



## International Online-Workshop “Actions against illegal poisoning”



On November 12th, 2020 an international workshop "Actions against illegal poisoning" took place within the framework of the LIFE EUROKITE project (LIFE18 NAT / AT / 000048).

The LIFE EUROKITE project is a cross-border and EU-wide project for the protection of the red kite (*Milvus milvus*), with the aim of sustainably reducing human-caused mortality. The red kite breeds almost exclusively in Europe and is endangered by illegal persecution. Within LIFE EUROKITE, the anthropogenic causes of mortality are investigated with the help of telemetry and work is carried out to reduce the mortality reasons in the future.

For this reason, the international workshop was organized, in which 75 people from 16 different countries and around 40 different organizations and projects took part. The workshop was opened by MEP Simone Schmiedtbauer, chairman of the Central European Society for Raptor Protection (MEGEG), Werner Falb-Meixner and Frank Vassen, employees of the European Commission's Environment Directorate-General.

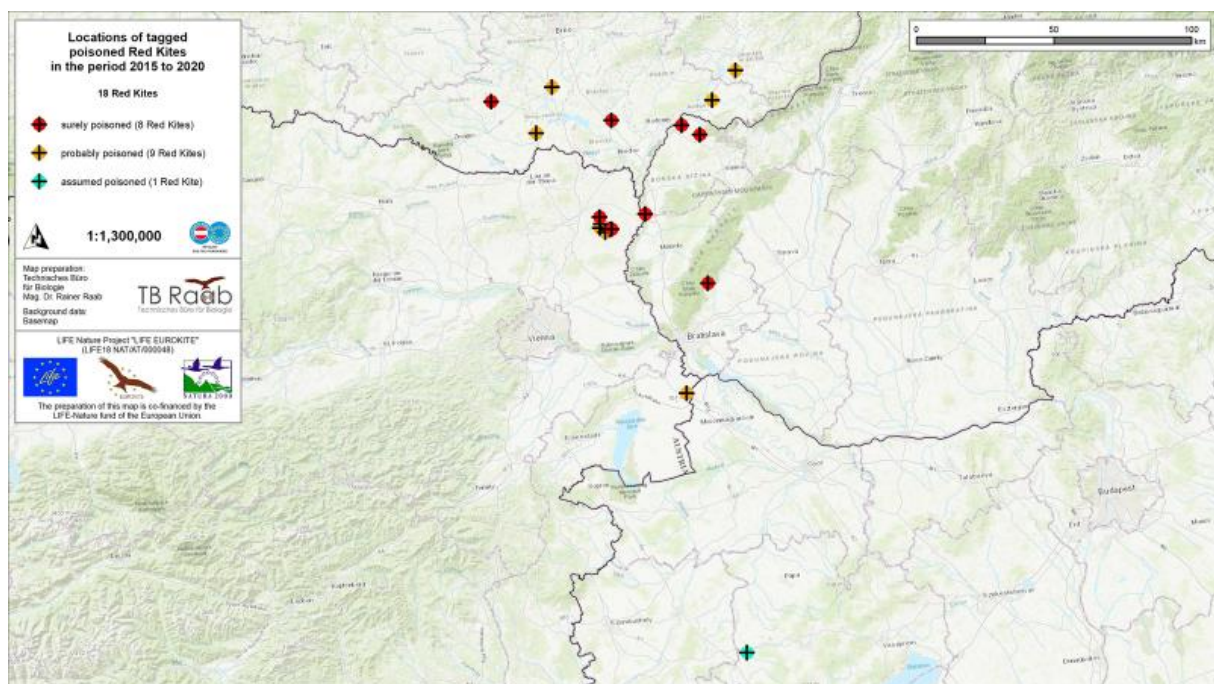
Project coordinators and project managers from different EU LIFE projects (LIFE ANTIDOTO, LIFE PANNONEAGLE, LIFE VENENO and LIFE EUROKITE) shared their experiences and their results on actions against illegal poisoning. The organizations BirdLife Europa, IMPEL (European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law), RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Bird) and FACE (European Federation for Hunting and Conservation) presented important results of their work against illegal poisoning.

Together with the experts, important questions about illegal poisoning were discussed and attempts were made to find solutions. In addition, it was determined which steps need to be taken next in order to create further progress against illegal poisoning.

The first results of the LIFE EUROKITE project are shocking. Of around 580 red kites which were tagged from TB Raab and its partners between 2014 and 2020, 33 died safely or probably from illegal poisoning. That is more than 20 percent of the red kites found dead and already finally examined. At this point, 10 countries are already affected. This happens not only in southern Europe, but also in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic in particular. There are already initial successes in the investigation by the police.

For a successful fight against illegal poisoning of wild animals, it is not only the cooperation between NGOs (non-governmental organizations), politics and police that is essential, but also the increasing public awareness that these are criminal offenses and that illegal poisoning not only harms wildlife and the environment, it also poses a risk to humans and their pets.

You can find more information about the LIFE EUROKITE project and the results and videos of the workshop on our website: [www.life-eurokite.eu](http://www.life-eurokite.eu)



This figure shows the locations of the tagged red kites, which were killed by illegal poisoning in eastern Austria and the neighboring countries. There are already initial successes in the investigation of the perpetrators by the police.