



Terms of Reference for conducting the Final evaluation & socio- economic impact assessment for the LIFE Unify project

Publication Date: 17.05.2022

Deadline for submitting proposal: 31.05.2022 COB

Terms of References

Country: Belgium

Location: online or in Brussels

Starting date of the contract: as soon as possible

The final project evaluation & socio-economic impact assessment of LIFE Unify will be conducted under responsibility of the Unify project manager at Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe Secretariat.

The Unify project as received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union.

Information about the project

OBJECTIVES:

“Unify: Bringing the EU together on climate action” aims to facilitate the effective and early transition of Member States across Europe to low carbon and resilient economies by unifying three key policy opportunities: programming of EU funds, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and national and the EU’s Long Term Strategies.

Through its targeted activities in 10 Member States and at the EU level, the Unify project showcases that if these three key EU policy processes are consistent, ambitious and in line with the Paris Agreement objectives, they could help all EU Member States to step up climate action.

PROJECT PERIOD:

September 2019 – August 2022

COUNTRIES COVERED and PROJECT PARTNERS:

Associated beneficiaries:

Croatia: Društvo za oblikovanje održivog razvoja- DOOR

Czechia: Centrum pro dopravu a energetiku, z.s. / Centre for Transport and Energy – CDE

Denmark: 92-gruppen / the Danish 92 Group

Estonia: Eestimaa Looduse Fond / Estonian Fund for Nature

France: Réseau Action Climat - RAC France

Germany: Germanwatch

Poland: Institute for Sustainable Development - ISD

Portugal: Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável / Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System - ZERO

Slovenia: Focus, društvo za sonaraven razvoj / Focus Association for Sustainable Development

Spain: Sociedad Española de Ornitología, SEO/BirdLife

Coordinating beneficiary:

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Key contact person:

Federico Mascolo (CAN Europe, Network development & project manager)

Email: Federico.mascolo@caneurope.org

Assignment & Objectives of the Evaluation

Assignment: CAN Europe seeks to hire a consultant to undertake:

- 1) A final evaluation of the project (Activity F.2.3 – ‘Final project evaluation’, under Action F.2, ‘Project Monitoring and Evaluation’)
- 2) An integrated socio-economic assessment (Activity D.1.2 – ‘Socio-economic impact assessment’, under Action D.1, ‘Monitoring the impact of the project actions’)

Main objectives:

- To provide an objective evaluation of the LIFE Unify project for its final review.
- To assess the socio-economic, political and policy impacts of the LIFE Unify project across its target groups, in the 10 countries involved in the project and across the EU.

Both evaluations should take into consideration the initial project scope, objectives and goals, and compare them with its final achievements and results, thereby evaluating the fulfillment of objectives, efficiency, impact and sustainability of project activities and underlining key lessons.

The final project evaluation and socio-economic impact assessment should provide credible and useful information to inform the project’s final reporting, as well as the drafting of the AfterLife plan and the assessment/revision of KPIs. The outcomes of this report will be reviewed by the LIFE UNIFY Project Management Team also in light of the project’s closing event, in which project partners present the evaluation report, and jointly draw conclusions with the Project Monitor and CINEA.

Principles underpinning the approach to the evaluation are:

- Impartiality and independence of the evaluation process from the implementation functions,
- Credibility of the evaluation, through use of appropriately skilled and independent expertise,
- Usefulness of the evaluation findings and recommendations, through timely presentation of relevant, clear and concise information.

Methodology of the Evaluation

Both evaluations should be done through desk research, interviews with project partners and relevant stakeholders engaged in the project’s activities and policy areas. The use of public data from national authorities, the EU, public bodies, private companies could also be envisaged.

The final project evaluation should provide conclusions and recommendations on the following questions:

- Effectiveness: To which degree did the activities meet the objectives and results set out in the project (as outlined in the logical framework)? The LIFE Unify project has adjusted the timeline and content of its deliverables to follow the developments about EU’s climate policies. Were they effective and helped to meet the objectives?
- Relevance: Was the project designed and implemented? in a way that is relevant to reach its goals?
- Efficiency: Was the project run/implemented in an efficient way?
- Sustainability: Are the results achieved so far sustainable? Are they expected to be sustainable?
- Internal coherence: Were the result indicators and their means of verification adequate? What possible adjustments of designing indicators? would the consultant recommend?
- Impact: What were the concrete impacts of the project at the EU and national level? Were there any unforeseen positive/negative effects of the activities?
- Which unmet needs would be relevant for the LIFE Unify project to look into in an eventual continuation of the project?

Ultimately, the final project evaluation should assess the impact of the Unify project in promoting the development of strong & ambitious NECPs, nLTS, SECAPs, EU funds spending plans and programmes (RRPs, OPs, PAs, TJTPs etc.). It should include lessons learned and provide recommendations, as well as distill examples of policy impact at the national and EU level.

The socio-economic impact assessment should identify key social and economic impacts both in the countries covered by LIFE Unify, and at a broader, EU-wide level. Some specific objectives of the assessment include:

- To identify the overall potential social impacts on citizens of NECPs, nLTS policies and measures (national level) and SECAPs (local level) in the 10 target countries.
- To identify the overall potential socio-economic impacts of the EU funds spending plans (RRPs, OPs, PAs, TJTPs etc.) in the 10 target countries
- To identify changes in the level of public awareness and the involvement of civil society participation in the drafting and implementation of NECPs, nLTS, SECAPs and EU funds plans and programs (RRPs, OPs, PAs, TJTPs etc.)
- To map the socio-economic impacts of the Unify project and to draw out the implications for strengthening the NECPs and nLTS –in light of their revision – and for improving SECAPs, EU funds spending plans ambition & implementation;

Deliverables & timeline

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

- A short inception report outlining how the consultant will undertake the assignment, including methodology, proposed reference groups and guiding questions for the questionnaires within 10 working days of the start of the contract
- Conduct interviews at least with all UNIFY consortium partners by the end of June
- A digital copy of the draft project evaluation & socio-economic impact assessment report by 15.07.2022. The UNIFY consortium shall provide feedback and comments within two weeks after receiving the draft report. CAN Europe shall retain responsibility for seeking feedback from affiliate partners.
- A final digital copy of the final project evaluation & socio-economic impact assessment report by 19.08.2022.

The final project evaluation & socio-economic impact assessment report should at least include:

- Executive summary
- Background / Brief project description and context
- Evaluation purpose & methodologies (including list of interviews conducted)
- Conclusions, Recommendations & lessons learned, which should provide a clear, relevant and defensible basis for value judgments

Indicative budget: 13.000 Euros