

07.01.2021

1. LIFE EUROKITE “Winter Count of the Red Kite roosting sites in whole Europe”

08.01.-10.01.2021



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, this synchronous counting is being carried out as part of the LIFE EUROKITE project by the Central European Society for Raptor Protection (MEGEG) together with numerous European partners (including LPO, SEO, SPEA, AMUS, DDA and BirdLife Austria). The Technical Office for Biology Mag. Dr.

Rainer Raab (TB Raab) and his team is responsible for organizing the counts of around 200 roosting sites in 20 European countries, which will be consistently counted in the next 6 years in January.

The winter census of the red kite roosting sites takes place across Europe from January 8th to January 10th, 2021 and is therefore on the same weekend as most national censuses, which are already established in many countries. As in previous years, several hundred volunteers take part in these counts.

The traditional and most important wintering areas of the red kite are in Spain and the south of France. However, more and more red kites overwinter, probably also due to climate change, near their central European breeding area. In January 2019 more than 55,000 red kites were counted at their roosting sites and summarized by LPO in a list. Of these, approx. 35,000 were counted in Spain, approx. 12,000 in France and approx. 3,500 in Switzerland.

The telemetry data of more than 500 tagged red kites offered by the LIFE EUROKITE project (MEGEG, SEO, LPO, Natur & Umwelt, Red Kite Center, Anitra) as well as by numerous cooperation partners (Patrick Scherler, Sempach ornithological station; Wolfgang Fiedler, Max Planck Institute - Radolfzell ornithological station; Theresa Spatz, Philipps University Marburg; Thomas Pfeiffer, Red Kite Project Thuringia; Ubbo Mammen, Red Kite Project Saschen-Anhalt; Stef van Rijn, Red Kite Project BeNeLux and Rainer Raab, Technical Office for Biology Mag. Dr. Rainer Raab) are updated daily for all registered participants on the Anitra system and are available for the period from the 1st of December 2020 to January 17th, 2021. ANITRA (<https://anitracking.com/>) is a technology company started in 2017 in the Czech Republic. Anitra develops hardware and software solutions primarily for wildlife research and conservation. The core of the brand is formed by the Anitra platform which serves as a dashboard for GPS-GSM data and telemetry projects in general.

It provides a large scale of analytic, visualization, and data sharing functionality essential for efficient project and field work.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all those who have participated in the coordination, the search, and the counting of the red kite roosting sites in the past few years or who will participate this year! We are already curious to see how many red kites can be observed in the first LIFE EUROKITE winter census and will report on the results in March.

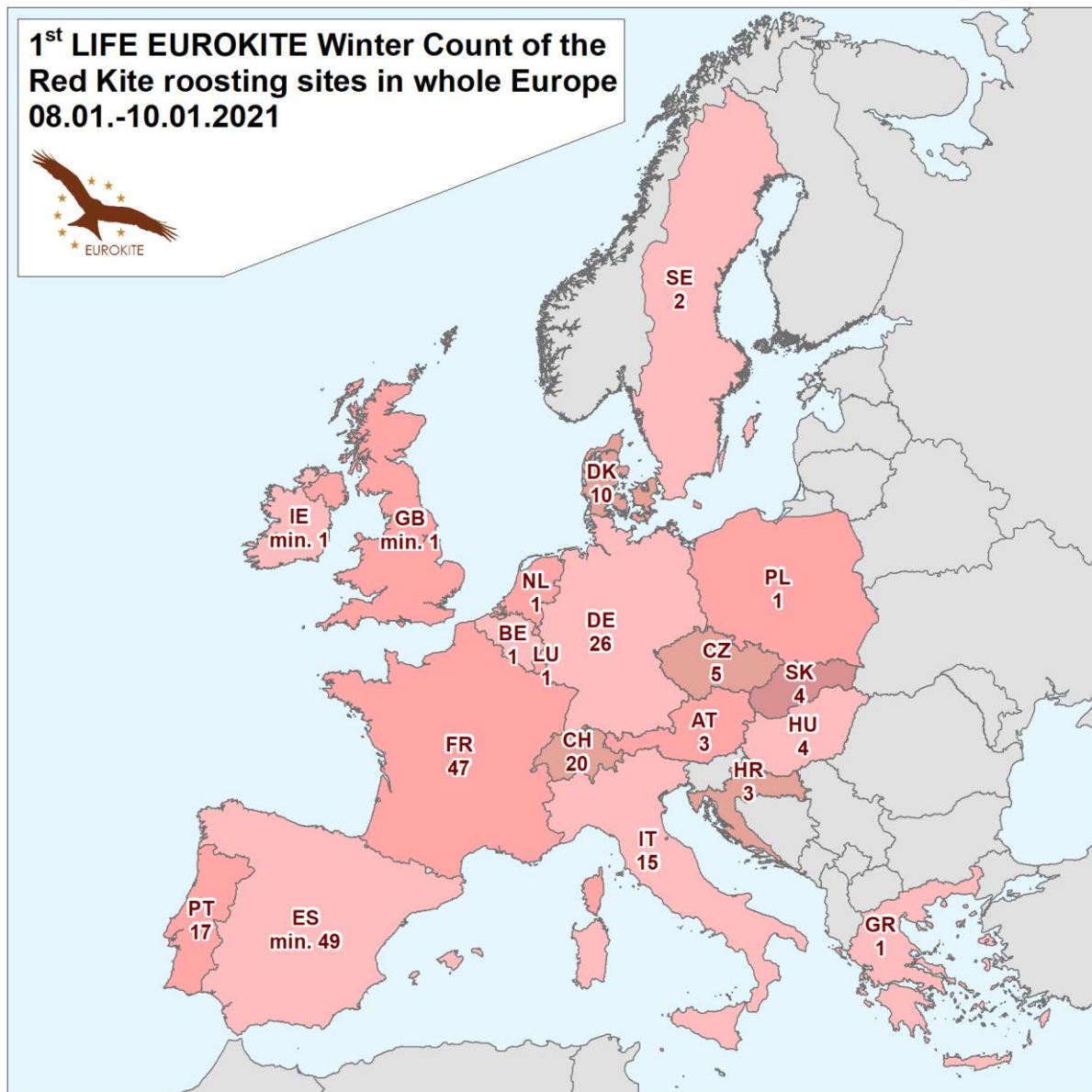


Figure 1: Number of controlled roosting sites of red kites per country within the LIFE EUROKITE project from the 8th January until the 10th of January 2021. In total red kites at more than 212 roosting sites in 20 countries will be counted.

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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