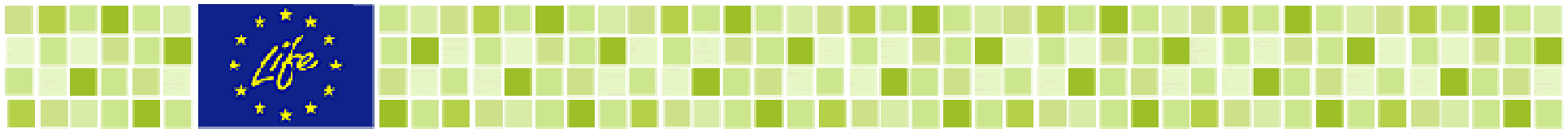
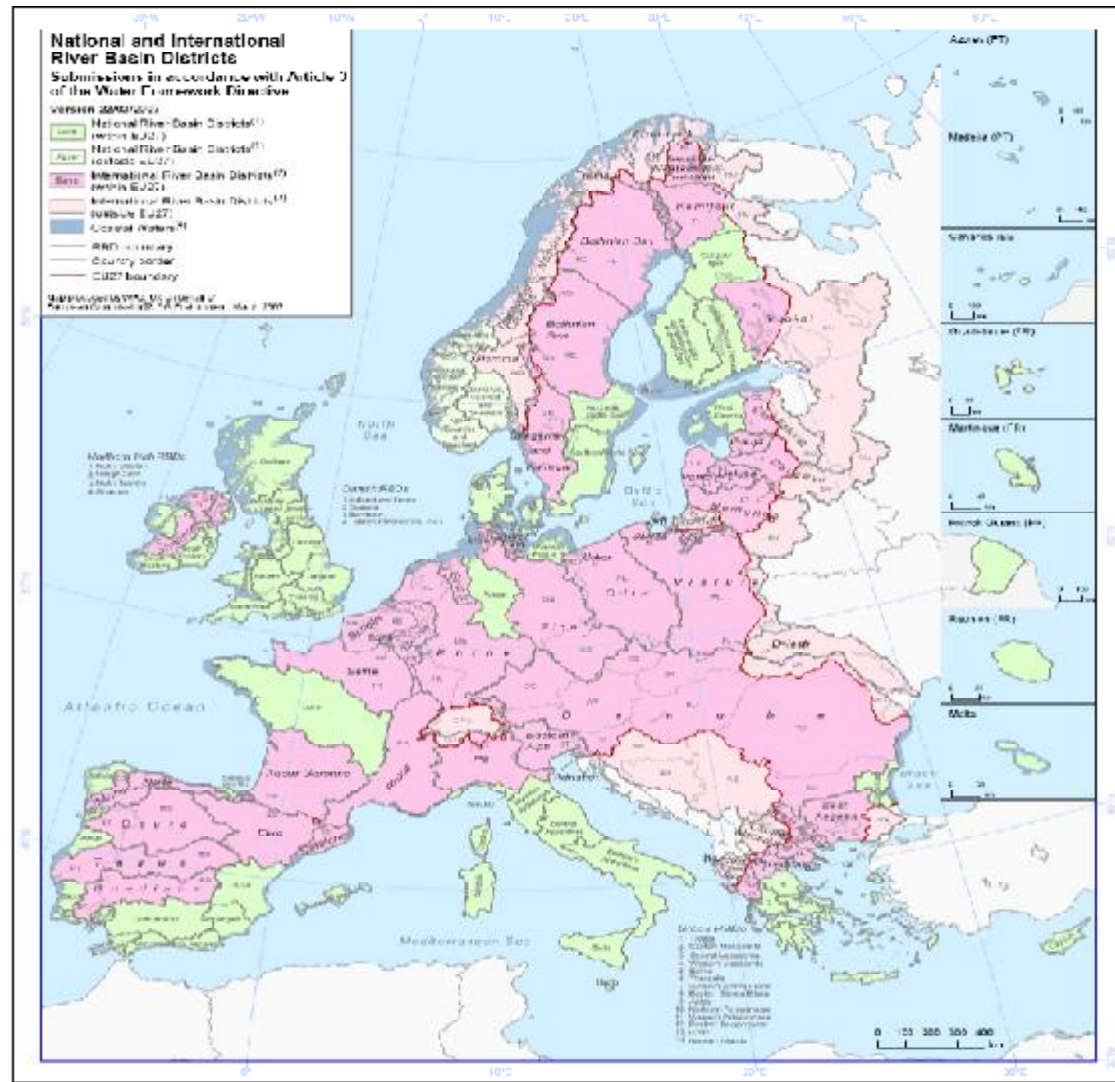
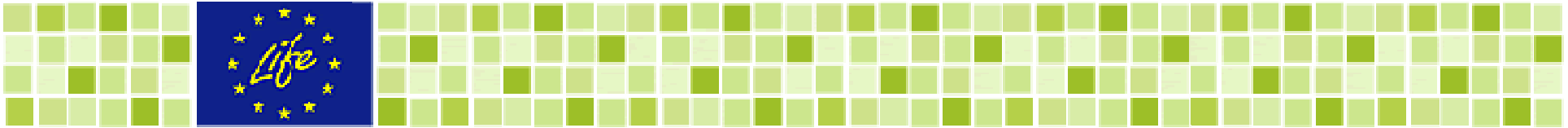


European sustainable river basin management and LIFE+



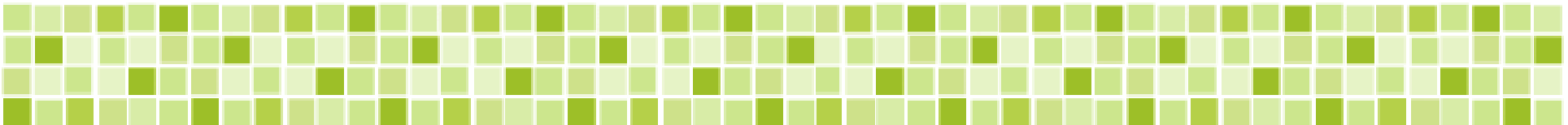
Philip Owen
European Commission

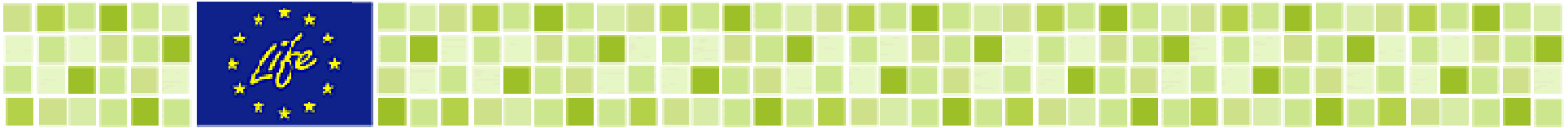




Importance of water

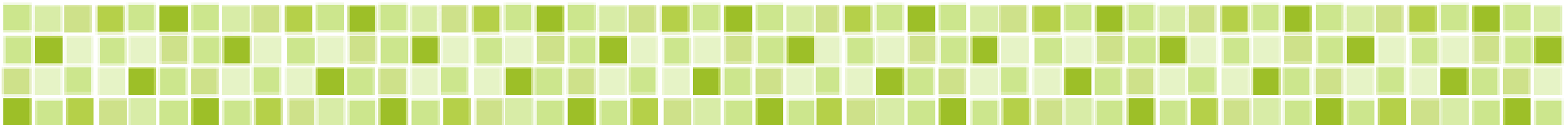
- 42% of European citizens are concerned about water pollution
- 61% of people in Slovenia voiced this concern

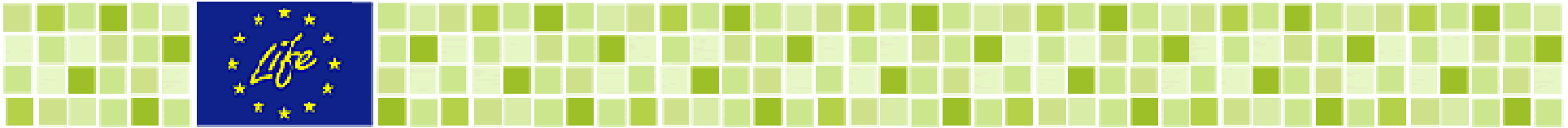




Challenges

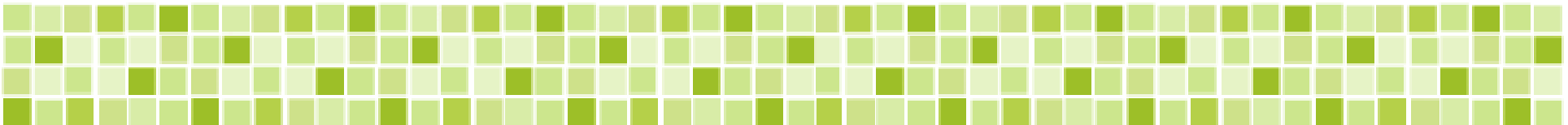
- Significant advance in the quality of water over the last 20 years
- The Water Framework Directive (“WFD”) has accelerated and deepened the drive to the achievement of good ecological status
- Nutrient enrichment and physical interventions remain the biggest challenges

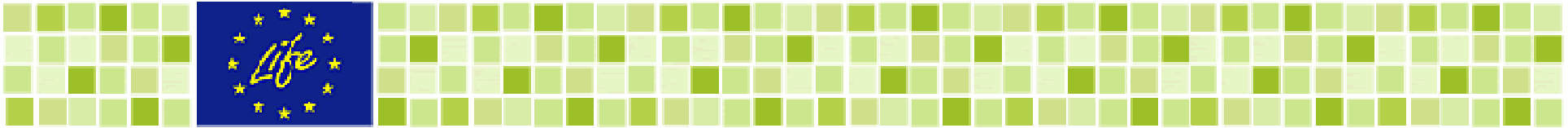




River basin management

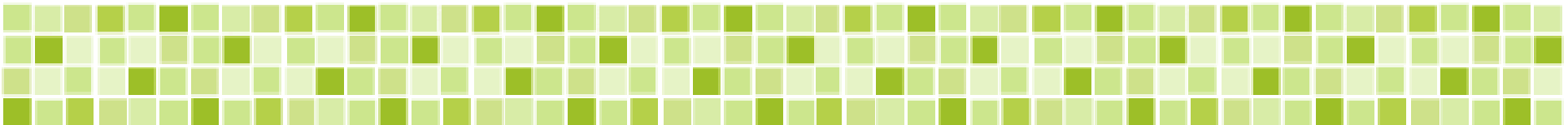
- A building block of the WFD is integrated river basin management
- River basin management plans
- Trans-national impact in 25 Member States





LIFE has helped

- 150 projects between 1996 and 2006
- 100 were nature projects largely focussed on river basin management
- The remainder were environment projects whose main emphasis was river and floodplain management

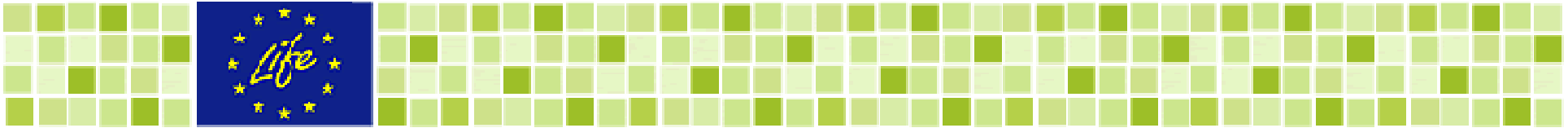




Integrated river basin management

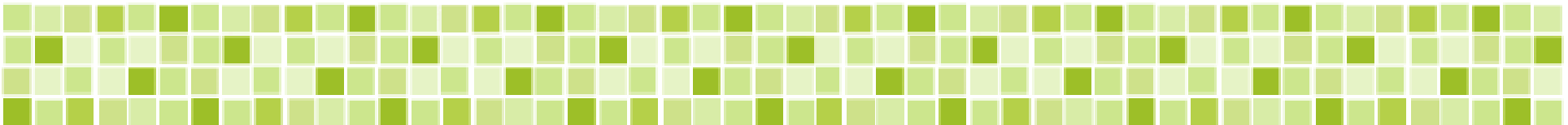
- A Finnish project that developed cost-effective, practical tools
- Guidelines
- FP5 and Interreg
- GIS tool

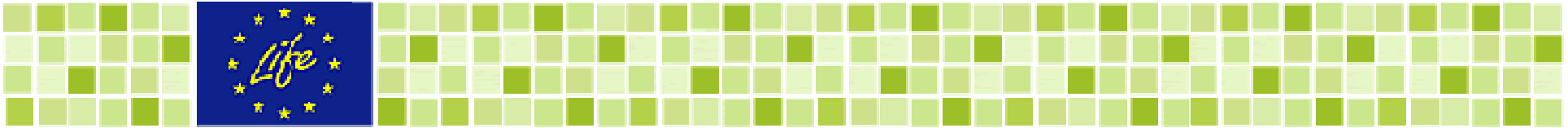




Practical river management

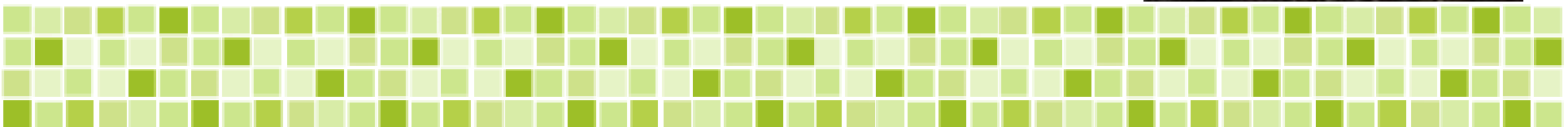
- A Spanish project that successfully developed a sustainable management plan
- Helped region meet the WFD requirements
- A foundation created

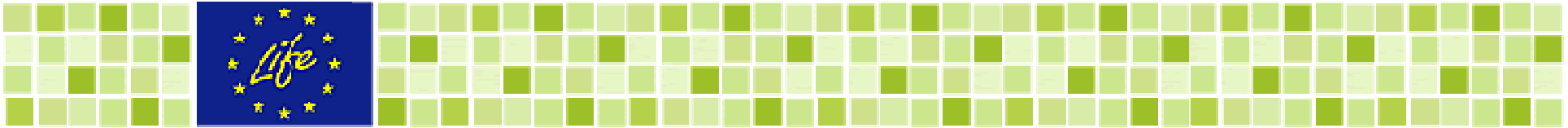




Danube – natural dynamics

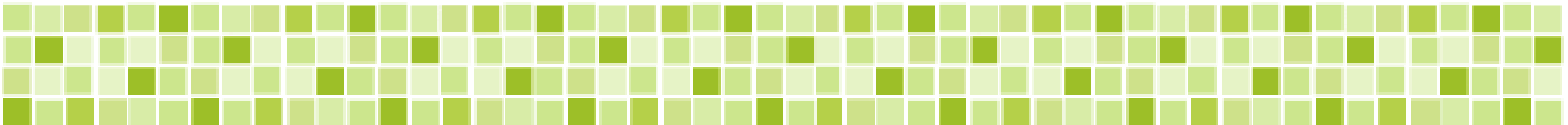
- Reconnection of river branches, creation of gravel islands
- Birds and beavers returned
- A follow up project financed
- Acceptance by local population

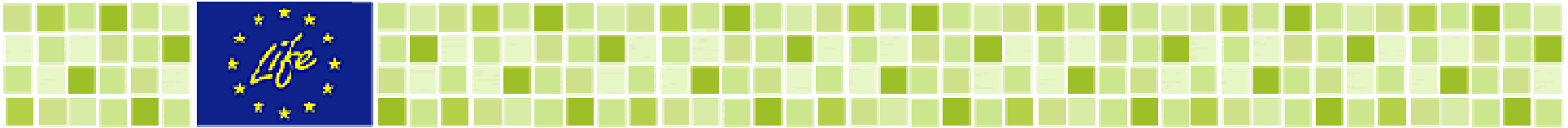




UK: safeguarding Natura 2000 rivers

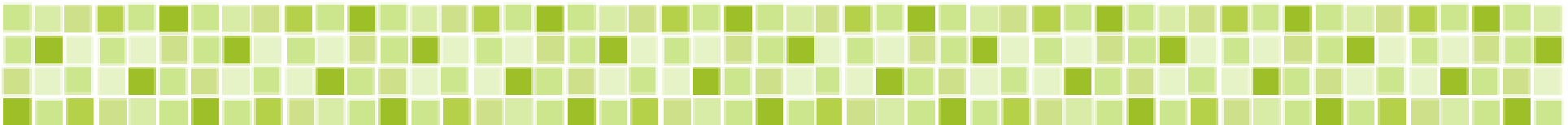
- Developed management plans for seven rivers
- Monitoring protocols were produced
- Obstacles to successful conservation were identified

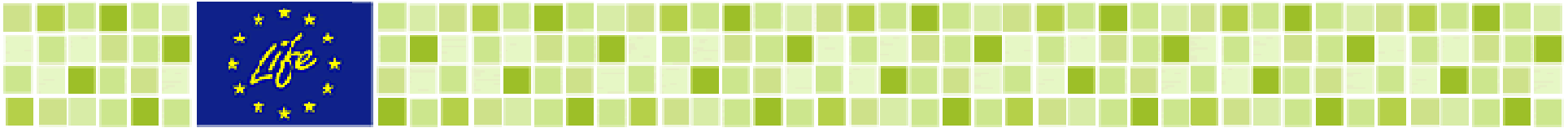




River Drava

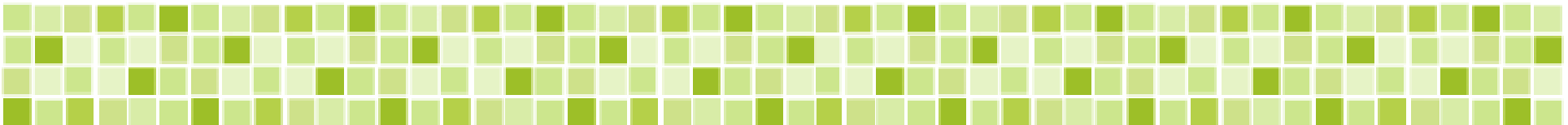
- The 1999 project aimed at river management
- The 2006 project looks at innovative management solutions as well as cross border strategies

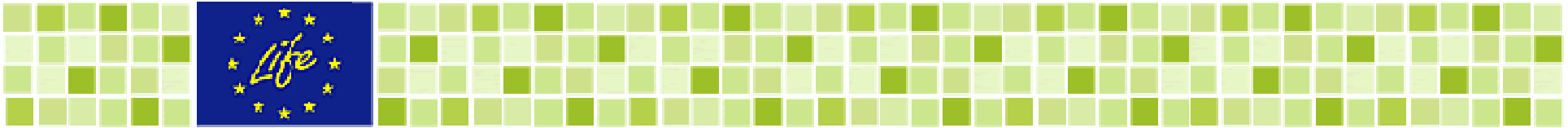




LIFE+

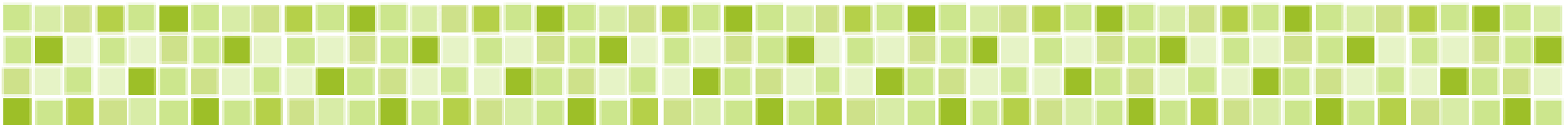
- LIFE+ nature and biodiversity
- LIFE+ environmental policy and governance

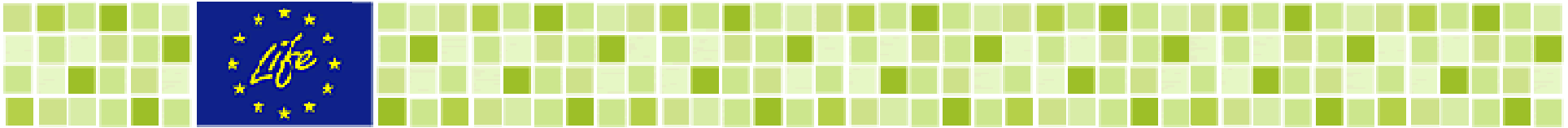




LIFE+ nature and biodiversity

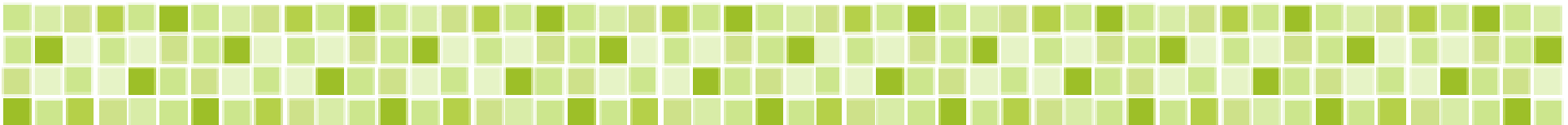
- Best practice or pilot projects for nature conservation inside Natura 2000 areas
- Innovative or pilot projects for biodiversity outside Natura 2000

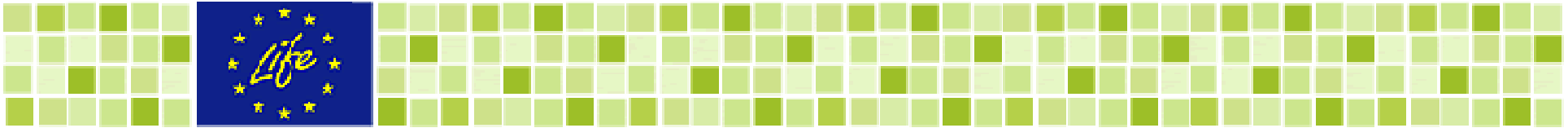




LIFE+ environmental policy and governance

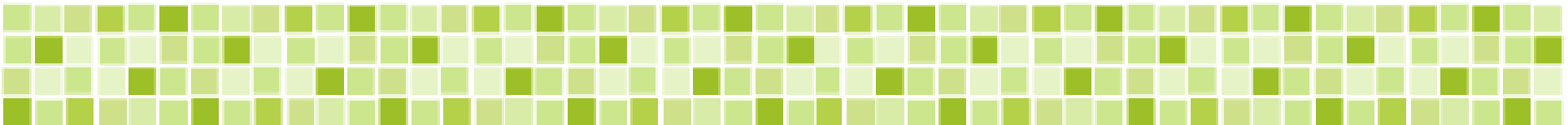
- Innovative or pilot projects under the WFD especially:
 - River basin management plans
 - Marine thematic strategy
 - Hydromorphological features

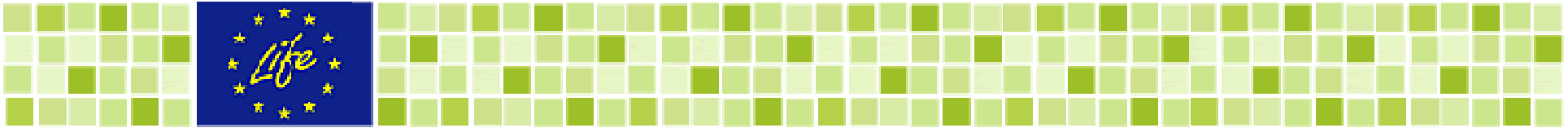




LIFE+

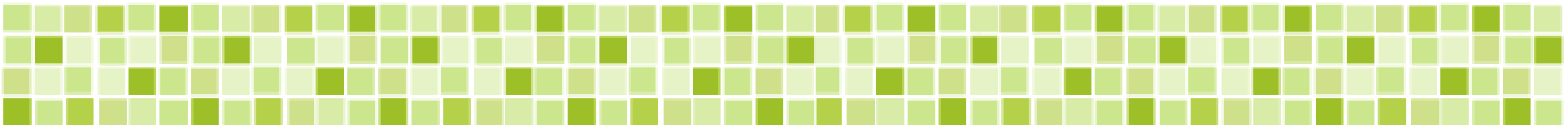
- Funding normally at 50%
- Transnational projects
- Open to public and private sectors as well as not for profit
- Annual call for proposals – closing 21 November 2008

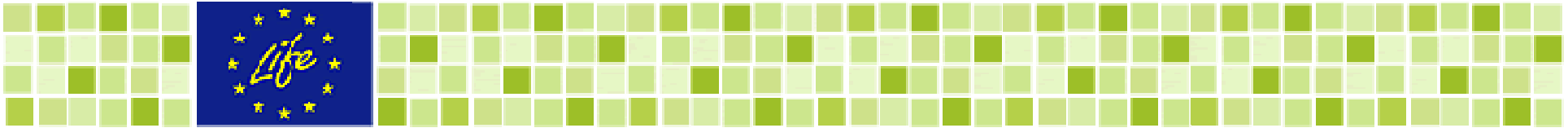




LIFE+

- Depends on the submission of quality proposals for its success
- A bottom up approach from applicants throughout the EU
- Workshops: 29/9 SI, 1/10 HU and AU





LIFE+

- Information on how to apply to LIFE+ can be found on the web:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life_plus/call/index.htm

- Good luck!

