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NEWSLETTER

May/June 2022

LIFE EUROKITE

(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)



“LIFE EUROKITE represents bringing people together from all walks of life and countries for just a common goal: conservation. In a world of extinction and species decline, team building and working together proves to be the only and most effective weapon against failure, against losing our wonderful European natural heritage. We will always be with those who promote the conservation of our threatened wildlife and in this regard LIFE EUROKITE is strategically positioned in the very frontline. The team, the aims and the way to achieve goals make it worth it!”

PhD Iñigo Fajardo
IUCN Vulture Specialists Group
Head of the Vulture and Red Kite Conservation Programme. Junta de Andalucía. Spain



Publication of the book „Der Rotmilan in Europa - Erfolgreicher Schutz auf internationaler Ebene" (The Red Kite in Europe - Successful protection at international level)

Hainburg an der Donau. On May 24th, 2022, during the Austrian Power Grid AG (APG) symposium "Sustainable habitat management - Biodiversity and Species Protection on power lines", the book "The Red Kite in Europe - Successful Protection at international level" was published.

In addition to a large number of fantastic pictures, the book offers the reader background information on the red kite, its habitat and distribution as well as its main threats. There are many different conservation efforts for the red kite across Europe. In addition to governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, there are numerous smaller and larger projects to protect the red kite and other raptor species. The international statements by organizations and scientists in the book show the meaning and importance of cross-border cooperation between all different interest groups.

The costs for image fees, parts of the text creation and the entire printing costs were financed by Austrian Power Grid AG (APG). Parts of the text were created as part of the LIFE EUROKITE project (LIFE18 NAT/ AT/000048), which is funded 60% from the LIFE Nature Fund. APG will provide a total of 1,500 copies for stakeholders to the LIFE EUROKITE project.



Publication of the book "Der Rotmilan in Europa - Erfolgreicher Schutz auf internationaler Ebene" during the Austrian Power Grid AG (APG) symposium "Sustainable habitat management - Biodiversity and Species Protection on power lines" on 24th of May 2022 in Hainburg (Austria). From left to right: Biologist Rainer Raab (author), Sven Abele (author; APG), nature photographer Franz Kovacs (author), biologist Hannah Böing (author), Wolfgang Hafner (APG). Photo: APG/Markus Virgolini



Handover of the red kite book in the following days (from left to right) to Angelo Salsi (Head of LIFE Unit - EASME) and Juraj Droba (President of the Bratislava Region).

[Link to the book "Der Rotmilan in Europa - Erfolgreicher Schutz auf internationaler Ebene"](#)

[Press release Austrian Power Grid \(APG\) "Habitat management"](#)

30 years LIFE Programme

“30 years of bringing green ideas to LIFE”

On the occasion of "30 years of the LIFE Programme" and the LIFE EUROKITE project, the opening of information boards of the LIFE EUROKITE project were celebrated in Germany, France, Spain and Austria.

LIFE (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement) is the only EU funding program that exclusively supports environmental concerns. LIFE celebrated its 30th anniversary on May 21st. The program, which has existed since 1992, promotes measures in the areas of biodiversity, environmental and climate protection.

The LIFE EUROKITE project is also 60% supported by LIFE. LIFE EUROKITE is a cross-border and EU-wide project to protect the Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) with the aim of reducing human-caused mortality. The red kite breeds almost exclusively in Europe and is e.g. threatened by persecution. Within LIFE EUROKITE, the anthropogenic causes of mortality are being investigated with the help of telemetry and work is being done to reduce them in the future.

In Austria, together with Mayor Gernot Haupt (Marchegg), Mag. Rainer Raab (Technical Manager LIFE EUROKITE), Ing. Werner Falb-Meixner (Chairman MEGEG, Vice President of the Burgenland Chamber of Agriculture), René Lobner (LEADER Region Marchfeld, Member of the Lower Austrian Parliament), Mag. Margit Bruck-Friedrich, M.A. (Ambassador, Austrian Embassy Pressburg), Mag.a Viktoria Hasler (representing Leonore Gewessler, BA Federal Minister BMK) and Provincial Councilor Martin Eichinger (representing Governor Johanna Mikl-Leitner), on May 21, 2022 the LIFE EUROKITE information board at Marchegg Castle unveiled during the Marchfeld Region Festival and the Lower Austrian State Exhibition.

You can find a video about this under the following link:

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/de/aktuelles/news-detail/eroeffnung-der-life-eurokite-informationstafel-und-30-jahre-life.html>

30 years
of bringing
green ideas to LIFE





Opening of the LIFE EUROKITE information board during the Marchfeld region festival and the Lower Austrian state exhibition with representatives of the region. © Franz Josef Kovacs



Unveiling of the information board together with (from left to right) René Lobner (LEADER region Marchfeld, member of the Lower Austrian state parliament), Ing. Werner Falb-Meixner (Chairman MEGEG, Vice President of the Burgenland Chamber of Agriculture), Mag.a Viktoria Hasler (representing Leonore Gewessler, BA Federal Minister BMK), Provincial Councilor Martin Eichinger (on behalf of Provincial Governor Johanna Mikl-Leitner), Mag. Margit Bruck-Friedrich, M.A. (Ambassador, Austrian Embassy Pressburg) and Mag. Rainer Raab (Technical Manager LIFE EUROKITE) and . © Hannah Böing

The opening of the LIFE EUROKITE information board also took place in Spain on May 21, 2022. Together with representatives from Fondo Amigos del Buitre, SEO/BirdLife, Grupo Ornitológico Oscense and members of the local group "SEO-Huesca", the board was opened in Binaced at a bird watching point. The following link takes you to the Spanish press release.

<https://seo.org/2022/05/23/acercate-a-los-milanos-reales-de-binaced-huesca/>



Together with the “Rotmilanzentrum am Heineanum” (red kite center at the Heineanum) in Halberstadt (Germany), an information board of the LIFE EUROKITE project was also opened on June 24th, 2022.

The main goal of the red kite Center is to stabilize the red kite population in the state of Saxony-Anhalt (Germany). For this to happen, however, other medium-term goals must also be achieved. This includes, for example, the establishment of the center as a (nationally and internationally) recognized advice and information center for the red kite. Closing existing gaps in knowledge and monitoring the nationwide population of red kites is also one of the goals that they want to achieve.

Together with the LIFE EUROKITE projects, several red kites are also being tagged and tracked in Saxony-Anhalt.



Opening of the LIFE EUROKITE information board on 24.06.2022 in Halberstadt (Germany).

Tagging of the young red kites of Valencia

On June 14th, 2022, the tagging team of the LIFE EUOKITE project and the local partners on site (lower nature conservation authority district of Lippe & University of Bielefeld) succeeded in tagging the two young red kites from Valencia. Both young birds are in very good condition and reunited with Valencia in the nest shortly after they were tagged. In the days that followed, the young red kites made their first small excursions and always came back to the nest.



Tagging of the young birds from Valencia together with the LIFE EUOKITE team, the University of Bielefeld and the Lower Nature Conservation Authority of the Lippe district. All were reunited in the nest shortly after the transmitter was installed.

Reintroduction of Red Kites in southwest Spain by Red Kites from England

On June 13, 2022, the first 15 young Red Kites from England were released by AMUS together with the Regional Minister for Ecological Transition and Sustainability and the Regional Director General for Sustainability of the Government of Extremadura, the Mayor of Valencia del Mombuey, the Guardia Civil Police, Birding in Extremadura and the Co-financiers of the LIFE EUOKITE project ENDESA, Fundación Banco de Santander, Mossy Earth and Diputación Provincial de Badajoz.

The Red Kite population in southern Spain and Portugal has partly seen sharp declines in the last years, also due to illegal poisoning. Breeding pairs have become very rare there. The remaining small breeding population will be strengthened by the LIFE EUOKITE project. For this action 90 Red Kite chicks from the Red Kite population in southern England will be released during 3 years to support the Spanish population. This English Red Kite population originates from a reintroduction program that began in 1989 with Spanish donor stock from Navarra in northern Spain, in addition to other European regions, and has had great success.



Preparation and arrival of the first red kite in Spain © AMUS, ENEL

In this way, a stable breeding population should be recovered over the next few years in southwest Spain. The area where the reinforcement will be implemented is already an important wintering area for Red Kites, with more than 1.000 wintering red kites. This part of the LIFE EUOKITE project is led by AMUS (www.amus.org.es) who have extensive experience with various projects for the protection of birds of prey.

Alfonso Godino (AMUS) said: "For AMUS, participating in the reinforcement of southern Red Kite populations in Spain is one of our key challenges. What is particularly exciting, however, is the close cooperation with the projects and experts in Red Kite management and conservation in the world, which will be a guarantee of success. We hope that the LIFE EUOKITE project will be the first step to protect the Red Kite not only in southern Spain but also in southern Portugal. "

Duncan Orr-Ewing (RSPB) said: "We are delighted to be collaborating with AMUS and LIFE EUOKITE on this exciting Red Kite conservation project. It is gratifying to see that successful Red Kite reintroduction projects in the UK can now support similar projects in Spain, especially as Spanish colleagues supported our own projects of this type from the late 1980s. "



Release of the first 15 young red kites from England by AMUS together with the Regional Minister for Ecological Transition and Sustainability and the Regional Director General for Sustainability of the Government of Extremadura, the Mayor of Valencia del Mombuey, the Guardia Civil Police, Birding in Extremadura and the Co-financiers of the LIFE EUOKITE project ENDESA, Fundación Banco de Santander, Mossy Earth and Diputación Provincial de Badajoz on June 13 in southwest Spain.

Visit us on



www.life-eurokite.eu



Großstrappe Otis tarda - Rotmilan Milvus milvus
und Co



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Coordinating Beneficiary



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Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



Co-financier



Cooperation partner



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