



IENE

Infrastructure & Ecology
Network Europe

ACTION PLAN 2025-2030

June 2025



WHO IS IENE

IENE (Infrastructure Ecology Network Europe) is an independent network established in 1996 to promote safe and sustainable transport infrastructure while safeguarding biodiversity. For 30 years IENE brings together researchers, engineers, decision-makers, and operators – serving as an international, interdisciplinary forum for exchange, cooperation, and best practice.

Every two years, **IENE** organizes a major **international conference** to present cutting-edge research, identify pressing issues, and explore innovative solutions. The network also runs **thematic working groups** and **technical workshops** that address practical challenges where infrastructure meets ecosystems. These activities contribute to key reference tools, such as **the online Biodiversity & Infrastructure: a handbook for action**, developed under the EU Horizon 2020 BISON project.

Since 2021, **IENE** has also become a legal entity, founded by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure (Rijkswaterstaat), the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) and the French Ministry for Ecological Transition.

At a time of large-scale investment in infrastructure, **IENE's** expertise is more crucial than ever to ensure sustainable solutions and prevent long-term environmental damage.

OUR VISION

"A sustainable world where human societies are in harmony with nature and where people can rely on all transport and energy infrastructure that support social justice, ecological connectivity, biodiversity, and climate resilience."

IENE envisions a future where infrastructure development no longer harms nature and people by fragmenting habitats, polluting the environment, or endangering wildlife. Instead, we aim for infrastructure that strengthens ecological connectivity, supports biodiversity restoration, strengthens local communities and promotes a balanced coexistence of humans and wildlife within the limits of our planet. We imagine a world where the well-being of nature and people is achieved in harmony with societal prosperity and health, where diversity thrives, and democracy guides our actions.

OUR MISSION

"To promote the integration of biodiversity conservation in infrastructure development, management and operation through research, knowledge exchange, and collaboration, fostering innovative solutions for ecologically sustainable infrastructure in Europe and beyond."

IENE is committed to mainstreaming biodiversity into policy, design and operation of transport and energy infrastructure. We promote best practices and encourage collaboration across sectors to ensure that infrastructure benefits the environment rather than harming it. By supporting research, sharing knowledge, and engaging with policymakers, funders, and practitioners, IENE contributes to infrastructure development that is socially and ecologically sustainable, resilient, and safe.

OUR GOALS

IENE identifies four external goals for its operation and development (see IENE Strategic Orientation). Each goal contains separate objectives and lists actions that shall help us to fulfil the objectives within the given time frame of this action plan:

Goal 1. Mainstreaming biodiversity in infrastructure policy and decision-making

Goal 2. Advancing applied research and innovation in ecological sustainable infrastructure

Goal 3. Building capacity and sharing knowledge among stakeholders

Goal 4. Strengthening the implementation of best practices for ecological sustainable infrastructure

IENE'S ACTION PLAN

Goal 1. Mainstreaming biodiversity in infrastructure policy and decision-making

Objective 1.1. Develop a shared "Vision for an Ecologically Sustainable Infrastructure"

- Action 1.1.1. Produce the IENE Vision of ecologically sustainable infrastructure to be communicated to key policymakers and stakeholders. Q2 2026.
- Action 1.1.2. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, e.g., European agencies, networks and organisations, through workshops and high-level events, to develop the shared Vision and disseminate it. Commencing Q2 2026.

Objective 1.2. Elevate Biodiversity concerns in National and European Transport and Energy Infrastructure Policies

- Action 1.2.1. Proceed developing a shared terminology to enhance a common language and mutual understanding among stakeholders from all sectors. Q4 2026.
- Action 1.2.2. Develop a series of workshops with transport and energy stakeholders and engage key bodies to develop a joint approach on integrating mitigation strategies with Nature Restoration Policies (Joint Defragmentation on Restoration Approach). Commencing Q4 2026.

Objective 1.3. Promote ecological connectivity and strengthen legislative frameworks in planning processes

- Action 1.3.1. Complete the production of a "European Defragmentation and Restoration Map" to identify critical defragmentation areas of European importance and to prioritize interventions for developing ecological sustainable infrastructure. Q4 2026
- Action 1.3.2. Promote and disseminate a European Defragmentation and Restoration Approach beyond 2026 with organising training events and high-level policy events (e.g., a EU Green Week as key event in the EU environment policy calendar in 2029). Commencing Q4 2026.
- Action 1.3.3. Continue to promote ecological connectivity and sustainability in infrastructure projects by partnering with transport and energy ministries and other relevant stakeholders. Ongoing.
- Action 1.3.4. Provide input for the development of the EU Nature Restoration Law and the EU Green Deal, highlighting the need for biodiversity commitments in infrastructure development. Ongoing.
- Action 1.3.5. Develop an international framework of principles and guidelines for funding ecologically sustainable development. Ongoing.

Goal 2. Advancing applied research and innovation in ecological sustainable infrastructure

Objective 2.1. Update the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for Biodiversity and Infrastructure

- Action 2.1.1. Organise a new IENE Research and Innovation Working Group. Completed Q4 2026.
- Action 2.1.2. Proceed developing and updating the Strategic Research Agenda from the BISON-transport project, particularly outlining key research areas for biodiversity integration into infrastructure. Q2 2026.
- Action 2.1.3. Organise research symposia in conjunction with IENE conferences to engage academia and stakeholders on priority topics identified in the SRA. Commencing Q3 2026.

Objective 2.2. Promote interdisciplinary and international cooperation for applied research

- Action 2.2.1. Establish a framework for interdisciplinary working groups to connect policymakers, researchers, engineers and practitioners to promote research and knowledge transfer on innovative transport and biodiversity solutions. Ongoing.
- Action 2.2.2. Build alliances with international bodies like PIARC, CEDR, UIC, UNEP and others to coordinate mutual cross-sector research on infrastructure and biodiversity. Ongoing.
- Action 2.2.3. Support national funders on options to collaborate in joint ventures, harmonising applied research efforts across organisations, sectors and countries. Ongoing.
- Action 2.2.4. Support new members and experts through training seminars, exchange programs or involvement in ongoing studies. Commencing Q3 2026.

Objective 2.3. Ensure the practical application and communication of research findings

- Action 2.3.1. Translate research results into policy briefs, toolkits, and best practice guides. Ongoing.
- Action 2.3.2. Collaborate with industry stakeholders to encourage implementation tests and feasibility studies for new mitigation approaches and to implement research findings in new technology and nature-based solutions. Ongoing.
- Action 2.3.3. Develop and provide suitable fora for publishing applied activities and non-academic research. Q2 2026.
- Action 2.3.4. Support infrastructure administrations in adopting IENE guidelines, standards and criteria into their own technical and evaluation frameworks. Ongoing.

Goal 3. Building capacity and sharing knowledge among stakeholders

Objective 3.1. Provide open access to updated knowledge and evidence-based solutions

- Action 3.1.1. Update the "Biodiversity and Infrastructure Handbook" when appropriate, making it accessible to stakeholders in multiple languages. Ongoing.
- Action 3.1.2. Update and maintain the IENE website to function as an online platform to provide best practice research outputs, case studies, and training materials for interested parties. Ongoing.

Objective 3.2. Organize High-Impact Educational Events, Programs and Training

- Action 3.2.1. Organise seminars, webinars, workshops and conferences to facilitate knowledge exchange between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Ongoing.
- Action 3.2.2. Support the development of specialized training courses for policy-makers and infrastructure and conservation professionals and practitioners on biodiversity mainstreaming and ecological connectivity. Q3 2026.
- Action 3.2.3. Collaborate with academia to develop formal interdisciplinary educational programs. Ongoing.

Objective 3.3. Foster Public-Private Partnerships and Community Engagement

- Action 3.3.1. Collaborate and sign memorandums of understanding with private sector stakeholders, e.g., funding institutions, social groups, local communities and NGOs to promote biodiversity integration in infrastructure development. Ongoing.
- Action 3.3.2. Develop public outreach campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity in transport and energy infrastructure (e.g., podcast, posters, website, ...). Ongoing.

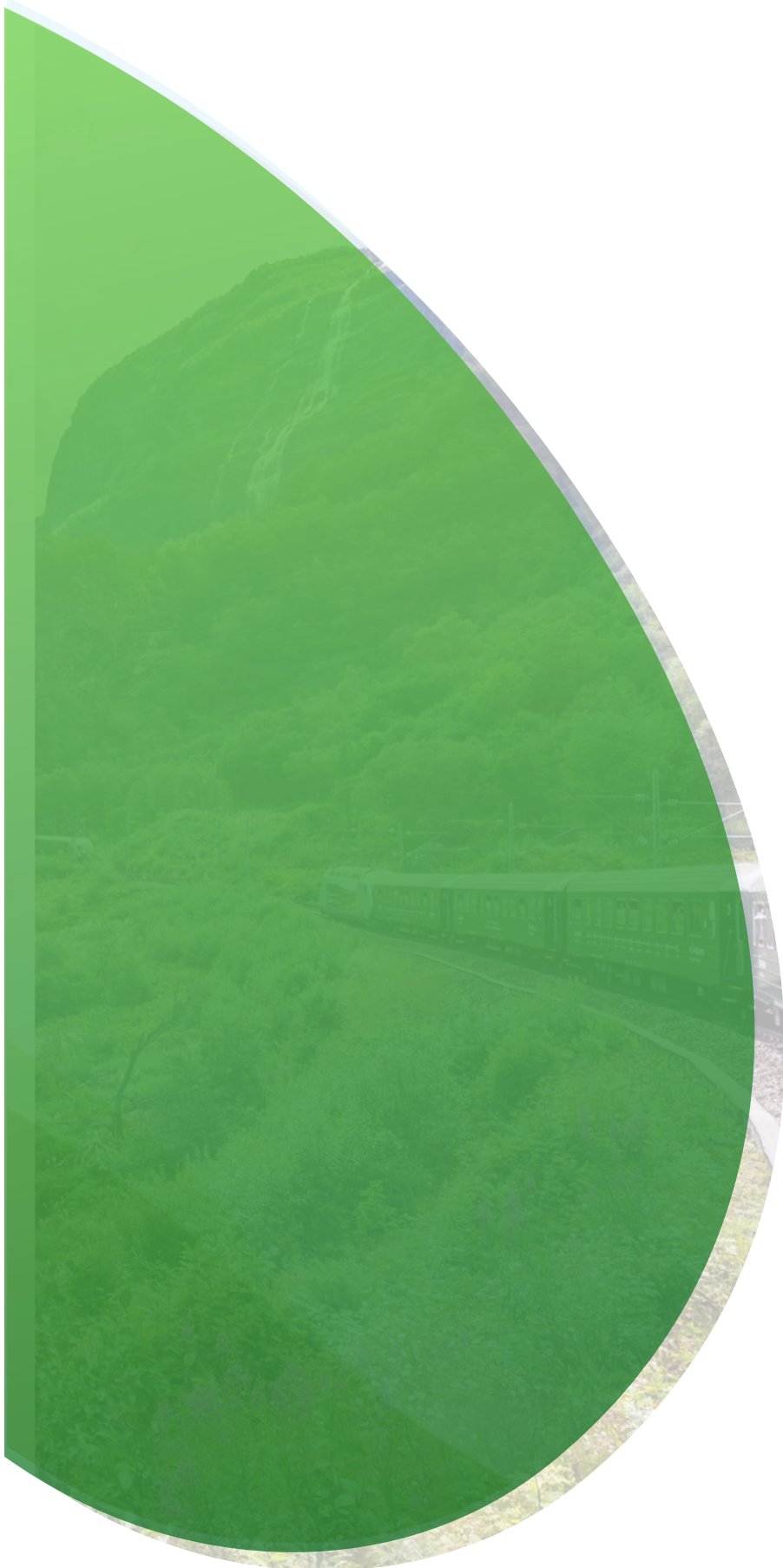
Goal 4. Strengthening the implementation of best practices for ecological sustainable infrastructure

Objective 4.1. Promote implementation of mitigation measures in infrastructure design including Nature-based solutions

- Action 4.1.1. Promote the use of the IENE Handbook at all levels. Ongoing.
- Action 4.1.2. Develop international technical design standards of wildlife mitigation measures through the IENE handbook to influence national technical design standards. Ongoing.
- Action 4.1.3. Develop principles that help ensure financial support for the implementation and evaluation of mitigation measures. Ongoing.
- Action 4.1.4. Promote and highlight the adoption of Best Practices at across other networks such as Transport4Nature. Ongoing.

Objective 4.2. Promote Long-Term Monitoring and Evaluation of Infrastructure Projects

- Action 4.2.1. Contribute to the development of monitoring standards and indicators for biodiversity impacts and mitigation success, ensuring consistent data-sharing and evaluation across EU member states. Ongoing.
- Action 4.2.2. Collaborate with universities, research institutes and other stakeholders to develop long-term monitoring programs for infrastructure projects using IENE's research tools and expertise. Ongoing.
- Action 4.2.3. Highlight the need to ensure sustainable funding is available for undertaking post-construction monitoring requirements according to the EIA Directive. Ongoing.



www.iene.info



www.biodiversityinfrastructure.org