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# NEWSLETTER

**April 2021**

LIFE EUROKITE

(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)



  
MEGEG



“Birds increasingly show us the need to work together and in coordination with all the countries in which they live throughout the year, a task in which SEO /BirdLife is fully committed. The new project LIFE Eurokite is an excellent example of this important cross-border work to conserve such an endangered species as the red kite. It is useless to avoid the use of poisoned baits to preserve raptors in our country, if we do not transfer this effort to other countries where they can finally die from poisoning or from other causes due to humans. Only through close international cooperation will it be possible in the future to conserve the red kite and other migratory birds of prey.”

**Asunción Ruiz**  
**CEO at SEO/BirdLife**

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## SEO/BirdLife

SEO/BirdLife is a Spanish NGO founded in 1954 with the aim of conserving wild birds and their habitats, being the pioneer organization of nature conservation and biodiversity in Spain. It is widely implanted over the national territory through a network of local offices and technical offices, and it is supported by more than 18,000 members and 43 local groups. More than 7,000 volunteers participate annually in our activities, 25,000 supporters help somehow in our work, and over 70,000 children and youngsters attend our educational programs each year. It is a charitable organization declared of Public Utility in Spain, and the Spanish partner of BirdLife International. For more than six decades, SEO/BirdLife has been working on the conservation of birds and their habitats, conducting scientific studies, disseminating knowledge, performing activities related to international cooperation, and developing environmental programs with volunteers.

In Spain, the red kite is declared endangered, and it is the third country with the largest breeding population in Europe. During winter, Spain is the main wintering country for the European population of red kite.

We have been studying the spatial ecology of the red kite since 2013 within the Migra program and have tagged with GPS more than 80 kites in Spain thanks to the collaboration of numerous organizations. Among the actions that SEO/BirdLife will develop within the LIFE EUROKITE will be the tagging of 40 more red kites in Spain, the recovery of the tagged red kites that die in Spain, and the installation of a web camera in a feeding place for red kites and other scavenger birds.

(<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/webcams.html>)

Poisoning has been one of the main conservation problems of the red kite in Spain in the last 20 years, contributing to the decline of 31 % of its population. Since 2010 SEO/BirdLife has been working in the fight against poisoning through LIFE Veneno, and our experience will be of great interest to fight against this threat throughout Europe within the LIFE EUROKITE.

**Ana Bermejo – SEO/BirdLife**



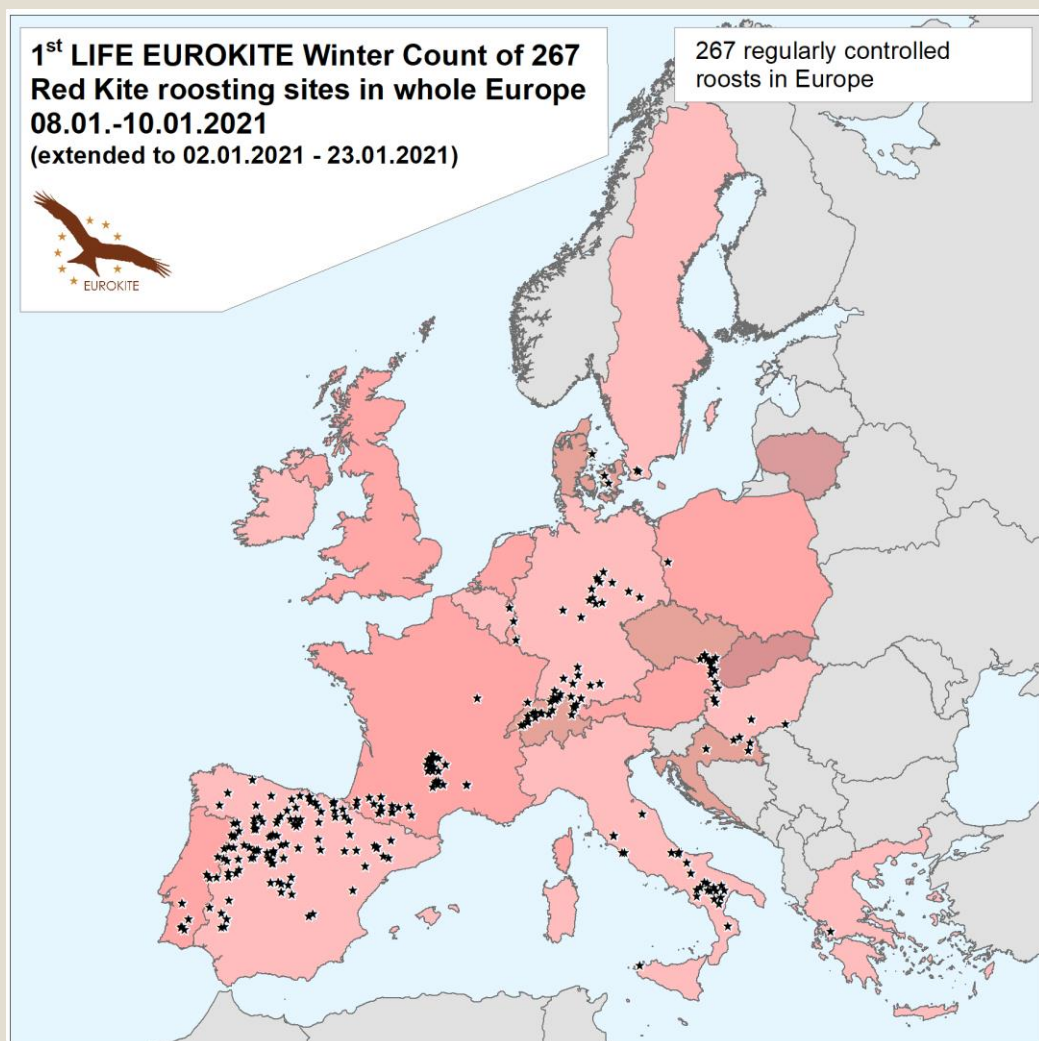
## Results of the “1<sup>st</sup> LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count of 267 selected regularly counted Red Kite roosting sites in whole Europe”

**08.01.-10.01.2021**

**(extended to 02.01. -23.01.2021)**

### Impact monitoring of the LIFE EUROKITE Project

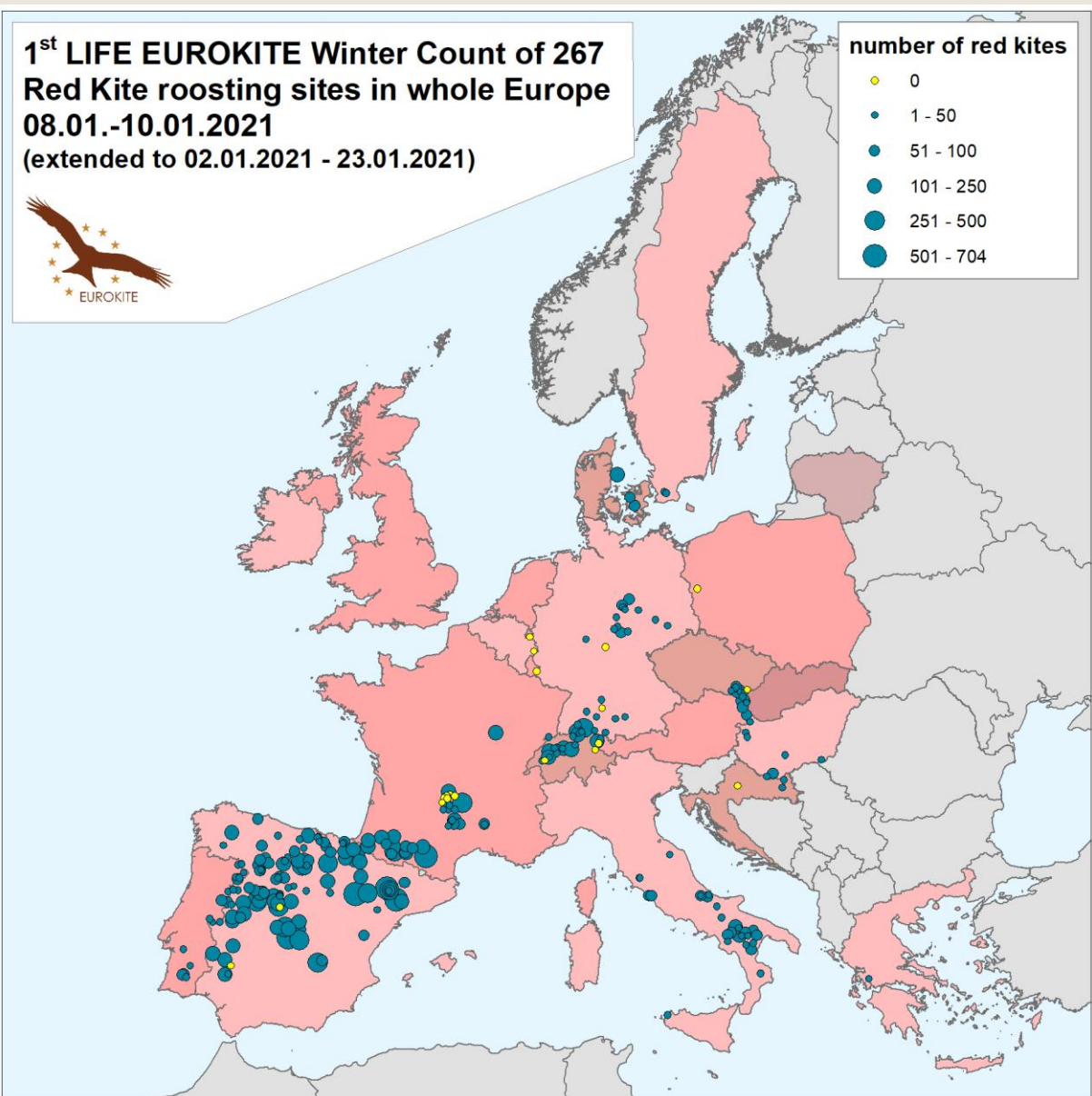
Since 2007, hibernating Red Kites have been recorded at their roosts on a weekend in January in some European countries. The counts have so far been coordinated by the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO) in France. For the first time, a synchronous counting of 267 selected and regularly counted roosting sites of the Red Kite was carried out as part of the LIFE EUROKITE project by the Central European Society for Raptor Protection (MEGEG) together with numerous European partners and 581 volunteers in 21 European countries (in the 3 countries GB, IE & LT no specific roosting site were counted in 2021), which will be consistently counted in the next 6 years in January.



*Map of the 267 (in the next years) regularly controlled roosting sites of the Red Kite within the 1<sup>st</sup> LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count 2021.*

The winter census of the Red Kite roosting sites took place across Europe from January 8<sup>th</sup> to January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and was therefore on the same weekend as most national censuses, which are already established in many countries. As in previous years, several hundred volunteers took part in these counts. Due to COVID and its' restrictions it was not able to count in all countries as planned. The weather conditions for example in Spain on the counting weekend (extreme snowfall) did not make it possible to count in all countries at the same weekend. Therefore, the roosting sites were counted within an extended period (21.12.2020 – 04.02.2021). The traditional and most important wintering areas of the Red Kite are in Spain and the south of France.

In total **267 roosting** sites were counted with a minimum of **22.859** and a maximum of **23.050 Red Kites** and **45 Black Kites**.



*Number of Red Kites per roosting site counted during the 1st LIFE EUOKITE winter count at the 267 selected roosting sites in January 2021.*



Please follow the link to the whole report of the Results of the “1st LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count of 267 selected regularly counted Red Kite roosting sites in whole Europe”

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/media/publications.html>

We want to thank everyone who participated in the winter count, especially the National Coordinators and the volunteers.



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## Coordinating Beneficiary



The TB Raab was commissioned to implement the LIFE EUROKITE project after a pan-European public tender.



## Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



AGIR pour la BIODIVERSITÉ



## Co-financier



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Environnement, du Climat  
et du Développement durable  
Administration de l'environnement



## Cooperation partner



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MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft



Universidad de Oviedo



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