



Dead, tagged Red Kite © A. Godino

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2021

LIFE EUROKITE

(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)



"It is well known that migratory birds like the red kite know no borders and fly over numerous countries every year. The Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) supports LIFE EUROKITE because the project, with its international approach, covers the entire annual habitat of this species and helps to reduce the influence of illegal stalking, collisions, and other causes of loss at European level. As an association specializing in the fight against poaching, we work together with LIFE EUROKITE in the detection and investigation of illegal poisoning and other methods of persecution."



Dipl.-Biol. Axel Hirschfeld
Head of species protection at The
Committee Against Bird Slaughter
(CABS) - Germany





LIFE EUROKITE Online-Workshop

“Overview of wildlife poisoning in whole Europe”

On November 11th 2021 an international workshop “Overview of wildlife poisoning in whole Europe” 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 94 people from 13 different countries and around 40 different organizations and projects took part. The workshop was opened by Werner Falb-Meixner, the chairman of the Central European Society for Raptor Protection (MEGEG) and the Members of the European Parliament Thomas Waitz (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance) and Michal Wiezik (Group of the European People's Party - Christian Democrats).

Project coordinators and project managers from different EU LIFE projects, organisations and institutions shared their experiences and their results on actions against illegal poisoning. The workshop gave an overview of illegal poisoning activities in whole Europe, which are taken place in whole Europe and in many different countries.

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 426 tagged red kites, from which we do know the mortality reason, nearly 20 % died due to illegal poisoning. At this point, 13 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 but also represents a risk to humans and their pets.

You can find more information about the LIFE EUROKITE project and the results of the workshop on our website: www.life-eurokite.eu



“LIFE EUROKITE Winter Count of 267 selected and regularly counted Red Kite roosting sites in whole Europe”

As part of the LIFE EUROKITE project, we will look at the population development in the European Union.

The winter census of red kite roosting places across Europe takes place on the same weekend as the most national counts, which are already established in some countries. Within the LIFE EUROKITE winter census, we want to ensure that the same places are counted every year until 2027. A total of 21 countries will take part in the census: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Croatia (HR), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), France (FR), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), United Kingdom (GB), Republic of Ireland (IE), Hungary (HU), Italy (IT), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LUX), Netherlands (NE), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Slovakia (SK), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE) and Switzerland (CH).

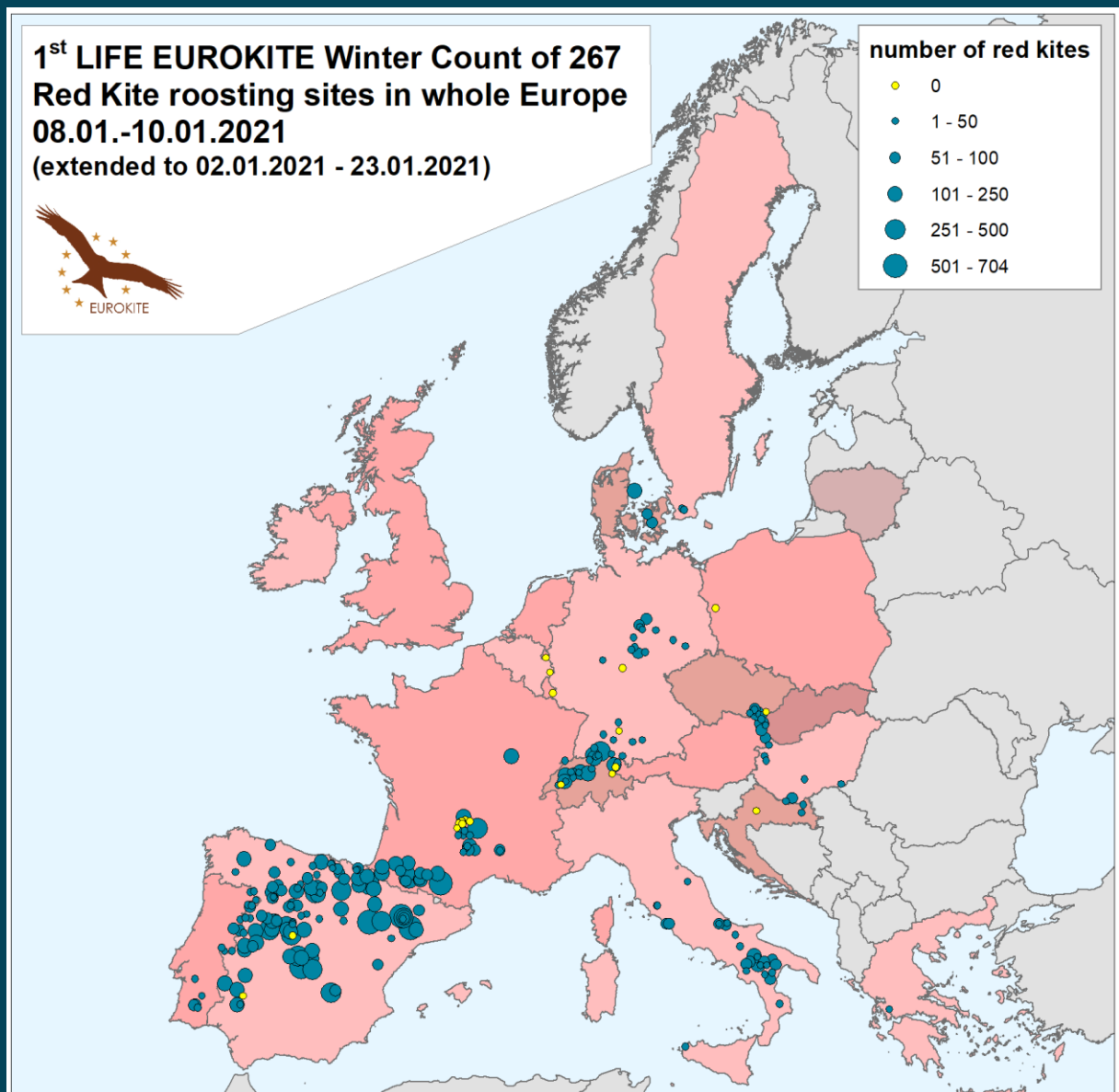
The LIFE EUROKITE winter census of red kite roosts across Europe should not be seen as a competition with national censuses. LPO (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux, BirdLife Partner) has been coordinating winter censuses across Europe for many years and as a partner of the LIFE EUROKITE project, LPO is also involved in the LIFE EUROKITE winter census. The goal of the winter census is to get a trend in the red kite population.



In 2021 a total of 23.050 Red Kites and 45 Black Kites were counted at the 267 selected roosting sites.

We are already excited to see how many Red Kites can be observed in the LIFE EUOKITE winter count in January 2022 (07. – 09.01.2022).

We want to thank the 200 volunteers in the different countries and look forward to the next years of cooperation.



Number of Red Kites per roosting site counted during the “LIFE EUOKITE Winter Count of 267 selected and regularly counted Red Kite roosting sites in whole Europe” in January 2021.

Interval of the Newsletter

In future, the LIFE EUROKITE newsletter will not be published monthly, as usual, but only every 2 months. As a result of this change, you will receive all information about the project summarized in our newsletter.

You can also follow all current events on our homepage or on social media.

The next LIFE EUROKITE newsletter will therefore be in February 2022.





The LIFE EUROKITE team wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022.

We hope that you can be with your loved ones despite these difficult times.

Stay healthy!

We are already looking forward to the coming years and on the close cooperation with our partners and supporters.

The LIFE EUROKITE-Team





Visit us on

www.life-eurokite.eu



Großstrappe Otis tarda - Rotmilan Milvus milvus
und Co



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[LIFE EUROKITE](https://www.youtube.com/LIFE_EUROKITE)



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Coordinating Beneficiary



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Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



AGIR pour la BIODIVERSITÉ



Co-financier



Cooperation partner



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