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NEWSLETTER

September/October 2022

LIFE EUROKITE

(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)




MEGEG





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Natagora is the BirdLife Belgian partner active in Wallonia, the southern half of Belgium. In this region, population of Red Kite have been recently flourishing: latest estimation is of 360-410 pairs. This is the only bird species for which more than 1% of the global breeding population is hosted in Belgium. That explains why Natagora is so interested in actively protecting this population. Together with other working groups, we are trying to understand the reasons behind the good health of Wallonian Red Kite populations, in particular how the farming practices are related to species demography. Since 2014, we also tag birds with GPS loggers to understand their movement patterns including during migration and winter period.

Jean-Yves Paquet

Director of studies at Natagora - Belgium

Numbers & Facts

In recent months, numerous red kites and other bird of prey species have been tagged for the LIFE EUOKITE project. Thanks to the support of our numerous (cooperation-) partners, there are now 2,093 tagged red kites in the LIFE EUOKITE project database. Since 7 red kites have already been tagged for the second time, the sample so far includes a total of 2,086 different red kite individuals.

Red kites

Tagged within the project: 699

Purchased: 136

Tagged red kites shared from (cooperation-) partners: 1.258

Other species tagged within the LIFE EUOKITE Project

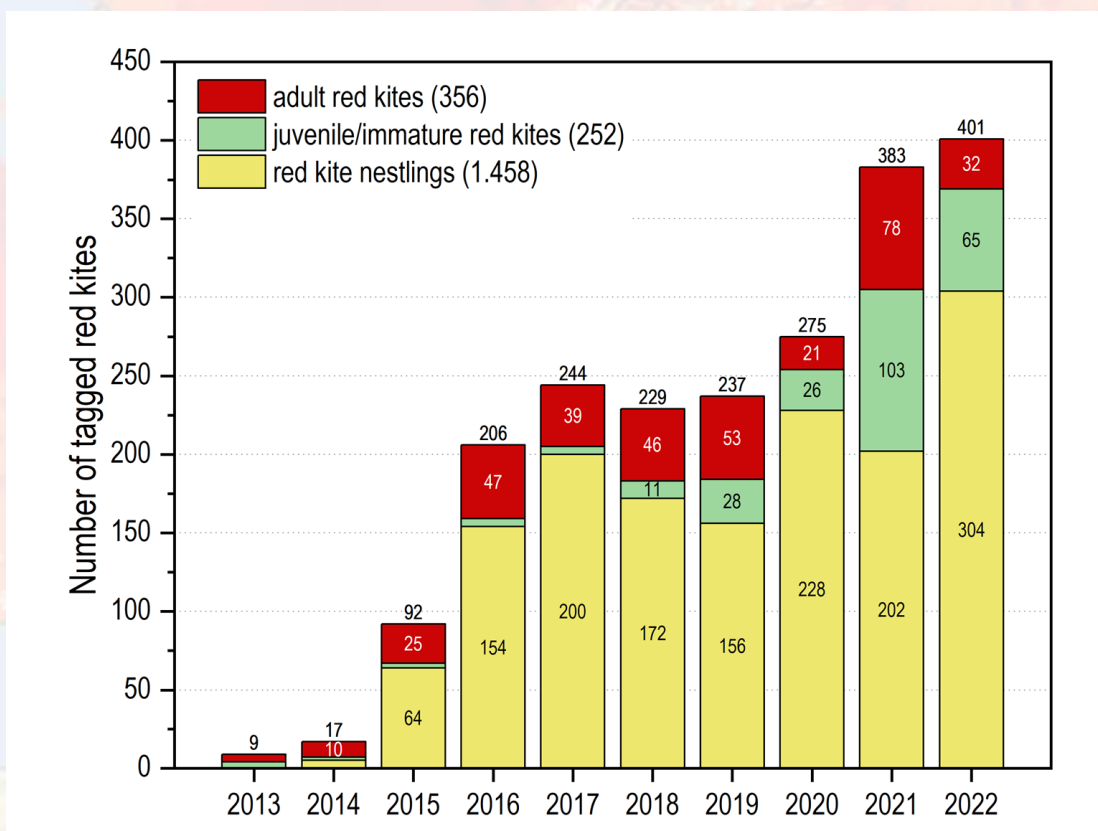
19 Imperial Eagles

9 Black Kites

3 Hybrids (Red Kite x Black Kite)

6 Honey Buzzard

5 White-tailed Eagles (+ 3 purchased)



Overview of the tagging actions in 2022

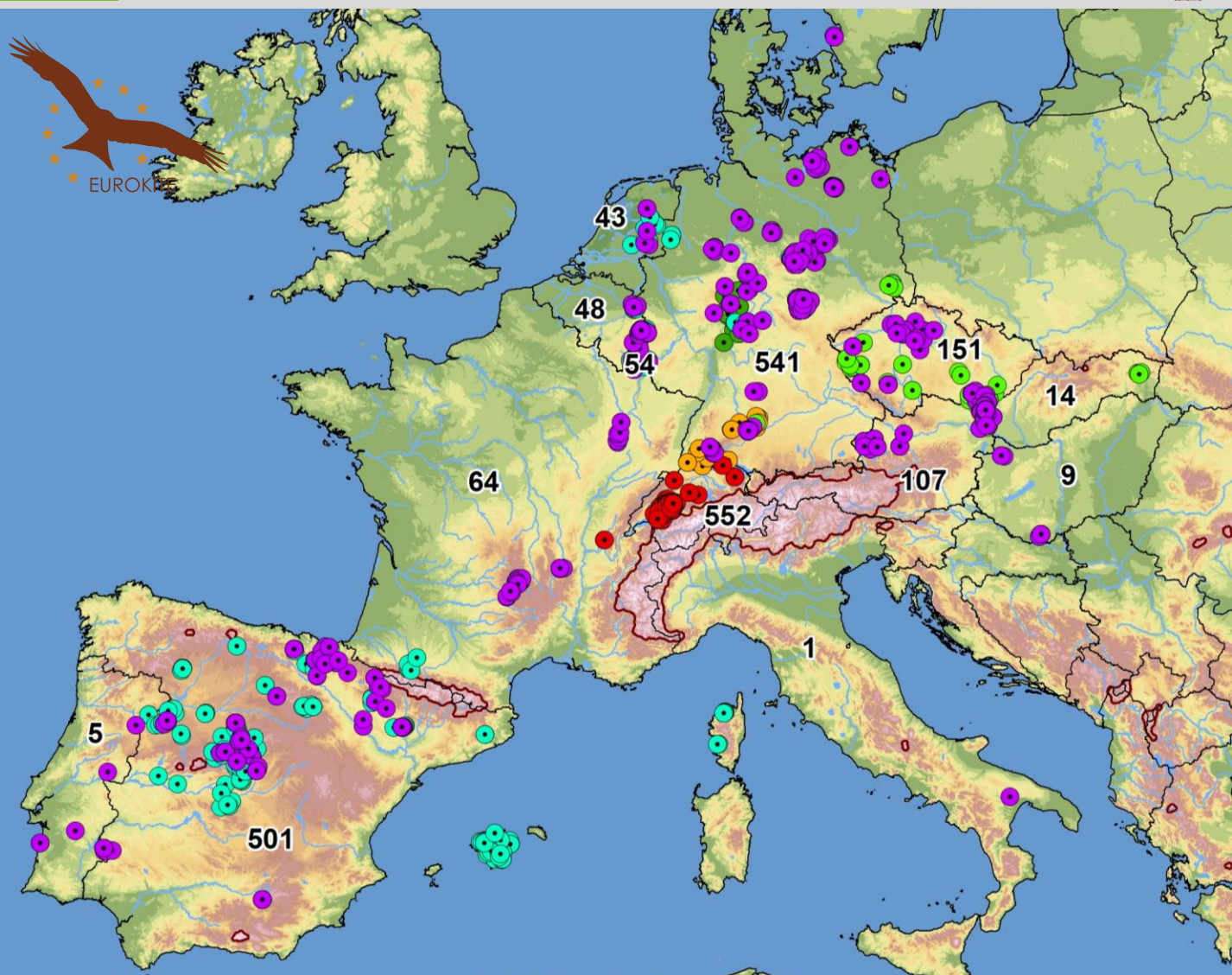
Once again several Red kites, Imperial eagles, White-tailed eagles, Black kites and Honey buzzards were as part of the LIFE EUROKITE project.

With the help of the numerous (cooperation-) partners and the volunteers of the LIFE EUROKITE project, more than 330 birds in 12 countries have been tagged up to now in 2022.

A total of 316 Red kites were tagged in Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Slovakia, Spain, the Czech Republic and Hungary. In addition, 4 White-tailed eagles, 6 Imperial eagles, 6 Black kites and 6 Honey buzzards were tagged.

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.





Project partner



Co-funder



Additional providers of telemetry data



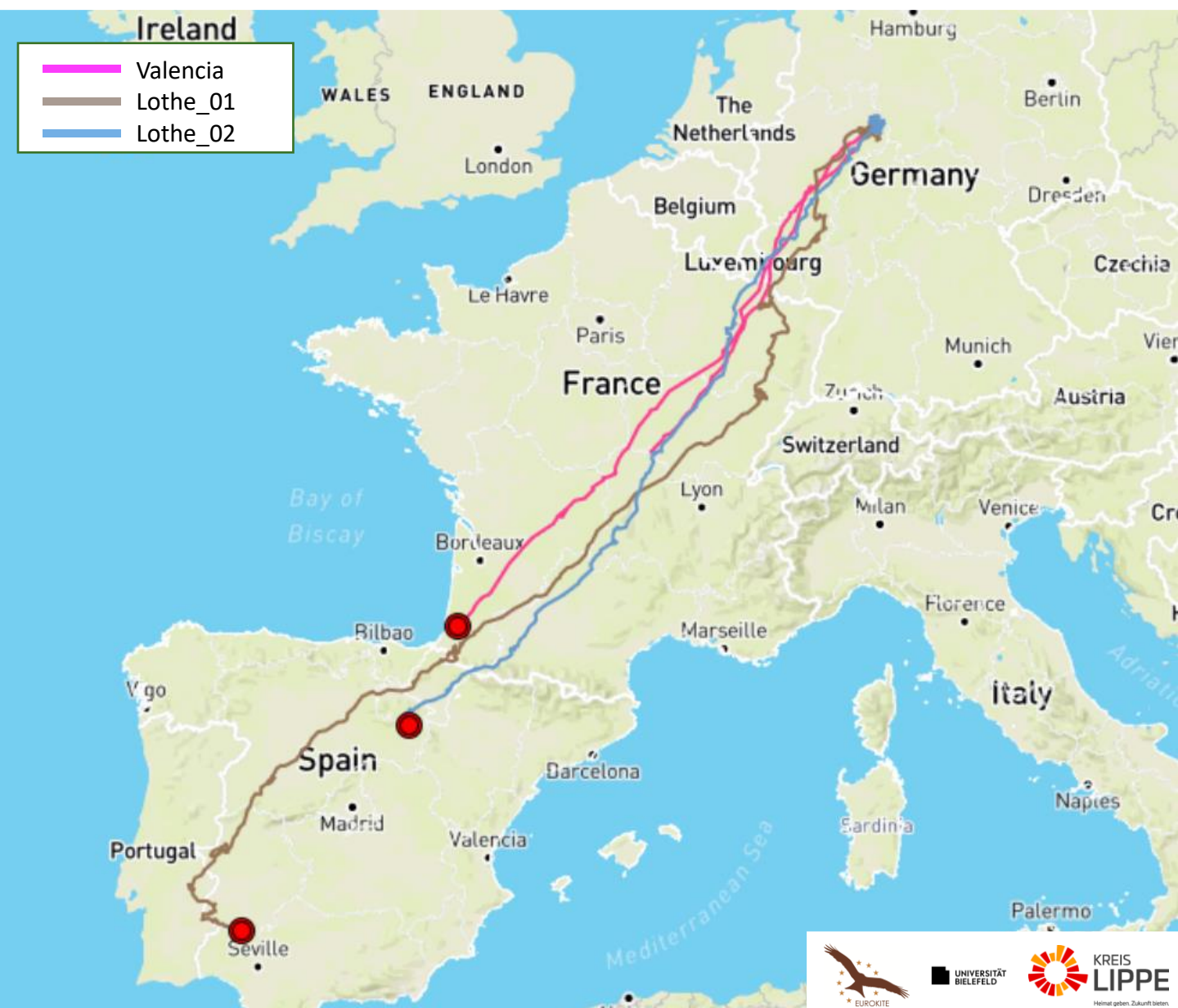
The journey of Valencia

On June 14th, 2022, the tagging team of the LIFE EUROKITE 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 were 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.

All three are now on their way to the wintering areas. Valencia is currently in France. The two chicks are already in Spain. Lothe_01 is already in southern Spain, close to the area where Valencia always spends the winter.

The full story and train routes can be viewed here:

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/live-webcams/nest-camera-district-lippe-germany.html>





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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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