

Support for implementing the EU 3 Billion Trees Pledge

Financing Guide



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Structure of the financing guide

- ▶ **Chapter 1:** Introduction (objectives, audience, types of measures covered)
- ▶ **Chapter 2:** Typology of the funding sources relevant for tree planting (EU, national, innovative, international)
- ▶ **Chapter 3:** Information on the selected funding programmes
- ▶ **Chapter 4:** Selected general advisory programmes, on-line platforms and other financing guides
- ▶ **Chapter 5:** Country-specific information

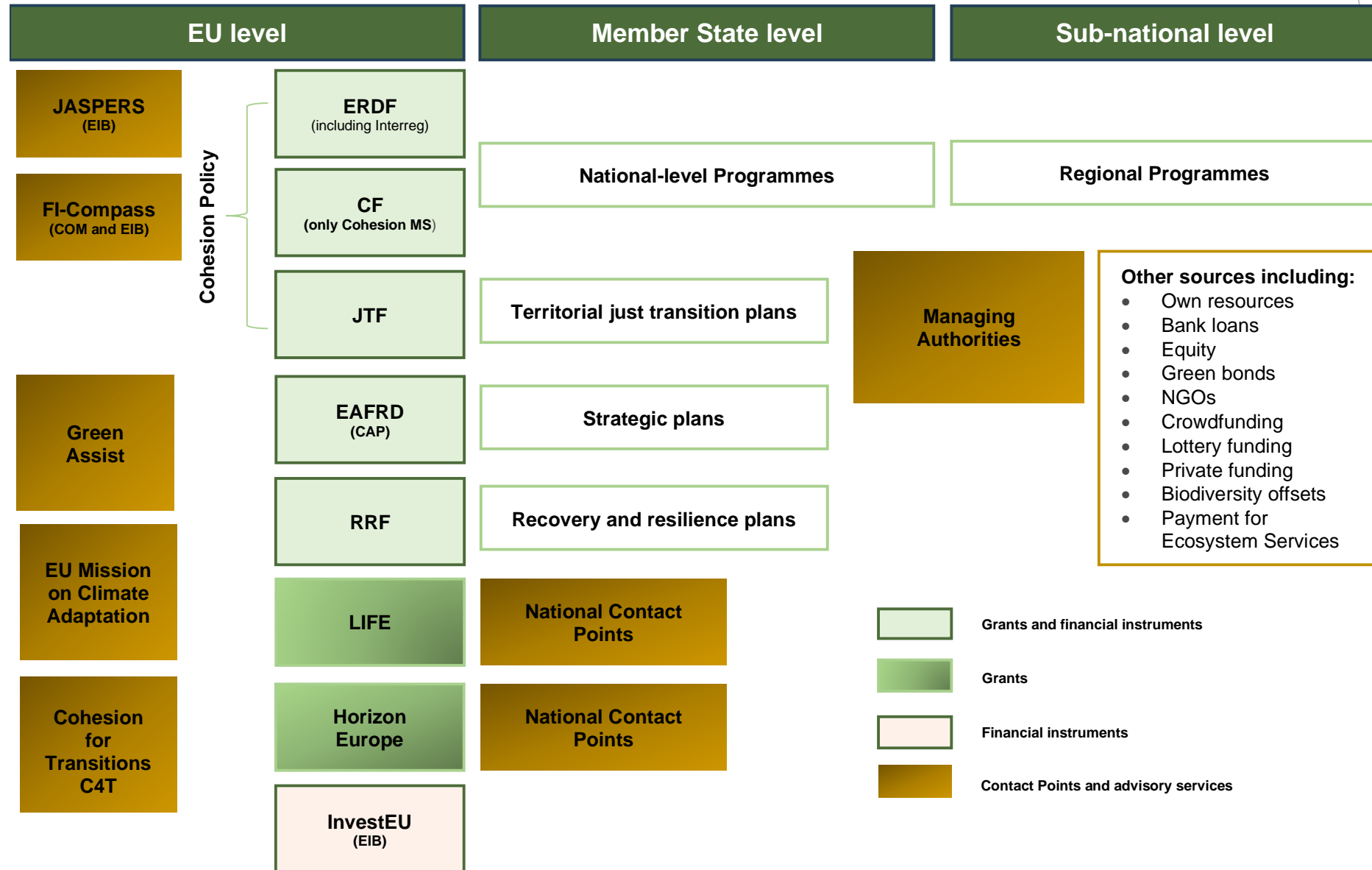
Objectives and targeted audience

- ▶ To provide information to stakeholders interested in finding (additional) funding sources for their tree planting and nurturing initiatives.
- ▶ Can be relevant for projects with broader biodiversity and nature protection objectives.
- ▶ To raise awareness on funding sources available for/from institutional stakeholders.

Types of measures covered

- ▶ The EU pledge covers planting trees in forest areas, agricultural areas and urban areas, or along transport or energy infrastructures.
- ▶ Planting of native species, exclusion of planting of invasive alien species.
- ▶ Environmental benefits and the preservation of genetic diversity trees not for commercial purposes.
- ▶ Other measures that share 3 Billion Trees objectives:
 - ▶ Tree nurturing and management, with the aim of long-term planning and securing the survival of the planted trees over decades.
 - ▶ Re-planting in case of loss and support for tree nurseries.

Typology of funding



Key findings (I)

- ▶ The guide highlights various funding sources, including EU funds such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the LIFE program, Horizon Europe and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). It also includes national and innovative funding sources like green bonds and crowdfunding.
- ▶ Tree planting initiatives must follow specific ecological criteria and align with objectives like biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, climate adaptation and reforestation efforts.

Key findings (II)

- ▶ The guide discusses innovative financial instruments like payments for ecosystem services (PES), carbon farming and biodiversity offsets. It emphasises the growing importance of these mechanisms in funding environmental projects.
- ▶ Detailed information is provided for different EU Member States, covering funding opportunities for tree planting at the national and sub-national levels. Each section includes practical guidance on accessing funding, managing authorities and examples of successful projects.

Key findings (III)

- ▶ Several advisory platforms are mentioned, such as GREEN ASSIST, JASPERS and FI-COMPASS, which provide technical assistance to those interested in green investments and nature-based solutions.
- ▶ The report highlights the significance of integrating tree planting into urban landscapes, including along transport infrastructure, to enhance urban resilience and environmental quality.



»» Financing sources in Greece

Financing sources in Greece(I)

EU Funding sources under shared management:

- ▶ For Cohesion Policy, the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) 2021-2027 provides €26.2 billion that will be made available to Greece over seven years for sustainable infrastructure and environmental goals.
- ▶ The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) supports agroforestry, afforestation and biodiversity projects. Under the EAFRD, Greece has adopted a Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2023 to 2027.

Financing sources in Greece(II)

EU Funding sources under direct management:

- ▶ The LIFE program funds biodiversity and nature conservation projects, including the LIFE EL-BIOS project for managing 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.

Financing sources in Greece(III)

EU Funding sources under direct management:

- ▶ For the Just Transition Fund (2021-2027) Greece submitted the Just Development Transition Programme 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 planting.
- ▶ The Recovery and Resilience Plan, "Greece 2.0," focuses on green urban regeneration and reforestation.

Financing sources in Greece(IV)

National funding sources:

- ▶ The website of the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government provides a funding guide with information on funding of various projects by topic, incl.:
 - ▶ Regional authorities: The region of eastern Macedonia – Thrace is funding a EUR 4,000,000 project on the protection and enhancement of regional ecosystems.
 - ▶ The Green Fund is supporting environmental projects with a budget of EUR 1,000,000. It finances programmes from ministries and other public entities aiming to protect and restore the environment, as per Law 3889/2010.
 - ▶ The Local Authorities' Infrastructure Fund is offering up to EUR 15,000,000 for biodiversity protection, focusing on energy, environment, and urban development projects.

Financing sources in Greece(V)

National funding sources:

- ▶ The Athens Chamber of Tradesmen announced in March 2023 its plan to plant 10,000 new trees in the Attica region, continuing its tree-planting efforts around Athens.
- ▶ 80 trees were symbolically planted in Kasos as part of the '75UN - 75 Trees UNAI SDG7 Initiative,' funded by the Green Fund's 'Natural Environment and Innovative Actions 2020' programme.
- ▶ In 2021, the Centre for Energy Policy and Development invited public and private entities to sponsor a forest replanting programme for 2021-2022, with potential for future initiatives.

Financing sources in Greece(VI)

National funding sources:

- ▶ In April 2023, diseased trees on Tsimiski Street in Thessaloniki were replaced with new trees, funded by a donation from the Regency Group, as part of a corporate social responsibility initiative.
- ▶ The National Programme “Antonis Tritsis” focuses on sustainable development and environmental actions.

Financing sources in Greece(VII)

Innovative funding sources:

- ▶ Green bonds, such as those issued by the National Bank of Greece and crowdfunding platforms like act4Greece support green projects.
- ▶ Biodiversity offsets are used in projects like the Schinias-Marathon National Park and the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline.

Financing sources in Greece(VIII)



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 PLUS)	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)	Prime Minister's Office	Deputy State Secretariat for the Implementation of Economic Development	Aims to increase the competitiveness of the domestic economy in	Grants	Total of HUF 2294.1 billion (planned)	N/A

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Thank you for your attention!