

LIFE EUROKITE

(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)



„Cross-border protection of the Red Kite by reducing human-caused mortality”

LIFE EUROKITE Midterm Conference 2023
5th October 2023, Halberstadt (Germany)



05.10.2023

Rainer Raab



© Bohuš Čížek



LIFE EUROKITE - (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)



Project overview - LIFE EUROKITE



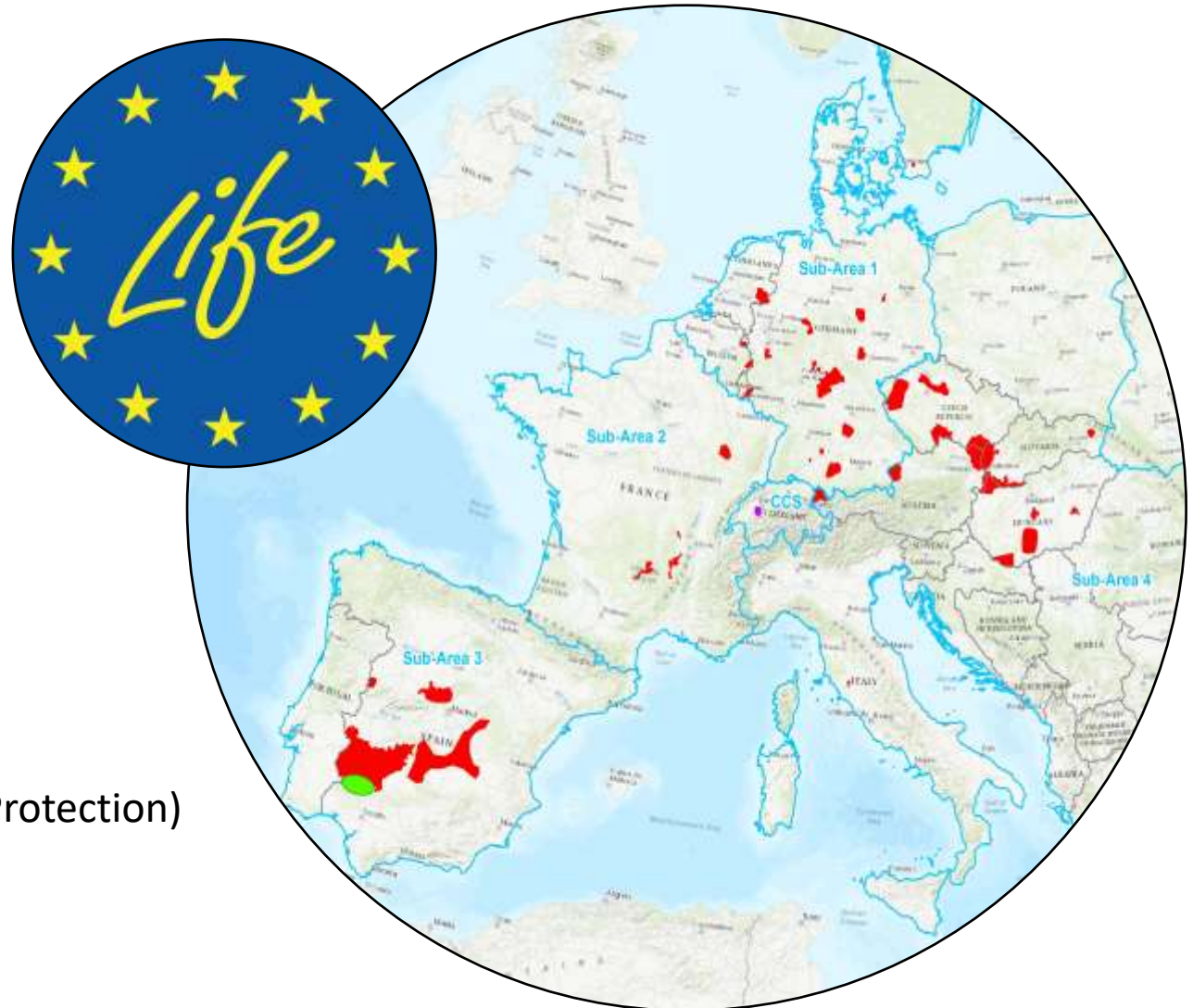
- Project countries:
26 countries in Europe
- Budget:
Total: € 9.537.423
EU-financed: € 5.722.454 (60%)
- Period:
07.12.2019 – 31.01.2027
- Coordination & Management:



Miteuropäische Gesellschaft
zur Erhaltung der Greifvögel (MEGEG)
(Central European Society for Raptor Protection)



TB Raab GmbH



Project overview - LIFE EUROKITE



➤ Core idea:

- use **telemetry** data
- identify **habitat use** of target species
- quantify the **main causes of mortality** of raptor species in the EU

➤ Main target species:

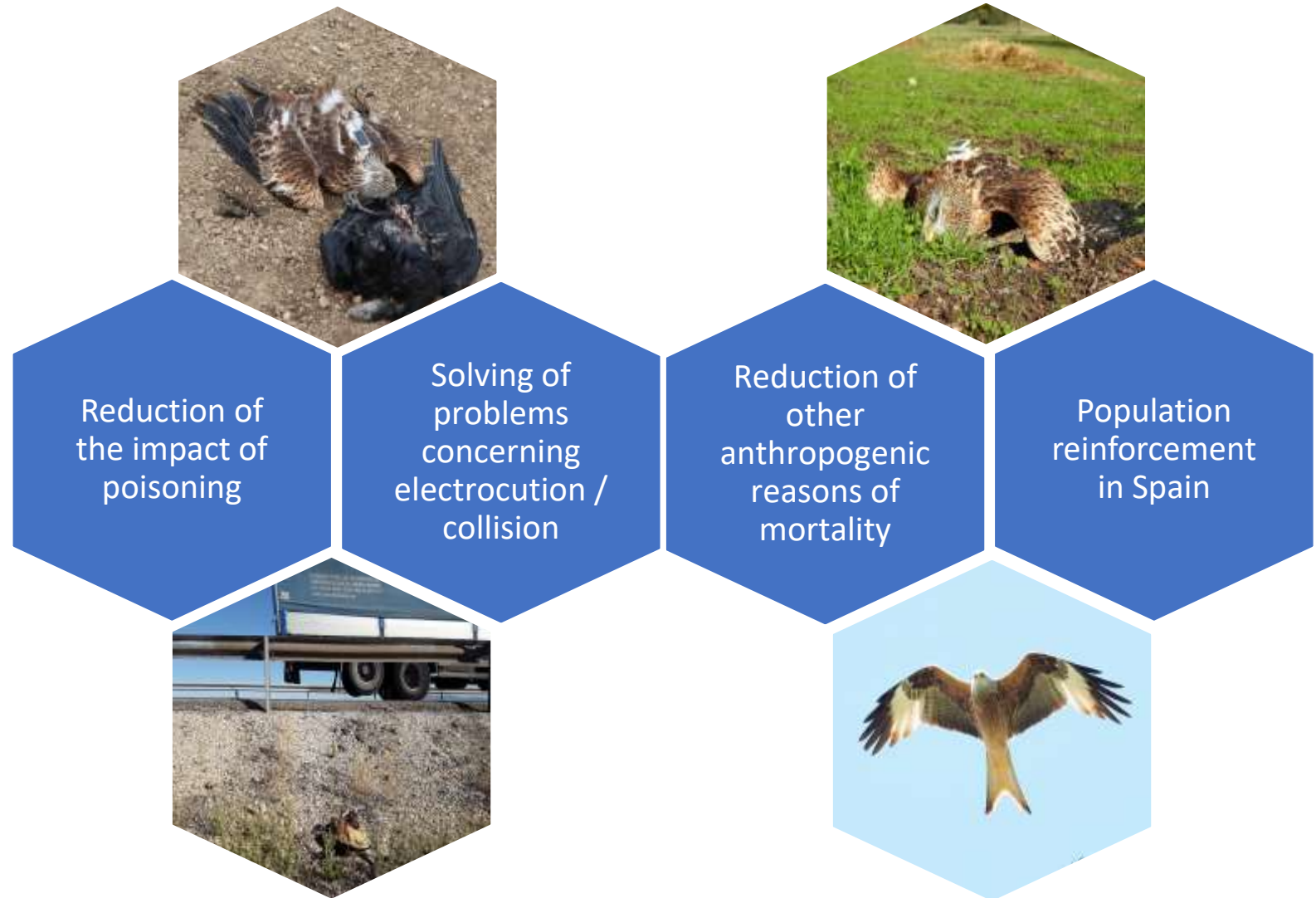
Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

➤ Other target species:

Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*),
White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*),
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

➤ Additional tagged species:

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*),
Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

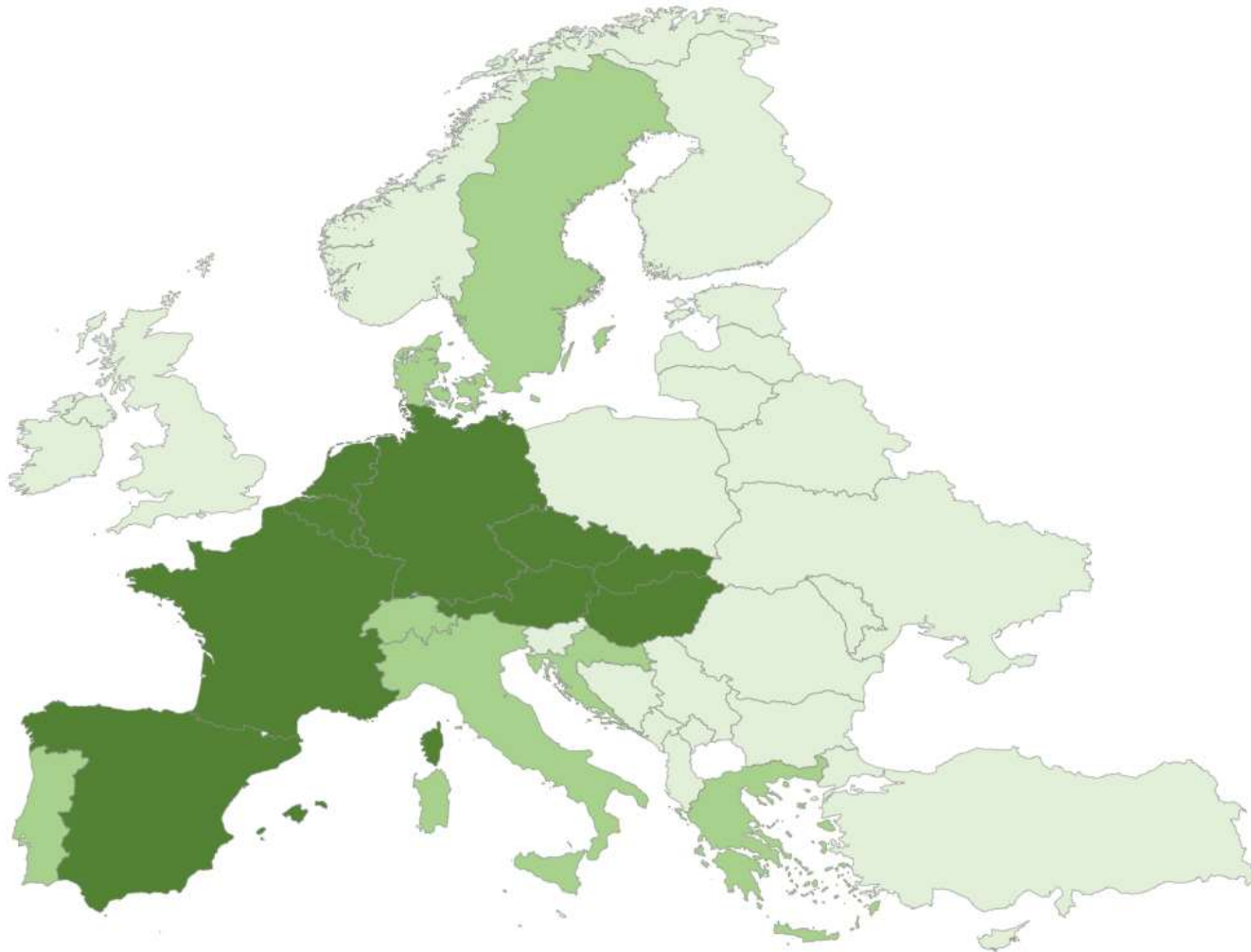


Project overview - LIFE EUROKITE



European-wide cooperation

- 18 Associated Beneficiaries (Project partners)
 - NGOs
 - Network operator
 - Regional authorities
- 10 Co-financiers
 - Ministries
- More than 60 Cooperation partners
 - Universities
 - NGOs
 - Authorities
 - Ministries
 - energy producer
 - Technical offices



-  10 countries with project partners/ co-financiers
-  15 countries with cooperation partners
-  31 Countries with no cooperation partner, but cooperation in case of dead birds

Project overview - LIFE EUROKITE



Status: 20.08.2023

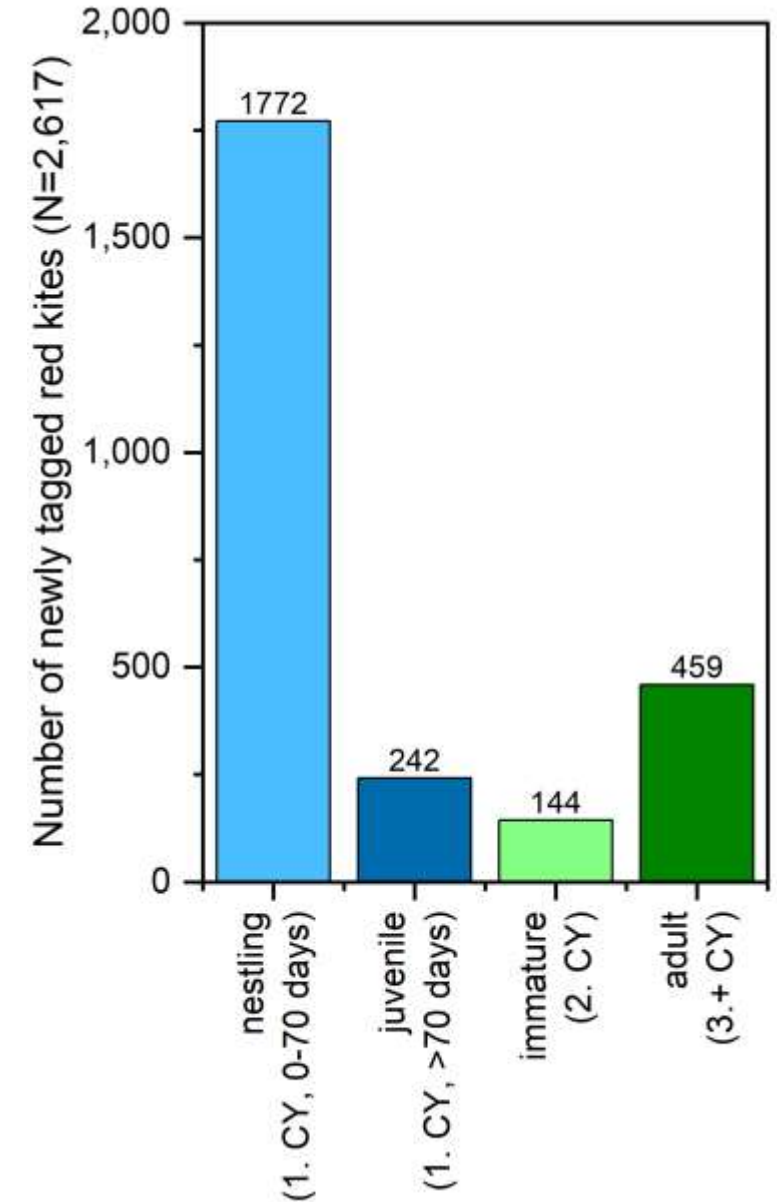
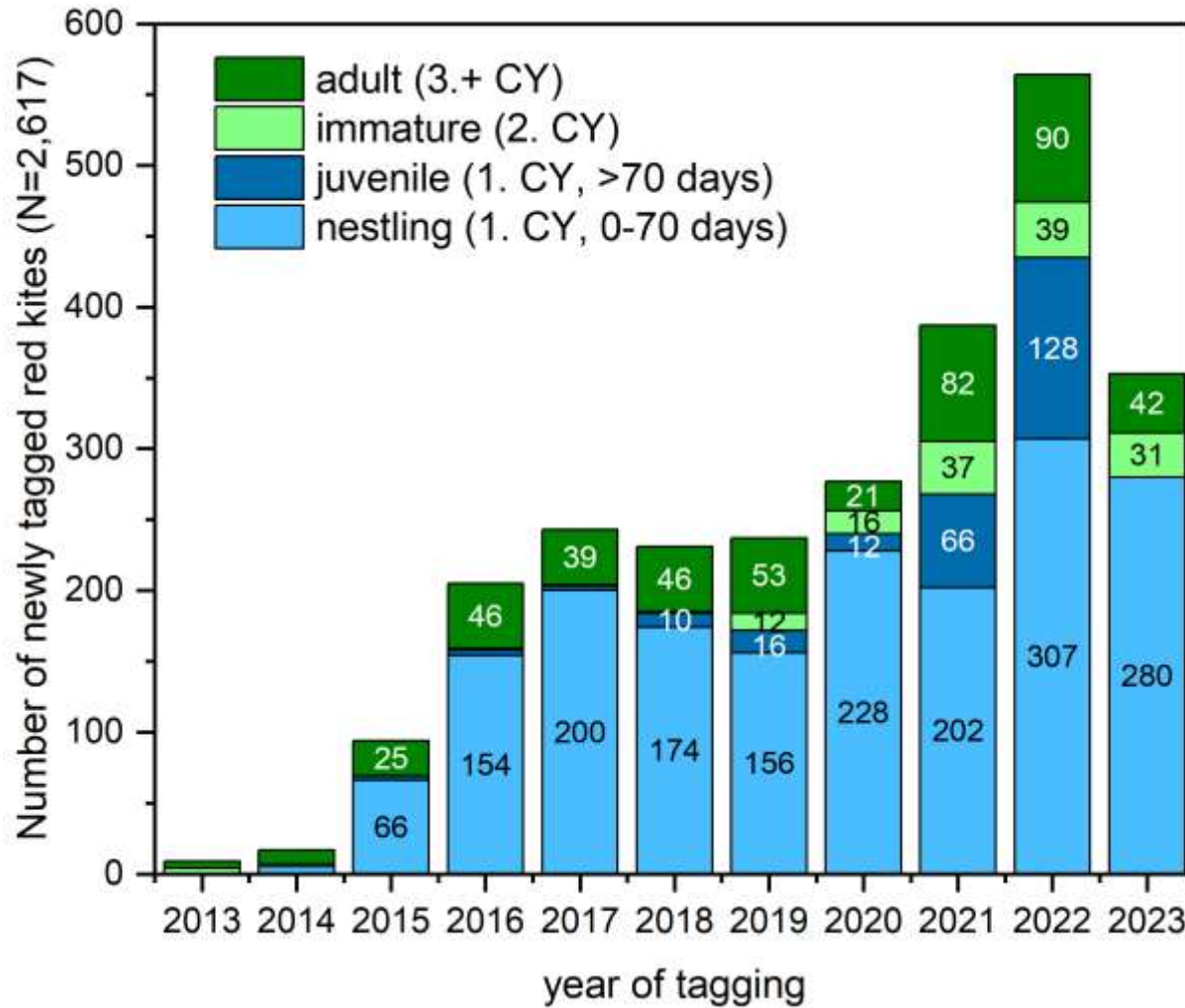
- **2,617** tagged red kites in the database of the LIFE EUROKITE project in the period from 2013 to 2023 (since 10 red kites have already been tagged for the second time, the sample includes a total of 2,607 different individuals of the red kite)

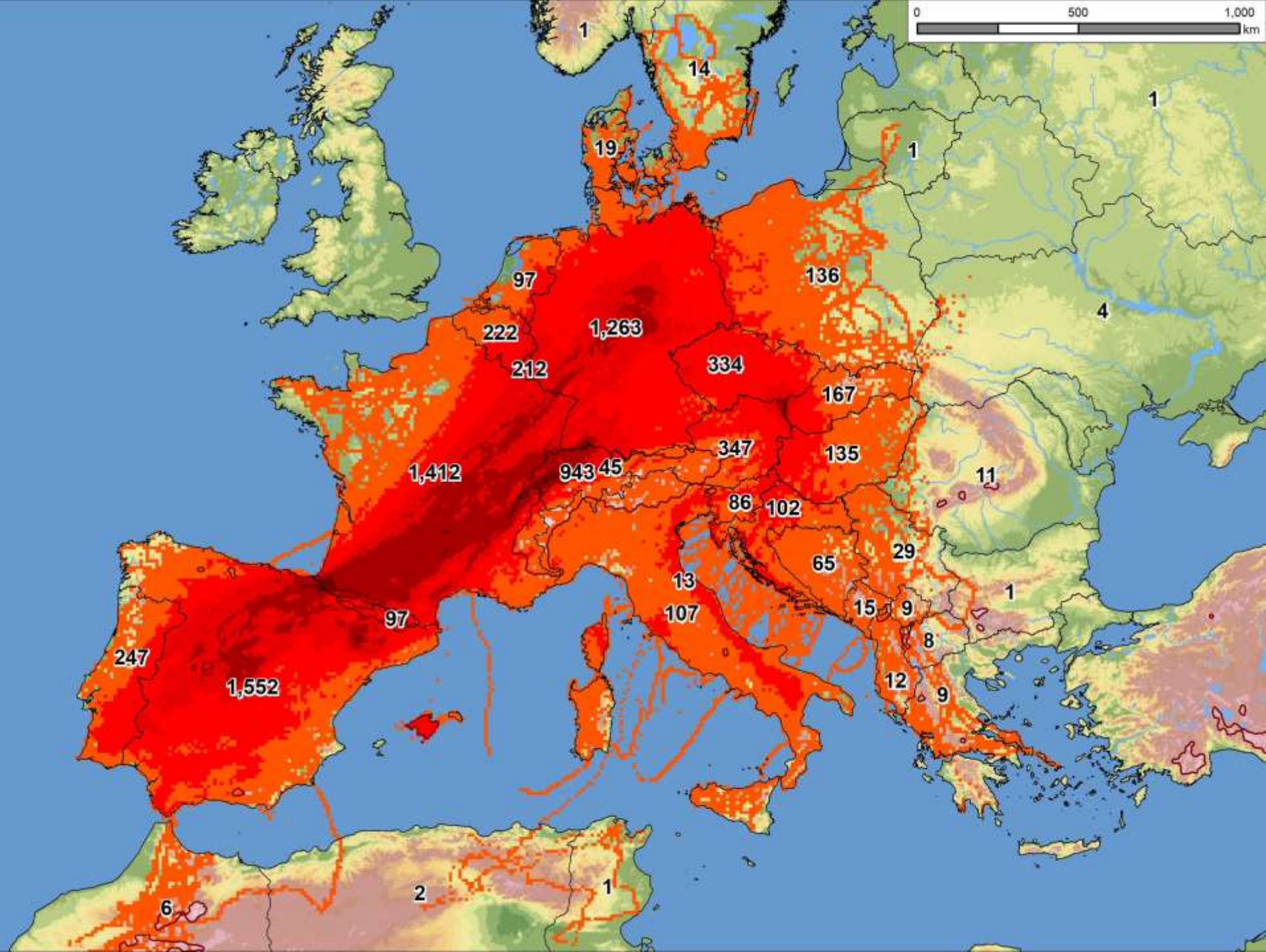
- Red kites (*Milvus milvus*)
 - Tagged within the project: 1,187
 - Purchased: 136
 - Tagged red kites shared by (cooperation) partners: 1,294

- Other tagged species in the LIFE EUROKITE project
 - 28 Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)
 - 27 Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
 - 27 White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) (+ 3 purchased)
 - 20 Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
 - 17 Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)



Project overview - LIFE EUROKITE





Rotmilan Telemetrie 2013 - 2023:
Besenderung von Rotmilanen
in Spanien
von November bis Januar
(Status: 7/2023)

Besenderung von 254 Rotmilanen
in Spanien

● Besenderungsorte von Rotmilanen

□ Höhenlage ab 2.000 m
□ Staatsgrenze



1:15.500.000



Kartenerstellung:
TB Raab GmbH

TB Raab
Technisches Büro für Biologie

Hintergrunddaten:
Globe

LIFE Natur Projekt „LIFE EUKITE“
(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)

Die Erstellung dieser Karte wird von der Europäischen Union mit Mitteln des LIFE Nature Fonds kofinanziert.



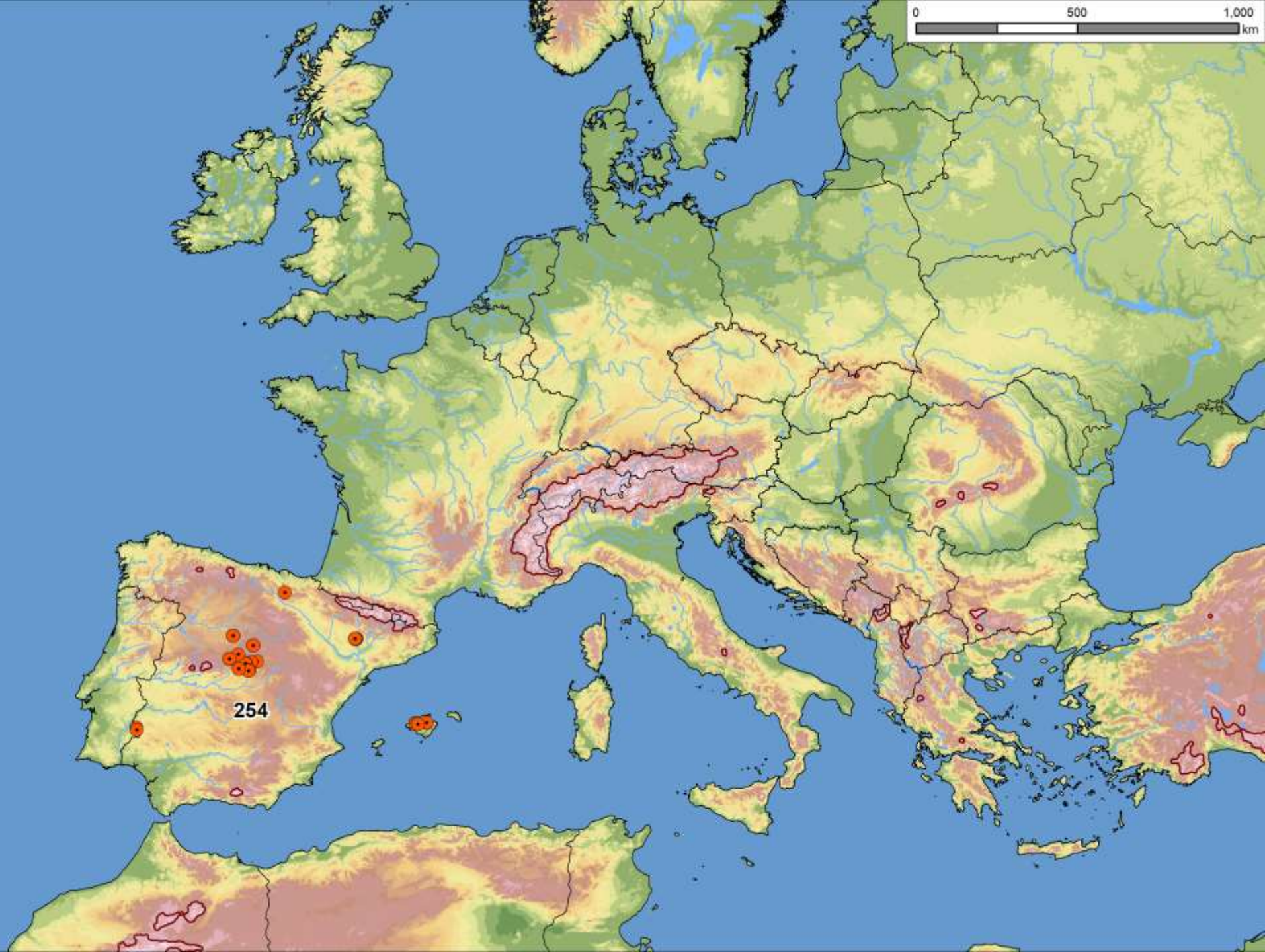
Projektpartner:



Kofinanzierer:



Kooperationspartner die Telemetriedaten bereitstellen:



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Besenderung von Rotmilanen
in Spanien
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(Status: 7/2023)

Besenderung von 254 Rotmilanen
in Spanien

● Besenderungsorte von Rotmilanen

○ Telemetriepunkte von Rotmilanen

□ Höhenlage ab 2.000 m

□ Staatsgrenze



1:15.500.000



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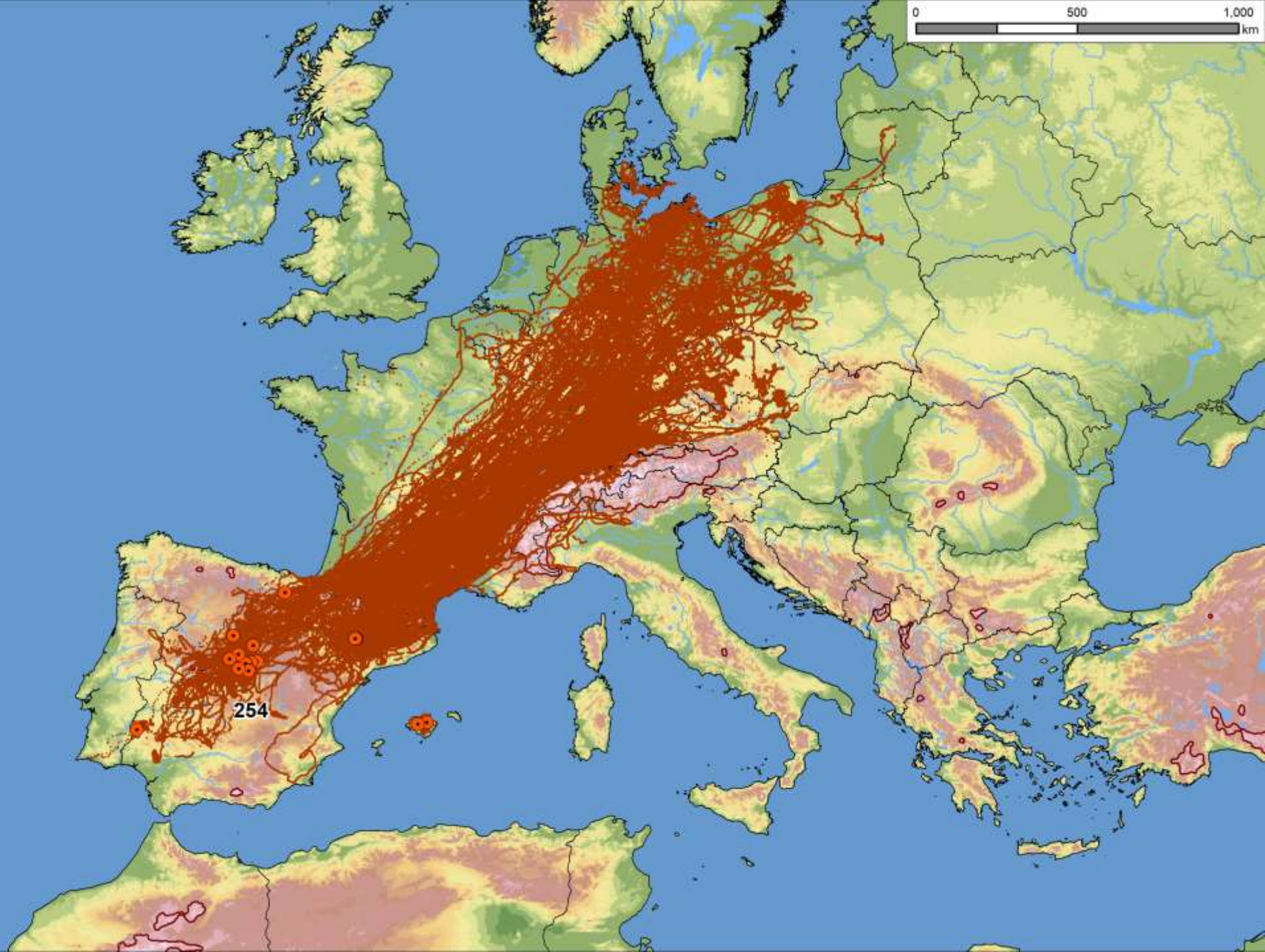
Projektpartner:



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Kooperationspartner die Telemetriedaten bereitstellen:



Rotmilan Telemetrie 2013 - 2023:
Besenderung von Rotmilanen
in Spanien
von November bis Januar
(Status: 7/2023)

Besenderung von 254 Rotmilanen
in Spanien

-  Besenderungsorte von Rotmilanen
-  Letzter Übernachtungspunkt noch lebender Rotmilane (159, 7/2023)
-  Höhenlage ab 2.000 m
-  Staatsgrenze



1:15.500.000



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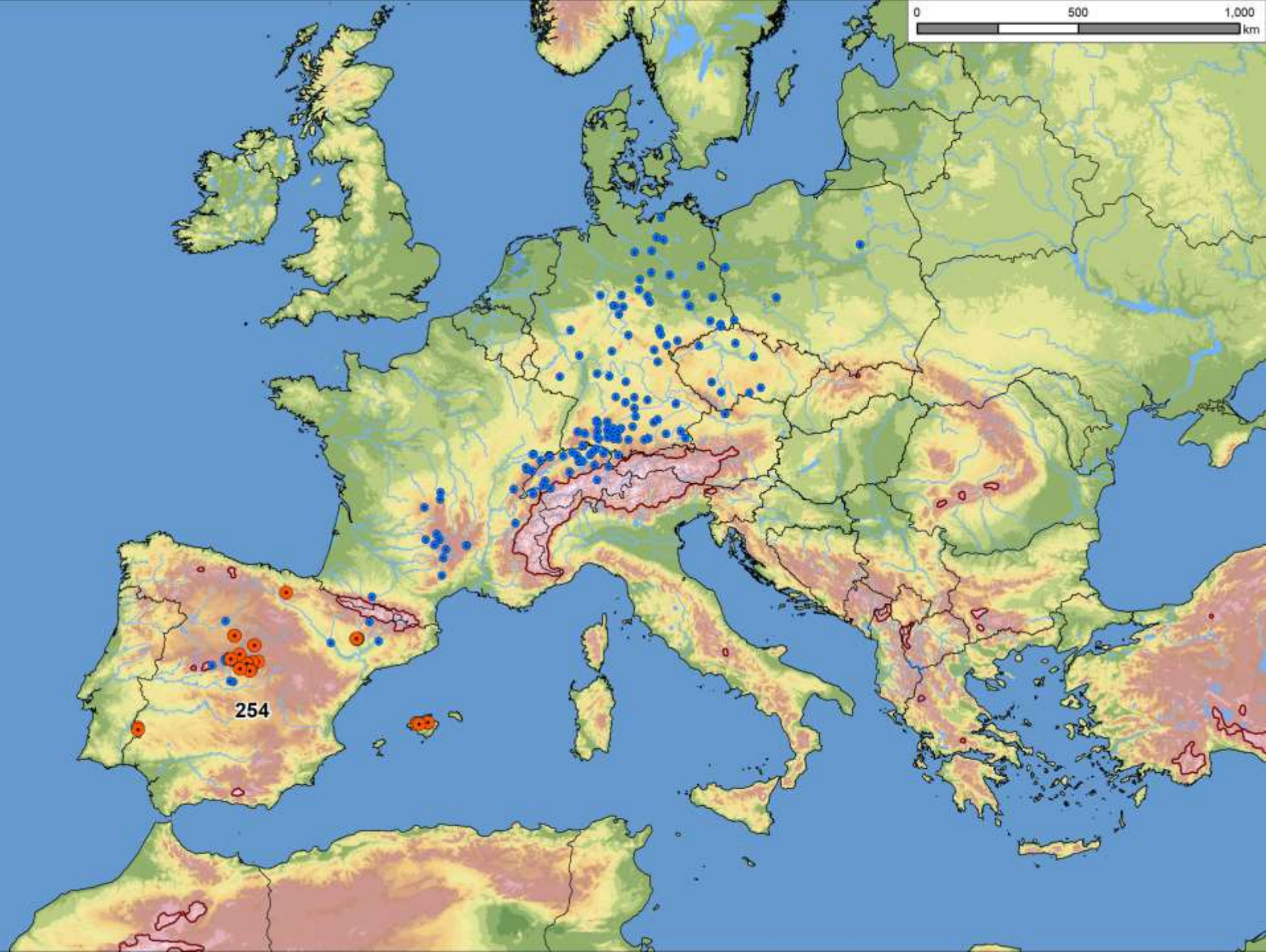
Projektpartner:



Kofinanzierer:



Kooperationspartner die Telemetriedaten bereitstellen:



**Rotmilan Telemetrie 2013 - 2023:
Besenderung von Rotmilanen
in Spanien
von November bis Januar
(Status: 7/2023)**

**Besenderung von 254 Rotmilanen
in Spanien**

-  Besenderungsorte von Rotmilanen
-  Brutverdachtspunkte von Rotmilanen
-  Höhenlage ab 2.000 m
-  Staatsgrenze



1:15.500.000



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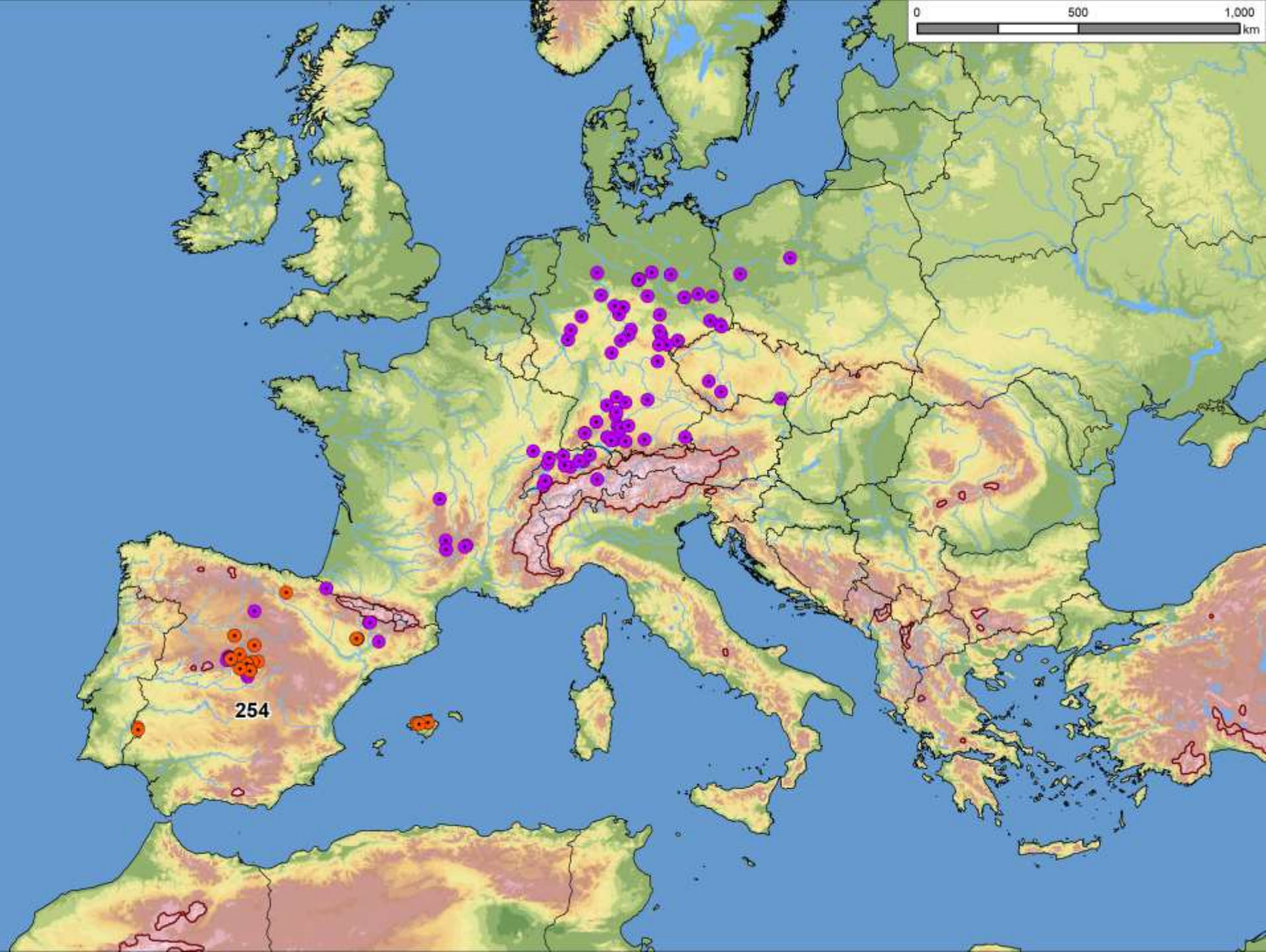
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Kofinanzierer:



Kooperationspartner die Telemetriedaten bereitstellen:



Rotmilan Telemetrie 2013 - 2023:
Besenderung von Rotmilanen
in Spanien
von November bis Januar
(Status: 7/2023)

Besenderung von 254 Rotmilanen
in Spanien

Brutverdachtspunkte von Rotmilanen

Staatsgrenze

1:5.000.000



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Hintergrunddaten:
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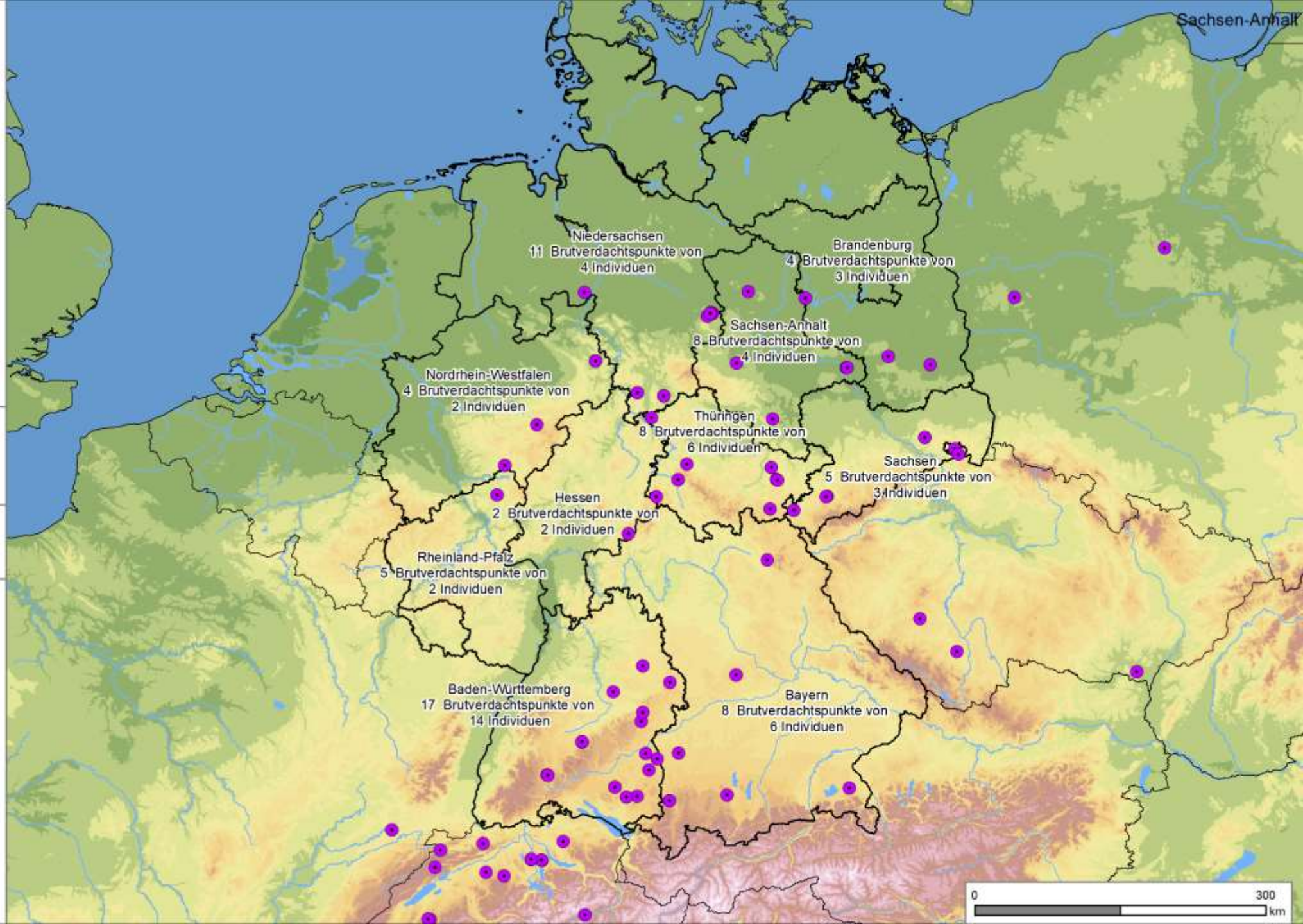
Projektpartner



Kofinanzierer



Kooperationspartner die Telemetriedaten bereitstellen



Black Kite



Black Kite telemetry 2015 - 2023:

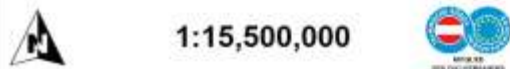
Tagged Black Kites

(Status: 7/2023)

Tagging of 66 Black Kites

- LIFE EUKITE (25 BK)
- shared by partners with LIFE EUKITE (8 BK)
- TB Raab (33 BK)

- altitude above 2,000 m
- country borders



Map preparation:
TB Raab GmbH

TB Raab
Technisches Büro für Biologie

Background data:
Globe

LIFE Nature Project "LIFE EUKITE"
(LIFE18 NAT/A7/000048)

The preparation of this map is
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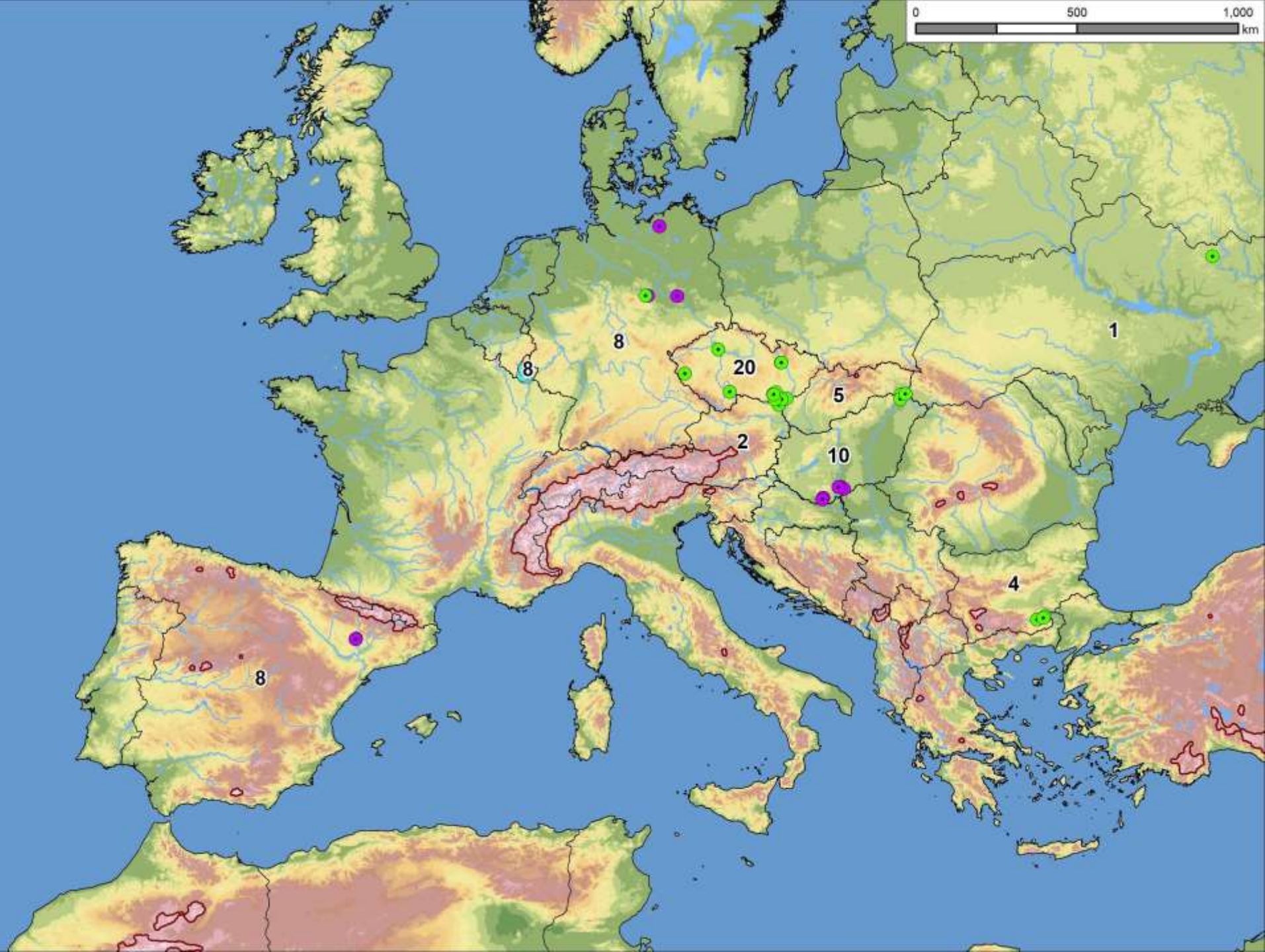
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data:



Black Kite telemetry 2014 - 2023:
Telemetry data Black Kite
(Status: 6/2023)

Telemetry data of 66 Black Kites

• Telemetry point

 altitude above 2,000 m
 country borders



1:15,500,000



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Background data:
Globe

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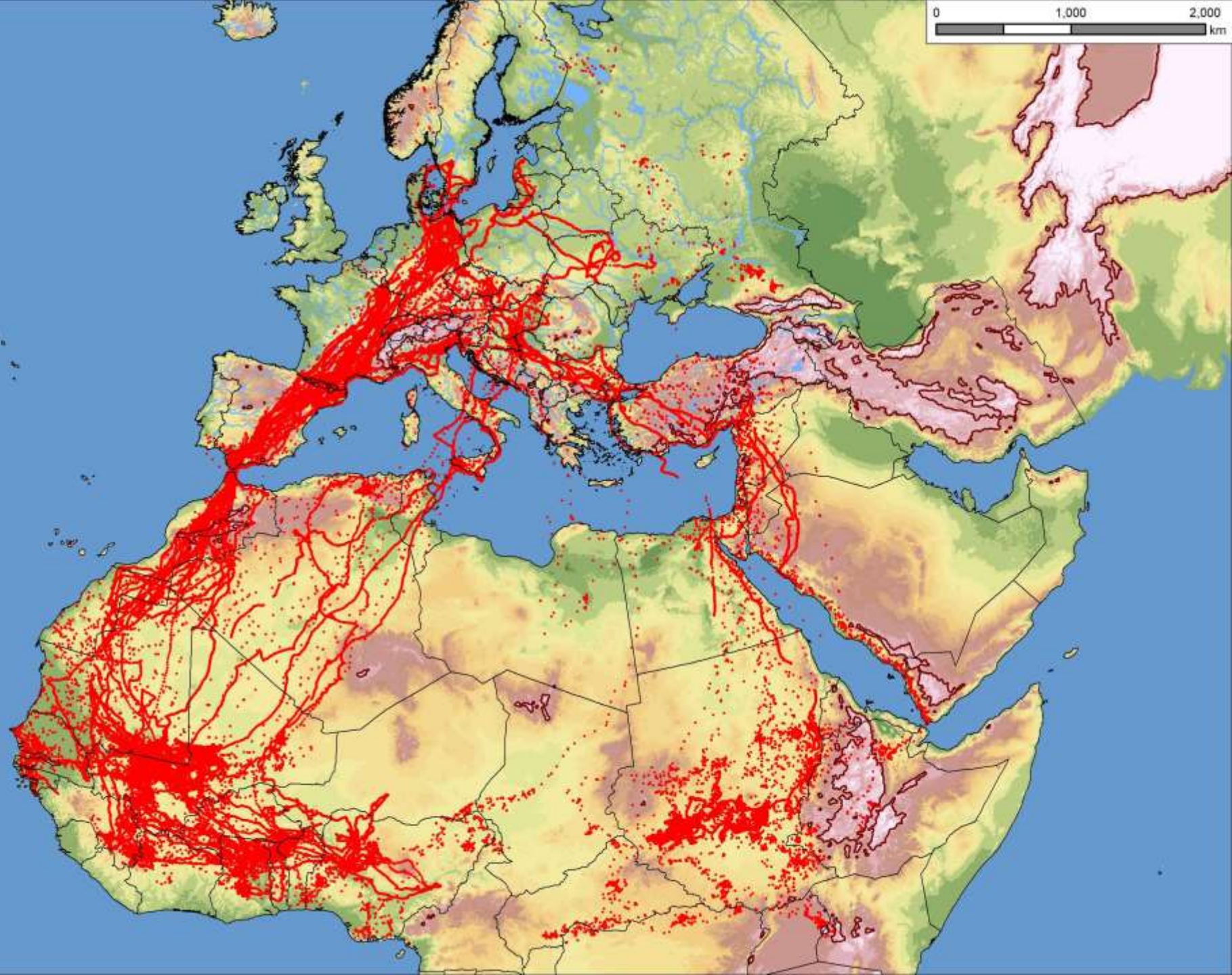
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



Black Kite telemetry 2014 - 2023: Telemetry data Black Kite (Status: 6/2023)

Telemetry data of 66 Black Kites

• Telemetry point

altitude above 2,000 m

country borders



1:5,300,000



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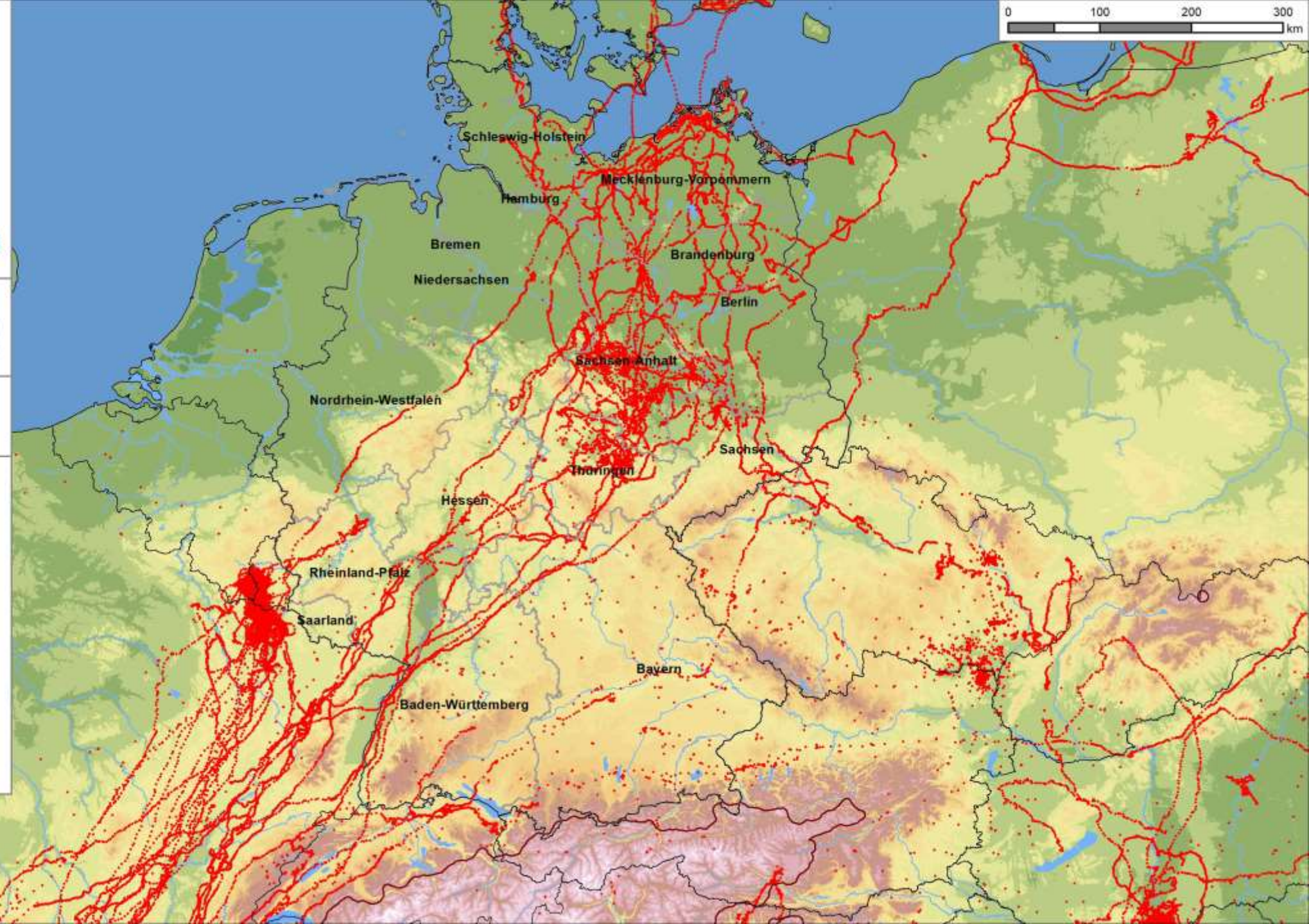
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



(intermediate results until 05.07.2023)

Finding of 27 dead Black Kites

◆ Finding of dead Black Kite

 altitude above 2,000 m
 country borders



Map preparation:
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Background data:
Globe

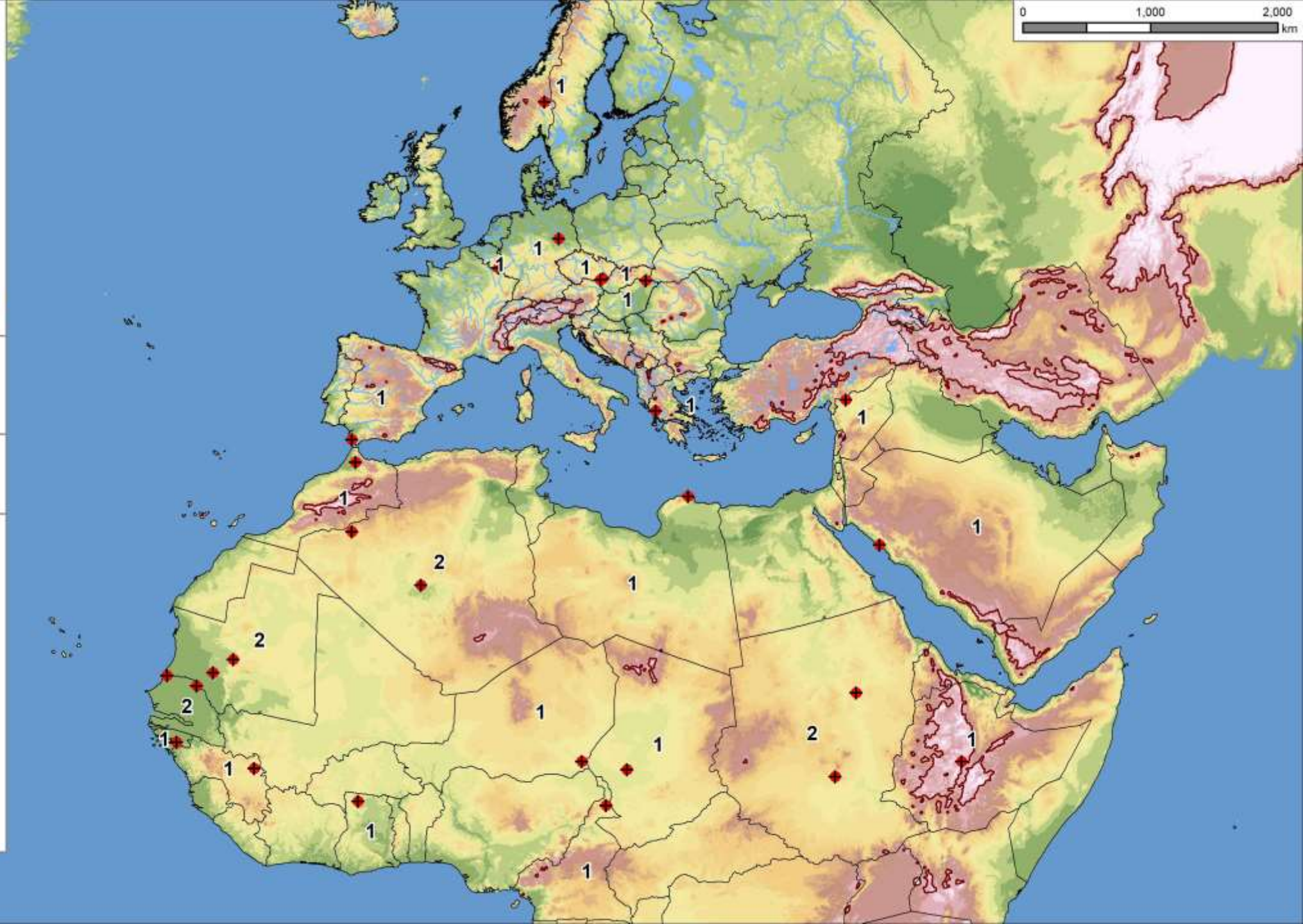
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Project partner



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



Black Kite telemetry 2014 - 2023: Cause of death shot (intermediate results until 05.07.2023)

Shots of 3 Black Kites

- Shot sure (1 x)
- Shot possible (2 x)

- altitude above 2,000 m
- country borders



Map preparation:
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Background data:
Globe

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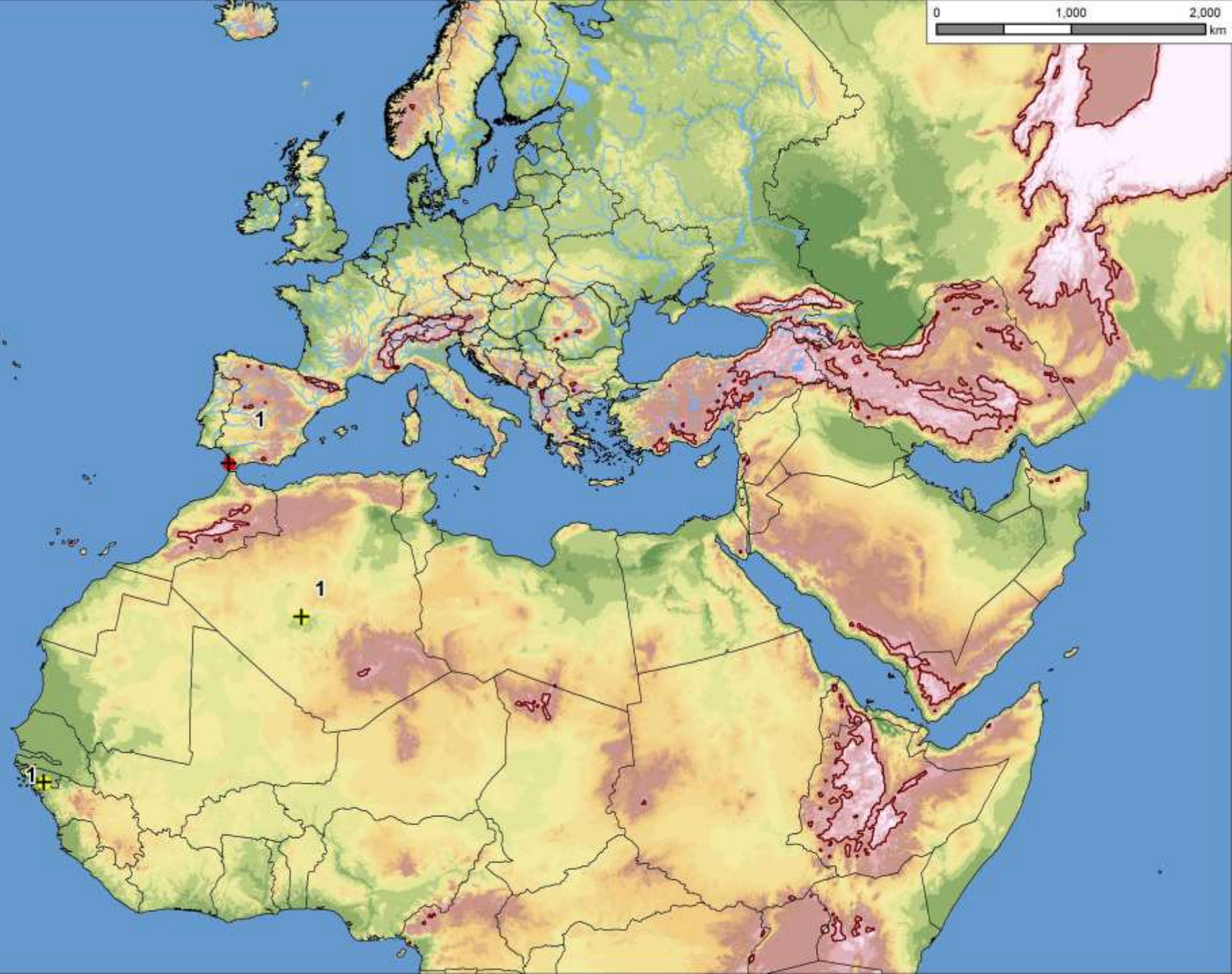
Project partner



Co-funder



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



Imperial Eagle



Imperial Eagle telemetry 2016 - 2023:

Tagged Imperial Eagles (Status: 7/2023)

Tagging of 77 Imperial Eagles

- LIFE EUKITE (28 IE)
- shared by partners with LIFE EUKITE (2 IE)
- TB Raab (47 IE)

- altitude above 2,000 m
- country borders



Map preparation:
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Background data:
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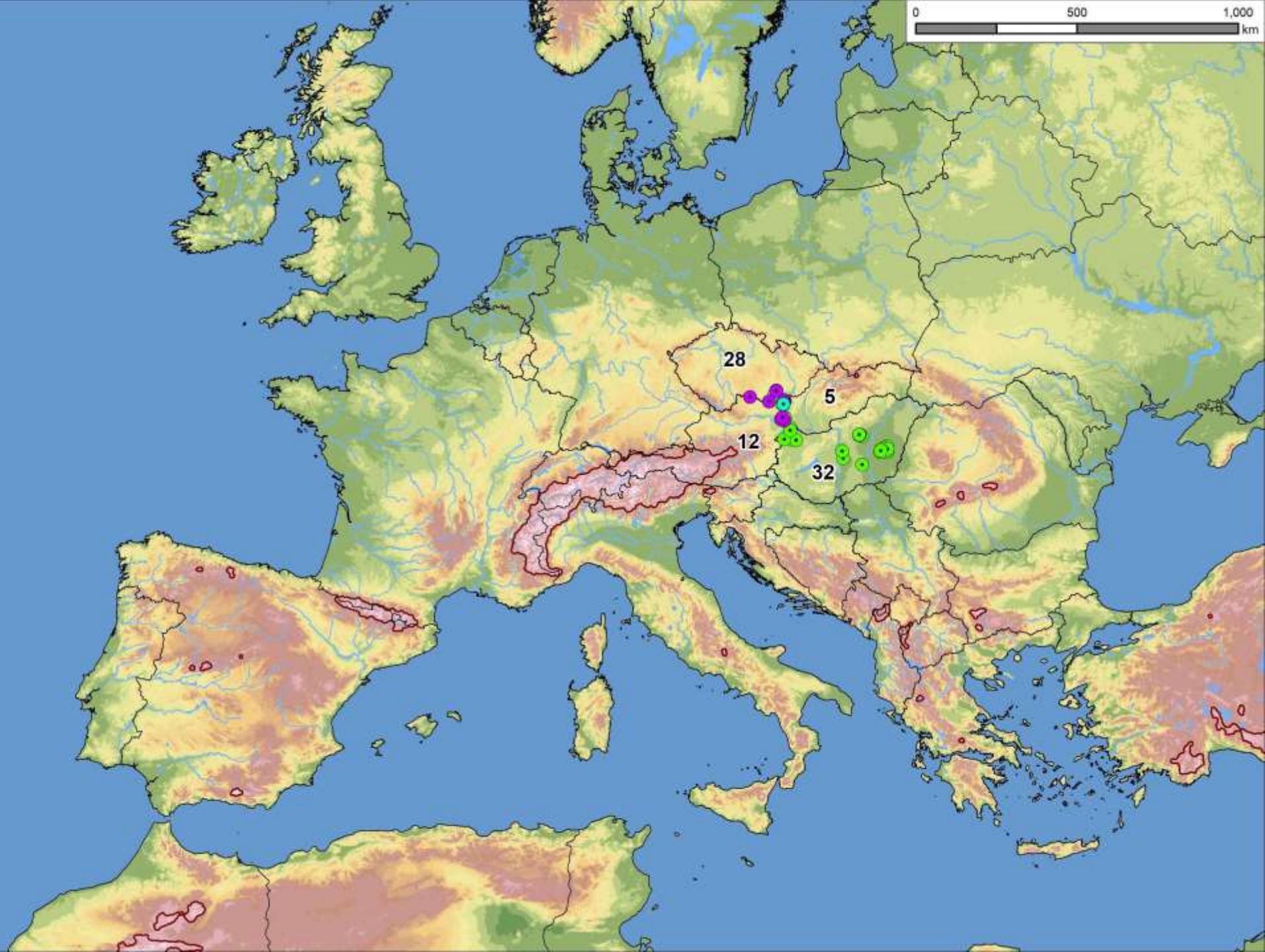
Project partner



Co-funder



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



Imperial Eagle telemetry 2016 - 2023: Telemetry data Imperial Eagle (Status: 6/2023)

Telemetry data of 68 Imperial Eagles

- Telemetry point
- altitude above 2,000 m
- country borders



1:15,500,000



Map preparation:
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Background data:
Globe

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Project partner:

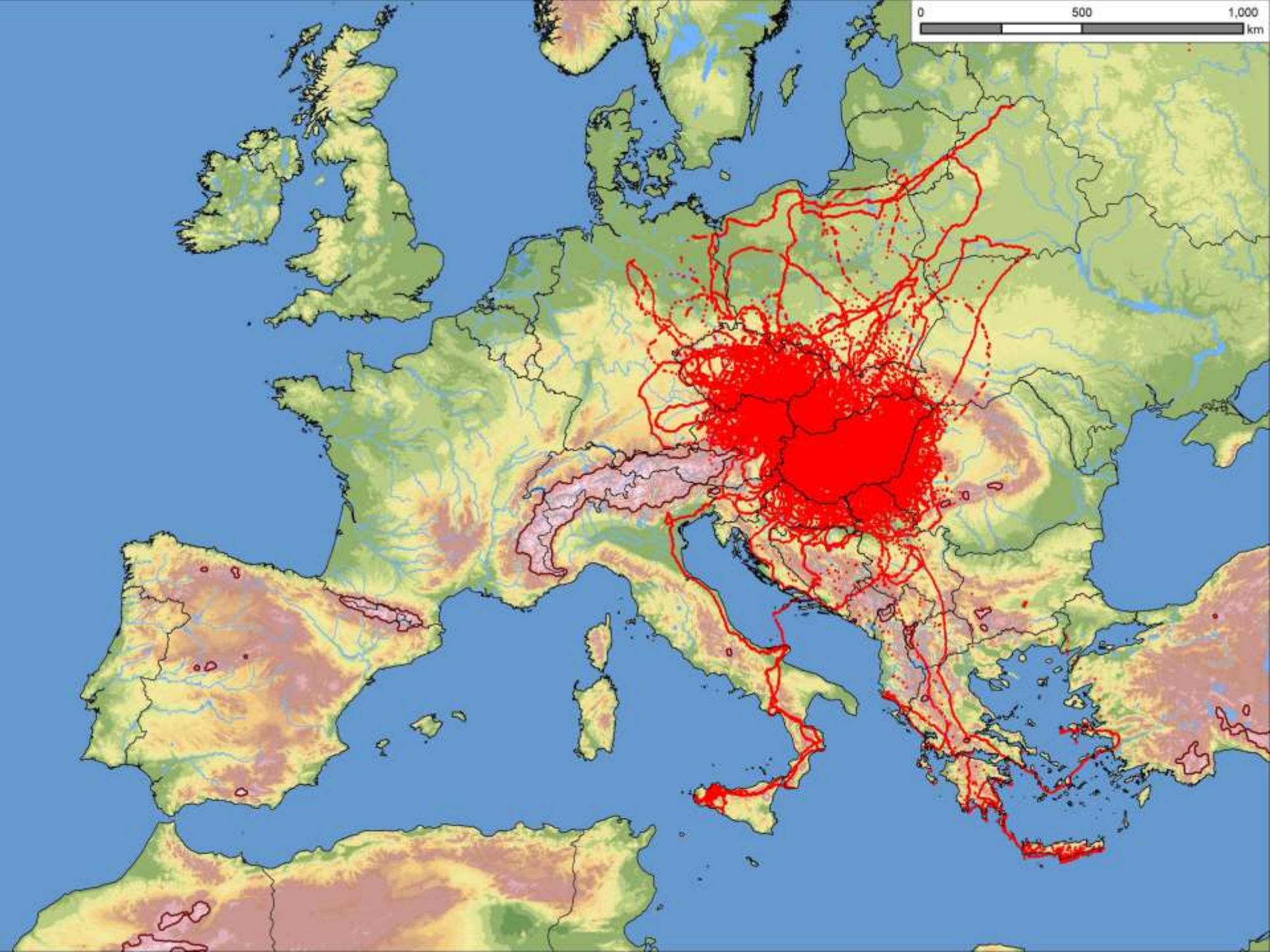


Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data:





Imperial Eagle telemetry 2016 - 2023: Telemetry data Imperial Eagle (Status: 6/2023)

Telemetry data of 68 Imperial Eagles

- Telemetry point
- altitude above 2,000 m
- country borders



1:5,300,000



Map preparation:
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Background data:
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Project partner:

Imperial Eagle telemetry 2016 - 2023:
Finding of dead Imperial Eagles
(intermediate results until 27.06.2023)

Finding of 26 dead Imperial Eagles
in whole Europe

◆ Finding of dead Imperial Eagles

altitude above 2,000 m
country borders

1:15,500,000

Map preparation:
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Background data:
Globe

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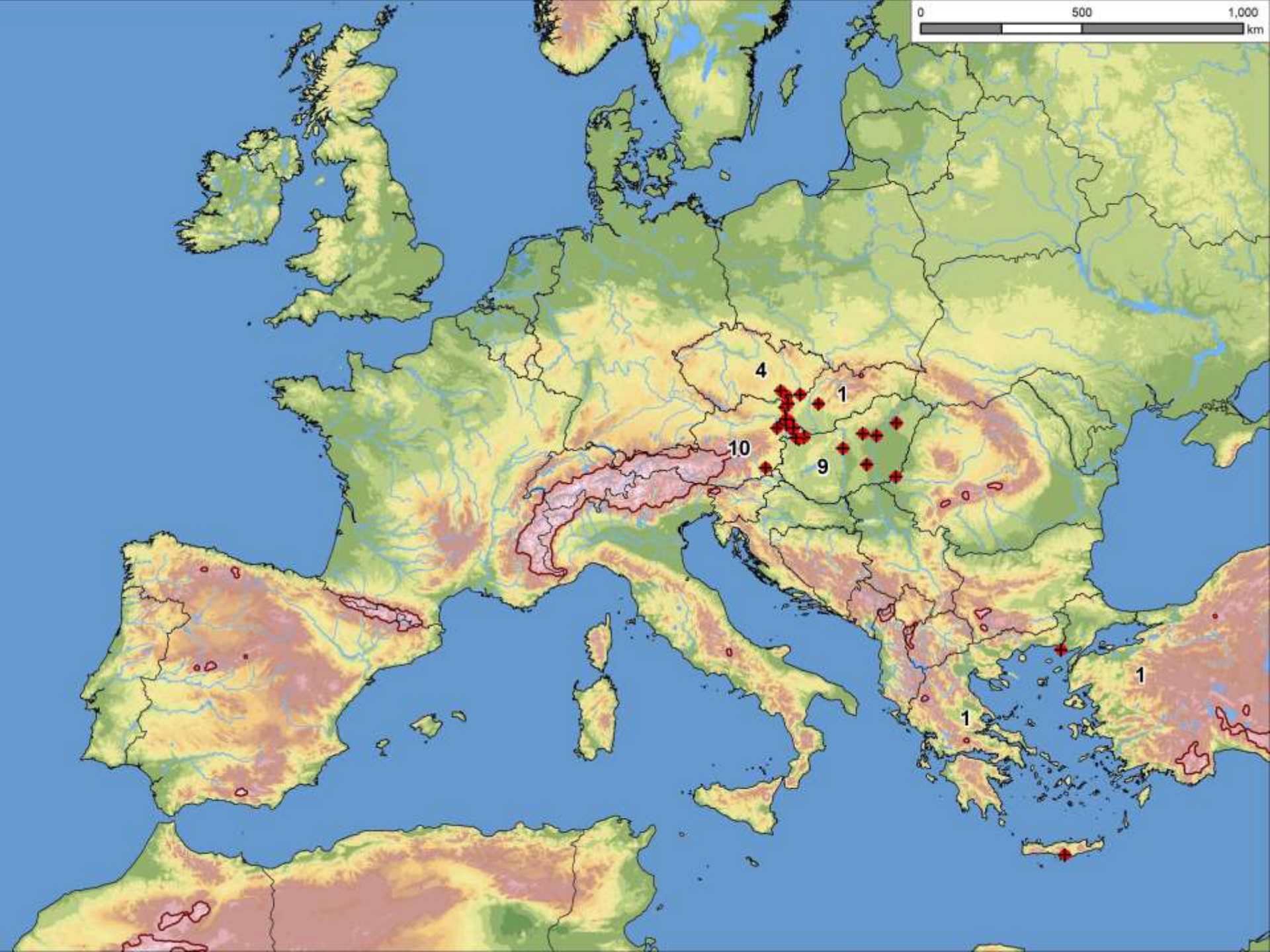
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Project partner

Co-funder

Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



Imperial Eagle telemetry 2016 - 2023:
Cause of death shot
(intermediate results until 27.06.2023)

Shots of 4 Imperial Eagles in whole Europe

- Shot sure (1 x)
- Shot probable (1 x)
- Shot possible (2 x)

altitude above 2,000 m

country borders

1:15,500,000



Map preparation:
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Background data:
Globe

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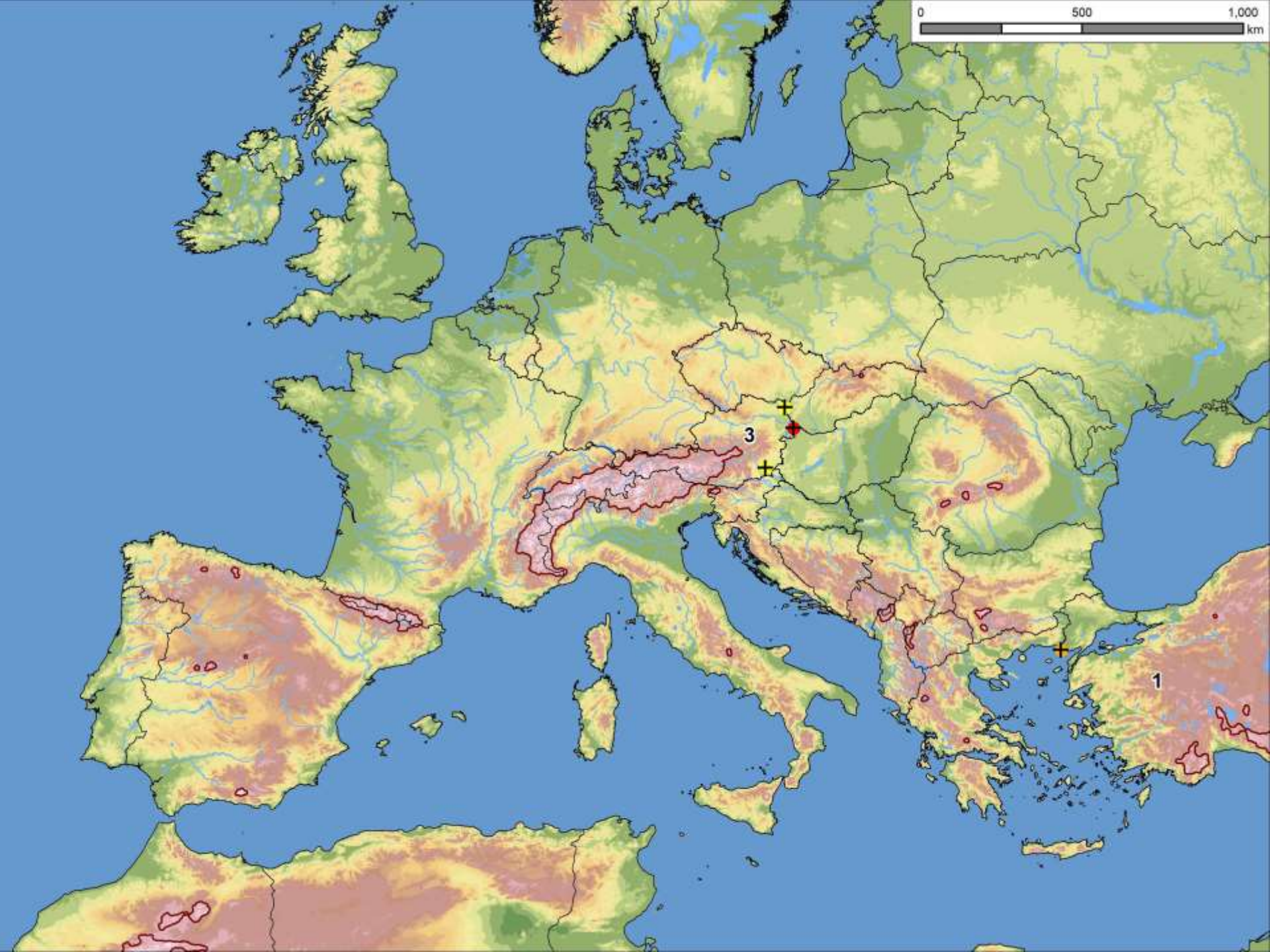
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data:





White-tailed Eagle



White-tailed Eagle telemetry 2015 - 2023: Tagged White-tailed Eagles (Status: 6/2023)

Tagging of 78 White-tailed Eagles

● LIFE EUROKITE (30 WE)

● TB Raab (48 WE)

altitude above 2,000 m
country borders



1:15,500,000



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Background data:
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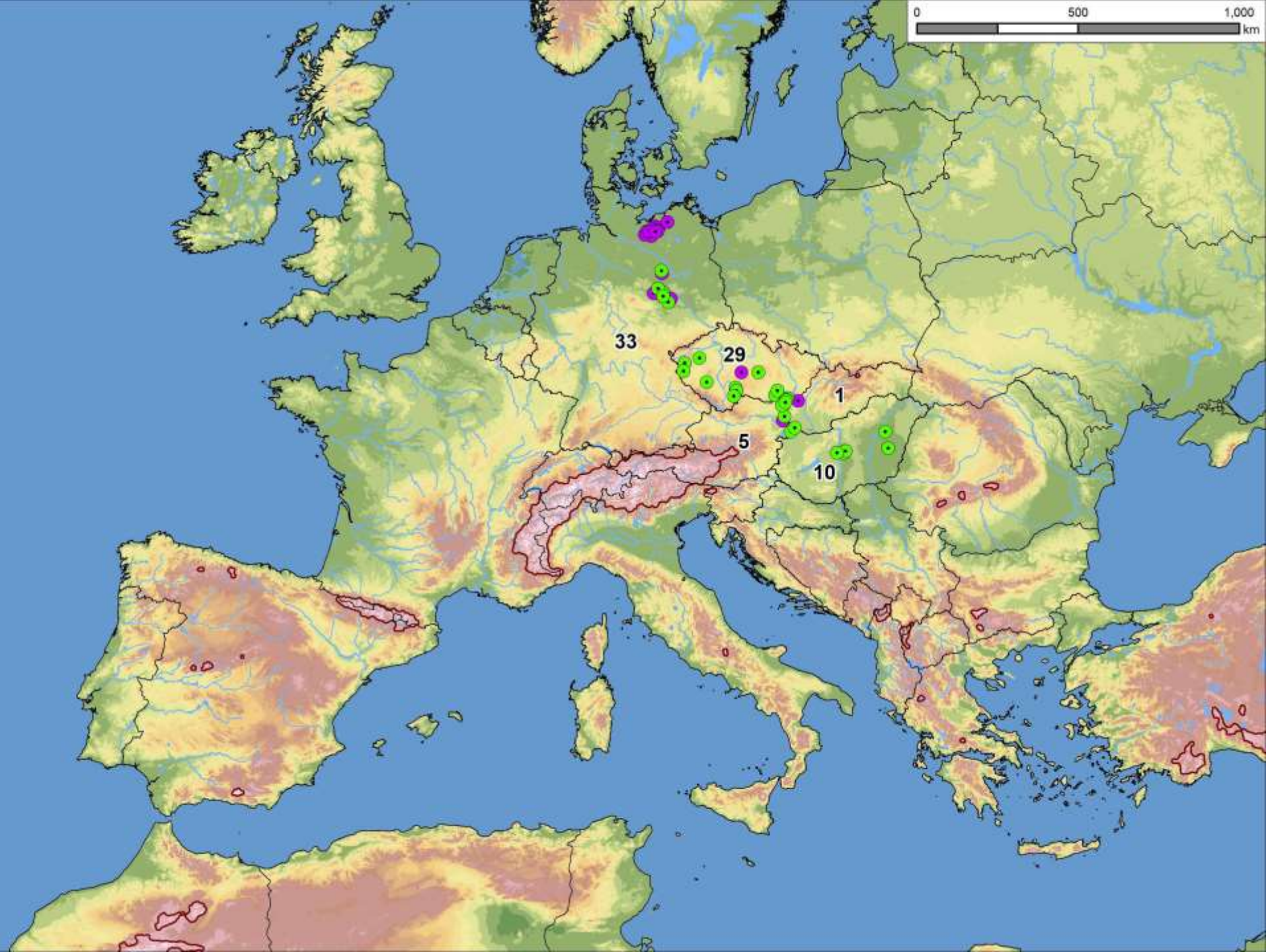
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data:



White-tailed Eagle telemetry 2015 - 2023: Telemetry data White-tailed Eagle (Status: 6/2023)

Telemetry data of 78 White-tailed Eagles

• Telemetry point

altitude above 2,000 m
country borders



1:15,500,000



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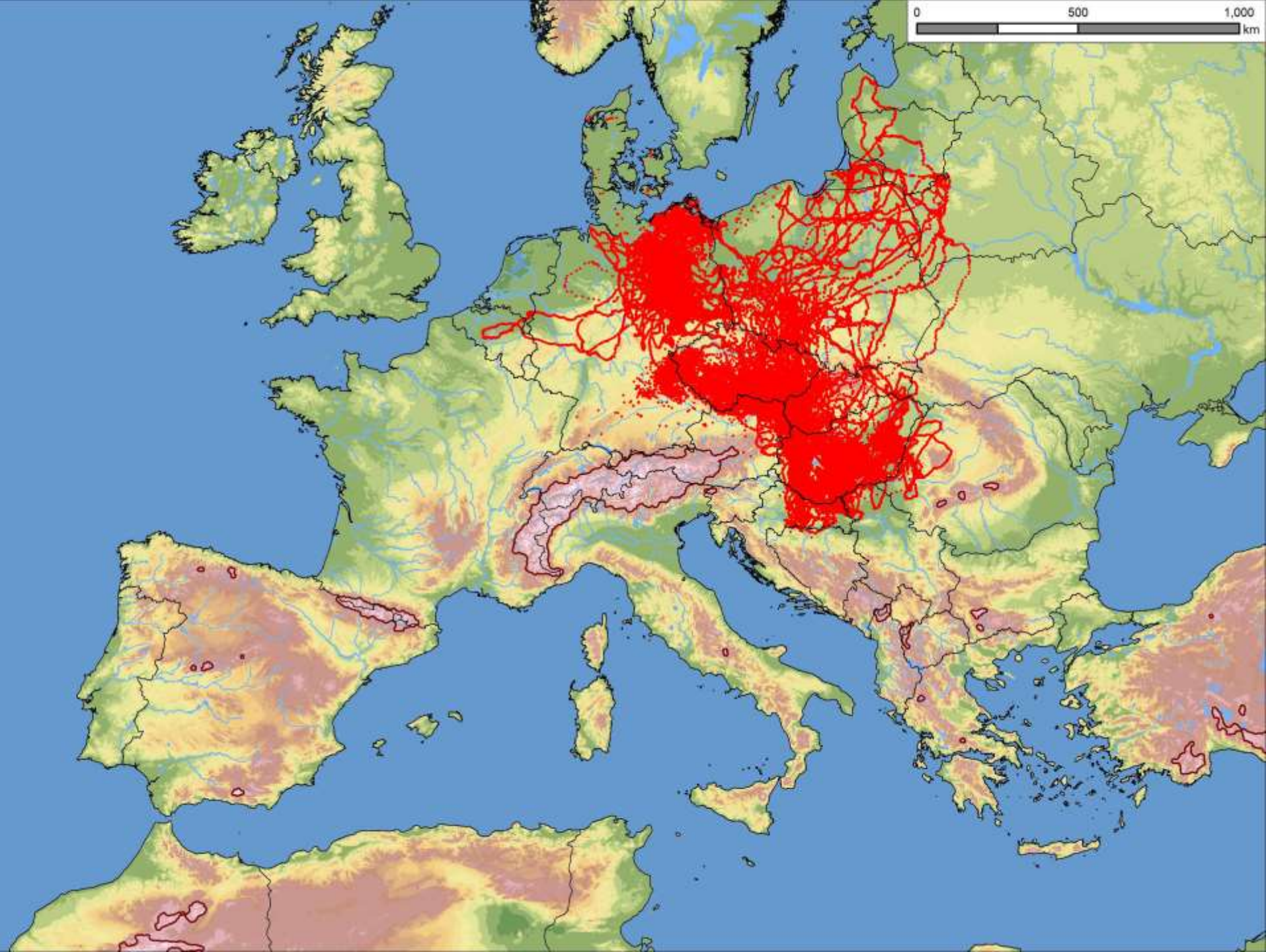
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data:



White-tailed Eagle telemetry 2015 - 2023: Telemetry data White-tailed Eagle (Status: 6/2023)

Telemetry data of 78 White-tailed Eagles

• Telemetry point

altitude above 2,000 m
country borders



1:5,300,000



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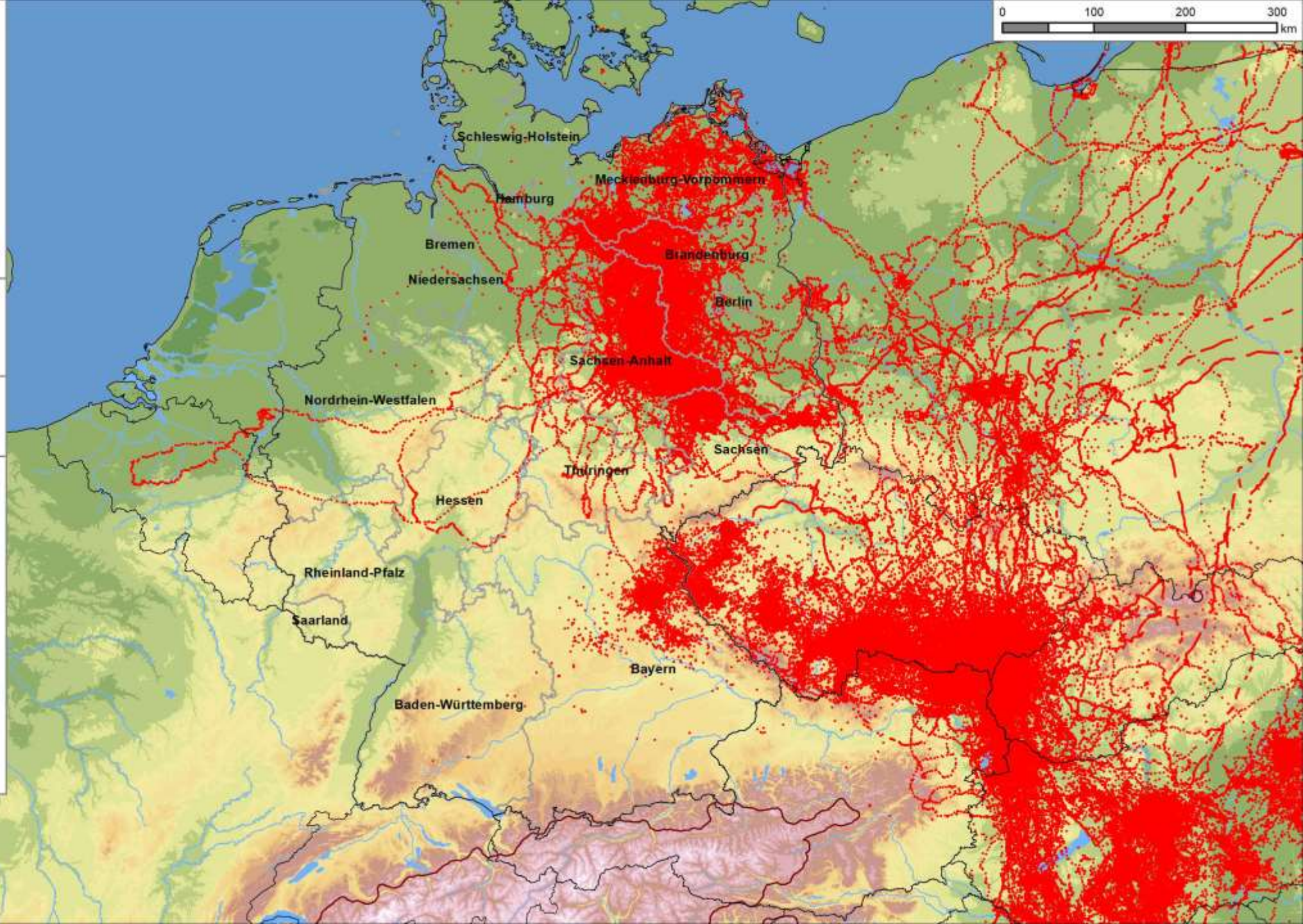
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data:



White-tailed Eagle telemetry 2015 - 2023: Finding of dead White-tailed Eagles (intermediate results until 27.06.2023)

Finding of 16 dead White-tailed Eagles
in whole Europe

◆ Finding of dead White-tailed Eagle

altitude above 2,000 m
country borders



1:15,500,000



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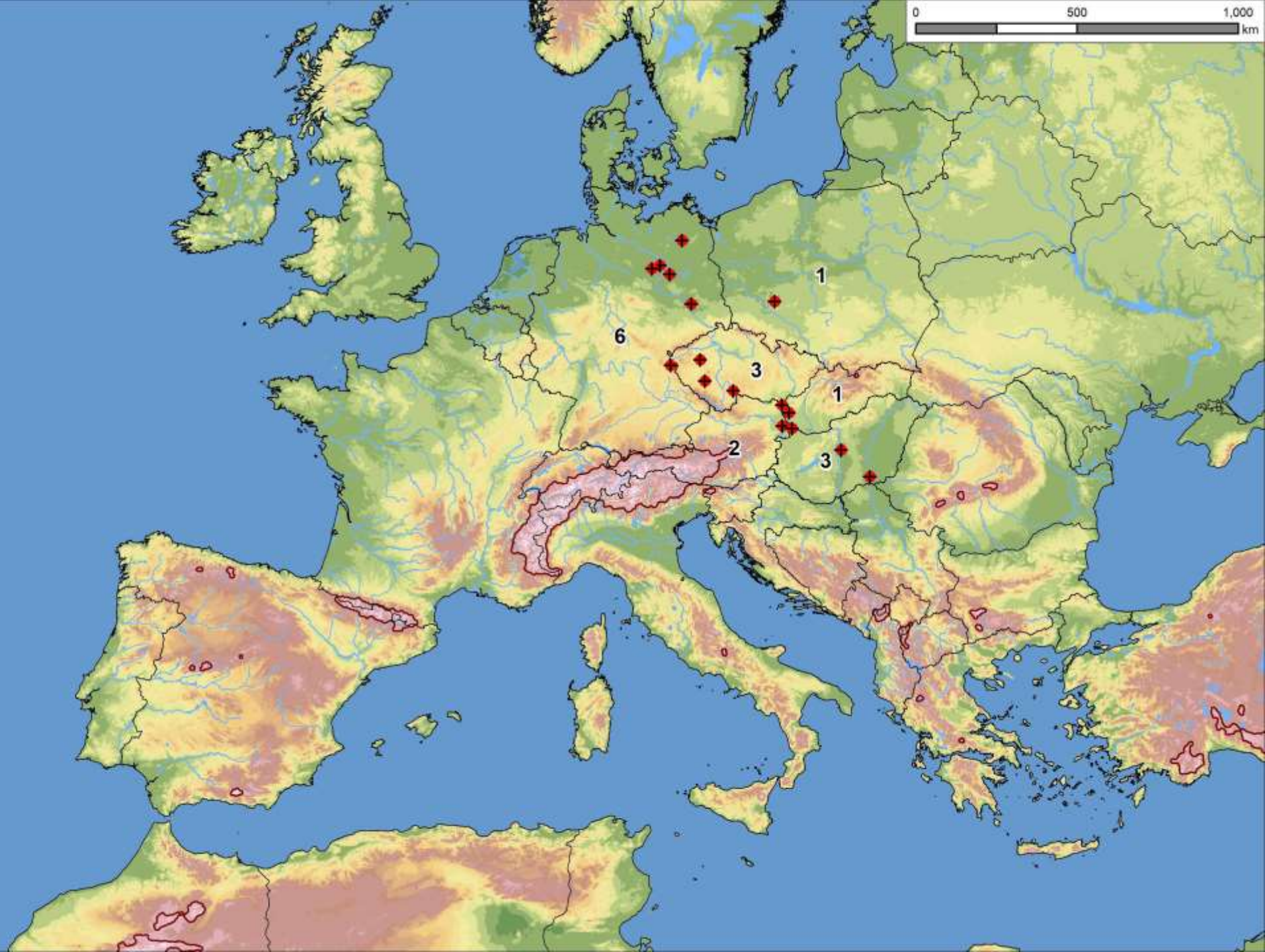
Project partner:



Co-funder:



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data:



White-tailed Eagle telemetry 2015 - 2023: Cause of death shot (intermediate results until 27.06.2023)

Shots of 2 White-tailed Eagles in whole Europe

- Shot sure (1 x)
- Shot probable (1 x)

- altitude above 2,000 m
- country borders



1:15,500,000



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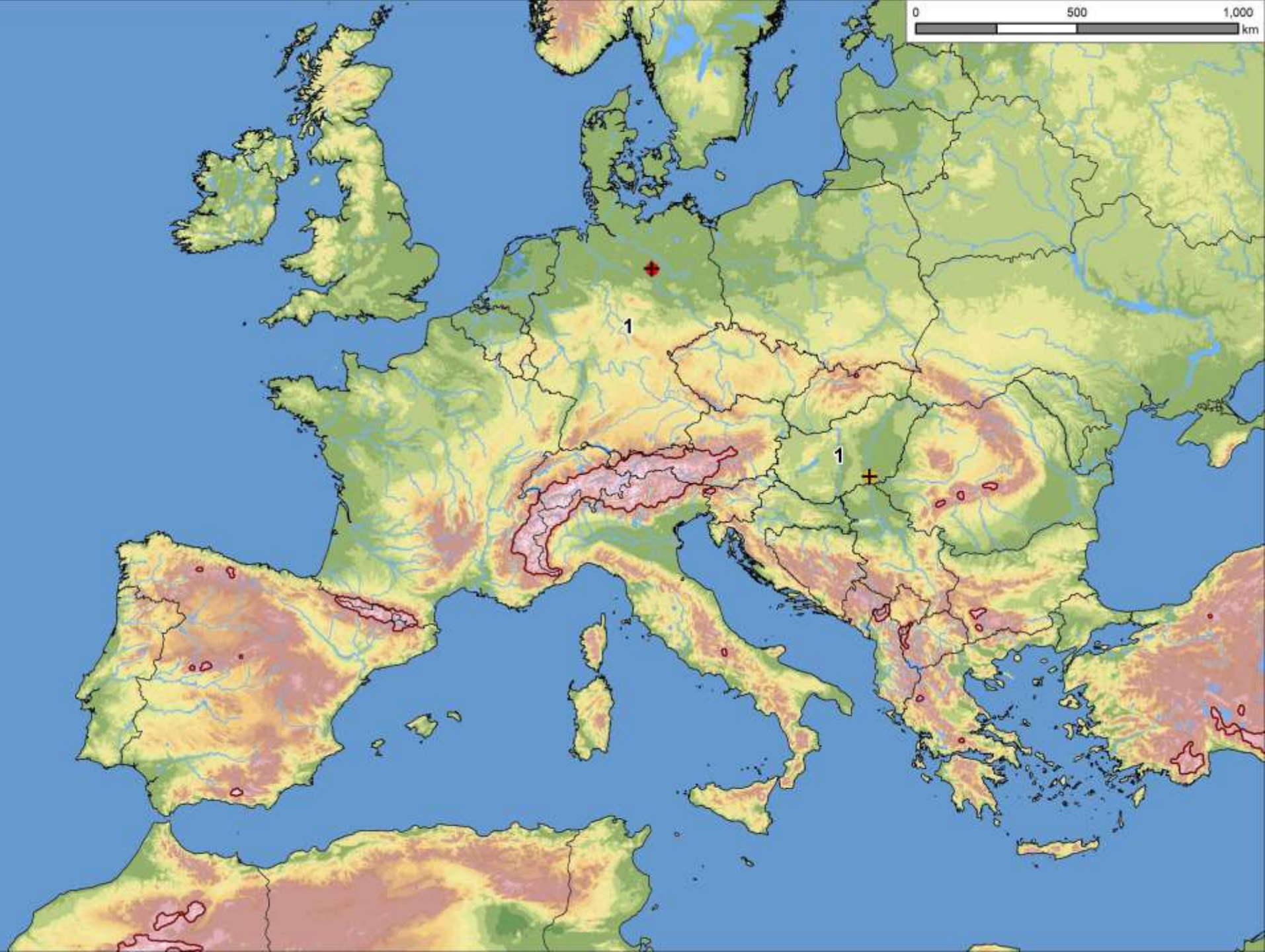
Project partner



Co-funder



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



White-tailed Eagle telemetry 2015 - 2023: Cause of death poisoning (intermediate results until 27.06.2023)

Poisoning of 2 White-tailed Eagles in whole Europe

- ◆ Poisoning sure (1 x)
- ✚ Poisoning probable (1 x)

- altitude above 2,000 m
- country borders



1:15,500,000



Map preparation:
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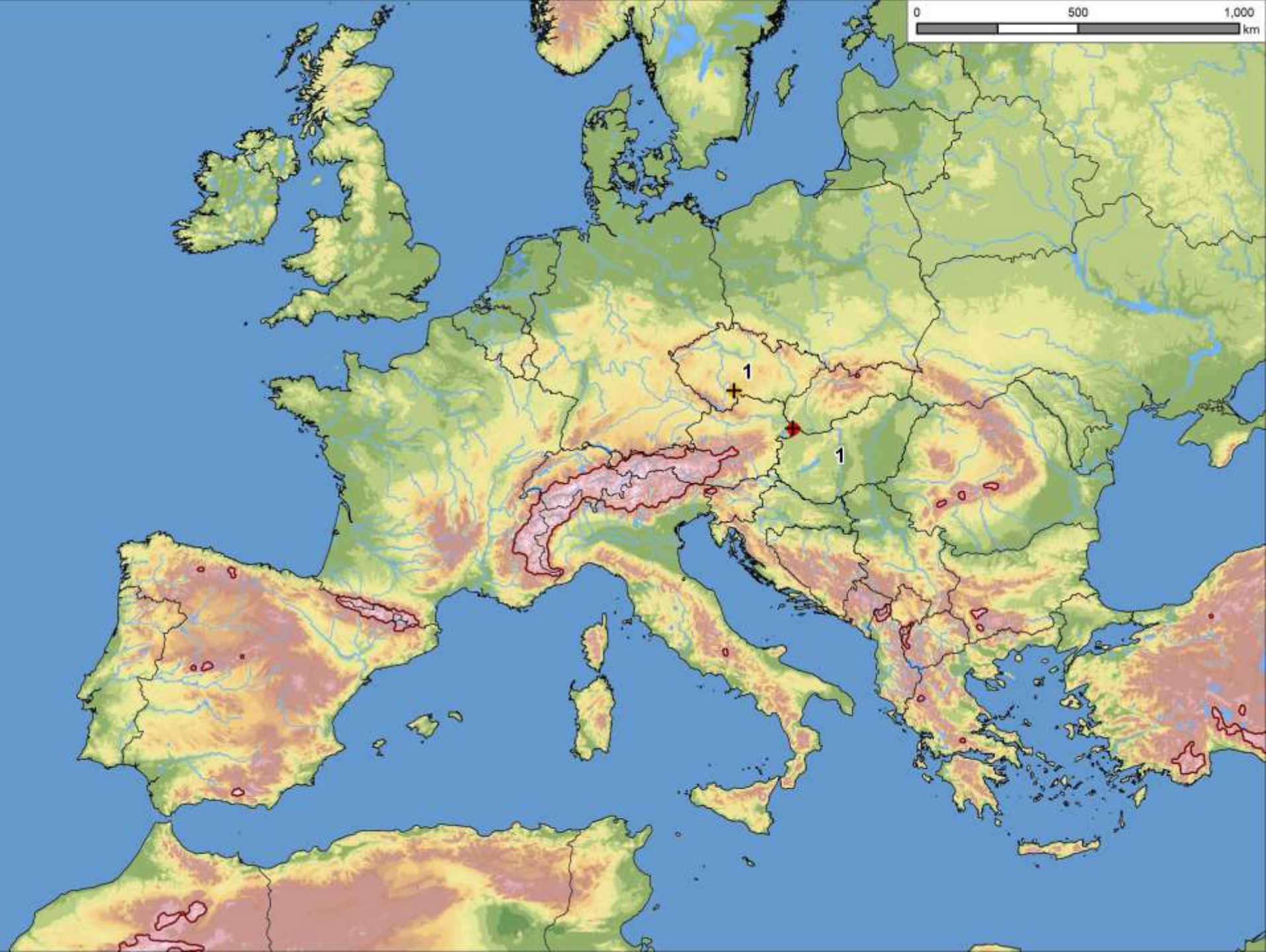
Project partner



Co-funder



Cooperation partners who provide telemetry data



Achievements so far



Scientific method to determine the causes of death of tagged red kites

A standardized protocol for Europe-wide assessment of morbidity and mortality in birds of prey

Authors: Verena Strauss, Oliver Krone, Jendrik Windt, Manuel Wojta, Hannah Boeing, Maximilian Raab, Annika Posautz, Anna Kuebber-Heiss, Rainer Raab

- There are many different possible causes of death
- The condition of the carcass found can range from very poor to very good and plays an important role for further investigation
- With the help of the mortality protocol, the case form and the necropsy form, a quick search is possible, and examinations made comparable

Publication in preparation, target journal: Veterinary Record



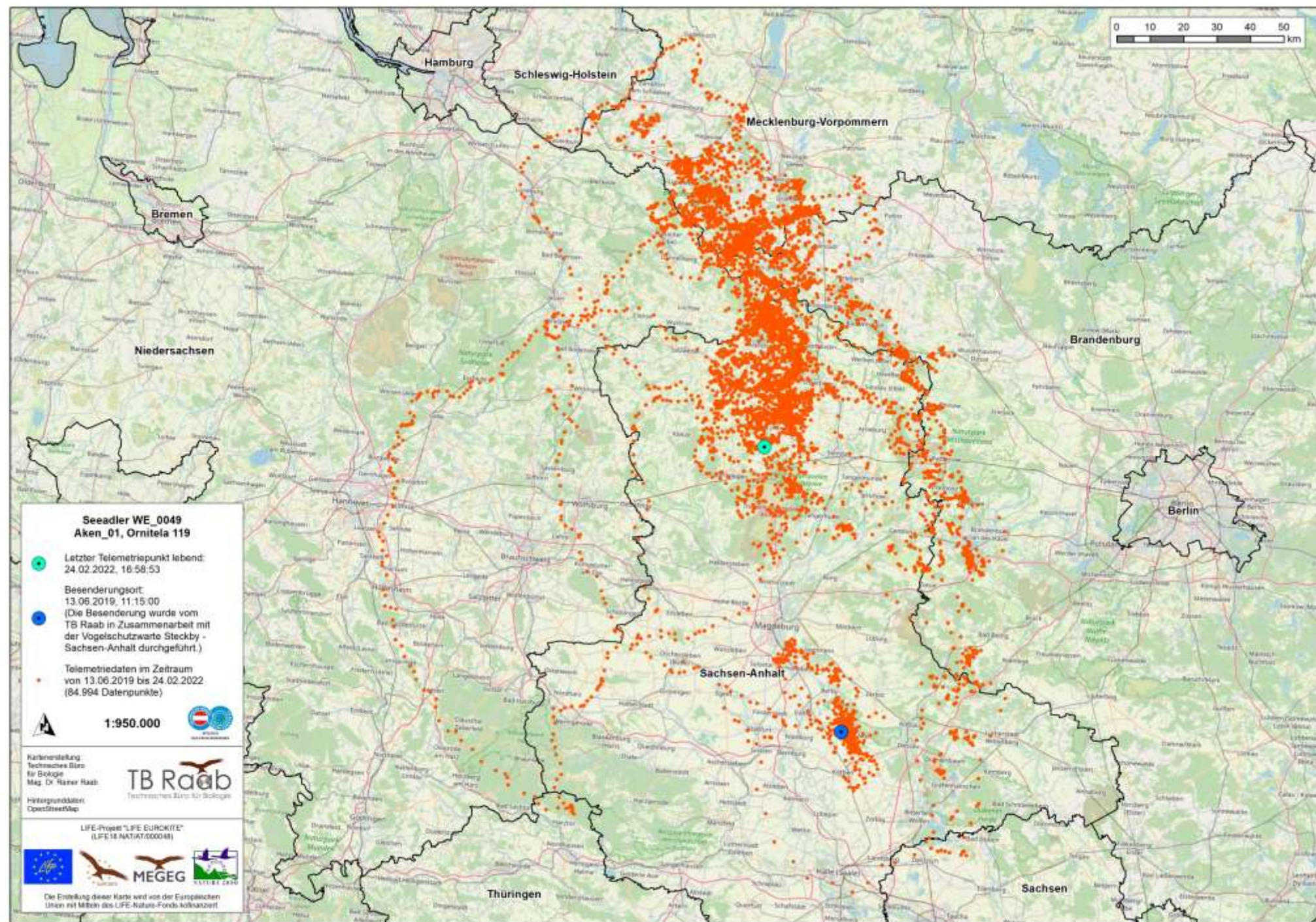
Tagged red kite with shotgun pellets in the body

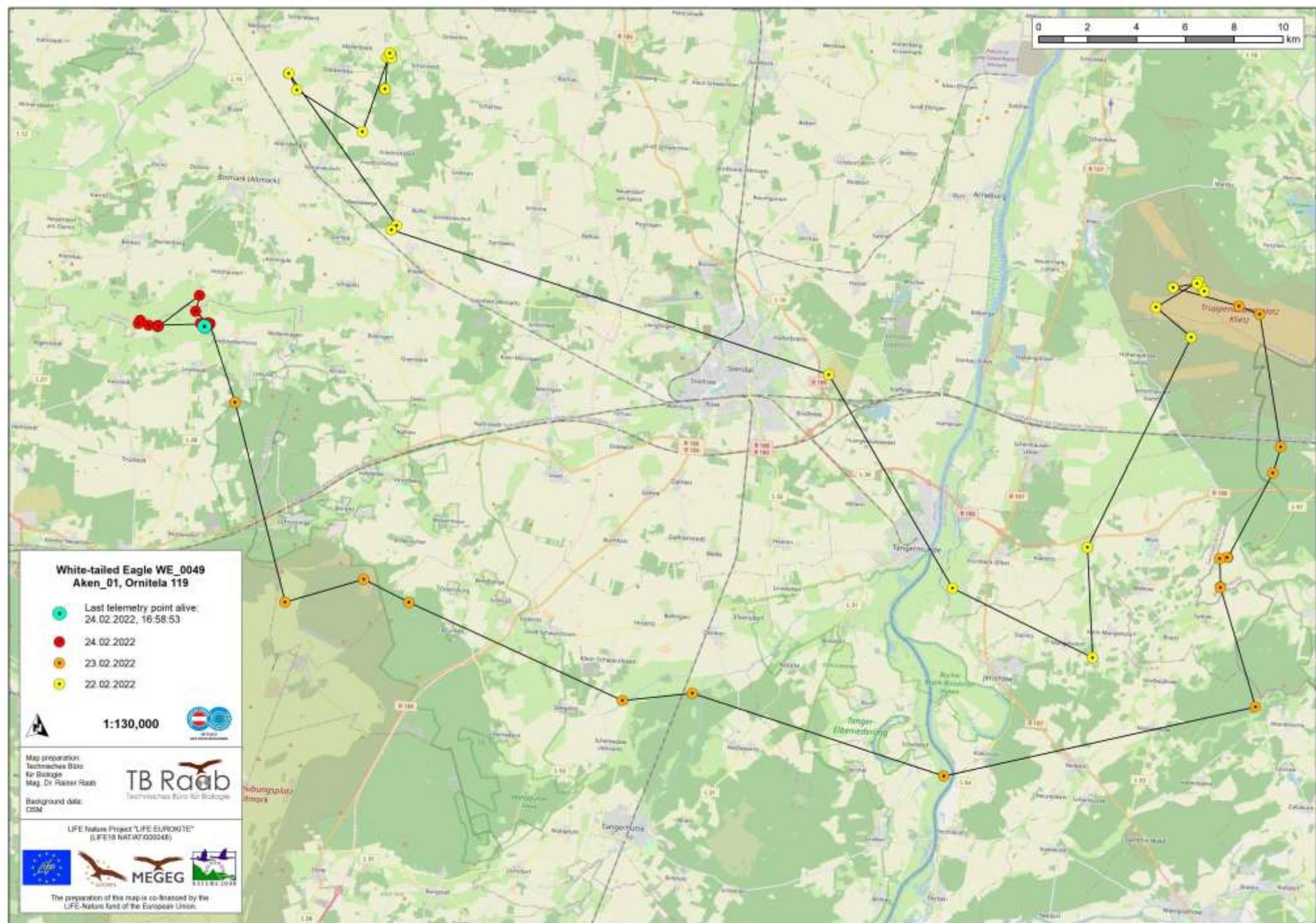
Achievements - Investigation

Final Conviction in the case of the shot White-tailed eagle of the LIFE EUROKITE project in Germany

- Fine of 1,800 euros (90 daily rates of 20 euros each)
- A clear sign against wildlife crime, even if the total amount of fine imposed is disproportionate to the damage done to nature
- The first time in Germany that a perpetrator was identified with the help of telemetry data and finally convicted







Achievements - Investigation



Steps forward in the case of a poisoned red kite of the LIFE EUROKITE project in Spain

- A person was arrested for interrogation
- excellent cooperation with SEPRONA of the Civil Guard, as well as Agents of the Natural Environment of the Regional Government of Extremadura, veterinarians of the AMUS wildlife hospital and the Toxicology Laboratory of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Extremadura
- The use of new technologies, such as GPS tagging of threatened and protected wild species, is an essential tool for the detection of crimes against wildlife





Achievements – Winter Count



Results of the “1st LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count of 267
selected regularly counted Red Kite roosting sites in
whole Europe”
08.01.-10.01.2021
(extended to 02.01.-23.01.2021)

Impact monitoring of the LIFE EUROKITE Project



Cross-border protection of the Red Kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality
Organised by the LIFE EUROKITE Project with the help of the partners
Reporting Date: 25.03.2021



Project: LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048 – LIFE EUROKITE

Results of the “2nd LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count of
267 selected regularly counted Red Kite roosting sites
in whole Europe”
07.01.-09.01.2022
(extended to 04.01.-23.01.2022)

Impact monitoring of the LIFE EUROKITE Project

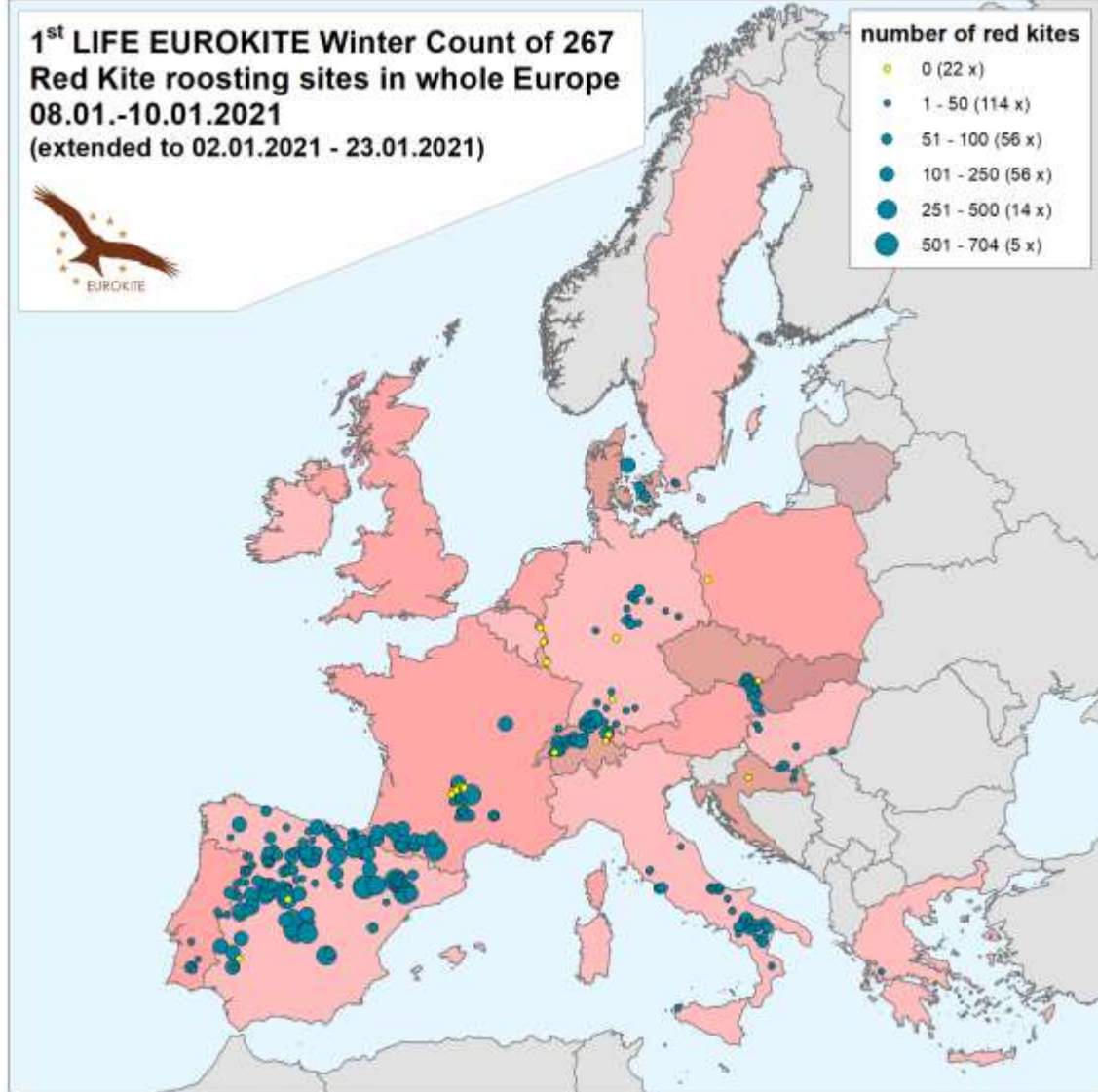
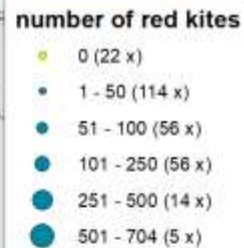


Cross-border protection of the Red Kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality
Organised by the LIFE EUROKITE Project with the help of the partners
Reporting Date: October 2022



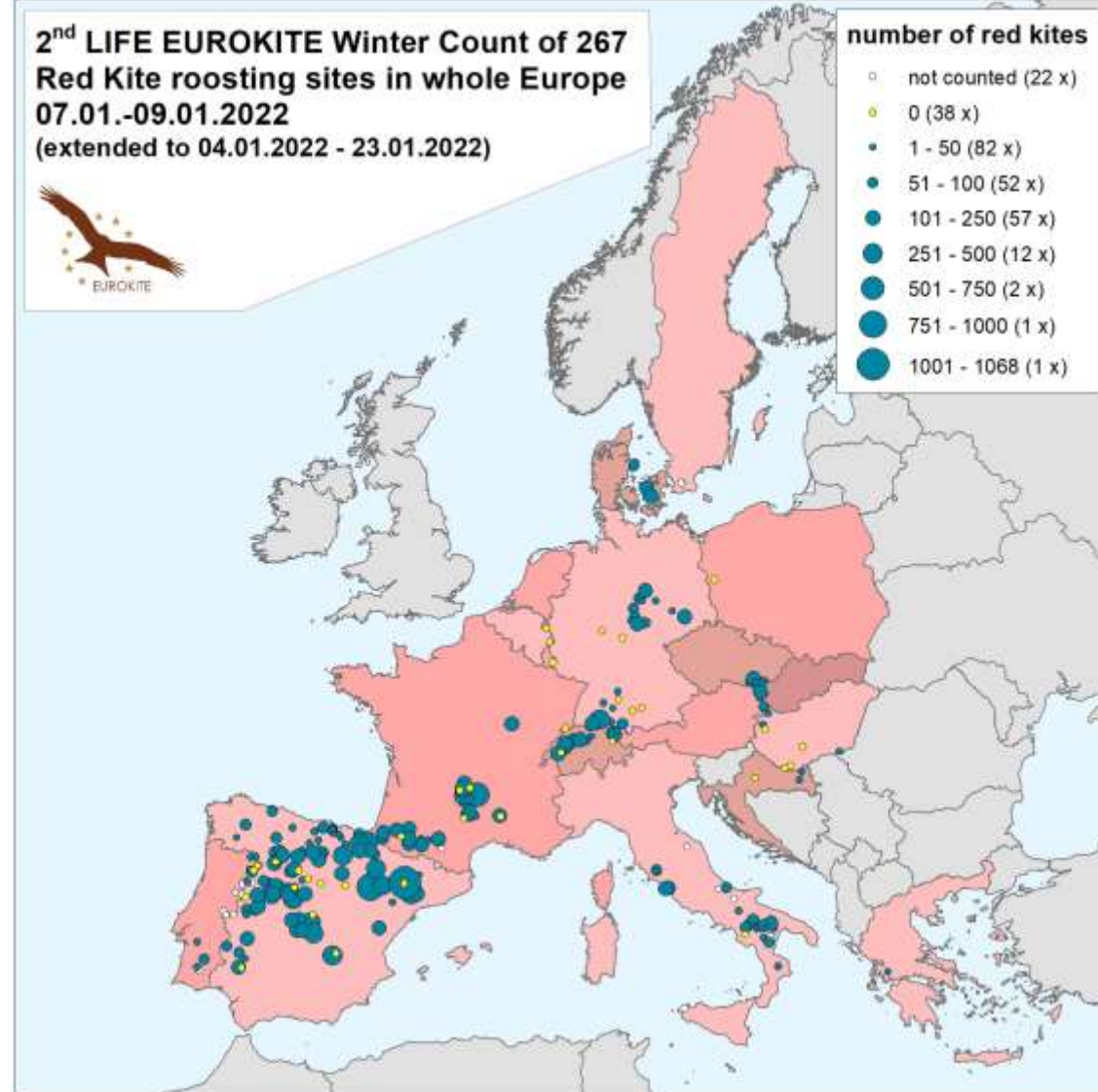
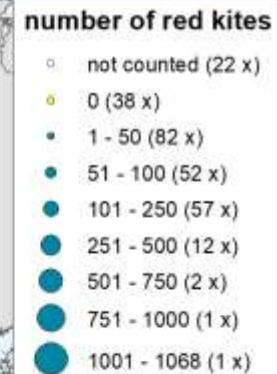
Project: LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048 – LIFE EUROKITE

1st LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count of 267
Red Kite roosting sites in whole Europe
08.01.-10.01.2021
 (extended to 02.01.2021 - 23.01.2021)

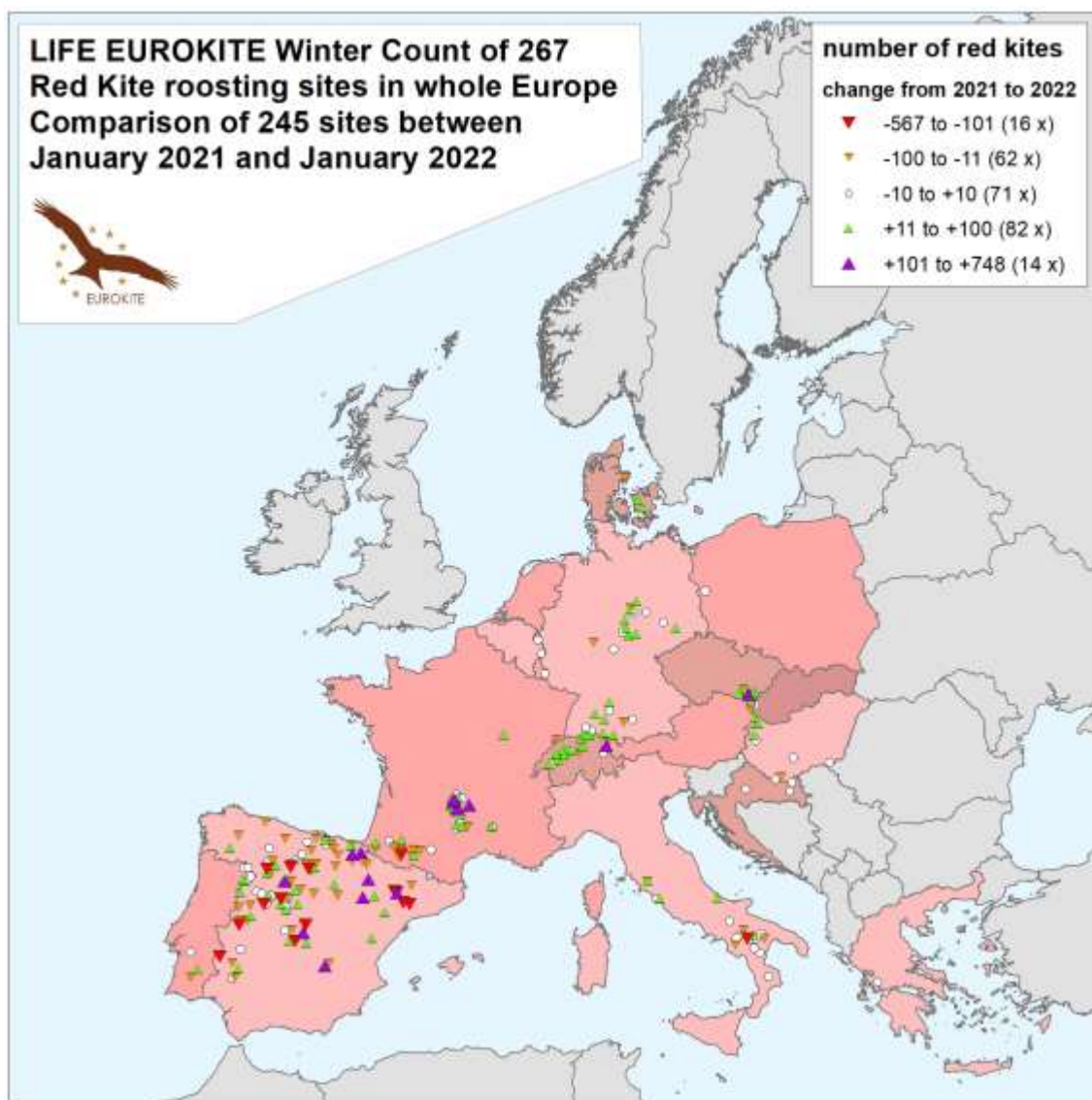


Number of controlled roosting sites: 267
 Roosting sites occupied: 245
 Roosting sites not occupied: 22
 Number of Red Kites (min./max.): **22.937 / 23.128**

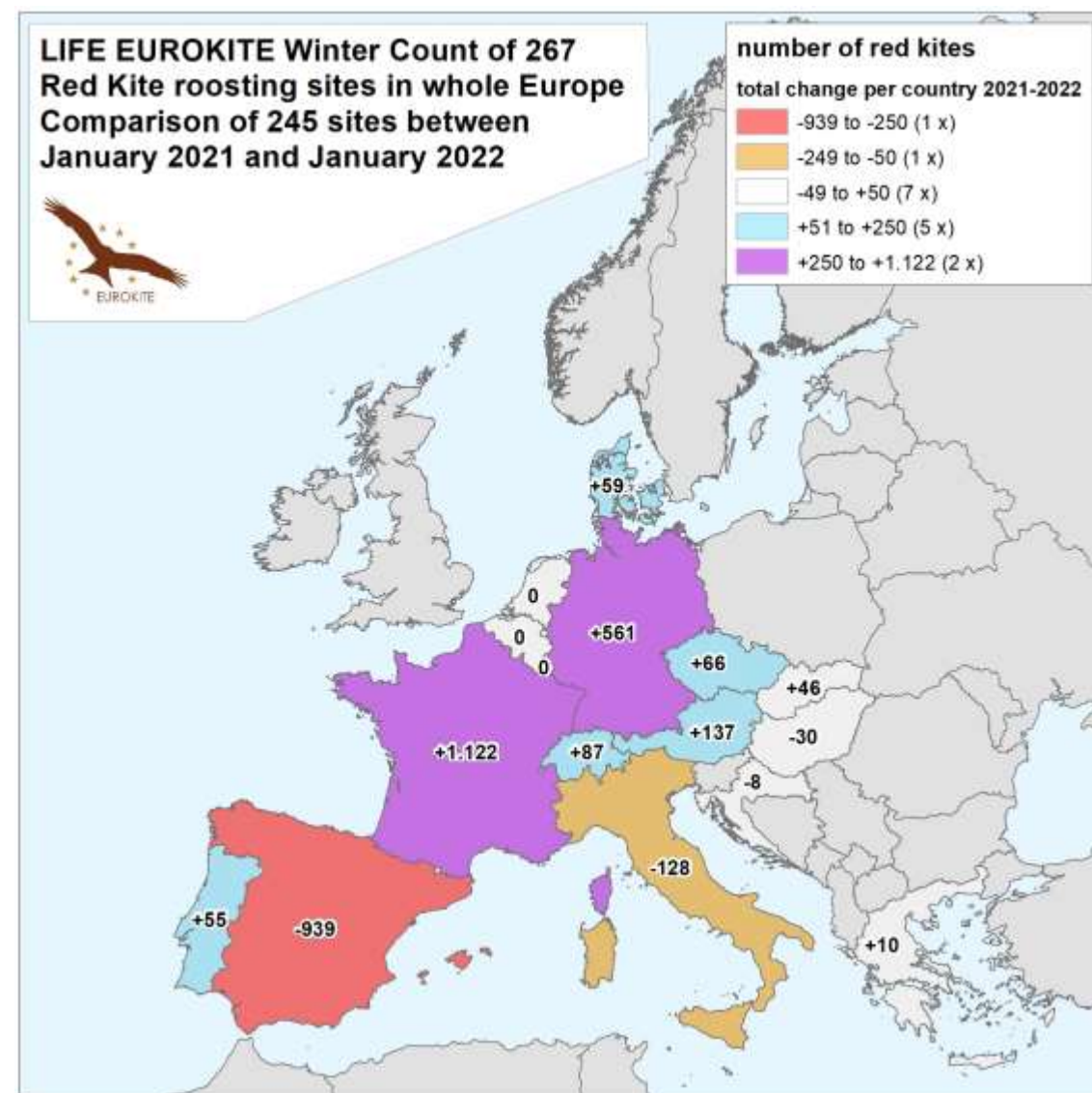
2nd LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count of 267
Red Kite roosting sites in whole Europe
07.01.-09.01.2022
 (extended to 04.01.2022 - 23.01.2022)



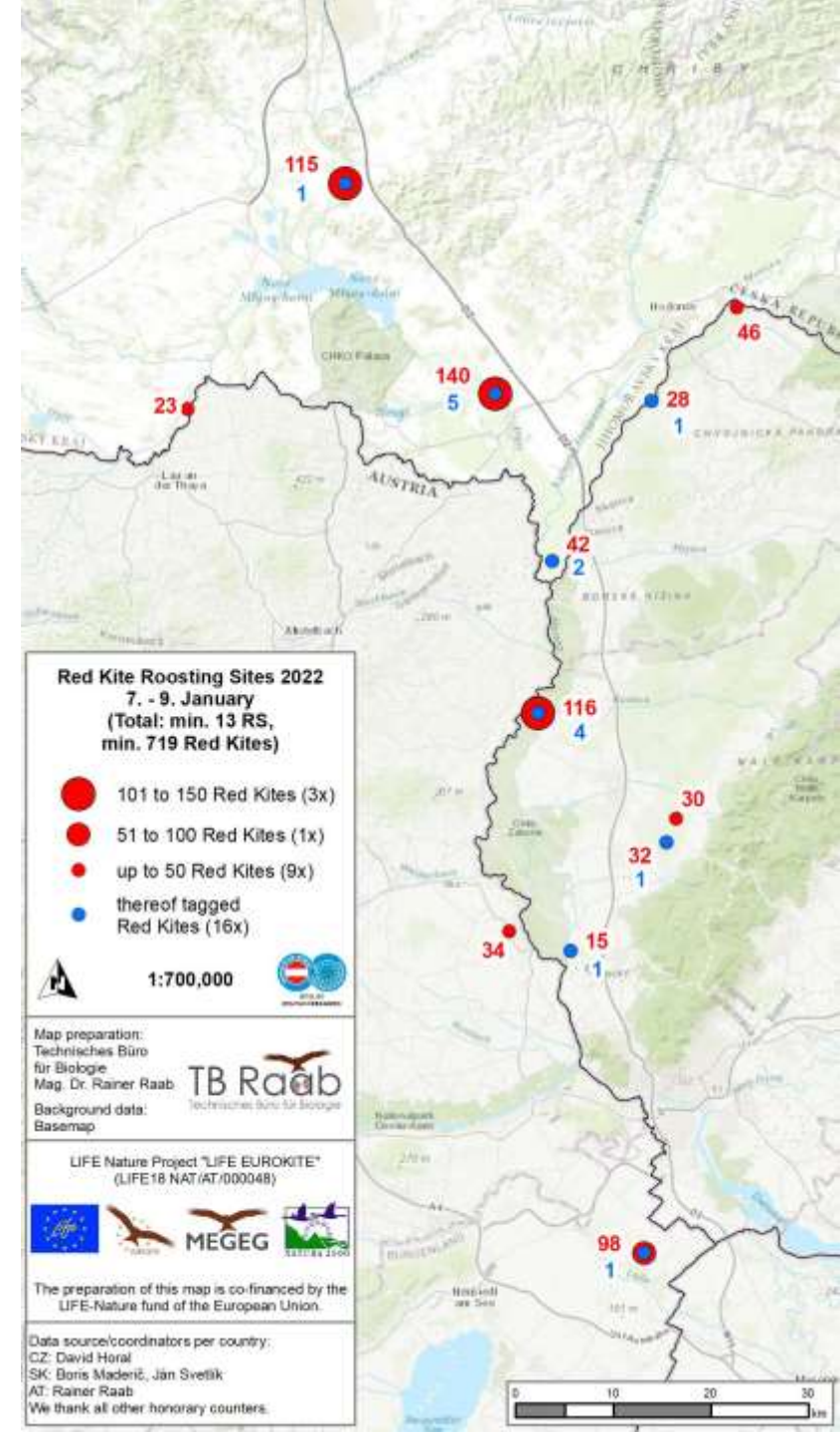
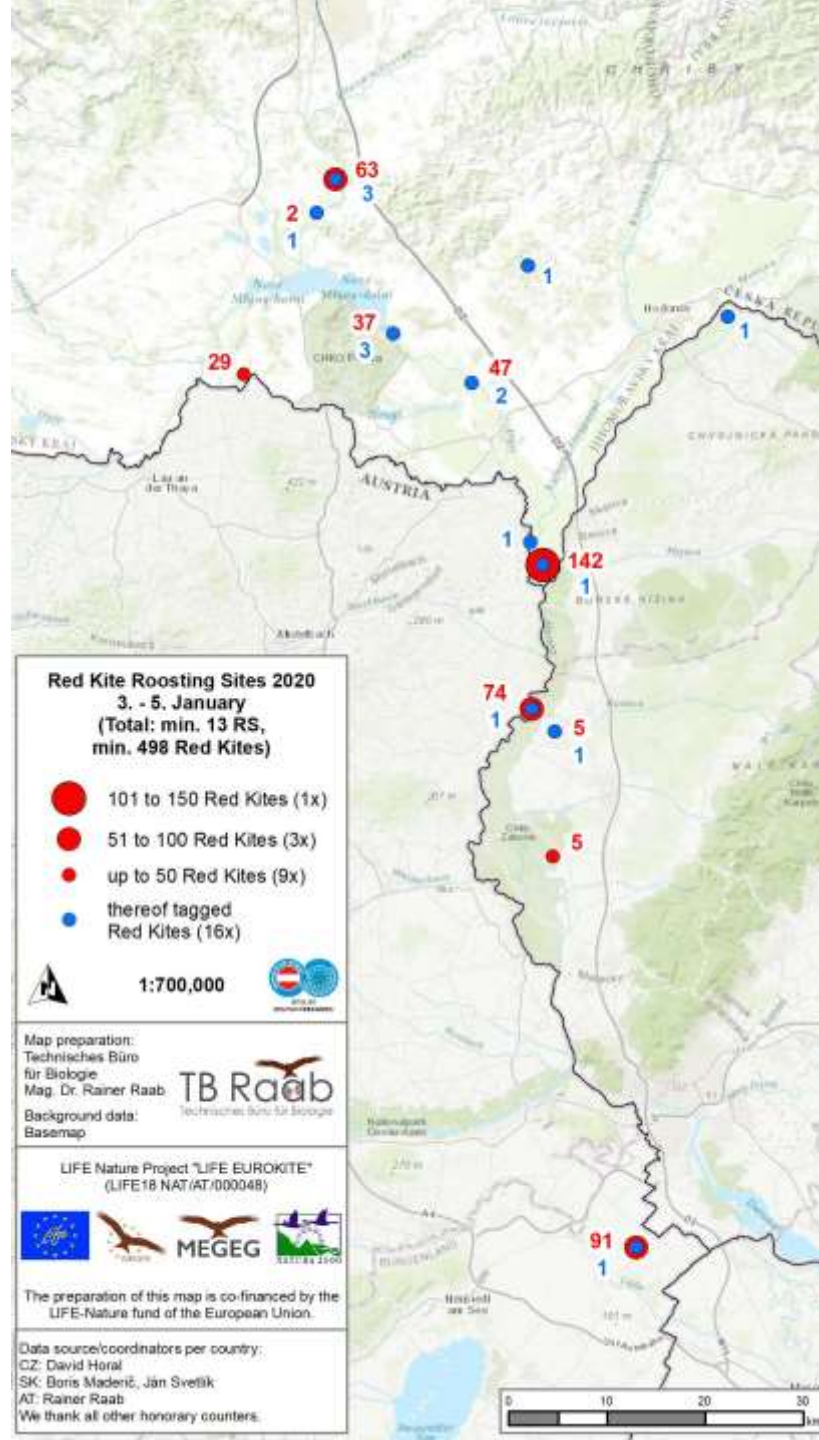
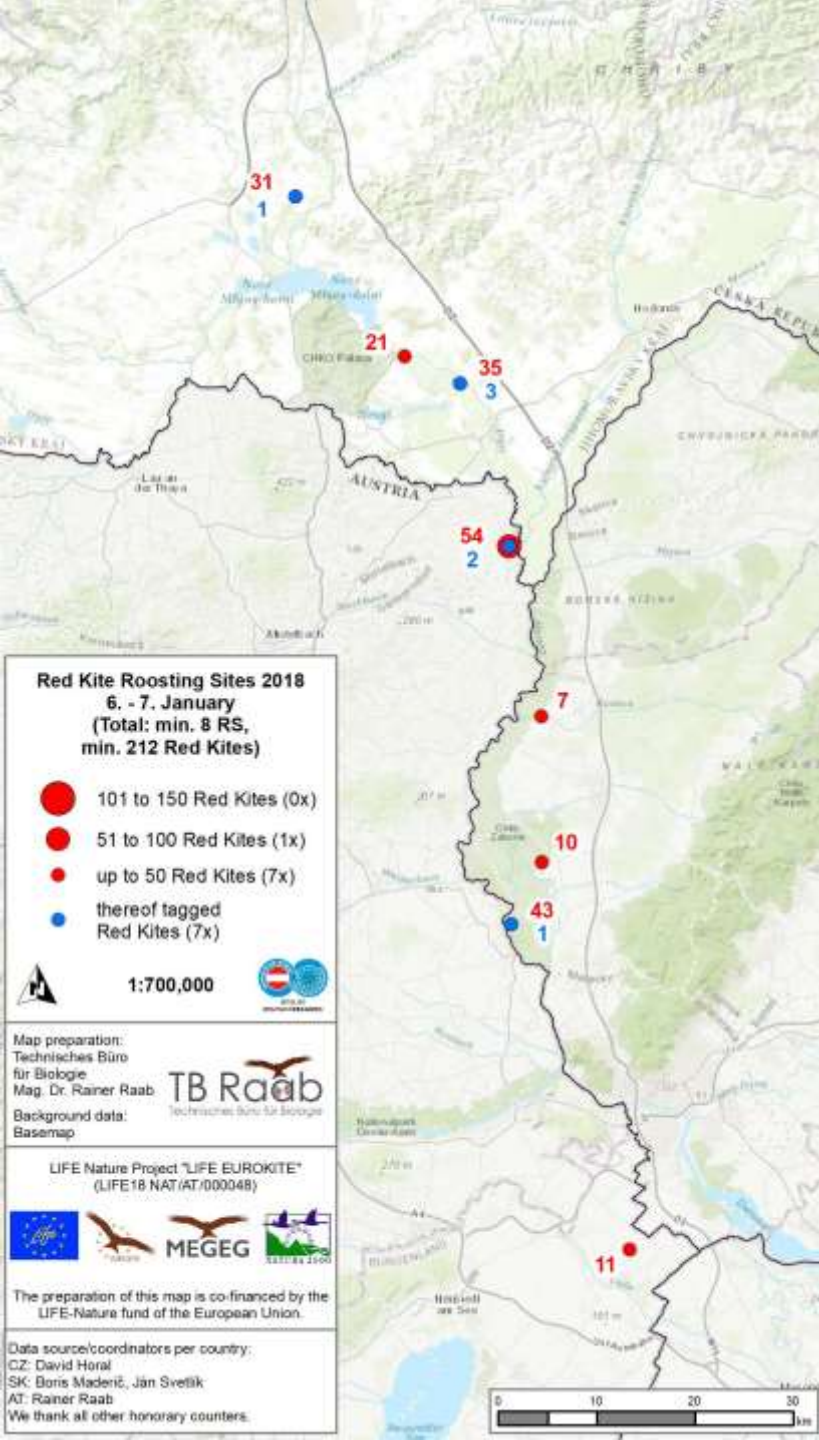
Number of controlled roosting sites: 245 (22 not counted)
 Roosting sites occupied: 206
 Roosting sites not occupied: 38
 Number of Red Kites (min./max.): **22.065 / 22.886**

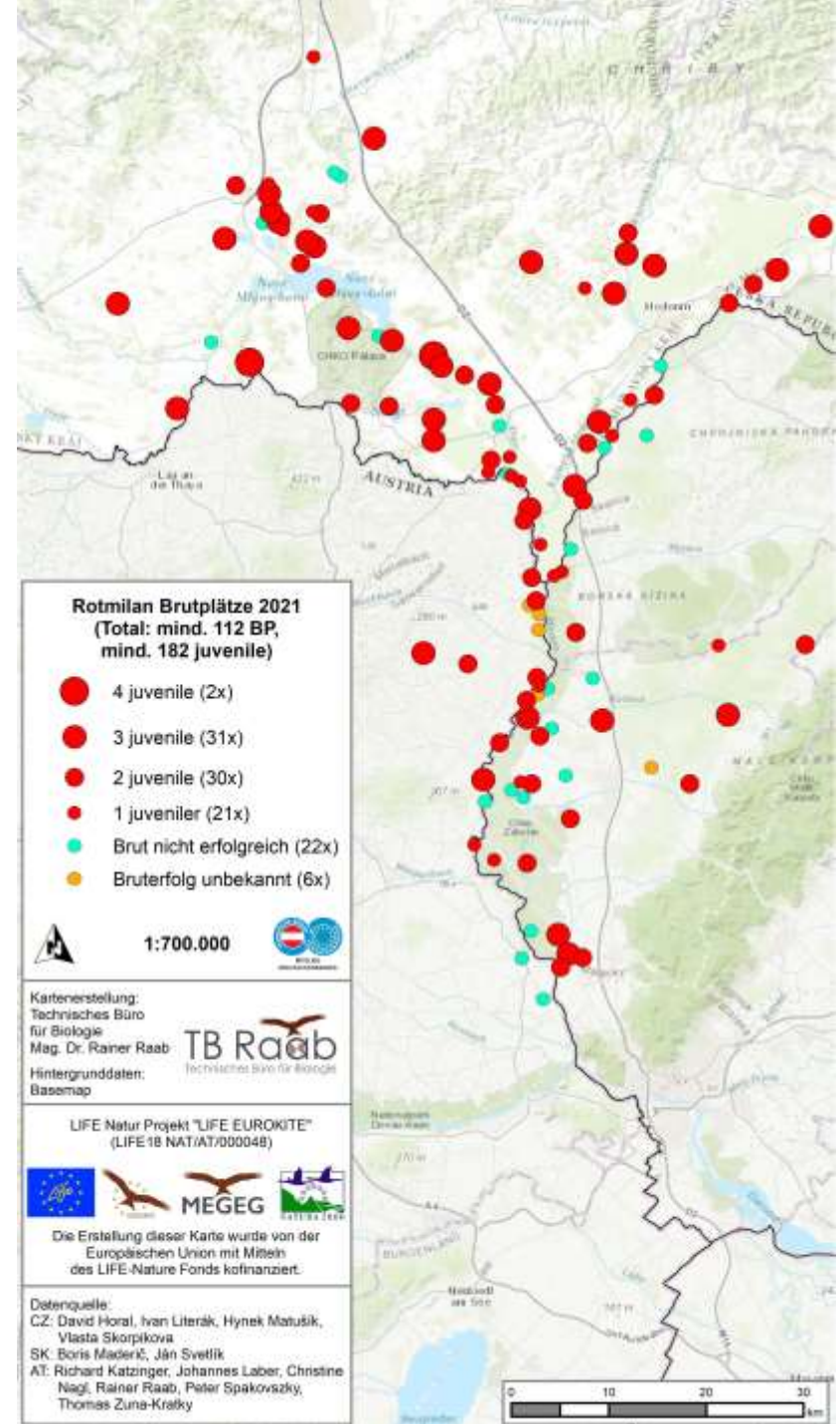
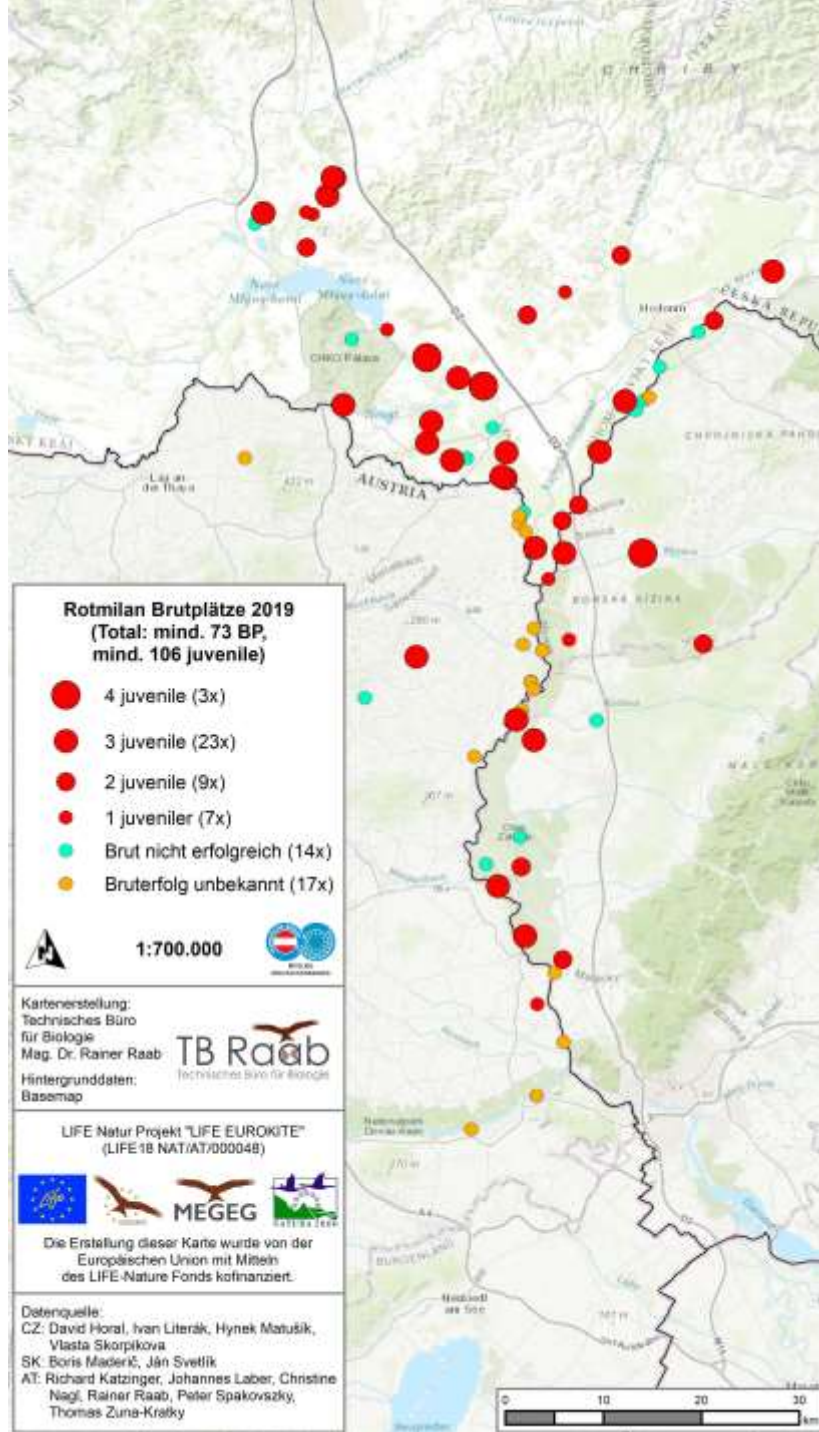
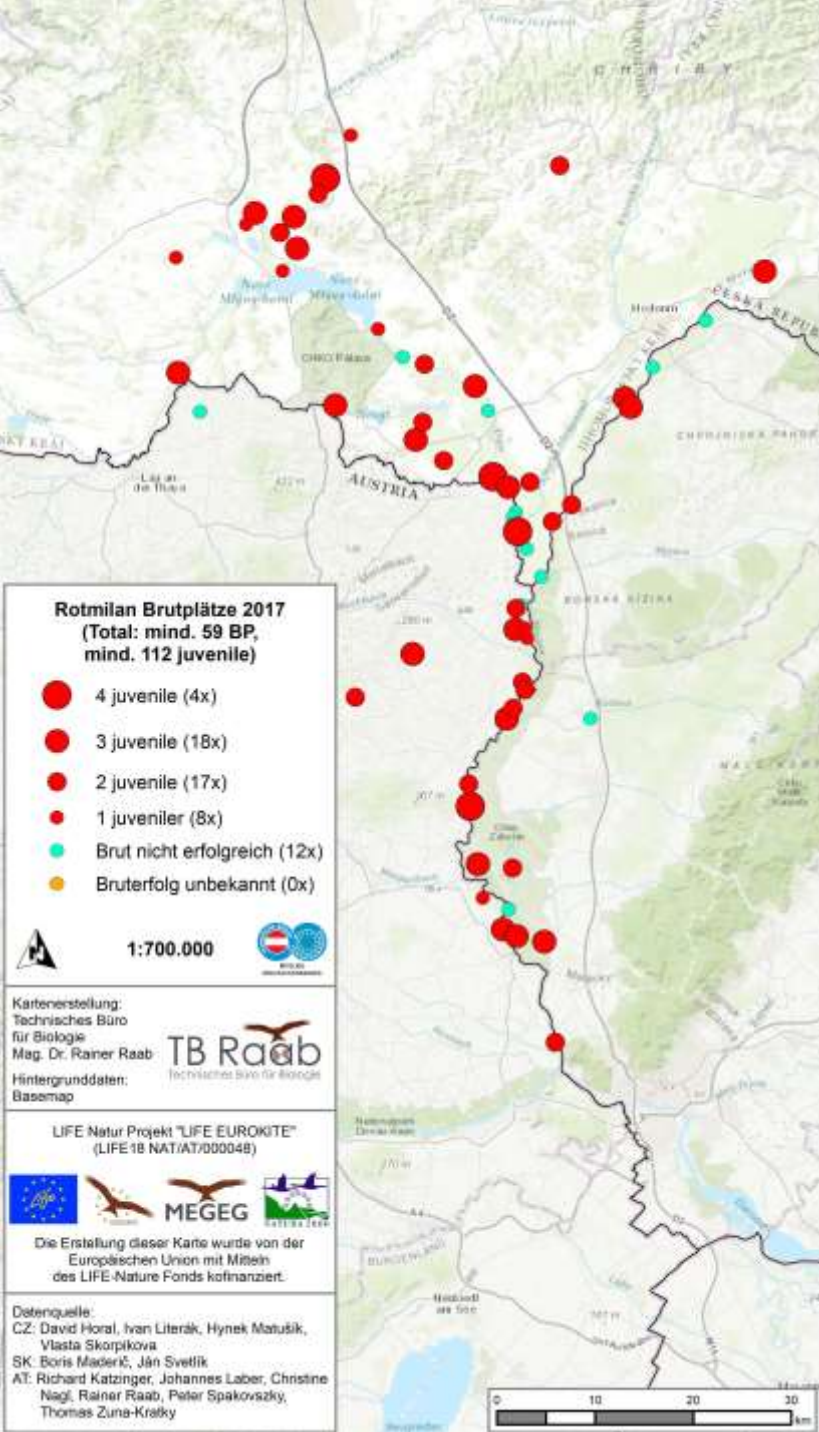


Data from 245 roosting sites which were controlled in both 2021 and 2022
Number of Red Kites 2021 (max.): **21.848**
Number of Red Kites 2022 (max.): **22.886**



Change per country for 245 roosting sites from 2021 to 2022
Total change: **+1.038** Red Kites





Achievements – Feasibility study of Red Kite reinforcement in southern Spain & the release



- First red kite from UK were released in 2022
- In 2023 the second group of young red kites from UK were released





Achievements – Modification of power lines

- Pylons were corrected to prevent electrocution
- Example of good cooperation with electricity companies in Spain (AMUS – ENDESA)





Rainer Raab, Adrian Aebischer, Franz Josef Kovacs, Hannah Böing & Sven Aberle

The Red Kite book

Editor:

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Editorial staff:

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Franz Josef Kovacs & Sven Aberle

design and printing:

Gerin Druck GmbH

1st edition 2022

© 2022 by Austrian Power Grid AG, Printed in
Austria



<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/news/news-detail/publication-of-the-book-der-rotmilan-in-europa-erfolgreicher-schutz-auf-internationaler-ebene.html>



Achievements – Erection of
the notice board in Austria,
Germany, France and Spain
in 2022



Achievements – Social media and website



- www.life-eurokite.eu
 - English, German, French & Spanish
- Instagram, Youtube, Twitter, Facebook



Großtrappe Otis tarda - Rotmilan
Milvus milvus und Co



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News



Red Kite



Bird Crime

Many raptor species are frequent victims of illegal human activity. Use of poison-baits in the countryside is one of the most widely used predator eradication methods worldwide (Márquez et al. 2012) and is a significant threat to biodiversity in the European Union. Poison is used to kill wildlife considered to be harmful to certain activities, in particular game management for hunting, livestock farming and other agricultural practices (Graham et al. 2005; Sotherton et al. 2009). Illegal use of poison is considered one of the most important issues regarding illegal killing of birds due to the serious conservation impacts (Margarida et al. 2020; BirdLife 2011) and is confirmed to be among the most important direct threats in Europe to the Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), Eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Red kite (*Milvus milvus*), and Egyptian vulture (*Necropsion percnopterus*). Poison-baits have been identified, for example, as the primary limiting factor in the expansion of the reintroduced population of Red kites in northern Scotland (Smart et al. 2010) and of the



Achievements – Newsletter



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ES

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Achievements – webcams

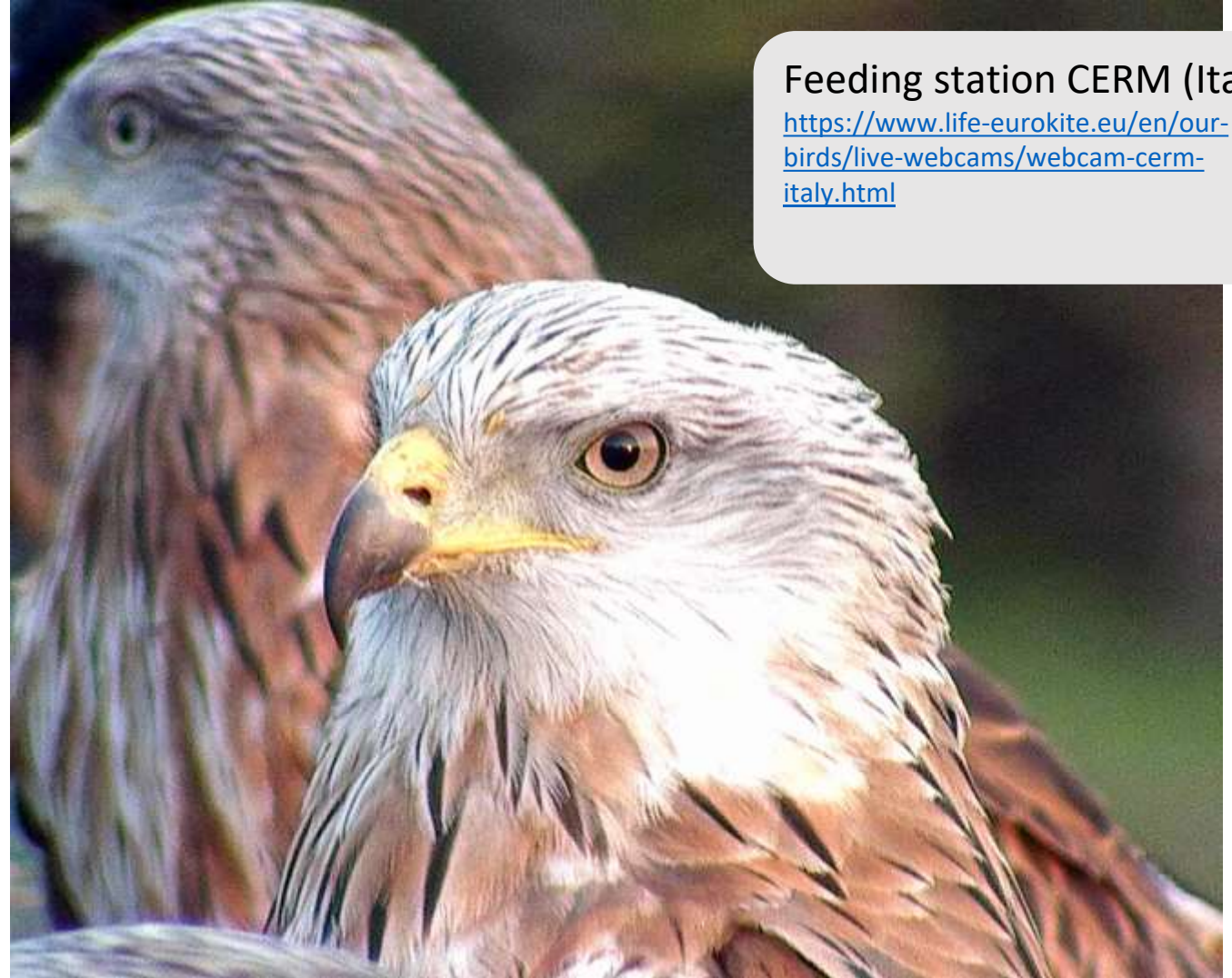


Feeding station Spain

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/live-webcams.html>



Achievements – webcams



Feeding station CERM (Italy)

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/live-webcams/webcam-cerm-italy.html>

Achievements – webcams



Nest Camera Valencia
(Germany)
<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/live-webcams/nest-camera-district-lippe-germany.html>



Outlook for 2024



- Campaigns against poisoning
 - Local campaigns
 - Social media campaigns
- Event in the European Parliament in Brussels
- Introducing a “European day against illegal poisoning of animals”
 - raising awareness (general public and the political decision makers) as the topic is still widely unknown
- European map of poisoned red kites
 - Maps is in preparation last data will be collected in the next month
- Publications



Planned Publications – LIFE EUROKITE

1. Mortality Protocol

Strauss et al.

A standardized protocol for the European-wide assessment of morbidity and mortality of raptors

- provide a systematic and easy-to-follow method to collect information on the causes of morbidity and death in raptors
- Submission in progress



Planned Publications – LIFE EUROKITE



2. Mortality Reasons – General

Mateo-Tomas & Windt et al.

Mortality of red kites across Europe – Determining the importance of anthropogenic factors from known-fate, GPS tracked individuals

- Quantify the relative importance of anthropogenic mortality factors in red kites across Europe, while checking for variation among countries and possible drivers depending on data availability.
- Discussing management and conservation actions accordingly
- Submission planned: 31.12.2023



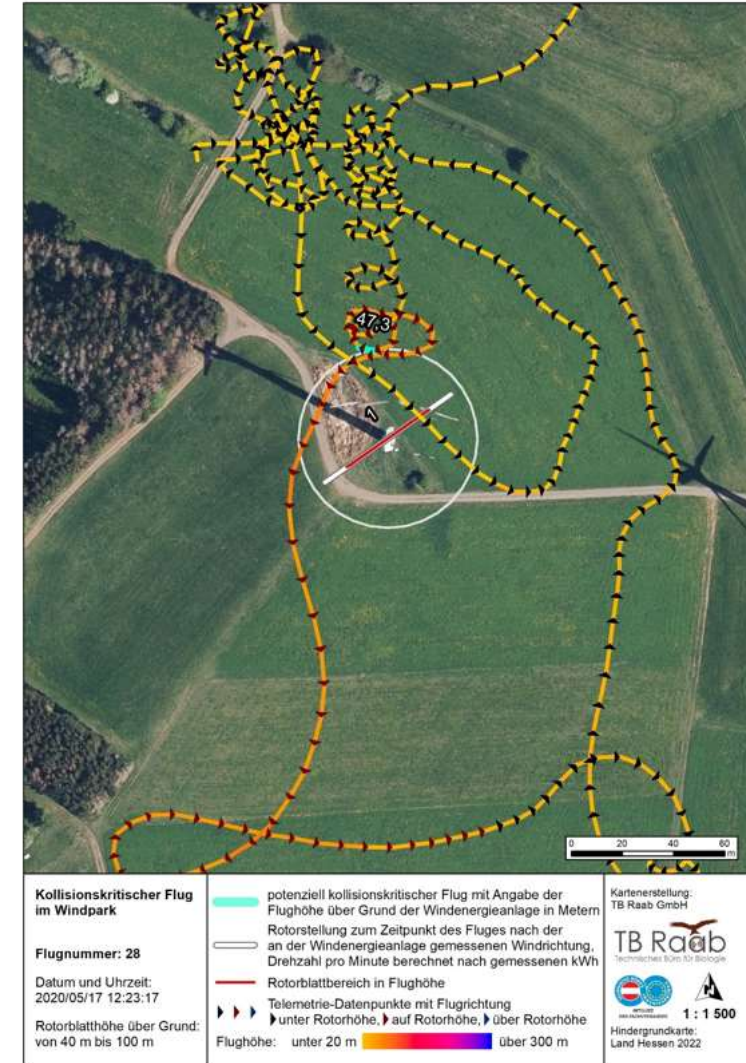
Planned Publications – LIFE EUROKITE

3. Red Kite flight characteristics at Windfarms

Mercker & Raab et al.

High resolution Red Kite tracking data used to quantify meso- and micro-scale avoidance of wind turbines

- Small-scale 3D-avoidance behavior of the red kite towards wind turbines and its evasive behavior in the immediate vicinity of the rotor
- Submission planned: 31.12.2024



Planned Publications – LIFE EUROKITE

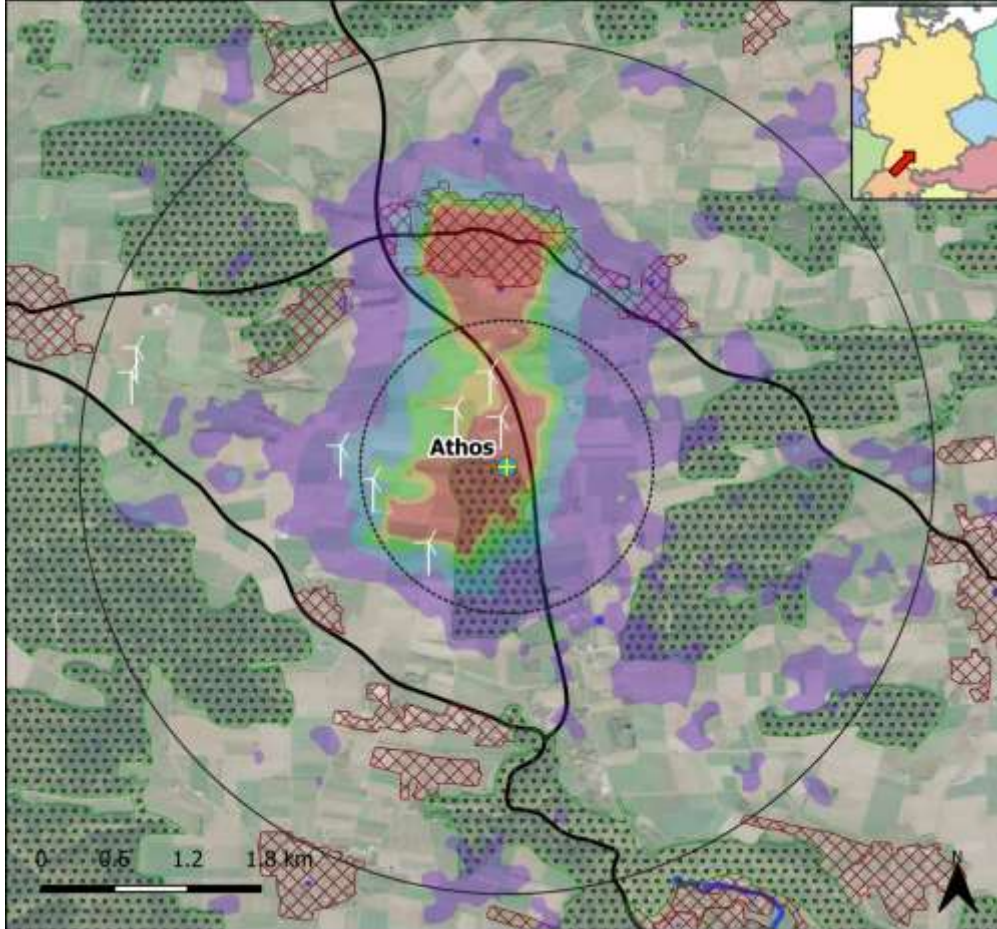
4. Do Red Kite nest buffers predict collision risk

Sumasgutner et al.:

Are radial buffers measured from Red Kite nests a useful mitigation tool for reducing collision risk at Wind Turbines and Wind Farms

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the radial buffer distances as a mitigation technique for Red Kites.
- Submission planned: 30.06.2024





Aktionsraum von Rotmilan RK_0554 (Athos) im Sommer 2022

Aufenthaltsdauer nach dem Brownian Bridges Modell

Rotmilan-Horst

♂ männlich

1.200 m Pufferkreis

3.500 m Pufferkreis

WEA

Landnutzung

Wald

Siedlung

Wasser

Straße

Aktionsraum im kumulativen Anteil der Flugzeit [%]

im Zeitraum von 20.3. bis 22.9.

0 - 50

50 - 60

60 - 70

70 - 80

80 - 90

Geschlecht: männlich
Alter: 6. Kalenderjahr
Brutland: Deutschland (BW)
Naturräumliche Großregion: Südwestdeutsches Stufenland
Horstdistanz zu WEA: 160 m
Hinflug: 2022-02-21
Rückflug: 2022-10-09
Aufenthaltsstage: 230

Kartenerstellung:
TB Raab GmbH

Hintergrundkarte: EU, Copernicus Sentinel, BKG



Kollisionskritischer Flug im Windpark Gemünden

Vogel-Code: RK_1258

Flugnummer: 186

Datum und Uhrzeit: 2022/07/17 11:47:41

Rotorblatthöhe über Grund: von 82,5 m bis 199,5 m

●●●●● Potenziell kollisionskritischer Flug mit geringster Distanz zum Rotorblatt in Metern
Risiko: ● gering, ● mittel, ● NA

✕ Nächster Punkt am Rotorblatt

○ Rotorstellung zum Zeitpunkt des Fluges mit Rotordrehzahl in Umdrehungen pro Minute

— Rotorblattbereich in Flughöhe

▶▶ Telemetrie-Datenpunkte mit Flugrichtung
▶ unter -, ▶ auf -, ▶ über Rotorhöhe

Flughöhe: < 20 m > 300 m

Kartenerstellung:
TB Raab GmbH

TB Raab
Technisches Büro für Biologie

1 : 1500

Hintergrundkarte:
Land Hessen 2022

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



This project is co-financed by the LIFE Nature Programme of the European Union



Cooperation partner



Additional cooperation partners for specific research questions in the field of renewable energy





More information



www.life-eurokite.eu



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