



MEMBERSHIP, ACTIVITY and FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

Please note: This is an internal document, submitted to be approved by the General Assembly, therefore not for public dissemination.

IENE is publishing its approved activity and financial reports on its website. – [here](#)

Introduction

The Infrastructure and Ecology Network Europe (IENE) is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political, formalised association of experts active in the fields of ecology, transportation and infrastructure. IENE provides an independent, international and interdisciplinary forum for exchange of experience, best practices, and knowledge development.

IENE aims to promote the co-operation between the sectors of environment and infrastructure at both national and international level, primarily across Europe but also at a global scale, while raising awareness and promoting the application of effective measures to reduce the adverse effects of infrastructure on nature, including habitat fragmentation, and promote benefits to both nature and people, including safety of wildlife and human beings.

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".

Executive Summary

In 2024, IENE strengthened its role as a leading international network dedicated to integrating biodiversity considerations into transport infrastructure. The year brought significant organisational developments, strategic progress, and increased international visibility.

The General Assembly met twice—first in an extraordinary session to approve the transition of the Executive Secretariat and amend the Statutes, and later during the IENE International Conference in Prague. Governance Board and Scientific and Expert Committee elections resulted in renewed leadership, while the membership for the 2024–2026 cycle reached 124 active members.

A major development in 2024 was the decision to transition the Executive Secretariat from the French Biodiversity Foundation (FRB) to the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL), effective in 2025. This shift enhances IENE's connection with Europe's transport research community and positions the organisation for long-term operational stability.

Strategic work advanced through the preparation of the first draft of the IENE Action Plan 2025–2030, alongside the development of new Financial Rules, an Economy Strategy, and a Conflict of Interest Policy. The Scientific and Expert Committee supported strategic reviews, research coordination, and the development of global initiatives.

IENE's Working Groups remained active across a wide range of themes producing scientific updates, project proposals, and international collaborations.

The IENE International Conference 2024 in Prague brought together 377 participants from nearly 40 countries under the theme “*Biodiversity in the Light of Future Transport.*” It delivered new research insights, interactive sessions, field trips, and a Conference Declaration outlining future priorities.

IENE also organised key thematic events such as the Kresna Technical Workshop, expanded partnerships with global organisations, contributed to EU and international policy dialogues, and continued to publish scientific, policy, and practical outputs—including updates to the *Biodiversity & Infrastructure Handbook*.

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I. MEMBERSHIP STATUS / 2024

IENE has operated as an informal network of experts in the field of infrastructure and biodiversity since 1996. In 2021, IENE became a legal entity, established as an Association by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure (Rijkswaterstaat), the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket), and the French Ministry for Ecological Transition. The network comprises more than 120 members, along with numerous additional followers from around the world.

a. Membership Status

The Association comprises three categories of members: Founding Members, Full Members, and Honorary Members. Both natural persons and legal entities are eligible for membership in the Association.

Status. The IENE membership period spans two years. For the 2024–2026 cycle (September 2024 to August 2026), the Association has 124 members.

II. ACTIVITY REPORT / 2024

a. General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly is the highest authority of IENE. It elects the members of the Governance Board and approves the organization's overall strategy and policies. It also adopts the annual activity and financial reports, approves the annual budget, and sets the biennial membership contribution based on the proposal of the Governance Board.

The General Assembly is composed of Founding Members and Full Members who have paid their membership contribution in accordance with Article 12 of the Statutes. Honorary Members may attend the meetings of the General Assembly as observers. The General Assembly meets at least once per year in a regular session and, when necessary, in extraordinary sessions.

During 2024, the General Assembly convened twice. An extraordinary GA meeting was held in June 2024 to address the transition of the Executive Secretariat and to approve the necessary amendments to the IENE Statute. The regular GA meeting took place in September 2024 during the IENE International Conference in Prague.

b. Governance Board (GB)

The Association is administered by a Governance Board composed of 8 to 12 members. The Board includes representatives of the Founding Members as well as members elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. All elected members are eligible for re-election.

Composition and roles. At the end of 2024, the composition of the Governance Board was as follows:

- Johan Rydlöv (*National coordinator biodiversity, Swedish Transport Administration*) – President
- Elke Hahn (*Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Department of Roads – Planning and Environment*)
- Jonathan Hess (*French Ministry for the Ecological Transition*)

- Iris Frederiks (*Rijkswaterstaat, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management*)
- Carme Rosell (*PhD and senior consultant at Minuartia wildlife consultancy, Spain*)
- Lazaros Georgiadis (*Biologist - Environmental consultant, Greece*)
- Marita Böttcher (*Scientific counsellor at the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Department: Mitigation Impact Regulation, transport and planning*)
- Radu Moț (*President, Zarand Association, Romania*)
- Vincent O'Malley (*Head of Environmental Policy & Compliance, Transport Infrastructure Ireland*)
- Toine Morel (*Rijkswaterstaat, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management*)
- Tony Sangwine (*Retired Senior Principal Environmental Adviser, Highways Agency, an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport, UK*)
- Yannick Autret (*Office Français de la biodiversité - OFB*)
- Andreas Seiler (*PhD, senior researcher, ecologist at SLU -Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*), representing the Scientific and Expert Committee (SEC)

Elections and replacements. In accordance with the Statutes, elections for the renewal of the Governance Board were conducted in December 2023, resulting in a reorganization of the Board. During this period, the following members — serving either as representatives of the Founding Members or as elected members of the Assembly — were replaced or retired from the Governance Board:

On behalf of IENE, the Governance Board expresses its sincere gratitude to Toine Morel, Tony Sangwine, and Yannick Autret for their significant contributions as members of the Governance Board. We look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Regular activities. Throughout 2024, the Governance Board undertook the following activities:

- Regular Meetings. The Governance Board held its regular monthly online meetings (eight in total), including one joint session with the SEC. In addition, one meeting was conducted in hybrid format, with in-person participation in Brussels.

- Preparation of General Assemblies. The Governance Board organized the 2024 General Assembly as a hybrid meeting, with in-person participation in Prague during the IENE International Conference (IC24). This was carried out with the support of the Conference Organizing Committee, the IENE Secretariat, and the SEC.
- Oversight of the IENE International Conference. The Governance Board oversaw the strategic organization of the IENE International Conference (IC24) in Prague, in close collaboration with the Organizing Committee, the Secretariat and the SEC.

The Governance Board extends its appreciation to the representatives of IC24 and IC22 — **Václav Hlaváč, Tomáš Růžička, and Radu Moț**, respectively — for their participation in the monthly meetings throughout 2024.

Extraordinary activity. During 2024, GB managed the transition to a new Executive Secretariat and the associated update of the Statutes. Due to internal strategic changes, the French Biodiversity Foundation (FRB) informed IENE that it would no longer be able to host or provide Secretariat services starting in 2025. Consequently, a transition process was initiated to secure a new hosting arrangement. The GB evaluated two potential host organizations for the Secretariat. Following an extraordinary GB meeting, a dedicated task team composed of members of the Governance Board and the SEC was appointed to meet with both candidate organizations and to recommend a suitable solution. The team proposed that the Executive Secretariat be hosted by FEHRL (Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories), a proposal approved by the GB in April 2024. An Extraordinary GA was subsequently prepared and convened in June 2024 to formalize the transition of the Executive Secretariat and to adopt the necessary amendments to the IENE Statute.

On behalf of IENE, the Governance Board expresses its gratitude to the French Biodiversity Foundation (FRB) for hosting IENE and providing Executive Secretariat support between 2020 and 2025, as well as for facilitating the transition to the new arrangement. A special acknowledgment is extended to **Charlotte Navarro, Julie DeBouville, Seyna Smoes, and Nathalie Morata** for their dedicated contribution and support.

IENE's New Host Organisation and Executive Secretariat. Beginning in 2025, the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL) will serve as the new host organisation and Executive Secretariat of IENE. FEHRL is a European forum for

research, development, and innovation in transport infrastructure, bringing together national research institutes, universities, and transport authorities. Its mission is to serve society by accelerating the development and facilitating the deployment of collaborative scientific knowledge, technical expertise, and innovative solutions for the road infrastructure sector. A contract with FEHRL has been signed for the assumption of these responsibilities starting in 2025.

On behalf of IENE, the Governance Board expresses its appreciation for FEHRL's full commitment to collaborating with IENE as it enters this new phase of development.

Development of Internal Procedures. During 2024, the GB established two subcommittees to develop specific internal procedures:

- Financial Rules, prepared in accordance with the IENE Internal Rules of Procedure and forming part of the new IENE Economy Strategy;
- Conflict of Interest Procedures, developed as a component of a new dedicated IENE Policy.

c. Scientific and Expert Committee (SEC)

The Scientific and Expert Committee (SEC) supports the activities of the Governance Board by providing comments and recommendations on the IENE Strategy and the Annual Activity Report prior to their approval by the Governance Board. The SEC also organises and supervises research project calls in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat and interested partners. In addition, the SEC contributes to the organisation of the IENE International Conferences by working with the hosting parties to develop the scientific programme, proposing dedicated sessions, and providing support upon request. The Committee offers non-remunerated scientific advice to any Member, disseminates scientific results, good practices, and emerging debates in the fields of infrastructure and ecology, and supports the activities of IENE Working Groups. The Scientific and Expert Committee is elected by the General Assembly for a two-year mandate.

Composition and roles. **For the 2022–2024 mandate, the composition of SEC was as follows:**

- Andreas Seiler (*SLU, Sweden*) - Chair
- Manisha Bhardwaj (*University of Freiburg, Germany*)

- Caryl Buton (*Cabinet X-AEQUO, France*)
- Rory Canavan (*Arup, UK*)
- Wendy Collinson (*Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa*)
- Ivo Dostál (*Transport Research Centre, Czech Republic*)
- Denis François (*Université Gustave Eiffel, France*)
- Clara Grilo (*CESAM, Portugal*)
- Eric Guinard (*Cerema, France*)
- Darryl Jones (*Griffith University, Australia*)
- António Mira (*University of Évora, Portugal*)
- Federico Morelli (*Czech University of Life Sciences*)
- Manuela Panzacchi (*NINA, Norway*)
- Cristian-Remus Papp (*WWF Romania*)
- Paola Reason (*RSK Biocensus, UK*)
- Sara Maria Santos (*University of Évora, Portugal*)
- Marguerite Trocmé (*FEDRO, Switzerland*) now retired
- Edgar van der Grift (*Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands*)
- Rodney van der Ree (*University of Melbourne, Australia*)
- Yun Wang (*China Academy of Transportation*)

Elections. In accordance with the Statutes, elections for the renewal of the SEC were conducted in 2024. As a result, the following members joined the Committee:

- Thabo Hlatshwayo (*Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa*)
- Stéphanie Murphy (*Sylvan Ltd, UK*)

On behalf of IENE, the Scientific and Expert Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to Marguerite Trocmé and António Mira for their valuable contributions as members of the SEC. We look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Regular activities. Throughout 2024, the Scientific and Expert Committee undertook the following activities:

- Regular Meetings. The SEC held its scheduled bimonthly online meetings (five in total), including one joint session with the GB.
- Support to the IENE International Conference. SEC members participated in the Programme Committee of the IENE International Conference (IC24) in Prague, contributing to the scientific programme and supporting the event in close collaboration

with the Programme Committee, the Executive Secretariat, and the GB. The SEC also contributed to the production of the IENE Special Issue (IC 2022).

- Support to IENE Policy and Strategic Documents. The SEC contributed to the development of policy briefs and the IENE Action Plan, and supported the Global Strategy Working Group in adapting the [Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport and other Linear Infrastructure](#) into a manuscript submitted for publication in *Transportation Research Part D – Transport and Environment and Sustainability*.
- Oversight of IENE Working Groups. The SEC supervised and supported the activities of the IENE Working Groups.

d. Executive Secretariat (ES)

The Executive Secretariat is appointed by the Governance Board, on the basis of a partnership agreement with its host organisation, to support the operations of the Governance Board and to organise its meetings. It contributes to the implementation of the IENE strategy and policies, supports the execution of the Association's activities, and manages the Association's financial administration. The Executive Secretariat may also provide advice relating to decisions to be adopted by the Governance Board and the Scientific and Expert Committee.

Throughout 2024, the Executive Secretariat (ES) undertook the following activities:

- Communication. In line with the IENE Communication Plan, the ES edited and distributed six bi-monthly newsletters to IENE members and followers, issued one policy brief and four press releases, and maintained regular updates on the [IENE website](#) and [IENE YouTube Channel](#). The ES also published 22 posts on IENE's LinkedIn page, including a dedicated communication campaign promoting the use of the IENE Online Handbook.
- Support to the GB and SEC. The ES provided ongoing support to the Governance Board and the Scientific and Expert Committee in carrying out their regular and extraordinary activities.
- Support to the Organizing Committee of the International Conferences. The ES assisted the Organizing Committee of IC24 in Prague by contributing to a range of organisational and logistical tasks.

- Member and Follower Liaison. Serving as the primary contact point for incoming inquiries, information, and proposals, the ES maintained continuous communication with IENE members and followers via the dedicated email address (info@iene.info)

e. IENE Strategic Documents

IENE is developing and implementing a set of strategic documents designed to guide the organisation toward achieving its mission, vision, and long-term goals.

- IENE Action Plan 2025–2030. During 2024, a dedicated task team composed of members of the Governance Board and the Scientific and Expert Committee was mandated to prepare the first draft of the Action Plan, based on the four goals set out in the [IENE Strategic Orientation](#). The document is scheduled for finalization in 2025.
- Other Strategic Documents. Work on the Economy Strategy and the Conflict of Interest Policy began in 2024 and is ongoing.

f. IENE Biodiversity and Infrastructure: *A Handbook for Action*

The Handbook builds on decades of research and practice and provides knowledge, solutions, and innovative measures to reduce the ecological impacts of infrastructure and traffic. It promotes the application of nature-based solutions and encourages actions to reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance green infrastructure, and restore nature. IENE manages this online Handbook, which is based on the first European guidelines on [Wildlife and Traffic](#) published in 2003 as a result of COST Action 341.

The development of the new Handbook was supported by the Horizon 2020 project *Biodiversity and Infrastructure Synergies and Opportunities for European Transport Networks* (BISON). The online Handbook consists of seven chapters and includes the following additional components:

- Guidelines Portal – a compilation of 111 publications and 16 project websites presenting best practices and guidelines on transport ecology from various countries. A filtering tool enables users to select resources by country and language for each category.

- Glossary – a comprehensive glossary of terms developed by the chapter co-author teams and expanded in collaboration with the Biodiversity Group and Technical Committee 3.4 of PIARC (World Road Association). The International Union of Railways (UIC) will also contribute to this work.

IENE is the owner of the online Handbook and coordinates all updating activities. An Editorial Group, composed of the lead authors of each chapter together with the IENE Handbook Working Group, is responsible for future updates and further development of the Handbook.

g. IENE International Conference

IENE's biennial conferences serve as its primary international forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience, and for promoting interdisciplinary collaboration.

The IENE International Conference 2024 was held from 9–13 September in Prague, Czech Republic. The event was organised by the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Czech University of Life Sciences and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic.

The conference theme, “Biodiversity in the Light of Future Transport,” underscored the urgent need to align technological progress with the protection of biodiversity, particularly in the context of climate change and its implications for transport systems and technologies.

New perspectives and approaches were presented in keynote and plenary lectures. For the first time at an IENE conference, the theme of the necessary limits to growth and the need for a fundamental transformation of transport development toward global sustainability was prominently discussed. A special highlight of the event was an exhibition of drawings by elementary school children, which captured widespread interest and added an inspiring creative dimension to the conference.

The conference concluded with the adoption of a Conference Declaration, summarising the key themes and ideas discussed throughout the event. This document serves as a roadmap for future research and policy initiatives aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of transport on biodiversity.



The welcoming setting of the Czech University of Life Sciences campus, combined with the enthusiasm and commitment of the participants, made the 2024 IENE Conference an outstanding platform for scientific exchange, collaboration, and the development of new initiatives to promote sustainable, biodiversity-friendly transport systems.

Conference Key Facts

- Main theme: *Biodiversity in the Light of Future Transport*
- Plenary speeches: 5
- Presentations: 125
- Posters: 45
- Interactive sessions & panel discussions: 13
- IENE Working Groups: 4
- Pre-conference IENE training courses: 2
- Field trips: 5
- Awards: 5
- Participation: 377 (325 in person, 52 online)
- Outcomes: Conference Declaration, Book of Abstracts, and video recordings available on the [conference website](#)

IENE extends its sincere appreciation to the conference organisers, supporters, presenters, and participants for their invaluable contribution to the success of the IENE Conference in Prague.

h. IENE Workshops

In accordance with its Statutes, IENE organises, co-organises, or contributes to workshops aimed at facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience.

Kresna Technical Workshop, Bulgaria. Initiated and supported by the GreenWEB Working Group, the workshop was co-organised by IENE in partnership with the Bern Convention Secretariat, hosted by local stakeholders — Bulgarian authorities and NGOs — and supported by JASPERS and CEDR. The event was held in hybrid format in Sandanski, Bulgaria, from 22–24 April 2024.

Workshop Key Facts

- Full title: *Challenges & Opportunities for the Conservation of Reptiles and Large Carnivores during Linear Infrastructure Development in Southeast Europe: A Case Study for the Kresna Area*
- Scope: To inform the planning of new linear infrastructure in the Kresna Gorge
- Themes and topics: Key species groups; connectivity and fragmentation; best approaches and technical solutions; strategic planning; engineering and safety considerations
- Plenary speeches: 5
- Presentations: 11
- Posters: 3
- Roundtables: 3
- Field trip: Yes
- Participation: 94 participants from 23 countries, primarily from Europe

An Advising Memo outlining recommendations for the future development of linear infrastructure in the Kresna area was produced independently by experts and endorsed by the IENE Governance Board. The report, distributed to relevant stakeholders, provides practical guidance based on a comparative assessment of potential solutions.

Outcomes: Book of Abstracts, Action Plan / Toolbox, Joint Conclusions of the Parties, and press releases — all available on the [workshop's webpage](#).

IENE extends its appreciation to all members and collaborators who contributed to the workshop, with special thanks to independent experts Djuro Huber, Niki Voumvoulaki, and Lars Briggs, as well as to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention for its valuable support.

i. IENE Working Groups

IENE's Working Groups (WGs) provide the primary mechanism through which members, experts, and stakeholders engage in collaborative work. They play a critical role in advancing IENE's objectives by fostering cooperation, generating knowledge, and promoting innovative practices. Any Member may propose the creation of a new Working Group to the SEC or GB, and all IENE Working Groups are open to the full IENE Membership.

Active Working Groups and Their Major Outcomes

- Regional Working Group for Eastern Europe and the Balkans ([GreenWEB](#))
Active since 2017, GreenWEB serves as an open interdisciplinary platform bringing together experts and organisations working on ecology and transportation in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. The group has initiated or supported major projects such as HARMON, TransGREEN, ConnectGREEN, SaveGREEN and BISON, and maintains ongoing cooperation with the Carpathian Convention and national organisations and institutions.
In 2024, GreenWEB contributed to the preparation and organisation of the IENE International Conference 2024 in Prague and the Kresna Technical Workshop in Bulgaria. A consortium led by the Czech Transport Research Centre (CDV) was awarded the seed-money project HARMON 2 under the Interreg Danube Region Programme (2024–2025).
- Asia–Europe Transport Ecology Forum (AETEF) Working Group
The AETEF Working Group aims to support a cross-continental platform of cooperation with Asian and other international partners, promoting concrete actions to address the challenges of developing sustainable transport networks in Eurasia and counteracting landscape and ecosystem fragmentation.
- Biodiversity and Infrastructure Handbook Working Group
This WG coordinates the continuous development and updating of the *Biodiversity and [Infrastructure: A Handbook for Action website](#)*. It includes 39 members, among them the main authors of each chapter who comprise the Editorial Team. A face-to-face meeting took place during the IENE Conference in Prague in September 2024.
Since then, chapter teams have progressed with updates, and new publications and terminology have been added to the *Guidelines Portal* and *Glossary*. As ongoing funding is required to ensure long-term updates, improvements, and dissemination activities (e.g., training seminars, webinars, workshops), the WG is preparing proposals for suitable funding calls. A proposal to the ITTECOP programme was submitted and approved in November 2024.
- Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport and Other Linear Infrastructure Working Group
This WG has coordinated, on behalf of IENE, an international coalition composed of major conferences and conservation organisations (IENE, ICOET, ANET, ACLIE, WWF, IUCN), which developed the [Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport and Other Linear Infrastructure](#) as a living document.
In 2024, with support from the SEC, the WG prepared an updated version and

submitted it for publication in *Transportation Research Part D – Transport and Environment and Sustainability*. Unfortunately, the manuscript was not accepted for publication.

- **Animal Detection and Driver Warning System Working Group**
This WG focuses exclusively on electronic wildlife warning systems and does not cover other mitigation measures (e.g., blue reflectors or scent fences). In 2024, the WG explored funding opportunities and continued developing a database summarising available information on animal detection and driver warning systems.
- **Safer Railways for Wildlife Working Group**
Established in November 2023, this WG focuses on the conflicts between railways, traffic, and wildlife, and seeks innovative solutions to mitigate these impacts. The group meets bi-monthly, harmonises ongoing research, prepared an online survey on wildlife–railway conflicts, and explored joint funding opportunities (COST, Biodiversa+, LIFE).
The WG regularly invites external and internal experts to present technical solutions or research projects and organises field workshops, with the first scheduled to take place in Sweden in 2025.
- **Power Lines Working Group**
This WG aims to coordinate power-line–related activities across Europe and integrate them within the IENE network. One of its key outputs is the ongoing update of the “Power Lines” chapter of the online *Biodiversity and Infrastructure Handbook*, incorporating best practices and recommended solutions from across Europe.

j. IENE Projects

Projects provide a valuable opportunity for IENE to advance its strategic objectives while fostering new collaborations with a wide range of partners. Although IENE's level of involvement may vary—from advisory roles to serving as a project partner or lead beneficiary—the Association does not aim to compete with its members. Instead, its role is to facilitate and support member participation in project initiatives that align with IENE's mission.

Ongoing & Concluded Projects

- HORIZON [SYMBIOSIS](#) – *Systemic Mobilization for Joint Biodiversity and Infrastructure*

IENE participates in the project as a member of the Advisory Group.

- Project coordinator: UIC (International Union of Railways)
- Project budget: EUR 2.8 million
- Duration: 36 months
- Start date: 01/09/2024
- End date: 31/08/2027
- Countries: 13
- Consortium members: 21

- DRP HARMON 2 – *Addressing Capacity-Building Needs for Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Transport Sector of the Danube Region*
IENE is a Strategic Associated Partner. Building on the achievements of HARMON 1, the DRP Seed Money Facility approved HARMON 2 to address a key gap identified in earlier projects: the lack of integrated expertise among key actors working to mainstream biodiversity in the transport sector. HARMON 2 aims to strengthen cross-disciplinary collaboration by developing a training curriculum for universities and professional practitioners. This curriculum will contribute to a regional hub for practical, integrated education focused on biodiversity and infrastructure. The overarching goal is to ensure that future professionals in the Danube Region are equipped to deliver biodiversity-conscious transport planning and sustainable infrastructure solutions.

- Project coordinator: CDV (Czech Transport Research Centre)
- Project budget: EUR 116,270
- Duration: 12 months
- Start date: 01/09/2024
- End date: 31/08/2025
- Countries: 7
- Partners: 5 + 7 associated organisations

Approved Projects

- OMCAIBI – *Évaluation des Outils pour Mobiliser des Connaissances Coopératives pour Améliorer l'Intégration de Biodiversité et Infrastructures. Potentiel du manuel IENE*

Submitted in July to the ITTECOP Call (French Ministry for Ecological Transition and partners), the project has been approved. IENE will act as project coordinator and will undertake both technical and financial management.

- Project coordinator: IENE
- Project budget: EUR 267,580 (EUR 170,450 requested)
- Duration: 24 months

- Start date: 01/01/2026
- End date: 31/12/2028
- Countries: 4
- Partners: 6

Project Proposals Under Consideration

- Biodiversa+
- Horizon RIA

k. IENE Initiatives, Partnerships and Collaborations

IENE actively initiates, contributes to, and supports initiatives that generate shared value for research, policy, and practice in transport ecology. The organisation seeks to establish long-lasting, robust partnerships with entities that share its values and are committed to working collaboratively toward common objectives.

Collaboration is a core principle of IENE; therefore, the Association welcomes cooperation with public authorities, research institutions, NGOs, and industry actors who share its vision of harmonising transport and nature.

Partnerships and Collaborative Initiatives

- Transport4Nature
As part of the relaunch of the Transport4Nature initiative, IENE contacted existing and potential company signatories and organised a dedicated workshop during the IENE International Conference 2024.
- PIARC (World Road Association)
IENE and PIARC have signed an MoU and cooperated in developing the Glossary included in the IENE Handbook. Future joint activities under the MoU may include dissemination of information and knowledge, international conferences and seminars, publications, and joint working groups.
- UIC (International Union of Railways)
IENE and UIC have signed an MoU to establish cooperation in areas such as promoting nature-friendly railways, advocating for climate action, strengthening strategic planning, collaborating on a unified platform, promoting joint research and data sharing, fostering knowledge exchange and best practices, and exploring joint funding mechanisms for research.

- Pensoft

Following several years of successful collaboration, IENE and Pensoft signed an MoU aimed at promoting IENE conferences and their outputs, promoting Pensoft's journal *Nature Conservation* and IENE publications, enhancing dissemination of openly accessible scientific knowledge in transport ecology and infrastructure, and strengthening the visibility and recognition of both parties in the academic community.

- Bern Convention

IENE is an Observer to the Bern Convention and nominates experts to its specialised groups (e.g., reptiles, large carnivores). IENE also recommends independent experts for specific missions and tasks.

- Carpathian Convention

IENE is an Observer to the Carpathian Convention. A Memorandum of Understanding is currently under preparation by the GreenWEB Working Group.

- FEHRL (Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories)
IENE has signed an MoU with FEHRL to strengthen cooperation at strategic, operational, and administrative levels. The partnership aims to foster research, knowledge exchange, and innovation in biodiversity-sustainable infrastructure.

- Australasian Network for Ecology and Transportation (ANET)
IENE has a long history of cooperation with ANET, including joint participation in the IGELI project, co-development of the *Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport and Other Linear Infrastructure*, collaboration in organising the Global Conference on Linear Infrastructure and Ecology, and linking the Biodiversity and Infrastructure Handbook with global transport ecology efforts. ANET has also served on advisory boards of IENE-related projects such as BISON.

- African Conference for Linear Infrastructure & Ecology (ACLIE)
IENE and ACLIE have long-standing cooperation in supporting sustainable approaches to biodiversity and infrastructure in Africa. Collaboration includes participation in IGELI, development of the Global Strategy, contributions to the Global Conference on Linear Infrastructure and Ecology, and involvement in advisory roles (e.g., BISON).

- Asian Transport Ecology Forum (ATEF)

Since 2021, IENE and the China Academy of Transportation Sciences (CATS) have collaborated on organising the Asia–Europe Transport Ecology Forum

(2022) and supporting the organisation of the Asian Transport Ecology Forums (2021, 2023, 2025).

- European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE)
IENE has initiated contact with the ESEE Board, and opportunities for collaboration will continue to be explored.

I. IENE Support and Networking

IENE's support and networking activities aim to bring together practitioners, researchers, and institutions, fostering exchanges that accelerate innovation, strengthen practice, and build a more integrated European community for transport ecology. These activities also contribute significantly to promoting IENE's results to wider international audiences.

Key Support and Networking Activities

- WWF – Infrastructure and Nature Coalition
IENE joined and supported the Infrastructure and Nature Coalition led by WWF during CBD COP 16 in Cali, Colombia (October 2024), and at the IUCN Abu Dhabi Congress (October 2025). IENE contributed by sharing expertise, exchanging best practices, and participating in joint preparatory meetings and webinars.
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
IENE participated in a meeting of the EIB Nature/Biodiversity Group on 7 March 2024 (online), where it introduced the *Biodiversity & Infrastructure Handbook*.
- European Commission – DG NEAR
IENE contributed to the “Green-Net Meeting on Biodiversity Mainstreaming: Examples from Agriculture and Infrastructure Sectors” on 18 April 2024 (online), presenting case studies of best practices and showcasing the IENE Handbook.
- Spanish Working Group on Habitat Fragmentation
IENE presented its activities and the new *Biodiversity & Infrastructure Handbook* at the annual meeting of the Spanish Working Group on Habitat Fragmentation due to Transport Infrastructure in February 2024 in Madrid.

- “[On-the-ground-among-the-animals](#)” Exhibition
IENE supported artist Marina Caneve in the preparation of her exhibition on wildlife passages, held in Modena and later showcased at the Italian Embassy in Prague during the IENE Conference 2024.

m. IENE Publications

Publications are a central pillar of IENE’s mission to disseminate scientific findings, policy insights, and practical experience across sectors. In 2024, IENE further consolidated its role as a leading platform for knowledge exchange in transport ecology.

Policy Briefs

- [Integrating Amphibian Conservation into Transport Infrastructure Projects and Reporting under the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) (TNFD).

Scientific Publications

- *Book of Abstracts – IENE 2024: Biodiversity in the Headlight of Future Transport* published on [ResearchGate](#).
- *Book of Abstracts – Kresna Technical Workshop, Bulgaria* published on the Council of Europe (Bern Convention) [website](#).
- Full paper published in the Proceedings of the XXVII World Road Congress (PIARC), thematic topic 3.6: “[Key Concepts, Principles & Stakeholders of the Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport and Other Linear Infrastructure](#).”

In addition, the results of the jointly organised IENE–PIARC Foresight Session 10, “*Engineers and Environmentalists Teaming Up for a More Sustainable and Biodiversity-Friendly Mobility*,” were included in the [General Report of the Congress](#).

Practice Papers and Guidelines

A number of peer-reviewed practical guidelines were added to the Handbook’s [Guidelines Portal](#), including:

- *Metodología para el estudio y análisis de la mortalidad de vertebrados en infraestructuras de transporte*
- *Identificación de áreas a desfragmentar para reducir los impactos de las infraestructuras lineales de transporte en la biodiversidad. Segunda edición ampliada y revisada.*

Media & Press Releases

- Launch of the online [Biodiversity and Infrastructure Handbook](#)
- IENE Conference 2024 – publication of the [IENE Awards 2024](#) and the [Conference Declaration](#)

III. FINANCIAL REPORT / 2024

a. IENE's Lines of Income and Categories of Expenses

IENE's income traditionally derives from founding members, membership fees, and revenues generated by its international conferences. The voluntary and in-kind contributions provided by the Governance Board (GB), the Scientific and Expert Committee (SEC), and other committees—supported by their respective institutions—remain essential for maintaining IENE's activities and enabling its achievements.

IENE expresses its sincere appreciation to all contributors to the 2024 budget.

1. Income Sources

1.1. Contributions of Founding Members

IENE's founding members—the Swedish Transport Administration, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, and the French Ministry for Ecological Transition—provide annual donations that constitute a core element of IENE's financial sustainability.

1.2 Membership Fees

Membership fees, paid on a biannual basis by individuals and organisations, represent a stable financial contribution to IENE's operational budget.

1.3 IENE International Conference Surplus

In accordance with contractual agreements, conference organisers may transfer any remaining budget surplus from IENE international conferences to the Association.

1.4 Project Budgets

IENE may finance staff involvement, implementation of activities, or core organisational costs using allocated project budgets, when eligible and appropriate.

1.5 Donations

IENE may receive donations from individuals or organisations wishing to support its mission, activities, or specific initiatives.

1.6 Sponsorships

Through sponsorship agreements or partnership contracts, IENE may secure financial or in-kind contributions to support events, publications, or other activities.

1.7 Consultancy and Services

IENE may supplement its income through consultancy or service provision, based on contractual agreements with beneficiaries requiring technical expertise in transport ecology.

1.8 Other Sources

Additional potential income streams may include:

- Fees from training courses and capacity-building activities;*
- Royalties or licensing fees (e.g., publications, tools, datasets);*
- Joint initiatives with partner networks or institutions.*

2. Categories of Expenses

2.1 Secretariat Personnel Costs

Salary and associated personnel costs for staff assigned to the Executive Secretariat.

2.2 Accounting and Financial Reporting

Costs related to mandatory accounting services, annual financial statements, and statutory reporting requirements.

2.3 Secretariat Missions

Travel, accommodation, and participation fees for Secretariat representation at events, meetings, and missions carried out on behalf of IENE.

2.4 GB & SEC Missions

Travel, accommodation, and participation fees for Governance Board and Scientific and Expert Committee members representing IENE at meetings, conferences, and thematic activities.

2.5 Communication and Website

Costs associated with website hosting, updates, content development, graphic design, communication materials, and outreach activities.

2.6 IENE International Conferences

Expenses related to IENE's involvement in organizing the International Conferences.

2.7 Other Costs

Other operational expenditures may include: Office and administrative supplies; Legal support; Software or IT tools; Banking fees.

2.8 Overheads

b. IENE's Financial Statement for 2024

The financial statement presented below reflects IENE's official records for the year 2024. It has been verified by the IENE Treasurer and formally approved by the Governance Board.

1. IENE's Income budget in 2024

Line of income	Amount (EUR)	Notes
1. Contributions of Founding Members	96 500, 00	
Swedish Transport Administration	43 000,00	
Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management	5 000,00	
French Ministry for the Ecological Transition	48 500,00	
2. Membership Fees	13 650,00	Conference 2024
3. IENE International Conference Surplus	5.000	IENE conference to support the publication of selected conference contributions in a special issue with a recognized scientific publisher
4. Project budgets	-	
5. Donations	-	
6. Sponsorships	-	
7. Consultancy and Services	-	
8. Other sources	-	
9. Balance from 2023	27 213,82	
<u>TOTAL INCOME BUDGET 2024</u>	<u>142 363,82</u>	

2. IENE's expenses in 2024

Category of expenses	Amount (EUR)	Notes
1. Secretariat Personnel Costs	77 314,00	30 000,00 – Secretariat 32 314,00 – Communication 5 000,00 – FRB support for accounting 10 000,00 – ES transition costs
2. Accounting and Financial Reporting	-	
3. Secretariat Missions	5 739,54	2 722,59 – in person GB meeting in Brussels 3 016,15 – IENE 2024 Conference in Prague
4. GB & SEC Missions	4 723,36	2 491,60 – in person GB meeting in Brussels (LG, TS, J-FL) 2 231,76 – IENE 2024 Conference in Prague (LG, TS, J-FL)
5. Communication and Website	8 912,82	1 792,50 – IENE & Handbook websites 1 696,44 – IENE flyer and policy briefs 5 256,00 – IENE IC22 publications (Pensoft & YT channel) 167,88 – Zoom licence
6. IENE International Conference 2024	-	
7. Other costs	-	
SUBTOTAL EXPENCES	96 689,72	
8. Overheads	14 503,46	In 2024, and by contract, FRB applied a 15% overhead rate on total eligible costs to cover hosting and Secretariat-related indirect expenses.
9. TOTAL EXPENCES	111 193,18	

3. IENE's balance for 2024

TOTAL INCOME BUDGET 2024 EUR 142 363,82

TOTAL EXPENSES 2024 EUR 111 193,18

BALANCE 2024 EUR 31 170.54

Final balance (FRB to IENE) EUR 26 170.54