



NEWSLETTER

July 2021

LIFE EUROKITE

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Christine Schneider
Member of the European Parliament
(MEP) - Germany

“The cross-border protection and conservation of biodiversity, species and sustainability in Europe is not only particularly important but also a heartfelt wish. I am committed to this in my work in the European Parliament and also at home. Therefor I welcome the efforts of LIFE EUROKITE to identify the problems in species conservation through scientific analyses and thereby develop solution concepts for a sustainable protection of the Red Kite in our European cultural landscape, so that future generations of animals and humans will also have a future together.”



Tagging of raptors in many European countries

Also this year, in the course of the LIFE EUROKITE project, Red kites, Imperial eagles and also a White-tailed eagle were tagged.

With the help of the numerous (cooperation) partners of the LIFE EUROKITE project and the voluntary help, more than 150 birds in 9 countries were tagged with GPS-transmitter from May to July 2021.

With the help of the telemetry data, the habitat use of the target species is to be determined and the main reasons for the mortality of birds of prey in the EU are to be quantified. Measures are to be taken to combat the main human-made causes of death, such as illegal persecution, particularly through poisoning, collisions with road and rail traffic, wind farms, as well as power lines and electricity pylons. It is therefore also intended to contribute to the implementation of a number of important EU policy objectives.



Two adult Red Kite

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Tagging of red kites, imperial eagle and white-tailed eagle in Austria

The EVN subsidiary Netz Niederösterreich is one of the partners of the LIFE EUOKITE project and partly finances the tagging of young red kites and thus makes a contribution to better protect the red kite. Heinrich Bittner, Managing Director of Netz NÖ and Katharina Rauch from the EVN Information and Communication department accompanied the tagging team of the LIFE EUOKITE project in Lower Austria for a day.

On June 4th 2021, the tagging team successfully tagged 6 young red kites from 3 nests. One nest was very special, because these young red kites are already the 3rd generation to have transmitters. The female red kite, which has been breeding successfully in Lower Austria for years, was tagged as a young red kite in 2015. Since 2018, the offspring of this female has also been tagged. Unfortunately, in the past few years there have been repeated deaths caused by humans. For example, 2 young red kites were shot illegally (in Tunisia and Austria).

Below: In the course of the LIFE EUOKITE project, together with the project partner Netz Niederösterreich (l. Katharina Rauch, r. Head of Netz NÖ Dipl.-Ing. Heinrich Bittner, two young red kites were tagged in Lower Austria.



Above: In the course of the LIFE EUOKITE project young red kites were tagged in Lower Austria. The picture shows the 3. generation of tagged young red kites (2021, one was too young for the tagging) of a female red kite which was tagged in 2015.

Climate protection minister Gewessler releases white-tailed eagle "Leonore" into freedom

At the EGS Haringsee rehabilitated white-tailed eagle was tagged – telemetry data gives important information about the behaviour – biodiversity – biodiversity in Austria of great interest

Haringsee, 1st July 2021, The "Eulen- und Greifvogelstation Haringsee" (EGS) run by VIER PFOTEN received a visit from Climate Protection Minister Leonore Gewessler. The reason for this was the release of a white-tailed eagle that had been cared for after found by a team member of the TB Raab injured in the Marchauen in April 2021. The project team of the EU species protection project LIFE EUROKITE in cooperation with the EGS team under the scientific director Dr. Hans Frey has also tagged the white-tailed eagle with a GPS-transmitter that will provide important information about flight routes or mating behaviour. The minister was fascinated by the imposing animal and impressed by the activities of the EGS and the LIFE EUROKITE project. She also took on a sponsorship; the female white-tailed eagle will therefore be called "Leonore" in the future. The latest GPS point was in Slovakia.



Climate protection minister Leonore Gewessler and Head of VIER PFOTEN Eva Rosenberg with the white-tailed eagle „Leonore“

Tagging of imperial eagles in the Czech Republic and Austria

In cooperation with our Czech friends Dana Rymešová, David Horal, Marek Dostál, Ivan Literák and Hynek Matusik, we tagged 4 nestlings of the imperial eagle in South Moravia in July 2021. Another 2 young birds were tagged in eastern Austria in cooperation with the local hunters. Our partner project PannonEagle LIFE also receives the data and we work closely together on the prosecution of wildlife crime. Thanks to CSO (BirdLife Czech Republic), MME (BirdLife Hungary) and numerous other partners, such as BirdLife Austria, WWF Austria, but also to the Lower Austrian Hunting Association and Hunting Austria for the good cooperation in the context of the conservation of birds of prey.



Left: The two tagged imperial eagles in Austria in July 2021.

Below: The tagging team of the LIFE EUROKITE project in cooperation with the Czech partner CSO and the veterinarian university Brno.



Tagging of 26 young red kites together with LPO in France

At the beginning of June, a total of 26 young red kites were tagged in the course of the LIFE EUROKITE project together with our partner LPO (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux) and the volunteers in France. We hope that the young red kites will have a long life ahead and that the GPS data will help to a better protection of the red kite and other raptors.



The tagging team of the LIFE EUROKITE project in cooperation with the French partner LPO.

Red Kite tagging in Spain 2021

Among the actions that SEO/BirdLife will develop within the LIFE EUROKITE will be the tagging of 40 red kites in Spain in the first four years of the project. During the spring of 2021 we tagged 15 young red kites in the nest in the provinces of Segovia (11) and Madrid (4), located in the centre of Spain. With these birds monitored with GPS, SEO/BirdLife have tagged a total of 27 Spanish red kites between 2020 and 2021. Despite the Spanish breeding population of red kite is mainly sedentary, juveniles perform long dispersal movements from their natal site, and they fly throughout the Iberian Peninsula during their first year of life.



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Above: Young red kite during the tagging 2021 in Spain.

Left: Tagging in Segovia (Spain) 2021.

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The tagging of red kites in Portugal

In April 2021, two rehabilitated and tagged red kites were released by AMUS Oficial (Acción por el Mundo Salvaje) & Crassa - Centro de Recuperação de Animais Selvagens de St. André in Portugal.

Both red kites were found with potential signals of poisoning in central Portugal in early February 2021 and were taken to the Saint Andre Wildlife Rescue Center (CRASSA), a center managed by the NGO QUERCUS. After more than two months of treatment and rehabilitation at this center, the red kites were ready to be released under the strict control of the center's veterinarian and biologist.

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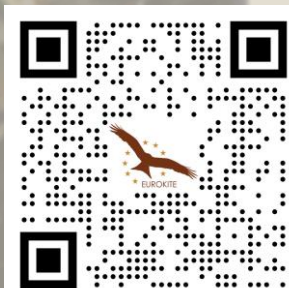
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Coordinating Beneficiary



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



Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



Co-financier



Cooperation partner



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