persons, private and public legal entities (excluding the Flemish Region and the federal state) can receive the subsidy. If an existing forest was subsequently cut down, a person can obtain subsidies to reforest the same land by submitting another [form](#). The subsidy is a

⁸⁹ NextGenBelgium, [Heropbouw voor de volgende generaties](#)

⁹⁰ Article 6 of the Law of 8 August 1980 on institutional reforms, *juncto* Article 39 of the Belgian Constitution.

⁹¹ Environment Brussels, [Subventions de projet](#)

⁹² Brussels-Capital, [Plan Canopée 2020-2030](#)

⁹³ Vlaanderen, [Projectoproep Landbouw-Natuur: op zoek naar een win-win](#)

⁹⁴ West-Vlaanderen, Leiedal en WVI, [Regio-fonds 'Natuur', 2022](#)

⁹⁵ Lahaye-Battheu, S., [Regiofonds West-Vlaanderen investeert 30 miljoen euro aan duurzame projecten](#)

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lump-sum amount per metre-squared (m^2), afforested in accordance with the conditions. The subsidy amount varies depending on the location of the land (between EUR 0.35/ m^2 and EUR 2.5/ m^2).

Several conditions need to be fulfilled in order to be eligible for the subsidy⁹⁶. These include: the land is not forested yet, there is no obligation by court or commitment to afforest the land, and the planted species must be indigenous.

Subsidies for acquisition of land to be forested

Flanders provides a one-off subsidy for acquisition of land to be forested through an annual project call, with funds from the **forest compensation fund**⁹⁷. This only concerns local and provincial authorities and the forest needs to be maintained for 25 years. A [form](#) must be filled in to apply for the fund. The subsidy amounts to 90% of the purchase amount, with a ceiling of EUR 7/ m^2 or EUR 250,000 in total. It can be combined with subsidies from other governments.

The conditions to receive a subsidy include requirements that the land was not previously a forest, it is at least 0.1 hectares, and that the afforestation must be maintained as a publicly accessible forest.

Subsidies for agroforestry

Farmers who establish agroforestry systems can receive a **partial refund for planting trees** (up to a maximum of 75%)⁹⁸. Applications are open until the 15th of September. Moreover, farmers can receive subsidies under pillar II of the CAP for the maintenance of the agroforestry system. For this purpose, they have to commit for 5 years to the specific agri-environmental measure⁹⁹.

Walloon Region

In its Nature Conservation Act¹⁰⁰, Wallonia established the **Biodiversity Protection Fund** (Chapter V Protection of Forests and Rural Areas).

In order to improve biodiversity and the quality of the landscape, recreate an ecological network and combat soil erosion, the Department of Nature and Forests of the Walloon Public Service grants owners of land¹⁰¹ located in the Walloon region a **subsidy for planting** a living hedge, a linear coppice, an orchard and a tree line as well as for the maintenance of pollard trees¹⁰². This subsidy is part of the ambitious objective of planting 4,000 km of hedges and/or one million trees. The initiative is called '[Yes we plant](#)'. The amount of the subsidy varies according to the type of planting.

Owners of land who plant tree lines will receive EUR 6 per tree purchased from a nursery, EUR 2 per willow cutting or EUR 25 per tree of a recognised or certified variety in orchards¹⁰³. The grant is linked to compliance with a number of conditions, including that the beneficiary is obliged to maintain and care for the plantations for 30 years, the subsidised achievements are subject to inspection during that period, and that the planting work must be finished no later than three years after the notification of the permit.

In addition to regional public funding, several **companies and associations** support tree planting throughout the country. Since 2011, the Royal Forestry Society of Belgium has been offering financial and technical assistance for reforestation projects in Belgium, with the support of partner companies. Candidates need to fill in a [form](#) (online or printed). The Society operates based on corporate sponsorship, through companies participating in the '[Plant a tree](#)' action.

⁹⁶ Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos, [Subsidieregeling bebossing 2015](#)

⁹⁷ Vlaanderen, [Projectoproep aankoop gronden bebossing – bossencompensatiefonds](#)

⁹⁸ Vlaanderen, [A Aanplant boslandbouwsystemen - cmp 2023 - versie 26062023.pdf](#)

⁹⁹ [Onderhoud van boslandbouwsystemen \(agroforestry\) | Landbouw en Visserij \(vlaanderen.be\)](#)

¹⁰⁰ Nature Conservation Act of 12 July 1973, *M.B* 11 Sept. 1973.

¹⁰¹ Individuals, municipalities, public authorities, holders of a right to use such property.

¹⁰² Wallonie, [Demander une subvention pour la plantation d'une haie vive, d'un taillis linéaire, d'un verger et d'alignement d'arbres ainsi que pour l'entretien des arbres têtards](#)

¹⁰³ The amounts in the table are multiplied by 1.5 when the work is carried out by a company specialised in the type of work concerned, without exceeding 80% of the total amount of the invoices.

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It offers financial aid for reforestation of plots that have suffered a climatic or biological hazard, new afforestation, and innovative reforestation. With some exceptions, the aid is fixed at EUR 1/tree, with a maximum of EUR 2,000 per applicant. The conditions include that the owner must be a member of the Society for at least five consecutive years, that the seedlings must be of recommendable provenance, and that the project must include a minimum of 500 trees.

Reforest'Action co-finance reforestation projects, mainly in France but also around the world. They finance different types of projects, such as restoration of forest plots, forest creation, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration (EUR 0.5 and EUR 1.2 per plant). The projects are selected based on different criteria, including diversity of species, biodiversity habitats, and preservation of CO₂ in the soil. The funds can be combined with public aid. Conditions include: the project must concern at least 1,500 plants; invasive species are not funded; at least three mixed species must be planted; and the owner must present a sustainable management document.



Innovative funding sources

Belgium believes in green finance and makes use of **green bonds** as a tool to finance the environmental transition¹⁰⁴. In 2018, Belgium issued its first green bonds and raised EUR 4.5 billion¹⁰⁵. In 2022, Belgium raised another EUR 4.5 billion in the same way¹⁰⁶.

In April 2019, the Walloon Region issued an inaugural sustainable bond to finance its eligible social and environmental expenditure¹⁰⁷. This inaugural issue raised EUR 1 billion at very attractive financial conditions. On 1 April 2020, the

Walloon Region issued a second long-dated bond, raising EUR 500 million. In addition, the Region increased the size of the previous bond by EUR 200 million, reaching a total of EUR 700 million.

Flanders has developed the Flanders Sustainability Bond Framework, under which it may decide to issue multiple social, green and sustainability bonds, using the proceeds to finance and refinance, in whole or in part, existing and future projects that support the achievement of its sustainable development targets as stated in Flanders' Vizier 2030 and Vision 2050¹⁰⁸.

Crowdplanting

Reforest'Action leads a **crowdplanting** initiative¹⁰⁹, whereby individuals or companies wishing to create or expand a forest can contact Reforest'Action and take action. This initiative is financed by various means, including crowdfunding, which allows individuals from all over the world to support a reforestation project on a one-off or monthly basis.

Ad hoc funds

In 2021, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) launched the first edition of the [Local Nature Fund](#), an initiative aimed at supporting small projects led by citizens for the protection and restoration of nature in Belgium. WWF granted between EUR 2,500 and EUR 5,000 to 47 projects, including the plantation of a micro-forest in Gembloux and an 'edible forest' comprising fruit trees.

[Natuurpunt](#) (Nature Point) is an independent association of volunteers supporting projects in Flanders, with a focus on innovative methods or initiatives to introduce the themes of nature, the environment and sustainability to a broad group of people. It grants up to EUR 2,500 to projects.

No information has been found regarding a national programme organising **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)**. However, ad hoc initiatives might exist at a local level. For example, in May 2022, the Walloon Region launched a call

¹⁰⁴ Belgian Debt Agency, [Green OLO Framework, 2022](#)

¹⁰⁵ Belgian Debt Agency, [Green OLO](#)

¹⁰⁶ Galloy, P., [L'emprunt vert de l'État belge a attiré une forte demande, 2022](#)

¹⁰⁷ Wallonie, [Obligations durables, sociales et vertes](#)

¹⁰⁸ Sustainability, [Second Party Opinion, Flanders Sustainability Bond, 2018](#)

¹⁰⁹ Reforestation, [Nos solutions pour les citoyens](#)

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for projects, “Green and Blue Mesh in Urban Areas”, whose purpose was to grant subsidies to 16 municipalities with projects developing networks of natural areas and promoting access to nature for all¹¹⁰. Under this call for projects, a budget of EUR 6.8 million had been foreseen. The call was the second one of a series of four. Calls are announced on the website of the Region of Wallonia¹¹¹.

¹¹⁰ Wallonie, [16 projets pour renforcer le maillage écologique en Wallonie, 2022](#)

¹¹¹ Wallonie, [Appels à projets de végétalisation](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF Brussels-Capital Region	Brussels-Capital Regional Public Service	See website and website	Improving the urban metabolism in line with the sustainable urban development strategy pursued by the EU Sustainable development	Grants	2021-2027	
ERDF Flemish Region	Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship Agency	See website and website	Improving the urban metabolism in line with the sustainable urban development strategy pursued by the EU Sustainable development	Grants	2021-2027	
ERDF Walloon	Public Service of Wallonia –	See website	Improving the urban	Grants	2021-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Region	Office of Secretary General	and website	metabolism in line with the sustainable urban development strategy pursued by the EU Sustainable development			
EAFRD	Flemish government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	website	Environmental and climate goals Eco-schemes	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
	Walloon government, Department of Agriculture	website	Environmental and climate goals Eco-schemes	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Flemish Energy and Climate Agency	website	Environment Climate Energy	Grants	2021-2027 NCPs as advisory service	'Most-Keiheuvel: nature restoration on the gradient from bog to quicksand'

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
LIFE	Walloon government	website	Environment Climate Energy	Grants	2021-2027 NCP as advisory service	'Ecological restoration of rivers and forests in the steep valleys of the Ourthe, Amblève, Vesdre and Our basins'
Horizon Europe	NCP in Brussels-Capital	website				
Horizon Europe	NCP in Flanders	website				
Horizon Europe	NCP in Wallonia	website				
RRF	Federal government	See website and website	Green transition Economic and social resilience Climate adaptation	Grants	2020-2026	
RRF	Flemish Region	See website and website	Green transition	Grants	2020-2026	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			Economic and social resilience Climate adaptation			
RRF	Walloon Region	See website and website	Green transition Economic and social resilience Climate adaptation	Grants	2020-2026	Building five pieces of infrastructure ensuring sustainable deployment of the agri-food sector
RRF	Wallonia-Brussels Federation	See website and website	Green transition Economic and social resilience Climate adaptation	Grants	2020-2026	
RRF	Brussels-Capital Region	https://be.brussels/ See website and website	Green transition Economic and social resilience	Grants	2020-2026	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			Climate adaptation			
RRF	German-speaking Community	See website and website	Green transition Economic and social resilience Climate adaptation	Grants	2020-2026	
National funding						
No specific funding instrument	Brussels-Capital Region	website	Sustainable development	Grants		
No specific funding instrument (but possible)	Flemish Region	See website and website	Afforestation Agro-forestry	Grants		
Calls for projects Agriculture-Nature	Flemish Region	website	Agriculture and nature	Grants		Agro-forestry project (CreAg-tief)
No specific funding instrument	Walloon Region	website	Afforestation	Grants		
Fund for	WVI, Leiedal	website	Projects	Grants		Projects:

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Nature	and West Flanders Province		regarding wetlands and afforestation			Ecological Park Vichte Natural Reserve de Bonte Os
Royal Forestry Society of Belgium		website	- Afforestation	Grants		
Federal and regional bonds	Federal Flemish Region Walloon Region	See website , website and website	Sustainable development	Financial instruments (green bonds)		
Innovative funding sources						
Reforest' Action	Reforest'Action	website	Afforestation	Co-financing	Private company: Reforest' Action	Reforest'Action
Local Nature Fund	WWF	website	Nature	Grants	Ad hoc: Local Nature Fund	WWF
Natuurpunt	NatuurAcademie	website	Nature	Grants	Ad hoc: Natuurpunt	NatuurAcademie

FINANCING SOURCES IN BULGARIA

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CSPD	Centres for Support of Personal Development
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
EMEPA	Enterprise for the Management of Environmental Protection Activities
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
JTF	Just Transition Fund
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
MOEW	Ministry of Environment and Water
MON	Ministry of Education and Science
NCP	National contact point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NICHES	Nature's Integration in Cities' Hydrologies, Ecologies and Societies
PES	Payments for ecosystem services
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
TJTP	Territorial Just Transition Plan
UCC	United Children's Complexes



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Projects for biodiversity, climate and nature in Bulgaria are mainly funded by:

- Programmes using EU shared funding instruments;
- Directly managed EU funds, such as the LIFE programme;
- State Enterprise for the Management of Environmental Protection Activities (EMEPA).

At EU-level, widespread funding sources under shared management are the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund, and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Funding is distributed through programmes, such as the Environment and the Rural Development Programme (RDP). Directly managed funds such as the LIFE Programme and Horizon Europe are also utilised, as well as funds from Biodiversa+, the European Biodiversity Partnership. The European Investment Bank (EIB) provides direct loans and other types of assistance for green and innovative projects.

At national level, the State budget allocates funds to the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) for sustainability-related projects annually. The EMEPA (under the MOEW) also provides funds in various forms. Additionally, the National Trust EcoFund manages funds from international, foreign, or national sources designated for environmental protection.

The following sections provide some brief information about potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Bulgaria. They are followed by a summary table containing practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

EU shared funds, such as the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund and the EAFRD are among the most used financing sources for projects on biodiversity, climate and nature in Bulgaria. Monies from these funds are distributed through the specific programmes in the country.

The **P Environment 2021-2027** is co-financed by the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund and Bulgaria's State budget. It prioritises water, waste, biodiversity, risk management, climate change and air projects. Municipalities and regional governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientific institutes, universities and legal entities with a commercial purpose that are the owners of the specified conservation structures are all eligible to apply for funding for biodiversity projects¹¹². Projects from the Programme Environment include analyses and studies of species and natural habitats subject to reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive.

The 2023 work programme of the Programme Environment allocates more than BGN 70 million (approx. EUR 36 million) for financing projects under the 'Biodiversity' priority axis. Of that, BGN 41 million (approx. EUR 20 million) is planned for 'Improving the environmental protection status of natural forest habitats through pilot activities'¹¹³.

Under Interreg (part of the Cohesion Fund), the Danube Transnational Programme¹¹⁴ and the Euro-MED¹¹⁵ programme provide support for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and climate change mitigation in the Mediterranean Sea and its bordering territories, respectively.

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) in Bulgaria is included in the Programme Good Governance. The Ministry of Energy is responsible for implementing activities related to the preparation

¹¹² Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria.

¹¹³ Programme Environment, 2022

¹¹⁴ [Interreg Danube Transnational Programme](#)

¹¹⁵ [Interreg Euro-MED programme](#)

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of the Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs), while the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the plans through the JTF under the 'Regional Development Programme' 2021-2027. The fund offers EUR 1.2 billion in grants. However, Bulgaria is the only country in the EU that did not submit its TJTP to the European Commission in 2022, meaning that it did not receive the planned EUR 97 million funding for that year. In March 2023, Bulgaria announced that it did not intend to launch projects financed by the JTF in 2023 and would not benefit from the planned funds¹¹⁶.

The Strategic Plan for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas in Bulgaria 2023-2027 (CAP Strategic Plan) relies on two pillars for funding – the **European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)** and the **EAFRD**. The Plan foresees support for afforestation and restoration in the form of grants, either as reimbursement of eligible costs incurred by a beneficiary or as unit costs. Projects for new afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural lands are eligible for funding, as are those concerning reforestation and afforestation of completely or partially destroyed plantations and crops by biotic and abiotic impacts. In total, approximately EUR 20 million of public expenditure is planned for activities related to creation/restoration and maintenance of forests. According to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan, 33 projects in this area will be supported by 2028 at the latest¹¹⁷.



EU Funding sources under direct management

The **LIFE programme** provides operating grants to public or private bodies and organisations, State institutions and NGOs, and includes a sub-

programme for nature and biodiversity.

The national contact point (NCP) for the LIFE programme in Bulgaria is the Directorate Coordination of EU affairs and international cooperation, International Programmes and Projects department of the MOEW. As of February 2023, there were 12 ongoing nature and biodiversity projects, three circular economy and quality of life projects, and one climate change mitigation and adaptation project supported by LIFE. These include:

- Supporting the restoration, climate resilience and biodiversity significance of priority forest habitats in Natura 2000 areas (LIFE REFOREST)¹¹⁸;
- LIFE for Eagle's Habitats¹¹⁹;
- Better Life for Lesser Kestrel in South-East Balkans¹²⁰.

Biodiversity-relevant projects in Bulgaria are also funded through grants from the **Horizon Europe** programme and its predecessor Horizon 2020. The NCP for Horizon Europe in Bulgaria is the Ministry for Education and Science (MON). The European Biodiversity Partnership **Biodiversa+**, funded by 33 countries and the EU, has also provided support for projects in Bulgaria¹²¹. These include BIOCONSENT, with a total grant of EUR 1.2 million, and Nature's Integration in Cities' Hydrologies, Ecologies and Societies (NICHES), with a total grant of EUR 601,098.

Most recent and relevant projects funded from the Horizon programme are:

- Promoting Innovation Excellence in Transformation of Coal Regions to Climate-Neutral, Thriving Economies¹²²;
- Co-designing Holistic Forest-based Policy Pathways for Climate Change Mitigation¹²³;
- Restoration of the Danube River Basin Waters for Ecosystems and People from Mountains to Coast¹²⁴.

¹¹⁶ Economic.BG.

¹¹⁷ CAP Strategic Plan 2021 Report, 2021.

¹¹⁸ [Life reforest: recovering ecosystems](#)

¹¹⁹ [Life for eagle's habitats](#)

¹²⁰ [Life for Lesser-Kestrel](#)

¹²¹ [European Biodiversity Partnership](#)

¹²² European Commission, 2023.

¹²³ European Commission, 2022.

¹²⁴ European Commission, 2023a.

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The **Bulgarian Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)** includes funding for biodiversity amounting to more than BGN 104 million (approx. EUR 51 million)¹²⁵ (see summary table).

The **EIB** financed 12 projects relevant for nature and biodiversity between 2021 and 2023 in Bulgaria, amounting to more than EUR 650 million. Among them are projects concerning climate and nature, such as the Flag DFI FL for Urban and Green Priorities project, aimed at upgrading urban green areas, improving sustainable urban mobility and supporting climate change adaptation measures¹²⁶.

'Sustainable cities and regions' was one of the EIB's priority areas in Bulgaria for 2022, with EUR 285 million allocated to related projects. Additionally, EUR 1.4 million was spent on projects under the 'Sustainable energy and natural resources' priority that year. As part of an investment programme for innovative green projects, the EIB funded Bulgarian nanosatellite technology, which saves CO₂ launch emissions¹²⁷.



National funding sources

National funding plays an important role in supporting green projects in Bulgaria. For instance, the **MOEW** envisions a budget of BGN 135 million (EUR 67.5 million) for its Priority Axis 3 'Natura 2000 and Biodiversity' for the period 2023-2025. As of September 2022, 24 calls for tender worth BGN 223.09 million were announced (165% of the Axis budget), 95 projects worth BGN 127.84 million (94.3% of the Axis budget) for the provision of grant-in-aid were agreed, and BGN 62.18 million (45.9% of the Axis budget) of payments were made¹²⁸.

The largest funding source for biodiversity, climate and nature projects is the State's **EMEPA**. It provides funds in the form of grants, interest-free or low-interest loans, and subsidies to cover (partly

or fully) interest fees for bank loans granted for the implementation of environmental projects. Municipalities, town administrations, mayors' offices, schools, kindergartens, and Centres for Support of Personal Development (CSPD)/United Children's Complexes (UCC) are all eligible for funding. In 2023, a total of BGN 1 million of financing is planned under the EMEPA. For municipalities' and town administrations' projects, the EMEPA offers up to BGN 15,000 (EUR 7,600) for a total value of BGN 2 million (EUR 1 million). Schools, kindergartens and CSPD/UCC can receive up to BGN 7,500 (EUR 3800) for a total value of BGN 1.5 million (EUR 766,000).

Some national funds act as intermediary coordinating bodies in the disbursement of foreign and national funding. For example, the **National Trust EcoFund**¹²⁹ manages funds provided by international, foreign, or national sources designated for environmental protection. Types of funding include dedicated funding from the national budget, grants from governments, international financial institutions, international funds, and third-party legal persons, grants from international foundations and foreign nationals, and external sources. For pilot projects, subsidies can be up to 50% of the value of the project. Priority areas for project financing of the EcoFund are: liquidation of past environmental pollution and damage, reducing air pollution and limiting climate change, protecting water cleanliness, supporting the national ecological network and protecting the biodiversity, including pilot projects for restoration of types of natural habitats.



Innovative funding sources

Crowdfunding is a popular means of innovative funding for biodiversity, climate and nature projects and initiatives. The platform of **BCause Bulgaria** provides the space for this crowdfunding. Examples of relevant initiatives include:

¹²⁵ Information System for Management and Monitoring of EU funds in Bulgaria 2020.

¹²⁶ EIB, 2022.

¹²⁷ EIB, 2021.

¹²⁸ MOEW, 2022.

¹²⁹ National Trust [EcoFund](#)

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- Tree Doctor – help a tree¹³⁰.
- Mission Chestnut in the Lozenets area¹³¹.

No information was found on the use of green bonds or payments for ecosystem services (PES) in Bulgaria.

¹³⁰ [Tree doctor](#)

¹³¹ [Mission chestnut](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	MOEW	See website	<p>Priority areas: water, waste, biodiversity (EUR 132,470,260), risk and climate change, and air</p> <p>Eligible: municipalities, regional governments, and for the biodiversity priority area – NGOs, scientific institutes, universities and legal entities with a commercial purpose that are the owners of the specified conservation structures,</p>	Grants	<p>Scale: EUR 1.8 billion (total) = EUR 1.5 million EU + EUR 291 million national public contribution (2021-2027)</p>	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			see website .			
JTF	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works	See website	Territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality (i.e. coal regions of Pernik, Kyustendil, Stara Zagora)	Grants	Scale: EUR 1.3 billion Support for 2022 and 2023 not received as TJTPs not submitted	n/a
EAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	See website	Strategic Plan providing funds through the EAFRD	Grants, subsidies		
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE programme	NCP: MOEW	See website	Public or private bodies and organisations, state institutions, NGOs	Action grants and grants for operational and administrative costs of NGOs		Supporting the restoration, climate resilience and biodiversity significance of priority forest habitats in Natura 2000 areas (LIFE REFOREST) LIFE for Eagle's Habitats Better Life for

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
						<p>Lesser Kestrel in South-East Balkans LIFE19</p> <p>Conservation of Pomorie Lake coastal lagoon</p> <p>Demonstration of a pilot green infrastructure as a win-win solution for biodiversity and development in Lake Varna</p> <p>Eradication of invasive alien species, recreation and conservation of priority forest habitats within Natura 2000 network in NE Bulgaria</p>
Horizon Europe	NCP: MON	See website	Research, innovation, technological development	Budget-based grants	In February 2020, there were 51 projects with a total budget of	Transition in Coal Intensive Regions (TRACER)

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
					EUR 64.3 million (EUR 60.2 million EU contribution) for projects in Bulgaria, see website .	<p>Bio-based Strategies and Roadmaps for Enhanced Rural and Regional Development in the EU (BE-Rural)</p> <p>Promoting Innovation Excellence in Transformation of Coal Regions to Climate-Neutral, Thriving Economies</p> <p>Co-designing Holistic Forest-based Policy Pathways for Climate Change Mitigation</p> <p>Restoration of the Danube River Basin Waters for Ecosystems and People</p>

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
						from Mountains to Coast
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	NCP: Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria	See website	Climate objectives and digital transition	Grants	Scale: EUR 6.27 billion in grants (58.9% for climate and 25.8% for digital transition)	Establishment of a Green Energy Transition Commission
Biodiversa+	EU	See website	Biodiversity projects	Grants	Scale: EUR 800+ million overall budget with EUR 165 million EU contribution	BIOCONSENT NICHES
EIB	EU	See website	A focus on innovative and/or green projects, among other climate action and environment projects	Direct loans to large companies and big projects and loans or assistance to local banks, which in turn give finance to firms for small projects	Scale: EUR 0.95 billion , 1.43% of GDP (2021)	Flag DFI FL for Urban and Green Priorities Sofia Roads and Sustainable Mobility EnduroSat
National funding						
EMEPa	MOEW	See website	Municipalities, town administrations, mayors'	State enterprise funds:	In 2023: A total of BGN 1,094,611 financing	Annual maintenance of the Wildlife Rescue

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			offices, schools, kindergartens (CSPD/UCC)	Grants Interest-free or low-interest loans Subsidies to cover (partly or fully) interest fees for bank loans granted for the implementation of environmental projects	planned For projects of municipalities and town halls, up to BGN 15,000 with VAT for a total value of BGN 2 million For projects of schools, kindergartens and CSPD/UCC, up to BGN 7,500 with VAT for a total value of BGN 1,5 million	Centre (rehabilitation, breeding and return to nature of rare and endangered species) in Stara Zagora for 2020 Assessment and monitoring of the impact of air pollution on forest ecosystems - level I (large-scale) and level II (intensive) - 2020-2021
National Trust EcoFund	MOEW	See website	Priority areas for project financing: Liquidation of past environmental pollution and damage Reducing air pollution and limiting	Types of funding: Dedicated funding from the national budget Grants from governments, international financial institutions,	Management of funds provided by international, foreign, or national sources designated for environmental protection. Foreign sources include, for instance, EUKI	Approved municipalities under the mineral waters investment programme

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			<p>climate change</p> <p>Protecting water cleanliness</p> <p>Supporting the national ecological network and protecting biodiversity, including pilot projects for restoration of types of natural habitats</p>	<p>international funds, and third-party legal persons</p> <p>Grants from international foundations and foreign nationals</p> <p>External sources</p>	<p>Scale:</p> <p>For pilot projects, subsidies are up to 50% of the value of the project</p>	
BCause Bulgaria	Foundation BCause	See website	Platform for crowdfunding, which includes nature-based and sustainability-related projects and initiatives	Crowdfunding		<p>Tree Doctor – help a tree</p> <p>Mission Chestnut in the Lozenets area</p> <p>For the future of cinereous vultures in Bulgaria</p>

FINANCING SOURCES IN CROATIA

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CCP	Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gas
JTF	Just Transition Fund
ITP	Integrated Territorial Programme
NCP	National Contact Point
PEHR	Programme effective human resources
PES	Payment for ecosystem services



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Different sources are available in Croatia to fund biodiversity, nature and climate protection projects, including European Union (EU) funding, national funds, regional and local municipal budgets and private funding. Croatia is a beneficiary of Cohesion Policy, with a number of Programmes at national, regional and local level providing grants for various initiatives, such as biodiversity and nature protection projects.

Other EU funding opportunities available in Croatia include LIFE and Horizon Programmes. For each of these, a National Contact Point (NCP) is available to guide potential beneficiaries on opportunities, application procedures and relevant information. The Strategic Plan as part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is another important source of funding for nature protection, particularly planting trees and shrubs in the context of agriculture and development of rural areas.

The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund is a major institution in the country providing funding for potential beneficiaries of projects in the area of environmental protection. Environmental and nature protection is also financed from municipal budgets. Innovative financing sources, such as green municipal and corporate bonds, are only available in private sector. Crowdfunding opportunities are gradually gaining popularity in Croatia.

The following sections provide some brief information about potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Croatia. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Croatia will remain one of the beneficiaries of **Cohesion Policy** funding in the coming years. Both the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund will continue to

play an important role in supporting environmental, climate and biodiversity-supporting initiatives. Biodiversity-related projects under the Cohesion Policy are coordinated by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The following programmes have been established within the Cohesion Policy:

- Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme (CCP) 2021-2027: financed from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund;
- Programme effective human resources (PEHR) 2021-2027: financed from the European Social Fund (ESF);
- Integrated Territorial Programme (ITP) 2021-2027: financed from the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund (JTF).

Among these, the CCP and ITP can support tree planting. The CCP under the Specific Objective 2.7 foresees investments in green infrastructure in urban areas and restoration of biodiversity, including tree planting described as follows: "implementation of pilot projects and projects implementing green infrastructure, such as parks and forests in urban areas, the shores of lakes and watercourses, transformation of existing non-functional green/blue areas into green infrastructure, green bicycle infrastructure, tree lines, urban networks, sensory gardens, rain gardens, urban gardens on the ground or on buildings, green parking areas, green roofs, green facades, landscaping of the building, etc."¹³².

The ITP foresees tree planting as a priority. It states that the remaining part of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction to reach climate neutrality will be achieved through measures such as afforestation¹³³ (see summary table). The JTF is integrated into the ITP.

The **CAP Strategic Plan 2021-2027**¹³⁴ lists afforestation and forest restoration as types of interventions that will be supported within the actions to limit the impact of climate change in agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture, together with the Agency for Payments in Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development monitor the

¹³² [CCP](#) p. 120.

¹³³ [ITP](#)

¹³⁴ [CAP Strategic Plan 2021-2027](#)

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implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan (see summary table).



EU Funding sources under direct management

The NCP for the **LIFE Programme** is established in the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (see summary table). The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund also provides co-financing for projects accepted for co-financing from LIFE. There are many LIFE projects in Croatia which may potentially support tree planting, such as LIFE RESTORE for MDD – Preserving and restoring floodplain forest habitats, LIFE WILD WOLF – Concrete actions for maintaining wild wolves in anthropogenic landscapes of Europe,¹³⁵.

For **Horizon Europe**, the Ministry of Science and Education is the NCP (see summary table). Projects under this funding instrument must have a strong innovation component, thus few will be relevant for tree planting. Nevertheless, some projects focusing on biodiversity-enhancing and climate protection, or adaptation measures may include tree-planting initiatives.

Croatia's **Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)** 2021-2026 does not mention specific possibilities to apply for funding for tree planting¹³⁶.



National funding sources

The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund is the largest financial institution supporting environment and climate. It supports both large national programmes and smaller projects implemented by various stakeholders at a

regional or local level by granting loans, subsidies, financial assistance and donations. Income for financing the Fund's activities comes from the Fund's dedicated revenue streams (compensation from environmental polluters, environmental user fees, compensation for burdening the environment with waste, special environmental fees on motor vehicles), regional and municipal budgets, donations and other income. The Fund co-finances LIFE projects and other EU projects financed through EU structural instruments and gives subsidies to legal and natural persons to improve energy efficiency, etc. (see the summary table). The Fund in 2023 published call for the implementation of climate change adaptation measures for the purpose of strengthening the resilience of urban environments and call for the cultivation of seedlings in nursery production for forest species and species intended for the greening of urban areas.

With the aim of ensuring a greater contribution of the tourism sector to reducing the negative effects of climate change, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Croatian Tourist Board (CTB) have prepared a project for financing the planting of trees in tourist destinations throughout Croatia. In 2022, the invitation to participate in the project was sent to tourism associations, to organize the planting of native trees. Grants were given to 116 local authorities. The project implemented by the Ministry and CTB is part of a broader plan based on which an additional 10 million seedlings should be planted in Croatia by 2030.

Biodiversity and climate-related initiatives are also financed from **national, regional, and municipal budgets**. Krka National Park joined the European 3 Billion Trees campaign by providing one thousand saplings of native trees to visitors of the park¹³⁷.

Three additional initiatives were also implemented: "Boranka", the largest volunteer reforestation campaign of burned areas ever organized in Croatia, but also in the whole of Europe, by Scouts Croatia, 'Days of collective tree planting', by Croatian Forests, and 'Plant a tree, don't be a

¹³⁵ [List of programmes](#) financed from LIFE fund

¹³⁶ [Recovery and Resilience Plan for Republic of Croatia 2021-2026](#)

¹³⁷ [One thousand saplings of native trees given to visitors of Krka National Park](#), May 2023.

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stump!', by the organisation of the same name.



Innovative funding sources

M+ Group¹³⁸, together with strategic partners Erste&Steiermärkische Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), issued the first sustainability-linked bonds with a value of almost EUR 40 million in Croatia¹³⁹. The EBRD has invested EUR 60 million in sustainability bonds issued by Raiffeisenbank Austria (RBA), the Croatian branch of the Austrian Raiffeisen Bank International AG. RBA will invest the proceeds from the issue in Croatian projects that would be eligible under the EBRD's Green Economy Transition project¹⁴⁰. The market for green equity in Croatia is still developing and is present only in the private sector.

Crowdfunding campaigns are another source of financing in Croatia. The initiative 'Plant a tree don't be a stump!' used this type of financing to collect resources to buy seeds and tools for planting trees¹⁴¹. The aim of the campaign was to collect HRK 1.5 million (c.a. EUR 200 000).

Lottery Funding as innovative way of financing started in 2023 with the lottery "Parkovi Hrvatske" (Parks of Croatia) as a way to celebrate 50 years of the Croatian Lottery. With this lottery, in cooperation with public institutions for the management of national parks and nature parks in the Republic of Croatia, Croatian Lottery aimed at raising awareness of the importance of nature protection through the promotion of national and nature parks. By buying a lottery ticket, citizens donate to the preservation of nature and national parks in Croatia. One of the examples was donation of EUR 5 300 to the Papuk Nature Park, specifically for the project of planting a thousand

yew seedlings.

Croatia has a long-standing tradition of using Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the context of forestry. The Croatian tax scheme requires natural and legal persons conducting economic activities with an income over approximately EUR 1 million to pay a tax equal to 0.024% of their revenue for benefiting from forest ecosystem services. The fees are directed to the earmarked fund supporting firefighting and scientific research in the field of forestry¹⁴².

¹³⁸ M+ Group is a Zagreb-based provider of business process and technology outsourcing services with operations in 58 countries, including BiH, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia, the United States (US) and Turkey.

¹³⁹ [Report on green bonds issued in Croatia](#), August 2022

¹⁴⁰ [Report on Green bonds issued in Croatia](#), October 2022

¹⁴¹ [Crowdfunding campaign](#) for 'Plant a tree, don't be a stump!'

¹⁴² This example is featured in the [EU Forestry Strategy and in the Commission's Guidance on the Development of Public and Private Payment Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services](#).

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds; Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Directorate for Strategic Planning and Coordination of EU Funds, see website Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Department for Environmental and Nature Protection, website Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, green infrastructure in urban areas, education, promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, adaptation to climate change	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees also possible	CCP 2021-2027 ITP for the financial period 2021-2027 is partly financed through ERDF and Cohesion Fund	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		see website				
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	Ministry of Agriculture, Agency for payments in agriculture, fisheries and rural development	Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate for Support to Agriculture and Rural Development, see website Agency for payments in agriculture, fisheries and rural development, see website	Agro-forestry, enhancing biodiversity in forests owned by farmers, planting trees and shrubs	Strategic plan offering support for farmers: micro loans, small loans, investment loans, guarantees and working capital Grants are also one option, particularly for environmental investments where 100 % of investment is financed, e.g. for planting new hedges.	Information on obtaining financing can be found at the dedicated websites: website website	TBD
JTF	Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds	Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, see website	Afforestation measures	non-refundable grants, loans	2021-2027 Typically focuses on regional growth and development Investments related to the	ITP

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
					JTF are part of the ITP	
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, NCP for the LIFE Programme, see website	Nature protection and climate protection	Grants	Information on funding opportunities available at NCP website	LIFE projects in Croatia
Horizon Europe	Ministry of Science and Education	Ministry of Science and Education, NCP, see website	Innovative projects, including on climate protection and health	Grants	Information on funding opportunities available at NCP website	
National funding						
Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund		Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, see website	Environmental protection, energy efficiency and waste management	Loans, subsidies, financial assistance and donations	Information on calls for proposal available at dedicated website	Project examples: City of Umag City of Karlovac
Project "Croatia naturally yours"	Ministry of Tourism and Croatian Tourist Board	Ministry of Tourism website Croatian Tourist Board	Additional tree planting which will contribute to compensating CO2 emissions	Grants	website	Project examples: City of Topusko City of Brela

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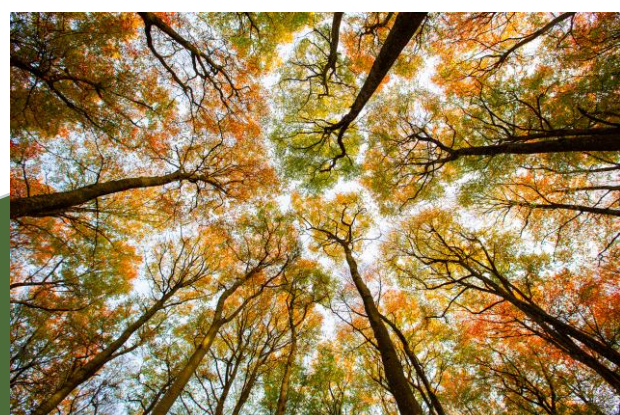


Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		website	from tourist vehicles			City of Slavonski Brod City of Opatija
Initiative “Boranka”	Scouts Croatia	Scouts Croatia website	Reforestation of burnt areas in Dalmatia	Donations	website	
Initiative ‘Days of collective tree planting’	Croatian forests	Croatian Forests Ltd., see website	Tree planting	Financed from the budget of Croatian Forests	Information on current calls available at website	
Initiative ‘Plant a tree, don’t be a stump!’	Association ‘Plant a tree, don’t be a stump!’	Initiative ‘Plant a tree, don’t be a stump!’, see website	Tree planting	Crowdfunding	Information on crowdfunding possibilities available at website	
Lottery Funding (Lottery “Parks of Croatia”)	Croatian lottery	Croatian Lottery, see website	Preservation of nature and national parks		Information on lottery “Parks of Croatia” available at website	Project examples: Planting of yew seedlings in Nature Park Papuk

FINANCING SOURCES IN CYPRUS

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National contact point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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In Cyprus there is a range of funding instruments for biodiversity, climate and nature protection projects. These include funding opportunities at European and national level, as well as innovative instruments, including, crowdfunding platforms, green bonds and biodiversity offsets.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Cyprus. They are followed by a summary table of practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Under **Cohesion Policy**, Cyprus has adopted the Programme 'THALIA 2021-2027' (*Πρόγραμμα «ΘΑΛΕΙΑ 2021-2027»*), whose Managing Authority is the Directorate General Growth within the Ministry of Finance¹⁴³. It constitutes a multiannual, multi-fund development programme outlining the development strategy for the utilisation of the resources allocated to Cyprus through the Cohesion Policy Funds, for the period 2021-2027. The total budget of the Programme amounts to EUR 1.81 billion, of which EUR 968 million comes from the EU Cohesion Policy Funds, while the remaining EUR 842 million is the national contribution¹⁴⁴.

The Programme is structured through sixteen Priorities, established through the selection of specific objectives. Energy and Environment (Priority 2), as well as Climate Change and Circular Economy (Priority 5), are among those priorities. The protection and restoration of habitats within the Natura 2000 Sites are the indicative actions under Priority 2. Beneficiaries include public services, local authorities and the managing authorities of Natura 2000 Sites, along with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in ecology. Priority 5 sets climate change adaptation

among its priorities, but there is no particular reference to biodiversity or tree-planting initiatives. Lastly, Priority 4 on spatial development includes the regeneration of the natural environment, i.e. restoration/creation of squares.

The **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** resources will also be utilised through the Programme THALIA 2021-2027. Resources of EUR 101.1 million¹⁴⁵ have been allocated, but the relevant initiatives of the Programme do not include any particular reference to biodiversity or tree-planting initiatives.

The **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** of the EU is implemented in Cyprus through the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027, prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and approved by the European Commission. The CAP Strategic Plan addresses different categories of beneficiaries, such as farmers, producer groups, businesses, individuals, local authorities, partnerships, government departments and other bodies. The total budget of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 amounts to EUR 454.9 million, of which EUR 373.8 million is the European contribution and EUR 81.1 million the national contribution. In the Strategic Plan, nine specific objectives are defined including conservation of landscapes and biodiversity, environmental care, and action in response to climate change¹⁴⁶.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment has been designated as the Managing Authority for the Plan¹⁴⁷.

Under the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, Cyprus has adopted the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) 2021-2026. The Cyprus RRP has a total budget of approximately EUR 1.2 billion, distributed between a grant of EUR 1 billion and a loan of EUR 200 million. The Cyprus RRP promotes the utilisation of 133 investment and reformation measures, with a deadline of 2026, in five policy pillars that are bound to the strategic objective and the pursuit of the Plan. Transition to a Green Economy is one of the policy pillars¹⁴⁸, but there is no particular reference to initiatives related

¹⁴³ [Managing Authority of OP 'THALIA 2021-2027'](#)

¹⁴⁴ [OP 'THALIA 2021-2027'](#)

¹⁴⁵ [JTF in Cyprus](#)

¹⁴⁶ [CAP in Cyprus](#)

¹⁴⁷ [Managing Authority of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 in Cyprus](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Cyprus RRP 2021-2026](#)

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to biodiversity or tree-planting¹⁴⁹.

According to the information provided in Annex 4 of the Cyprus RRP for 2021-2026, the Monitoring Committee of the Plan is chaired by the Director General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development or their representative, and is composed of the Directors General or their representatives of various ministries.



EU Funding sources under direct management

A website specifically dedicated to information on funding programmes was introduced under the Directorate General Growth in the Ministry of Finance. It gathers information on different types of funding tools, including EU funding instruments. EU funding instruments available in Cyprus include **Horizon 2021-2027** and **LIFE**¹⁵⁰. The National Contact Point (NCP) for Horizon Europe in Cyprus is the Research and Innovation Foundation¹⁵¹. The NCP for LIFE is the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment for projects related to nature, biodiversity and climate change¹⁵².



National funding sources

The website dedicated to information on funding programmes under the Directorate General Growth in the Ministry of Finance provides information on funding tools at national level. More specifically, on **national grant schemes** (Εθνικά Σχέδια Κινήτρων), by competent ministry. The

Directorate General Growth under the Ministry of Finance, the Research and Innovation Institution, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment are among the authorities mentioned on the list of national incentive schemes¹⁵³.

Several foundations in Cyprus could provide grants for initiatives related to environment and biodiversity:

- **Cyprus Environment Foundation.** The main areas of interest for the Foundation include biodiversity conservation and regenerative land use¹⁵⁴. A tree-planting initiative, 'Greening Cyprus in the fire-affected areas' was introduced in 2022 and completed at the beginning of 2023¹⁵⁵;
- **A.G. Leventis Foundation.** The main areas of interest for the Foundation include environmental conservation¹⁵⁶. However, no particular initiatives related to biodiversity or tree-planting were identified on its website.



Innovative funding sources

'**Crowdbase**' is the first **crowdfunding platform** based in Cyprus, which enables interaction between the organisers of fundraising campaign and the investing public¹⁵⁷.

In 2022, the Council of Ministers approved the proposal of the Minister of Finance for the issuance by the Republic of Cyprus of a **green/sustainable bond** and authorised the Minister of Finance to proceed with all the necessary preparatory work regarding this initiative¹⁵⁸.

No information about **biodiversity offsets** or payment for ecosystem services (PES) could be found online.

¹⁴⁹ 'Quick Transition to a Green Economy' pillar of the Cyprus RRP 2021-2026

¹⁵⁰ EU funding instruments in Cyprus

¹⁵¹ NCP for Horizon Europe in Cyprus

¹⁵² NCP for LIFE in Cyprus

¹⁵³ National incentive schemes

¹⁵⁴ Cyprus Environment Foundation

¹⁵⁵ 'Greening Cyprus in the fire-affected areas' introduced by the Cyprus Environment Foundation

¹⁵⁶ A.G. Leventis Foundation

¹⁵⁷ General information on 'Crowdbase':

¹⁵⁸ Ministry of Finance, Minister's Press Office, [Decision of the Council of Ministers to issue a green bond, 2022](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and Cohesion Fund: Programme THALIA 2021-2027	Directorate General Growth, Ministry of Finance	See website	Environment, climate change, spatial planning	Grants	2021-2027	n/a
EAFRD	NCP: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	See website	Initiatives for conservation and enhancing biodiversity in forests and improving the restoration of forest habitats	Grants	2023-2027	<p>Tree-planting actions are included in the description of the intervention</p> <p>Conservation of landscape elements/ biodiversity islands with beekeeping plants</p> <p>Afforestation and creation of forested areas</p>

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding sources under direct management						
Horizon Europe	NCP: Research and Innovation Foundation (Ιδρυμα Έρευνας και Καινοτομίας)	See website	Protection and conservation of biodiversity, forest management	Grants	2021-2027	Examples of past calls include a programme on integrative forest management for multiple ecosystem services and enhanced biodiversity, as well as a call on biodiversity, economics and finance: unlocking financial flows towards reversing of biodiversity loss
LIFE	NCP: Department of Environment under the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and the Environment	See website	Environment and climate action	Grants	2021-2027	Current open calls include programmes on nature governance, nature & biodiversity and circular economy & quality of life, with forestry one of the thematic categories of

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
						the programme, as well as nature and biodiversity
National funding						
National grant schemes	NCP: A list of relevant authorities publishing calls is available on the website, with the relevant ones being the Directorate General Growth under the Ministry of Finance, the Research and Innovation Institution, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	See website	n/a	Grants	No relevant calls open (could be relevant for future actions)	Website provides information on national incentive plans, which are designed and approved at national level and are financed exclusively from national resources
Cyprus Environment Foundation	Cyprus Environment Foundation	See website	Land restoration	Grants	April 2022-February 2023 (could be relevant for future actions)	Greening Cyprus in the fire-affected areas

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FINANCING SOURCES IN CZECHIA

Abbreviations used

CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
JTF	Just Transition Fund
MoE	Ministry of the Environment
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPE	National Programme Environment
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
SEF CR	State Environmental Fund of Czechia



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Czechia offers a variety of funding options for projects focused on biodiversity, nature conservation, and climate protection, including European Union (EU) funding, national and regional funding, foundations and private donors, and innovative funding sources.

Since becoming a member of the EU in 2004, Czechia has been a beneficiary of **cohesion funding**, which supports various initiatives related to nature protection and biodiversity. The **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** is one of the most significant sources of funding for environmental investments during the 2021-2027 financial period. Also at EU level is the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**, as well as other funding opportunities such as the **LIFE and Horizon Programmes**.

There are also important funding sources at national and regional level. The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) runs the **National Programme Environment (NPE)**, providing long-term and effective environmental protection, citizen environmental education, and support for sustainable use of natural resources.

The following sections provide short information about funding opportunities potentially relevant for tree planting in Czechia. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

EU **Cohesion Policy** funding (consisting of ERDF, Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund (ESF) and Just Transition Fund (JTF)) represent a significant source of funding for environmental, climate and biodiversity-supporting initiatives in Czechia. The EU Cohesion Policy Funds are under the direction of the National Coordination Authority, a role held by the Ministry of Regional Development¹⁵⁹. The

priorities of Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 include a greener, carbon-free Czechia, which has been allocated EUR 6.3 billion. Cohesion Policy is implemented through nine Programmes¹⁶⁰. The most relevant ones for biodiversity and climate are: (i) Programme Environment (nature protection, landscape conservation and air quality), with a budget of EUR 2.4 billion for 2021-2027; and (ii) Programme Just Transition (transition towards a climate-neutral economy), with a budget of EUR 1.6 billion for 2021-2027. Both Programmes are directly managed by the MoE. An example of an ongoing project financed under Cohesion Policy is 'Revitalisation of greenery - Municipal gardens Františkovy Lázně'¹⁶¹. The project aims to create a new generation of trees and complement the existing greenery in order to contribute to the attractiveness of public green space, increase biodiversity, and provide a healthy environment for residents, visitors and small animals and birds.

For the period 2023-2027, the European Commission has approved Czechia's **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan** worth EUR 5.6 billion. The Plan includes a focus on protection of natural resources and biodiversity. It aims to increase the agricultural area with CAP support for organic farming from 16% to 21% by 2027. It also places a strong emphasis on protecting biodiversity, with the objective of supporting farmers implementing relevant measures. For example, farmers may receive incentives for dedicating 7% of their arable land to non-productive areas, utilising certain mowing techniques, practicing sustainable animal grazing, and limiting the use of fertilisers and pesticides. The goal is to transition to more sustainable meadow management on over 25% of agricultural land. The measures aim to safeguard natural ecosystems, including rare species of plants, birds, and butterflies¹⁶².

¹⁵⁹ [National coordination authority](#)

¹⁶⁰ See summary [leaflet](#).

¹⁶¹ ['Revitalisation of greenery - Municipal gardens Františkovy Lázně'](#)

¹⁶² [Documents relating to the approval of the CAP Strategic Plans](#)

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EU Funding sources under direct management

Czechia has been a significant beneficiary of the **LIFE Programme**, with 44 projects supported since it began. The total project costs were EUR 101 million, of which the EU provided EUR 61.5 million¹⁶³. The MoE is the National Contact Point (NCP) for the LIFE Programme¹⁶⁴. Nine LIFE projects are ongoing. An example of a completed project (August 2022) is 'Tree Check: Green Infrastructure Minimising the Urban Heat Island Effect'. The purpose of this project was to build green urban infrastructure, including through tree planting¹⁶⁵.

The National Focal Point for **Horizon Europe** is the **AV Technology Centre of the Czech Republic**. Each thematic area of Horizon Europe has a designated national contact providing information, consultation on the preparation and implementation phase of projects, and assisting in finding partners for research consortia (see summary table for further information).

Finally, at EU level is the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**. Czechia allocated EUR 7 billion towards its Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), which is centered around six key priorities: (i) Digital transformation, (ii) Physical infrastructure and green transition (iii) Education and labour market, (iv) Institutions, regulations and business support in response to COVID-19, (v) Research, development and innovation, and (vi) Population health and resilience. Czechia allocated CZK 85 million (approx. EUR 3.6 million) for this component. It aims to contribute to the economic and ecological sustainability of the agricultural and forestry landscape in the context of climate change, in particular by retaining water in the landscape, increasing biodiversity and improving the condition of forestry ecosystems. The main investments will include: (i) Flood protection, (ii) Small watercourses and small reservoirs, (iii)

Implementation of land improvements, (iv) Building climate-resilient forests, and (v) water retention in forest¹⁶⁶.



National funding sources

Another significant financing option available for biodiversity-related initiatives comes in the form of **funds for environmental protection and water management (SEF CR)**, at both national and regional level.

The MoE runs the **NPE**, which aims to provide Czechia with long-term, effective environmental protection, support the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, address the detrimental effects of human activity on the environment, mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, and provide effective prevention through citizen environmental education¹⁶⁷. This funding is available to a wide range of entities, including municipalities and counties, voluntary associations of municipalities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), public and private legal entities, and individuals. MoE Guideline No. 4/2015 on Provision of Funds from the SEF CR governs the provision of financial assistance to applicants, which may take the form of loans, subsidies, or both. Applications may be submitted to the SEF CR within the framework of publicly announced grant calls, and the terms of support are outlined in the call text and additional materials released alongside the grant call. More information, including the schedule of grant calls, is provided in the summary table.

Examples of relevant initiatives financed by the NPE include the grant programme 'Restoration of Green Spaces', for which the MoE allocated CZK 100 million (approx. EUR 4.2 million). Under this programme, the funding per project varies from EUR 4,200 to EUR 632,000. Applicants can apply

¹⁶³ Information provided in country [Factsheet](#).

¹⁶⁴ [NCPs - National contact points Nature & Biodiversity](#)

¹⁶⁵ For further information see [LIFE TreeCheck: Green Infrastructure Minimising the Urban Heat Island Effect](#)

¹⁶⁶ [National recovery plan](#) See: <https://www.planobnovy.cz/>

¹⁶⁷ [National program environment](#)

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for funding between 2 August 2021 and 30 November 2023¹⁶⁸. Another programme financed through NPE is Call No 5/2021: Tree Planting Grant Scheme, for which the MoE allocated CZK 30 million (approx. EUR 1.26 million). The funding per project varies from EUR 12,600 to EUR 210,500. Applicants can apply between 2 August 2021 and 30 December 2023¹⁶⁹. One of the most famous Czech tree-planting initiatives, 'We are Planting the Future' (*Sazíme Buducnost*), funded its activities with the help of these two grant schemes¹⁷⁰.

Several foundations provide support for biodiversity-related projects. Via Foundation is currently running an initiative called 'The city where we live' (*Misto kde zijeme*), which provides funding to informal groups of people, local non-profit organisations based on voluntary work and other organisations supporting community life, such as schools, libraries, municipal organisations, parish charities and others. Other relevant foundations providing funding for biodiversity and tree-planting initiatives include [Foundation Partnerství](#), [O2 Foundation](#), [Tipsport Foundation](#) or [CEZ Foundation](#). These do not have ongoing initiatives, but were previously part of relevant actions (see summary table).

Fourteen regions in Czechia offer **regional funding** for biodiversity and climate-change related initiatives. Each region runs the initiatives independently, and open initiatives, together with the application instructions, can be reviewed on each region's website (see summary table). Regional funding is usually in the form of a grant.

EUR 81 million, this was the largest green bond issue provided by a financial institution in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region to date¹⁷¹. Since then, other Czech banks have also begun to issue green bonds. For example, Ceska Sporitelna issued its first green bonds with a maturity of seven years with a total value of EUR 500 million¹⁷².

Payment for ecosystem services (PES) is a new emerging innovative funding source. The Ministry of Agriculture is currently subsidising a research project focusing on PES¹⁷³ in order to meet one of its research needs. More specifically, the focus is on the payment for non-productive forest functions resulting from ecosystem services. By examining existing knowledge, the project will suggest rates of direct payments per hectare for fulfilling ecosystem services in forests, as well as supplementary payments for intensifying these services through forestry efforts. Accompanying objectives include proposing an amendment to the Forest Act to allow for such payments, analysing the administrative complexity involved in implementing the PES system, recommending communication tools and strategies for the adoption of the PES principle by forest owners and other relevant interest groups, and conducting an economic analysis of the impacts of PES implementation on selected forest owners.



Innovative funding sources

The market for green equity in Czechia is relatively new; however, it is evolving very fast. Raiffeisenbank issued the first **green bonds** on the Czech market in early 2021. With a volume of

¹⁶⁸ National recovery plan, '[Restoration of Green Spaces](#)'

¹⁶⁹ National program environment, '[Tree Planting Grant Scheme](#)'

¹⁷⁰ '[We are Planting the Future](#)' (Sazíme Buducnost)

¹⁷¹ The first [Green bonds](#)

¹⁷² [Green bonds by Ceska Sporitelna](#)

¹⁷³ [Payment for ecosystem services](#) (PES)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF	Ministry of Regional Development	<p>Ministerstvo životního prostředí, odbor fondů EU</p> <p>Environment 2021-2027 programme</p> <p>Just transition 2021-2027 programme</p> <p>See website</p>	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, energy transition	Mostly grants, other financial instruments (e.g. loans, loan guarantees) also possible	For 2021-2027, there are nine programmes, with two of key relevance: (i) Environment, and (ii) Just Transition	<p>Ongoing project: Revitalisation of greenery - Municipal gardens Františkovy Lázně</p> <p>Aims to create a new generation of trees and complement existing greenery to contribute to the attractiveness of the public green space, increase biodiversity and provide a healthy environment for residents, visitors and small animals and birds</p> <p>See website.</p>

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministerstvo zemědělství, Odbor Řídicí orgán PRV (Ministry of Agriculture, Managing Authority Department for RDP) Email: info@mze.cz See website	Agro-forestry, enhancing biodiversity in forests owned by farmers, planting trees and shrubs	Subsidies, grants	CAP Strategic Plan offering support for farmers	
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	NCP: MoE	See the website of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on the LIFE program See the website on National contact points Nature & Biodiversity of the European Commission	Nature protection and climate protection	Grants	Further information, including overview of calls, see website which is managed by the National Contact Officers Electronic project submission system and reporting tools available on the Funding & tenders portal	5. 'Tree Check: Green Infrastructure Minimising the Urban Heat Island Effect' aimed to build green urban infrastructure, including through tree planting See website .
Horizon	NCP: Technologické	See website of the AV	Innovative projects,	Grants		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Europe	Centrum Praha	Technology Centre of the Czech Republic	including projects related to climate protection and health			
RRF	Úřad vlády ČR nábř. E. Beneše 4, 118 01 Malá Strana, Česko npo@mpo.cz	See website	Building climate resilient forests, Implementation of land improvements, Climate change adaptation	Grants, loans		
National funding						
NPE	MoE	See website	Environmental protection, climate adaptation, energy transition, biodiversity protection	Loans or subsidies		Grant programme 'Restoration of green spaces' Tree-planting grant scheme
Misto kde zijeme	Via Foundation	See website	Tree planting, biodiversity protection, climate adaptation	Grants	Applications submitted thorough Foundation website Funding in the form of a grant up to CZK 100,000	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
					(approx. EUR 4,265)	
Foundation funding	Foundation Partnerstvi	See website	Depending on open initiative	Grants		<i>Sazime budoucnost</i> (We are planting the future)
Foundation funding	O2 Foundation	See website	Depending on open initiative	Grants		<i>Sazime budoucnost</i> (We are planting the future)
Foundation funding	Tipsport Foundation	See website	Depending on open initiative	Grants		<i>Sazime budoucnost</i> (We are planting the future)
Foundation funding	CEZ Foundation	See website	Depending on open initiative	Grants		<i>Sazime budoucnost</i> (We are planting the future)
Regional funding for biodiversity and climate initiatives	Support for adaptation measures to climate change in 2023 within the Jihomoravsky Region	See website (in Czech)	Follow-up care of greenery, climate change adaptation, support for small watercourses and reservoirs	Grants		
	Subsidy	See website	Depending on	Grants		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	programmes of the Zlin region	(in Czech)	open initiative			
	Subsidies and grants of the city of Prague	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative (grant program for environmental initiatives in 2023 is closed and will open again at end-2023 for 2024)	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Stredocesky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Jihocesky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Plzensky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Karlovarsky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Ustecky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Subsidies and grants of Liberecky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Kralovehradecky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Pardubicky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Vysocina region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Olomoucky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		
	Subsidies and grants of Moravskoslezsky region	See website (in Czech)	Depending on open initiative	Grants		

FINANCING SOURCES IN DENMARK

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
JTF	Just Transition Fund
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change and forestry
MUFJO	Multifunctional land distribution
MVJPEFC	Environmentally friendly agricultural measures
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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EU-funded agricultural funds that target nature and biodiversity in Denmark and are open for application include a programme for private owners of agricultural land wishing to plant forests, an annual bio-scheme for the development of new nature and habitats, and subsidies for existing 20-year environmentally friendly agricultural measures. These schemes are administered by the Danish Agricultural Agency.

Other EU funds relevant for tree-planting projects include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Horizon Europe and LIFE. Under the ERDF, EUR 20 million will be distributed via the Danish Business Authority for the period 2022-2027 for the funding priority 'Green transition in [small and medium-sized enterprises] SMEs'. Advice on Horizon Europe and LIFE funding is available through the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The following sections provide brief information about potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Denmark, followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The budget for **ERDF-supported projects** is distributed through a national programme¹⁷⁴ that allocates up to DKK 35 million in 2022-2027 for green/climate investments to support Living Town Centres, including sustainable urban development projects that municipalities between 4,000 and 20,000 inhabitants can apply for. "The Danish Business Authority (Erhvervsstyrelsen) is the responsible authority for the ERDF in Denmark. Application and project administration help is available at their website¹⁷⁵.

¹⁷⁴ Erhvervsstyrelsen, [Nationalt program for EU's Regionalfond Danmark: Stærke virksomheder gennem innovation, digitalisering og grøn omstilling](#), 2022

¹⁷⁵ Erhvervsstyrelsen, [Hjælp til ansøgning og projektadministration](#), 2023

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) in Denmark targets the energy transition of energy-intensive industries, energy efficiency, circular economy, and research and development of new technologies, such as carbon capture and storage¹⁷⁶. Accordingly, funding for tree-planting projects may not be available via the JTF.

The current Danish Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan includes targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55-65% and double organic farming by 2030. About 19% of the rural development aspects are dedicated to commitments that benefit nature and biodiversity.

The total EU budget for Denmark is about EUR 4.8 billion, and the national budget supports the funds with about EUR 86 million. The environmental and climate objectives under rural development have a budget of about EUR 430 million, including EUR 31 million dedicated to afforestation. Eco-schemes under direct payments have a budget of about EUR 819 million¹⁷⁷.

Agricultural funds that target nature and biodiversity in Denmark that are open for applications are as follows:

- Under the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**: Subsidy for private afforestation, provided via the Danish Agricultural Agency (Landbrugsstyrelsen). The scheme is fully financed by the EU via the Danish EAFRD fund, and is available for private owners of agricultural land. The scheme is in the form of a grant for the establishment of new forests that include at least two hectares of planted areas¹⁷⁸;
- Biodiversity and sustainability, a **yearly bio-scheme** for development of new nature and habitats and to set aside areas of agricultural land for the benefit of biodiversity, climate, and the environment;
- **Payment for subsidies** for existing 20-

¹⁷⁶ Erhvervsstyrelsen, [Nationalt program for Fonden for Retfærdig Omstilling DANMARK: Grønne Teknologier og Kompetencer til Retfærdig Omstilling](#), 2022

¹⁷⁷ European Commission, [At a glance: Denmark's CAP Strategic Plan](#), 2022,

¹⁷⁸ Landbrugsstyrelsen, [Tilskud til privat skovrejsning](#), 2023

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year environmentally friendly agricultural measures (MVJ schemes), under the Danish Rural Development Programme, co-financed by the EAFRD. The scheme aims to develop the quality of production within agriculture and forestry, while taking environmental qualities into account.

More information about these measures can be found in the summary table.



EU Funding sources under direct management

In Denmark, it is possible to get advice and support for applying to **Horizon Europe** funding via the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (*Uddannelses og Forskningsstyrelsen*)¹⁷⁹. There is also a dedicated free-to-join network for Horizon Europe in Denmark, administered by EuroCentre at the Agency for Higher Education and Science (see summary table)¹⁸⁰.

LIFE grants for nature, environment and climate, are applied for directly via the European Commission's [funding and tender portal](#). However, it is possible to get support via the Danish EPA (*Miljøstyrelsen*) (see summary table).

The **EU-DK support platform** contains tailored information, contact points and contact details, organized by type of actor, project, and region. Contact points can be filtered by topic, such as climate and environment. The platform also contains examples of best practice in Denmark¹⁸¹.

The '**Danish Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) - accelerating the green transition**' has one apparently relevant component (Green transformation of agriculture and the environment), but the detail does not relate significantly to tree planting¹⁸².



National funding sources

Several national schemes exist in Denmark that can be used for tree planting.

Private natural forest (*Privat urørt skov*)

This scheme allows private landowners (individuals, companies, organisations) to apply for grants for natural forests. The purpose is to maintain and improve biodiversity in areas with high nature value or with potential for high nature value¹⁸³. This grant is administered by the Danish EPA.

Grants for contiguous areas in and adjacent to Natura 2000 areas (*Tilskud til sammenhængende arealer i og i tilknytning til Natura 2000 områder*)

This scheme allows private landowners to apply for grants to permanently extend land within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites. This grant is administered by the Danish EPA. The aim is to create better conditions for nature by creating larger, contiguous extensive areas and reducing the impact of farming¹⁸⁴.

Storm fall scheme (*Stormfaldsordning*)

A subsidy for replanting robust forest after storms, administered by the Danish EPA on behalf of the Storm Council¹⁸⁵.

Plant for wild animals (*Plant for vildtet*)

This scheme provides grants for the planting of trees and shrubs in the open countryside for the benefit of wildlife. Subsidies are currently available for 39 different species of trees and shrubs, amounting to 75% of the price of the plant. The scheme is administered by the Danish Nature Agency, which has several links to guidelines and

¹⁷⁹ Uddannelses og Forskningsstyrelsen, [Veiledning om Horizon Europe](#), 2023

¹⁸⁰ Uddannelses og Forskningsministeriet, [EU-ERFA netværket](#), 2023

¹⁸¹ EU-DK support, [Gratis rådgivning](#), 2023

¹⁸² Ministry of Finance, [Denmark's Recovery and Resilience Plan - accelerating the green transition](#), 2021

¹⁸³ Miljøstyrelsen, [Privat urørt skov](#), 2023

¹⁸⁴ Miljøstyrelsen, [Tilskud til sammenhængende arealer i og i tilknytning til Natura 2000 områder](#), 2023

¹⁸⁵ Miljøstyrelsen, [Stormfaldsordning](#), 2023

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definitions on its website¹⁸⁶.

Climate Forest Fund (*Klimaskovfonden*)

The Fund is managed by an independent board under an independent government administration unit within the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry contributed an initial DKK 100 million, but private donations are also possible. Potential beneficiaries are private landowners, companies, municipalities, regions, and religious organisations. The aim is to promote and finance cost-effective afforestation through the creation of forest edges and removal of low-lying soils, primarily in the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector, in order to reduce CO₂ emissions. There are currently 54 funded projects covering 500 hectares and sequestering 183,000 tonnes of CO₂e¹⁸⁷.

Multifunctional land distribution (*Multifunktionel jordfordeling - MUFJO*)

The scheme is a tool to enable multifunctional projects where agricultural production is combined with, for example, biodiversity, GHG reduction, climate adaptation, clean water environment and rural development¹⁸⁸. Under the scheme, the Danish Agricultural Agency (*Landbrugsstyrelsen*) covers all costs associated with a land distribution process to distribute 6,000-7,000 hectares of land¹⁸⁹. Requirements for projects include a contribution to at least three national interests (e.g. GHG reduction, climate adaptation, afforestation and biodiversity), assessed effectiveness during the initial assessment, feasibility; covering between 100 and 1,000 hectares, having a financial plan, being locally rooted, and contributing significantly to permanent land use change¹⁹⁰.

Several foundations provide funding for biodiversity and tree-planting initiatives, including:

- Klimatræ aims to plant as many trees as possible in Denmark, currently in the northern part of the area Norddjurs, with the

aim of reducing GHG and increasing carbon sequestration, improving water quality, and expanding forests and nature. Tree planting is financed via private donations. One tree costs DKK 20 and the donor will receive a certificate of donation¹⁹¹;

- Growing Trees Network offers several tree-planting schemes for companies to gain recognition for their contributions. For example, companies can plant one tree per product sold, per employee, or customer, or to reduce its carbon footprint or contribute to the protection of groundwater reservoirs. Sponsors can also gain CO₂ ownership from afforestation projects in Denmark (and Ecuador)¹⁹². In 2019, a social media-based initiative by the Danish public broadcasting service and the Danish Society for Nature Conservation raised enough money to plant over one million trees in 48 new forests in Denmark. The Growing Trees Network established 46 of these new forests¹⁹³;
- Plant a Tree is a non-profit organization, with the Danish Crown Prince as patron. It mobilises funding via multiple sources, including via sponsors and crowdfunding, to plant trees in various types of habitats in Denmark¹⁹⁴;
- Danish Nature Fund (*Den Danske Naturfond*) was founded by the Danish government and two private funds (*Villum Fonden* and *Aage V. Jensen Naturfond*) in 2015 to improve the state of nature and biodiversity in Denmark. The fund is open to private donations and has solutions in place to integrate donations from companies with marketing and content for corporate social responsibility and environmental, social and governance reporting¹⁹⁵.
- City of Copenhagen offers partnerships

¹⁸⁶ Naturstyrelsen, [Plant for vildtet](#), 2023

¹⁸⁷ [Klimaskovfonden](#), 2023

¹⁸⁸ Landbrugsstyrelsen, [Hvad er multifunktionel jordfordeling](#), 2023

¹⁸⁹ Landbrugsstyrelsen, [Multifunktionel jordfordeling \(MUFJO\)](#), 2023

¹⁹⁰ Landbrugsstyrelsen, [Krav til et multifunktionelt projekt](#), 2023

¹⁹¹ Klimatræe, [Forside](#), 2023

¹⁹² [Growing Trees Network](#), 2023

¹⁹³ Growing Trees Network, [Danmark Planter Træer i nye Folkeskove](#), 2023

¹⁹⁴ Plant et træ, [sådan kan du støtte](#), 2023

¹⁹⁵ Den Danske Naturfond, [Den Danske Naturfond](#), 2023

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whereby one or more trees are donated by the municipality and an individual/company has the responsibility of planting and caring for them¹⁹⁶.



Innovative funding sources

There are multiple **green bonds** in Denmark. The main one is a green bond introduced in 2022 and operated by the central government. Eligible expenditure is regulated by Denmark's Green Bond Framework. However, eligible expenditure only includes energy and infrastructure investments¹⁹⁷. Another significant green bond is managed by Kommunkredit, which finances local green transition in Danish municipalities and regions. Eligibility criteria include climate change adaptation for loans to investments in adaptation measures such as flood risk management and coastal protection¹⁹⁸. Most of the main banks in Denmark issue green bonds, including:

- Danske Bank invests according to its Green Bond Framework 2021, in Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certified forest lands, as well as organic farming to support 'environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use'¹⁹⁹;
- Jyske Bank issues green bonds, which according to its Green Finance Framework include eligible assets in sustainable agriculture and forestry²⁰⁰;
- Nykredit, which, according to its Green Bond Framework, invests in sustainable agriculture and forestry²⁰¹;
- Sydbank may, according to its Green Bond Framework, finance sustainable management of natural resources in sectors such as certified agriculture and forestry²⁰².

Crowdfunding is used in Denmark by several organisations (see above).

One form of **payment for ecosystem services (PES)** is provided by the Danish Forest Association via their biodiversity auction, where individual forest owners can 'bid' on proposals that provide the best ecological value for the money offered²⁰³.

¹⁹⁶ Københavns Kommune, [Træpolitik](#), 2023

¹⁹⁷ Danmarks Nationalbank, [Green bonds](#)

¹⁹⁸ Kommunkredit, [Green Bond Framework](#), 2022

¹⁹⁹ Danske Bank Group, [Green Bond Framework](#), 2021

²⁰⁰ Jyske Bank, [Green Finance Framework](#), 2022

²⁰¹ Nykredit, [Green Bond Framework](#) 2023, 2023

²⁰² Sydbank, Sydbank Green Bond Framework May 2022.

²⁰³ Dansk Skovforening, [Biodiversitetsauktion](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF	Danish Business Authority (<i>Erhvervsstyrelsen</i>)	Contact person: de@erst.dk website	The budget for ERDF projects is co-financed by the EU In 2022-2027, up to DKK 35 million (25% of the PO5: Support to Living Town Centres) could be devoted to green/climate investments	Grants will be open for applications, including funding for sustainable urban development, for municipalities between 4,000 and 20,000 inhabitants	Several application periods per year Advisory services available (see contact details) Upcoming application rounds, see website	
Subsidy for private afforestation (EAFRD)	Danish Agricultural Agency (<i>Landbrugsstyrelsen</i>)	For questions on the fund: naturoglandbrug@lbst.dk For questions on the application: mail@lbst.dk website	Environmental and climate objectives under rural development (in the CAP) have a budget of about EUR 430 million, including EUR 31 million dedicated to afforestation	Grants available for private owners of agricultural land to establish new forests that include at least two hectares of planted area	A new application period opens each year Advisory services available (see contact details)	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Biodiversity and sustainability (EAFRD)	Danish Agricultural Agency (Landbrugsstyrelsen)	For questions on the scheme: Landbrugsstote-Geodata@lbst.dk , or mail@lbst.dk website (including contact details)		Grants in a yearly bio-scheme for development of new nature and habitats and to set aside areas of agricultural land for the benefit of biodiversity, climate, and the environment	Several application periods per year Advisory services available (see contact details)	
PES for existing 20-year MVJ schemes (EAFRD)	Danish Agricultural Agency (Landbrugsstyrelsen)	As above		Grants available for existing 20-year MVJ to develop the quality of production within agriculture and forestry while taking environmental qualities into account	Several application periods per year Advisory services available (see contact details)	
EU funding sources under direct management						
Horizon Europe	For advice: Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (Uddannelses)	Contact details to thematic EU advisers, see website	Support to research that contributes to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development	Grants	Advice available via the Danish Agency for Higher Education and	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	og Forskningsstyrelsen)	Contact details for regional advisers, see website Website	Goals (SDGs)		Science, see website Dedicated free-to-join network for Horizon Europe in Denmark (contact eurocenter@ufm.dk).	
LIFE	For advice: Danish Environmental Protection Agency (Miljøstyrelsen)	Naturstyrelsen, LIFE information, see website For contact details, visit EU-DK support website	Nature and climate protection	Grants		Examples of LIFE projects available from Danish Nature Agency, see website
EU-DK support contains tailored information, contact points and contact details, by actor, project, and region. Contact points can be filtered by topic, such as climate and environment. It also contains examples of best practice in Denmark.						
National funding						
Private untouched forest (Privat urørt skov)	Danish Environmental Protection Agency (Miljøstyrelsen)	Questions about the grants: tilskud-natur@mst.dk or the agency's local	Allows private landowners (individuals, companies, organisations) to apply for	Grants	Advice available (see contact details)	Afforestation projects financed by the Agency, see website

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
)	grant units, see website	grants for undisturbed forests			
Storm fall scheme (Stormfaldsordning)	Danish Nature Agency (Naturstyrelsen)	Questions to: nsj@nst.dk . website	Provides grants for planting of trees and shrubs in open countryside for the benefit of wildlife Subsidies available for 39 different species of trees and shrubs, amounting to 75% of the price of the plant	Grants	Advice available (see contact details)	
Climate Forest Fund (Klimaskovfonden)	Ministry of the Environment (Miljøministeriet)	Questions on project support to: kontakt@klimaskovfonden.dk website	Ministry contributed an initial DKK 100 million (EUR 13.4 million) to the fund, but private donations are also possible	Grants	Potential beneficiaries are private landowners, companies, municipalities, regions, and religious organisations Aims to	Examples of projects, see website

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			54 current funded projects, covering 500 hectares and sequestering 183,000 tonnes of CO ₂ e		promote and finance cost-effective afforestation through creation of forest edges and removal of low-lying soils, primarily in the LULUCF sector, in order to reduce CO ₂ emissions	
Multifunctional land distribution (Multifunktionel jordfordeling - MUFJO)	Danish Agricultural Agency (Landbrugsstyrelsen)	Questions to: naturoglandbruksudvikling@lbst.dk . website	The Agency covers all costs associated with a land distribution process to distribute 6,000-7,000 hectares of land. Each distribution covers between 100 and 1,000 hectares	Costs covered associated with the land distribution process	Enables multifunctional projects where agricultural production is combined with, for example, biodiversity, GHG reduction, climate adaptation, clean water environment and rural development	Ongoing projects, see website

FINANCING SOURCES IN ESTONIA

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EEA	European Environment Agency
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RMK	State Forest Management Centre
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
TJTP	Territorial Just Transition Plan



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In Estonia, funding for projects on biodiversity, nature and climate protection can be obtained from a variety of sources, including European Union (EU) funding, national funds, municipal budgets and, in principle, private funding. Since its accession to the EU (in 2004), Estonia has been a beneficiary of Cohesion Policy, with several Programmes) at national level providing grants for various initiatives, including biodiversity and nature protection projects. These funds, and in particular the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), will remain one of the most prominent funding sources for environmental investments for 2021-2027.

Other EU funding opportunities are available through the LIFE and Horizon Programmes. The national contact points (NCPs) can guide potential beneficiaries on relevant opportunities and application procedures. The Rural Development Programme (RDP), as part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), is another potential source of funding in the context of creating and maintaining ecological diverse areas. At national level, funding can be obtained from the National Environmental Programme. In principle, funding could be obtained from innovative sources, such as crowdfunding.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Estonia. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Estonia will remain the beneficiary of **Cohesion Policy** funding in the coming years. Both the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund will continue to play an important role in supporting environmental, climate and biodiversity initiatives. One of the objectives for the funding period 2021-2027 is

'Greener Estonia'. The total funding available for the objective is EUR 780 million (ERDF: EUR 541 million, Cohesion Fund: EUR 239 million). The amount of funding available for the most relevant sub-objective 'Climate adaption and increasing preparedness' is EUR 114 million.

The framework for funding is set out in 2021–2027 EU Cohesion and Internal Security Policy Funds Implementation Act²⁰⁴. Overall responsibility for implementation lies with the Department of Fiscal Policy of the Ministry of Finance, which shapes the relevant policy and planning, prepares draft regulation, and provides technical assistance, monitoring and assessment. The practical arrangements are made by the State Shared Service Centre²⁰⁵, which is responsible for providing the funds and checking their use. The Financial Control Department of the Ministry of Finance verifies the activities of the fund implementing authorities and receivers. The specific programmes and requirements for funding are established by ministries for their areas of governance.

EU programmes typically do not fully fund an activity, thus additional funding (or self-financing) is required. This additional funding is available under the **co-financing sub-programme** for environmental projects financed from EU programmes to at least 50%. The information on the national support available can be found at the webpage of the Environmental Investment Centre²⁰⁶.

The **RDP and other EU agricultural measures** can support projects with biodiversity components, including tree planting, in the context of agriculture and support for rural areas. The framework for national funding under the RDP and other EU agricultural measures is set out in the Implementing Act for EU Common Agricultural Policy²⁰⁷. Overall responsibility for implementation lies with the Ministry of Rural Affairs. The practical arrangements are made by the Agricultural Registries and Information Board (*Põllumajanduse Registre ja Informatsiooni Amet*)²⁰⁸.

National funding is based on the EU **CAP**

²⁰⁴ [European Union Cohesion and Internal Security Policy Funds Implementation Act 2021–2027](#)

²⁰⁵ State Shared Services Centre ([Riigi Tugiteenuste Keskus](#))

²⁰⁶ [Centre for Environmental Investments](#)

²⁰⁷ [Implementing Act for EU Common Agricultural Policy](#)

²⁰⁸ [Põllumajanduse Registre ja Informatsiooni Amet](#)

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Strategic Plan 2023-2027²⁰⁹. One of the three general aims of the Plan is to promote environmental protection and climate measures and to contribute to EU environmental and climate objectives. More specifically, it seeks to contribute to mitigation of climate change, climate change adaptation and sustainable energy. Information on the specific activities supported is available at the website of the Agricultural Registries and Information Board. The most relevant measures appear to be 'Support for preservation of ecosystem services' and 'Support for ecological areas'. The measures could be relevant because they entail preservation of landscape formations, which, according to the regulation of the Ministry of Rural Affairs, includes areas with trees²¹⁰. In principle, the measures could encourage the creation of such landscape formations. The support is for one year (from May until June of the following year). The requirements for the support are specified in Regulations of the Ministry of Rural Affairs²¹¹.

The EU CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 also foresees measures for silviculture. Information on the specific activities supported is available at the website of the Forestry Department of the Environmental Investment Centre²¹². However, none of the listed measures seems relevant for the purposes of the pledge, as the activities fall under business-as-usual scenarios or concern reforestation required by law.

The EU Just Transition Mechanism provides targeted support towards a climate-neutral economy to the most affected regions to alleviate the socioeconomic impact of the green transition. The first pillar of the Mechanism is the **Just Transition Fund (JTF)**. The Fund has allocated EUR 340 million to Estonia, of which up to EUR 67 million can be used to improve the environment²¹³.

The national framework for administration of the fund is the same as for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

In Estonia, the shale-oil industry has by far the greatest negative impact on climate. The industry is located primarily in the easternmost Estonian administrative territory: Ida-Virumaa County. This is the most affected region, according to the national Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP)²¹⁴. The Plan sets out many types of measures, including measures for improving the environment. Although none of the measures specifically foresees planting of trees, one relates to reclamation of abandoned industrial areas, which may encompass tree planting. The total amount of the measure is EUR 13 million, of which EUR 9.7 million comes from the **JTF** and EUR 3.4 million is co-financed from the State budget. However, the funds will be used only for certain problematic historical industrial sites, which are the responsibility of the State, and will not be made available for other initiatives²¹⁵.



EU Funding sources under direct management

Funding for tree-planting projects could be available under **LIFE**, which supports environmental projects to achieve EU environmental policy goals. The implementation of the Programme is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, which also is the NCP for the programme²¹⁶. A LIFE programme supports increasing biodiversity in three cities: Tartu (Estonia), Aarhus (Denmark) and Riga (Latvia).

²⁰⁹ [EU CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)

²¹⁰ Regulation of Minister of Rural Affairs 21 December 2022 no 68, '[The requirements for keeping land in good agricultural and environmental condition and mandatory management requirements](#)'

²¹¹ Regulation of Minister of Rural Affairs 23 December 2022 no 83, '[Support for Preservation of Ecosystem Services for the period 2023-2027](#)'; Regulation of Minister of Rural Affairs 23 December 2022 no 80 '[Support for Ecological Areas for the period 2023-2027](#)'

²¹² [Forestry Department of the Environmental Investment Centre](#), From 1 January 2023 to date, the Forest Department

functioned as a separate State foundation under the name of Estonian Private Forest Centre.

²¹³ [State Shared Services Centre](#)

²¹⁴ [Implementation Plan for Cohesion Policy Funds for the period 2021-2027](#). Appendix 1 TeJTTP, (in Estonian).

²¹⁵ Protocol nr 14-7/8700-1 of 02 November 2022 meeting of the Lead Commission of the Just Transition of Ida-Virumaa, p 4 (in Estonian), available from the [website](#) of the Ministry of Finance

²¹⁶ Ministry of Environment - [LIFE NCPs](#) (in Estonian)

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One of the aims of the project is to create a green network in the city, which may entail planting new trees. As the project was only launched in 2022, the exact project activities are not yet clear. The project budget for Tartu is EUR 3.7 million.

Funding could also be available under **Horizon Europe**, the EU's research and innovation programme that also supports activities for adapting to climate change. The NCP for the programme is the State foundation, Estonian Research Council (*Eesti Teadusagentuur*)²¹⁷. For instance, Horizon Europe finances project ONEforest (2021-2024), a multi-criteria decision support system for common forest management to strengthen forest resilience, harmonise stakeholder interests, and ensure sustainable wood flows. Four case studies regions will be established, following Europe's biogeographical regions, with the aim of studying climate-resilient silvicultural management practices and new methods of seeding and planting²¹⁸.

The **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)** aims to mitigate the economic and social impact of COVID-19 pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. Estonia's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) contains 25 investments and 16 reforms, 41.5% of which support climate objectives²¹⁹. They will be supported by EUR 969.3 million in grants. The Plan and its implementation focuses more on transition of enterprises and does not foresee support for tree-planting initiatives.



National funding sources

Funding for tree planting at national level comes from various sources, notably State budget, local municipality budgets, and budgets of the State Forest Management Centre (RMK).

The most relevant national policy is the national Climate Change Adaptation Development Plan until 2030²²⁰. The implementation of the plan is largely funded from the EU funds, with additional funding from the **State budget**. The main national authority responsible for implementing the Plan is the Ministry of Environment. Non-exhaustive lists of specific measures to be funded (including funds allocated) will be listed in the implementing action plans²²¹.

The specific activities supported can be found on the webpage of the Centre for Environmental Investment (*Keskkonnainvesteeringute Keskus*)²²². The Centre is a State foundation under the governance of the Ministry of Environment. The webpage facilitates searching for funding currently available and for planned measures. New funding is made available twice a year.

The most relevant activity listed is assistance for drafting and implementing plans for greening cities in pilot areas. The purpose of the measure is to increase biodiversity in cities and establish new green areas. The measure is being prepared and details of the funding are not yet publicly available²²³. In autumn 2022, it was estimated that the funds would be available the second half of 2023 at the earliest, with total funding of EUR 2.55 million, open to cities with at least 10,000 inhabitants²²⁴. Another potentially relevant activity financed from the **Cohesion Fund** through the Centre is drafting climate and energy plans of local

²¹⁷ [Estonian Research Council](#)

²¹⁸ Estonian project partners are University of Tartu and University of Life Sciences. The project budget of Estonian partners is approx. EUR 300,000. For more information see the following websites: [ONEforest](#) and [Multi-criteria decision support system for sustainable forest ecosystem services – project description](#)

²¹⁹ RRP, available from the [webpage](#) of State Shared Service Centre

²²⁰ Estonian and English versions of the [Plan](#). In the future, the Plan will be incorporated into the Sectoral Development Plan on Environment until 2030, which is currently under preparation.

²²¹ Only the Action Plan 2017-2020 is available. It did not include measures specifically targeting planting new trees.

²²² [Keskkonnainvesteeringute Keskus](#)

²²³ [Keskkonnainvesteeringute Keskus](#)

²²⁴ [Presentation by the Ministry of Environment](#), 30 September 2022, slide no. 11

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municipalities and follow-up activities. The measure is relevant because the implementing activities could entail planting of trees. The measure is also in planning stages. In autumn 2022, it was estimated that the funds would not be available before 2024. Total funding is estimated at EUR 8.2 million, which includes other related measures such as increasing public awareness of climate issues at local level²²⁵.

RMK is a government institution tasked with managing Estonian State forests, which constitute about 45% of all forests (over 20% of Estonian land territory). RMK planted 23,907,857 plants in 2022, nearly all of which were trees. Most of the planting occurred on forest land after cutting, but 620,297 were planted on land that was not previously forest land, resulting in 326 hectares of new forest land. However, it is not clear to what extent the tree planting satisfies the criteria of the pledge.

Several tree-planting activities are funded from the **State budget**, such as planting as part of large construction works. Tree planting is also financed from the **budgets of local authorities** (cities and parishes). It is common for cities to have a budget to maintain green areas, which entails planting new trees. The budget of the city of Tartu for planting new trees is modest: EUR 10,000-20,000 each year, but this does not reflect all planting activities: most of the planting occurs in the context of construction works (e.g. street reconstruction) and is financed from the budgets for those specific works²²⁶. Also, the budget only concerns areas under direct management of the city and not territories of all public institutions, such as schools, museums and universities.

The most relevant programme for supporting tree-planting initiatives at national level is the **National Environmental Programme 2022-2025**²²⁷. The Programme covers all aspects of environmental

protection and consists of several sub-programmes, which in turn include many specific projects. The Programme is essentially financed from environmental charges and sums paid in compensation for certain environmental damage²²⁸. The overall framework for financing environmental projects to implement the Programme is specified in a regulation of the Minister of Environment²²⁹. The practical arrangements are made by the Centre for Environmental Investments, and all open and planned measures are listed on its website²³⁰. The measures financed from the State budget are listed together with measures financed from the EU sources, but each measure specifies the funding source.

Currently, there are no open or planned national measures specific to tree-planting, but tree-planting could, in principle, be an activity under a project eligible for support under the forestry sub-programme²³¹. The scope of the programmes is very wide and the total funds available are quite limited²³². The national expert could not identify any project involving tree-planting that satisfy the pledge criteria and was financed from the Programme after 2020.



Innovative funding sources

In principle, tree-planting activities could be funded by other means, such as **crowdfunding** and **green bonds**. Green bonds have been issued in Estonia by private companies, the electricity network company of the State (Elering AS) and the public transportation company of the City of Tallinn

²²⁵ [Presentation by the Ministry of Environment](#), 30 September 2022, slide no 8

²²⁶ Information obtained directly from a representative of the City.

²²⁷ Adopted by 21 February 2022 Order of the Minister of Environment no 1-2/22/63.

²²⁸ Technically, the charges are damages that are not earmarked for financing the programme but are paid to the general State budget. However, as a principle, the sum allocated from the State budget for implementing the national

programme roughly corresponds to the charges and damages paid.

²²⁹ Regulation of Minister of Environment 31 January 2020 no 10, 'The requirements and procedure for providing support from the environmental programme'

²³⁰ [Centre for Environmental Investments](#)

²³¹ [Centre for Environmental Investments](#)

²³² The 2022 budget for the nature protection sub-programme was EUR 750,000; the total 2023 budget for the forest sub-programme is EUR,900 000.

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(Tallina Linnatransport AS)²³³. Detailed information on the initiatives, especially private initiatives, is generally not publicly available but it seems unlikely that the initiatives include planting trees.

Recently, some relevant initiatives have been launched. A project was funded in 2022 from the **National Environmental Programme**, which seeks to create a cooperation platform to enable planting forest on unused private lands in order to bind CO₂²³⁴. In addition, in 2022, a private company (Arbonics OÜ) was established, which offers carbon credits for landowners who are willing to afforest their non-forest land²³⁵. The credits are based on Verra (Verified Carbon Standard)²³⁶. Landowners have to bear all the cost of afforestation and subsequent forest management but can expect regular payments for binding carbon. Interested landowners can submit their non-forest land for assessment for suitability of participation in the scheme²³⁷.

It seems that there are no well-established models for alternative funding, although the private initiative by Arbonics appears promising. Some of the laws and municipality regulations require the offsetting of environmental damage, which may involve tree planting. However, these schemes do not seem to meet the criteria for the pledge because tree planting is a legal requirement under the schemes. For instance, Tallinn (the capital city of Estonia) has recently adopted an ambitious regulation that requires extensive replanting if trees are cut. The formula is complicated – the number of trees to be planted depends on the age and species – but, overall, cutting one tree requires about 10 trees to be planted²³⁸.

²³³ Climate Bonds Initiative, [Nordic and Balti Public Green Bonds](#), p. 39

²³⁴ [Centre for Environmental Investments](#)

²³⁵ Arbonics OÜ, [afforestation](#)

²³⁶ [Verified Carbon Standard programme](#)

²³⁷ [Assessment form](#)

²³⁸ [Regulation of City Council of Tallinn](#) 11 February 2021 No 2

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Centre for Environmental Investments	Website	Biodiversity and climate adaptation	Grants	Funding is made available via specific measures (typically twice a year). The most relevant measures are currently at the planning stage	New cycle recently began and measures are in planning stage. A previously financed project 'Restoration and regeneration of rows of trees of green infrastructure of Põltsamaa city to mitigate the urban heat-island', which is ongoing. The total budget for the project is EUR 445,200
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	Agricultural Registries and Information Board	Website and Website	Agro-forestry, enhancing biodiversity	Yearly subsidies	Support is made available via specific measures,	New cycle recently began. Similar projects previously financed not

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Forestry Department of the Centre for Environmental Investments				typically for a year Most relevant measures appear to be 'Support for preservation of ecosystem services' and 'Support for ecological areas'	listed
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Ministry of Environment	Website	Nature protection and climate	Grants		LIFE21-NAT-EE-urbanLIFEcircles/101074453
HORIZON	Estonian Research Council	Website	Innovative projects, including projects related to climate adaptation	Grants		ONEforest Grant agreement ID: 101000406
National funding						
Environmental Programme	Centre for Environmental Investments	Website	Nature protection, climate, forestry, co-financing	Grants		n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Innovative funding sources						
Private company initiative	Arbonics	Website	Climate	Carbon credits		n/a

FINANCING SOURCES IN FINLAND

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
ELY-Centre	Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
GHG	Greenhouse gas
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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In Finland, a variety of funding sources can potentially be used to support tree planting initiatives, including European Union (EU) sources from the Cohesion Policy and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as well as from the LIFE and Horizon Programmes. National schemes include country-wide afforestation subsidies.

The following sections provide brief information about potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Finland. They are followed by a summary table with links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The new **Cohesion Policy** period runs from 2021-2027. One of Finland's seven priority areas is carbon-neutral Finland, which aims to promote energy efficiency and the circular economy and to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Funding will also be allocated to measures to prepare for climate change. Funding for this priority area comes primarily from the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**.

The **Innovation and Skills in Finland 2021-2027 programme funding** consists of EU and national funding. The programme's public funding amounts to EUR 3,159 billion, of which EUR 1,935 billion comes from the EU and EUR 1,224 billion is national co-financing. It includes the measures of the ERDF, the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF)²³⁹. Support for forestry-related from the ERDF is possible under the priority area 'Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions'²⁴⁰.

Support for tree-planting initiatives can, in certain cases, be applied for under the **ESF+** support scheme. For example, under the priority area 'equitable inclusion', specifically the sub-action on 'promotion of civil society functions', funds can be

allocated to tree-planting projects that relate to the objective of making a residential area more pleasant (planting trees under old powerlines, or similar.)

The **JTF** will be directed at jobs in the green economy, new green technology solutions and related new business opportunities²⁴¹.

The grant authorities for Cohesion Policy funds are the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY-Centres) (see summary table for contact information and links).

Public funding for Finland's **Strategic CAP Plan 2023-2027** totals EUR 10.28 billion. The financing consists of the financial contributions of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), as well as the national financial contribution²⁴². The goals of Finland's CAP Strategic Plan are active food production, environmental- and climate-wise agriculture, and a renewed and diverse countryside. In addition, the overarching goal is to promote know-how, innovation and digitalisation²⁴³. CAP funding is not directed to forestry-related projects, which are instead supported by national funding instruments²⁴⁴. According to stakeholders, tree-planting activities are generally not envisaged to be supported from CAP funding.



EU Funding sources under direct management

The Ministry of the Environment is the National Contact Point (NCP) for the **LIFE** Programme. It offers co-financing to projects considered competitive. Applications for partial funding from the Ministry of the Environment are usually invited in the spring.

LIFE projects typically involve the cooperation of various actors. In Finland, this means that

²³⁹ [General information](#)

²⁴⁰ [Innovation and Skills in Finland 2021-2027 programme funding](#)

²⁴¹ [JTF](#)

²⁴² [Strategic CAP Plan 2023-2027](#) (in Finnish only).

²⁴³ [Goals of Finland's CAP Strategic Plan](#) (in Finnish only).

²⁴⁴ Finland's [CAP Strategic Plan](#) (plan available [in Finnish](#))

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cooperation between research institutes, private companies, municipalities and cities, ELY-Centres and the organisation is often built into the projects. The Ministry of the Environment supports the implementation of competitive LIFE projects that serve its strategy with conditional grants or funding decisions (EUR 30,000, EUR 50,000). In integrated LIFE projects, this support can be up to EUR 100,000. The application period is continuous.

In practice, LIFE funding is more connected to protection and restoration projects rather than tree planting²⁴⁵. However, the desk research suggests that at least one project used LIFE funding for a carbon sequestration project relating to farming and forestry (see summary table).

Horizon Europe does not specifically fund tree planting, except where it forms part of a larger research project. Business Finland is the NCP for Horizon Europe (see summary table).

The **Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)** is part of the Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland, which will boost reform and investments. Afforestation is specifically excluded, however, and, according to stakeholders, no other tree-planting activities are envisaged among the measures supported by the Plan.



National funding sources

METSO programme

METSO is a voluntary programme aimed at supporting private forest owners to protect and manage the natural value of their forests and safeguard the preservation of biodiversity. Compensation is paid for protection of forests rather than for afforestation, reforestation and tree planting.

²⁴⁵ Information based on a discussion with a government official.

²⁴⁶ [Metsähallitus](#) is a state-owned enterprise that produces environmental services for a diverse customer base ranging from private individuals to major companies

The protection options of the METSO programme are: permanent protection of the site as a private conservation area, selling the site to the State as a conservation area, temporary exclusion of harvesting or other commercial activities of the area for 20 years, and an environmental support agreement for 10 years. Support for tree planning is connected to the metsäkeskus afforestation support programme (see summary table).

METKA support

METKA was adopted for the period 2024-2029. METKA is available for nursery and young forest management, health fertilisation, management plans for the Finnish forest, implementation of water protection measures and small slopes in the Finnish forest, as well as maintenance of the forest road network. Support is also granted for temporary protection, for forest nature management projects and burn-cleaning. Metka support does not include afforestation, reforestation, and tree planting.

More information about each of these programmes can be found in the summary table.



Innovative funding sources

Green bonds are a source of funding in Finland. Metsähallitus²⁴⁶ has issued several green bonds, with the proceeds used to finance a range of sustainability initiatives, including afforestation, nature conservation, and sustainable forest management.

Crowdfunding in the context of an afforestation project is possible in principle, but no examples could be found²⁴⁷.

Similarly, **payment for ecosystem services (PES)** is a possible funding mechanism for afforestation projects²⁴⁸.

²⁴⁷ [Crowdfunding platform](#)

²⁴⁸ [Payment for ecosystem services](#) (PES) and afforestation projects [examples](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and Cohesion Funds	ELY-Centres	ELY-Centres, see website	Promoting energy efficiency and reducing GHG emissions	Direct subsidy	Information on open projects and application forms, see website	<i>No examples</i>
ESF+	ELY-Centres	ELY-Centres, see website	Under the priority area 'equitable inclusion', specifically the sub-action on 'promotion of civil society functions', funds can be allocated to tree-planting projects that serve the objective of transforming a residential area	Direct subsidy	Information on open projects and application forms see website	<i>No examples</i>
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	NCP: Ministry for the Environment	Website	Two areas of activity are:	Direct subsidy	Ministry of the Environment provides grants for self-	Website Goal is to identify and

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			<p>1. <i>Environment</i> (nature and biodiversity; circular economy; quality of life)</p> <p>2. <i>Climate action</i> (climate change mitigation and adaptation; transition to clean energy)</p>		<p>financing portion of LIFE 2021 projects approved by the EU Commission</p> <p>It supports the implementation of competitive LIFE projects that serve its strategy with conditional grants or funding decisions (EUR 30,000, EUR 50,000, up to EUR 100,000 in integrated LIFE projects)</p> <p>Continuous application period</p>	<p>accelerate the development and adoption of novel incentives for carbon sequestration, and increase and maintain organic carbon stock in soil and biomass in Europe</p>
Horizon Europe	NCP: Business Finland	Website	Innovative projects, including projects related to climate protection and health	Grants	Information available (see contact details)	<i>No examples</i>

FINANCING SOURCES IN FRANCE

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CF	Cohesion Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product



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Funding for projects concerning biodiversity, nature and climate protection can be granted in France from several types of funding sources available at EU, national, regional and local level, and both for public and private stakeholders.

At EU level, funding sources such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Guarantee Fund (EAGF) – both being building blocks of Common Agricultural Policy, and the LIFE programmes can be used. At national, local and regional level, grants and subventions play a key role when it comes to funding projects concerning biodiversity, climate and nature. French Regions and Agencies fund such projects via calls for proposals.

Furthermore, private entities such as foundations are also involved in the funding of such projects, via calls for proposals and thanks to donations. Finally, innovative funding sources, such as green bonds, crowdfunding or taxation have been observed in France.

The following sections provide some brief information about funding opportunities potentially relevant for tree planting in France divided into EU funding sources under shared management, EU funding sources under direct management, national funding sources, and innovative funding sources. These sections are followed with a summary table, which includes practical links and contact information allowing the potential beneficiaries to identify suitable financing sources for their tree planting initiatives.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The management of the ERDF and the CAP non area-based interventions in France has been granted to the **Regional Councils** whereas the

state is the managing authority for the area-based interventions. The ERDF is available for several types of stakeholders, including public entities, companies, or associations; but the co-funding granted via the ERDF will depend on the category of the Region, which is calculated based on its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the number of residents²⁴⁹. A list of the national contact points (i.e. the Regional Councils) and examples are presented in the summary table.

With regard to the CAP, with the largest budget allocations among all the Member States, France aims to provide support for several topics on agricultural matters, but most importantly, for the investments in the agricultural and forest sectors²⁵⁰. For example, the CAP's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development can fund projects with the maximum funding rate depending on the category of the Region (between 53 % and 85 %). A list of the national contact points (i.e. the Regional Councils) as well as some examples of projects are provided in the summary table. The French CAP National Strategic Plan lays down the priorities at national and at local and regional level. Among the priorities linked to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Regions have planned to invest in the preservation and restoration of natural and forest heritage, including Natura 2000 sites²⁵¹ through an investment intervention.



EU Funding sources under direct management

LIFE programme is managed by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion and the Ministry of Energy Transition. National contact points and examples of relevant projects are provided in the summary table.

Within the Horizon Europe programme that is managed in France by the French Ministry of

²⁴⁹ Maison de l'Europe Drôme-Ardèche, Guide to European Funds 2021-2027 – What opportunities for our territories?, 2021, pp.14.

²⁵⁰ Europe s'engage en France, [EAFRD](#)

See also General Commissioner for Territorial Equality, [Leaflet on the EAFRD in France for the period 2014-2020](#), 2014.

²⁵¹ [French Common Agricultural Policy National Strategic Plan for 2023-2027](#), pp.348.

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Higher Education and Research, the co-funding rate is up to 100 %, except for lucrative entities, for which the rate will be limited to 70 %²⁵². A list of the national contact points and examples of relevant projects are provided in the summary table.

The French Recovery and Resilience plan focuses on five main priorities, one of which: “Climate and Resilience Law” may be relevant for tree planting. EUR 18 billion will be dedicated to green investment²⁵³. The Plan is administered by the Ministry of Economy.



National funding sources

The following national funding sources are available for projects concerning biodiversity, climate and nature:

- The Strategic Wood Fund ²⁵⁴ (*Fonds Stratégique de la Forêt et du Bois*) created by the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-food and Forestry in 2014. It aims to support projects responding to the Wood and Forest National programme (*Programme National de la Forêt et du Bois*) and to the implementation of the Research-Innovation 2025 plan for the forest-based sector²⁵⁵. This fund is financed by the additional tax on unbuilt land in forests (EUR 3.7 million), and by State budget appropriations²⁵⁶.
- National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (*Stratégie Nationale Biodiversité 2030*)²⁵⁷: The strategy concerns the period 2023-2030, it aims to lower biodiversity burdens, protect and re-establish ecosystems, and implement far-reaching changes to reverse

the trend of biodiversity decline. According to some estimates, a public funding of EUR 173.7 million in 2023 and up to EUR 465.1 million in 2027 is needed²⁵⁸ in order to implement this Strategy.

- Green Fund (*Fonds Vert*): It aims to support local authorities to reinforce their environmental performance, to adapt their territories to climate change and to improve their living conditions²⁵⁹. The six calls for proposals concerning biodiversity and forests are funded by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition and of Territorial Cohesion (an example is provided in the summary table). According to the Financing Act for 2023, it should be granted a budget of EUR 1.5 million²⁶⁰.
- The French President established the objective to renew 10% of French national forests and plant 1 billion trees by 2032. This dynamic started with the investment plan "France Relance" (EUR 150 million) and is pursued by "France 2030" until May 2024. It will be perpetuated by "Planification Ecologique - France Nation Verte" and the following plans from 2024 onwards. Forest owners wishing to benefit from these subsidies must have the document proving that their forest is managed according to sustainability principles provided for in the French Forest Code. Thus, the funded projects are based on different types of silviculture including so-called “close to nature” silviculture respecting the sustainable management criteria required by the Forest Code.

Other local and regional funding sources are also available:

- The Brittany Region has launched the Nature Contract (*Contrat Nature*) in order to fund projects concerning biodiversity with a

²⁵² Ibid n2, pp.54.

²⁵³ European Commission, [France's recovery and resilience plan](#).

²⁵⁴ French Forestry Code, [Articles D156-12 to D156-14](#).

²⁵⁵ FNCOFOR, [Wood Strategic Fund: Innovation and collective](#)

²⁵⁶ French Senate, [Finance Act 2020: Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Rural Affairs](#)

²⁵⁷ French Ministry of Ecological Transition and of Territorial Cohesion, French Ministry of Energetical Transition, [National Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#) webpage, January 2023.

²⁵⁸ Jean-Philippe de Saint Martin et al, [The funding of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#), November 2022, pp.25.

²⁵⁹ [Green Fund](#)

²⁶⁰ Jessica Ibelaidene, [The Green Fund may be increased to €2 billion](#), Batiactu, October 2022.

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period of two to four years²⁶¹.

- The Bank of Territories (*Banque des Territoires*) has created the Green Recovery Loan (*Prêt Relance Verte*) in order to support territorial communities to finance projects concerning climate change and biodiversity²⁶².
- Assistance and support for the planting of hedges and trees (outside forests) (*Accompagner et soutenir la plantation de haies et d'arbres (hors forêts)*)²⁶³: It is a subvention launched by the Department Council of the Charente for projects concerning nature.
- Overall, several regions are, via grants and calls for proposals, supporting projects concerning environment and biodiversity protection, and climate (see the summary table for examples).
- Nature 2050: It is a subvention launched by CDC Biodiversity, based on the 2050 Nature Fund (*Fonds Nature 2050*), and aims to support the adaptation of territories to climate change with nature-based solutions²⁶⁴. So far, EUR 5 million have already been granted by CDC Biodiversity with regard to its pledge concerning Nature 2050²⁶⁵. For example, it has funded a project of restoration of an ecological continuity between the Pays d'Othe and the Gâtinais in the Bourgogne Region²⁶⁶.
- The six Regional Water Agencies²⁶⁷ can also, via grants or loans, support projects concerning aquatic ecosystem restoration and the accomplishments of the Good Ecological Status as laid down in the Water Framework Directive²⁶⁸. For example, the Grand Sud-Ouest Region Water Agency has supported projects for a total amount of

EUR 1.7 billion during their 10th programme (which lasted five years)²⁶⁹.

In addition to national, local and regional funding sources, there are also funding sources provided by private actors, such as the French Foundation (*Fondation de France*). Its ecological transition programme aims to support projects that deal with environmental and social issues²⁷⁰.

Another potentially relevant example is the foundation French Nature Environment (*France Nature Environment*) and its initiative financed by donations "*Aux arbres citoyens*"²⁷¹, launched in order to fund projects starting in 2022 linked to:

- Forest management based on natural dynamics;
- The preservation of forest stand free evolution;
- Restoring and preserving ecosystems associated with forest environments;
- Raising public awareness about the importance of protecting forest ecosystems.

In addition, the Yves Rocher foundation, in collaboration with the Afac-Agroforesteries, has created the Tree Fund (*Fonds pour l'Arbre*), in order to support territorial tree and hedge planting projects. This fund proposes six types of financial assistance for the period 2022-2023, thanks to patron donations²⁷². For the period 2021-2022, EUR 927.240 were allocated to projects concerning tree and hedge planting²⁷³. With regard to NGOs, *Plantons pour l'avenir* financially supports tree planting projects for up to 75 % of the total costs for individuals²⁷⁴.

Finally, the Forest National Office (*Office National des Forêts*), has created the FNO-Act for the Forest Endowment Fund (*Fonds de Dotation ONF-*

²⁶¹ Brittany Region, [Nature Contract](#)

²⁶² Bank of Territories, [Green Recovery Loan](#)

²⁶³ Department Council of the Charente, [Assistance and support for the planting of hedges and trees \(outside forests\) subvention](#)

²⁶⁴ CDC Biodiversity, [Nature 2050](#)

²⁶⁵ CDC Biodiversity, [Nature 2050 programme](#)

²⁶⁶ Nature 2050, [Project of restoration of an ecological continuity between the Pays d'Othe and the Gâtinais](#)

²⁶⁷ [Regional Water Agencies](#)

²⁶⁸ European Committee of the Regions, [Financing biodiversity action: opportunities and challenges for EU substantial governments](#), 2020, pp.56.

²⁶⁹ Grand Sud-Ouest Water Agency, [Objectives and Performance Contract](#), 11th programme, 2021, pp.13.

²⁷⁰ French Foundation, [Ecological transition programme](#).

²⁷¹ France Nature Environnement, "[Aux arbres citoyens](#)" project

²⁷² [Fonds pour l'Arbre](#)

²⁷³ Fonds pour l'Arbre [activity report](#), pp.13.

²⁷⁴ [Plantons pour l'Avenir](#)

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Agir pour la Forêt) in order to support projects concerning tree planting, biodiversity, preservation and management of natural risks, and innovation²⁷⁵. For example, in 2022, it supported a project concerning the planting of 9.936 trees in the Hauts-de-France Region²⁷⁶.



Innovative funding sources

Among the innovative funding sources available at national level, is the French green bond (France's Green OAT, *Obligations Assimilables du Trésor*), launched in 2017 by the French Treasury Agency (*Agence France Trésor*) in order to fund projects concerning climate change, biodiversity, and pollution prevention. In 2021, a second green bond was launched, with an amount of EUR 7 billion²⁷⁷.

At local or regional level, the use of such green bonds is also possible for local authorities. For example, the Ile-de-France Region issued two green bonds in 2012 and 2014²⁷⁸.

Another instrument that can be used for funding biodiversity-related projects is the ecological taxation (*fiscalité environnementale*), which aims to support environmental protection through funding of projects concerning the protection of the environment and natural resources. The taxation concerns pollutants, goods or services that harm the environment²⁷⁹.

Carbon farming in France is gaining popularity, primarily thanks to the creation of a national carbon offset programme with a bottom-up approach: "Bas-Carbon". Funding for this programme is obtained from several funding sources including the ERDF, Horizon Europe and

national funding²⁸⁰.

Finally, since 2015, territorial communities can use crowdfunding (based on the participation of the citizens or residents of these communities) in order to fund projects concerning biodiversity, nature and climate²⁸¹. Various stakeholders can help to put in place such a funding source, such as Crowdfunding France (*Financement Participatif France*)²⁸², or KissKissBankBank²⁸³. For example, the KissKissBankBank platform has helped the Mercantour National Park to crowdfund up to EUR 53 746 for the restauration of hiking trails destroyed by the Alex storm in 2021²⁸⁴.

²⁷⁵ Forest National Office, [FNO-Act for the Forest Endowment Fund](#)

²⁷⁶ [Laigue Forest: replanting the forest devastated by drought project](#)

²⁷⁷ [Green OATs](#)

²⁷⁸ Ibid n25, pp.26.

²⁷⁹ French Ministry of the Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion and Ministry of Energy Transition, [Ecological Taxation](#)

²⁸⁰ [Bas-Carbone](#)

²⁸¹ Bank of Territories, [A Guide on Participatory Financing for Local Authorities](#), 2017.

See also the French Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, [What is crowdfunding?](#) See also the French Committee of UICN, [Communities & Biodiversity: towards innovative initiatives](#), 2018, pp.68.

²⁸² [Financement Participatif France](#)

²⁸³ [KissKissBankBank](#)

²⁸⁴ [Back to the Mercantour](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF	Regional Councils	Conseils Régionaux, see website Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, see website Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, see website Région Bretagne, see website Région Centre-Val de Loire, see website Corse, see website	Supporting projects concerning transition to a low-carbon economy, and projects concerning climate change and biodiversity.	Grants and financial instruments	It is based on regional multiannual programmes. For the period 2021-2027, France has been allocated a budget of EUR 9.1 million.	The programme aiming to rebalance the bed of the Loire , with a EU contribution of 20 %

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Région Grand-Est, see website Guadeloupe, see website Guyane, see website Région Hauts-de-France, see website Région Île-de-France, see website Martinique, see website Mayotte, see website Région Normandie, see website Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, see website Région Occitanie, see website Région Pays de la Loire, see website				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Réunion, see website Région Sud Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur, see website				
EAFRD	Regional Councils	As above	Supporting projects concerning landscape preservation, viable environment and agriculture.	Allowance and financial instruments	It is based on regional pluriannual programmes. For the period 2014-2020, France has been allocated a budget of €16.6 million; and of €10 million for the period 2023-2027.	The Breizh Bocage Programme , with a EU contribution of 45 %.
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	National Contact Point: Ministry of Environmental Transition and Territorial Cohesion	Website	The LIFE sub-programme in the area of Environment focuses on three main priorities: the rational utilisation of resources, nature and biodiversity,	Grants		LIFE ARTISAN managed by the French Biodiversity Office. LIFE DORDOGNE , managed by the

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			and governance			<p><i>Etablissement Public Territorial du Bassin de la Dordogne (EPIDOR).</i></p> <p>LIFE COTEAUX GASCONS, managed by the Association de développement, d'aménagement et de services en agriculture et en environnement du Gers.</p> <p>LIFE AIRFRESH managed by ARGANS Ltd (FR), in cooperation with Air Climat (FR), ENEA (IT), and IRET-CNR (IT).</p>
Horizon Europe	French Ministry of Higher	National Contact				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Education and Research	Points, see website				
Recovery and Resilience Facility	Ministry of Economy	Website	Green transition, climate	Grants		n/a
National funding						
Strategic Wood Fund	French Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-food and Forestry	Link to the programme, see website Guidance, see website	Supporting projects linked to the Forest National programme and to the implementation of the Research-Innovation 2025 plan for the forest-based sector.	Grant		
Green fund	French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion	Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, see website	Supporting public local authorities to reinforce their environmental performance, to adapt their territories to climate change and to improve their living conditions.	Grant, based on calls for projects.	Information about the rules of funding and project selection can be found on the following website: Supporting the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 .	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Nature Contract	Brittany Region	Contrat Nature, see website	Supporting projects concerning the preservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity in Brittany.	Depending on the panel, the amount of the regional funding (subvention) varies and can reach up to 60 % of project costs. This funding source can be combined with the ERDF.	This initiative is composed of three different panels: Panel 1: Green and blue nature contract; Panel 2: Territorial nature contract; and Panel 3: Thematic nature contract.	
Green Recovery Loan	Bank of Territories	Banque des Territoires, see website	Supporting local authorities to finance projects concerning biodiversity.	Loan		
Assistance and support for the planting of hedges and trees (outside forests)	Department of the Charente	Département de la Charente, see website	Encouraging the reconstitution of coherent hedgerows to boost biodiversity, regulate the water regime, and protect soils from erosion.	Public funding source, subvention	This subvention is part of the "Charente Avenir Recovery Plan" adopted in order to deal with the COVID-19	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
					<p>crisis²⁸⁵. Among the scopes of this Plan, the ecological transition plays a key role.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the subvention include communes, associations, farmers, owners of agricultural plots, and public establishments.</p>	
CDC Biodiversity	Regional Agencies	<p>CDC Biodiversité, see website</p> <p>Agence Centrale, see website</p> <p>Agence Est, see website</p>	Promoting and co-financing the implementation of nature-based solutions that will contribute to the achievements the goals by 2050 on biodiversity, and climate	Public funding source, subvention	<p>Funding instrument for 'Programme Nature 2050'</p> <p>Beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communes; Inter-municipalities; 	

²⁸⁵ [Charente Avenir Recovery Plan](#), April 2021.

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>Agence Hauts-de-France, see website</p> <p>Agence Nouvelle-Aquitaine, see website</p> <p>Agence Sud-Est littoral Méditerranée, see website</p>	change.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departm ents; • Regions; • Public establish ments; • State services; • Associati ons; • Farmers; <p>Overseas collectivities with special status.</p>	
Regional Water Agencies	Regional Water Agencies	<p>Website</p> <p>Agence de l'eau Adour-Garonne, see website</p> <p>Agence de l'eau Artois-Picardie, see website</p> <p>Agence de l'eau Loire-Bretagne, see website</p>	Supporting projects concerning aquatic ecosystems restoration and the accomplishments of the Good Ecological Status as laid down in the Water Framework Directive	Grants or loans, calls for proposals.	For the period 2019-2024, the six Regional Water Agencies have been allocated a budget of EUR 12 million.	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>Agence de l'eau Rhin-Meuse, see website</p> <p>Agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse : see website</p> <p>Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie, see website</p>				
Ecological transition programme – Fondation de France	Fondation de France	Fondation de France, see website	Supporting projects concerning environmental and social issues.	Grant, based on calls for proposals.		
Aux arbres citoyens – France Nature Environnement	France Nature Environnement	France Nature Environnement, see website	Supporting projects concerning the forests.	Grant, based on calls for proposals.		
Tree fund – Yves Rocher	Yves Rocher Foundation and Afac-Agroforesteries	Fonds pour L'Arbres, see website	Supporting local tree and hedge planting projects.	Grant		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
FNO-Act for the Forest Endowment fund	French Forest National Office	Un Fonds pour protéger nos forêts, see website	Supporting tree planting and biodiversity projects.			
Bas-Carbon	Ministry of Ecological Transition	Bas-Carbone	Agriculture, agroforestry,	Carbon offset credits	The price of the tonne of CO2 is set by mutual agreement, depending mainly on the project costs; The first projects have a price per ton between EUR 30 and 50 euros; Financing can be provided at the beginning, during or at the end of the project after the verification by an independent auditor.	See more information and examples on this website

FINANCING SOURCES IN GERMANY

Abbreviations used

BfN	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
BMEL	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
BMUV	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
BMWK	Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
CF	Cohesion Fund
DBU	German Federal Environmental Foundation
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
JTF	Just Transition Fund
FRM	Forest reproductive material
FGR	Forest genetic resources
GRRP	German Recovery and Resilience Plan
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility



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Projects for biodiversity, climate and nature in Germany are mainly funded by the following three sources:

- Programmes using EU shared funding instruments as well as other dedicated EU funds, such as the LIFE programme;
- National and regional funding options;
- Public and private foundations.

Widespread funding sources under **shared management at EU level** are the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Funding from these is distributed through Programmes, such as the Programme Environment and the Rural Development Programme. Directly managed funds such as the LIFE Programme and Horizon Europe are also used, as well as funds from Biodiversa+ - the European Biodiversity Partnership. The European Investment Bank provides direct loans and other types of assistance for green and innovative projects.

At **national level**, the federal budget is allocated to different ministries for specific funding programmes for biodiversity, climate and nature conservation. While the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) provides programmes in support of the National Strategy for Biological Diversity, wilderness, floodplain and climate perspectives, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture provides programmes for competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry (e.g. in the context of climate change). As Germany is a federal country, many additional funding options are available at **regional level** that are well adapted to the regional perspectives.

Beyond the official funding options, there is a wide landscape of public and private foundations as well as lotteries that provide funding for biodiversity, climate or nature conservation related projects. This allows a broad range of different actors to apply for funding, such as individual landowners, associations, NGOs, municipalities, and others.

The following sections provide some information about funding opportunities potentially relevant for tree planting in Germany divided into EU funding

sources under shared management, EU funding sources under direct management, national funding sources, and innovative funding sources. These sections are followed with a summary table, which includes practical links and contact information allowing the potential beneficiaries to identify suitable financing sources for their tree planting initiatives.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The **European Union's funds**, such as the ERDF, the EAFRD, the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), aim to reinforce economic, social, and territorial solidarity (or "cohesion") in the EU. They are among the most used financing sources for projects concerning climate and nature in Germany. Germany receives around EUR 2.5 billion in the funding period 2021-2027 from the JTF, which will be used in Brandenburg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt for future-oriented structural change in lignite mining regions and in areas severely affected by the phase-out of coal-fired power generation and oil processing. The funding is intended to help restructure the economy, secure employment opportunities as well as training and continuing education for the workforce and overcome ecological challenges (BMWK, 2023). Due to its level of economic development, Germany does not receive any funding from the CF.

Finances from the ERDF and JTF are distributed through dedicated Programmes of the 16 states ("Länder"). While the Länder programmes differ, major funding areas are innovation, infrastructure, nature, sustainable cities, social perspectives, risk management, climate change and adaptation projects. Municipalities and regional governments, NGOs, scientific institutes, universities, among others, are eligible to apply for funding for projects. Currently, 12 state-specific ERDF-Programmes are being implemented. The remaining four eastern-German Länder are classified as "transitional regions". The Ministry of Economic

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Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia offers a [database](#) of good practice examples (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy, 2023).

In addition, for the funding period 2023 to 2027, the national CAP strategic plan replaces the previous rural development programmes of the Länder²⁸⁶. It is funded by the EU and supported by national funding. For the current period, EUR 30 billion (covering EU support within both the EAFRD and EAGF) are available to support farmers and other beneficiaries (BMEL, 2022). The Strategic Plan of Germany was approved by the Commission in November 2022 and serves as the basis for the new funding period starting in 2023. The second pillar of the plan includes 11 **EAFRD** interventions targeting nature friendly forest management, compensation for afforestation and climate protection on agricultural land, among other topics. While the interventions under the EAGF do not directly address forestry, there are interventions under eco-schemes that are relevant in terms of climate change issues, for example maintenance of agroforestry. This plan strengthens action for biodiversity and climate adaptation. (BMEL, 2022).

Managing authorities are:

- Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWK) for EU funding;
- Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) for EAFRD and EAGF funding.



EU Funding sources under direct management

Directly managed funds at EU level are another funding source that can be used for tree planting. The LIFE Programme 2021-2027 provides operating grants to public or private bodies and organisations, state institutions and NGOs, and

includes four different sub-programmes, e.g. for nature and biodiversity as well as for climate protection and adaptation. Advisory service on the LIFE-Environment funding programme is given by Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH on behalf of the BMUV. Notable projects include (see also Box below):

- LIFE project "Forests and Meadows near Burbach and Neunkirchen";
- LIFE project "City-Forest-Brooks";
- LIFE project "Forest fit for future".

Biodiversity-relevant projects in Germany are also funded through grants from the Horizon Europe programme (National Contact Point: Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)). Most recent and relevant include, among others, EUFORE and OptFORESTS (see Box below).

Exemplary projects funded by LIFE and Horizon

LIFE

- **LIFE project "Siegerland's cultural and natural landscapes"** (LIFE 4 Siegerlandscapes) started in 2022 and entails EUR 4.2 million of funding for further rehabilitating and developing of this area, which includes the reforestation of deciduous forests with native tree species. The project duration is six years. The largest share of the funding is provided by the EU, the state of NRW and the NRW Foundation. The district is one of the co-financers with EUR 136 000. (European Commission, 2023a)
- **LIFE project "City-Forest-Brooks"** is implemented during 2019-2027 and will create new alluvial forest areas in Augsburg's municipal forest. As part of this project, favourable conditions are now being created for light floodplain

²⁸⁶ It should be noted that the Strategic Plan covers not only EAFRD funding for rural development interventions but also

EAGF for direct payments interventions, and sectoral interventions.

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forest areas at two locations in the city forest. It is a nature conservation project funded with EUR 6.6 million. 60% of the total budget is financed by the EU, the Free State of Bavaria and the Bavarian Nature Conservation Fund each finance 15%, and the city contributes 10% on its own. (European Commission, 2023b)

- **LIFE project** “Forest fit for future” (LIFEFORFIT) is being implemented in the years 2020-2028. While primarily focused on Danish restoration, it also implements activities in the Schleswig-Holstein forests. The total budget is over EUR 13 million, the EU support amounts to EUR 7.2 million. (European Commission, 2023c)

Horizon Europe

- **EUFOR** (2022-2026): European FOREST Research and Innovation Ecosystem. A Horizon Europe grant to assess and outline research needs, and provide a platform for increased R&I cooperation, coordination and joint funding for forestry and the forest-based sector, thus supporting the implementation of the new EU forest strategy. EU funding contribution: EUR 4 million. (European Commission, 2023d)
- **OptFORESTS** (2022-2027): OptFORESTS will support the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources FGR by:
 - i) conducting research on the selection of diverse forest reproductive material (FRM), including mixtures, adapted to future climates, ii) fostering sustainable use and resilience of natural forests, iii) helping expand and diversify nursery production, iv) developing nature-based solutions (NBS), tools (e.g. expanded Information Systems) and cultural trajectories to promote forest biodiversity, and v) demonstrating biodiversity restoration solutions. EU

funding contribution: EUR 8 million.
(European Commission, 2023e)

The European Biodiversity Partnership **Biodiversa+** (prior Biodiversa), co-funded by several countries and the EU has also provided support for projects in Germany, such as the project “Nature’s Integration in Cities’ Hydrologies, Ecologies and Societies” (NICHES)²⁸⁷.

In addition, Germany has submitted its German Recovery and Resilience Plan (GRRP) to the European Commission to receive funds from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Funded measures cover a broad spectrum, from decarbonisation by means of renewable hydrogen, to climate-friendly mobility and construction (BMF, 2023). The funding volume for Germany from the RRF amounts to approximately EUR 25 billion.



National funding sources

National and regional funding for environmental protection, water management and climate resilience constitutes another important source of funding for biodiversity-related projects in Germany. The BMUV provides different funding options for nature conservation and restoration. This includes the national funding programme in support of the National Strategy for Biological Diversity, called the **Federal Biodiversity Program**. This funding was established in 2011 and targets projects that are of national importance within the framework of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity (BfN, 2023a). Another important funding for nature is the Federal Programme “chance.natur” that, since 1979, supports the preservation of parts of the landscape that are particularly significant and worthy of protection nationwide. Until now, 88 projects have been supported with a total amount of EUR 500 million. Its current annual budget is EUR 15 million (BMUV, 2023). Project examples

²⁸⁷ “Nature’s Integration in Cities’ Hydrologies, Ecologies and Societies” ([NICHES](#))

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include:

- Large-scale nature conservation project **Bienwald**: after a 17-year funding period, the unique biotope and species resources of the Bienwald region have been secured on 17 768 ha with a total funding of EUR 12.1 million. (BfN, 2023b)
- Large-scale nature conservation project **Thüringer Kuppenrhön**: this new project intends to protect nature along the former inner-German border between Thuringia and Hesse, the so-called "Green Belt", covering a 112-kilometre section of the Green Belt. The federal government is currently funding the project with around EUR 725 000 during the initial three-year planning phase. Several million euros are earmarked for the subsequent implementation phase. (BfN, 2023c)

Additional funding options for nature conservation and restoration are the Wilderness fund, the Floodplain Funding Program and the Forest Climate Fund (see section 2.1.4 for more information).

Other important funding options include the **GAK funding system** "Improvement of Agricultural Structure and Coastal Protection". It is the most important national funding instrument for efficient, competitive agriculture and forestry geared to future requirements, coastal protection and vital rural areas (BMEL, 2023a). It is coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and provides national co-financing of the CAP interventions supported by the EAFRD. Another funding programme called "climate-adapted forest management", coordinated by the BMEL, targets the necessary adaption of forests with a

EUR 900 million earmarked government budget until 2026 (BMEL, 2023a). However, as Germany is a federal country, many additional funding options are available at **regional level**. These are often targeted at region-specific challenges (e.g. droughts, floods, mountainous environments). Moreover, the regional level is the executive level for many EU and federal state-funded programmes and initiatives, (see the summary table for the list of examples and contact information).



Innovative funding sources

In Germany, funds for nature protection and restoration projects are often generated by private or public **foundations**, see extensive list below in section 2.1.4. These are based on private donations from philanthropists, companies or established by environmental NGOs to acquire funding for their projects. As one example, the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) is one of the biggest foundations in Europe promoting innovative, exemplary and solution-oriented projects for the protection of the environment, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises²⁸⁸ (DBU, 2023).

Another innovative financing option is using **eco-accounts** that refers to the targeted stockpiling of compensatory and replacement measures (biodiversity offsets). These can later be credited as compensation measures in the event of subsequent interventions in nature and the landscape. In Germany, they are formulated in the German Nature Protection Law (BNatSchG²⁸⁹)

²⁸⁸ This public foundation was established in 1989 to use the proceeds from the sale of the federally owned Salzgitter AG, building a capital of close to EUR 1.3 billion. Since its establishment, it has supported more than 10 600 projects with a funding volume of around EUR 1.97 billion. Today, the foundation's capital is around EUR 2.4 billion.

²⁸⁹ According to Section 16 (1) of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG), compensation and replacement measures can be specifically stockpiled since the amendment of the Federal Nature Conservation Act in 2010: "Nature conservation and landscape management measures that have been carried out with regard to anticipated interventions are to be recognized as compensation or replacement measures [...]"

(§16 para. 1 BNatSchG). Certain requirements must be met for the use of eco-account measures as compensation and replacement measures under nature conservation law. Eco-accounts are further formulated in §16 No. 2 BNatSchG as follows: The stockpiling of early compensatory and replacement measures by means of eco-accounts, land pools or other measures, in particular the recording, valuation or booking of early compensatory and replacement measures in eco-accounts, their need for approval and tradability, and the transfer of responsibility under section 15(4) to third parties carrying out early compensatory and replacement measures, shall be governed by Land law. [...].

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further concretised by the Länder in state law (e.g. in Baden-Württemberg as dedicated regulation (ÖKVO²⁹⁰). The instrument can be used by municipalities or private companies and landowners.

Other available funding sources include **lotteries**, at national and regional level. This includes, for instance, the German Postcode Lottery (private lottery with state licence) that was founded in 2016 and supported over 4 000 green and social projects with more than EUR 150 million since then. 30% of the money gained from the lottery participation is attributed to these projects. Another lottery is the regional Environmental Lottery GENAU, which is state owned. The projects that can be selected as winners are very local projects from environmental associations, clubs or simply private initiatives and awarded with EUR 5 000.

Since 2020, the German government has been issuing green bonds, thus promoting the market for green financial products. The twin bond concept makes the value of green investments visible to investors (Bundesrepublik Deutschland – Finanzagentur GmbH, 2023).

While crowdfunding initiatives are not very common in Germany, there are some examples of such funding in the past (e.g. in the forest of the Harz Mountains (Harzer Wandernadel GmbH, 2022)).

²⁹⁰ The [ÖKVO](#) of Baden-Württemberg is coordinated by the Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy Management Baden-Württemberg.

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
EAFRD, EAGF and national contributions	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	See website of Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) See EU CAP network website	Food security, biodiversity, organic farming, climate resilience, etc.	Grants and subsidies	Support for farmers and rural stakeholders under the German CAP Strategic Plan; current funding period 2023-2027	
ERDF, ESF, JTF	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWK)	Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Department ID 2, see website Contacts of the federal states can be accessed here Programmes 2021-2027 at Lander level: Baden-Württemberg,	Just transition, climate mitigation and adaptation, afforestation, natural risk prevention, urban development	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Information about ERDF funding in division into focus areas (including nature and climate), see website	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>Coordination: Ministry for Food, Rural Area and Consumer Protection, see website</p> <p>Bavaria, Coordination: State Ministry for Research and Art, see website</p> <p>Berlin, Senate Administration on Economy, Energy and Businesses, see website</p> <p>Bremen, Coordination: Senate Administration for Economy, Work and Europe, see website</p> <p>Hamburg, Coordination: Administration for Economy and</p>				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>Innovation, see website</p> <p>Hessen, Coordination: Ministry for Economy, Energy, Transport and Living, see website</p> <p>Lower Saxony, Coordination: Ministry for Federal and European Affairs and Regional Development, see website</p> <p>North Rhine-Westphalia, Coordination: Ministry for Economy, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy, see website</p> <p>Rhineland-Pfalz, Coordination: Ministry for</p>				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>Economy, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture, see website</p> <p>Saarland, Coordination: Ministry for Economy, Innovation, Digital and Energy, see website</p> <p>Schleswig-Holstein, Coordination:</p> <p>Thuringia, Coordination: Ministry for Economy, Science and Digital Society, see website</p> <p>Ministry of Economy, Transport, Labor, Technology and Tourism, see website</p>				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>JTF-Programmes/i initiatives 2021-2027 at state level:</p> <p>Brandenburg, Coordination: Ministry for Economy, Work and Energy, see website</p> <p>North Rhine-Westphalia, Coordination: Ministry for Economy, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy, see website</p> <p>Saxony, Coordination: Ministry for Economy, Work and Transport, see website</p> <p>Saxony Anhalt,</p>				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Coordination: unclear, see website				
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)	<p>Advisory service on the LIFE-Environment funding program (on behalf of the BMUV)</p> <p>Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH</p> <p>LIFE-Programme</p> <p>+49 228 993 054 363</p> <p>life@z-u-g.org</p> <p>website</p>	Nature protection, climate protection, circular economy, energy transition	Grants	<p>Current funding period 2021-2027</p> <p>Information about LIFE programme in Germany, see website</p>	See list of exemplary LIFE projects in Box
Horizon Europe	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)	<p>Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)</p> <p>National Contact Points</p>	Innovative projects, including projects related to climate protection and health	Grants	Information about funding opportunities can be found on the websites of the national	See list of exemplary Horizon projects in Box

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		(NCP) for Horizon Europe, see website			contact point: See website and see website	
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF)	Federal Ministry of Finance, see website	Climate-friendly measures, digitalization, social participation	German Recovery and Resilience Plan (GRRP)	Total RRF funding is around EUR 25 billion	Four lighthouse projects of the federal government, e.g. on digitalization and building with wood
National funding						
Federal Biodiversity Program	BMUV	Program Office Federal Program on Biological Diversity 0228 3821-1809 programmbeauftragte-bpbv@dlr.de website	Implementation of the national strategy for biological diversity, following focus topics	Grants	The guidelines were last updated in July 2021, federal funding is max. 75%.	Project database
Chance.natur	BMUV	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	Large-scale nature conservation projects	Grants	Federal funding is approx. 75%.	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		0228 8491-1011 website				
Wilderness fund	BMUV	Advisory service on the fund (on behalf of the BMUV) Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH, see website	Focus on wilderness areas (min. 500 ha)	Grants	The current funding period ends in December 2030	Project database
Floodplain Funding Program	BMUV	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, see website foerderprogramm-auen-bbd@bfn.de	Floodplains, alluvial forests, meadows	Grants	Federal funding is approx. 75%.	Project profiles
GAK funding system "Improvement of Agricultural Structure and Coastal Protection"	BMEL	Part of the national implementation of the EU Common Agriculture Policy	e.g. Forests (Funding area 5), extreme events, climate adaptation,	Grants	A joint framework plan is drawn up by the federal and state governments for the period	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), see website Contact offices in the different federal states, see website	ecosystem services		of a four-year financial plan.	
Funding programme "Climate-adapted forest management"	BMEL	Official internet portal from Climate-adapted forest management, coordinated by Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR), see website	Climate adaptation, sustainable land management	Public funds to support public and private entities via grants	EUR 900 milli on earmarked government budget until 2026	
Forest Climate Fund	BMUV, BMEL	Official internet portal from Waldklimafonds, coordinated by Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR), see website	Nature protection, biodiversity, climate adaptation of forests	Public funds to support public and private entities via grants	Continuous financing	Project database

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Regional funding (examples)						
Forestry Directive Brandenburg Forest conservation levy (WEA)	Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Climate Protection of the State of Brandenburg	Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Climate Protection of the State of Brandenburg Department 3 - Rural Development, Agriculture and Forestry Unit 35 website +49 331 866-7679	Forest conservation	Grant	Beneficiaries of forest conversion permits under Section 8 of the State Forest Act (LWaldG) have to pay financial compensation. These funds are used to improve the protective and recreational function of the forest.	
Forestry Guidance, Sachsen-Anhalt	Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection and Environment of the State of Sachsen - Anhalt	Information: Support forestry staff at the State Center for Forests, see website Application: Regional offices for Agriculture, Land Consolidation and Forestry in Sachsen-	Forest conversion and conservation, among others	Grant	A total of EUR 10.2 million will be available for this purpose until 2023	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Anhalt, see website				
Eco Accounts	Federal states	<p>Lower nature conservation authorities are the official contact points and approving bodies.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Baden-Württemberg, Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy Management Baden-Württemberg:</p> <p>Information material, see website</p> <p>Bavaria, Bavarian State Office for the Environment, see website</p>	Stockpiling of compensation areas and measures for future interventions in nature and landscape (biodiversity offsets)	Contractual nature conservation for landowner	Continuous financing	
NRW Foundation	NRW Foundation	Official contact point	Nature, homeland and culture and supports	Grant	Continuous financing	Project database

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			associations and groups			
Foundation Future Forest	Lower Saxony State Forests	Stiftung Zukunft Wald, see website	environmental education and species conservation	Grant on regional level	Continuous financing in Lower-Saxonian state forests	Project database
Earmarked funds and foundations from non-official institutions (examples in alphabetical order)						
Allianz Environmental Foundation	Allianz Foundation	Official contact point	Climate-neutrality, living planet	Grant	Continuous financing	
Aktion Kulturland Foundation	AKTION KULTURLAND	Official contact point	Nature-protecting and public welfare-oriented agriculture	Grant	Continuous financing	Project database
Edmund Siemers Foundation	Edmund Siemers Stiftung	Official contact point	Nature protection, among other topics	Grant	Continuous financing	Project overview
Environmental Foundation Michael Otto	Umweltstiftung Michael Otto	Official contact point	Environmental and nature protection, sustainability	Grant	Continuous financing	Project database
Foundation Enterprise Forest	Stiftung Unternehmen Wald	Official contact point	nature conservation, environmental education and forest research	Grant	Continuous financing	Project overview

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Foundation Schorfheide-Chorin	Stiftung Schorfheide-Chorin	Official contact point	Nature conservation	Local funding via grant	Continuous financing, targeting the Biosphere reserve	
German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)	Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt	Official contact point	Environmental protection	Grant	Established by the German government as a foundation under civil law, continuous financing, one of the largest foundations in Europe (current capital: EUR 2.4 billion)	Project database
Gute Wald Foundation	Gute Wald Stiftung	Official contact point	Ecological silviculture and forest nature conservation	Grant	Continuous financing	Project example: Forest and KITAS
Gregor Louisoder Environmental Foundation	Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung	Official contact point	Nature and species protection, climate protection, agriculture	Grant	Continuous financing,	Project examples: Bayern wild , Tatort Natur
Heinz Sielmann Foundation	Heinz Sielmann Stiftung	Official contact point	Nature and species	Grant	Continuous financing	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			protection, biodiversity			
Manfred-Hermesen-Foundation	Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung	Official contact point	Environmental awareness, nature protection, restoration	Grant	Continuous financing	Project database
North German Foundation for Environment and Development	Norddeutsche Stiftung für Umwelt und Entwicklung	Official contact point	Nature protection, sustainability	Grant	Continuous financing, mainly funded by environmental lottery BINGO!	Project database
Rhineland Cultural Landscape Foundation	Stiftung Rheinische Kulturlandschaft	Official contact point	Cultural landscape, compensation, nature protection	Regional funding via grant	Continuous financing in the Rhineland (North Rhine-Westphalia)	
Private funds / Donations						
German Postcode Lottery	Deutsche Postcode Lotterie	Official contact point	Nature conservation and environmental protection	Grant	Supports socially and ecologically sustainable projects (with 30% of the revenue)	Project examples
Umweltlotterie GENAU	LOTTO Hessen	Official contact point	Environment	Regional funding via grant	Supports environmental projects in Hessen, fixed weekly support for a	Project examples

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
					project of EUR 5 000.	
Sparkassenstiftungen	Sparkassen Finance Group	Official contact point	Broad topics, one focus is environment	Grant	With over 750 foundations it is Germany's most active corporate group in terms of donations	Foundation overview

FINANCING SOURCES IN GREECE

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
EEA	European Environment Agency
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National contact point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Fund
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
VAT	Value Added Tax



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Greece has a range of funding tools for biodiversity, climate and nature protection. These include funding tools at European and national level, as well as innovative instruments, including crowdfunding platforms, green bonds and biodiversity offsets.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Greece. They are followed by a summary table of practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

For **Cohesion Policy**, the new National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for the years 2021 to 2027 (*Εταιρικό Σύμφωνο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης 2021-2027*) was approved by the European Commission in July 2021. According to the NSRF, a total of EUR 26.2 billion will be made available to Greece over seven years, EUR 20.9 billion in EU support and EUR 5.3 billion of national contribution²⁹¹. The NSRF is divided into different programmes, including one on environment and climate change.

The managing authorities of the relevant sectors of the NSRF include the Special Programme Management Unit for Environment and Climate Change and Civil Protection (*Ειδική Υπηρεσία Διαχείρισης Προγραμμάτων «Περιβάλλον και Κλιματική Αλλαγή» και «Πολιτική Προστασία»*), under the authority of the Special Secretary for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund Management of the

Ministry of Development and Investment. Respective regional governors act as the managing authorities of the regional programmes.

The main objective of the NSRF is to develop sustainable, high quality, multimodal, low carbon infrastructure and smart systems, by promoting the transition to clean energy, the circular economy and adaptation to climate change, which will serve the citizen, while contributing to the achievement of measurable targets in energy efficiency and environmental performance²⁹². It aims to enhance the protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure²⁹³. The main objectives of the regional programmes include promoting sustainability, rational and efficient management of natural resources, and addressing climate change, as well as supporting sustainable and integrated spatial development.

Information on calls for potential beneficiaries regarding the) for Cohesion Policy is included in the summary table

Under the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**, Greece has adopted a Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2023 to 2027. The main objectives for environment and climate include:

- Improving agroforestry ecosystems rich in landscape elements;
- Supporting the afforestation of agricultural land;
- Enhancing biodiversity and adapting forests to climate change;
- Introducing investments to prevent and restore damage to forests, including by forest fires, natural disasters and

²⁹¹ [National Strategic Reference Framework](#) 2021-2027

²⁹² [Programme on environment and climate change](#) 2021-2022 under the NSRF 2021-2027

²⁹³ [Programme on environment and climate change](#) 2021-2022 under the NSRF 2021-2027

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conservation of forest genetic resources.

The managing authority for the Strategic Plan for CAP in Greece is the Special Management Agency, which is under the authority of the Secretary General for Union Resources and Infrastructure of the Ministry of Rural Development and Infrastructure Food and Agriculture²⁹⁴.



EU Funding sources under direct management

A database on **LIFE projects** and deliverables is available for Greece²⁹⁵. The National Contact Point (NCP) for LIFE in Greece is the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The Ministry's Green Fund Directorate is the NCP for projects related to nature and biodiversity, while the Environmental Licensing Directorate is responsible for projects on climate change²⁹⁶.

LIFE EL-BIOS²⁹⁷ aims to facilitate the management and conservation of national biodiversity, through the development of an innovative tool for Greece's biodiversity. The implementation of LIFE EL-BIOS project started in October 2021. The project has a total budget of EUR 2,571,132 and is co-financed by the EU LIFE programme and Green Fund. The main contribution of LIFE EL-BIOS is the creation of the National Information System for the biodiversity of Greece, which will facilitate the monitoring, conservation and management of biodiversity in Greece and will be managed by

the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency.

No relevant projects could be identified on the protection of biodiversity under Horizon Europe. The NCP for Horizon Europe in Greece is the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas²⁹⁸.

For the Just Transition Fund (JTF), for the period 2021-2027, Greece submitted the Just Development Transition Programme (*Πρόγραμμα Δίκαιης Αναπτυξιακής Μετάβασης*) to the European Commission in May 2022. Programme priorities include energy transition and circular economy, with no specific indications on biodiversity-enhancing investments or tree planting²⁹⁹.

Information on calls for potential beneficiaries of the Fund is available on the website of the Just Transition Special Authority (*Ειδική Υπηρεσία Δίκαιης Αναπτυξιακής Μετάβασης*)³⁰⁰.

For Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), 'Greece 2.0 (*Εθνικό Σχέδιο Ανάκαμψης και Ανθεκτικότητας Ελλάδα 2.0*)' is structured in four pillars: (a) Green, (b) Digital, (c) Employment, skills, and social cohesion, (d) Private investment and transformation of the economy. It includes 106 investments and 68 reforms and collects EUR 31.16 billion, of which EUR 30.5 billion will come from European funds (EUR 17.8 billion aid and EUR 12.7 billion in loans) to mobilise EUR 60 billion of total investment in the country over the next five years³⁰¹. On green transition, the Plan focuses on energy transition and energy poverty. However, its investments and reforms also include the implementation of selected strategic

²⁹⁴ [Potential beneficiaries for the Strategic Plan for CAP in Greece](#)

²⁹⁵ [Database on LIFE projects and deliverables](#)

²⁹⁶ [Contact details of the NCP for LIFE in Greece](#),

²⁹⁷ Biodiversity <https://biodiversity-greece.gr/>

²⁹⁸ [Contact details of the NCP for Horizon Europe](#) in Greece

²⁹⁹ Just Development Transition Programme (*Πρόγραμμα Δίκαιης Αναπτυξιακής Μετάβασης*)

³⁰⁰ [Just Transition Special Authority](#)

³⁰¹ [Greece 2.0](#)

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‘green’ urban regeneration projects, and the introduction of a new National Reforestation Plan, combined with a forest maps overhaul.

The Recovery and Resilience Mechanism Coordination Service (Υπηρεσία Συντονισμού του Μηχανισμού Ανάκαμψης και Ανθεκτικότητας) has overall responsibility for coordinating and monitoring the Plan. It is an independent special public service under the Minister of Finance. The competent ministries, the implementing bodies, as well as the Financial Control Committee (Επιτροπή Δημοσιονομικού Ελέγχου) also contribute to monitoring and implementing the Plan.

Information on calls for potential beneficiaries under the RRP Greece 2.0 is available on the website of the Plan³⁰².



National funding sources

The website of the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (Ελληνική Εταιρία τοπικής ανάπτυξης και αυτοδιοίκησης) provides a funding guide with information on funding of various projects by topic³⁰³. The funding sources for protection of biodiversity include:

- **Regional authorities.** For example, the region of eastern Macedonia – Thrace is funding a project on the protection and enhancement of regional ecosystems (budget for the call is EUR 4,000,000)³⁰⁴;

- **The Green Fund (Πράσινο Ταμείο)** is funding a project to support projects and actions on environmental issues³⁰⁵. The budget for the call is EUR 1,000,000. The Green Fund (Πράσινο Ταμείο) is a legal entity established by Law 3889/2010 (Α' 182) that finances programmes drawn up by the Ministry of Environment and Energy or other ministries and their supervised organisations, decentralised general administrations, local authorities, legal entities of the wider public sector, and associations or other forms of associations of legal and natural persons, which, in accordance with their statutory objectives, aim to protect, upgrade and restore the environment;
- **Local authorities' infrastructure fund (Ταμείο χρηματοδότησης υποδομών)** is funding a project to protect biodiversity³⁰⁶. The budget for the call is up to EUR 15,000,000. The fund (Ταμείο χρηματοδότησης υποδομών) aims to offer favourable financing conditions to the private and public sectors for the implementation of small and medium-sized projects, with a focus on energy, environment and urban development;
- **The Deposits and Loans Fund (Ταμείο Παρακαταθηκών και Δανείων)** is a self-governed public financial institution operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance³⁰⁷.

The Athens Chamber of Tradesman (Επαγγελματικό Επιμελητήριο Αθηνών)³⁰⁸ announced in March 2023 that it plans to continue planting new trees in areas around the city of Athens. The project includes the planting of 10,000 new trees in the Attica region.

³⁰² [Greece 2.0](#)

³⁰³ Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government ([Ελληνική Εταιρία τοπικής ανάπτυξης και αυτοδιοίκησης](#))

³⁰⁴ Regional authorities (example of the [region of eastern Macedonia – Thrace](#))

³⁰⁵ The Green Fund ([Πράσινο Ταμείο](#))

³⁰⁶ Local authorities' infrastructure fund ([Ταμείο χρηματοδότησης υποδομών](#))

³⁰⁷ The Deposits and Loans Fund ([Ταμείο Παρακαταθηκών και Δανείων](#))

³⁰⁸ Athens Chamber of Tradesman ([Επαγγελματικό Επιμελητήριο Αθηνών](#))

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In the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Municipality of Kasos and the Centre for Energy Policy and Development of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens³⁰⁹, the symbolic planting of 80 trees in areas of the municipality was implemented as part of the **Centre's '75UN - 75 Trees UNAI SDG7 Initiative' (KE 17535)**, which is part of the Green Fund's financial programme 'Natural environment and innovative actions 2020' under Priority Axis 4: 'Other Actions'. Similar actions may be implemented in the future by the organisations involved.

In 2021, the Centre for Energy Policy and Development of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens published a call inviting public and private entities, as well as local authorities, to become sponsors of the 2021-2022 forest replanting programme³¹⁰. Similar initiatives may happen in the future.

Examples of school initiatives include the tree-planting event organised by the 19th Primary School of Heraklion, in Crete in November 2021 to enhance the school's green spaces³¹¹.

In order to replace the diseased and dangerous trees on Tsimiski Street in Thessaloniki, new trees were planted in April 2023 as part of the intervention designed by the Municipality of Thessaloniki's Department of Greenery and Environment. As part of the integrated intervention, diseased trees were cut down, chopped and removed. The stumps were then removed and new *Celtis Australis* trees were planted. The replacement of the diseased and dangerous trees was made possible by a donation from the Regency Group, as part of its

long-term contribution to corporate social responsibility in the wider Thessaloniki area.

The **National Programme 'Antonis Tritsis' (Πρόγραμμα 'Αντώνης Τρίτσης')** aims to improve and modernise the basic infrastructure of the first- and second-degree local authorities, the associations of municipalities and the legal entities of local authorities, with the aim of sustainable development and the safety and quality of life of citizens³¹². The environment (sustainable development with a strong environmental footprint, energy saving actions, renewable energy actions, water, liquid and solid waste management, etc.) is one of the main axes of the programme.

The **Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (Οργανισμός Φυσικού Περιβάλλοντος & Κλιματικής Αλλαγής)**³¹³, a legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, is included in the national funding sources for projects on biodiversity and climate change. In July 2022, the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation published a **call for proposals** 'Actions for the protection, conservation and promotion of biodiversity. Field studies of endemic threatened and nationally important species of Greece', funded by the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency and implemented by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation.

Several **foundations** act as funding sources for environmental-related projects, these are listed in the summary table.

Finally, in November 2022, around 200 **volunteers** helped to plant 1,000 new trees around the city of Athens³¹⁴, in the context of the

³⁰⁹ [Participation of the Municipality of Kasos in the International Tree Planting Initiative](#)

³¹⁰ Example of a [forest replanting initiative](#)

³¹¹ Example of a [school initiative on a tree planting event](#)

³¹² National Programme 'Antonis Tritsis' ([Πρόγραμμα 'Αντώνης Τρίτσης'](#))

³¹³ Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency ([Οργανισμός Φυσικού Περιβάλλοντος & Κλιματικής Αλλαγής](#))

³¹⁴ Example of [voluntary planting of new trees](#)

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third nationwide voluntary planting of the environmental organisation We4all, supported by the Vikos company.



Innovative funding sources

In April 2020, the National Bank of Greece published the **Green Bond Framework**, which identifies renewable energy project assets that can be designated for the use of the funds raised in a green bond issue³¹⁵. On 1 October 1 2020, the Bank successfully completed the first green bond issue of a Greek bank's first highly secured Green Bond. In accordance with the green bond principles set by the International Capital Market Association and adopted for the transaction, the Bank has a contractual obligation to direct all funds raised from the sale of the bond to finance projects related to the green economy. In 2023, Greece plans to issue its first green sovereign bond to support the implementation of its sustainability agenda and enhance its funding strategy.

The first **crowdfunding platform**, act4Greece³¹⁶, was introduced in 2016, focusing on environment and sustainability. Since then, several crowdfunding platforms have been introduced, e.g. Groopio, GiveandFund, και OpenCircle. Several legislative developments have related to crowdfunding in Greece, the latest being the introduction of Law 4706/2020 (A' 136), amended by Law 4920/2022 (A' 74). Public bodies, based on their institutional framework of donations, can operate a crowdfunding platform, e.g. the municipality of Antiparos.

An example of **biodiversity offsets** in Greece is the Schinias-Marathon National Park³¹⁷, one of the most important coastal ecosystems and an area of high ecological value in Attica. It includes a reconstructed wetland, pine forest, spring, bay, hill and residential and tourist area. The biodiversity of the wetland and park was significantly improved due to this offset³¹⁸.

A Biodiversity Offset Strategy was published for the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline project, which traverses Greece, Albania and Italy³¹⁹. According to the Strategy, a biodiversity offset management plan will be developed to provide more details on the offset design, intended conservation outcomes, specific management actions and details on the legal mechanisms of securing and establishing the prospective site(s).

³¹⁵ [Green Bond Framework](#)

³¹⁶ [act4Greece](#)

³¹⁷ Example of [biodiversity offsets](#)

³¹⁸ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), [Environmental Performance Review for Greece](#), 2020

³¹⁹ [Trans-Adriatic Pipeline project](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Special Programme Management Service for Environment and Climate Change	Website	Programme Environment and Climate Change Protection of biodiversity	Grants	2021-2027	Website
ERDF and European Social Fund+ (ESF+)	Special Management Service 'Central Macedonia'	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Central Macedonia	Grants	2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Special Management Service of the OP of the Region of Western Macedonia	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Western Macedonia		2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Special Management Service 'Epirus' 2021-2027	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Epirus		2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and	Special	Website	Regional		2021-2027	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ESF+	Management Service of the North Aegean Region Programme	(Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Programme for Ionian Islands			
ERDF and ESF+	Special Management Service 'Continental Greece'	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Continental Greece		2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Special Management Service 'Attica'	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Attica region		2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Special Management Service of the Programme of the Region of Western Greece	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Western Greece		2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and ESF+	Special Management Service 'Peloponnese'	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Peloponnese		2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	President of the Monitoring Committee is the Regional Governor of South	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional programme for southern Aegean region		2021-2027	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Aegean ³²⁰					
ERDF and ESF+	Planning Group 2021-2027 Region of Crete (Ομάδας Σχεδιασμού ΕΣΠΑ 2021-2027 Περιφέρειας Κρήτης ³²¹)	Website (Information also available for potential beneficiaries)	Regional Programme for Crete		2021-2027	n/a
ERDF and ESF+	Special Programme Management Service Region of Thessaly	Website	Regional Programme for Thessaly		2021-2027	n/a
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	Special Management Agency, under the authority of the Secretary General for Union Resources and Infrastructure of the Ministry of Rural Development, Infrastructure	Website	Strategic Plan for CAP; objectives include improvement of agroforestry ecosystems and restoration of damage to forests.		2023-2027	Information for potential beneficiaries for the Strategic Plan for CAP in Greece, see website

³²⁰ Managing Committee of the regional OP for southern Aegean region, <https://pepna.gr/el/pep-notio-aigaio-2021-2027/epitropi-parakolythisis>

³²¹ NSRF Planning Group 2021-2027 Region of Crete, <https://2021-2027.pepkritis.gr/%cf%86%ce%b5%ce%ba-%cf%83%cf%85%ce%b3%ce%ba%cf%81%cf%8c%cf%84%ce%b7%cf%83%ce%b7%cf%82/>

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Food and Agriculture					
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	NCP: Ministry for the Environment and Energy - Green Fund	Website	Protection of nature and biodiversity	Grants	4 October 2021-31 March 2025	LIFE EL BIOS: aims to facilitate the management & conservation of national biodiversity, through the development of an innovative tool for Greece's biodiversity.
JTF	Managing authority of the JTF	Website	Environmental priorities of the JTF include energy transition			Information on calls for potential beneficiaries of the JTF in Greece available on the website of the Just Transition Special Authority
RRF	Special Service for the Coordination of the Recovery Fund, under the authority	Website	RRP	Grants		Information on calls for potential beneficiaries for RRP Greece 2.0 is available on

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	of the Minister of Finance					the website of the Plan
Horizon Europe	NCP: Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas	Website			2021-2027	
National funding						
Regional authorities	Regional authority of eastern Macedonia	Website	Protection and enhancement of regional ecosystems		10 May 2016-31 December 2023	
Regional authorities	Regional authority of Attica	Website		Grants	Beneficiaries include municipalities, regions, local authorities, legal entities of public law, etc.	
Green Fund	Green Fund	Website	Protect, upgrade and restore the environment, sustainable development of cities	Grants	2023 Beneficiaries include municipalities, associations, development limited liability companies	
Green Fund	Green Fund	Website	Protection of biodiversity, along with actions to upgrade the	Grants	5 December 2022-5 May 2023 Beneficiaries	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			urban natural and man-made environment and actions to inform and raise awareness about climate change		include municipalities, local authorities, legal entities of public law, etc.	
Local authorities' infrastructure fund	Local authorities' infrastructure fund, along with the EIB	Website	Protection of biodiversity, along with actions to upgrade the urban natural and man-made environment (regeneration, cycle paths, paths, mobility in urban centres, etc.)	Grants	Project focusing on the protection of biodiversity Project completion by 31 December 2023 Beneficiaries include municipalities, regional authorities, legal entities of public law, etc.	
Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency	Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy	Website	Protection, conservation and promotion of biodiversity	Grants?	(Calls for proposals periodically published on website)	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Athens Chamber of Commerce	Athens Chamber of Commerce	Website	Planting of 10,000 new trees in the Attica region		March 2023	n/a
Centre for Energy Policy and Development of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Centre for Energy Policy and Development of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Website			Symbolic planting of 80 trees in the municipality (could be relevant for similar future actions)	
Hellenic Mediterranean University and Municipality of Heraklion	Hellenic Mediterranean University and Municipality of Heraklion	Website	Tree planting event to enhance the school's green spaces		Tree planting event took place in November 2021 (could be relevant for similar future actions)	Took place in the context of the project 'Heraklion Urban Green: Changing the climate in the city'
Ministry of the Interior	National Programme 'Antonis Tritsis'	Website	Financed actions on environment and quality of life		2022-2023 (with possibility of extension)	Beneficiaries include municipalities, regions, legal entities of public law, etc.
Private company (Regency Entertainment S.A.)	Municipality of Thessaloniki's Department of Greenery and Environment	Website	Replaced diseased and dangerous trees with new ones	Donation	April 2023	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Private company (Vikos)	We4all (environmental organisation)	Website	Planting of 1000 new trees around the city of Athens	Donation	November 2022	Took place in the context of the third nationwide voluntary planting of the environmental organisation We4all, with the support of the company Vikos
Stavros Niarchos Foundation	X	Website		Grants		Information on applying for funding is available on the foundation's website
John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation	X	Website		Grants		Information on applying for funding is available on the foundation's website
Onassis Foundation	X	Website		Grants		Information on applying for funding is available on the foundation's website

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos Foundation	X	Website		Grants		Information on applying for funding is available on the foundation's website
Bodossaki Foundation	X	Website		Donation		Information on applying for funding is available on the foundation's website

FINANCING SOURCES IN HUNGARY

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEB	Council of Europe Development Bank
CF	Cohesion Fund
EAFRD	European agricultural fund for rural development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
GINOP PLUSZ	Economic Development and Innovation Programme Plus
JTF	Just Transition Fund
KEHOP PLUSZ	Environment and Energy Efficiency Programme Plus
LRA	Local and Regional Authorities
PAF	Prioritized Action Framework
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
TOP PLUSZ	Area and Settlement Development Programme Plus
VOP PLUSZ	Implementation Programme Plus



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Under the National Forest Strategy 2016-2030, Hungary has developed a National Afforestation Programme launched in 2019. The current share of forest land over the total amount of land in Hungary is around 22 percent.

Under shared management EU funding sources, Hungary's new Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will provide the largest contribution of approximately EUR 3 billion to support the Specific Objective 6 on halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem services and preserving habitats and landscapes. Four Programmes with approximately EUR 1 billion biodiversity-relevant allocation are identified under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). In addition, under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, specific green dimensions leave room for funding related projects. Under directly managed EU funding sources, Hungarian projects within the Nature and Biodiversity subprogramme of the LIFE Programme are considered, while in the context of Horizon Europe, the Biodiversa+ partnership can be flagged. In the context of EU funds, the ongoing restrictions on their use due to the activation of the rule of law conditionality mechanism against Hungary are also explained.

With regard to available national funding, limited sources could be identified, and these relate to supporting the above-mentioned Programmes and the implementation of Natura 2000. Lastly, some **innovative funding sources** are mentioned, in particular, the newly introduced green bonds, while payment for ecosystem services could not be traced, and crowdfunding showed some promising initiatives, albeit not common practice in Hungary.

The following sections provide brief information about funding opportunities potentially relevant for tree planting in Hungary separated into EU funding sources under shared management, EU funding sources under direct management, national funding sources, and innovative funding sources. These sections are followed with a summary table,

which includes practical links and contact information allowing the potential beneficiaries to identify suitable financing sources for their tree planting initiatives.



EU Funding sources under shared management

On 7 November 2022, the European Commission approved the CAP Strategic Plan for Hungary. The new **CAP**, set to start on 1 January 2023, is designed to shape the transition to a sustainable, resilient and modern European agricultural sector. According to the approved plan, Hungary is to receive EUR 8.4 billion from the EU budget, including EUR 2 billion dedicated to environmental and climate objectives and the eco-schemes called agro-ecological programmes³²². The Hungarian CAP Strategic Plan allocates nearly 75 % of the EU funds for rural development for the support of environmental and climate objectives, with EUR 3 billion contributing to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes³²³. The 80 % additional national funding of the total envelope, including the additional national rural development funding, is around 36 % green. In many cases, measures of an economic development nature also serve environmental and climate objectives, and specific green investments, such as for afforestation or agro-ecological land use change, are also included in the Plan. In addition to the Agro-ecological Programme, Natura 2000 forest and grassland, animal and plant genetic conservation and animal welfare support continues with an emphasis on green forestry interventions³²⁴.

JTF: EUR 294 million is allocated to support Hungary under the JTF during the 2021-2027

³²² European Commission, [The Commission approves the CAP Strategic Plan for Hungary](#), 7 November 2022.

³²³

https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/financial_allocation.html

³²⁴ National Agrarian Chamber, [Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027](#), p. 16.

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programming period³²⁵. The bulk of the funding is planned to support the regions most affected by the phasing out from coal and the lignite-fired Mátra power plant³²⁶. Funding will be directed to investments in low-carbon technologies supporting this phase out and the reduction of CO₂ emissions in Hungary by 10 %, among others³²⁷. No specific mention of tree planting could be identified.

Furthermore, the following Cohesion Policy Programmes could be relevant for funding of tree-planting projects:

- PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLUS (KÖRNYEZETI ÉS ENERGIAHATÉKONYSÁGI OPERATÍV PROGRAM PLUSZ (KEHOP PLUSZ): The aim of the programme is to reduce environmental pollution and excessive use of our resources, to protect biological diversity and to prioritise the circular economy. Particular attention is paid to the development of green and blue infrastructure and local energy communities. In addition, its primary task is to create new jobs and reduce harmful emissions, especially in the most carbon-intensive counties. KEHOP Plusz mainly covers the second policy objective (in short: a greener Europe) through the following five priorities: water management and disaster risk reduction; circular economic systems and sustainability; environmental and nature protection; renewable energy economy; Just Transition Fund (JTF). This Programme also contains a specific objective (No. 2.1.1.1.): RSO2.7. "Enhancing the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructures, including in urban areas, as well as the reduction of all forms of pollution, to which tree planting initiatives could contribute".
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION OPERATIONAL PROGRAM

PLUS (GAZDASÁGFEJLESZTÉSI ÉS INNOVÁCIÓS OPERATÍV PROGRAM PLUSZ (GINOP PLUSZ): for the period 2021-2027 GINOP Plusz is to increase the competitiveness of the domestic economy. In addition, by allocating 65 % of the resources to the four least developed regions, the priority goal of the programme is also to support territorial cohesion.

- AREA AND CITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAM PLUSZ (TERÜLET- ÉS TELEPÜLÉSFEJLESZTÉSI OPERATÍV PROGRAM PLUSZ (TOP PLUSZ) TOP Plusz) TOP Plusz supports area-based developments throughout Hungary, its aim is to improve territorial development through integrated territorial programmes. TOP Plusz has six priorities: Livable county; Climate-friendly county; Caring county; Budapest infrastructural development; Budapest Human Development; and Competitive county.
- IMPLEMENTATION OPERATIONAL PROGRAM PLUSZ (VÉGREHAJTÁS OPERATÍV PROGRAM PLUSZ, VOP PLUSZ)

The European Territorial Cooperation Programs (2021-2027) could also be relevant to fund tree-planting initiatives.

Managing authorities and links to their websites are provided in the summary table.



EU Funding sources under direct management

The national contact point regarding the **LIFE programme** for Nature and Biodiversity in Hungary is the [Ministry of Agriculture](#)³²⁸. However, for other relevant issue areas, such as Climate Action, Environment, or the Clean Energy Transition, the Ministry for Innovation and

³²⁵ Cohesion Open Data Platform, [Hungary](#).

³²⁶ Lilo Bärbel Rösch and Daniele Epifanio, 'Just transition in 7 Central and Eastern European countries', April 2022.

³²⁷ European Commission, Press Release: [EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: Investing in a fair climate and digital transition while](#)

[strengthening Hungary's administrative capacity, transparency and prevention of corruption](#), 22 December 2022.

³²⁸ European Commission, [NCPs – National contact points Nature & Biodiversity](#).

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Technology is the national contact point³²⁹. It is also noted that a working group has been set up to facilitate successful Hungarian LIFE applications that can also help provide advice and consult on proposals, as needed³³⁰.

Under the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme of the **LIFE Programme**, currently, there are various projects running in Hungary. Some target the conservation and restoration of habitats, such as sodic wetlands, calcareous sand forest steppe, river floodplains (Drava) and Pannonic salt steppes and loess steppic grasslands (LIFE20 NAT/HU/001404, 2021-2027)³³¹. An ongoing Strategic Nature Project that has been co-funded in Hungary aims at fostering the long-term conservation of Pannonian grasslands and related habitats (LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU) LIFE18 IPE/HU/000018 (2019-2026)³³². The LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU project will carry out conservation measures to improve 10 priority habitat types, including semi-natural Pannonian grasslands. Actions will address shrub encroachment and afforestation, along with habitat fragmentation and the disappearance of ecological corridors. The project will control invasive species, reduce the misuse of land and other resources, address water-level issues and raise the awareness of farmers. A key outcome will be a revision of the conservation measures for priority and indicator species and habitats.

The national contact point for **Horizon Europe** projects is the [National Research Development and Innovation Office](#)³³³. Horizon Europe is implemented in Hungary via the Biodiversa+ partnership, running from 2021 to 2027, with a planned budget of over EUR 800 million. Hungary did not previously participate in the EU initiatives that preceded the partnership, but the National Research, Development and Innovation Office is now representing Hungary in Biodiversa+. Hungary will contribute EUR 2 million to the

research over seven years³³⁴.

The purpose of the Hungarian **Recovery and Resilience Plan**³³⁵ is primarily to counterbalance the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to increase the economy's resilience, sustainability and preparedness for the challenges and opportunities related to the green and digital transition. The Hungarian plan includes a total of HUF 2,300 billion of strategic development projects until 2026 – with the measures included in the plan contributing 48.1 % to the climate goals. One example of how tree planting might be implemented under the RRF is how Component 1 on Demography and Public Education requires a 'green dimension' of related projects, including via green architecture, which "will also be used in the construction and renovation of the buildings, taking into account the specific conditions, e.g., green roofs, green walls, planting of shade trees on the south side, etc."³³⁶



National funding sources

The 2023 central budget of the national government³³⁷ contains one reference to biodiversity which allocates the budget for the National Biodiversity and Gene Conservation Center³³⁸. The centre, however, focuses on plant gene conservation activities and provides the Ministry of Agriculture with technical and professional support for the development and implementation of the domestic plant gene conservation strategy and is not well placed to fund tree planting initiatives.

The [National Afforestation Program](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture aims to increase the country's territory that is covered by forests and

³²⁹ [LIFE Pályázatok: Contact](#)

³³⁰ [LIFE Pályázatok: Contact](#)

³³¹ European Commission, LIFE Public Database, [Innovative management of Pannonic salt steppes and loess steppic grasslands to benefit plants, insects and birds](#).

³³² LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU on LIFE Public Database, [Long term conservation of Pannonian grasslands and related habitats through the implementation of PAF strategic measures](#).

³³³ European Commission, [National Contact Points for Horizon Europe](#).

³³⁴ National Research, Development and Innovation Office, [Hungarian researcher heads the advisory board of the BIODIVERSA+ partnership](#), 27 September 2022.

³³⁵ [Recovery and Resilience Plan of Hungary](#)

³³⁶ [Recovery and Resilience Plan of Hungary](#) p 73.

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trees to 27 % by 2030³³⁹. To that end, various programmes are implemented across the country, such as the Settlement Afforestation Program, within which municipalities of less than 10.000 inhabitants can register to be part of the programme and apply for various tree species for planting. The Rural Development Program and the CAP both support the afforestation of private and municipal areas. With the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, between autumn 2020 and spring 2022, 1 357 Hungarian settlements with fewer than 10 000 people have been enriched with a total of 36 000 trees in two phases.

In the context of Natura 2000, national funding for Natura 2000, green infrastructure and species protection can be expected according to Hungary's Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 (PAF) for the programming period of 2021-2027³⁴⁰. The PAF only specifies the priority funding needs - not their national funding source. Nevertheless, it mentions support for the control of the invasive species that was funded during the previous MFF from the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture (under the appropriations for the 'Compensation for nature conservation damage and 'Support for nature conservation tenders'). The document also lists afforestation among the investments in forest areas under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development combined with national funding. At the same time, it does not provide the amount allocated to afforestation specifically³⁴¹.

The **Blue Planet Venture Capital Funds (Climate protection Fund – Water Fund)**, were established with the aim of contributing to the achievement of Hungary's environmental and climate protection goals. For this reason, they look for target companies and investment opportunities that directly or indirectly contribute to the achievement of sustainability goals broadly, including climate-friendly agriculture, – a scope that could cover tree planting initiatives as well. The capitalisation of Blue Planet Venture Capital

Funds is HUF 15.5 billion. The Climate Protection Venture Capital Fund with a capitalisation of HUF 10.5 billion is registered and managed by the Blue Planet Climate Protection Investment Fund Private LLC. Their strategy aims to create a mixed portfolio that includes companies in the seed, start-up and growth stages, even supporting those products that only exist as an idea yet or those that are already in the production phase. Accordingly, the extent of investments is also divided into three categories: i.) investments of less than 100 million, ii.) between 100-350 million and iii.) more than 350 million HUF.



Innovative funding sources

Green bonds: The Hungarian Central Bank introduced green company bonds for the first time in the summer of 2020 by issuing bonds worth HUF 30 billion (ca. EUR 78.8 million), followed by more green bond issuances by several other companies. The aim of the green bonds is to finance public spending on climate protection. Anyone purchasing such bonds will be supporting the cause of climate protection, because the Hungarian government pledges to use the proceeds exclusively for climate-friendly programmes³⁴². All bonds issued comply with the corporate green bond regulation and have been verified by an external testing body to meet international standards, namely the green bond principles (GBPs). Additionally, the Hungarian Green Bond Framework was introduced in May 2020. The Ministry of Finance, in cooperation with the government debt management agency of Hungary, has set up a steering committee³⁴³.

Payment for Ecosystem Services: The mapping and assessment of ecosystem service projects in

³³⁹ Government of Hungary, [The Spring Planting Period of the Settlement Afforestation Program has Begun](#), 24 March 2023.

³⁴⁰ Természetvédelem, [NATURA 2000 Priority Action Plan for Hungary 2021-2027](#) (PRIORIZÁLT INTÉZKEDÉSI TERV MAGYARORSZÁG 2021-2027).

³⁴¹ Természetvédelem, [NATURA 2000 Priority Action Plan for Hungary 2021-2027](#) (PRIORIZÁLT INTÉZKEDÉSI TERV MAGYARORSZÁG 2021-2027) pp 15, 21.

³⁴² Ministry of Innovation and Technology, [CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTION PLAN 2020](#).

³⁴³ CEE Legal Matters, [Green Finance in Hungary 2023](#), 13 April 2023.

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Hungary was recently completed in October 2022. It was a large-scale six-year project in order to comply with the targets set out in the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020 and later in the Strategy for 2030³⁴⁴. This information is key to determine monetary values for ecosystem services. For example, initial estimates of the value of forest provisioning services alone are close to HUF 1 000 billion (approximately EUR 3.3 billion)³⁴⁵. However, the desk research has not revealed actual funding sources in Hungary under the umbrella of payments for ecosystem services.

Crowdfunding: while crowdfunding is in its infancy in Hungary, one of the main national crowdfunding sites (<https://adjukossze.hu/>) has seen various crowdfunding initiatives concerning tree planting. Those include the [LET THERE BE A TREE UNDER THE TREE!](#) campaign that allowed participants to give the gift of planting a tree for Christmas. This was advertised by highlighting the ecosystem services provided by the planted trees: "With Trees, you give your loved ones cool shade, fresh air, an eye-catching experience and a more livable land". The campaign achieved 230 % of its targeted funding with a total of HUF 1 612 000 (ca. EUR 4 330) with the participation of 215 supporters.



Other funding sources



The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) is a multilateral bank that provides financial and technical expertise for projects with strong social potential, including those on environmental sustainability. The forms of financing include project loans for individual projects, programme

loans for multi-project programmes, public sector financing facility, cross-sectoral loan programmes. As Hungary is a CEB member state, Hungarian local and regional authorities (LRA) are eligible for CEB funding³⁴⁶. It is, nevertheless, to be noted that while several CEB loans were granted to Hungary, most recently in January 2023 to the amount of EUR 100 million to support jobs and economic and financial inclusion, in the past 12 years only two climate related loans were granted, one dates back to 2018 and the other one to 2013³⁴⁷.

In addition, Hungary is eligible for **EEA and Norway Grants**, under which projects with environmental and ecosystem objectives can qualify for funding. In practical terms, LRAs in Hungary can apply for sustainable development EEA Grants. Obstacles hinder *de facto* access to these grants. Even though EUR 214.6 million in funding from the EEA and Norway Grants were set aside for Hungary, the country failed to appoint an independent fund operator for civil society funding and, therefore, no programmes could be approved. As of July 2021, the EEA portal continues to inform that "As a result, there will be no further development nor implementation of the planned programmes. The Donor States have been united in the process and regret that the best qualified candidate for Fund Operator could not be appointed."³⁴⁸

³⁴⁴ Vári, Ágnes, Eszter Tanács, Eszter Tormáné Kovács, Ágnes Kalóczkai, Ildikó Arany, Bálint Czúcz, Krisztina Bereczki, Márta Belényesi, Edina Csákvári, Márton Kiss, Veronika Fabók, Livia Kisé Fodor, Péter Koncz, Róbert Lehoczki, László Pásztor, Róbert Pataki, Rita Rezneki, Zsuzsanna Szerényi, Katalin Török, Anikó Zölei, Zita Zsembery, and Anikó Kovács-Hostyánszki. 2022. "[National Ecosystem Services Assessment in Hungary: Framework, Process and Conceptual Questions](#)" Sustainability 14, no. 19: 12847. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su141912847>.

³⁴⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity: Financial Mechanism and Resources, [Hungary: Financing](#), 25 May 2019.

³⁴⁶ [Council of Europe Development Bank](#) (CEB) in European Committee of the Regions, Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy, Financing biodiversity action: opportunities and challenges for EU subnational governments, [p 44](#)

³⁴⁷ CEB, Projects approved by the Administrative Council

³⁴⁸ [EEA Grants](#), No agreement reached on funding for Hungary

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
Environmental and Energy Efficiency Programme Plus (KEHOP PLUSZ)	Prime Minister's Office	Deputy State Secretariat responsible for Programs for Transport, Environment and Energy Efficiency, see website	to reduce environmental pollution and the excessive use of resources, to protect biodiversity, development of green-blue infrastructure	Grants	total of HUF 1 612.56 billion *85 % EU funds (CF, ERDF, JTF), 15 % national funds)	N/A
Economic Development and Innovation OP Plus (GINOP PLUSZ)	Prime Minister's Office	Deputy State Secretariat for the Implementation of Economic Development Programs, see website	Aims to increase the competitiveness of the domestic economy in the SME sector by strengthening its resilience, developing research development and innovation ecosystem.	Grants	Total of HUF 2294.1 billion (planned)	N/A
Area and City Development	Prime Minister's	Prime Ministry, see	Its aim is to improve	Grants	Total of HUF 1 962.5 billion	N/A

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Programme Plus (TOP PLUSZ)	Office	website	territorial cohesions with special attention to the four least developed regions.		(83 % EU (ERDF, ESF) and 17 % national funds)	
Implementati on Programme Plusz (VOP PLUSZ)	Prime Minister's Office	Deputy State Secretariat for the Coordination of European Union Developments , see website	Its aim is to create conditions for the efficient and effective use of EU funds.	Grants	Total of HUF 321.37 billion	N/A
INTERREG AT-HU 2021-2027	Regional management Burgenland GmbH		Contributes to the joint development of the Hungarian-Austrian border region.	Grants	EUR 46 million (ERDF), 80 % co-financing rate * EUR 19.1 million on Priority axis 1. 'Green and resilient border region'	N/A
INTERREG HU-SRB 2021-2027	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary	Website	EU co-funding under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)	Grants	Total budget EUR 74 764 708 (total EU contribution: EUR 63 550 000)	* There are no projects contracted, yet. It is expected that the first contracts with Project

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
						<i>Partners will be signed in Q1/2024</i>
INTERREG HU-SK-RO-UA 2021-2027 (Next Programme)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary	Website	Specific objectives include promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention enhancing biodiversity and reducing all forms of pollution	Grants	EUR 66 million from cohesion funds	N/A
INTERREG HU-SK 2021-2027	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary And Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic	Website And Website	Encourage sustainable joint cross-border (not national or regional) management of natural resources and climate action, including through providing biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation, tree-	Grants	Total: 129 000 000 (ERDF:129 000 000) <i>Min 30 % for climate objectives, and 17 % of the total ERDF for biodiversity objectives</i>	N/A

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			planting ³⁴⁹ .			
INTERREG SI-HU 2021-2027	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary And Slovenia Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development	Website And Website	One priority is to promote preservation of the existing flora and fauna and reduction of pollution.	Grants	EUR 11,7 million ERDF (80 % co-financing)	N/A
INTERREG RO-HU 2021-2027	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Public Administration of Romania	Website	One of the thematic focus areas is 'Greener Europe: Renewable Energy/Climate Change & Risk prevention & Biodiversity)	Grants	total EUR 175 940 025 (80 % co-financing from ERDF)	N/A
EAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture	Website	Under Hungary's CAP Strategic Plan, it allocates 38 % of the rural development	Grants	Rural development (CAP HU) Total : EUR 3 229 586 712 (EU budget: EUR 8 445 006 493) e.g.,	X " Forest of Newborns " Program was launched in 2020, within the framework of which, according to

³⁴⁹ Interreg Hungary – Slovakia, approved by the Commission on 3 November 2022, p 18.

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			budget to agri-environmental interventions, 8 % to the further development of organic farming and about 5 % to the protection of Natura 2000 sites, which cover around 162 631 hectares.		total planned investment to improve the performance of the forestry sector is EUR 448 423 415	the commitment made in the Climate and Nature Protection Action Plan, by 2030, at least 10 trees will be planted for every child born in Hungary.
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Ministry of Agriculture (for nature and biodiversity) And Ministry for Innovation and Technology (for Climate Actions, Environment, or the Clean Energy Transition)	Website And Website	Promote the implementation of the bird protection directive, the habitat protection directive, the implementation of the Natura 2000 network. A priority goal is to support the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.	Grants	Total planned budget for 2021-2027: EUR 5.4 billion. For the nature & biodiversity sub-programme: EUR 2.,1 billion (ca. double than in the previous nature protection framework) N	Pannonian grasslands and related habitats (LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU) LIFE18 IPE/HU/000018 (2019-2026) N.B. Average project size for traditional projects: 1-5 partners; EUR 1-3 million total budget; EU contribution: EUR 500 000

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
						- 1.5 million. Average duration: 2-5 years.
Horizon Europe	National Research Development and Innovation Office	Website	Cluster 5: Climate, energy and mobility aims to help Europe become climate neutral by 2050 through the transformation of the economy, industry and society.	Grants	EUR 800 million (HU contribution is EUR 2 million)	Research as part of the Biodiversa+ partnership
National funding						
Green bonds	Hungarian Central Bank	Website	The aim is to finance investments that have some direct or indirect environmental or climate protection benefit.	Bonds	In 2020: HUF 30 billion (ca. EUR 78.8 million),	N/A
1% tax donations & individual and company donations (among	10 Million Trees Foundation	Website	In the past 3.5 years, the 10 Million Trees community planted nearly two hundred	Grants		160 '10 Million Trees' communities were founded across HU that planted a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
others)			thousand trees and more than forty thousand shrubs throughout the country. Their goal is to involve at least 10 million people in their programme who will plant at least one tree in their lifetime.			total of 191 650 trees by April 2023
Climate Protection Venture Capital Fund	Blue Planet Climate Protection Investment Fund Private LLC.	Website	To fund target companies and investment opportunities that directly or indirectly contribute to sustainability goals, reduction of emissions, etc. Thematically, tree planting could fall under this.		HUF 10.5 billion i.) investments of less than 100 million, ii.) between 100-350 million and iii.) more than 350 million HUF.	N/A
Other funding sources						
Council of Europe	LRA, depending on			Loans (and guarantees,		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Development Bank (CEB)	the project			grants and interest rates subsidies through fiduciary accounts)		
EEA and Norway Grants	Deputy State Secretariat for Development Policy Services, Hungarian Prime Minister's Office	Website	The grants aim to contribute to a more equal Europe, both socially and economically, including within the theme of 'Climate Change and Energy',	Grants	suspended	In 2020 , the Donor States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, did not reach an agreement with Hungary on the appointment of a Fund Operator to manage the funding for civil society. As a consequence, and as foreseen in the cooperation agreements, no programmes will be implemented in Hungary under the EEA and Norway Grants during the 2014-2021 funding period.

FINANCING SOURCES IN IRELAND

Abbreviations used

AECM	Agri-Environment and Climate Measure
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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Ireland has a forest cover of 11.6 %, while low by European standards, Ireland's forests are expanding, and, for example, have increased 2.2 % on 2017. Native and mixed forests comprise 33.9% of Ireland's forests. The remaining forest area is comprised principally of planted non-native species³⁵⁰.

Through comprehensive public consultation and engagement with stakeholders, a Shared National Vision for trees, woods and forests in Ireland was established for the first time in 2022³⁵¹. This collaborative approach in turn helped to shape and develop a new Forest Strategy for Ireland to 2030³⁵² aiming to achieve 18% of forest cover by 2050.

A key goal of the new strategy is to carry out a major expansion of native forests and improved diversity of native tree species in new and existing forests. This expansion is driven primarily by Ireland's new 1.3-billion-euro funded Forestry Programme 2023-2027³⁵³. Desk research shows that in Ireland, funding for environmental projects is usually allocated at **national level** – significant portions of the budget are specifically allocated for biodiversity and climate mitigation (e.g. Biodiversity Fund, Climate Plan). This money is then distributed through specific initiatives, for example via non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which partner with the government or government agencies. Most revenue at local/municipal level stems from national budgets (which can include EU and other international funding), unless a municipality specifically states an initiative is funded by another source. At regional level, the Northern & Western Regional Assembly, Southern Regional Assembly, and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly are the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

managing authorities. These assemblies are only for the purpose of managing EU funds, and regions in Ireland generally play a small role in the country's administration.

The following sections provide some brief information about potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Ireland. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform has overall responsibility for EU Cohesion Policy and primary responsibility for the ERDF. Two **ERDF** Programmes are foreseen for the 2021-2027 period, but as of end-February 2023, they were not yet available for review. One will be managed by the Northern & Western Regional Assembly, and the other by the Southern Regional Assembly³⁵⁴, and they seem to concern energy efficiency rather than biodiversity/tree planting³⁵⁵. While tree planting does not appear to feature heavily in the projects currently funded through the Assemblies (according to the websites), there are several examples of Interreg projects falling under the competence of the Assemblies that may include tree-planting³⁵⁶, and the scope of future projects may well include tree planting.

The **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan** for the current financing period (2023-2027) mentions incentives for tree planting by farmers (specifically native trees) several times, including in relation to climate and

³⁵⁰ Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, [National Forest Inventory 2022 – main findings](#).

³⁵¹ Government of Ireland, [A Shared National Vision for Trees, Woods and Forests in Ireland by 2050](#).

³⁵² Government of Ireland, [Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030](#).

³⁵³ Government of Ireland, [Ireland's Forest Strategy Implementation Plan](#).

³⁵⁴ Government of Ireland, [Bodies responsible for ERDF in Ireland](#).

³⁵⁵ [Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027](#)

³⁵⁶ See, for example, the [Blue Green City project](#), which aims to promote green and blue infrastructures as an integral part of a local/regional natural heritage preservation strategy (Southern Regional Assembly, or the [PROGRESS project](#), (PRomoting the Governance of Regional Ecosystem ServiceS), which aims to initiate a process of policy change for maintaining nature's biodiversity, goods and services (Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly). Both of these Interreg projects started in 2019.

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nitrogen/ammonia mitigation, as well as biodiversity. Funding for smaller-scale tree planting on farms will be available through the Eco-Scheme and Agri-Climate Rural Environmental Scheme (ACRES) general/cooperation projects. Applicants seeking ACRES contracts can gain a competitive advantage by participating in agroforestry or native woodland establishment schemes under the *National Forest Strategy Implementation Plan*. Objectives include increasing forest cover (native and/or broadleaf species) and increasing the carbon sequestration potential of forests and woodlands. CAP schemes can be applied for before 15 May 2023 (see summary table)³⁵⁷.

The Irish Regions European Office acts as a bridge between Irish local and regional government and the EU, helping stakeholders to understand EU policy (including funding mechanisms)³⁵⁸. The National Rural Network offers members support to maximise the benefits of the Rural Development Programme (RDP)³⁵⁹. Access Europe (funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs) also supports Irish civil society organisations to better access EU funds and engage in EU policy³⁶⁰.



EU Funding sources under direct management

LIFE funding is managed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications³⁶¹. Information and bid-writing workshop days were held in summer 2022. Examples of current projects highlighted on the Irish government website³⁶² concern air quality/emissions, urban rivers, climate change and the circular economy. One project

addresses habitats, home to corncrake birds³⁶³, and the implementation of the Habitats Directive – while afforestation is not specifically mentioned, it could form part of the work. Several past projects have covered the protection of woodland or forest management³⁶⁴.

Horizon Europe is supported by Enterprise Ireland³⁶⁵, which offers a National Support Network, where candidates can find a European Advisor, as well as other guidance and support (including financial) for applicants.

Ireland's National **Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)** was adopted in July 2020. Priority 1 supports green transition, with one of the investments focusing on the enhanced rehabilitation of peatland, encompassing the rehabilitation of 33,000 hectares of former industrial peatlands.



National funding sources

The **national government** has set aside budget for trees and biodiversity generally. It is not an implementation mechanism for such projects, however, and this money is primarily spent by Government Departments or other contractors/organisations³⁶⁶. Funding is also distributed through specific grant mechanisms, for example, the Heritage Council, a statutory/public body, which funds a wide range of heritage projects throughout the country through its annual grants programme^{367,368}. The Community Foundation for Ireland also has a specific Environment and Nature Fund, including a Biodiversity Funding Strand, designed to enhance biodiversity in communities³⁶⁹, which distributes funds from the government and donors. These funds can be used to develop Community

³⁵⁷ [Ireland's draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)

³⁵⁸ [The Irish Regions European Office \(IREO\)](#)

³⁵⁹ [National Rural Network \(NRN\)](#)

³⁶⁰ [Access Europe](#)

³⁶¹ [LIFE funding](#), Email: LIFE@decc.gov.ie

³⁶² [Examples of current projects](#)

³⁶³ [Corncrake LIFE](#)

³⁶⁴ [National Scenic Parks](#), Reference: LIFE93 ENV/IRL/003120, [Restoring Priority Woodland Habitats in Ireland](#),

Reference: LIFE05 NAT/IRL/000182

³⁶⁵ [Horizon Europe](#)

³⁶⁶ See, for example: [Crann – Trees for Ireland](#)

³⁶⁷ See, for example: Community Grant Scheme assists community/voluntary organisations, with EUR 1.5 million allocated for 2023.

³⁶⁸ [The Heritage Council](#)

³⁶⁹ [Community Foundation Ireland](#)

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Biodiversity Action Plans and funding to carry out recommendations from the completed plans³⁷⁰. Funding, in particular for education (e.g. in schools), is also distributed by the Environmental Education Unit of the National Trust for Ireland (*An Taisce*). This money comes from various government departments, government agencies, corporate funders and philanthropy³⁷¹.

Most local funding comes from national budgets; however, local governments often have tree-planting schemes. The South Dublin County Council, for example, will accept requests from Council members, residents' groups, interest groups and individuals who want to see trees planted³⁷².

Tree-planting funding via the Climate Action Plan

Under the government's Climate Action Plan (2023³⁷³), the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications proposes planting 8,000 hectares of new forestry every year to capture carbon emissions, with key actions to be taken by the Department of Agriculture.

For example, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland is actively seeking, through its new Forestry Programme, to incentivise the planting of native tree species and the creation of native woodland. The Forestry programme has a broadleaf target of 50% of the total annual planting. The Department of Agriculture food and the Marine is of the view that that the majority of broadleaf planting targets under the Forestry Programme will be achieved through native woodland afforestation³⁷⁴.

Forestry funding at national level

Following receipt of State Aid approval from the European Commission in August of 2023³⁷⁵, the Government of Ireland approved the new EUR 1.3 billion funded Forestry Programme. Under the new

programme, an afforestation scheme for 2023-2027 opened for applications in conjunction with Government approval. This afforestation scheme offers a broad range of planting options, with rates up to 46%-66% higher than those contained within the previous Forestry Programme (2014-2020, extended to 2022). The premium period has also been extended from 15 to 20 years for farmers. The afforestation scheme contains twelve diverse forest types, providing ample choice for farmers and other landowners to plant according to their needs. Within this scheme, the State covers 100% of the costs to establish the forest. Consistent with the new Forest Strategy, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland is actively seeking, through this programme, to incentivise the planting of native tree species and the creation of native woodland. Forests predominantly comprising broadleaf species receive significantly higher grants and premiums compared to forests predominantly comprising conifer species. The planting of a mix of native trees to Ireland such as sessile or pedunculate oak, birch and holly for example, will guarantee more than EUR 1,100/ha in annual payments for 20 years when established successfully.

The Agriculture and Food Development Authority (*Teagasc*)³⁷⁶ also provides information on forestry grants to private landowners, and a number of forestry companies can help clients to apply for and manage national-level funding³⁷⁷.

Biodiversity funding at national level

In early 2023, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced that funding for locally led biodiversity projects will double, to EUR 3 million³⁷⁸. The Local Biodiversity Action Fund was first launched in 2018 and is operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 109 projects were funded in 2022,

³⁷⁰ See: <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/>

³⁷¹ [Coillte and the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce Announce the Delivery of Six Outdoor Based Forest Classrooms](#)

³⁷² [Tree planting programme](#)

³⁷³ Government of Ireland. [Climate Action Plan 2023](#).

³⁷⁴ Government of Ireland, Forest Strategy Implementation Plan including the Forestry Programme 2023-2027.

³⁷⁵ [SA.107220\[1\]](#), [SA. 104922\[2\]](#)

³⁷⁶ [Teagasc](#) – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority

³⁷⁷ See, for example: The Forestry Company: [Forestry planting or afforestation](#), [Forestry Services Ltd](#)

³⁷⁸ [Funding for locally led biodiversity projects doubled to €3 million](#)

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including a project to plant several small, dense native woodland habitats at schools/education centres as an educational resource. These funds can also be accessed via organisations such as the Community Foundation for Ireland, which partners with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to offer grants comprised of private and public funds. Such projects include one that planted a tree for every resident of a particular municipality³⁷⁹. Private consultants also help clients to apply for environmental grant applications³⁸⁰, and there are various other organisations that can support grant-seekers, such as Natural Capital Ireland, who have undertaken projects such as For-Es (2021-2025)³⁸¹.



Innovative funding sources

Several **NGOs** pledge to restore forests and plant trees. Many with contracting parties to plant the trees – Hometree, for example, has a partnership with a community farm, which plants trees using the funds raised by the NGO³⁸². The same NGO has received funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine for a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) to partner with landowners across 11 farms for a specific tree-planting initiative³⁸³. Other NGOs, such as Easy Treesie, provide donated saplings to those wishing to plant trees (e.g. schools)³⁸⁴. Schools/communities can also request trees from other sources, such as Coillte, Ireland's largest forest manager³⁸⁵ or Trees on the Land³⁸⁶. Environmental NGOs can also access funding through the Irish Environmental Network, which supports members by distributing core funding,

sourced from the Department of Environment, Community, and Local Government³⁸⁷.

Crowdfunding is also used by some NGOs, for example CrowdForest, which allows individuals to back a fundraising campaign for a site that the organisation has acquired³⁸⁸, and Living Woodlands, which is specifically raising money to buy a degraded plantation and transform it into a community woodland³⁸⁹.

Certain **private companies** also have schemes encouraging tree planting. One cheese producer, for example, works with its suppliers to improve biodiversity, giving 50 native trees to each of its 1,200 suppliers³⁹⁰.

There are several offsetting initiatives in place. GoCarbonNeutral is a not-for-profit initiative (under Forestry Partners), which allows businesses to buy emission offsets by planting woodland. In this case, the emphasis is put on ensuring that the trees are planted in a permanent forest and would not have happened otherwise³⁹¹.

Individuals are given the opportunity to plant trees through a number of (mostly) private organisations, for example to commemorate someone's life or to celebrate national heritage (e.g. Americans of Irish descent)³⁹². There are a number of organisations offering this service, and most work with contractors to plant the trees. There may be opportunities for those looking to secure funding to utilise the money given by these donors, however, it should be noted that this would likely be on a small scale.

³⁷⁹ See: <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/>

³⁸⁰ See, for example, [ECOS Environmental Consultants](#)

³⁸¹ [ForES](#)

³⁸² [Hometree](#)

³⁸³ [30,000 Native Trees Across 11 Farms](#)

³⁸⁴ [Easy Treesie](#) and [Trees on the Land](#)

³⁸⁵ Coillte donate over 15,000 trees during Tree Week each year to schools, local authorities, resident committees etc. On the [Coillte website](#), potential recipients are encouraged to contact the Tree Council for more information

³⁸⁶ Trees on the Land: [FAQs](#)

³⁸⁷ [Irish Environmental Network](#) (IEN)

³⁸⁸ CrowdForest, [How it works](#)

³⁸⁹ FundRazr, [Support the Living Woodlands crowdfunding campaign](#)

³⁹⁰ [60,000 native trees being planted in West Cork in New Year](#)

Note that scheme draws on funding from the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Programme/EIP Scheme.

³⁹¹ [Go Carbon Neutral](#): How it works

³⁹² See, for example, the Irish [Heritage Tree initiative](#), the [Tree Council](#), and [Irish Trees](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF	Northern and Western Regional Assembly	Website	Regional development/interreg	Grant	Not specifically tree-planting (but possible in future)	
ERDF	Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	Website	Regional development/interreg	Grant		Blue Green City
JTF	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	Website	Restoring degraded peatlands	Grant		PROGRESS project, (PROMoting the Governance of Regional Ecosystem Services)
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Direct support (EAGF) and Rural development (EAFRD)	EAGF - Voluntary actions under the Eco-scheme funded with annual payment/hectare. EAFRD -		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
(EAFRD)				Payment rates for the respective actions selected and the results achieved.		
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	Website	Environmental restoration/protection	Grants	Support available through Enterprise Ireland	Corncrake LIFE National Scenic Parks , Restoring Priority Woodland Habitats in Ireland
Horizon Europe	Horizoneurope.ie	Website	Research and innovation	Grants	Support available through the National Support Network	6.
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	Department of Public Expenditure	7. Web site	Green transition	Grants		8.
National funding						
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Native	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the	Website	Plant a forest with a mix of native tree species	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Forests	Marine					
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Forests for Water	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Protect water bodies by planting a native tree forest	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Forest creation on public lands	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Scheme for public bodies to plant new native forests	Grant	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 - Emergent forest	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Enhance rewilding and emergent native forests	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 - Afforestation Broadleaves – oak or beech	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Plant slow growing broadleaf species with focus of timber quality.	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Afforestation Other Broadleaves	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Plant faster growing broadleaf species with focus of timber quality	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Agroforestry	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Plant Silvopastoral, silvoarable or forest gardening systems.	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Continuous Cover Forestry	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Plant a continuous cover forest system using close to nature forestry principles (native & non-native species).	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Native tree area scheme	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Plant small native forests.	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 – Woodland Environment Fund	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Access point for private business to part fund the establishment of native forests.	Grant	Advisory Service Support literature	
Forestry Programme 2023-2027 Native Woodland	Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Restoration of existing native woodlands and conversion of existing non-	Grant & annual premium	Advisory Service Scheme scheduled for	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Conservation Scheme	Marine		native forests to native woodland		launch in 2024	
Climate Action Plan	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Website	Tree-planting for the purpose of lowering CO ₂ emissions	Money allocated for new forestation (more details not yet known)		
Local Biodiversity Action Fund	National Parks and Wildlife Services (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)	Website	Local biodiversity action	Grants for local authorities		Tidy Village/Towns
Environmental Education Unit	<i>An Taisce</i>	Website	Education	Grants/funding for (school) education		LEAF Ireland Green Schools Ireland
Community Grant Scheme	Heritage Council	Website	Built and natural heritage	Grants		Wildlife Sanctuary
Innovative funding						
GoCarbonNeutral.ie	Forestry Partners (Environmental Preservation Trust CLG)	Website	Businesses are given the opportunity to offset carbon footprint	Offset		9.

FINANCING SOURCES IN ITALY

Abbreviations used

APRE	Agency for the Promotion of European Research
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEPA	Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and expenditure
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
CRUMA	Classification of Resource Use and Management Activities and expenditures
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EEA	European Environmental Agency
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
NRDP	National Rural Development Programme
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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In Italy, funding for projects relating to biodiversity, climate, and nature conservation and protection can be obtained from a variety of sources, including European Union (EU) funding, national and regional funds for environmental protection, municipal budgets, private funding, and payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes.

The Ministry of the Environment stressed the importance of **EU funding** for the implementation of the 2020 National Biodiversity Strategy. Cohesion Policy, as the EU's main investment policy, is implemented through several Programmes (including European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Interreg Programmes), which provide grants for various initiatives, including biodiversity. From 2023 onwards, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) will be incorporated in the national Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) strategic plans and the regional complements for rural development. The LIFE Programme can also be used for tree-planting projects, as can Horizon Europe, which includes a relevant cluster for biodiversity.

At national level, to date there is no specific financing instrument for biodiversity. Accordingly, **national funding for biodiversity is ad hoc**. Regions and local authorities frequently combine **financing from private organisations** with direct and indirect funding from the EU for biodiversity projects, and sometimes spend a portion of their regional or local budgets on environmental projects.

Funding for biodiversity initiatives can also come from **foundations and private businesses**, frequently in conjunction with other public funding. Innovative financing sources, such as **PES**, are gradually gaining popularity in Italy and have been indicated as important financing instruments for the next Biodiversity Strategy.

The following sections provide some brief information about possible funding opportunities

for tree planting in Italy. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Italy has several Programmes that are financed under EU **Cohesion Policy** and specifically mention biodiversity financing and protection of nature and biodiversity as key priorities³⁹³. These are the ERDF 2021-2027 programmes for the following regions: Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Sardegna, Toscana, Umbria, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Campania, Calabria, Basilicata. Two Interreg international programmes that include Italy expressly mention biodiversity in their priorities: Interreg EURO-Med and Interreg Alpine Space³⁹⁴.

Regarding **EAFRD**, rural development in Italy was implemented through 22 Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) — one at national level and 21 regional RDPs for the period 2014-2022. The National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) outlines the priorities for the use of approximately EUR 2.9 billion of public expenditure (EUR 1.3 billion from the EU budget and EUR 1.6 billion of national co-financing) for the period 2014-2022. The last published NRDP stated as a priority 'safeguarding, restoring and improving biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas and in areas subject to natural or other specific constraints, in agriculture with a high naturalistic value, as well as the landscape of Europe (focus area 4.A)'³⁹⁵.

From 2023 onwards, all new rural development actions will be incorporated into national CAP strategic plans³⁹⁶. On 2 December 2022, the Commission approved the CAP Strategic Plan for Italy³⁹⁷. Over EUR 10 billion of the Plan's budget is

³⁹³ See list of OPs at: [EU regional and urban development website](#).

³⁹⁴ By clicking Italy on [this](#) interactive map, it is possible to see which Interreg programmes include Italy.

³⁹⁵ Last Italian RDP approved by Commission Decision C(2021) 6136, 16.08.2021 (all documents available from Ministero

dell'Agricoltura, della Sovranità alimentare e delle Foreste, [PROGRAMMA SVILUPPO RURALE NAZIONALE \(PSRN\)](#)).

³⁹⁶ European Commission, [CAP Strategic Plans](#).

³⁹⁷ Commission Implementing Decision of 2 December 2022 approving the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan of Italy for Union

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earmarked for interventions in climate and environment³⁹⁸. A significant share is specifically related to 'support for maintenance of forestation/afforestation and agro-forestry systems'³⁹⁹.

The 2022 public notice for the submission and selection of 'health-environment-biodiversity-climate' applied research projects for the implementation of actions to be financed under investment no. E.1 'Health-environment-biodiversity-climate' of the Complementary Plan to the national Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)⁴⁰⁰.

At regional level, the Regions and Autonomous Provinces prepare their respective 'Regional Complements for Rural Development' (*Complementi regionali per lo Sviluppo Rurale*), i.e. regional implementation documents of the national Strategic Plan. As of April 2023, they were not centralised on a single website but are available on the website of each region (see summary table). These Regional Complements can be used to support projects relevant to biodiversity and tree planting. For instance, the Regional Complement for Rural Development of Abruzzo allocates EUR 1,000,000 specifically for 'forestation/afforestation and agro-forestry systems on agricultural land'⁴⁰¹.



EU Funding sources under direct management

EU LIFE funding is another important source for financing biodiversity action and tree planting. In Italy, LIFE is implemented by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security⁴⁰². In 2020, Italy obtained funding for 28 projects (24 from the LIFE Environment Sub-Programme; 4 from the LIFE Climate Action Sub-Programme), for which the EU contributed EUR 45.6 million of a total EUR 82.7 million⁴⁰³. One of the projects funded is LIFE VAIA 'Valuing afforestation of damaged woods with Innovative Agroforestry' (*Valutare l'imboschimento dei boschi danneggiati con l'Agroforestazione Innovativa*), managed by Rigoni di Asiago srl, which includes the accelerated reconstruction of forest ecosystems⁴⁰⁴. The calls for 2023 projects are now open and can be accessed on the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) website⁴⁰⁵. A project funded through the LIFE Programme 2021-2027 is 'Promoting effective forest PES through the EU financial and state aid programmes', which secured an EU contribution of EUR 139,050 for the University of Padova, the project coordinator⁴⁰⁶. LIFE 2014-2020 funded another PES project, Making Good Natura, which aimed to identify governance tools and innovative models for efficient management of Natura 2000 sites⁴⁰⁷.

In Italy, the National Contact Point (NCP) for **Horizon Europe** is represented by the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE)⁴⁰⁸.

support financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, C(2022) 8645 final, available [here](#).

³⁹⁸ European Commission, [At a glance: Italy's Strategic Plan](#).

³⁹⁹ The total of these amounts is not indicated and is a complex manual calculation. All of the individual amounts can be found from p. 3301 of the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan of Italy, available at Ministero dell'Agricoltura, della Sovranità alimentare e delle Foreste, [PIANO STRATEGICO POLITICA AGRICOLA COMUNE 2023-2027](#).

⁴⁰⁰ Ministero della Salute, [Avviso pubblico](#) per la presentazione e selezione di progetti di ricerca applicata 'salute-ambiente-biodiversità-clima' per l'attuazione di interventi da finanziare dell'investimento E.1 'Salute-ambiente-biodiversità-clima' del Piano complementare al Piano nazionale di ripresa e resilienza (PNC-E.1), 2022.

⁴⁰¹ Regione Abruzzo, [Sviluppo rurale 2023-2027](#) – Imprudente: approvato complemento di programmazione, per l'Abruzzo 354 milioni, 2023.

⁴⁰² Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica, [LIFE](#).

⁴⁰³ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica, [Progetti Call 2020](#), 2022.

⁴⁰⁴ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica, [Progetti Call 2020](#), 2022; see also [Life VAIA](#) website.

⁴⁰⁵ CINEA, Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), [Funding & tender opportunities](#).

⁴⁰⁶ European Commission, [Promoting effective forest PES through the EU financial and state aid programmes](#).

⁴⁰⁷ European Commission – LIFE public database, Making Public Goods Provision the Core Business of Natura 2000, LIFE11 ENV/IT/000168 [Making Good Natura](#).

⁴⁰⁸ [APRE](#) webpage.

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Tree-planting initiatives/projects can be funded through this mechanism, although it has yet to be used for this purpose in Italy. The 100KTREES project aims to make cities a better and healthier place to live by encouraging municipalities to plant more trees and optimise the impact of tree planting. Coordinated in Denmark, it receives an EU contribution of EUR 1,891,300⁴⁰⁹.



National funding sources

At national level, to ensure real integration between Italy's development objectives and the protection of its biodiversity heritage, the Ministry of the Environment prepared the National Biodiversity Strategy in 2010. In 2021, the process of defining and sharing the new National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 began and is still ongoing⁴¹⁰. However, the first draft indicated that at least EUR 20 billion should be released for spending on nature and biodiversity each year, through public and private funding⁴¹¹. To date, there is no specific financing instrument for biodiversity in Italy⁴¹², although it was and is considered desirable to create one⁴¹³. This means that national financing is given through ad hoc acts. For instance, the 2019 Climate Decree (the first full environmental decree in Italy) saw EUR 30 million allocated for 2020 and 2021 for the planting and replanting of trees, forestry, and the creation of urban and peri-urban forests in metropolitan cities⁴¹⁴.

At regional level, regions and local authorities frequently combine financing from private

organisations with direct and indirect funding from the EU for biodiversity projects. Depending on the policy objectives of the regional or municipal government, a portion of regional and local budgets may occasionally be set aside for environmental projects, including those aimed at preserving biodiversity, establishing green spaces, and replanting⁴¹⁵. Each regional administration has a website with a biodiversity section that may contain details on ongoing projects and funding sources (see summary table).

In April 2022, the Lombardia region published the 'Biodiversity and Climate' call for tenders, which makes EUR 3.5 million of regional funds available for measures to promote biodiversity and green infrastructure throughout the region, with a special focus on the network of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites (BioClima)⁴¹⁶. Technical assistance and advisory services were available to interested organisations through the Cariplo Foundation, provided by University of Padua associate, Etifor⁴¹⁷. Twelve projects were successful in their tenders, with an estimated 270 hectares of existing forest set to be improved, and more than 18 hectares of new woodland created, with the planting of at least 66,000 trees⁴¹⁸. The project is an interesting example of financial engineering, as it combines various sources of financing (LIFE funding, regional budget, co-financing from private companies and public funding). The importance of financial engineering was highlighted in the Final Report on the National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020, which stressed that 'like the biological diversity of ecosystems, the diversity of funding sources would give greater assurance and resilience to monetary flows over time'⁴¹⁹.

⁴⁰⁹ More information available at: Cordis, [Decision Toolbox for cities to improve air quality, biodiversity, human wellbeing and reduce climate risks by planting more trees in our cities](#).

⁴¹⁰ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica, [Biodiversità](#); Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica, [Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità al 2030](#).

⁴¹¹ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica, [Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità](#), testo consolidato, 2022.

⁴¹² Ibid.

⁴¹³ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della tutela del territorio e del mare, [Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità 2011-2020: Rapporto conclusivo](#), 2021.

⁴¹⁴ Article 4 'Actions for reforestation', [DECRETO-LEGGE](#) 14 ottobre 2019 n. 111.

⁴¹⁵ Markowska A., et al., [financing biodiversity action](#): opportunities and challenges for EU sub-national governments, 2020.

⁴¹⁶ Regione Lombardia, [Bando BioClima](#), 2022; see also Regione Lombardia, [Bando 'BioClima' da 3.5 milioni di euro](#), 2022.

⁴¹⁷ Etifor, [Servizio di assistenza tecnica](#) per la valorizzazione dei servizi ecosistemici nell'ambito dell'iniziativa pubblico-privata BioClima.

⁴¹⁸ Regione Lombardia, [Grazie al Bando BioClima ricadute su 8 habitat e oltre 70 specie](#), Lombardia Notizie Online, 2022.

⁴¹⁹ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della tutela del territorio e del mare, [Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità 2011-2020: Rapporto conclusivo](#), 2021.

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Another example of regional financing is the Emilia-Romagna regional tender 'Putting down roots for the future'. The regional government approved a call for tenders to support forestation measures for all types of enterprises, with a budget of EUR 500,000 for the period 2022-2023⁴²⁰.

Funding for biodiversity initiatives can come from **foundations and private businesses**, frequently in conjunction with other public funding. For instance, the Cariplo Foundation sets the objective of 'Preserving, enhancing and passing on environmental and landscape heritage, generating opportunities for sustainable development and promoting the resilience of communities and ecosystems'⁴²¹. In addition to supporting initiatives implemented by non-profit organisations, the Foundation structures and implements its own projects, involving other partners and acting as a collator for the necessary resources (e.g. BioClima project in Lombardia).

The Capellino Foundation aims to safeguard biodiversity and combat climate change. It is currently financing the project 'Condividere et Albera', a pilot scientific study on the qualities of trees and their placement in urban areas so as to maximise the benefits of planting interventions, which will subsequently be exported to larger area within cities, laying the foundations for other comparative studies and allowing significantly larger and more impactful planting⁴²².

Private businesses often join financing partnerships for biodiversity projects. For instance, several private companies participate in Foresta Italia (managed by Rete Clima), a project aiming to improve national forestry and regenerate urban and suburban areas of the national territory⁴²³. This project uses also PES schemes (see below).



Innovative funding sources

The Final Report on the National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020 states that it will be important to intercept new flows of financing and involving private stakeholders with tax reforms, market strategies, funds, concessions, banking and insurance products based on environmental premiums and conditionality, bonds (sovereign or private, such as green and blue bonds, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) bonds), and green guarantees⁴²⁴. This is stressed in the first draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030, which states that the introduction of market-based instruments should also be promoted, starting with the adoption of fiscal incentive mechanisms and pricing systems through the creation of markets, such as PES⁴²⁵.

The project LIFE^{CO2}PES&PEF (financed by the **LIFE Programme**) aims to create a system of PES. This is important because the transformation of ecosystem services into 'saleable products' by attributing an economic value based on a market positioning does not have an established and standardised procedure. Accordingly, LIFE^{CO2}PES&PEF seeks to create a services validation protocol, which may be certified to transform certain ecosystem services into 'products' with a monetary value⁴²⁶.

Foresta Italia, managed by Rete Clima, is planning to use PES schemes to achieve its aim of generating ecosystem services in Italy, increasing the Italian forest heritage, and improving the quality of the environment in urban and suburban areas⁴²⁷. The project targets companies that want to plant trees by committing themselves to the environment, both to improve the quality of urban areas (perhaps near company headquarters or

⁴²⁰ Regione Emilia-Romagna, [Mettiamo radici per il futuro](#): al via un nuovo bando per piantare alberi in aree di proprietà o disponibilità delle imprese, 2022.

⁴²¹ Fondazione Cariplo, [Cambiamento climatico](#).

⁴²² Fondazione Capellino, [Condividere et Albera](#).

⁴²³ Rete Clima, [Forestazione Italiana](#)®: un Protocollo tecnico forestale per promuovere la natura in Italia, 2019.

⁴²⁴ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della tutela del territorio e del mare, Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità 2011-2020: [Rapporto conclusivo](#), 2021

⁴²⁵ Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica, [Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità](#), testo consolidato, 2022.

⁴²⁶ Project LIFE^{CO2}PES&PEF [webpage](#).

⁴²⁷ Rete Clima, [Pagamento dei servizi ecosistemici ed ambientali \(PSEA\) in Italia: una proposta di impegno e di CSR per le Aziende](#), 2020.

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even at their own premises) and to combat climate change⁴²⁸. Companies wishing to support and enhance ecosystem services in Italy can contact ReteClima to initiate the shared design of sustainability projects based on PES, keeping forests and plantations at the centre of projects⁴²⁹ (see summary table).

⁴²⁸ Rete Clima, [Foresta Italia](#): le Aziende piantano alberi in Italia.

⁴²⁹ Rete Clima, [Pagamento dei servizi ecosistemici ed ambientali \(PSEA\) in Italia: una proposta di impegno e di CSR per le Aziende](#), 2020.

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF - regional	Friuli Venezia Giulia – Servizio gestione fondi comunitari	Website and Website Contact: no.vasinis@regione.fvg.it	Ecological transition, resilience and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF - regional	Lazio – Direzione Regionale per lo Sviluppo Economico, le Attività Produttive e la Ricerca	Website and Website Contact: adgcomplazio@regione.lazio.it	Transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors, climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF - regional	Sardegna – Centro Regionale di Programmazione - Assessorato della Programmazione, Bilancio, Credito e Assetto del Territorio	Website and Website Contact: crp.adgporfesr@regione.sardegna.it	Protection of nature and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF – regional	Regione Toscana – Direzione Generale Competitività territoriale della Toscana e Autorità di Gestione - Settore Autorità di Gestione del POR FESR	Website and Website Contact: autoritagestionecreo@regione.toscana.it	Ecological transition, resilience and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF – regional	Umbria – Direzione Risorse, programmazione, cultura, turismo	Website and Website Contact: Irossetti@regione.umbria.it	Protection of nature and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF – regional	Veneto – Direzione Programmazione Unitaria, che fa parte dell'Area Politiche Economiche, Capitale Umano e Programmazione Comunitaria	Website and Website Contact: programmazione-unitaria@regione.veneto.it	Nature protection and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF – regional	Emilia-Romagna – Direzione Generale Economia della Conoscenza, del Lavoro e dell'impresa	Website and Website Contact: dgcli@regione.emilia-romagna.it	Nature protection and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF – regional	Regione Campania	Website and Website Contact: sergio.negro@regione.campania.it	Nature protection and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF – regional	Calabria – Dipartimento Programmazione Unitaria	Website and Website Contact: programmazione@regione.calabria.it	Nature protection and biodiversity	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF – regional	Autorità di Gestione del Programma Regionale Basilicata FESR/FSE+	Website and Website Contact: alfonso.morvillo@regione.basilicata.it	Protecting biodiversity and the region's large network of natural areas	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF - Interreg	Interreg Alpine Space	Website Contact: spazio_alpino@regione.lombardia.it	Biodiversity and green infrastructure	Grants and financial instruments		
ERDF - Interreg	Interreg EURO-Med	Website Contact: programme@interreg-euro-med.eu	Biodiversity and green infrastructure	Grants and financial instruments		
EAFRD – New CAP Strategic Plan for Italy	Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste	Click here for all the relevant documents related to the New CAP Strategic Plan for Italy	Support for maintenance of forestation/afforestation and agroforestry systems	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Lazio	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Valle d'Aosta	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement	Regione Piemonte	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
for Rural Development						
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Lombardia	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Provincia autonoma di Trento	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New regional complement for rural development	Provincia autonoma di Bolzano	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Veneto	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Liguria	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Emilia Romagna	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Toscana	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Marche	Website and Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Umbria	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement	Regione Abruzzo	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
for Rural Development						
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Molise	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Sardegna	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Campania	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Calabria	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Puglia	Website	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Basilicata	n/a	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EAFRD – New Regional Complement for Rural Development	Regione Sicilia	n/a	Biodiversity, nature, agriculture	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2027	
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica	Website	Biodiversity, nature, climate	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	<p>Promoting effective forest PES through the EU financial and state aid programmes</p> <p>LIFE VAIA Valuing afforestation of damaged woods with Innovative Agroforestry</p> <p>Making good Natura</p>
Horizon 2020	NCP: APRE	Website	Food, bioeconomy,	Grants	2021-2027	100KTREEs

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			natural resources, agriculture & environment		Dedicated webpage with contacts of advisory services	
National funding						
No specific funding instrument at national level (but possible)	Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica	Dedicated page on biodiversity, see website Dedicated page on biodiversity funding, see website	Biodiversity	Mostly grants		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Lazio – Regional Environment Directorate	Biodiversity Protection and Management, see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants direzioneambiente@regione.lazio.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Valle D'Aosta – Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Assessorato agricoltura e risorse naturali)	Natural Resources and Forestry Department (<i>Dipartimento risorse naturali e corpo forestale</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants risorse_naturali@regione.vda.it		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Piemonte – Environment, Energy and Territory	Sustainable development, biodiversity and natural areas (<i>Sviluppo sostenibile, biodiversità e aree naturali</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants territorio-ambiente@regione.piemonte.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Lombardia - Environment and Climate Directorate-General (Direzione Generale Ambiente e Clima)	Sustainable Development and Environmental Resources Protection Organisational Unit - Nature and Biodiversity Structure (<i>Unità Organizzativa Sviluppo sostenibile e tutela risorse dell'ambiente - Struttura Natura e Biodiversità</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants filippo_dadone@regione.lombardia.it alessandra_norcini@regione.lombardia.it		Regione Lombardia: Bando Bio Clima
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Autonoma Trentino-Alto Adige / Provincia	Department of Territory, Transport, Environment, Energy, Cooperation (<i>Dipartimento</i>	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dip.taec@provincia.tn.it		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Autonoma di Trento	<i>territorio, trasporti, ambiente, energie, cooperazione</i> , see website				
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Autonoma Trentino-Alto Adige / Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano	Nature and Environment - Nature Office (Natura e Ambiente - Ufficio Natura), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants natura.bolzano@provincia.bz.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia	Central Directorate for Environmental Protection, Energy and Sustainable Development (<i>Direzione centrale difesa dell'ambiente, energia e sviluppo sostenibile</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants ambiente@regione.fvg.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Veneto	Environment and Territory (<i>Ambiente e Territorio</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants pianificazione.territoriale@regione.veneto.it		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Liguria	Environment and Civil Protection Department (<i>Dipartimento ambiente e protezione civile</i>) see website and website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dirgen.ambiente@regione.liguria.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Emilia Romagna	Management of the territory and the Environment (<i>cura del territorio e dell'ambiente</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dgcta@regione.emilia-romagna.it		Regione Emilia-Romagna: Mettiamo radici per il futuro
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Toscana	Environment and Energy (<i>Ambiente e d'Energia</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants urp@regione.toscana.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Marche	Inland Territories, Parks and Regional Ecological Network Sector (<i>Settore Territori Interni, parchi</i>)	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dipartimento.infrastrutture@regione.marche.it		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<i>e rete ecologica regionale</i>), see website				
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Umbria (environment and biodiversity area)	Forest, Mountain, Nature Systems and Wildlife Service (<i>Servizio Foreste, montagna, sistemi naturalistici e Faunistica-venatoria</i>), see website and website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants direzioneagricoltura.regione@postacert.umbria.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Abruzzo	Territory and Environment Department (<i>Dipartimento Territorio - Ambiente</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dpc@regione.abruzzo.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Molise	Department – enhancement of environment and natural resources – regional system and local self-	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants bes.pillarella@regione.molise.it		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		government, see website				
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Sardegna	<p>Department of Environmental Protection (<i>Assessorato della difesa dell'ambiente</i>)</p> <p>Regional Forest Agency for Land Development and the Environment of Sardinia (FoReSTAS) (<i>Agenzia forestale regionale per lo sviluppo del territorio e l'ambiente della Sardegna</i> (FoReSTAS)), see website</p> <p>Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Sardinia (<i>Agenzia regionale per la protezione dell'ambiente della Sardegna</i>,</p>	Nature and biodiversity	<p>Mostly grants</p> <p>amb.assessore@regione.sardegna.it</p> <p>direzione.generale@foresta.s.it</p> <p>info@arpa.sardegna.it</p>		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		ARPAS), see website				
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Campania	General Directorate for Soil and Ecosystem Defence (<i>Direzione Generale per la Difesa del Suolo e l'Ecosistema</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dg.500600@regione.campania.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Calabria	Department Mountain, Forestry and Soil Protection Policies (<i>Dipartimento Politiche della Montagna, Foreste, Forestazione e Difesa del Suolo</i>), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants urp@consr.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Puglia	Environment, landscape and urban quality department, see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dipartimento.ambiente.territorio@regione.puglia.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level	Regione Basilicata	Directorate-General for Agricultural, Food and	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants dg_ambiente.territorio@regi		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
(but possible)		Forestry Policies, see website		one.basilicata.it		
No specific funding instrument at regional level (but possible)	Regione Sicilia	Land and Environment Directorate (Assessore del territorio e dell'ambiente), see website	Nature and biodiversity	Mostly grants assessore.territorioambiente@regione.sicilia.it		
Cariplo Foundation		Website		Grants, co-financing		BioClima
Capellino Foundation		Website		Grants, co-financing		Condivide et Albera
Private companies				Grants, co-financing		Rete Clima: Foresta Italia
Innovative funding sources						
PES schemes	LIFECO2PES & PEF	Website		https://lifeco2pefandpes.eu/content/atti/ m.dominici@legambiente.it		
PES schemes	Rete Clima: Foresta Italia	Website		https://www.reteclima.it/content/atti/ info@reteclima.it		

FINANCING SOURCES IN LATVIA

Abbreviations used

AIF	Active Citizens' Fund
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EEA	European Economic Area
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TJTP	Territorial Just Transition Plan
UN	United Nations



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Over the past 20 years the total woodland in Latvia has been increasing from 2.9 million ha to 3.5 million ha (more than 45% of the national territory) because of favourable growing conditions for different tree species, in particular broadleaves. In Latvia, funding for projects on biodiversity, climate and nature can be obtained from European Union (EU) and national funding, municipal budgets, and private funding. The European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants Programme 'Active Citizens' Fund' (AIF) also provides grants covering climate and nature topics.

The EU-level funding opportunities available in Latvia include the LIFE and Horizon Programmes, as well as is the Strategic Plan for Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), funded under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and national contributions.

At national level, the 2027 National Development Plan Fund is available. The State Regional Development Agency is the major institution providing funding and advice for potential beneficiaries of projects in the area of nature protection.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Latvia. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The main environmental priorities of the Cohesion Policy in Latvia for 2021-2027 are: water infrastructure and services, waste management, promotion of environmental infrastructure, and clean energy⁴³⁰. The **Programme** guiding Latvia's spending from the Cohesion Policy was adopted in November 2022. The total amount of EU funds

(ERDF, CF, ESF+ and JTF) is as follows: EU part EUR 4.401 billion and the total budget is EUR 5.178 billion. The priority "A greener, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe" amounts to 998.9 million which equals 19.8% of the EU allocation. Together with the Just Transition Fund priority (described below) the green priorities make up for almost one quarter of the programme budget.

The new **CAP Strategic Plan 2021-2027** was not yet published as of March 2023. Nevertheless, for the previous period (2014-2020), the Rural Development Plan (RDP) covered afforestation programmes, which were available for both physical and legal persons owning land with forests. The programmes covered afforestation and forest care, as well as replenishment and maintenance of mature stands. Support was provided for the prevention and restoration of forest damage caused by fires, natural disasters, catastrophic events, activities for installation and improvement of forest fire, pest and disease monitoring equipment and communication equipment, rehabilitation of forest stands destroyed by forest fires and natural disasters, investments to improve the resilience and ecological value of forest ecosystems⁴³¹.

The **Just Transition Fund (JTF)**, under Cohesion Policy, will support the phasing-out of peat for energy generation, as well as peatland restoration in the four regions of Latvia - Vidzeme, Latgale, Zemgale and Kurzeme⁴³². The Fund will also support the development of a climate-neutral economy. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development is the main public authority responsible for JTF implementation⁴³³. The JTF for Latvia was approved in December 2022⁴³⁴, but no further information is publicly available as yet.

⁴³⁰ [Cohesion Fund 2021-2027](#)

⁴³¹ [Rural support service](#)

⁴³² [Territorial Just Transition Plans](#) (TJTP) for Latvia, Poland and Slovakia approved

⁴³³ [JTF Latvia](#)

⁴³⁴ [TJTP](#) for Latvia, Poland and Slovakia approved

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EU Funding sources under direct management

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development is the National Contact Point (NCP) for the **LIFE Programme**⁴³⁵. National co-financing is available for the implementation of approved projects⁴³⁶.

The Latvian Council of Science is the NCP for **Horizon Europe**⁴³⁷.

Under the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, Latvia's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) responds to the urgent need to foster a strong recovery. It also aims to prepare the country ready for the future. The main aim of the RRP is to help Latvia become more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions⁴³⁸. One of the milestones under the Green Transition Plan is to make mobility and the transport sector more sustainable. The green transition foresees investment in overhauling the Riga Metropolitan area transport as a key goal, which implies new road construction, with associated supported tree-planting initiatives foreseen. The overall volume of financing for the green transition is EUR 295 million⁴³⁹. Landscaping works (including tree planting) in industrial parks are also expected to be supported⁴⁴⁰. The Ministry of Finance is nominated as the coordinator for the overall implementation of the plan⁴⁴¹.



National funding sources

The **National Development Plan Fund (2027)** is the main medium-term development planning document. It sets out a seven-year commitment to achieve the Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (Latvia-2030), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and to improve the quality of life in Latvia. One of the strategic goals is improvement of the quality of living conditions and territorial development in order to achieve low carbon and climate-resilient development and ensure sustainable use of natural resources. This implies the development of so-called green zones (e.g. parks) across the country⁴⁴². As of March 2023, no further information was available on the manner of distribution of national funding.

Several **tree-planting programmes** are in place in urban areas. For instance, the Riga City Council Work Programme 2023⁴⁴³ foresees planting 1,000 trees this year. Daugavpils City Council published a specific tender for its tree-planting programme in 2022⁴⁴⁴.

A number of **citizens' and businesses' volunteer initiatives** target tree planting, such as Riga Citizens' tree planting initiative 'City for People'⁴⁴⁵, Business Garden Riga⁴⁴⁶, Good Trees (*Labie koki*)⁴⁴⁷, Forest Days 2021 (*Meža dienu 2021*)⁴⁴⁸, Happy Trees (*Laimes Koki*)⁴⁴⁹ (where any citizen can plant a tree anywhere in Latvia), World Clean-up Day⁴⁵⁰ in Jelgava, etc.

⁴³⁵ [European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#) (CINEA)

⁴³⁶ What is [LIFE Programme](#)?

⁴³⁷ Latvian [Council of Science](#)

⁴³⁸ [RRP](#)

⁴³⁹ [Ibid.](#)

⁴⁴⁰ [Eiropas Savienības atveseļošanas un noturības mehānisma plāns Līdija 2021-2026](#)

⁴⁴¹ RRF, [Operational arrangements between the European Commission and Latvia](#)

⁴⁴² [Par Latvijas Nacionālo attīstības plānu 2021.-2027. gadam](#) (NAP2027)

⁴⁴³ [Riga City Council; Budget for cleaning up the city's economy; priorities for 2023](#)

⁴⁴⁴ [Maintenance and creation of greenery in the municipal areas of Daugavpils - purchase of tree seedlings and planting works in 2022](#)

⁴⁴⁵ [Riga citizens' initiative](#)

⁴⁴⁶ [Business Garden Riga initiative](#)

⁴⁴⁷ [Labie koki](#)

⁴⁴⁸ [Meža dienu 2021](#)

⁴⁴⁹ [Happy Trees](#)

⁴⁵⁰ [World Clean-up Day](#)

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Innovative funding sources

As most of the documents covering the 2021-2027 period are not yet publicly available, it is difficult to determine the innovative funding sources with any certainty.

However, there are a number of **citizens' and businesses' volunteer initiatives** for trees planting, which show that, in principle, tree-planting activities could be funded by other means, such as private sponsoring or by private donations to tree-planting programmes⁴⁵¹. No information was found on green bonds or payment for ecosystem services (PES). The Happy Trees initiative (*Laimes Koki*) is an example of a **crowdfunding** initiative, where everyone is invited to donate as well as to organise collective tree-planting events. There do not appear to be any established common models for alternative funding.



Other funding sources

The Foundation for Environmental Education has organised Eco-School programmes as part of the project 'Strengthening the Environmental Education Foundation's Communication with the Public'. This programme is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the **EEA and Norway Grants Programme 'Active Citizens Fund' (AIF)**.

⁴⁵¹ For example, Riga citizens' tree-planting initiative; Business Garden Riga initiative, sponsored by business companies;

private initiative Good Trees (*Labie koki*); private initiative Happy Trees (*Laimes Koki*).

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund and Just Transition Fund	Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Sākumlapa en Finanšu ministrija (fm.gov.lv) and https://www.varam.gov.lv/	Climate change adaptation, nature and biodiversity and transition to climate neutrality	Grants (and financial instruments in the case of the action "Regional business development")	Information on planned project selections: Planned selections - EU funds (esfondi.lv)	n/a
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Strategic Plan	Ministry of Agriculture; Rural support service	Website and website	Agro-forestry, enhancing biodiversity in forests owned by farmers	Grants, subsidies	For 2023, see website	n/a
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	NCP: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Website	To promote, update, develop and implement EU environment and climate policy	Grants		n/a
Horizon Europe	NCP: Latvian Council of	Website	Aims to tackle climate change,	Grants	Information not available	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Science		help to achieve the UN SDGs, and boost EU competitiveness and growth		as of March 2023, see website	
RRF	Coordinator: Ministry of Finance	Website	Responds to the urgent need to foster a strong recovery	Grants		n/a
National funding						
2027 National Development Plan Fund	Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre of the Republic of Latvia	Website	Improve the quality of living conditions and territorial development	n/a	For 2023, see website	n/a
Riga City Council tree-planting initiative	Riga City Council budget	Website	Tree-planting initiative	Municipal budget	n/a	n/a
Daugavpils City initiative – maintain and create greenery in the municipal areas of Daugavpils	Daugavpils City Council	Website	Tree-planting initiative	Municipal budget	n/a	n/a
Riga citizens' tree planting initiative	Volunteer organisation	Website	Tree-planting initiative	Donations	n/a	n/a
Business	Private	Website	Tree-planting	Business	n/a	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Garden Riga initiative	business		initiative			
Private initiative Good Trees (Labie koki)	Volunteer organisation	Website	Tree-planting initiative	Donations	n/a	n/a
Riga City Council Forest Days 2021 initiative (Meža dienu 2021)	Riga City Council budget	Website	Tree-planting initiative	Municipal budget	n/a	n/a
All-country private initiative Happy Trees (Laimes Koki)	Volunteer organisation	Website	Tree-planting initiative	Donations	n/a	n/a
Jelgava City initiative International initiative 'World Clean-up Day'.	Jelgava City Council budget	Website	Tree-planting initiative	Municipal budget	n/a	n/a
National funding						
EEA and Norway Grants Programme	Norwegian Chamber of Commerce/Norwegian Environment Agency	Website	Climate, environment and biodiversity	Grants	For 2023, see website	TBD

FINANCING SOURCES IN LITHUANIA

Abbreviations used

AAUs	Assigned Amount Units
AI	Agency for Innovation
APVA (<i>EPMA</i>)	Environmental Projects Management Agency (EPMA) at the Ministry of Environment
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CPMA (<i>CPVA</i>)	Central Project Management Agency (CPMA)
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
GHG	Greenhouse gas
JTF	Just Transition Fund
LINO	Lithuanian Research Development and Innovation Liaison Office in Brussels
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change and forestry
RCL (<i>LMT</i>)	Research Council of Lithuania
MA (<i>ŽŪM</i>)	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
ME (<i>AM</i>)	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
MF (<i>FM</i>)	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania
NCP	National Contact Point
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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In Lithuania, funding for projects directly relevant for tree planting that also contribute to the aims of biodiversity, climate, nature and environmental protection can be obtained from different sources, including:

- Programmes that use the European Union (EU) funding sources under shared management, such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF);
- Dedicated EU funding sources under direct management, such as the LIFE Programme, Horizon Europe Programme, and Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF);
- National funding sources, including assignments of the State budget under the Programme for financing general forestry needs and the State Forest Enterprise funds. These funds are allocated in line with the Development Programme for Environment and Climate Change Management that implements the environmental targets of the National Progress Plan 2021-2030. Climate Change Programme funds are also at national level;
- Public and private foundations.

As yet, there are no innovative funding sources in Lithuania that explicitly address forest planting. However, green bonds and crowdfunding platforms are evolving for climate change and could be adapted to deal with forestry issues.

The following sections provide some brief information about potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Lithuania. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2021-2027

The ERDF and CF Funds are an important driving force of the Lithuanian economy, and Cohesion Policy is considered a key advantage of Lithuania's EU membership⁴⁵². The Partnership Agreement foresees a budget of approximately EUR 7.5 billion for 2021-2027 in Lithuania⁴⁵³, of which EUR 6.3 billion are EU funds and an additional EUR 1.2 billion are national funds. The Investment Programme aims to ensure long-term economic and social prosperity, as well as the resilience and competitiveness of the Lithuanian economy (*ES investicijos: Apie [] programą*). Of nine priorities, Priority 2 'Greener Lithuania' foresees almost one-quarter (EUR 1.8 billion) of funding (ERDF and Cohesion Fund) for climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection and preservation of nature and biodiversity, reduction of all forms of pollution, and sustainable water management. Priority 2 includes seven specific objectives, including an objective on the promotion of climate change adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches and an objective on the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure. For example, forest-related projects address the adaptation of the forest fire protection infrastructure to climate change. With over EUR 23 million, it financed the introduction of advanced forest fire detection and rapid response tools and technologies on 1.9 million hectares. The Ministry of Finance (MF) is the lead institution, while the Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) and the Agency for Innovation (AI) administer the programme and launch the calls. Various ministries are responsible for the implementation of Priority 2.

⁴⁵² Ministry of Finance (MF), [Programme for the European Union funds' investments](#) in 2021-2027, 2022 (Translation from Lithuanian 2022-09-14), 2022

⁴⁵³ The Investment Programme considers the following funds: the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund), the European Social Fund + (ESF+) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF).

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Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development of Lithuania 2023-2027: EAFRD and EAGF

The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for 2023-2027 is more focused on environmental and climate objectives. It requires 25% of direct payments to be dedicated to eco-schemes and 35% of rural development funds to be dedicated to environment and climate-related measures (Ministry of Agriculture (MA)⁴⁵⁴. The Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development of Lithuania 2023-2027⁴⁵⁵ allocates over EUR 4 billion of support, of which over EUR 283 million comes from national budget funds. The Strategic Plan allocates 31% of total funding to adaptation to climate change and protection of natural resources. The Strategic Plan foresees four intervention measures directly related to forests: forest maintenance and protection; reforestation and restoration; young tree nursery development; and Natura 2000 forests. The MA is a managing authority, while the National Paying Agency (NPA) under the MA, the public enterprise Rural Business and Markets Development Agency, and the State Food and Veterinary Office are the control authorities. As a member of a working group⁴⁵⁶, the Ministry of Environment (ME) has an advisory role in the environmental part of the Strategic Plan⁴⁵⁷.



EU Funding sources under direct management

Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) 2021-2027

The ME coordinates the LIFE Programme in Lithuania and the Environmental Projects Management Agency (APVA) under the Ministry of

Environment carries out project administration⁴⁵⁸. The co-financing funds are allocated from the national budget by the ME. In relation to forests, the integrated LIFE project 'Optimising the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania' (2018-2027) develops nature conservation management planning integrated into forest management planning procedures and guidance for forest management planners.

Horizon Europe Programme 2021-2027

The Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) is an NCP that offers assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon Europe. Environment and biodiversity projects that might include afforestation issues are supported by the thematic area 'Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment'⁴⁵⁹. In addition, the Lithuanian Research Development and Innovation Liaison Office in Brussels (LINO) facilitates the successful integration of Lithuanian researchers into international research projects. It aims to strengthen European research cooperation and to monitor, analyse and report on developments in EU research and innovation policy. The available information does not show any Horizon project on afforestation.

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

Lithuania's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) foresees reforms and investments to help Lithuania to become more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. The Plan contains 30 investment and reform measures, which will be supported by EUR 2.2 billion in grants; 37.8% of the plan will support the green transition to meet the climate objectives. The green transition includes reforms and investments in energy efficiency renovations of buildings, generation and storage of renewable energy, sustainable mobility, increased resource efficiency through the adoption of the Circular

⁴⁵⁴ ŽŪM / Lietuvos Respublikos žemės ūkio ministerija, [Lietuvos žemės ūkio ir kaimo plėtros 2023–2027 m. strateginis planas, 2022 \(2022-11-21\)](#), ŽŪM: BŽŪP.

⁴⁵⁵ MA / Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, [The Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development of Lithuania 2023-2027, 2022 \(2022-11-21\)](#)

⁴⁵⁶ The working group is composed of representatives of the MA, ME and their subordinate bodies.

⁴⁵⁷ The MA and ME signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2022, confirming the leadership and expertise of the ME in preparing the agri-environmental measures of the Strategy.

⁴⁵⁸ APVA: LIFE Programme (AM: ES LIFE programa).

⁴⁵⁹ LMT, [Maistas, bioekonomika, gamtos išteklių, žemės ūkis ir aplinka](#)

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Economy Action Plan, and the restoration of degraded peatlands (EUR 16 million). The RRP does not foresee any direct afforestation measure. Nevertheless, the peatlands restoration project might contribute to improved adjacent forest ecosystems health, in particular in protected non-agricultural areas. It will be implemented through the Investment Programme 2021-2027 and the RRF, private legal entities and the national budget. The total investment needs for the green transition are EUR 1.3 billion, with the RRF contributing EUR 0.8 billion. The MF is responsible for the implementation of the measures, while the CPMA is the administering authority.



National funding sources

National Progress Plan 2021-2030 and Development Programme for Environment and Climate Change Management

The sixth strategic objective of the Lithuanian National Progress Plan (NPP) 2021-2030 (*Vyriausybė 2020; Vyriausybės Nutarimas Nr. 998, 2020*) aims to ensure good environmental quality and sustainable use of natural resources, protect biodiversity, mitigate Lithuania's impact on the climate and enhance its resilience to the impacts of climate change. The four Ministries - Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Transport - are responsible for its achievement and each prepares a Development Programme with progress measures for specific targets. The ME is responsible for the Development Programme for Environment and Climate Change Management, which defines the following several progress measures, including a measure 'Enhancing the effectiveness of climate change policy' and a measure 'Promoting the forest development and sustainable development of the forest sector'. The latter measure will be financed from the State budget (Programme for financing general forestry needs), State Forest Enterprise funds, and from the Cohesion Fund. A budget of over EUR 2 billion (without national allocations) is foreseen for the implementation of the Development Programme (*Vyriausybės Nutarimas Nr. 318, 2022*). The ME

launches the proposals and the APVA administers them.

Climate Change Programme

The Climate Change Programme (*AM: Klimato kaitos programa; APVA: Klimato kaitos programa*), was established to create a separate programme to accumulate funds from the sale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission allowances and to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, in accordance with the Law on Climate Change Financial Instruments (2009) (from 2022, the Climate Change Management Law). The revenue of the Programme includes funds from the transfer of Assigned Amount Units (AAUs), auctioned allowances, collection of economic penalties, voluntary and other funds. The Programme finances projects related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The funds are used to enhance the GHG absorption capacity of the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors (reforestation and afforestation). However, reforestation and afforestation activities have not been funded since the launch of the Programme.

The ME administers this Programme and develops the four-year investment plan for its implementation. It discusses the Programme with the Parliament's Environment Protection Committee and it must be approved by the government. The activities/measures and their financial allocations are approved under the Development Programme for Environment and Climate Change Management (see above), in which the Climate Change Programme contributes EUR 630 million to the progress target 6.4 of NPP 2021-2030. For example, the progress measure 'Enhancing the effectiveness of climate change policy' has funding of EUR 162.5 million (grants). After the approval of the progress measure and its financing conditions, APVA launches calls for proposals.

Foundations

Two foundations in Lithuania deal with forest planting – the Ancient Woods Foundation and the National Fund for the Support of Intact Forests. The Ancient Woods Foundation is a public institution that aims to preserve and increase the area of old-growth forests in Lithuania using privately donated funds, dedicated to the acquisition of forest plots. It protects forests from

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fellings and aims to establish the first ancient forest in Lithuania. The National Fund for the Support of Intact Forests is a charity and support fund with a mission to contribute to the preservation and increase of Lithuanian forest. It aims to plant a naturally developing forest that will not be logged or otherwise exploited for commercial purposes. The Foundation supports active public participation and transparent governance.

and their services into decision-making processes in the public administration and economic sectors'. Among other results, the project will propose models for integrating the valuation of ecosystems and their services into selected public administration and economic sectors (e.g. spatial planning, agriculture, forestry). The results of the project may serve as a basis to implement PES in Lithuania.



Innovative funding sources

To date, there are no innovative funding sources in Lithuania that explicitly address forest planting specifically or biodiversity in general. However, the first attempts are evolving for climate change and could be adapted to deal with other environmental issues. For example, in 2018, Lithuania became a seventh country in the world to issue a sovereign **green bond**, following Poland, France, and Belgium. The total planned issuance amounts to EUR 68 million over three years. The funds generated will be invested in modernising residential multi-apartment buildings to make them more energy efficient. In addition to the contribution of national private firms and public entities, the MF expects this financing instrument to attract foreign investors to finance green projects to address climate change issues⁴⁶⁰.

Crowdfunding platforms in Lithuania (e.g. Contributee) facilitate investment in a wide range of business projects, such as start-ups, business or real estate development. Their activities are supervised by the Bank of Lithuania, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Law on Crowdfunding. However, there is no evidence yet that environmental projects could be financed in this way.

No initiatives are linked to **payment for ecosystem services (PES)**. Currently, the ME is running an EU project 'Preparation of a national study on integrating the valuation of ecosystems

⁴⁶⁰ Baltic Review, [Lithuania became the seventh country in the world to issue a sovereign green bond](#), 2018 (2018 June 13)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF, Cohesion Fund	MF is the lead institution, CPMA and AI administer the programme and launch calls	MF, Department for European Union and International Affairs, see website CPMA, Energy and Environmental Protection Projects Unit, see website AI, Investment Management Department, see website	Seven specific objectives, with a focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate change mitigation, disaster risk prevention and resilience, water management, resource efficiency, nature protection and biodiversity	For Priority 2, Strategic Objective (SO)1 and SO2, solely loans or loans combined with a grant in line with a set of conditions For Priority 2, SO3-SO7, no planned use of financial instruments indicated	Investment Programme 2021-2027, Priority 2 'Greener Lithuania' includes seven specific objectives	Lithuania is planning to finance from the 2021-2027 Programme one project to adapt the forest fire protection infrastructure to climate change. With over EUR 23 million, it will include the introduction of advanced forest fire detection and rapid response tools and technologies on 1,960,784 hectares
EAGF and EAFRD	MA and NPA under the MA	MA, Strategic Planning Department	Pillar I: eco-schemes benefiting the climate, environment	Direct payments (income support) linked to a stronger set of	Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development of Lithuania 2023-2027	Four rural development intervention measures foreseen for forestry

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		<p>Email: https://zum.lrv.lt/contacts</p> <p>NPA under the MA</p> <p>Email: http://www.nma.lt</p>	<p>and animal welfare</p> <p>Pillar II: rural development measures benefiting environment and climate protection</p>	<p>mandatory requirements, and for eco-systems</p> <p>Payments for rural development intervention measures benefiting environment and climate protection</p>	<p>Nudget for measures of the Strategic Plan (agreed on 6 February 2023)</p>	<p>sector: forest maintenance and protection; reforestation and restoration; young tree nurseries; and Natura 2000 forests. With EUR 32 million support (EUR 27.1 million from the EU)</p>
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE 2021-2027	<p>ME coordinates the LIFE Programme</p> <p>EPMA carries out project administration</p>	<p>NCP for Lithuania:</p> <p>ME, EU Investment and the Economic Instrument Department, ME, Climate Change Management Group, see website</p> <p>EPMA, see website</p>	<p>Environment includes nature and biodiversity, while climate policy includes the transition to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency</p>	<p>Grants</p>	<p>The LIFE project 'Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania' provides a LIFE guide on how to prepare a LIFE proposal</p>	<p>Integrated LIFE project 'Optimising the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania' (LIFE16 IPE/LT/000016 PAF-NATURALIT), 2018-2027</p> <p>Total eligible budget: EUR 17 million (EU contribution: EUR 10 million)</p>

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
						The project develops nature conservation management planning integrated into forest management planning procedures and guidance for forest management planners covering EU bird species and habitat types and species of the Habitats Directive
Horizon Europe 2021-2027	NCP: RCL	NCP, thematic area 'Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment', see website	NCPs - experts in the specific priority areas of Horizon Europe provide a free and confidential service offering guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in	Grants	Information on funding opportunities available at the NCP website	Current proposals (March 2023) in the thematic area 'Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment' (2023-2024) do not include projects on forests

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			Horizon Europe			
Recovery and Resilience Facility	<p>MF is responsible for implementation of the measures</p> <p>CPMA is the administering authority</p>	<p>Depending on the measure in the RRP</p> <p>MF, see website</p> <p>CPMA, see website</p>	Green transition measures to meet climate objectives, including the restoration of degraded peatlands	Grants	RRP contains 30 measures. Green transformation component consist of five measures (four reforms and one investment)	In line with the National Action Plan for Energy and Climate Action 2021-2030, the Plan supports the restoration of around 8,000 hectares of degraded peatlands on agricultural land (2.16% of total area of peatland in Lithuania, 371.150 hectares) by 2026. Planned investment of EUR 16 million. In addition to RRF support, the Cohesion Fund will contribute EUR 3 million, with a focus on protected non-agricultural areas in Natura 2000 territory and outside. The

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
						Cohesion Fund support will also contribute to restoring species and habitats to favourable conservation status
National funding						
Development Programme for Environment and Climate Change Management under the NPP 2021–2030	Various ministries develop Development Programmes for the implementation of the progress targets of NPP 2021-2030	ME is responsible for the Development Programme for Environment and Climate Change Management, Coordination Group for Implementation of Environmental Policy, see website	SO6 aims to ensure good environmental quality and sustainable use of natural resources, protect biodiversity, and mitigate Lithuania's impact on the climate and enhance its resilience to the impacts of climate change	Grants	NPP 2021-2030 will invest EUR 18 billion between 2021 and 2030, with around 82% share of EU and other international financial investments	For example, the progress measures 'To promote the forest development and sustainable development of the forest sector', (02-001-06-08-04) with a budget of over EUR 23 million
Climate Change Programme	ME administers the Programme and EPMA (under the ME) launches calls for	ME Climate Policy Group, see website EPMA, see website	The Programme finances projects related to climate change mitigation and	Grants	The Programme receives funds from the transfer of AAUs, auctioned allowances,	For example, for reforestation and afforestation

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	proposals		adaptation (e.g. modernisation of buildings, promotion of renewable energy use, introduction of energy-efficiency technologies, enhancement of GHG absorption capacity of LULUCF sectors)		collection of economic penalties, voluntary and other funds	
National Fund for the Support of Intact Forests		Website Email: info@neliecia.masmiskas.lt	Acquisition of land, tree planting and active public participation	Donations		Established in 2019, in 2020-2022, the Foundation acquired about 25 hectares of land and planted 41,000 trees. (2020: 5 hectares and 11,000 trees; 2021: 10 hectares and 10,000 trees; 2022: 9.5 hectares and 20,000 trees)

FINANCING SOURCES IN LUXEMBOURG

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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In Luxembourg, funding for projects related to biodiversity, nature and climate protection can be obtained from a variety of sources, including European Union (EU) funding, national funds for environmental protection, municipal budgets and private funding.

National platforms exist to inform and support applicants to the Horizon and LIFE Programmes. Similar to other EU Member States, the Strategic Plan that forms part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is another important source of funding for nature protection, particularly planting trees and shrubs in the context of agriculture and development of rural areas. At national level, the Administration for Nature and Forest provides financial support to projects related to nature protection under the umbrella of the Funds for Environmental Protection.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Luxembourg. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

The CAP Strategic Plan for 2023-2027⁴⁶¹ was adopted in September 2022 and is implemented by the Ministry for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development. It includes interventions for reforesting agricultural spaces, planting hedges and tree lines, as well as the need to compensate for deforestation with reforestation.

Under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Ministry of the Economy, Directorate for Regional Policy, is the managing authority for 2021-2027. It oversees the implementation of the Programme 'Investing in a smarter and greener Europe'⁴⁶². Axis 2 of the Programme for 2021-2027 has the following objective: 'A greener,

resilient and low-carbon Europe moving towards a net-zero carbon economy, by promoting a clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investments, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility'. It states that Luxembourg is considering investing at least 4% of its ERDF budget towards interventions that are favourable to the environment and biodiversity⁴⁶³. The Programme does not specify the form or objectives of any such intervention, nor does it mention tree planting or reforestation.



EU Funding sources under direct management

The Nature and Biodiversity strand of **LIFE** funding includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as 'Strategic Nature Projects'. To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed nine projects in Luxembourg. These represent a total investment of EUR 24 million, EUR 11.5 million of which was contributed by the EU. Projects focus on improving habitats and conservation status of target species⁴⁶⁴. No LIFE-funded project directly targeted reforestation or trees planting.

As of March 2023, no information could be found on projects that will receive LIFE co-funding for 2021-2027. The Ministry of the Environment⁴⁶⁵ is the National Contact Point (NCP) for LIFE.

LuxInnovation is the NCP informing and supporting applicants in securing funding from **Horizon Europe**⁴⁶⁶.

Under the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, Luxembourg has set out 20 measures (eight reforms and 12 investments) that will be

⁴⁶¹ Luxembourg, [CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)

⁴⁶² [Luxembourg, Programme FEDER 2021-2027, Investir dans une Europe plus intelligente et plus verte](#)

⁴⁶³ Ibid., p. 11.

⁴⁶⁴ European Commission, LIFE Programme in Luxembourg, 2022.

⁴⁶⁵ Full [contact details](#)

⁴⁶⁶ LuxInnovation, [Contact Point for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Funding](#)

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financed by EUR 93 million in grants⁴⁶⁷. Within the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), 61% will support climate objectives under the 'Green Transition' pillar. That pillar focuses on enlarging the network of charging points for electric vehicles, supplying district heating and energy from renewable sources and providing financial support via municipalities (EUR 6 million) to support actions to protect nature and prevent biodiversity loss⁴⁶⁸.

While the RRP does not mention tree planting or reforestation, it includes one relevant measure of reform and investment via the 'Naturpakt'. The Naturpakt will take the form of a law that allows municipalities to sign a Naturpakt contract with the State, whereby they commit to implementing natural environment and biodiversity protection actions on their territory for the period until 2030. They then receive a certification and associated financial subsidies once they achieve a sufficient level of performance against a catalogue of environment and biodiversity measures⁴⁶⁹. The Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development is responsible for reporting and implementing this element of the RRP. It will work in collaboration with municipalities to identify and implement actions to protect the natural environment and biodiversity.



National funding sources

The main and largest funding mechanism in Luxembourg for environmental actions is the **Funds for the Protection of the Environment**. Created in 1999, the Funds redistribute income collected from environmental compliance fees and fines and provide grants and loans to selected beneficiaries. In 2021, over EUR 12 million was allocated from the Funds for the protection of nature and natural resources⁴⁷⁰.

As part of the support provided by the Funds for the Protection of the Environment (via the Administration Nature and Forest), the Ministry for the Environment provides financial support (grants) to projects that target:

- Safeguarding biodiversity;
- Management of protected areas;
- Coherence of the network of protected areas;
- Provision of ecosystem services;
- Conservation of habitats or wild animal and plant species;
- Conservation of the character and beauty of the landscape, countryside and forests.

This type of subsidy is available to fund managers, land owners and operators, as well as municipalities, associations of municipalities and approved associations.

Any application must be submitted before the start of the project and request a minimum amount of EUR 250. The applicant must prepare the application in collaboration with their local district authority. The applicant must provide the following supporting documents: an extract from the cadastral plan, an extract from a topographic map with an indication of the area subject to the work, and, if necessary, a copy of the estimated costs of the work.

In 2020, 180 applications were made and a total of EUR 510,000 was paid in grants⁴⁷¹. In 2021, the administration received 202 new applications and a total of EUR 764,064 was distributed to applicants. The majority of projects relate to reforestation and compensation for loss of income due to weather catastrophes⁴⁷².

Measures for reforesting agricultural spaces to compensate for deforestation with reforestation are part of the National Forestry Accounting Plan

⁴⁶⁷ European Commission, [Luxembourg's Recovery and Resilience Plan](#)

⁴⁶⁸ Luxembourg, Recovery and Resilience Facility, [Operational arrangements between the European Commission and Luxembourg](#)

⁴⁶⁹ Ibid., p. 16.

⁴⁷⁰ Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, Annual Report 2021.

⁴⁷¹ Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, Annual Report 2020, p. 184.

⁴⁷² Ibid., p. 196.

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(**Plan comptable forestier national**)⁴⁷³. The plan describes the approach adopted by Luxembourg to establish a Forest Reference Level (FRL) in order to comply with the EU LULUCF Regulation which establishes land-based net carbon removals targets helping to reach climate neutrality. The document describes the rules on wood harvesting and measures to support sustainable management of forests, including reforestation in agricultural areas.

The government encourages private forest owners to participate in measures to promote climate action by implementing close-to-nature forestry, in return for a grant called '**Klimabonusbësch**'. The objective is to preserve the many services provided by forest ecosystems to society. The premium is intended to reward private forest owners who, through the implementation of a mode of sustainable forest management ('close-to-nature silviculture'), protect the vital services provided by the forest to society as a whole. Close-to-nature silviculture is a set of techniques that aim to make maximum use of the natural processes of forest ecosystems in order to sustainably produce valuable timber, while respecting and supporting other functions and services of the forest⁴⁷⁴.

Forest owners are supported to restore forest ecosystems – by reforesting a forest stand with tree species suitable for the location - through the provision of **financial aid for the restoration of forest ecosystems through reforestation**⁴⁷⁵. The financial aid is available to those who own more than 20 hectares of forest, where the area to be reforested is more than 30 ares of contiguous land; or is made up of gaps in the forest, smaller than 30 ares, suitable for enrichment planting. To benefit from the aid, the area must form a single, contiguous forest stand and be in a listed green zone (excluding lands where pesticides are used, lands where groundworks harm the soil structure, or where drainage works or fertilisation are carried

out). The applicant must submit their application, using the appropriate form with the head of the district concerned, including the appropriate topographic map and extract of the cadastral map. The amount of the aid is fixed by type of activity (from EUR 35 per are for plantations comprising a minimum of 30% hardwood species; the amount of the aid is increased by 25% where there has been no chipping of forest regrowth or remnants from cutting operations, to EUR 100 per cluster of hardwood trees for enrichment plantations).



Innovative funding sources

Luxembourg issued EUR 1.5 billion **sustainability bonds** in September 2020, which was reinvested in more than 65 projects⁴⁷⁶. Although the list of projects includes the increase of protected habitats and the planting of trees⁴⁷⁷, no money appears to have been allocated to projects listed under the category 'Protection of the Environment'⁴⁷⁸.

The Luxembourg Stock Exchange created the Luxembourg Green Exchange in 2016, which only lists green bonds and sustainable securities. It aims to provide a clear and transparent pathway that enables asset owners and asset managers to find sustainable securities and their relevant documentation free of charge. At present, over EUR 840 billion has been issued through sustainable bonds⁴⁷⁹.

The **Ecosystem Services Partnership** has a platform of members active in Luxembourg in the promotion of ecosystem assessment and valuation for policy making⁴⁸⁰. One of the related projects is the Payments for Ecosystem Services (Forests for Water) (PESFOR-W) – COST Action. This project, which ended in 2021, consolidated the lessons

⁴⁷³ Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, [National Forestry Accounting Plan Luxembourg](#).

⁴⁷⁴ Administration Nature and Forests, Klimabonusbësch, [information](#)

⁴⁷⁵ Administration Nature and Forest, Financial aid for the restoration of forest ecosystems through reforestation, [information](#)

⁴⁷⁶ Ministry of Finance, Luxembourg Sustainability Bond Report, 2022.

⁴⁷⁷ Ministry of Finance, Luxembourg Sustainability Bond Report 2018-2020, 2021, p.5.

⁴⁷⁸ Ministry of Finance, Luxembourg Sustainability Bond Report, 2022, p.12.

⁴⁷⁹ Luxembourg Stock Exchange, [LGX](#)

⁴⁸⁰ [Ecosystem Services Partnership](#)

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from payment for ecosystems services (PES) schemes in Europe on evaluating the environmental effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of woodland measures⁴⁸¹.

Finally, the City of Luxembourg has established a system whereby individuals can **sponsor** (*parraîner*) the planting of trees⁴⁸².

⁴⁸¹ [COST Action](#), CA15206 - Payments for Ecosystem Services (Forests for Water) (PESFOR-W)

⁴⁸² [Ville de Luxembourg](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
European Regional Development Fund	Ministry of Economy, Directorate for Regional Policy	Website	Support transition to a low emissions economy	Grants	Axis 2 – Greener Europe (EUR 4,236,055)	NOE NOAH ⁴⁸³ – social inclusion and environmental development and landscaping (LU, FR, BE, DE), 2017-2021
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection	Website	Agro-forestry, enhancing biodiversity in forests owned by farmers, planting trees and shrubs	Strategic Plan offering support for farmers		N/A
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also		N/A

⁴⁸³ See : <http://www.interreg-gr.eu/fr/projects/noe-noah/>

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
				possible		
Horizon Europe	LuxInnovation	Website	Innovative projects, including projects related to climate protection and health	Grants	Information about funding opportunities can be found on the website of the national contact point	N/A
RRP	Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development	Website	Green transition (charging points for electric vehicles), digital transition, economic and social resilience	Grants	EUR 6,000,000 to establish a Naturpakt with municipalities to provide financial support for actions to protect nature and prevent biodiversity loss	Naturpakt
National funding						
Funds for the Protection of the Environment	Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development	Website	Biodiversity, management of protected areas and habitats, ecosystem services, nature conservation	Grants and loans		
Financial aid for the restoration of	Administration Nature and	Website	Private forests	Grants		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
forest ecosystems through reforestation	Forests					
Klimabonusbesch	Administration Nature and Forests	Website	Private forests	Grants		

FINANCING SOURCES IN MALTA

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agriculture Guarantee Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Structural Fund
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises



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Malta is a small island nation with only 1% tree coverage⁴⁸⁴. There is no forestry sector and almost all of the land area is classified as 'urban'. Tree-planting initiatives are generally small-scale, but a number of stakeholders are advocating for nature restoration and tree-planting⁴⁸⁵. The Native Trust (Malta), one of the largest non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Malta, carries out several afforestation projects, including Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves/parks⁴⁸⁶. Birdlife Malta, another prominent NGO, carries out nature restoration projects, including some tree-planting activities⁴⁸⁷. In addition, the Tree 4 U initiative, managed by Ambjent Malta within the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning, invites individuals or corporate bodies to sponsor or donate native trees. Planting is then carried out by Ambjent Malta⁴⁸⁸.

Infrastructure Malta is the agency entrusted with the development, maintenance and upgrading of the road network and other public infrastructure. It has undertaken wide-spread tree planting, in particular to compensate for trees relocated or removed during infrastructure work⁴⁸⁹.

Desk research shows that most environmental funding is directed towards water scarcity and bird protection, as key challenges in Malta. This suggests that while funding may be available at both EU and national level, projects dedicated to tree planting would have to compete against those environmental challenges.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Malta. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Forestry is not a significant industry in Malta, and agriculture/fishing as a whole only makes up 1.6% of the labour force⁴⁹⁰. **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)-funded projects** include an organic farm using **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding** to mitigate soil erosion and enhance biodiversity by planting new olive trees⁴⁹¹. CAP is not widely used for tree-planting – Malta's CAP Strategic Plan (2022) states that it is investing more than EUR 1 million to protect and conserve some indigenous species, including the Maltese chicken, ox, and some indigenous tress. This is small against the EUR 30 million to support investments in water⁴⁹². No other reference to trees, forests, or biodiversity restoration were found in the CAP documents⁴⁹³. The Malta Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (part of the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights) aims to maximise the benefits from the CAP⁴⁹⁴, and the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division within the Ministry responsible for EU Funds⁴⁹⁵ is the competent authority.

The Funds and Programmes Division (part of the office of the Deputy Prime Minister) is the **EAFRD/European Agriculture Guarantee Fund (EAGF)** managing authority⁴⁹⁶. The 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Malta⁴⁹⁷ included a sub-measure to support investments improving the resilience and environmental value

⁴⁸⁴ [Malta's Percentage Of Forested Land](#)

⁴⁸⁵ See, for example: Grow 10 Trees project, where citizens plant and care for 10 local trees or plants. Tree planting to offset transport emissions through [NowWeMOVE](#). Tree planting as a team-building activity through [JUGS Malta](#). Work done by various NGOs such as the [Melita Foundation](#) and private enterprises such as the [QLZH Foundation](#) and the [HBSC Bank Malta](#).

⁴⁸⁶ [Nature Trust Malta](#), What We Do

⁴⁸⁷ Central Bank of Malta and staff contributions used for [tree-growing initiatives](#)

⁴⁸⁸

[Sponsoring Trees Under the Tree 4 U Campaign](#)

⁴⁸⁹ [Infrastructure Malta](#)

⁴⁹⁰ [Economy of Malta](#)

⁴⁹¹ [Young farmers use multi-functional CAP funding in Malta](#) (within the 2014-2020 programming period).

⁴⁹² [Malta's CAP strategic plan](#)

⁴⁹³ [Documents relating to the approval of the CAP Strategic Plans](#)

⁴⁹⁴ See: <https://agriculture.gov.mt/>

⁴⁹⁵ [Planning and Priorities Coordination Division](#)

⁴⁹⁶ National Strategy Plan on the government website was published in 2009, so was not reviewed for its relevance to tree-planting.

⁴⁹⁷ Rural Development Programme (RDP) See: https://ec.europa.eu/enrd/country/malta_en.html

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of forest ecosystems, as well as afforestation operations and prevention and restoration activities. However, the plan noted that Malta has a very limited area of woodlands. Desk research was unable to find how this was implemented.

The Funds and Programmes Division of the Ministry for the Economy, European Funds and Lands is responsible for **Interreg projects**. Ongoing projects include the Interreg Euro-MED Programme, which aims to protect, restore and valorise the natural environment and heritage⁴⁹⁸.

Servizzi Ewropej f' Malta (SEM) is a public agency that helps citizens and organisations to access EU funds⁴⁹⁹. Information is also available on the Maltese government's FONDI website⁵⁰⁰. In October 2022, the European Commission approved Malta's National Programme for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund and Just Transition Fund (JTF) for the 2021–2027 financial period⁵⁰¹. Information on the FONDI website shows that the ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF cover a number of topics, including natural resources and the environment, with environmental preservation receiving particular attention. However, the priorities identified under the different national policies largely concern information and communications technology (ICT), energy transition, waste water, water, mobility, and citizen involvement⁵⁰². None of the current open environment calls specifically refer to biodiversity or trees. However, several refer to carbon storage measures, which may include tree planting, and there is a general **LIFE** call⁵⁰³. The ERDF is mentioned as a source of co-funding for on-going tree planting initiatives, such as a tree-planting activity as part of Arbor Day⁵⁰⁴. This suggests that while tree planting may not be the focus of EU funding in Malta, there are some previous examples⁵⁰⁵.



EU Funding sources under direct management

The Malta Council for Science and Technology, acting for and on behalf of the Foundation for Science and Technology, is a public body and is the National Contact Point (NCP) for **Horizon Europe** in Malta⁵⁰⁶. Several projects aim to improve biodiversity on the Maltese islands, but these mostly refer to marine areas. Most projects refer to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), growth, and urban sustainability⁵⁰⁷. The ReNature project, a Horizon 2020 project with a focus on nature-based solutions research, includes a reforestation project in *San Pawl il-Baħar*⁵⁰⁸.

LIFE projects fall under the LIFE Unit of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change. Again, however, such projects tend to focus on birds (specifically puffin conservation) and water management, rather than forests⁵⁰⁹.

Malta's **Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)** has six components, with the first two focusing on carbon neutrality. Neither envisages interventions likely to encompass tree-planting activities (the first focuses on enhanced energy efficiency and clean energy, while the second focuses on decarbonisation of transport).



National funding sources

The government has a number of tree-planting initiatives in place, with a focus on urban planting. In 2022 the government launched a **reafforestation project** worth EUR 20 million.

⁴⁹⁸ [Interreg projects](#)

⁴⁹⁹ [Servizzi Ewropej f' Malta](#) (SEM)

⁵⁰⁰ [FONDI](#)

⁵⁰¹ [European Commission approves €1.1 billion in funds for Malta](#)

⁵⁰² [European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, Just Transition Fund](#)

⁵⁰³ [Current calls for funding](#)

⁵⁰⁴ [On-going tree planting initiatives](#)

⁵⁰⁵ [Previous examples of tree planting in Malta](#)

⁵⁰⁶ [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#)

⁵⁰⁷ [Funding opportunities](#)

⁵⁰⁸ [ReNature project](#)

⁵⁰⁹ See: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/Malta_Update_EN_Final_March23.pdf

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The Trees and Woodlands Protection Regulations⁵¹⁰ allow the permitting authority to impose conditions on projects that may impact existing trees (Article 23(1)(a)). This mechanism appears to be well utilised, in particular for projects carried out by Infrastructure Malta, with 12,300 new trees planted in compensation for 2,400 uprooted trees since 2018⁵¹¹. The government agency **Infrastructure Malta** highlights various examples of infrastructure projects that have seen indigenous trees planted by various contractors⁵¹², although the extent to which these pre-dated the permitting conditions was unclear.

Local councils can access funding from the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning through the **Urban Greening Scheme** (set up in 2014), with projects including tree planting, greening of squares and roads in urban areas, and the installation of new irrigation systems to ensure that the planted trees, shrubs and flowers remain healthy⁵¹³. Parks Malta (a government entity under the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development) wants to see more than 1,500 trees planted through their **Cleaning Campaign**, with two trees planted for every tonne of waste collected⁵¹⁴.



Innovative funding sources

In 2021, a group of 24 architects and engineers proposed the **Help Malta Breathe project** which would see more than 40,000 trees planted⁵¹⁵. Ambjent Malta⁵¹⁶ expressed scepticism, saying that the plans do not sufficiently consider the native habitat of the area⁵¹⁷. At the time of drafting, information was scarce⁵¹⁸ and it remains to be seen how this initiative will move forward and the funding opportunities it may create.

⁵¹⁰ [Trees and Woodlands Protection Regulations](#)

⁵¹¹ [Compensation for the uprooting of trees](#)

⁵¹² [Infrastructure Malta projects](#)

⁵¹³ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Sustainable-Localities-Scheme-2022-Guidelines.pdf>

⁵¹⁴ [Valley clean-up campaign](#)

⁵¹⁵ [Help Malta Breathe project](#)

⁵¹⁶ Under the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise

⁵¹⁷ [Afforestation proposal](#)

⁵¹⁸ Limited to a 2-minute Facebook video.

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF, Cohesion Fund, JTF	Ministry for the Economy, European Funds and Lands	Website		Grant	Programme approved in October 2022 – no clear link to tree planting, but the environment is identified as a topic covered	
EAFRD	Funds and Programmes Division (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister)	Website	Agriculture	Grant	Strategic Plan	
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	LIFE Unit of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change	Website	Environmental protection/restoration	Grant	No current tree-related projects	LIFE PanPuffinus (2019) LIFE-IP-RBMP-Malta (2016)
Horizon Europe	Malta Council for Science	Website	Research and Innovation	Grant	No current tree-related	MELIITA 4 Enterprise

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	and Technology (Foundation for Science and Technology)				projects	Europe Network GO-SME project BLUEMED
National funding						
Urban Greening Scheme	Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning	Website	Local government	Grant		Tree planting, greening of squares and roads in urban areas, and the installation of new irrigation systems to ensure that trees, shrubs and flowers remain healthy

FINANCING SOURCES IN THE NETHERLANDS

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EFRO	Europees Fonds voor Regionale ontwikkeling
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
PES	Payments for ecosystem services
PBL	Netherland Environmental Assessment Agency (<i>Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving</i>)
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
RVO	Netherlands Enterprise Agency
SNN	<i>Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland</i>



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Funding opportunities in the Netherlands include European Union (EU) sources, with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) one of the most prominent European funding sources in the country. The Cohesion Fund is not relevant for the Netherlands in the 2021-2027 period.

The Dutch government plays an important role in funding environmental protection. There are also several private foundations and organisations that provide funding for biodiversity projects in the Netherlands.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in the Netherlands. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Funding opportunities in the Netherlands include the **ERDF**, which is one of the most prominent European funding sources. In 2021-2027, the Netherlands will receive EUR 506 million from the Fund. The money will be divided between four regional programmes⁵¹⁹, for the North (*Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland*, SNN)⁵²⁰, East (EFRO Oost)⁵²¹, South (EFRO Programme Zuid)⁵²² and West (Kansen voor West)⁵²³ Netherlands:

- North: the subsidies are given by SNN across a broad range of sectors and do not seem to target nature conservation or biodiversity topics per se. The current available subsidies for individuals and companies in sustainability and greening do not include projects associated with tree planting;

- East: EFRO Oost aims for a smarter, green East of the Netherlands, and grant applicants can come up with their own projects. No examples of tree-planting projects were found;
- South: Programme Zuid focuses on the green sector, primarily green energy. One project seeks to make dry areas suitable for food production⁵²⁴, but does not seem to be in scope of the pledge;
- West: Kansen voor West gives an overview of possible grant applications and indicates where budget is still available. Most grants seem to focus on energy and circular economy, although sustainable urban development can be found as a specific objective⁵²⁵.

The Cohesion Fund is not relevant for the Netherlands in the 2021-2027 period⁵²⁶.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan, financed by the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** and the European agricultural guarantee fund (EAGF) can also support projects with biodiversity components, including tree planting,⁵²⁷. The EU budget for CAP 2023-2027 in the Netherlands is over EUR 4.5 billion. With over EUR 415 million of national funding, the total funding comes to almost EUR 5 billion. The upcoming CAP aims to be economically sustainable, fair, socially sustainable, and greener. For example, it will use EUR 174 million to increase the water level of peat meadows, increase the organic farmed area, and spend about EUR 760 million to support farmers to implement biodiversity friendly measures on more than 1.5 million hectares⁵²⁸.

The **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** in the Netherlands can access EUR 623 million during the 2021-2027 period⁵²⁹. The JTF is managed by three institutions: Kansen voor West (West), SNN (North) and Stimulus (South).

⁵¹⁹ [Europees Fonds voor Regionale Ontwikkeling](#) (EFRO)

⁵²⁰ [Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland](#), SNN

⁵²¹ [East](#) (EFRO Oost)

⁵²² [South](#) (EFRO OPZuid)

⁵²³ [West](#) (Kansen voor West) See: <https://www.kansenvoorwest.nl/>

⁵²⁴ [OPZuid project example](#)

⁵²⁵ [Budget overview](#)

⁵²⁶ [Cohesion Fund](#)

⁵²⁷ [New rural development measures](#)

⁵²⁸ CAP 2023-2027 – 28 CAP Strategic Plans at a glance.

⁵²⁹ [Just Transition Fund](#) (JTF)

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EU Funding sources under direct management

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)⁵³⁰ is the National Contact Point (NCP) for **LIFE**. Several searches in the LIFE database⁵³¹ reveal a citizen-driven initiative from LIFE Terra that is aiming to plant and monitor 500 million trees⁵³² between 2020 and 2025. The location does not seem to be limited to the Netherlands, but includes multiple Member States. Tree planting forms part of several broader projects: for example, the project 'Damsterplein, the coolest square in town' mentions the planting of 50 trees as part of greening a square in Rotterdam. This project will run from 2021 to 2024. The RVO is also the NCP for **Horizon Europe**.

The Netherlands' Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) encompasses 28 investments and 21 reforms, which will be supported by a total of EU 4.7 billion in grants under the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, 48% of which will support climate objectives. Most of this money will be spent on green energy and the energy transition. EUR 2.84 billion will be invested in 'Programme Nature' between 2021 and 2023, with around 25% earmarked for improving the quality of natural areas, primarily structural system restoration, which includes forest revitalisation. These measures also contribute to other tasks, such as climate adaptation and the implementation of the Forest Strategy⁵³³. Structural system restoration measures include improved landscaping, hydrological measures and forest revitalisation. The provinces are in charge of the budgeting for the first phase of Programme Nature, which consists of EUR 714 million.

Integral area plans are drafted, but are not part of the RRP. They focus on climate, water quality and nature, and are expected to be available in July



National funding sources

In 2023, the **Dutch government** released EUR 300 million to accelerate realisation of the Nature Network Netherlands. National parks will get EUR 3.2 million for various purposes, EUR 340 million is reserved for making agriculture, horticulture and fisheries more sustainable, and the provinces of the Netherlands will get EUR 24.3 billion for nature restoration plans. The plans need to be put in place in 2023 and the money is available until 2035⁵³⁴.

Several **public and private organisations** in the Netherlands provide funding for biodiversity projects. Some examples include:

- The **Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)**: The Agency provides funding for research and projects to improve the environment and protect biodiversity⁵³⁵;
- **RVO**: The Agency is under the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Its main goal is to support and promote entrepreneurship and innovation⁵³⁶;
- **Dutch Postcode Lottery**: This lottery distributes a portion of its proceeds to various environmental and conservation projects, including those related to biodiversity⁵³⁷;
- **IVN Nature Education Foundation**: This Foundation provides funding for nature education projects, with a focus on promoting awareness and understanding of the country's biodiversity.

⁵³⁰ [Contacts](#)

⁵³¹ [Advanced search on LIFE projects](#)

⁵³² [LIFE Terra](#)

⁵³³ Rijksoverheid, [Nederlands Herstel en Veeerkrachtplan](#), 2022

⁵³⁴ [Plans for climate and milieu](#)

⁵³⁵ [Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency \(PBL\)](#)

⁵³⁶ [RVO](#)

⁵³⁷ [Dutch Postcode Lottery](#)

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Innovative funding sources

Innovative financing instruments have been used to support biodiversity-related projects. These can be **green bonds**, or **biodiversity offsets**.

Crowdfunding has also been used to raise funds for biodiversity-related projects, allowing individuals to directly support conservation efforts.

Payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes have been implemented as well.

- Green bonds: Various banks (e.g. Triodos) are in the green bonds market⁵³⁸;
- Crowdfunding: Non-governmental organisation (NGO) *Stichting Het Groene Woud* used crowdfunding to raise funds for the purchase and management of a forested area in the Netherlands in order to protect it from development⁵³⁹;
- PES: Several PES schemes have been implemented for different ecosystem services. For example, farmers who provide ecosystem services such as soil conservation, water retention, and carbon sequestration are eligible for payments under the 'Green Deal for Biodiversity' programme. The CAP enables farmers to apply for the eco-scheme 2023, which has a total budget of EUR 152 million⁵⁴⁰. This subsidy will run from 1 March 2023 to 15 June 2023. The minimum is EUR 60 per hectare, with a maximum of EUR 200 per hectare. The total budget available is EUR 152,000,000. There are a number of eligibility conditions, including achieving sufficient 'points' on improving climate, soil and air, water, landscape, and biodiversity.

⁵³⁸ [Green bond holders](#)

⁵³⁹ [Stichting Het Groene Woud](#)

⁵⁴⁰ [Eco-scheme 2023](#) (De eco-regeling 2023)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Website Ministry of Foreign Affairs, see website	Environmental protection and nature conservation	Grants	Scale and time horizon are flexible ERFD monies divided among the four regional ERDF programmes	Trees for Cities Green Infrastructure for Climate Change Adaptation
		North Netherlands, see website			SNN: info@snn.nl	
		East Netherlands, see website			EFRO Oost, see website	
		South Netherlands, see website			Stimulus: info@stimulus.nl	
		West Netherlands, see website			Kansen voor West: contact@kansenvoorwest.nl	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Website	Environmental protection and nature conservation	Grants	Part of the CAP are 'eco-schemes' See Green Deal for Biodiversity programme	
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	NCP: RVO	NCP as for Nature & Biodiversity, see website				
Horizon Europe	NCP: RVO	NCP as for Climate, Energy and Mobility, Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment, see website	Climate change, energy transition, digital transformation, health and well-being, circular economy	Grants, innovation procurement, public-private partnerships and venture capital	Scale is flexible Timeframe 3-6 years	LIFE Reforest project
RRF	Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Finance, see website National government contact details, see website	Green and digital transition	Budget will be spent by provincial governments		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
National funding						
PBL	Dutch government	Website	Improving environmental and sustainable development policy and practice by providing independent and science-based advice and conducting research	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dutch Postcode Lottery	Nationale Postcode Loterij N.V.	Website	Funding projects that contribute to nature, environment and development cooperation	Mostly subsidies, also loans or investments, and revenue from lottery tickets	Scale differs from local to large-scale Timeframe varies depending on the project Different kinds of support services offered (e.g. 2019 project on the planting trees)	Rewilding Europe

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
IVN Nature Education Foundation	IVN Foundation	Website	Promoting nature education, protecting the environment and promoting sustainability	Grants, donations, project funding, membership fees	Scale: local and national Timeframe: depends on project Different additional services, mainly raising public awareness of the value of nature and contributing to its protection	N/A
Stichting Het Groene Woud	Groene Woud Foundation	Website	Promoting sustainable forest management and conservation in the Netherlands	Forest conservation support, research and education	Depends on the project	PlantenNu
Triodos	Triodos Bank	Website	Finance projects and businesses with a positive impact on society and the environment	Green bonds	Depends on the project	Triodos has partnerships with organisations such as <i>Natuurmonumenten</i>

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Green Deal for Biodiversity programme	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Terms of grant and application, see website	Rewarding future-proof farming	Grant to farmers	<p>Timeframe: 1 March 2023 to 15 June 2023</p> <p>Total budget: EUR 152 million</p>	N/A

FINANCING SOURCES IN POLAND

Abbreviations used

ARMA	Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CF	Cohesion Fund
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EARDF	European Agricultural Rural Development Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
KPZL	National Program for Increasing Forest Cover
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCBR	National Centre for Research and Development
NFEP&WM	National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility



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The National Program for Increasing Forest Cover (KPZL), adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1995 covering the period 1995–2020, established the objective to increase the country's forest area to 30% by 2020. The National Forest Policy adopted in 1997⁵⁴¹ reiterated that goal and established an increase of 33% by 2050, which has been confirmed by the National Environmental Policy 2030 adopted in 2019⁵⁴².

Funding for projects concerning biodiversity, nature and climate protection can be obtained in Poland from a variety of sources including EU funding, national and regional funds for environmental protection, municipal budgets, and private funding. Since its accession to the EU (in 2004), Poland has been one of the largest beneficiaries of Cohesion Policy (CF), with a number of Programmes at both national and regional levels providing grants for various initiatives including biodiversity and nature protection projects. These funds, and in particular the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), will remain one of the most prominent funding sources for environmental investments in the current financial perspective 2021-2027.

Other EU funding opportunities available in Poland include LIFE and Horizon programmes – national contact points can guide the potential beneficiaries regarding the relevant opportunities and application procedures. The Strategic Plan for development of rural areas being a part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is another important source of funding for nature protection and in particular, planting trees and shrubs in the context of agriculture and development of rural areas.

At national level, the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEP&WM) is a major institution providing funding and advice for potential beneficiaries of projects in the area of nature protection. Similar institutions exist on the regional level – each of the

16 regions (voivodeships) in Poland has its dedicated regional fund for environmental protection, providing opportunities of support for environmental and climate-related initiatives according to regional priorities. Innovative financing sources such as green municipal and corporate bonds, as well as crowdfunding, are gradually gaining popularity in Poland.

More information about the specific categories of funding instruments and some relevant examples can be found in the sections below and in the summary table.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Poland will remain one of the largest beneficiaries of **Cohesion Policy** funding in the coming years. Both the ERDF and the CF have been and will continue to play an important role in supporting environmental, climate and biodiversity-related initiatives. Information about EU funding opportunities for potential beneficiaries is provided on the dedicated portal⁵⁴³. The portal provides information about the network of information points that are available throughout the country – these contact points facilitate (free-of-charge) advisory services relevant to the specific needs and location of the interested individuals and organisations.

Cohesion Policy is implemented in Poland through several Programmes, including the national programme FEnKS (European Funds For Infrastructure, Climate and Environment)⁵⁴⁴ that can be used for nature protection, and 17 regional Programmes (including one for each of the 16 Polish regions and one programme European Funds for Eastern Poland), all of which provide opportunities for investing in biodiversity and

⁵⁴¹ Ministry of Environmental Protection; Natural Resources and Forestry. National Forest Policy; Warsaw, Poland, 1997.

⁵⁴² Ministry of Climate. *The 2030 National Environmental Policy*; Warsaw, Poland, 2019.

⁵⁴³ [Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy](#), 2023

⁵⁴⁴ European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate and Environment ([Program Fundusze Europejskie na Infrastrukturę, Klimat, Środowisko](#))

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nature. The budget of the FENiKS programme amounts to over EUR 24 billion. Its main objectives include lowering GHG emissions and green transition. This programme has also other objectives such as sustainable transport and social infrastructure. Biodiversity-related projects under the FENiKS programme are coordinated by the Ministry of Climate and Environment. Timetable of calls for proposals within this programme can be accessed on the dedicated website of the programme⁵⁴⁵. Calls for proposals under the regional programmes can be accessed through the websites dedicated to each of these programmes – see the summary table for contact details⁵⁴⁶.

CAP funding can also support projects with biodiversity components, including tree planting. The Strategic Plan prepared within the framework of the CAP for the years 2021-2027 lists afforestation, planting of trees and shrubs, enhancing biodiversity in forests as well as establishment of agro-forestry areas, as types of interventions that will be supported within the actions aiming at limiting the impact of climate change in agriculture⁵⁴⁷. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development together with the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA) monitor the implementation of the CAP in Poland. Pillar I of the CAP, based on direct payments from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) supports, among others, eco-schemes including an eco-scheme providing subsidies for the planting of melliferous plants. Pillar II of the CAP, financed from the European Agricultural Rural Development Fund (EARDF) supports rural development. In June 2023, the ARMA had an open call for applications for support for afforestation of agricultural land, creation of mid-field shelterbelts, establishment of agro-forestry systems and increasing the biodiversity of private forests. Similar calls may be expected in the future⁵⁴⁸.

EU funding from the **Just Transition Fund** (JTF, with over EUR 4 billion for Poland) has been

allocated in six regions of Poland that are the most affected by negative social and environmental impacts of energy transition: śląskie, dolnośląskie, wielkopolskie, lubelskie, łódzkie, and małopolskie. This funding will support, among others, environmental protection initiatives in the affected regions. The distribution of this funding in each of the regions mentioned above is guided with dedicated regional plans for just transition. These plans have been integrated with the regional Programmes for Cohesion Policy in each of the respective regions⁵⁴⁹.



EU Funding sources under direct management

The national contact point for the **LIFE programme** is established in the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEP&WM), which also provides co-financing for projects accepted for co-financing from LIFE. Several projects with support from LIFE have been implemented in Poland, including 'Conservation of natural resources of Kampinos Forest – Natura 2000 site, through renaturation of purchased land'. Information about upcoming calls for proposals and co-financing from the NFEP&WM can be found on the website of the Fund⁵⁵⁰.

Regarding **Horizon Europe**, the National Center for Research and Development (*Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju*, NCBR) is the National Contact Point for Poland. Projects from this funding instrument must have a strong innovation component and therefore, not many projects will be relevant for tree planting. Nevertheless, some projects focusing on biodiversity-enhancing and climate protection or adaptation measures may include tree planting initiatives. The most relevant calls for proposals will be organised within the cluster 5, pillar 2: 'Climate, energy and mobility'.

⁵⁴⁵ Timetable of calls for proposals, FENiKS

⁵⁴⁶ It must be noted that there are no measures such as planting trees in the Polish programmes. There may be trees planting in various types of projects (e.g. green infrastructure projects in urban areas, or nature protection measures) however a project to be funded must have objective of climate

adaptation (under SO 2.4) or biodiversity protection (under SO 2.7) and meet other relevant criteria of the programmes.

⁵⁴⁷ Government of the Republic of Poland: [Strategic Plan for RDP in Poland in the years 2023-2027](#).

⁵⁴⁸ ARMA, 2023

⁵⁴⁹ Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, 2021

⁵⁵⁰ NFEP&WM, [LIFE programmes](#)

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The website of the National Contact Point for Horizon Europe provides an opportunity to filter the calls according to the pillar and cluster⁵⁵¹.

As of April 2023, **Recovery and Resilience Facility** (RFF) funding was not awarded to Poland due to problems with the fulfilment of conditions related to the rule of law in Poland. Nevertheless, the National Recovery Plan (*Krajowy Plan Odbudowy*) was accepted by the European Commission in June 2022, and as soon as the financing is endorsed, Poland will be able to use the funding. The Plan encompasses 48 reforms and 54 investments, which will be supported by an estimated EUR 23.9 billion in grants and EUR 11.5 billion in loans. Approximately 43 % of the investments covered by the Plan will support green transition⁵⁵². Most of the investments in this area are related to green energy and green transport. Investments supporting green transformation of urban areas (priority B3.4.1) lists among other goals, increasing green areas in cities and enhancing biodiversity through tree planting, and supporting biodiversity by the promotion of planting endemic species⁵⁵³. The Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy acts as the managing authority of the National Recovery Plan. Calls for proposals of projects which could potentially receive funding from the Plan are published on a dedicated website⁵⁵⁴.



National funding sources

National and regional funds for environmental protection and water management constitute another important source of funding for biodiversity-related projects in Poland⁵⁵⁵. The funds redistribute income collected from environmental compliance fees and fines and

provide grants and loans to the selected beneficiaries. The NFEP&WM is the largest Polish financial institution supporting environment and climate, and supports both large nation-wide programmes and smaller projects implemented by various stakeholders on a regional or local level. Regional funds provide funding for projects located within each of the sixteen voivodeships (regions) of Poland. All the funds act as coordinating and advisory bodies in the area of environmental investment; some of them also play the role of intermediary coordinating bodies in the disbursement of Cohesion Policy funding.

For example, according to the information available on the website of the regional fund for environmental protection and water management in Warsaw, in May 2023 the fund signed an agreement with provincial authorities in Żyrardów to finance a programme supporting several priorities, including nature protection, in this province⁵⁵⁶.

Furthermore, biodiversity and climate-related initiatives are also financed from national, regional, provincial and municipal budgets. Provincial and municipal budgets receive annually a certain share of the income collected from environmental compliance fees – according to the Environmental Protection Act, this income should be earmarked for environmental investments including nature protection. One of the categories of spending envisaged in the Environmental Protection Act is the setting up and maintenance of green areas and parks, planting trees and shrubs⁵⁵⁷.

According to a report on green investments in Poland, in the period 2014-2020, expenditures on environment and climate-related goals from regional budgets amounted to approximately EUR 330 million, from provincial budgets – EUR 4 billion, and from municipalities – EUR 7 billion⁵⁵⁸. These expenditures encompass financing of

⁵⁵¹ NCBR, [Horyzont Europa](#)

⁵⁵² European Commission, [Recovery and resilience plan for Poland](#), 2023

⁵⁵³ Government of Poland, [About the National Recovery Plan](#), 2023

⁵⁵⁴ Government of Poland, National Recovery Plan, [calls for proposals](#)

⁵⁵⁵ European Committee of the Regions, [Financing biodiversity action: opportunities and challenges for EU subnational governments](#), European Union 2020.

⁵⁵⁶ [Wojewódzki Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska in Gospodarki Wodnej w Warszawie](#), 2023

⁵⁵⁷ Article 400a, [Environmental Protection Act](#), O.J. No. 62 2001, item 627, with amendments.

⁵⁵⁸ Kotecki, L. (UN Global Compact Network Poland), [Green Finance in Poland 2022](#). The values reported in euro in this section have been converted from the Polish zloty using an approximate exchange rate of 4.6 PLN/EUR.

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initiatives supporting and promoting biodiversity and nature.

Each municipality in Poland has a department related to environmental protection that implements various activities, including management of subsidies for the shaping and promotion of green areas within the municipality⁵⁵⁹.



Innovative funding sources

The market for **green equity** in Poland is growing. In 2016 and 2017, the State Treasury and the Ministry of Finance issued the first green equity in the public sector. In the private sector, Santander Bank Polska issued green obligations in 2017, with a value of EUR 137 million⁵⁶⁰. In 2021, the City of Łódź issued, in cooperation with two banks, municipal bonds for about EUR 90 million with over EUR 10 million of green bonds dedicated specifically to the construction of retention reservoirs and reconstruction of old railway areas. In addition to public sector institutions issuing green bonds, in 2021, ten corporate green bond issuers were active on the Polish financial market⁵⁶¹.

Crowdfunding gains popularity in Poland, with several crowdfunding portals being available, including Patronite. 'Trees emergency' is one of the initiatives supported by donors using Patronite⁵⁶². The main goal of this initiative is to gather information about the illegal cutting of trees and filing administrative lawsuits against individuals and organisations which engage in such activities.

A strong potential for introduction of **Payment for Ecosystem Services** in private forests in Poland was found in the context of the NEWFOREX project supported from EU funding⁵⁶³. However to

date, no such initiatives have been implemented in practice.

Several foundations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are active in Poland in the field of nature protection and forestry. They manage and implement projects which may potentially be relevant for tree planting. For example, WWF Poland, within its programme 'Rivers and Forests', together with the Polish Anglers Association, implemented tree planting activities on river banks⁵⁶⁴. Contact information for a few other NGOs which regularly implement activities promoting protection of forests and tree planting is provided in the summary table.

⁵⁵⁹ See for example the scope of responsibilities of the department for biodiversity of the city of Gdańsk, [Gdańsk city portal](#), 2023

⁵⁶⁰ European Committee of the Regions, [Financing biodiversity action: opportunities and challenges for EU subnational governments](#), European Union 2020.

⁵⁶¹ KPMG, [Perspectives of development of green bonds in Poland](#), report for the Ministry of Finance, December 2021.

⁵⁶² [Patronite](#), 2023

⁵⁶³ Bartczak, A., Metelska-Szaniawska, K, [Should we pay, and to whom, for biodiversity enhancement in private forests? An empirical study of attitudes towards payments for forest ecosystem services in Poland](#).

⁵⁶⁴ [WWF](#), 2023

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and CF	Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy; Ministry of Climate and Environment	Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Department for Infrastructural Programmes, see website Ministry of Climate and Environment, Department for EU Funds, see website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	For the financing period 2021-2027, 17 Programmes are relevant for biodiversity financing, including one nation-wide programme FENiKS – see contact information below Advisory services can be found here	n/a
ERDF and CF: FENiKS	Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy; Ministry of Climate and Environment	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF and CF: Dolny Śląsk	Office for the Śląskie Voivodeship in Wrocław	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Kujawsko-Pomorskie	Office for the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship in Toruń	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Lubelskie	Office for the Lubelskie Voivodeship in Lublin	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF and CF: Lubuskie	Office for the Lubuskie Voivodeship in Zielona Góra	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Mazowieckie	Office for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Opolskie	Office for the Opolskie Voivodeship in Opole	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF and CF: Podkarpackie	Office for the Podkarpackie Voivodeship in Rzeszów	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Podlaskie	Office for the Podkarpackie Voivodeship in Białystok	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Pomorskie	Office for the Pomorskie Voivodeship in Gdańsk	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF and CF: Zachodniopomorskie	Office for the Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship in Szczecin	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Śląskie	Office for the Śląskie Voivodeship in Katowice	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Warmińsko-Mazurskie	Office for the Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodeship in Olsztyn	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF and CF: Wielkopolskie	Office for the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship in Poznań	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Łódzkie	Office for the Łódzkie Voivodeship in Łódź	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Świętokrzyskie	Office for the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship in Kielce	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
ERDF and CF: Małopolska	Office for the Małopolskie Voivodeship in Kraków	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
ERDF and CF: Eastern Poland	Office for the Polska Wschodnia, Ministry of funds and Regional Policy	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, education	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	Additional information, including advisory services and timetable of calls for proposals, available on the programme's website	n/a
EAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Common Agricultural Policy, see website	Agro-forestry, enhancing biodiversity in forests owned by farmers, planting trees and shrubs	Rural Development Programme offering support for farmers	Investment and support from RDP 2023-207 – how to acquire funding	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture, see website				
LIFE	National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEPWM) – national contact point	NFEPWM, LIFE department, see website	Nature protection and climate protection	Grants	NFEPWM provides a possibility to subscribe to a mailing list with selected categories, including news about LIFE programme	n/a
Horizon Europe	National Centre for Research and Development – national contact point	National Centre for Research and Development, Department for International Cooperation, see website	Innovative projects, including projects related to climate protection and health	Grants	Information about funding opportunities can be found on the website of the national contact point	n/a
National and regional funding						
National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFOŚiGW)		NFEPWM, see website	Biodiversity, environmental protection education and promotion	Grants, subsidised loans, other financing instruments are possible	Information about current calls for proposal can be found on the dedicated website	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Voivodeship Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management		<p>WFOŚiGW in Warsaw, see website</p> <p>WFOŚiGW in Wrocław, see website</p> <p>WFOŚiGW in Toruń, see website</p> <p>WFOŚiGW in Lublin, see website</p> <p>WFOŚiGW in Zielona Góra, see website</p> <p>WFOŚiGW in Łódź, see website</p> <p>WFOŚiGW in Kraków, see website</p> <p>WFOŚiGW in Opole, see website</p>	Nature protection, maintenance of parks and green areas	Grants, subsidised loans, other financing instruments are possible	Information about current calls for proposals for all the regional funds can be found on the websites dedicated to each regional (voivodeship) fund	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		WFOŚiGW in Rzeszów, see website				
		WFOŚiGW in Białystok, see website				
		WFOŚiGW in Gdańsk, see website				
		WFOŚiGW in Katowice, see website				
		WFOŚiGW in Kielce, see website				
		WFOŚiGW in Poznań, see website				
		WFOŚiGW in Olsztyn, see website				
		WFOŚiGW in Szczecin, see website				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
WWF Poland		Website	Biodiversity and forests protection	Project-based		
Foundation Wild Poland (Dzika Polska)		Website	Biodiversity and forests protection	Project-based		
Greenpeace Poland		Website	Biodiversity and forests protection	Project-based		

FINANCING SOURCES IN PORTUGAL

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EMFAF	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
GPP	Cabinet for Planning, Policies and General Administration (<i>Gabinete de Planeamento, Políticas e Administração Geral</i>)
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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Portugal has adopted a National Forestry Accounting Plan 2021-2025 setting the need to increase the rate of afforestation to 8,000 ha/year.

Portugal has a variety of funding sources that can potentially be used for tree-planting projects, including European Union (EU) funding from the Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the LIFE and Horizon Europe Programmes, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The most prominent national funding sources include the Portuguese National Environmental Fund and municipal funding.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Portugal. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Portugal and the European Commission have signed a Partnership Agreement, granting EUR 23 billion to support economic, social and territorial cohesion in Portugal in 2021-2027. The **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** is contributing EUR 11.5 billion, the **European Territorial Co-operation Fund** EUR 137 million, the **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** EUR 7.8 billion, the **Cohesion Fund** EUR 3.1 billion, the **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** EUR 224 million, and the **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)** EUR 393 million. The funding is used through 12 programmes - four thematic programmes, seven regional programmes, and the programme of technical assistance, in addition to the programmes for European Territorial Co-operation in which Portugal participates⁵⁶⁵.

The Cohesion Policy objective 'to promote

adaptation to climate change, disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches' is mentioned in several programmes. Under the Thematic Programme for Climate Action and Sustainability (in Portuguese, *Sustentável 2030*), one of the types of actions listed to achieve this objective is reforestation and territorial planning measures in the Autonomous Region of Madeira (especially in areas surrounding bodies of water), which could clearly be used for tree planting initiatives. The managing authority is the Managing Authority for the Climate Action Programme and Sustainability (*Autoridade de Gestão do Programa para a Ação Climática e Sustentabilidade*)⁵⁶⁶.

The ERDF objective 'to strengthen the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reduce all forms of pollution' is mentioned in all regional programmes. Several of the types of actions listed to achieve this objective in the Norte Regional Programme 2021-2027, the Centro Regional Programme 2021-2027, the Alentejo Regional Programme 2021-2027 could eventually be used for tree-planting initiatives. These actions include: recovery and protection of natural habitats and endangered species in an unfavourable state of conservation; recovery and protection of species and habitats foreseen in action and conservation plans, management plans of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Red Books; recovery of degraded ecosystems or those subject to severe impacts; reinforcement of the network of parks, green infrastructures and landscape units, valuing the diversity of spaces for reencountering nature and opening up new habitats and ecological niches; and creation and promotion of new spaces for nature conservation (e.g. new formal spaces, reinforcement of the European Rewilding Network). Similar actions are included in the Lisbon Regional Programme 2021-2027, the Algarve Regional Programme 2021-2017, the Azores Regional Programme 2021-2027, and the Madeira Regional Programme 2021-2017. The management authorities for the regional programmes are the relevant Commissions for

⁵⁶⁵ Partnership Agreement to support [economic, social and territorial cohesion in Portugal in 2021-2027](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/territorial-cohesion-in-portugal-in-2021-2027)

⁵⁶⁶ See: <https://poseur.portugal2020.pt/pt/media/not%C3%ADcias/sustent%C3%A1vel-2030-1%C2%BA-s-aviso>

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Coordination and Regional Development (*Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional*)⁵⁶⁷, in the Azores, the Regional Directorate for Planning and Structural Funds (*Direção Regional do Planeamento e Fundos Estruturais*)⁵⁶⁸, and in Madeira, the Institute of Regional Development (*Instituto de Desenvolvimento Regional*)⁵⁶⁹. Typically, the websites of the management authorities include practical information for applicants, including contacts, types of actions funded, calendar for the publication of calls, frequently asked questions, etc. (see summary table).

The dedicated website 'Portugal 2030' compiles information on all of the EU-funded programmes and plans⁵⁷⁰. It has a specific section for applicants – the Funds Desk (*Balcão dos Fundos*) – which allows registered users to access open notices, submit applications, check their account and the status of all operations, and access the smart search engine and contextual help⁵⁷¹. An app version of the website is available for download, while the Funds Helpline (*Linha dos Fundos*) provides all relevant information by phone⁵⁷².

Portugal's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan 2023-2027 targets the sustainable development of farming, food security, forestry and rural areas. It was approved by the European Commission on 31 August 2022. Forestry is a priority for Portugal and therefore, the Portuguese plan foresees more than 20 interventions related to forestry in Mainland, the Azores and Madeira supported with more than EUR 300 million. Concerning afforestation, agroforestry and restoring the forestry potential following natural disasters, including forest fires, the strategic plan foresees EUR 118 million for all these planting trees activities. Finally, it also foresees around EUR 150 million for forest fire prevention. There are four managing authorities for the CAP Strategic Plan, the coordination is done by the

Cabinet for Planning, Policies and General Administration (*Gabinete de Planeamento, Políticas e Administração Geral - GPP*) as the National Managing Authority, the Regional Management Authority – Mainland (*Autoridade de Gestão Regional – Continente*), the Regional Managing Authorities for the Azores and Madeira (*Autoridades de Gestão Regional for the Açores and Madeira*). The GPP website includes basic information about the CAP Strategic Plan, including priorities, intervention axis, and governance model⁵⁷³. It also includes a separate section on CAP in general, another on applications and results, as well as a downloadable guide for potential beneficiaries⁵⁷⁴. The CAP strategic plan also supports several interventions related to recovery and protection of natural habitats and endangered species, Natura 2000 forest areas, traditional landscapes and other forest-environmental commitments.



EU Funding sources under direct management

The **LIFE Programme** is another important source of funding for financing biodiversity action, related to tree planting. The Portuguese Environmental Agency (*Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente*)⁵⁷⁵ is responsible for its implementation. A dedicated website for LIFE funding contains general information on the programme, a list of current calls, a list of projects approved in the past, frequently asked questions, suggestions for ideas for calls, a database of possible partners, news and events, and a specific section for applicants⁵⁷⁶. In 2020, Portugal obtained funds for three projects, all from the area 'Nature and Biodiversity'. The calls for 2023 projects are now

⁵⁶⁷ See: [Norte Regional Programme 2021-2027](#), [Centro Regional Programme 2021-2027](#), [Lisbon and Tejo Valley, Alentejo Regional Programme](#) and [Algarve](#)

⁵⁶⁸ [Azores](#)

⁵⁶⁹ [Madeira](#)

⁵⁷⁰ [EU-funded programmes and plans in Portugal](#)

⁵⁷¹ [Funds Desk](#) (Balcão dos Fundos)

⁵⁷² [Funds Helpline](#) (Linha dos Fundos)

⁵⁷³ [GPP](#)

⁵⁷⁴ [Guide for potential beneficiaries](#)

⁵⁷⁵ [Portuguese Environmental Agency](#) (Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente)

⁵⁷⁶ [LIFE Portugal](#)

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open and can be accessed online⁵⁷⁷.

Funding from **Horizon Europe 2021-2027** may also be used for tree planting. The National Contact Point (NCP) for Horizon Europe is the National Agency for Innovation (*Agência Nacional de Inovação*)⁵⁷⁸. The Agency's website has a specific section on Horizon Europe, with basic information, alerts, news and events.

Portugal's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) consists of 83 investments and 32 reforms, which will be supported by EUR 13.9 billion in grants and EUR 2.7 billion in loans. One of the objectives of the Plan could be relevant for tree-planting initiatives – 'to protect biodiversity and value the natural capital of territories and the services provided by ecosystems, supporting the restoration, recovery and rehabilitation of agricultural and forest ecosystems, in particular in burnt areas and classified areas, and affirming and valuing biodiversity as a territorial asset'. The management authority is Recovery Portugal (*Recuperar Portugal*)⁵⁷⁹, together with the Agency for Development and Cohesion (*Agência para o Desenvolvimento e Coesão*)⁵⁸⁰. A dedicated website has detailed information for applicants, frequently asked questions, calendar of calls, news, and a section to submit applications online. Some of the sections of the website are also available in English⁵⁸¹.



National funding sources

The **Portuguese Environmental Fund** (*Fundo Ambiental*) was created in 2017 by Decree-Law 42-A/2016 of 12 August. In 2021, the Environmental Fund incorporated other funds, such as the Permanent Forest Fund, the Innovation Support Fund, the Energy Efficiency

Fund, and the Fund for the Systemic Sustainability of the Energy Sector. The purpose of the Environmental Fund is to support environmental policies and climate action for the pursuit of sustainable development of Portugal, contributing to the fulfilment of national and international goals and commitments, including those related to biodiversity, nature conservation and forestry. The Environmental Fund serves to finance organisations, activities or projects related to sustainable forest management (among other things). The management authority is the Secretariat-General of Environment (*Secretaria-Geral do Ambiente*)⁵⁸². The annual plan, defined by order of the government member responsible for environment and climate action, includes a programme of notices for submitting applications for some or all types of support. The Environmental Fund's budget for 2023 is EUR 1.2 billion⁵⁸³. In January 2023, it was announced that the Environmental Fund would pay up to EUR 160 per acre to plant slow-growing trees in areas more vulnerable to forest fires⁵⁸⁴. A dedicated website has basic information, news and events, open calls and past projects⁵⁸⁵.

Some Portuguese cities implement their own policies and programmes focusing on biodiversity protection and tree planting. For example, the city of Cascais runs the **Oxigenio programme** for the promotion and defence of nature and biodiversity, carried out through voluntary actions. Between 2008 and 2018, more than 500 actions were organised, resulting in a total of around 49,000 plants planted and interventions in over 15 hectares. The programme is organised around three forms of participation: 'Give', which allows participants to sponsor the planting of one (EUR 8), five (EUR 30) or 10 trees (EUR 50), for which they are awarded a certificate, 'Get involved', which allows participants to contribute to the recovery of forests (among other actions), and 'Commit', which allows companies to become responsible for the maintenance of a certain area of a natural space for a period of five years (more

⁵⁷⁷ [Calls for 2023 projects](#)

⁵⁷⁸ [National Contact Point](#) (NCP) for Horizon Europe

⁵⁷⁹ [Portugal's Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) (RRP)

⁵⁸⁰ [Agency for Development and Cohesion](#) (*Agência para o Desenvolvimento e Coesão*)

⁵⁸¹ [Applicants information](#)

⁵⁸² [Secretariat-General of Environment](#) (*Secretaria-Geral do Ambiente*)

⁵⁸³ [Environmental Fund's budget](#)

⁵⁸⁴ [Slow-growing trees in areas more vulnerable to forest fires](#)

⁵⁸⁵ [Fundo Ambiental](#)

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than 50 companies are now involved). All of the information is available at the programme website⁵⁸⁶.



Innovative funding sources

Green bonds remain exclusively for private companies. Some of the largest Portuguese companies, such as EDP (energy production), Greenvolt (renewable energy), Grupo Pestana (hotels) and Caixa Geral de Depósitos (banking sector), have issued green bonds in the recent years, but these target specific investments not directly related to tree planting⁵⁸⁷. In January 2023, the government announced that it is preparing the first emission of **State green bonds**. The Secretary of State for Finance stated that the 'emission must correspond in substance to green projects' but no further details were provided⁵⁸⁸.

Crowdfunding is often used for environment-related projects. The most popular Portuguese crowdfunding platform (ppl.pt) has a long list of successfully funded past projects, including some directly related to tree-planting activities (e.g. a project to plant and preserve large trees in Lousada⁵⁸⁹, another for the construction of a dome in Arrábida to serve as a nursery for tree species native to the region⁵⁹⁰). At present, no projects are being funded.

Payment for ecosystem services (PES) is foreseen in the National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030 (*Estratégia Nacional de Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade 2030*), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 55/2018 of 7 May⁵⁹¹. The first phase of the remuneration programme for ecosystem services in rural areas was launched by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 121/2019 of 30 July⁵⁹². Its objective is to remunerate owners for

services provided by ecosystems, through the adoption of measures that allow restoration, valuation and protection of biodiversity in defined areas. The programme is to be implemented from 2019 to 2038 in two protected areas – the Tejo Internacional Natural Park and the Serra do Açor Protected Landscape – and is funded by the Environmental Fund up to a maximum of EUR 3,737,705.



Other funding sources

Launched in 2021, the project '**Alem Risco**' is primarily sponsored by the **Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Grants, the Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian and the Comunidade Intermunicipal do Alentejo Central** and aims to develop new concepts for the planning and management of green spaces⁵⁹³. This project foresees the planting of more than 50,000 trees in the city of Évora and its surroundings, as a way to combat the effects of climate change by providing 'islands of shade'. Some 20,000 trees will be distributed for free to citizens who want to plant them. The project was set to run for a period of two years, and by April 2023, the objective of planting more than 50,000 trees had been surpassed.

⁵⁸⁶ [Ambiente Cascais](#)

⁵⁸⁷ [Green bonds in Portugal](#)

⁵⁸⁸ [State green bonds](#)

⁵⁸⁹ Crowdfunding platform - [Lousada project](#)

⁵⁹⁰ Crowdfunding platform - [Arrábida project](#)

⁵⁹¹ [Payment for ecosystem services \(PES\)](#)

⁵⁹² First phase of the [remuneration programme for ecosystem services in rural areas](#)

⁵⁹³ '[Alem Risco](#)' project

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF - Thematic Programme for Climate Action and Sustainability	Managing Authority for the Climate Action Programme and Sustainability	Website	Climate action and sustainability	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Reforestation and territorial planning measures
ERDF - Norte Regional Programme 2021-2027	Commission for Coordination and Regional Development North	Website and website	Regional development, including environmental issues	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Recovery and protection of natural habitats, creation and promotion of new spaces for nature conservation
ERDF - Centre Regional Programme 2021-2027	Commission for Coordination and Regional Development Centre	Website and website	Regional development, including environmental issues	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Recovery and protection of natural habitats, creation and promotion of new spaces for nature conservation
ERDF - Lisbon Regional Programme	Commission for Coordination and Regional	Website and	Regional development, including environmental	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Actions for planning and valuing the metropolitan

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
2021-2027	Development Lisbon and Tagus Valley	website	issues			green infrastructure, creation of urban gardens or vertical gardens
ERDF - Alentejo Regional Programme 2021-2027	Commission for Coordination and Regional Development Alentejo	Website and website	Regional development, including environmental issues	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Recovery and protection of natural habitats, creation and promotion of new spaces for nature conservation
ERDF - Algarve Regional Programme 2021-2027	Commission for Coordination and Regional Development Algarve	Website and website	Regional development, including environmental issues	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Recovery of degraded ecosystems
ERDF - Azores Regional Programme 2021-2027	Regional Directorate for Planning and Structural Funds	Website and website	Regional development, including environmental issues	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Conservation of nature, biodiversity and natural heritage, namely green infrastructures
ERDF - Madeira Regional Programme 2021-2027	Institute of Regional Development	Website and website	Regional development, including environmental issues	Grants, financial instruments	2021-2027	Conservation of forest spaces, including landscape recovery

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
CAP Strategic Plan of Portugal for 2023-2027	Cabinet for Planning, Policies and General Administration	Website	Support for agriculture, including forestry	Grants, financial instruments	2023-2027	Restoring forestry potential following natural disasters, including forest fires
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Portuguese Environmental Agency	Website	Biodiversity, nature, climate	Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	-
Horizon Europe	National Agency for Innovation	Website	Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment	Grants	2021-2027	-
RRF	Recovery Portugal	Website	Resilience, climate transition	Grants, financial instruments	2020-2026	Restoration, recovery and rehabilitation of agricultural and forest ecosystems, in particular in burnt areas and classified areas
National funding						
Portuguese Environment	Secretariat-General of	Website and	Environmental issues	Grants, financial	Annual basis	Sustainable forest management,

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
al Fund	Environment	website		instruments		planting slow-growing trees in areas vulnerable to forest fires
Oxigenio	City of Cascais	Website	Promotion and defence of nature and biodiversity	n/a	Undetermined	Tree planting, maintenance of green spaces
Other sources of funding						
Alem risco	Alem risco	Website	Planning and management of green spaces	n/a	2021-2023	Tree planting, maintenance of green spaces

FINANCING SOURCES IN ROMANIA

Abbreviations used

AM PDD	Managing Authority for the Sustainable Development Programme
APIA	Agricultural Payments and Intervention Agency
BCR	Commercial Bank of Romania
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CF	Cohesion Fund
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDFESF+JTF	European Regional Development FundEuropean Social Fund PlusJust Transition Fund
MCID	Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation
NCP	National Contact Points
NRRP	National Resilience and Recovery Plan
PES	Payment of ecosystem services
PNS	National Strategic Plan
RDA	Regional Developing Agency
PODD	Sustainable Development Programme
POIM	Large Infrastructure Programme
POR	Regional Programme
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
UEFISCDI	Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation



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Romania's forests cover is of 27% of its territory, which is included in the National Forestry fund to which the forestry regime applies. In 2022, the government approved the [National Strategy for Forests](#) and is working towards the reform of the country's Forestry Code.

At national level, the Environment Fund is the main source of support for the implementation of environmental protection projects and programmes. Biodiversity and tree-planting initiatives can also be financed from the local public administrations' budget.

In Romania, projects concerning biodiversity, climate and nature protection are mainly funded from EU funding sources under shared management, namely the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and the 'Next Generation EU' funding via the National Resilience and Recovery Plan (NRRP). Synergies between the funding sources are envisaged, with the Ministry of Investment and European Projects monitoring the implementation of the NRRP as well as the relevant programmes funded from the ERDF. This functional arrangement aims to avoid situations of overlapping or duplication of funding, and to facilitate coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in charge of implementing the National Strategic Plan under the 2023-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), funded by the EAGF and the EAFRD⁵⁹⁴. In addition, a limited number of projects are funded from EU funding sources under direct management, such as the LIFE and Horizon Europe programmes. Innovative funding sources are not widespread in Romania. The financing system through green bonds or payments for ecosystem services is not well developed.

More information about the specific categories of funding instruments and some relevant examples can be found in the sections below. These sections are followed by a summary table, which includes practical links and contact information allowing the potential beneficiaries to identify suitable financing sources for their tree planting initiatives.



EU Funding sources under shared management

In the period 2021-2027, the Cohesion Policy is implemented in Romania through nine Programmes, financed by the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), and the Just Transition Fund (JTF)⁵⁹⁵. However, out of these, mainly the Sustainable Development Programme (*Programul Operațional Dezvoltare Durabilă*, PODO) and the Regional Programmes (*Programele Operaționale Regionale*, POR) include specific objectives on biodiversity and nature protection. They are financed from the ERDF.

One of the priorities under the **Sustainable Development Programme**⁵⁹⁶ is environmental protection through biodiversity conservation and it aims to finance the conservation of biodiversity in Natura 2000 areas and degraded ecosystems⁵⁹⁷. It is the continuation of a similar priority under the Large Infrastructure Programme 2014-2020 (*Programul Operațional Infrastructură Mare*, POIM). The Managing Authority of the POIM 2014-2020 will act as the Managing Authority for the Sustainable Development Programme (AM PDD), organised within the Ministry of Investments and European Projects. Examples from the previous funding period include projects implemented by the Babeș-Bolyai University in partnership with the

⁵⁹⁴ [National Strategic Plan CAP 2023-2027](#), p. 269-270

⁵⁹⁵ Sustainable Development Programme (*Programul Operațional Dezvoltare Durabilă*, PODO); Transport Programme (*Programul Operațional Transport*, POT); Smart Growth, Digitisation and Financial Instruments Programme (*Programul Operațional Creștere Inteligentă, Digitalizare și Instrumente Financiare*, POCIDIF); Education and Employment Programme (*Programul Operațional Educație și Ocupare*, POEO); Just Transition Programme (*Programul Operațional*

Tranziție Justă, POTJ); Health Programme (*Program Operațional Sănătate*, POS); Regional Programmes (*Programele Operaționale Regionale*, POR); and Technical Assistance Programme (*Programul Operațional Asistență Tehnică*, POAT).

⁵⁹⁶ As [approved](#) by the European Commission

⁵⁹⁷ Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIEP), [The Cohesion Policy](#), p.38

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National Agency for Protected Natural Areas, on the development of management plans for certain Natura 2000 sites and protected natural areas, which allow for the conservation of biodiversity for as long as possible, and the restoration of degraded ecosystems (afforestation, ecological corridors, etc.)⁵⁹⁸.

As part of the Sustainable Development Programme, the **Regional Programmes** are implemented at eight regional levels (North-East, South-East, South-Muntenia, Bucharest-Ilfov, Centre, South-West Oltenia, West and North-West) and are managed by development agencies. These programmes will finance, among others, the regeneration of degraded urban spaces, including actions promoting green infrastructure in urban areas and modernisation and expansion of other urban spaces⁵⁹⁹ (e.g. parks, urban forests, urban gardens), but also planting of tree and shrub alignments along road infrastructures⁶⁰⁰.

Though not as a direct priority, the **Transport Programme** also envisages investments to be accompanied by nature and biodiversity protection measures (green infrastructure) directly linked to road and rail transport infrastructure⁶⁰¹. The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, through the Directorate-General for European Transport Programmes, will be in charge of this programme.

Under the above programmes, calls for funding will be launched starting from 2023 on the websites of the relevant management authorities and development agencies. In addition, the Development Consulting Group DCG (*Grupul de Consultanță pentru Dezvoltare* DCG) runs a project with the website www.fonduri-structurale.ro, where interested parties can search for active European funding opportunities, filtering the selection based on the type of organisation (e.g., NGOs, local or central public authorities, companies, universities, etc.), area of financing (e.g., environment), and sub-area (e.g., protection and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems)⁶⁰². Funding guides are also

published here.

The **2023-2027 Common Agricultural Policy** (CAP) is implemented in Romania through a **National Strategic Plan** (*Plan Național Strategic*, PNS)⁶⁰³. Among others, the PNS supports active farmers, including those from small farms (traditional households), who voluntarily undertake agricultural practices that are beneficial to the environment, fulfilling general mandatory requirements and specific conditions. This latter is at the choice of the farmers, and includes the commitment of planting two trees/ha/year. Direct compensatory payments are made at the application of farmers, and the scheme is applied per hectares of land on which agricultural activity is carried out. This eco-scheme is funded by the **European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)**.

In addition, investments are funded from the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** supporting rural development. This includes non-productive investments made by farmers (legal person), aiming for the creation of natural protective curtains for crops, in order to protect them against climatic factors and to increase biodiversity. Furthermore, financial support continues to be provided to beneficiaries who have made commitments for afforestation (maintenance and care of wooded areas) under the previous financing programmes (National Plans for Rural Development 2014 - 2020 and 2007 – 2013). Periodic calls for applications and selection of applicants have been made by the Agricultural Payments and Intervention Agency (APIA) which operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (this latter also has in its structure the Managing Authority in charge of implementation of the CAP National Strategic Plan). Examples of projects financed under the previous measure, supporting investments for the development of afforested areas and improvement of forest viability, are published on the APIA's website⁶⁰⁴.

⁵⁹⁸ See for instance [POIM 124453](#) and [POIM 119707](#)

⁵⁹⁹ Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIEP), [The Cohesion Policy](#), p.38

⁶⁰⁰ See for instance the [Centre Regional Programme](#)

⁶⁰¹ [Transport Programme 2021-2027](#) – as approved

⁶⁰² See <https://www.fonduri-structurale.ro/ghid-finantare>.

⁶⁰³ [National Strategic Plan CAP 2023-2027](#), as approved

⁶⁰⁴ See [Măsurile delegate din PNDR \(2014 – 2020\)](#).

Projects selected under a 2021 call see this [website](#).

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EU Funding sources under direct management

The national contact point for **LIFE programme** in Romania is the Directorate for Accessing External Funds within the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests. A relevant project funded from LIFE in Romania is LIFE CARPATHIA – Creation of a Wilderness Reserve in the Southern Carpathian Mountains, LIFE18 NAT/RO/001082. This includes activities on restoration of natural forests, spruce monocultures and degraded land⁶⁰⁵.

For the **Horizon Europe** programme, the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation (MCID) coordinates a team of National Contact Points (NCP), covering different areas of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, including 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'⁶⁰⁶. The NCP for this area is the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), which participates, for instance, in the Biodiversa+ project, bringing together 75 research and funding programmes and environmental policy actors from 37 European countries. Under this project, calls for proposals have been launched, for instance for transnational research on "Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem protection on land and at sea". In 2021, two proposals were funded in Romania within this call⁶⁰⁷.

Regarding the funding available from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)** provides a generous allocation for tree planting⁶⁰⁸. The NRRP foresees a national campaign for afforestation and reforestation of a total of 56 700 ha of new areas, and the creation of a total of 3 150 000 m² of new urban forest areas⁶⁰⁹. The financing programme will be available until 2026

through a state aid scheme, providing support to public and private owners of land suitable for afforestation (e.g., degraded land, agricultural land, etc.)⁶¹⁰. This aid scheme is supporting by an other aid scheme, for set-up, developing and modernizing tree nurseries



National funding sources

The first national funding programme was implemented by Law no. 18/1991, when it was the **Amelioration Fund** was created, and then split into sub-funds including **Forestry Amelioration Fund** with the aim to finance afforestation on degraded lands. This funding form has a specific destination, firstly established by Ministerial Order no. 499/2003 modified by Orders 2353/2012 and 1337/2022. It is managed by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests and until the end of 2023, through this funding source more than 46,000 ha new forests were created.

Another national funding source was set-up by the Law no. 46/2008 (Forestry Code) which implemented the „**Conservation and Regeneration Fund**”, applicable only for the forests, in order to assure the reforestation of the forest lands. This fund is established at the level of each forest owner and is managed by the forest administration structures.

The **Environment Fund Administration** is the main institution providing financial support from the Environment Fund for the implementation of environmental protection projects and programmes, set up according to the European principles of "polluter pays" and "producer responsibility"⁶¹¹. The Environment Fund is made from a series of taxes and contributions that obliged entities must pay, either for not fulfilling certain environmental obligation, or for assuming the "polluter pays" principle. In the period 2010-

⁶⁰⁵ [LIFE CARPATHIA](#) – Creation of a Wilderness Reserve in the Southern Carpathian Mountains

⁶⁰⁶ See list on the [website](#) of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation, as well as on the [website](#) of the European Commission.

⁶⁰⁷ [UEFISCDI](#)

⁶⁰⁸ [National Strategic Plan CAP 2023-2027](#)

⁶⁰⁹ [Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) approved by the EU Council (28 October 2021), Part II. Component 2 - Forests and biodiversity protection

⁶¹⁰ For call for projects, funding guides and list of selected projects see the [website](#) of Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests

⁶¹¹ [Environment Fund Administration](#)

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2017, the Environment Fund Administration used to run a National Afforestation Programme, available for local and regional authorities; however, this programme is no longer available. Among the current programmes, only an environmental education and public awareness raising programme provides funding for projects involving young people and addressing environmental issues, such as the protection of biodiversity and of natural areas, illegal logging of forests, etc.

Furthermore, biodiversity and tree-planting initiatives can also be financed from **local public budgets**. For instance, the Oradea City Hall set up a programme for planting 500 trees of native species in the city⁶¹².

Moreover, several NGOs run tree-planting campaigns and reforestation actions, with the participation of volunteers, and financial support of corporations and private donors⁶¹³. In Romania, in addition to private donations/sponsoring, companies can redirect 20 % of their corporate income tax to NGOs, while individuals can do the same with 3.5 % of their income tax. As part of their corporate social responsibility strategies, companies can also directly support afforestation actions⁶¹⁴.



Innovative funding sources

In Romania, financing through **green bonds** has so far only been a pioneering act by a few companies, such as Impact Developer&Contractor,

Raiffeisen Bank and BCR (Commercial Bank of Romania). However, no projects targeting biodiversity protection or planting of trees/afforestation financed by such sources have been identified through desk research. Existing initiatives mainly aim to finance renewable energy projects, 'green buildings', ecological transport and agriculture, pollution prevention, circular economy, etc.⁶¹⁵.

Payments for ecosystem services (PES) made by direct or indirect beneficiaries of the forest ecosystem services are transferred to the Forestry Land Improvement Fund⁶¹⁶. The Ministry of the Environment and Forests prepares and approves the list of investment objectives financed from this Fund. The design and execution of works for implementing the investment objectives are carried out in accordance with the public procurement regulations. Works of improvement and enhancement by afforestation of degraded lands are carried out by legal persons certified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests⁶¹⁷. However, concerns were raised regarding the ecosystem services evaluation and the legal framework for the approval of a long-term system of payments⁶¹⁸.

Crowdfunding initiatives for tree planting/afforestation also exist in Romania, for instance through the Galantom.ro online platform. Money is raised through e.g., sports events, personal challenges, birthdays or other special events in order to support social projects/initiatives of NGOs⁶¹⁹.

⁶¹² See [project information](#) on the Oradea City Hall website

⁶¹³ See for instance the campaign 'We Plant Good Deeds in Romania' (*Plantăm Fapte Bune în România*) run by EcoAssist Association; campaign 'Adopt-a-Tree' (*Adoptă un copac!*) by Viitor Plus Association; different initiatives run by the [MaiMultVerde Association](#), [Children's Forest Association](#) or the [Association Act for Tomorrow](#).

⁶¹⁴ See for example the afforestation initiative 'Romania plants for tomorrow' (*România plantează pentru mâine*) of the energy company OMV Petrom, implemented in collaboration with NGOs (Act for Tomorrow, Mai Mult Verde, Plantăm fapte bune în România, Pădurea Copiilor, Viitor Plus and Asociația Parcul Natural Văcărești).

⁶¹⁵ See for example Raiffeisen Bank, What you need to know about green bonds ([Ce trebuie să știm despre obligațiunile](#)

[verzi](#)); [Paginadesustenabilitate.ro](#), Romania's National Day. Green bonds worth over 1.2 billion lei sold by Romanian companies on the BVB in 2022 (*Ziua Națională a României. Obligațiuni verzi de peste 1,2 miliarde de lei, vândute de companii românești pe BVB în 2022*), 30 November 2022.

⁶¹⁶ Article 11, litter e) of the 2008 Forestry Code.

⁶¹⁷ Methodological norm regarding the establishment and use of the Forestry Land Improvement Fund from 14.06.2012, integral part of Order no. 2353/2012 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

⁶¹⁸ Drăgoi M., Cîrnu M., Payments for ecosystem services: legal framework and classical evaluation methods, with an application to forests, *Bucovina Forestieră* 16(1): 95-106, 2016.

⁶¹⁹ See more at <https://galantom.ro/>.

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding						
ERDF	The Managing Authority of the Large-Scale Infrastructure Programme 2014-2020 (POIM) will act as the Managing Authority for the Sustainable Development Programme (AM PDD), within the Ministry of Investments and European Projects and the 8 regional developing agencies (North-East RDA, South-East RDA, South-Muntenia RDA, Bucharest-Ilfov RDA,	Website and website E-mail: secretariat.dg.pim@mfe.gov.ro adrnordest@adrnordest.ro adrse@adrse.ro office@adrmuntenia.ro contact@adrbir.ro office@adrcenru.ro office@adroltenia.ro office@adrvest.ro secretariat@nord-vest.ro	Environmental protection through biodiversity conservation	grants	2021-2027	Projects implemented by the Babeş-Bolyai University in partnership with the National Agency for Protected Natural Areas

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Centre RDA, South-West RDA, West RDA, North-West RDA)					
EAGF and EAFRD	Management Authority for the CAP National Strategic Plan (AM PNS) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Website Contact details are only available for the Management Authority of the previous financing programme: Directorate-General for Rural Development - AM PNDR E-mail: pndr@madr.ro	Promoting biodiversity and green infrastructure	Direct payment schemes and investments through grants	2023-2027	Afforestation projects financed under the previous rural development programme
RRF (Next Generation EU via the NRRP)	Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests through the Directorate General National Recovery and Resilience Plan	Website E-mail: dgpnrr@mme.diu.ro	Afforestation and biodiversity protection	State aid scheme	2022-2026	Projects financed within the national campaign for afforestation and reforestation

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
LIFE	Directorate for Accessing External Funds within the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests	Website	Nature and biodiversity	Grants	2021-2027	LIFE CARPATHIA – Creation of a Wilderness Reserve in the Southern Carpathian Mountains, Romania LIFE18 NAT/RO/0010 82
Horizon Europe	Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation	List of NCPs	Innovative projects, including projects related to agriculture, environment and biodiversity	Grants	2021-2027	Biodiversa+ project
National funding						
Environment Fund	Environment Fund Administration	Website E-mail: relatiicupublicul@afm.ro	Environmental protection	Grants	Among the currently running programmes, only an environmental education and public awareness raising programme is relevant for biodiversity protection.	National Afforestation Programme 2010-2017

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Amelioration Fund	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	www.mmediu.ro E-mail: registratura@mmediu.ro	Afforestation of degraded lands	Grants	permanent	

FINANCING SOURCES IN SLOVAKIA

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
GHG	Greenhouse gas
JTF	Just Transition Fund
NCP	National Contact Point
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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Slovakia has a range of funding options available for initiatives focused on biodiversity, nature conservation, and climate protection. These options include European Union (EU) funding, national and regional funds, funding from different foundations or private donors, and other innovative financing sources.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is one of the most significant sources of funding for environmental investments in the 2021-2027 period. In addition to Cohesion Policy, Slovakia also offers other EU funding opportunities, such as the LIFE and Horizon Programmes. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is another crucial source of funding for nature protection, especially for initiatives to plant trees and shrubs in the context of agriculture and rural development.

At EU level, the Danube Region Strategy may provide funding for biodiversity-related initiatives, despite not being its primary focus.

At national level, the most important source of funding is the Environment Fund. Several foundations, such as the Ekopolis Foundation also provide funding for biodiversity-related initiatives.

Innovative financing sources, such as green municipal and corporate bonds, as well as crowdfunding, are still developing. Green bonds are, however, becoming increasingly popular and are issued by a number of banks.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Slovakia. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

EU **Cohesion Policy** funding (consisting of **ERDF, Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** and the **Just Transition Fund (JTF)**) represents a significant source of funding for environmental, climate and biodiversity initiatives. For the period 2021-2027, the European Commission has adopted a EUR 12.8 billion agreement with Slovakia. Cohesion Policy is implemented through a single Programme containing seven key priorities agreed with the Commission. Relevant priority areas include: (i) focus on green Slovakia (EUR 4.2 billion) and (ii) JTF (EUR 459 million)⁶²⁰. The Programme is managed by the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic⁶²¹, which also provides funding for projects related to key areas of interest, such as the Cohesion Fund-supported 'Zelene Obce', which conserved and restored biodiversity and ecosystems outside protected areas.

For rural development in Slovakia during the period 2023-2027, through the **EAFRD**, the European Commission has approved Slovakia's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan, worth EUR 3.3 billion. Slovakia's Plan focuses on increasing the competitiveness and resilience of its agricultural sector, while protecting natural resources. An additional annual support of EUR 370 million will be provided to Slovak farmers in areas facing natural constraints, which accounts for 61% of Slovak agricultural land. A significant portion of the CAP allocation (EUR 614 million) will target initiatives to address climate change, safeguard natural resources, and boost biodiversity. Slovakia is set to implement measures that will allow agriculture to adapt to the effects of climate change, including the establishment of irrigation and water retention systems and planting trees. The CAP Strategic Plan includes the rehabilitation of forests and the promotion of nature-friendly forest management,

⁶²⁰ [Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\) and the Just Transition Fund \(JTF\)](#)

⁶²¹ [Managing authorities of the Programme](#))

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with investments aimed at minimising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions⁶²².



EU Funding sources under direct management

Since its launch, the LIFE Programme has supported 49 projects in Slovakia. The total project costs amounted to EUR 136 million, of which the EU provided EUR 77 million⁶²³. The Ministry of Environment – Directorate for Environmental Programmes and Projects⁶²⁴ is the National Contact Point (NCP) for LIFE in Slovakia. Eleven LIFE projects are ongoing, for example the project 'Climate-Smart Forest Management for Central and Eastern Europe', focusing on inclusion of climate smart forestry measures or increasing awareness of importance of sustainable forest management practices⁶²⁵.

The implementation of **Horizon Europe projects** is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (see summary table). However, Horizon projects mainly focus on research and innovation, thus most may not be entirely relevant for tree planting.

At EU level, the Danube Region Strategy (*Dunajska Strategia*) focuses on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The focus is on deepening cooperation and tackling common problems of the countries of the Danube region, as well as more efficient use of existing resources. Although biodiversity protection is not its main focus, it is possible to obtain funding for projects that contribute to an environmentally and energetically responsible Danube region. The NCP for this initiative is the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic⁶²⁶.

Finally, under the EU **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, Slovakia allocated EUR 6.3 billion

towards its National Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), which is centered around five key priorities: (i) education, (ii) digitalisation, (iii) research and innovation, (iv) green economics, and (v) better health. Green economics focuses on climate change adaptation and aims to increase the resilience of ecosystems and human settlements to the negative impacts of climate change. Measures include reforming water management, landscape management, nature conservation, and biodiversity conservation, and investing in green infrastructure, including planting green spaces. The RRP emphasises measures in the forestry sector to promote tree planting and increase the proportion of forested land, with the rehabilitation of forests and promotion of nature-friendly forest management as key components. It also seeks to increase the amount of greenery in built-up areas, with a focus on increasing the proportion of semi-permeable and permeable surfaces to increase the adaptive capacity of settlements⁶²⁷.



National funding sources

One of the most relevant national funding sources is the **Environmental Fund**, administered by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. Applications can be submitted through the website of the Agency⁶²⁸. The funding usually comes in the form of grants, with loans also possible. More than EUR 20.3 million was allocated for the fund in 2023, implemented by the Slovak Environmental Agency. Applications can be submitted through the website of the Agency⁶²⁹.

An important funding programme at national level is the **Programme Obnovy Dediny** (the Village Renewal Programme), financed by the Environment Fund and managed by the Slovak Environmental Agency. Applications can be

⁶²² [Slovakia's Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) Strategic Plan and Documents relating to the approval of the CAP Strategic Plans](#)

⁶²³ See the information provided in country [factsheet](#)

⁶²⁴ NCPs - [National contact points Nature & Biodiversity](#)

⁶²⁵ [Project objectives](#)

⁶²⁶ [Danube Region Strategy \(Dunajska Strategia\)](#)

⁶²⁷ [EU Recovery and Resilience Facility \(RRF\)](#)

⁶²⁸ [Environmental Fund](#)

⁶²⁹ [Environmental Fund](#)

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submitted through a dedicated web portal⁶³⁰. The funding comes in the form of a grant, to a maximum of EUR 8,000. The project Planting of greenery and revitalisation of MS Park in Luc na Ostrove (*Vysadba zelene a revitalizacia parku MS in Luc na Ostrove*), for example, aimed to build new green infrastructure and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

In Slovakia, **foundations** represent an important source of financing for biodiversity-related projects. Ekopolis is the main foundation providing funding for projects related to tree planting and biodiversity. One of the biggest tree planting initiatives, 'We are planting the future' (*Sadime Buducnost*) coordinated by Ekopolis foundation. The foundation obtains its funding from corporate, foundation and private donors' donations.

The VSE foundation recently closed applications for the grant programme 'For a healthy and clean country' (*Za zdravý a čistý kraj*), which aimed to improve the environment and mitigate the adverse consequences of climate change. Although currently closed, future initiatives may be posted on the VSE's website (see summary table). Other relevant foundations providing funding for biodiversity and tree-planting initiatives include *Slovenska Sportelna* Foundation, Foundation Veolia Slovakia (see summary table).

funding are not widely used and comprehensive information on their use is not available.



Innovative funding sources

Innovative funding sources in Slovakia are still developing. However, the market for green equity is on the rise. In 2021, Tatra Banka, one of the biggest banks in Slovakia, procured the first issue of **green bonds**, with a total value of EUR 300 million. There was a great interest among investors, as evidenced by the fact that the demand for the bonds was twice the supply. More than 50 institutional investors expressed interest. In order to meet the demand, Tatra Banka followed up the initiative with a new issue of almost EUR 220 million. To date, alternative methods of

⁶³⁰ [Programme Obnovy Dediny](#)

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Ministry of Environment - Directorate for Environmental Programmes and Projects	Website	Nature protection, afforestation, natural risk prevention, tourism, energy transition	Mostly grants, other financial instruments such as loans or loan guarantees are also possible	For the financing period 2021-2027, there is only one programme, with seven key priority areas, including just transition and green Slovakia	Promoting biodiversity through green infrastructure in municipalities in Slovakia - Green municipalities funding of EUR 7,000,000 The project aims to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems outside protected areas, see website https://zeleneo bce.sk/
EAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Website	Agro-forestry, enhancing biodiversity in forests owned by farmers,	Grants		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			planting trees and shrubs			
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	Ministry of Environment - Directorate for Environmental Programmes and Projects	Ministry of Environment - Directorate for Environmental Programmes and Projects, see website	Nature protection and climate protection	Grants		'Climate-Smart Forest Management for Central and Eastern Europe', see website
HORIZON Europe	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.	horizont@cvti.sk	Innovative projects, including projects related to climate protection and health	Grants		
RRF	Úrad vlády Slovenskej republiky Námestie slobody 1 813 70 Bratislava	Website Email: planobnovy@vlada.gov.sk	Climate change adaptation, tree planting, afforestation	Grants, loans		
National funding						
Environmental Fund	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	Website	Climate change adaptation, energy transition, biodiversity protection,	Grants		Village Renewal Programme, https://www.obnovadedy.sk/en/ Green

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			environmental protection			education Fund, https://zelenyvzdelavacifond.sk/ Nature conservation programme https://envirofond.sk/program-ochrany-prirody-pop/
Foundation	Ekopolis Foundation	Website	Depends on open initiative	Grants		<i>Sadime budúcnosť</i> (We are planting the future) https://sadimebuducnost.sk/ Zelené oázy (Green oasis) https://oazy.sk
Foundation	ZSE Foundation	https://nadaciazse.sk	Zmierňovanie ekologickej a klimateckej krízy, znižovanie uhlíkovej stopy (climate change adaptation, reducing carbon footprint)	Grants		<i>Mením na zeleň (I change to green)</i> https://nadaciazse.sk/projekt/menim-na-zelen

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Foundation	VSE Foundation	Website	Depends on open initiative	Grants		<i>Za zdravý a čistý kraj</i> (For a healthy and clean county)
Foundation	Slovenska Športná Foundation	Website	Depends on open initiative	Grants		<i>Program Pre budúcnosť</i> (Programme For the future)
Foundation	Foundation Veolia Slovakia	Website	Depends on open initiative	Grants		<i>Sadíme budúcnosť</i> (We are planting the future), in cooperation with Ekopolis Foundation)
Foundation	Foundation VÚB	https://www.nadaciavub.sk/envirogranty/	Depends on open initiative	Grants		<i>Program Envirogranty</i>
Foundation	Slovnaft a.s.		Depends on open initiative	Grants		<i>Zelené oázy</i> (Green osasis) (in cooperation with Ekopolis foundation)

FINANCING SOURCES IN SLOVENIA

Abbreviations used

ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
SFS	Slovenian Forestry Service
CAFS	Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia
SRDF	Slovenian Regional Development Fund



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Financing for projects concerning biodiversity, climate and nature is mostly covered with a mix of sources including national budget via relevant funds (climate fund, forestry fund, water fund and others) and via a variety of EU funds, depending on the topic.

Projects that include tree planting initiatives are most likely to be supported through LIFE financing. Other funds, such as cohesion policy, CAP (and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)) provide, in absolute amount, a significant amount of funding. However, projects that would include tree planting, or projects of which tree planting is a major component, are less likely to be financed through these sources.

In this sense, EU funding is integral to ensuring these projects are implemented. The use of innovative mechanisms is limited. Mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services are in their infancy; however, various pilot projects are exploring possibilities to address these needs that are more and more systemically prevalent.

The following sections provide brief information about funding opportunities potentially relevant for tree planting in Slovenia separated into EU funding sources under shared management, EU funding sources under direct management, national funding sources, and innovative funding sources. These sections are followed with a summary table, which includes practical links and contact information allowing the potential beneficiaries to identify suitable financing sources for their tree planting initiatives.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Based on Slovenia's cohesion programme and the document Program evropske kohezijske politike v obdobju 2021-2027 v Sloveniji, v.4.2.2. (Ministry for Cohesion and Regional Development)

⁶³¹ [Program evropske kohezijske politike v obdobju 2021-2027 v Sloveniji, v.4.2.2., Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development](#)

Cohesion Fund will finance measures that can include tree planting as part of policy objective 2. This will include preserving biodiversity, green infrastructure in urban environments, and green infrastructure as part of climate change adaptation (with a planned allocation of EUR 49 million in RSO2.4). Similar topics will be financed through the **ERDF** as part of the specific objective RSO2.7 of the Slovenians cohesion programme, where altogether, more than EUR 80 million is predicted to be dedicated to implementing these measures⁶³¹. More information and open calls for projects will be published on the governmental website dedicated to EU Cohesion Policy funding.

CAP funding is among the most prominent funds used; however, a pretty insignificant amount of total CAP financing goes towards biodiversity, climate and nature projects. More specifically, tree-planting initiatives could potentially be supported through the following CAP topics/priorities⁶³²:

- SO02 – support to beekeepers and beekeeping associations

Support to purchase honey-bearing saplings and plants. Interested parties should contact one of 207 local beekeepers associations.

- IRP15 – investment in rehabilitation and restoration of forests after natural disasters and adverse climatic events

In cases of significant disturbances, tree planting could, technically speaking, be supported through this measure in accordance with Slovenian Forest Service regulations. Interested parties (public or private forest owners) should contact their local forester for more information.

- IRP22 – non-productive investment, connected to implementation of nature conservation sub-measures SN 2023-2027

Planting of new trees with the intention to support biodiversity, landscape and sustainable agricultural practices could be financed within this measure.

CAP payments are carried out based on the hectares where the measure is taken, as part or full remuneration for measures implemented, as

⁶³² [CAP Strategic Plan for Slovenia](#)

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lump sum payments etc. Interested farmers should contact their local agricultural advisor who can provide relevant information as part of the public service.

The Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Food and its Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development is the managing authority for CAP (see contact details in the summary table).

Just Transition Fund in Slovenia will focus on the social impacts of the energy transition, as such tree planting initiatives will potentially be included as part of landscaping and/or spatial planning policy requirement in JTF recipient regions.



EU Funding sources under direct management

A major source of financing for projects of this topic is **LIFE**, with a team at Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning being a National Contact Point in Slovenia. Various institutions can offer advice and help with the application process or can be involved with the project as a partner – see an example provided in the summary table.

Horizon Europe and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RFF) can also be used to finance tree planting projects; however, tree planting is more likely to be financed as part of larger projects implemented with support of these instruments, where green infrastructure is a requirement of spatial planning policy.



National funding sources

Biodiversity, climate and nature projects are financed as part of the regular activities of specific national agencies. There is no central agency that would offer financing information for these kinds of projects, instead, financing is provided through various institutions. Institutions and organisations

that can offer funding, (information on open calls) or co-financing are listed below.

Slovenian Forest Agency dedicates funds to forest restoration, which includes tree planting projects after large disturbances (Karst fires in 2022 were the largest in Slovenian history, large scale reforestation and seeding activities are currently underway as part of the restoration plan). Forest owners can contact their local forest ranger if they see the need for seedlings. The correct species for a specific area will be provided by SFS, and the forest owner can plant them.

Municipalities fund these projects from their municipal budget or in combination with national funding (for example from SFS) and EU funded projects (LIFE projects). The municipal spatial planning office will have the most information regarding financing for small-scale local projects. Some Slovenian municipalities have long term (10 year) planting plans in urban areas (Kočevje, Dobrna), while some finance these projects with dedicated donations (Ajdovščina).

Slovenian Beekeeping Association also has a long-term planting plan that is financed partially through their own budget, but mostly from EU/CAP funds via MAFF. Need and location suggestions are collected through local beekeeping associations.

Slovenian Regional Development Fund (SRDF) offers farmers, local associations, and others loans and co-financing options for forestry and agriculture-related projects. Tree planting initiatives as part of other projects can be financed.

Climate Fund offers financing of various projects some of which might include tree planting, such as purchase of melliferous / honey bearing trees. Climate Fund operates in cooperation with relevant ministries, so Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Food would be most likely to publish open calls for such projects.

NGOs that work in biodiversity and nature space are often part of projects that involve tree planting initiatives. They rarely finance these projects, as their own financing is usually a combination of national, EU and foreign funds, but they do have a lot of information on current initiatives. These NGOs include [Focus](#), [Umanotera](#), [IPOP](#) and others.

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Regional Development Agencies are co-financed by the national budget and can include biodiversity, nature and/or within tree planting projects in their development plans and secure financing for it.

Local Action Groups implement CAP CLLD/LEADER measures. They offer financing for projects that benefit rural Slovenia, within which tree planting initiatives can be included.

Apart from these organisations, **private companies** often (co-)finance individual biodiversity projects through direct donations but always in collaboration with SFS, municipalities or other above listed stakeholders, depending on the location of the tree planting.



Innovative funding sources

No innovative funding sources were identified so far in Slovenia. Green bonds are issued mostly for energy efficiency projects and renewables, and PES is emerging as a possible option in the future.

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
ERDF and CF	Ministry of Cohesion and Rural Development	Website	EUR 49 million for policy objective 2, which includes green urban infrastructure (CF); EUR 80 million for green urban infrastructure (ERDF)	Grants	Program evropske kohezijske politike v obdobju 2021-2027 v Sloveniji advisory service and information available. Open calls predicted in late 2023.	n/a
CAP	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	Website	EUR 6.5 million to beekeeping support, EUR 20.4 million to climate and environment payments (however, only a small share of this budget can be devoted to tree planting)	Yearly remuneration and payment schemes, grants	Advisory service available to farmers through public agricultural consultant services, to interested parties via the website. Call for 2023-2027 CAP will start open 2023.	EIP AGRI project on high trunk orchards - https://www.bf.uni-lj.si/sl/novice/2022111015162881/ugotovitev-in-rezultati-projekta-eip165-travniski-sadovnjaki

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding sources under direct management						
LIFE	National Contact Point: Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy	Website	Nature, biodiversity and climate projects	Grants	All LIFE projects in Slovenia, including contact points from relevant institutions are listed on the website of the National Contact Point. Advisory service available for applicants.	LIFE to GRASSLAND S, see website included restoration of high trunk orchards.
Horizon EUROPE	List of national contact points: https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/o-programu-obzorje-evropa/nacionalne-kontaktne-tocke	Website	Research and innovation projects, including nature, biodiversity and climate topics	Grants	Advisory service is available based on the topic of application.	n/a
National funding						
Individual forest owner support	Slovenian Forest Agency	Website	Tree planting after large disturbances	Individual support to forest owner	Ongoing, get in touch with local forest ranger	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Project support	Municipalities		Tree planting as part of infrastructure and urban green areas	Project support	Ongoing, contact local municipal spatial planning office	Good practice examples include long term planting plans of the following municipalities: - Municipality Kočevje: obcina@kocevje.si - Municipality Dobrna: obcina@dobrna.si Special purpose donation example: Municipality Ajdovščina: obcina@ajdovscina.si
Project support	Slovenian Beekeeping Association	Website	Honey bearing tree planting initiatives	Project support	Ongoing, contact (local) beekeeper association Climate Fund and large companies are the main funding sources	25 March – day of planting of honeybearing trees
Project support	Slovenian Regional Development	Website	Agriculture and forestry	Loans and co-financing	Ongoing	n/a

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Fund		projects			
NGO Project support	IPOP (Institute for spatial politics) Focus, Association for Sustainable Development Umanotera, The Slovenian Association for Sustainable Development	Website, website and website	These NGOs often have information or collaborate on projects that include biodiversity, climate and nature topics, including tree planting	Information on current projects available on the NGO websites	Ongoing	n/a

FINANCING SOURCES IN SPAIN

Abbreviations used

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
JTF	Just Transition Fund



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Spain has recently adopted the new [Spanish Forest Strategy for 2050](#) called Spanish Forest Plan 2022-2032. The forest land area in Spain (28.3 million hectares of forests and other woodlands) is increasingly threatened by global changes, both climatic and socio-economic, and is being gradually abandoned. Thus, the Spanish Forest Policy for 2050 includes the goal to increase the forested area through afforestation by at least 0.6 million hectares (20 000ha/year)

Funding for projects concerning biodiversity, climate, and nature conservation related to forestry and tree planting could be used in Spain from a variety of sources including EU funding (Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the LIFE and Horizon Europe Programmes), national and regional funds for environmental protection, municipal budgets and private funding.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Spain. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

Different EU funds have been dedicated to the protection of biodiversity, climate and nature in Spain with a clear link with tree planting initiatives or potential to be used for afforestation/reforestation initiatives. They include funding from the Cohesion Policy (through the ERDF and the Just Transition Fund), the NextGeneration EU and the CAP.

Nature protection and restoration is identified as a priority in the Partnership Agreement with Spain, which sets the strategic framework for a number of EU financing sources, including ERDF and JTF. Several programmes are financed under the **Cohesion Policy** in Spain during the current funding period from **2021 to 2027**. Both the national programme (Programa Pluriregional), which accounts for half of the ERDF available resources in Spain, and 16 regional programmes have planned investments under Specific Objective 2.7 entirely dedicated to enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructures. Additional investments are planned under the Partnership Agreement to prevent and mitigate climate-related risks, foster a more efficient use of natural resources and protect and restore biodiversity and develop green infrastructures.

Overall, in the previous financing period, ERDF resources earmarked for biodiversity objectives in Spain amount to 1.1 bn, representing around 5% of the total allocation.

Under the 2021-2027 ERDF financing programmes, the Commission provides for EUR 23.4 bn that will be co-financed with national and regional funds and are allocated through one national thematic programme and 19 regional programmes – one per autonomous region or city.

More than EUR 9 bn will be invested in the green transition towards a resource-efficient, climate-neutral, and competitive economy⁶³³, which may include the protection of nature and biodiversity. Both the national programme (Multiregional Programme), which accounts for half of the ERDF available resource in Spain, and the regional programmes have planned investments

⁶³³ European Commission, "Spain launches [new programmes](#) for the European Regional Development Fund"

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under Specific Objective 2.7 of the ERDF, dedicated to enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructures. For example, the national programme refers to citizens that will be benefiting from measures aimed at climate change adaptation, preparedness against natural disasters, sustainable water management and protection of nature. The ERDF Programme for Andalusia 2021-2027⁶³⁴ provides funding to support mitigation, adaptation, and prevention actions, to improve the region's resilience against natural disasters, given its high vulnerability to climate change due to its geographical location. Moreover, the programme will support the sustainable management of water from an integrated perspective. This entails fostering the transition to a circular economy, as well as enhancing the protection and preservation of nature, including Natura 2000 sites. The ERDF Programme for Castilla y Leon 2021-2027 will help improve substantially risk protection services, including prevention of forest fires. It will also improve accessibility and adaptation of the Natura 2000 areas with a consequent service improvement for tourists⁶³⁵. The ERDF Programme for the Basque Country will support conservation and protection of biodiversity as well as measures for greenhouse gas reduction⁶³⁶. The Catalonia's ERDF programme and the Madrid ERDF programme also promote the financing of measures to protect and preserve nature⁶³⁷. The programme of Galicia will invest in protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting sustainable tourism that is compatible with preserving natural and cultural resources⁶³⁸.

The ERDF Programme for Asturias will support climate change adaptation projects, which ultimately contribute to protecting nature and biodiversity, one of the region's main assets⁶³⁹. Other programmes such as the one for Aragon and Extremadura, do not mention biodiversity⁶⁴⁰. Additional investments are planned under the Partnership Agreement, to prevent and mitigate climate-related risks, foster a more efficient use of natural resources and protect and restore biodiversity and develop green infrastructure.

Three programmes expressly mention biodiversity in their priorities: (Interreg VI-B) South West Europe (SUDOE)⁶⁴¹; (Interreg VI-A) Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)⁶⁴².

Moreover, Spain will receive almost EUR 869 million from the **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** to advance in the transition towards a climate-neutral economy in a fair way⁶⁴³. The JTF for Spain has been programmed under a standalone programme that covers the different territories. The JTF programme includes measures to support biodiversity that, according with the calculations of the EU diversity contribution, amount to a 5% of the programme (EUR 42million).

Within the framework of the **Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan**, financed by the European Union-**Next Generation EU**, the Autonomous Communities are funding the following programmes focused on biodiversity:

- **Andalusia** published a funding line of EUR 6 million to fund biodiversity research

⁶³⁴ [Programme Andalusia ERDF 2021-2027](#)

⁶³⁵ [Programme for Castilla y Leon](#)

⁶³⁶ [Programme for the Basque Country](#)

⁶³⁷ [Programme for Catalonia](#) and [Programme for Madrid](#)

⁶³⁸ [Programme for Galicia](#)

⁶³⁹ [Programme for Asturias](#)

⁶⁴⁰ [Programme for Aragon](#) and [Programme for Extremadura](#)

⁶⁴¹ (Interreg VI-B) [South West Europe](#) (SUDOE)

⁶⁴² "Biodiversity: the programme will support the development of joint management plans and actions to protect cross-border natural habitats, biodiversity and to reduce pollution, among others." (Interreg VI-A) [Spain-Portugal](#) (POCTEP)

⁶⁴³ European Commission, EU Cohesion policy: €869 million for a just climate transition in Spain, [Just Transition Fund](#) (JTF)

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projects that promote the adaptation of natural systems to climate change and mitigate its effects. This programme is co-financed by the *Junta de Andalucía*, with EUR 2.78 million (46.35 %), and by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain, which assumes the remaining amount of EUR 3.22 million (53.65 %), through the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, which is fed by the 'Next Generation' Recovery Fund. The deadline to apply for funding was 24 February 2023. Up to EUR 300 000 per project can be awarded⁶⁴⁴.

- On April 2022 **Aragon** published grants for biodiversity conservation actions in the protected areas of the Natura 2000 area in Aragon. Local councils of municipalities located in the area of socio-economic influence of the Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park and private non-profit organisations were eligible to apply for funding⁶⁴⁵. The maximum eligible amount per action may reach 80 % of the value of the real investments. For Aragon's local entities, non-profit entities and management bodies of the Biosphere Reserves with territory in the Autonomous Community of Aragon, the maximum eligible amount shall be 100 % of the real investments. Minimum and maximum amounts per beneficiary may be established in the call for proposals for each of the eligible actions described in Chapter II of the Grant legal Order.
- On 30 September 2022, **Asturias** published a call to provide funding of up to EUR 100 000 to municipalities to carry out projects for the conservation and

management of biodiversity and natural resources. The application for funding must be submitted on the website of the Principality of Asturias⁶⁴⁶.

- On 30 December 2022, **Galicia** published aid for the promotion of chestnut plantations. Beneficiaries of the funding include local entities; natural or legal persons owners of the land; and joint management forest groups. The amount of the funding varies according to the beneficiary and amounts to up to EUR 3 million for local authorities, to be distributed between 2023 and 2024⁶⁴⁷.
- The **Balearic Islands** published on 29 October 2022 a call for proposals to fund Biodiversity Research Projects. In total, EUR 2 317 million will be granted for projects between 2023 and 2025⁶⁴⁸.
- In June 2022 **Castile and Leon** published a call to provide grants to finance actions in Spanish biosphere reserves located in Castilla y León aimed at promoting the conservation and management of biodiversity and natural resources. Beneficiaries of the funding include entities whose objective is the management of Spanish biosphere located in Castilla Leon; local entities; associations and NGOs; land stewardship organisations; and companies⁶⁴⁹.
- **Madrid**⁶⁵⁰: the Metropolitan Forest project, with 75 km of woodland to encircle Madrid, has been chosen by the Biodiversity Foundation, attached to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, to receive EUR 2.6 million from the EU Next Generation funds.

⁶⁴⁴ [Andalucía](#) – Junta de Andalucía, “Andalucía destina ayudas por valor de seis millones a proyectos de I+D en biodiversidad y cambio climático”

⁶⁴⁵ [Aragon](#) – ORDEN AGM/530/2022, de 20 de abril, por la que se establecen las bases reguladoras para la concesión de subvenciones destinadas a Espacios Protegidos de Aragón, en el marco del Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia.

⁶⁴⁶ [Asturias](#) – Extracto de la Resolución de 16 de septiembre de 2022, de la Consejería de Medio Rural y Cohesión Territorial, por la que se aprueba la convocatoria para la concesión, en régimen de concurrencia competitiva, de ayudas a entidades

locales para actuaciones en Reservas de la Biosfera del Principado de Asturias con cargo al Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia, financiado por la Unión Europea-Next Generation EU.

⁶⁴⁷ [Galicia](#) – EXTRACTO de la Orden de 30 de diciembre de 2022

⁶⁴⁸ [Balearic Islands](#)

⁶⁴⁹ [Castile and Leon](#) – Sede electrónica de Castilla y León, Subvenciones para financiar actuaciones en las reservas de la biosfera en Castilla y León (2022).

⁶⁵⁰ [Madrid](#) – News of the project Metropolitan Forest of Madrid - portal of the Madrid City Hall

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Specifically, they will be used to finance the recovery of the Manzanares-Gavia-Bulera riparian ecosystem in the part of the project where the forest ecosystem is not lacking water. The objective is to reduce the risk of flooding and improve the state of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem of these streams. The period to carry out the project runs from September 2023 to December 2025 and has the support of the regional administration of the Community of Madrid, and numerous entities and institutions. The Metropolitan Forest, when ready, will feature a million new holm oak, poplar, ash, elm and strawberry trees — the latter of which appear on Madrid's coat of arms — will link existing parkland areas, reclaim landfill sites and create space for new sports facilities, including an educational adventure park for children. Besides providing recreational amenities, the project should also provide environmental benefits for residents, such as mitigating the urban heat island effect, improving air quality and flood resilience, and absorbing up to 170 000 tonnes of CO₂ when the trees reach maturity within about 12 years⁶⁵¹.

- **Extremadura** has also published a call for grants for sustainable development in Protected Areas for 2022 – 2024 for an amount of EUR 3 497 million⁶⁵².
- **Valencian Community** published grants to support the development of measures for biodiversity conservation funded under RRS⁶⁵³.

On 31 August 2022, the Commission approved the **CAP Strategic Plan for Spain**⁶⁵⁴. A first amendment to the Plan has been approved by the Commission on 30 August 2023. EUR 2.59

billion (EU rural development budget) is destined for interventions beneficial for the climate, the environment and animal welfare. As in the past, Spain will keep a large budget allocated to forests: EUR 827 million of total rural development funding into urban land will promote afforestation, agroforestry, fire prevention, restoration and adaptation of forests and forest activities⁶⁵⁵.



EU Funding sources under direct management

LIFE EU funding is another important source for financing biodiversity action, and can be related to tree planting. In Spain, the institution responsible for its implementation is the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge⁶⁵⁶. There are currently four LIFE projects in Spain linked with biodiversity and tree planting⁶⁵⁷:

- The **Climate-resilient agroforestry project in northwest Iberia (LIFE SILFORE)** focuses on the northwest Iberian Peninsula and aims to develop silvopastoral systems – a method that combines forestry and grazing of livestock – to help increase climate change resilience on land used for agroforestry and reduce the risk of fire⁶⁵⁸. This project runs from 2022 to 2027.
- The **Climate mitigation through land management in mining areas (LIFE CARBON2MINE)** project develops

⁶⁵¹ [Madrid's Urban Forest Isn't Taking Root](#)

⁶⁵² Junta de [Extremadura](#), Ayudas para el desarrollo sostenible en Áreas Protegidas. Convocatoria 2022 – 2024

⁶⁵³ [Valencia Community](#)

⁶⁵⁴ [Commission Implementing Decision of 31.8.2022](#) approving the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan of Spain for Union support financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

⁶⁵⁵ European Commission, [At a glance: Spain's CAP Strategic Plan](#), 1 September 2022

⁶⁵⁶ [LIFE projects](#)

⁶⁵⁷ [LIFE Programme](#): short summaries of projects resulting from the LIFE 2020 Call for proposals 2021

⁶⁵⁸ [Climate-resilient agroforestry project](#) in northwest Iberia (LIFE SILFORE)

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innovative land and vegetation management models to optimise the carbon sink effect in mining areas in Asturias, Spain, to mitigate climate change. They will also promote the circular economy in managing forests and grasslands by using ash from local bioenergy production as fertilisers⁶⁵⁹. This project runs from 2022 to 2028.

- The **promoting sustainable forestry (LIFE TOKEN CO2) project** will develop a set of novel close-to-market products and services that incentivise sustainable practices in European forests. They will validate a large-scale predictive remote sensing-based model to calculate the absorption of carbon dioxide by forest stands and assess the effectiveness of interventions. Their digital platform will include a carbon credits' market tool that uses blockchain technology⁶⁶⁰. This project runs from 2022 to 2026.
- **Better conservation of Mediterranean forests (LIFE GOPROFOR MED):** The project's goal is to provide flexible models of close-to-nature forest management. These will be applied to demonstration areas in Italy, Spain, France and Greece, where oak, sweet chestnut and pine forests are widespread yet threatened by careless management of silvicultural practices⁶⁶¹.

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe has funded Nature-based Solutions (NBS) to fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, collecting information on projects involving restoration of nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes, providing support to locally adapted and systemic interventions. The relevant National Contact Point for Horizon Europe in

Spain is the Ministry of Science and Innovation⁶⁶².

Under the Horizon Europe programme Health , Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment objective, and in particular on natural resources and environment, the national focal points are in the [CDTI](#), Center for the Development of Technology and Innovation with the cooperation of [CIEMAT](#), Center for Investigation of Energy Environment and Technology.



National funding sources

At national level, the **Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge** grants funding, on a competitive basis, to NGOs and associations for the development of activities for the protection of the environment⁶⁶³. The application forms can be submitted via the Ministry's electronic site.

The **Biodiversity Foundation** -a public state-run foundation- also publishes periodically grants for the development of activities in the field of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development covering the whole Spanish territory. The calls for projects and the conditions for applying for funding are published on the Foundation's website⁶⁶⁴.

At regional level, funding for biodiversity-related projects is also provided in some Autonomous Communities. The **Regional Government of Madrid** published every year calls for applications to finance environmental activities

⁶⁵⁹ [Climate mitigation through land management in mining areas](#) (LIFE CARBON2MINE)

⁶⁶⁰ [Promoting sustainable forestry](#) (LIFE TOKEN CO2) project

⁶⁶¹ [Better conservation of Mediterranean forests](#) (LIFE GOPROFOR MED)

⁶⁶² [Horizon Europe](#)

⁶⁶³ [Miteco](#), Subvenciones a entidades del tercer sector u organizaciones no gubernamentales

⁶⁶⁴ [Biodiversity Foundation](#)

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and projects carried out by NGOs. Funding is provided, among other activities, for the conservation of the flora and fauna of the Community of Madrid and for the preservation of biodiversity in the Natura 2000 areas.⁶⁶⁵

The government of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria published the Decree 31/1996, of 3 April, which establishes an aid regime to promote forest investments in agricultural exploitations and development actions and use of forests in rural areas in Cantabria⁶⁶⁶, which is linked to the Decree 82/1985, proving the Regulation implementing Law 6/1984, of October 29, on the Protection and Promotion of Native Forest Species and Order DES/44/2007, which establishes rules on the use of fire and preventive measures in relation to forest fires⁶⁶⁷. Similar funding at regional level is provided in Cataluña⁶⁶⁸, Galicia⁶⁶⁹, Navarra⁶⁷⁰, Murcia⁶⁷¹ and La Rioja⁶⁷².

The **Municipality of Madrid**⁶⁷³ is financing the first phase of the planting trees initiative to grow an urban forest ring around Madrid called Metropolitan Forest of Madrid. However, the tree nurseries, to ensure the supply of the necessary number of trees for planting in the whole area covered by the project, are financed with the support of the ERDF.



Innovative funding sources

In Spain, private companies seem to play an important role in financing tree planting projects. A large proportion of the organisations surveyed for this study stated that they are financed with private funds from corporate social responsibility.

Most of these projects seem to be linked to the initiative from the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge to create a carbon footprint [Registry](#), established in 2014 by Royal Decree 163/2014. The Registry collects the efforts of Spanish organizations/companies in the monitoring, calculation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions generated by their activity. It provides them with the possibility of offsetting all or part of their carbon footprint, through a series of forestry projects located in national territory. These projects integrate environmental and social benefits, among which is the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, also known as carbon sequestration.

All registered projects are required to provide a reduction plan, and are checked prior to registration not only in relation to the decreasing trend in emissions but also regarding ecological requirements such as: the project should be carried out in land that was not forest at least since December 1989 or in land that is part of a fired forest areas. The project has to cover a minimum area of 1 ha and a minimum tree

⁶⁶⁵Subvenciones para financiar la realización de actividades y proyectos ambientales en la Comunidad de Madrid (Bases reguladoras) <https://sede.comunidad.madrid/ayudas-becas-subsvenciones/ayuda-proyectos-ambientales>.

⁶⁶⁶ [Decree 31/1996 – government of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria Cantabria](#)

⁶⁶⁷ [Decree 82/1985](#)

⁶⁶⁸ [Cataluña](#)

⁶⁶⁹ [Galicia](#)

⁶⁷⁰ [Navarra](#)

⁶⁷¹ [Murcia](#)

⁶⁷² [La Rioja](#)

⁶⁷³ Municipality of Madrid: [Área de Gobierno de Desarrollo Urbano](#) or [Portal web del Ayuntamiento de Madrid](#)

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canopy cover of at least 20% at maturity or a potential height of the trees of 3 m at maturity. Further the project has to ensure that the trees remain (are not cut) for a minimum 30 years, so the short-cycle crop forest trees are excluded.

An example of innovative financing that serves to promote investment in tree planting derived from corporate social responsibility are CO2 Revolution and Sylvestris. These start-ups calculate and offset the carbon footprint of companies through reforestation projects⁶⁷⁴.

Similarly, [ReTree](#) and Bosques Sostenibles are dedicated to planting trees with funds provided by companies as part of their corporate social responsibility⁶⁷⁵.

Apadrina un Olivo, allows citizens, with an annual contribution of EUR 60, to choose an abandoned olive tree, name it and obtain 2L of Extra Virgin Olive Oil per year⁶⁷⁶.

In 2021, the [Motor Verde initiative](#), one of the largest reforestation plans in Spain, was launched with the objective of planting 60 million trees⁶⁷⁷. This initiative promotes the compensation of CO₂ emissions through large-scale reforestation of land that has suffered fires or wasteland due to agricultural abandonment. The initiative was launched by the **Repsol Foundation** together with the Sylvestris Group, a company specialising in the tree planting area, and has been joined by entities such as Banco Santander, Enagas, Ilunion, the Pure Earth Foundation, the government of the Principality of Asturias and the Regional Government of Extremadura, in a clear example of public-private collaboration for environmental purposes⁶⁷⁸.

[Spanish Olympic Forest](#): Linked to the Olympic Forest initiative which supports the Great Green Wall in Africa, the Spanish Olympic Committee (Comité Olímpico Español, COE) has developed the Spanish Olympic Forest initiative. The main objective of this initiative is to contribute to offsetting the carbon footprint of Spanish sport and, in particular, to offset the carbon footprint generated by Spain's participation in Tokyo's Olympic Games through afforestation to reforestation actions that are respectful of biodiversity conservation objectives. Joined by the Federation of Spanish Municipalities and the Santander Bank it published a tender to select five afforestation proposals. The conditions include the use of native species, the planting of a number of trees per hectare according to the species involved and the commitment from each municipality to conserve the planted forest for a minimum period of five years, in order to ensure its contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change and so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. This includes the maintenance and care of the planted trees and the generated ecosystem, as well as the replacement of those trees that perish once the project has been carried out, in accordance with the indications of the Spanish Forest Plan, with the aim of guaranteeing the temporary sustainability of the initiative. Under this project the municipality of Murcia will plant 1 000 trees in one hectare of Majal Blanco land. This specific action will have a budget of EUR 38 541, which will be covered by Banco Santander, so the cost to the City Council would be zero but will be responsible to maintaining the forest for five years. Similar projects are developed by the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria planting 3 000 trees and by the City Council of Pamplona

⁶⁷⁴ [CO2 Revolution](#) and [Sylvestris](#)

⁶⁷⁵ [ReTree](#) and [Bosques Sostenibles](#)

⁶⁷⁶ [Apadrina un Olivo](#)

⁶⁷⁷ [Motor Verde](#)

⁶⁷⁸ [El Confidencial](#), Arranca uno de los mayores planes de reforestación de España: 60 millones de árboles

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planting 1 000 trees. All these initiatives serve as carbon footprint compensation. The percentage of CO₂ absorption generated by the project is ceded by the municipality to the COE to offset the carbon footprint of its activities and its participation in the Olympic Games is set at 30/70 (30 % for the municipality and 70 % for the COE).

Healthy Cities: Developed by Sanitas, health insurance company, this initiative proposes a physical activity challenge, which consists of each individual to walk 6 000 steps a day, and another environmental one, leaving the car at home one day a week, for a certain period of time in order to promote healthy and sustainable habits. For each participant that fulfils both challenges, Sanitas commits to plant a tree within the Forest of the Zaragozanos or the Madrid Metropolitan Forest.

While there are not many cases of Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) in Spain, the municipality Ansó-Fago in the Huesca Pyrenees has developed an initiative in these towns (Ansó and Fago) with abundant hectares of well-preserved forest and pasture, but facing rural depopulation and low profitability of their natural resources due to competition from forest products from Landes or Finland. The municipality decided to [value its environmental services to give added value to its forests](#), and thus be able to find competitiveness in the market again. By raising funds through its environmental services, an economic flow would be created that would allow its biomass plant to be reopened. By reopening this plant, it would be possible to provide work for several families in the area while promoting sustainable forest management, reducing both unemployment and depopulation as well as the risk of fires⁶⁷⁹. This initiative is linked to the [Smart Village Strategy of Ansó](#). The project for Payment

of Ecosystem Services developed in the province of Gerona, Catalonia, aims to promote biodiversity through the conservation of mature forest stands (parcels that have not had active management in the last 50–100 years). Payments are offered to forest owners for a commitment to let these stands evolve naturally for 30 years. The programme is financed through the provincial budget and private donations; the beneficiaries can be both private owners and municipalities. The reward they receive is intended to compensate for the loss of income, calculated from the approved forest management plan⁶⁸⁰.

⁶⁷⁹ [GA Medioambiental](#)

⁶⁸⁰ EFI Policy Brief 7, Payment for Ecosystem Services, an opportunity for Mediterranean forests, 2012.

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding						
ERDF - regional	Ministry of Finance and Public function Directorate for European Funds Subdirección General de Gestión del FEDER de la Dirección General de Fondos Europeos. Secretaría General de Fondos Europeos. Ministerio de Hacienda y Función Pública	Programme Andalusia ERDF 2021-2027 See website , website and website CONTACTS : sgfeder@sepg.hacienda.gob.es feuropeos.ceh.yfe@juntadeandalucia.es Consejería de Economía, Hacienda y Fondos Europeos – Regional Ministry of Economy, Finance and		Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		European Funds Avenida Carlos III, 2. Isla de la Cartuja, Sevilla See website				
ERDF - Interreg	Consejería de Economía y Hacienda Gobierno de Cantabria	(Interreg VI-B) South West Europe (SUDOE)		Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
ERDF - Interreg	Subdirección General de Cooperación Territorial Europea. Ministerio de Hacienda y Función Pública (España)	(Interreg VI-A) Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)		Grants and financial instruments	2021-2027	
RRF	Consejería de Universidad, Investigación e Innovación - Junta de Andalucía (Andalusia)	website and website <u>CONTACTS:</u> sgt.cuii@junta.deandalucia.es sgii.cuii@junta.deandalucia.es	Funding line of EUR 6 million to fund biodiversity research projects that promote the adaptation of natural systems to climate change and mitigate its	Grants and financial instruments		

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		s	effects			
RRF	Gobierno de Aragón Departamento de Agricultura, Ganadería y Medio Ambiente	See website , website and website	Grants for biodiversity conservation actions	Grants and financial instruments		
RRF	Consejería de Medio Rural y Cohesión Territorial - Principado de Asturias.	website	Call to provide funding of up to EUR 100 000 to municipalities to carry out projects for the conservation and management of biodiversity and natural resources	Grants and financial instruments		
RRF	Conselleria del Medio Rural, Galicia	website	Financial aid for the promotion of chestnut plantations	Grants and financial instruments	2023-2024	
RRF	Consejería Castilla y Leon	website	Grants promoting the conservation and management of biodiversity and natural resources	Grants and financial instruments		
RRF	Consejería de	website	Grants for sustainable	Grants and financial	2022 – 2024	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Extremadura		development in Protected Areas	instruments		
RRF	Balearic Islands	website	Funding for Biodiversity Research Projects	Grants and financial instruments	2023 - 2025	
RRF	Valencia	website	Grants to Support the development of actions and measures for biodiversity			
RRF	Madrid City Hall	website	EUR 2.6 million to support actions for the Metropolitan Forest project, in particular the recovery of the Manzanares-Gavia-Bulera riparian ecosystem in the part of the project where the forest ecosystem is not lacking water.	Grants and financial instruments		
LIFE	Neiker-Instituto Vasco de Investigación y Desarrollo	Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica Subdirector General de la	Promoting sustainable forestry project (LIFE TOKEN CO2)		2022 - 2027	Climate-resilient agroforestry in northwest Iberia (LIFE

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Agrario	Oficina Presupuestaria Email: rsxucla@miteco.es ; jmblopez@miteco.es ; bnz-life@miteco.es	Better conservation of Mediterranean forests (LIFE GOPROFOR MED) Climate mitigation through land management in mining areas (LIFE CARBON2MINE)			SILFORE)
Horizon Europe		For the Horizon Europe Objective: Health , Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment, and in particular for Natural resources and environment website Organisation: CDTI	Nature-based Solutions (NBS) to fight against climate change and biodiversity loss			

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		lydia.gonzalez@cdti.es marta.conde@cdti.es With the cooperation of CIEMAT anamaria.tardon@ciemat.es				
National funding						
Funding at the national level	Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge	website	Grants, on a competitive basis, for NGOs and associations to develop activities for the protection of the environment			
Funding at the national level	Biodiversity Foundation	website	Public state-run foundation-also publishes periodically grants for the development of activities in the field of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development			
Funding at the regional	Generalitat de Catalunya	See website and website	Grants to support			

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
level		secretaria.accioclimatica@gencat.cat General Directorate for Environmental policy and natural environment: dgpamn.accioclimatica@gencat.cat	association, cooperatives, or Environmental NGOs actions on education and awareness raising			
Funding at the regional level	Cantabria Government, Subdirectorato General for Environment DG Forest Gobierno de Cantabria, Subdirección General de Medio Ambiente Dirección General de Montes	website Forestry activities Dirección General de Biodiversidad, Medio Ambiente y Cambio Climático Consejería de Desarrollo Rural, Ganadería, Pesca, Alimentación y Medio	Funding regime to promote forest investments in agricultural exploitations and development actions and use of forests in rural area implementing Law 6/1984, of October 29, on the Protection and Promotion of Native Forest Species.			

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		Ambiente				
Funding at regional level	First Vicepresidencia y and Regional Ministry for Presidency, Junta of Galicia Vicepresidencia primera y Consejería de Presidencia, Junta de Galicia	website website – for 2023	Grants to support association, cooperatives, or environmental NGOs actions on education and awareness raising			
Funding at regional level	General Directorate for Environment, Navarra Dirección General de Medio Ambiente, Navarra	website	Grants to support association, cooperatives, or environmental NGOs actions on education and awareness raising			
Funding at regional level	Regional Ministry for Agriculture, rural development, climate emergency and ecological transition, Generalitat of Valencia					

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	Consejería de Agricultura, desarrollo rural, emergencia climática y transición ecológica, Generalitat Valenciana					
Regional funding	Comunidad de Madrid	website	Grants to finance environmental activities and projects carried out by NGOs. Funding is provided, among other activities, for the conservation of the flora and fauna of the Community of Madrid and for the preservation of biodiversity in the Natura 2000 areas			
Local level funding	Ayuntamiento de Madrid/ Madrid cityhall	website website	Support to the implementation of the Madrid Metropolitan Forest.			

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Funding at regional level	Región de Murcia	website and website	Providing financial support for the sustainable management of forest Resources based on Order 132, of 07.06.2008 on the sustainable management of forestry resources.			
Funding at regional level	La Rioja	website	Provides financial support for the sustainable management of forest resources			
Innovative funding						
National level funding	Spain - Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	Carbon footprint Registry	Provides access to carbon credits or CO ₂ emissions offsets through new forest / tree planting initiatives.			
Private sector	Spain	CO2 Revolution				

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Private sector	Spain	Sylvestris (supported as well by Repsol foundation)				
Private sector	Spain	ReTree				
Private sector	Spain	Bosques Sostenibles				
Private sector	Spain	Apadrina un Olivo				
Private and public cooperation	Spain	Motor verde motorverde@fundacionrepsol.com				
Private	Spain	Spanish Olympic Committee	Linked to the Olympic Forest initiative which supports the Great Green Wall in Africa, the Spanish Olympic Committee (Comité Olímpico Español, COE) has developed the Spanish Olympic Forest initiative			
Private and public	Spain	Sanitas – Healthy Cities:	This initiative proposes a			

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
cooperation		Developed by Sanitas, Health insurance company	physical activity challenge, to promote healthy and sustainable habits. For each participant that fulfils both challenges, Sanitas commits to plant a tree within the Forest of the Zaragozanos or the Madrid Metropolitan Forest.			
Local	Ansó, Huesca	Municipality decided to value its forest environmental services to give them added value	Initiative from the Municipality of Ansó giving economic value to the forest and thus be able to find competitiveness in the market again. By raising funds through its environmental services, an economic flow would be created that would allow for the reopening of its biomass plant.	PES	Information only at testing phase	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
Local level funding	Girona, Catalonia	Municipality of Girona	Payment of Ecosystem Services developed in the province of Girona, Catalonia, aims to promote biodiversity through the conservation of mature forest stands (parcels that have not had active management in the last 50–100 years). By offering forest owners payments to let these stands evolve naturally for 30 years.	PES	2008-... Information only at testing phase	

FINANCING SOURCES IN SWEDEN

Abbreviations used

EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
JTF	Just Transition Fund
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (<i>Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap</i>)
MUCF	Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society
NCP	National Contact Point
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan



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The largest funding with potential for tree-planting initiatives in Sweden comes from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funds, with about SEK 60 billion (approx. EUR 5.3 billion) available for climate and environmental measures. Other EU funding sources available in Sweden for climate and environmental measures are the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Horizon Europe, and the LIFE Programme. Each has a National Contact Point hosted by the relevant public agency in Sweden, which may be of help to potential applicants.

Several national funding sources target different kinds of climate and environmental investments and are available to different kinds of actors. This report identifies eight different national funding sources, including for investments in green infrastructure, sustainable forest management, research, adaptation of transport infrastructure the effects of climate change, and preventive measures against environmental disasters. Green bonds are also available, e.g. for environmental and climate adaptation projects in municipalities.

The following sections provide some brief information on potential funding opportunities for tree planting in Sweden. They are followed by a summary table with practical links and contact information.



EU Funding sources under shared management

As part of the Cohesion Policy, there are nine programmes under the **ERDF** in Sweden: Övre Norrland, Mellersta Norrland, Norra Mellansverige, Östra Mellansverige, Stockholm, Västsverige, Småland och Öarna, Skåne-Blekinge, and the National Regional Development Fund. The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket), a public agency that

promotes sustainable growth, is the responsible authority. During the ERDF programming period 2021-2027, it will distribute SEK 8 billion (approx. EUR 863 million) to projects for sustainable development and employment in Sweden. Projects are supported under three overall themes: a 1) smarter, 2) greener, and 3) more connected Europe⁶⁸¹. There is potential for tree-planting projects mainly under the PO2 - Greener Europe objective (EUR 214 million), such as within theme 2.4, adaptation to climate change (see summary table).

Sweden will also receive about EUR 156 million from the **Just Transition Fund** (JTF) to help the steel industry in Norrbotten, the metal industry in Västerbotten (both counties located in Upper Norrland), and the cement industry on the island of Gotland (located in the NUTS2 region Småland och Öarna) in their industrial transformation towards carbon neutrality.⁶⁸² However, none of the JTF interventions is specifically targeting biodiversity.

Funding allocated from the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** is managed by each Member State via its CAP Strategic Plan. In the current period, this plan applies to the years 2023 to 2027. The Swedish CAP Strategic Plan describes the goals, supports and funding available⁶⁸³. The total budget for Sweden is about SEK 60 billion (approx. EUR 5.3 billion). Support and funding will be given to⁶⁸⁴:

- Annual remuneration for climate and environmental measures, such as ecological production, and carbon sequestration (about EUR 3.1 billion);
- Multiannual remuneration for climate and environmental measures, such as the management of wetlands and pastures (about EUR 2.2 billion);
- Project-based support, such as to different environmental measures or innovative solutions.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture

⁶⁸¹ Tillväxtverket, *Mål och inriktning för Regionalfonden*, 2023

⁶⁸² European Commission, *EU Cohesion Policy: €155.7 million for a just climate transition in Sweden*

⁶⁸³ Regeringskansliet, *Sveriges strategiska plan för den gemensamma jordbrukspolitiken* 2023–2027, 2022

⁶⁸⁴ Jordbruksverket, *Strategiska planen för EU:s jordbrukspolitik 2023-2027*, 2022, <https://jordbruksverket.se/stod/eus-politik-for-jordbruk-och-fiske/strategiska-planen-for-eus-jordbrukspolitik>

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(Jordbruksverket) is responsible for enabling supports and will also develop the necessary information and online support (see summary table)⁶⁸⁵.



EU Funding sources under direct management

Sweden's Innovation Agency (*Vinnova*) is the NCP for **Horizon Europe** in Sweden and may provide advice and guidance to potential applicants⁶⁸⁶ (see summary table).

Applications for **LIFE** funding are via the EU application portal, but the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (*Naturvårdsverket*) – the NCP for LIFE – may provide advice and guidance to potential applicants⁶⁸⁷ (see summary table). LIFE funding is subject to considerable competition: in 2021, there were 14 applicants from Sweden, of which four were successful. Two were granted support for nature-related projects (TRIWA LIFE and LIFE2 TAIGA)⁶⁸⁸.

Under the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, Sweden's national Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) allocates about EUR 220 million from the RRF from 2021 to 2023 for compensation to owners of valuable nature as a result of land use limitations. Of this, about EUR 50 million is allocated for 2023. About EUR 570 million is allocated to the scheme '*Klimatklivet*'⁶⁸⁹ (see section 2.3).



National funding sources

Several national funding sources are potentially available in Sweden for tree planting, including:

- **Klimatklivet**: Provides support to physical climate-related investments until 2026 (except private individuals). Information is available at the website of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency⁶⁹⁰ and applications are via the County Administrative Boards' online portal⁶⁹¹. The support is partly financed by **NextGenerationEU**;
- **Support to measures for the restoration and management of meadows and pastures** (including silvopasture), available for farmers and land managers until further notice. Information is available at the website of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency⁶⁹²;
- **LONA**: Supports local projects for environmental management and the establishment of green infrastructure. Municipalities may have 50% of their costs reimbursed. There is a contact person at each regional County Administrative Board⁶⁹³;
- Support for different forestry measures is available via the **Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen)**⁶⁹⁴ and the **County Administrative Boards**. The Swedish Forest Agency manages the **Nokås fund**, which provides funding to measures for nature and cultural environments in the forest (e.g. enhancing biodiversity). Funding is available for forest landowners and those who have the landowner's authorisation to apply for funding. Up to 70% of a project's costs can be covered

⁶⁸⁵ Jordbruksverket, [Utbetalningsplan för jordbrukarstöden 2023–2027](#), 2023

⁶⁸⁶ Vinnova, [Horisont Europa](#), 2023

⁶⁸⁷ Naturvårdsverket, [LIFE – bidrag till miljö, klimat och naturprojekt](#), 2023

⁶⁸⁸ [TRIWA LIFE and LIFE2 TAIGA](#)

⁶⁸⁹ Regeringskansliet, [Sveriges återhämtningsplan](#), 2021

⁶⁹⁰ Naturvårdsverket, [Klimatklivet – stöd till klimatinvesteringar](#), 2023

⁶⁹¹ Länsstyrelserna, [Ansökan om klimatinvesteringsstöd](#), 2023, <https://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/miljo-och-vatten/energi-och-klimat/klimatinvesteringsstod.html>

⁶⁹² Naturvårdsverket, [Ersättning för åtgärder i ängs- och betesmarker](#), 2023

⁶⁹³ Naturvårdsverket, [Kontaktpersoner på länsstyrelserna – Lokala naturvårdssatsningen \(LONA\)](#), 2023

⁶⁹⁴ Skogsstyrelsen, [Stöd och bidrag](#), 2022

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via this fund⁶⁹⁵;

- The **National Research Programme for Sustainable Community Building** makes SEK 125 million available each year between 2017 and 2027⁶⁹⁶. It is managed by FORMAS. Types of projects eligible for funding are described in its strategic agenda and include measures for climate adaptation⁶⁹⁷;
- Project funding from **InfraSweden** for projects that focus on adapting transport infrastructure to the effects of climate change. The budget is SEK 15 million per year 2023-2025 and can finance projects to up to 50% of their costs. Eligible projects that get funding below SEK 1 million must involve two parties and run for 12 months maximum, while projects that get funding of over SEK 1 million must involve at least three parties and run for 36 months maximum⁶⁹⁸. The responsible authority is the Swedish Transport Administration (*Trafikverket*);
- Municipalities can apply for funding from the **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency** (*Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap*) for preventive measures against natural disasters, such as erosion. The budget is SEK 520 million per year⁶⁹⁹;
- The **Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF)** distributes government funding to both large and small civil society organisations. Funding is available for individual projects and organisation management. There is currently no project-specific support for environmental projects, but many civil society organisations working in nature and the environment receive support

from MUCF⁷⁰⁰. Support to civil society organisations is also given by municipalities. Support is not necessarily given to projects or organisations due to their environmental efforts, but there are environmental organisations that receive support. Applications are via the municipality or region and must meet certain criteria⁷⁰¹.



Innovative funding sources

The Swedish local government funding agency (*Kommuninvest*) issues **green bonds**, e.g., for environmental and climate adaptation projects in municipalities⁷⁰². The sustainability criteria require all projects to support the climate transition, integrate with the municipal/regional strategic environmental actions, be compatible with the national or regional environmental targets, and either focus on environmental management or have a target for climate change mitigation or adaptation⁷⁰³.

Most of the main banks in Sweden (Swedbank, Nordea, SEB, Handelsbanken) issue green bonds. Their green bond frameworks indicate that funding may be given to environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use such as sustainable forestry⁷⁰⁴.

There are several examples of **crowdfunding** initiatives in Sweden, both for climate compensation and philanthropic reasons, including via gift-based models. However, common platforms such as Vi-skogen⁷⁰⁵ or

⁶⁹⁵ Skogssyrelsen, *Stöd till natur- och kulturmiljövårdsåtgärder i skogen* (Nokås), 2023

⁶⁹⁶ Formas, *Finansierade projekt*, 2023

⁶⁹⁷ *Forskningsrådet för miljö, areella näringar och samhällsbyggande* (Formas), *Forskning för ett transformativt och hållbart samhällsbyggande: Strategisk agenda för det nationella forskningsprogrammet för hållbart samhällsbyggande*, 2021

⁶⁹⁸ Infra Sweden, *Klimatneutral och klimateresilient transportinfrastruktur*, 2023

⁶⁹⁹ Myndigheten för Samhällsskydd och Beredskap (MSB), 2022

⁷⁰⁰ *Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällesfrågor*, 2023

⁷⁰¹ Stockholms Stad, *Stöd till föreningar och organisationer*

⁷⁰² Kommuninvest, *Gröna lån*, 2023,

<https://kommuninvest.se/for-kunder/vara-produkter/grona-lan-2/>

⁷⁰³ Kommuninvest, *Berättigade projekt och hållbarhetskriterier*, 2023, <https://kommuninvest.se/for-kunder/vara-produkter/grona-lan-2/berattigade-projekt-och-hallbarhetskriterier/>

⁷⁰⁴ Nordea, *Nordea Green Funding Framework* 2022, 2022;

SEB, *SEB's Green Bond Framework* 2022, 2022;

Handelsbanken, *Handelsbanken Green Bond Framework* 2022,

2022; Swedbank, *Swedbank Sustainable Funding Framework* 2022, 2022

⁷⁰⁵ Vi-skogen, *Stöd oss*, 2023

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Klimatkompensera.se⁷⁰⁶ only plant trees in countries outside the EU, mainly in developing countries. Nevertheless, there are platforms such as Plantmore⁷⁰⁷ and Naturarvet⁷⁰⁸ that collect donations and climate compensation investments for tree-planting projects in Sweden.

Ecological compensation can be used to compensate exploitation and land use by providing new environmental values in other areas. A report by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency reports that 22% of Swedish municipalities have worked with the concept in their physical planning processes. However, there is no evidence of any ecological compensation pools in Sweden⁷⁰⁹.

Business@Biodiversity Sweden is a network for companies that want to focus on biodiversity from a business perspective, such as how to finance biodiversity projects⁷¹⁰. The work of LKAB (a Swedish State-owned mining company, which is to receive also some JTF support) and its network provide examples of ecological compensation projects and improvement of biodiversity to draw benefits from ecosystem services, such as water purification, clean air, and mitigation of noise⁷¹¹.

⁷⁰⁶ Klimatkompensera, [Våra projekt](#), 2023

⁷⁰⁷ [Plantmore](#), 2023

⁷⁰⁸ Naturarvet, [Stöd oss](#), 2023

⁷⁰⁹ Jönsson, K. I., Widenfalk, L. A., Bergström, L., Elofsson, K., Alkan Olsson, J., Öckinger, E., Karlsson, M., Hanson, H., Cole, S., Josefsson, J. and Josefsson, H., [Ekologisk kompensation](#)

[som verktyg i miljömålsarbetet: Syntes från en forskningssatsning](#), Naturvårdsverket, 2023

⁷¹⁰ [Business@Biodiversity Sweden](#), 2023

⁷¹¹ LKAB, [Biologisk mångfald på LKAB – en förutsättning för verksamheten](#), 2021

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Summary of funding sources



Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
EU funding under shared management						
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket)	CAP Strategic Plan, see website	SEK 60 billion (EUR 5.3 billion), e.g. for climate and environmental measures, ecologic production, carbon sequestration, and the management of wetland and pastures	Yearly and multiannual subsidies, and project support	Swedish Board of Agriculture is responsible for funding advice and support Applications and timelines available here	Programming period has just begun
ERDF	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth	Link to the overview of national and regional programmes,	Total of SEK 8 billion (EUR 0.863 billion), under three overall	Grants and financial instruments ⁷¹²	2021-2027 Tillväxtverket can provide	

⁷¹² Quasi-equity financial instruments: There are 8 regional FIs (programmed in each of the ERDF regional programmes, under Specific Objective 1.3 (total of about EUR 48 million from the ERDF). Their objective is to support SMEs in early phases, with a higher risk profile, which are usually underfunded by the market. Furthermore, the Climate Transition Fund, programmed under the National ERDF programme under SO 1.3, with an ERDF contribution of about EUR 25 million will provide support to SMEs substantially contributing to climate transition, in line with net-zero emissions in 2045. It will target SMEs in early development phases and contributing to climate transition in different ways.

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	(Tillväxtverket)	<p>with links to each, see website</p> <p>Contact (nationally):</p> <p>nationella.Regionalfondsprogrammet@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>Contacts for regional programmes:</p> <p>ovrenorrland@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>mellerstanorrl and@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>norramellansverige@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>ostramellansverige@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>stockholm@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>vastsverige@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>smalandochoarna@tillvaxtverket.se</p> <p>skaneblekinge@tillvaxtverket.se</p>	<p>themes: a smarter, greener, and more connected Europe.</p> <p>The Greener Europe objective alone has a budget of EUR 214 million</p>	Covers up to 40% (or 50% in the case of the North-Middle Sweden programme) of project costs, both to public and private actors	guidance and support	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
		.se				
EU funding sources under direct management						
Horizon Europe	NCP: Sweden's Innovation Agency (<i>Vinnova</i>)	Website and website	In Europe: a budget of EUR 95 billion Support to research that contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Grants	As the NCP, <i>Vinnova</i> may provide advice and guidance to applicants	
LIFE	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (<i>Naturvårdsverket</i>)	Website Contact: LIFESweden@naturvardsverket.se , or specifically regarding nature and biodiversity, Anna Lindhagen at anna.lindhagen@naturvardsverket.se	Nature and climate protection	Grants	Naturvårdsverket may provide advice and guidance to applicants	TRIWA LIFE and LIFE2 TAIGA
RRF	Each relevant authority that manages the specific	For Klimatklivet, see below For other nature-related	2021-2023: about EUR 220 for compensation to owners of	Depends on support scheme	Recovery investments until December 2026	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	support mechanism For climate and environmental schemes: <i>Naturvårdsverket</i> (e.g. Klimatklivet)	support schemes, contact kundtjanst@naturvardsverket.se or one of the County Administrative Boards listed here	valuable nature as a result of land use limitations About EUR 570 million allocated to Klimatklivet			
National funding						
Klimatklivet	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (<i>Naturvårdsverket</i>)	Website	Physical climate-related investments to anyone (except private individuals)	Grants	Funding available until 2026 Applications via the County Administrative Boards' online portal	
Support to measures for the management of meadows and pastures	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (<i>Naturvårdsverket</i>)	Website	Measures for the management of meadows and pastures	Grants	Funding available until further notice Information available at the website	
LONA	Regional County Administrative Boards	See contacts at County Administrative Boards, see website	Supports local projects for environmental management and	Grants	Temporarily unavailable	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
			establishment of green infrastructure			
Nokås	Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen)	Website Contact: skogsstyrelsen@skogsstyrelsen.se	Measures for nature and cultural environments in the forest, e.g. enhancing biodiversity	Grants	Covers up to 70% of project costs	
National Research Programme for Sustainable Community Building	FORMAS	Website Contact: registrator@formas.se	Sustainable community building, including measures for climate adaptation	Grants	SEK 125 million (EUR 11 million) available per year between 2017 and 2027 Can finance up to 50% of project costs	
Kommuninvest	Swedish local government funding agency	Website Contact: kifinanssupport@kommuninvest.se	For example, for environmental and climate adaptation projects in municipalities	Green bonds		
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (Myndigheten för samhällsskydd)	Website Contact: registrator@msb.se	Preventive measures against natural disasters such	Grants	Annual budget: SEK 520 million (EUR 46 million)	

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Funding instrument	Managing institution	Contact Information (website)	Scope of support	Financing vehicles	Additional information (scale, time horizon, advisory services if available)	Examples of relevant projects funded
	<i>d och beredskap)</i>		as erosion			
InfraSweden	Swedish Transport Administration (<i>Trafikverket</i>).	Website	Adapting transport infrastructure to the effects of climate change	Grants	2023-2025 Annual budget: SEK 15 million SEK (EUR 1.3 million) Can finance up to 50% of project costs	

Annex:

INTERREG PROGRAMMES WITH PRIORITIES RELEVANT TO TREE PLANTING

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The **(Interreg VI-A) Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein** programme contains the funded priority RSO 2.7 - biodiversity and green infrastructure. It aims to protect the diversity of species, and to connect habitats⁷¹³.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Sweden-Finland-Norway (AURORA)** includes the objective 2.2 focusing on nature protection and biodiversity. As specified in the programme, climate change moves the tree line further up the mountains in this region. This process decreases the space and habitat. To mitigate this problem, cross-border collaboration is needed in the region⁷¹⁴.

The **(Interreg VI-B) Euro Mediterranean (EURO MED)** programme covers 14 countries from the Northern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and contains specific objective 2.7 - enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution⁷¹⁵. As described in the Programme, a stand of trees can reduce air pollution, purify the water supply, reduce the likelihood of floods and help regulate the climate⁷¹⁶.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Belgium-France (Wallonie-Vlaanderen-France)** programme contains specific objective 2.7, which is aimed at strengthening the protection of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, especially in urban areas, and reduce all forms of pollution⁷¹⁷.

The **(Interreg VI-A) IPA Bulgaria North Macedonia** programme focuses at addressing

issues related to the conservation of nature and biodiversity⁷¹⁸.

The **(Interreg VI-B) Interreg North West Europe** programme contains the objective RSO 2.7 - biodiversity and green infrastructure, to ensure the protection or restoration of ecosystems and prevent the loss of biodiversity and natural capital⁷¹⁹.

The **(Interreg VI-A) France-Germany-Switzerland (Upper Rhine)** programme contains the objective RSO 2.7 Biodiversity and green infrastructure⁷²⁰.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Slovakia-Czechia** programme contains the investment priority 6 D - protecting the biodiversity of the cross-border area through the cooperation in the field of protection and coordination management of important natural areas⁷²¹.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Slovenia-Croatia** programme contains the investment priority 6 D - protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services⁷²².

The **(Interreg VI-A) Slovenia-Hungary** programme contains the investment priority RSO 2.7 - Biodiversity and green infrastructure⁷²³.

The **(Interreg VI-B) South West Europe (SUDOE)** programme contains the investment priority RSO 2.7 Biodiversity and green infrastructure⁷²⁴.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Hungary-Croatia** contains the investment priority 6 D - Restoring the ecological diversity in the border area⁷²⁵.

⁷¹³ [Interreg Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein](#)

⁷¹⁴ [Interreg Aurora Programme 2021-2027](#), p. 7

⁷¹⁵ [Interreg Euro-MED](#)

⁷¹⁶ [Interreg Euro-Med programme 2021/27](#), pp. 16 and 50

⁷¹⁷ [Interreg France-Walonie-Vlaanderen](#)

⁷¹⁸ [Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria – Republic of North Macedonia](#)

⁷¹⁹ [Interreg North West Europe programme](#)

⁷²⁰ [Interreg Upper Rhine](#)

⁷²¹ [Interreg Slovakia – Czech Republic](#)

⁷²² [Interreg Slovenia – Croatia](#)

⁷²³ [Interreg Slovenia – Hungary](#)

⁷²⁴ [Interreg SUDOE](#)

⁷²⁵ [Interreg Hungary-Croatia](#)

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The **(Interreg VI-A) Belgium-The Netherlands (Vlaanderen-Nederland)** contains the investment priority RSO 2.7 - biodiversity and green infrastructure⁷²⁶.

The **(Interreg VI-A) France-Switzerland** contains the investment priority RSO 2.7 Biodiversity and green infrastructure⁷²⁷.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Romania-Hungary** programme contains the investment priority (S.O) 2.7 - enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution⁷²⁸.

The **(Interreg VI-D) Madeira-Azores-Canary Islands (MAC)** programme contains the VALCONMAC project which covers the valuation and conservation of forest resources in Macaronesia⁷²⁹.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Greece-Bulgaria** programme contains the investment priority 6D – enhancement of the effectiveness of biodiversity protection activities⁷³⁰.

The **(Interreg VI-A) Hungary-Slovakia** programme contains the investment priority SO 1.2 – protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure⁷³¹.

⁷²⁶ [Interreg Vlaanderen-Nederland](#)

⁷²⁷ [Interreg France-Switzerland](#)

⁷²⁸ [Interreg Romania-Hungary](#)

⁷²⁹ [The \(Interreg VI-D\) Madeira-Azores-Canary Islands \(MAC\)](#)

⁷³⁰ [Interreg Greece-Bulgaria](#)

⁷³¹ [Interreg Hungary-Slovakia](#)

