

IENE annual report 2017

Members

The network got 26 new members during the year of 2017, so the total number of IENE members was 407 by the 31st of December 2017. The new members were from France, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and United Kingdom. Below is a map of countries with IENE members.

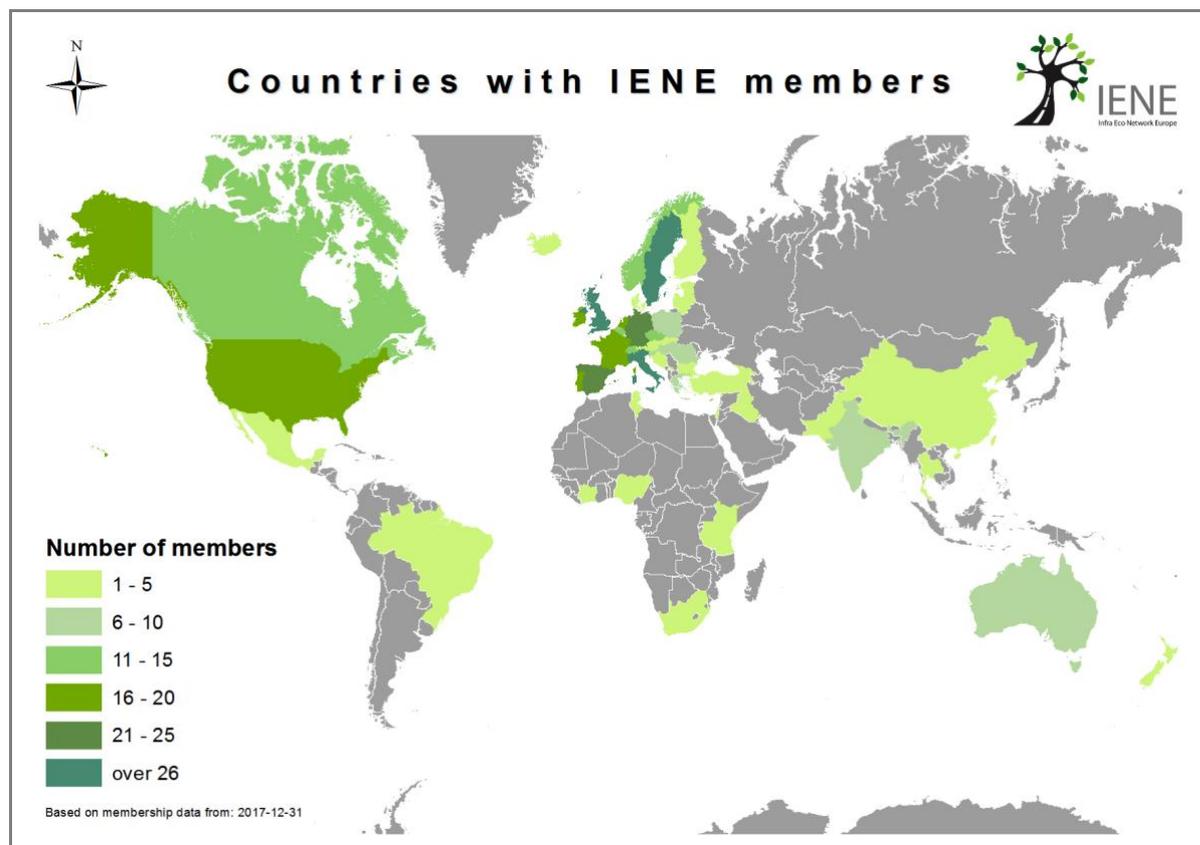


Figure 1. Map of countries with IENE members, based on membership data from 2017-12-31.

Development of IENE organisation and financing

During 2017, the IENE Steering Committee and the Secretariat have been working on a proposal of development of the IENE network, its activities, organisation and ways to finance the day-to-day activities of the Secretariat.

The proposal is developed parallel with preparations for the transfer of the Secretariat from Sweden to France in 2019, since FRB (Foundation for Research on Biodiversity) in France has accepted to host the secretariat of IENE during 2019, and then possibly for ten years.



The proposal will continue to be improved during 2018 and presented to the IENE members before the General Assembly 2018 in Eindhoven.

Conferences, workshops and other events

In 2017, the following events was arranged by IENE, in cooperation with IENE or with the written support of IENE, through the IENE Steering Committee.

IENE 2018 international conference

The upcoming IENE 2018 conference will take place in Eindhoven in the Netherlands, on September 11 to 14, 2018. The theme of the event is “*Crossing borders for a greener and sustainable transport infrastructure*”. The preparations and planning of the conference started during 2017, in collaboration with the IENE Steering Committee.

Organisers of the conference are the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Flemish Government and the Dutch provinces Noord-Brabant and Noord-Holland. The director of the conference is Adam Hofland, program coordinator of the [National Defragmentation Program](#) at the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. He is also a member of the IENE SC during the mandate period 2017-2018.

More information about the conference can be found on the conference website: iene2018.iene.info.

General Assembly

The next General Assembly (GA) of IENE will take place in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, during the IENE 2018 international conference.

Italian road ecology conference

The conference was arranged with the written support of IENE and it took place in Pettorano sul Gizio, Italy, on June 17, 2017.

The title of the event was: “*IV CSRE Conference: Experiences of Road Ecology – Research, Planning and Design for Ecological Sustainability of Infrastructure*”. The conference had around 60 participants, with representatives from Italy, Portugal, Spain and Ireland.

Romanian workshop about infrastructure in SE Europe

The workshop was arranged with the written support of IENE and it took place in Faget, Romania, on October 25-26, 2017.

The title of the event was “*Sustainable harmonization of Green with Grey infrastructure in South Eastern Europe*”. The workshop had around 50 participants, from Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Czech Rep, Slovakia and the Netherlands.

The workshop gave the formation of the “GreenWeb” working group, an interdisciplinary European platform of experts and organizations of various fields, focusing on cooperation and work on ecology and transportation in south-eastern Europe. GreenWeb was an initiative of Zarand Association (Romania), WWF Danube Carpathian Programme Romania, Egnatia Odos SA (Greece), the Department of Ecology (DoE), School of Biology at Aristotle



University (AUTH, Greece), the Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania), and is supported by IENE.

Swedish workshop about amphibians

The national IENE workshop was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on November 29, 2017. The title of the event was “*Amphibians and infrastructure*”. The program included both research and practical examples, following up effectiveness etc. The workshop had around 50 participants.

Projects and cooperation

IENE Awards 2017

The IENE SC decided to pause the IENE Awards during 2017. The next awards are in 2018.

IENE Declarations

No work was made with IENE Declarations during 2017.

European Handbook ‘Wildlife and Traffic’ website

In 2017, the IENE Steering Committee decided to support the development of a cooperative project for updating the European Handbook ‘Wildlife and Traffic’. The handbook will be updated not just once, but it will be made available online as a website, and the network of IENE will be invited to take part in the continuous revision of the collection of knowledge. The Swedish Transport Administration has provided an initial budget (approx. 60 000 EUR) and the project will be further developed during 2018.

Publishing platform with ‘Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution’

In September 2016 IENE announced that the community-rooted open-access publisher *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* would host a new platform for publication on the topic of Ecology and Transportation. The editorial team reflects the cooperation between IENE and ANET, ICOET and CIBIV.

The first research topic was launched in September 2016. The deadline for submission of papers was extended until June 2017. Just below 20 papers were accepted for the research topic and the reviewing process is extended into 2018. The complete topic will be published in the beginning of 2018, but the accepted articles can be viewed already. A new call for submission will open when the present publication is finalized.

Visit the topic on Frontiers for more information: www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/5170/integrating-transport-infrastructures-with-living-landscapes.

The IGELI project

The IENE supported project IGELI (International Guidelines for Ecologically-adapted Linear Infrastructure) was continued during 2017. A special session for the project was held during the ICOET conference in May, after which a summary conclusion was written. The international experiences from the IGELI project will be used to improve the work with the



handbook website project (see above) and the result of the IGELI project will be summarized in a report during 2018.

A final IGELI workshop will be organised in the framework of the IENE 2018 conference in Eindhoven. It will aim to develop recommendations for the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as they consider the priority theme of mainstreaming biodiversity in the infrastructure sector at the CBD Conference of the Parties in November 2018.

European defragmentation map

IENE is supporting the German project to develop a European map of defragmentation. The map is a work in progress, and by the end of 2017 it contained data from Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.

The HARMON project

The project HARMON (*Harmonization of Green and Grey Infrastructure in Danube Region*) is a preparatory project, proposed during 2017 in the framework of the 1st Call for the Seed Money Facility of the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.

The consortium is led by Zarand (Romania), and the project partners are Friends of Earth (Czech Republic), Black Sea NGO Network (Bulgaria) and the Environmental Agency of Austria. IENE is an associated strategic partner, together with the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, National Environmental Protection Agency of Romania and Egnatia Odos SA (Greece).

The Lugoj-Deva motorway

In April, IENE SC decided to support a letter to the EU commission about issues related with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures at the Lugoj-Deva motorway in Romania.

The LIFE SAFECROSSING project proposal

The project LIFE SAFE CROSSING “*Preventing Animal-Vehicle Collisions – Demonstration of Best Practices targeting priority species in SE Europe*” is a project lead by Italian organisations following the steps of the LIFE STRADE project. It includes several partners from different countries of south-east Europe and the project proposal was submitted in the call of 2107. The project application was officially supported by IENE and if the project is approved there are possibilities to co-organize an event with IENE by the end of the project.

African network and conference

The need of an African network of road ecology has been identified by the IENE member Wendy Collinson-Jonker, who has initiated the plans of the first large international conference on transportation and environment in Africa. The aim of the proposed conference would be to have workshops, brainstorm sessions and start discussions, and to gather many experts from around world to help solving the problems, both present and upcoming, in the African region. IENE has given official support to the proposed event.



IUCN Transport working group

The Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group (CCSG), under the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, has formed a Transport working group (TWG). The CCSG working groups assemble conservation experts in their various fields, offering opportunities for networking and collaboration. The TWG is mobilizing road ecologists and transport professional around the world, working on providing directions towards mitigating infrastructures' impacts on wildlife movement and mortality. More information about the CCSG and the TWG on: <http://conservationcorridor.org/ccsg/>

IENE initiated the cooperation with the TWG in 2017 and will work together with the TWG on an international level with joining ecology and transportation. The IGELI workshop at the IENE 2018 conference in Eindhoven will be a starting point for the cooperation.

CEDR

CEDR and IENE have common goals and there is a need for a stronger cooperation between the two organisations in the future. To enhance cooperation, Vincent O'Malley from CEDR was established as a link to the IENE SC during 2017.

ITTECOP

ITTECOP is the French National research programme dedicated to the relationship between infrastructure (railway, roads, waterways and energy) and territories. Since 2013 this research programme is co-financed by a public-private consortium between the Ministry of transport and environment and a large consortium of twelve infrastructure operators as partners.

After the IENE 2016 conference, the ITTECOP governance board decided to support projects with a more international approach. Fourteen projects have been financed for 1.3 million €. Amongst all of them, ten present international partnerships or are led by foreign laboratories. Those projects benefit from the support of IENE and are encouraged to spread as maximum as possible their results. More information on: www.ittecop.fr.

Publications and promotion of IENE

IENE history publication

A text about the history of IENE and the sphere of influence of the network has been prepared by a working group during 2017. The publication will be finalized during 2018.

Websites

The website of IENE is improved continuously and updated with news and information. During 2017, e.g. pages about the IGELI project and IENE supported workshops have been launched and updated. The separate website for the IENE 2003 conference has been closed, due to malware problems, but it will be restored in 2018 to preserve access to the conference proceedings.



Social media

The number of followers of IENE pages on social media has increased during the year. The LinkedIn page had 100 followers at the end of December 2017 (80 the year before). The Facebook page had 182 followers at the end of December 2016 (160 the year before).

IUCN publication about Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Via the IENE member Lazaros Georgiadis IENE received an invitation to participate in the consultation about a document draft of an IUCN publication about Guiding Principles and Recommendations for Responsible Business Operations in and around Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) as a collaborative project of the KBA Partnership coordinated by IUCN. It was made possible for IENE to insert a few words in the text to promote road ecology.

Presentations about IENE

In 2017, the following presentations about IENE have been made at conferences and other meetings (to the knowledge of the IENE Secretariat, there might be more):

- ✿ **Event:** The ICOET conference. Salt Lake City, USA, May 14-18, 2017.
Presentation: short presentation at the Opening Ceremony about the IENE goal “*Harmonising Transportation and Nature*” encouraging cooperation between ICOET, IENE and other world organisations working on the topic.
Organisers: Carme Rosell.
- ✿ **Event:** The ICOET conference. Salt Lake City, USA, May 14-18, 2017.
Presentation: about the IENE project IGELI (in the special IENE session: Defining strategy and contents with specific terminology for international guidelines for environmentally friendly transportation infrastructure in developing countries) with the title “*IGELI: setting up International Guidelines for Environmentally friendly Linear Transportation Infrastructure in developing countries: The international policy that joins transportation and ecology*”.
Organisers: Lazaros Georgiadis, Yannick Autret and Carme Rosell.
- ✿ **Event:** The 8th International Congress on Transportation Research. Thessaloniki, Greece, September 28-29, 2017.
Presentation: about the Egnatia Highway case and an introduction of road ecology and IENE with the title “*Environmental Policy on roads in Greece, the case of Egnatia Highway*”.
Speakers/Authors: Lazaros Georgiadis.
- ✿ **Event:** Sustainable harmonization of Green with Grey infrastructure in South Eastern Europe. Faget, Romania, October 25-26, 2017.
Presentations: one about IENE and one about the IENE project IGELI with the titles “*IENE: The network and its principles – 20 years of IENE, Lessons learned from Western Europe – their implementation in Eastern Europe*” and “*IGELI: an IENE project on strategy and international approach for Sustainable Linear Transportation Infrastructures Action Plan*”.
Speakers/Authors: Lazaros Georgiadis.



- ✦ **Event:** Conference on Road Ecology & Climate Change Adaptation in Québec, Canada, October 26, 2017.
- Presentation:** about French and European research networks on infrastructure and biodiversity with the title “*ITTECOP – National Framework for applied research on infrastructure, ecosystems and landscapes*”.
- Speakers/Authors:** Yannick Autret.

Steering Committee and Secretariat

Secretariat economy

The Swedish Transport Administration have secured the funding of the IENE Secretariat for the four-year period 2015-2018. Decisions about the budget are made by the Steering Committee and the resources are covering e.g. the Secretariat work with administration of members and websites, coordination of Steering Committee meetings, website costs and management etc.

For the year 2017, the Secretariat had incomes of around 93.000 EUR and by the end of the year costs for around 55.000 EUR. The remaining founding will be used to cover secretariat costs during 2018 and the transfer of the secretariat from Sweden to France.

Steering Committee members and meetings

The Steering Committee (SC) is led by Anders Sjölund. During 2017, the IENE Steering Committee consisted of the following members:

- ✦ **Adam Hofland** (Netherlands) – representing the Organisation Committee of the IENE 2018 International Conference.
- ✦ **Anders Sjölund** (Sweden) – chair of IENE SC.
- ✦ **Andreas Seiler** (Sweden) – staff at IENE secretariat and representing the editorial team of *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*.
- ✦ **Carme Rosell** (Spain/Catalonia) – representing the team of the European handbook website project.
- ✦ **Elke Hahn** (Austria) – responsible for the IENE Awards.
- ✦ **Lazaros Georgiadis** (Greece) – representing the project team of IGELI.
- ✦ **Marita Böttcher** (Germany) – responsible for the development of the European defragmentation map.
- ✦ **Paul J. Wagner** (USA) – representing ICOET.
- ✦ **Tony Sangwine** (United Kingdom).
- ✦ **Yannick Autret** (France).

The SC had 13 meetings during 2017 and short summaries of the Steering committee meetings are published on the website after each meeting.

