30 YEARS

Harmonizing Transportation and Nature

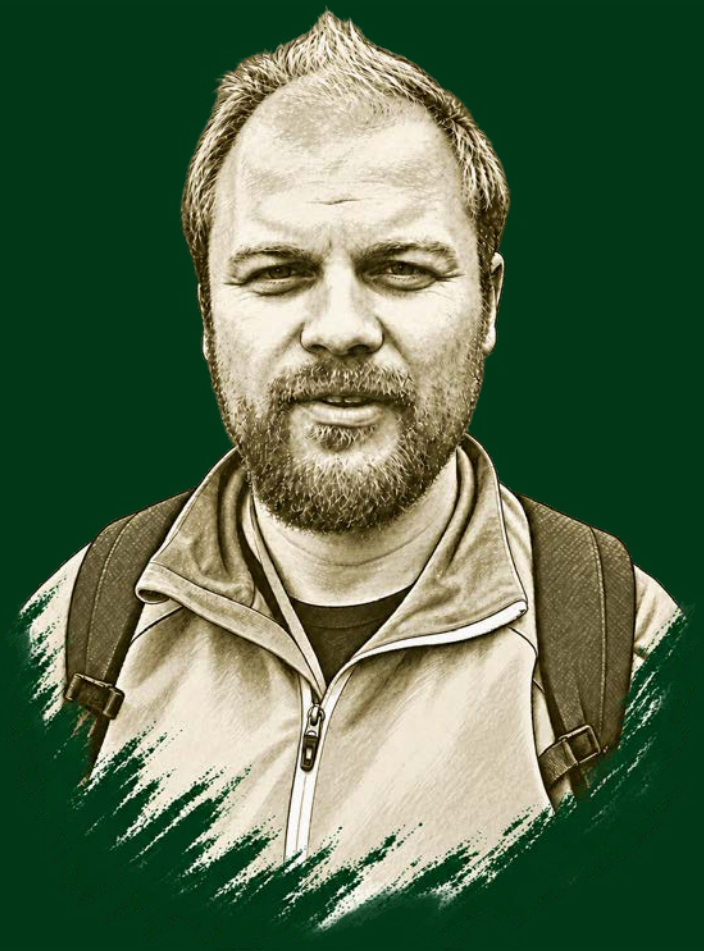


IENE Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe

1996
IENE is founded

Across Europe, infrastructure has shaped economies, regions, and societies. Roads, railways, and energy networks have enabled mobility and growth. But they have also fragmented landscapes, disrupted ecosystems, and placed increasing pressure on biodiversity.

For three decades, the Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe (IENE) has brought together knowledge, disciplines, institutions and people to help harmonize infrastructure development and nature conservation.



Foreword

Johan Rydlöv,
National Biodiversity Coordinator,
Swedish Transport Administration,
President of IENE

> ***What makes IENE special is the relationships it creates.***

It is the ecologist who helps an engineer understand why a culvert needs a dry passage for animals, and the engineer who shows how best to build it. It is the road authority that discovers a solution developed in another country and adapts it at home. It is the policymaker who leaves an IENE workshop seeing infrastructure and ecology differently — broadening perspectives and improving decision-making.

These may seem like small moments, but together, they change practice — one crossing, one project, and one landscape at a time.

Thirty years ago, a small group of visionaries came together in the Netherlands around a simple but powerful conviction: roads and railways did not have to become walls for wildlife.

Looking back today, it is remarkable how far that idea has travelled. What began as an effort to bring together existing knowledge has grown into a European network connecting researchers, practitioners, engineers, ecologists, authorities and policymakers across countries and disciplines. IENE has become a community that develops knowledge, shares experience and helps turn it into practice.

The next thirty will require the same qualities — but also greater ambition, wider participation and an even stronger connection between knowledge, decision-making, planning and implementation.

To every member, partner and friend who has helped build this network: thank you.

And to everyone who will carry its work forward: the next thirty years begin now — and they are yours to shape.

Bristol, September 2026.



Cooperation

Hans Bekker,
Nature Engineer,
The Netherlands, Initiator of
IENE and Honorary Member

> ***From the start, the world inside and around IENE has called for cooperation.***

At first, this meant mainly improving cooperation between civil engineers and ecologists. Soon it became clear that solutions were available, but that financial constraints and different interests also shaped what could be achieved.

Over time, the circle widened: scientists, practitioners and policymakers; then farmers, local communities, action groups and water boards. Each brought different experience, knowledge, interests and demands.

Remains essentials

Today, infrastructure has become even more complex — and so has the cooperation needed to shape it.

Building, reconstruction and maintenance increasingly require balanced solutions among many different interests. The result should be infrastructure that is better accepted by society while also respecting ecological needs.

The diversity of partners will continue to grow.

For IENE, the task remains to provide the platform where people can meet, learn from one another and encourage each other in this difficult — but also wonderful — work.



A meadow

Anders Sjölund,
Road ecologist, Sweden,
Former President of IENE
and Honorary Member

> ***When I visit IENE today, I see a flower meadow.***

Thirty years ago, IENE was closer to a species-poor lawn: a network mainly bringing together existing knowledge. Since then, it has grown into something much richer — developing knowledge, maintaining a living Handbook, organising conferences and bringing together people from many professional families.

But the meadow is not mature yet. Some professional communities are still underrepresented — particularly within authorities, contracting and politics — and we still need better tools for turning knowledge into implementation.

In the making

IENE has not followed a straight, carefully planned road towards a fixed destination. Rather, it has followed a winding path, reflecting the evolutionary processes at the heart of ecology. For an organisation working with biodiversity, anything else would feel wrong.

What you do as members is more than important. It is necessary. Our societies cannot continue to treat nature as something separate from human life. We need to recognise that we are part of nature — and your work is essential to creating that future.

I am convinced that transformation will take far less than another thirty years. IENE members will make it happen by carrying the energy, courage and knowledge of this network back into their own organisations.

THE EVOLUTION



1995
Infra Eco Declaration

The **founding moment**

1996

From friction to dialogue. In the mid-1990s, Europe's rapidly expanding transport networks were fragmenting landscapes at an unprecedented scale. Knowledge existed — but it was scattered between countries, disciplines and institutions.

In September 1995, 215 participants from 31 countries gathered in Maastricht and The Hague to address habitat fragmentation and infrastructure. The meeting produced the Infra Eco Declaration and a simple idea with lasting consequences: bring together those who build infrastructure and those who protect nature.

The following year, IENE was formally established in 1996.

Building the **Foundation**

1996 — 2003

Europe builds a shared language. In 1998, this young network helped launch COST Action 341 — Habitat Fragmentation due to Transportation Infrastructure. Sixteen countries and the European Centre for Nature Conservation participated, while experts from more than 21 European countries contributed to the wider exchange.

Its defining achievement was the 2003 Wildlife and Traffic Handbook.

The practical, solution-oriented guide for planners, engineers and others involved in the planning, construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure was translated in more than 20 languages.

The COST 341 programme concluded with the IENE International Conference in Brussels in November 2003, where its findings were presented to the wider community.



2003
Wildlife and Traffic Handbook, IENE International Conference in Brussels



2008
Nyíregyháza, Hungary

Consolidation and **Resilience**

2004 — 2008

The relationships keep the network alive. When COST 341 ended, funding for the IENE secretariat ceased and the international network entered a quieter period. But the relationships built during the first phase endured. Former COST 341 participants continued exchanging knowledge and experience through national and bilateral seminars, workshops and professional cooperation.

In April 2008, representatives from 18 European countries met in Nyíregyháza, Hungary, to consider IENE's future. Their conclusion was unanimous: Europe needed a renewed and more active IENE.

An interim Steering Committee was established to rebuild the network. With support from the Swedish National Road Administration, the secretariat was subsequently placed at the Swedish Biodiversity Centre of the University of Agricultural Sciences.

IENE was ready to restart.

Expansion and **International Reach**

2009 — 2018

The community opens and expands. The reactivation of IENE opened a period of rapid growth. From 2009 onward, the network expanded beyond its earlier model of national representatives and increasingly developed as an international community of individual members.

Membership grew steadily after the reactivation: by the end of 2016, IENE had activated around 400 members and followers from 51 countries.

2018
IENE, European Association

International conferences became the network's principal meeting place. From the first conference in Maastricht and The Hague to the establishment of the IENE International Conference series in Budapest and Velence in 2010, and subsequently through Berlin–Potsdam, Malmö, Lyon and Eindhoven, IENE developed a biennial conference rhythm. The conferences brought together researchers, practitioners, infrastructure authorities and decision-makers from an increasingly broad geographic and professional community.

Conference declarations increasingly bridged technical knowledge with wider policy challenges — from ecological barriers and roadless areas to the ecological design of transportation infrastructure.

IENE's relationships also extended beyond Europe through cooperation with organisations and transport-ecology communities in other regions, reinforcing its role in a wider international movement to reconcile infrastructure development with biodiversity conservation.

This phase closed with another decisive step: the 2018 Eindhoven General Assembly transformed IENE into a European Association under French law, hosted by the Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité in Paris.

Institutionalisation and **Innovation**

2019 — 2026

Knowledge moves closer to policy and implementation. From 2019, IENE entered a more institutional phase. Its governance and scientific structures matured, guided by a clearer internal framework — the Internal Aims for Governance and Operation and the Action Plan 2025 — 2030.

The network strengthened its science—policy role and built new tools to move accumulated knowledge into practice. The EU-funded BISON project (2021 — 2023), involving 39 partners from 16 countries, marked an important step in that evolution. It developed a Strategic Research Agenda alongside research, policy and implementation outputs.

The *Biodiversity & Infrastructure: A Handbook for Action* became a living resource for integrating biodiversity into infrastructure planning, design and operation.

The 2020 conference in Évora was forced online by COVID-19. Cluj-Napoca returned in 2022 as a hybrid event — a first for IENE — reinforcing the network's engagement in Central and Eastern Europe. Prague 2024 brought together 377 participants from around 40 countries.

From Évora through Cluj and Prague to the 11th IENE 2026 International Conference in Bristol, IENE's conference declarations increasingly called for biodiversity to be mainstreamed into infrastructure decisions from the earliest planning stages — and for retrofitting and restoration to be prioritised over new construction in unfragmented and roadless areas, or pristine landscapes.

IENE also deepened its engagement with European policy and strategic partnerships, strengthening its position at the interface between science, infrastructure practice and biodiversity policy.

In 2024, its Executive Secretariat returned to Brussels, hosted by FEHRL — the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories.

In September 2026, IENE gathers in Bristol for its 30th-anniversary international conference — carrying three decades of knowledge, relationships and practical experience into its next phase.

Transformation and **Responsibility**

2026 and beyond

From mitigation to transformation. The challenges ahead are of a different order of magnitude. Climate change is reshaping habitats and landscapes and threatening the resiliency of infrastructure; biodiversity loss is increasingly recognised as an urgent policy challenge; and humanity's expanding ecological footprint demands systemic change, not incremental progress.

Mitigating the impacts of expanding infrastructure networks is no longer enough. IENE must also engage with the broader drivers of infrastructure growth, including increasing demand for mobility and energy.

From connecting knowledge to enabling transformation, the next 30 years begin here.

MITIGATION IS NO LONGER ENOUGH.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and expanding infrastructure networks demand more than incremental mitigation. The question is no longer only how to reduce infrastructure's impacts on nature, but how mobility, energy and infrastructure systems can evolve within ecological limits while supporting resilient and thriving ecosystems.

INFRASTRUCTURE SHAPES LANDSCAPES.

Roads, railways and energy networks are not simply technical structures. They shape landscapes, communities and ecosystems for generations. Infrastructure authorities are therefore not only builders and operators — they are co-architects of the landscapes their networks cross.

THE NEXT STEP IS SYSTEMIC.

The response cannot be identical everywhere. Europe faces the challenge of restoration and reconnection; many other regions still require major new infrastructure. IENE's task is to help turn knowledge into locally appropriate standards, partnerships and action.





Another way of seeing

Marina Caneve explores the relationship between photography and research. Her work crosses disciplinary boundaries, questions stereotyped narratives and approaches ecosystems as both environmental and cultural structures.

As an artist engaged in artistic research, my dialogue with IENE members has deepened my understanding of ecosystems, the scales at which they operate and how encounters with other species can reshape established ways of thinking.

Field visits to infrastructure sites and natural areas were equally valuable. Observing how specialists in ecology and landscape assessment interpret environmental systems allowed me to combine their analytical perspectives with my own visually driven approach.

This process grounds artistic intuition in knowledge and experience, while creating accessible ways into complex topics that might otherwise remain distant. I believe that both art and research benefit greatly from this exchange, and I am deeply grateful to IENE.

THE PEOPLE

Engineers · Ecologists · Consultants · Planners · Researchers · Policy-makers · Infrastructure managers · Practitioners · Students

IENE is a network of people before it is a network of institutions and it has grown by opening the conversation — across disciplines, countries, sectors and generations. Today, it brings together expertise from across Europe and beyond — people working at the intersection of infrastructure, biodiversity, research, policy and practice.

The strength of IENE lies in what happens between these disciplines.

A new generation

I was introduced to different perspectives on how we can address the impacts of roads and infrastructure on the environment, and I really enjoyed learning from people with different experiences and expertise. What makes IENE particularly special to me is the mix of people involved — researchers, government officials, engineers and everyone else. I think it's vital to bring different perspectives together to tackle a shared problem.

My first IENE conference was in 2016, and over the past ten years, I've noticed the conversations evolving from sharing local experiences towards developing projects that cross national and disciplinary boundaries. Looking ahead, I'm excited to continue working with people from different countries, fields, and backgrounds to develop practical solutions together.



Manisha Bhardwaj
Postdoctoral Researcher,
University of Freiburg, Germany

Joining IENE as an early-career researcher has been a rewarding and inspiring experience.

30 Years, 30 Voices

30 members and partners share what this network has meant to them. Their words come from more than twenty countries and span three decades of experience.



Elke Hahn

EIA Coordinator for Motorways, Austrian Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure · Austria

"The IENE family gives a lot of ideas and energy to move on and keep fighting for this important field of work."



Clara Grilo

Principal Researcher, CIBIO/ BIOPOLIS · Portugal

"IENE has given me a strong sense of being part of a community working towards a common goal."



Edgar van der Grift

Researcher · The Netherlands

"Long-term collaborations and friendships that make our work more pleasant."



Andreas Seiler

Researcher, SLU · Sweden

"A constant source of energy, inspiration and joy!"



Marguerite Trocmé

ASTRA (retired) · Switzerland

"Vital for networking, sharing knowledge and good practice."



Tony Sangwine OBE

Highways England · UK

"Countless connections internationally."



Carme Rosell
MINUARTIA · Spain
"A world of opportunities to connect and cooperate."



Lazaros Georgiadis
Independent consultant · Greece
"A pollinator reaching beyond the existing community."



Thomas Schuh
ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG · Austria
"Road-ecology convinced me there has to be a railway-ecology."



Michel Van den Bogaert
ProRail · The Netherlands
"Research into wildlife – train collisions is inspiring."



Sigrid Kistrup
Banedenmark · Denmark
"Nature crosses borders - so do our efforts need to."



Iris Frederiks
Rijkswaterstaat · The Netherlands
"Energising and inspiring, a peak into projects worldwide."



Eric Guinard
Cerema · France
"A wonderful worldwide network and a powerful think tank."



Yun Wang
CATS · China
"IENE is the home for all road ecologists in the world."



Lisa Garnier
RTE · France

"It opens your mind with new knowledge."



Mike O'Connor
Balfour Beatty · UK

"From influence to implementation — hand-in-hand, paw and claw."



Jonathan Hess
French Ministry of Ecological Transition · France

"Understanding the interlinkage between infrastructure and ecology."



Neil Strong
Network Rail · UK

"A thin slice throughout Europe — but with so much potential for nature."



Louise McGowan
Climate Change and Nature-based Solutions Principal Officer, Natural England · United Kingdom

"I joined IENE because of my interest in ecological connectivity, but I've stayed because of the people and the sense of community."



Rory Canavan
Transport4Nature · UK

"Perspective — that is often where innovation begins."



Brunelle Marche
University of Lorraine · France

"Bringing researchers and practitioners together to address infrastructure management."



Vincent O'Malley
TII · Ireland

"Researchers, ecologists and engineers sharing knowledge and developing practical solutions."



Marius Nistorescu
Environmental expert, EPC · Romania

"IENE is where science, experience and open debate come together to reduce the impact of infrastructure on nature."



Nicolas Hette-Tronquart
Scientific Officer, OFB · France

"IENE appears to be the right tool to break down these silos between biodiversity and transport research."



Václav Hlaváč
Regional Director, Vysočina · Czech Republic

"I am very grateful to IENE for the opportunity to collaborate and become friends with the best European experts."



Johan Rydlöv
Swedish Transport Administration · Sweden

"IENE is like a second family, where everyone puts their knowledge and heart into engagement and knowledge sharing."



Heinrich Reck
Independent Expert, Landscape Ecology · University of Kiel · Germany

"A broadened horizon, the knowledge and experience of outstanding colleagues, many of whom became friends."



Koen Maes
Biologist, EIA & Ecological Inventories, Sweco Belgium · Belgium

"The power of IENE is that it brings together persons alike and combines information from all over the world"



Wendy Collinson
Independent · South Africa

"Elevating ecological connectivity and mitigation globally."



Radu Moț
Zarand NGO · Romania

"Without IENE, transport ecology in Romania would have taken longer to take hold."

THE ENGINE

What IENE Does

IENE turns exchange into action through four interconnected roles. Together, these roles help transform shared knowledge into practical resources, stronger partnerships and better-informed decisions.

CONNECT

Conferences, workshops and cross-sector dialogue.

DEVELOP

Working Groups, scientific exchange and collaborative research.

TRANSLATE

Practical guidance, Handbook content and knowledge tools.

ENABLE

Policy engagement, strategic partnerships and implementation support

Working Groups are where IENE's distributed expertise becomes focused work. They bring together specialists from different countries and disciplines around emerging and persistent challenges — from fauna passages and ecological monitoring to light pollution, railways, warning systems and urban ecology.

Projects & Partnerships. IENE contributes to European and international research, innovation and implementation initiatives, linking project-based knowledge with the wider transport ecology community.

Through these partnerships, research can move more quickly into guidance, policy and practice — while practical challenges from the field can shape new research questions. Depending on the collaboration, IENE can contribute expert networks, scientific and technical advice, stakeholder convening, knowledge transfer and links between project results and wider practice.

Through projects such as BISON, SaveGREEN, HARMON and SYMBIOSIS, as well as global cooperation on sustainable linear infrastructure, IENE has helped move biodiversity from the margins of infrastructure decisions toward their centre — carrying knowledge from research into policy, capacity building and implementation, and connecting European experience with a wider international community.



A Handbook that learns

Carme Rosell
PhD, Senior Consultant,
Minuartia, Spain

> ***Knowledge transfer is a cornerstone of IENE's activities.***

Through the production of a handbook, IENE aims to provide practitioners with evidence-based guidance and innovative solutions to support transformative changes in the integration of infrastructure development and biodiversity conservation.

The first handbook, produced as an output of the COST 341 project, was 'Wildlife and Traffic. A European Handbook for Identifying Conflicts and Designing Solutions', published in 2003. It was an iconic document that marked a turning point in the implementation of measures to reduce habitat fragmentation caused by transport infrastructure.

After 20 years of practice and research, a new handbook was published in 2023 in cooperation with the Horizon project BISON. It is the '**Biodiversity & Infrastructure. A Handbook for Action**', a collaborative, online knowledge hub designed to support the planning, design and management of infrastructure to make it compatible with biodiversity conservation and contribute to ecological restoration.

Building on decades of scientific research and field experience, the handbook provides practical guidance, innovative measures and nature-based solutions to reduce the ecological impacts of infrastructure and traffic and benefit biodiversity. It supports actions to limit habitat fragmentation, strengthen green and blue infrastructure, and restore ecosystems, while contributing to climate resilience and human well-being.

The online handbook offers a living resource, continuously enriched and updated through contributions from experts and users. Updates are produced by expert volunteers with the support of various organisations. New and updated content is prepared by specialist authors in accordance with the Guidelines for Authors, independently reviewed and approved by the Editorial Board before publication. IENE then prepares the figures and infographics and publishes the content on the Handbook website.

THE IMPACT
What Changed

Approaches once treated as specialist concerns are increasingly being integrated into infrastructure practice.

Thirty years ago, infrastructure ecology was still an emerging field. Today, ecological connectivity, wildlife mortality, habitat fragmentation and mitigation are considered more systematically in infrastructure planning across a growing number of countries and institutions.

IENE has contributed to that transformation by bringing diverse actors together, developing and sharing practical knowledge, and creating a European arena in which infrastructure and biodiversity can be addressed together.

The change is visible in the spread of wildlife crossings and other mitigation measures, national and regional defragmentation programmes, increasingly sophisticated monitoring, and the growing integration of ecological considerations into infrastructure planning and management.

Knowledge developed through COST 341 and subsequently through IENE helped provide a common European vocabulary and practical framework for addressing fragmentation — from avoiding impacts where possible, through mitigation and compensation, to the growing emphasis today on restoration and ecological connectivity.

IENE's exchange has progressively extended beyond Europe through collaboration with transport-ecology networks and conservation organisations in Asia, the Americas, Africa and Australasia. Initiatives such as international work on ecologically sustainable linear infrastructure have increasingly connected European experience with a wider global community.

Case Studies and Workshops

Four places where the evolution of infrastructure ecology can be seen — and where IENE knowledge, people or processes have played a role.

The Netherlands | Pioneering Defragmentation
A European pioneer in systematically reconnecting habitats fragmented by transport infrastructure, the country developed a national defragmentation programme combining ecological networks, wildlife passages, ecoducts and monitoring at priority conflict points.

Dutch expertise was also fundamental to IENE from its beginnings: Hans Bekker led both early IENE development and the Dutch defragmentation programme, creating a direct exchange between national implementation and European knowledge-sharing.

2005
Dutch Multi-Year Defragmentation Programme

Greece — Egnatia Motorway | From conflict to adaptation
Designing a modern motorway through the pristine landscapes and vital habitats of large carnivores such as the brown bear is always a major challenge in the Balkans. The Egnatia Motorway is a case of both conflict and solution. The 2011 IENE International Workshop in Kastoria, Western Macedonia, was a key milestone bridging the initial conflicts between ecologists from NGOs and engineers from road planners and ministries, opening a new era of productive cooperation. Through the Egnatia Motorway case, IENE's experience has been enriched and shared with other regions and motorways in Greece and internationally.

Romania — Lugoj–Deva | A First for Wildlife Connectivity
The Lugoj–Deva motorway became a pioneering Romanian precedent for integrating large wildlife-crossing structures into motorway planning across a landscape of major ecological significance. The IENE 2013 workshop helped trigger this shift, bringing international expertise into the Romanian discussion and connecting local infrastructure challenges with wider European experience in ecological connectivity and mitigation.

Bulgaria — Kresna Gorge | From polarisation to dialogue
One of Europe's longest-running and most difficult infrastructure–biodiversity conflicts, Kresna Gorge demonstrates why technical solutions alone are insufficient. IENE's collaboration with the Bern Convention Secretariat helped reopen constructive dialogue among Bulgarian parties, and the jointly organised 2024 workshop brought together experts, institutions and stakeholders from across Europe to examine possible pathways for reconciling motorway development, ecological connectivity and conservation obligations.

IENE **International Conferences**

From 215 participants in Maastricht in 1995 to a broader and increasingly interdisciplinary international community, the conference series mirrors the evolution of IENE itself.

1995
Maastricht & The Hague, The Netherlands
Habitat Fragmentation & Infrastructure

2003
Brussels, Belgium
Habitat Fragmentation due to Transport Infrastructure / COST 341

2010
Budapest & Velence, Hungary
Improving Connections in a Changing Environment

2012
Berlin & Potsdam, Germany
Safeguarding Ecological Functions Across Transport Infrastructure

2014
Malmö, Sweden
Life for a Greener Transport Infrastructure

For three decades, IENE conferences have brought a growing field together to understand what has changed and shape what must change next.

They combine science, practice, infrastructure management and policy, producing declarations that carry the discussions beyond each conference.

2016
Lyon, France
Integrating Transport Infrastructure with Living Landscapes

2018
Eindhoven, The Netherlands
Crossing Borders for a Greener and Sustainable Transport Infrastructure

2020/21
Évora, Portugal / online
LIFE Lines – Linear Infrastructure Networks with Ecological Solutions

2022
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Connecting people, connecting landscapes

2024
Prague, Czech Republic
Biodiversity in the Headlight of Future Transport

2026
Bristol, United Kingdom
The Value of Nature in Resilient Infrastructure

A **Unique Role**

In a field defined by fragmentation, IENE's role is to connect.

NEUTRAL PLATFORM

Bringing together infrastructure authorities, scientists, practitioners, NGOs, policymakers and businesses across institutional and national boundaries.

KNOWLEDGE BROKER

Turning scientific evidence into practical guidance — and carrying experience from implementation back into research.

POLICY–PRACTICE INTERFACE

Helping turn policy ambition into implementable practice — linking global concerns and European objectives with the realities of planning, building, operating and adapting infrastructure on the ground.

LONG-TERM MEMORY

Holding, updating and transferring knowledge accumulated across countries, projects and generations — and carrying it beyond individual funding cycles.



2011
IENE Workshop in Greece

THE ROAD AHEAD
From **Network** to **System Enabler**

The next phase of IENE is not about becoming larger for its own sake. It is about becoming more effective at turning knowledge, relationships and experience into change — faster, more effectively and at the scale today's challenges demand.

2013
IENE Workshop in Romania

BUILD CAPACITY

Strengthen transport-ecology expertise where it is still emerging, particularly through training, peer exchange and practical guidance.

MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY

Help embed biodiversity, ecological connectivity and restoration into transport and energy infrastructure policy, planning and investment.

TURN KNOWLEDGE INTO IMPLEMENTATION

Expand living guidance, digital knowledge tools and evidence-based standards that can be used directly by planners, engineers and infrastructure managers.

GROW THE NEXT GENERATION

Create stronger pathways for students and early-career professionals through mentoring, Working Groups, conferences and active participation in the network.

SCALE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Work with infrastructure organisations, scientific networks and international partners to carry IENE knowledge further than IENE could alone.

Vision, Ambition and a **Plan** for **the Future**

Roads, railways and energy networks do more than connect places. They shape landscapes, ecosystems and societies for generations. Those who plan, build and manage them share responsibility for ecological connectivity and for the resilience of the landscapes they cross.

Our ambition is to make biodiversity an integral part of infrastructure thinking — from the first strategic decision to design, construction, operation, maintenance and restoration.

The Action Plan 2025–2030 gives the next chapter a direction: carrying biodiversity further into infrastructure decisions, strengthening applied knowledge and capacity, and helping proven practice travel farther and faster.

A future in which infrastructure contributes to resilient, connected landscapes where people and nature can thrive together.



2024
IENE Workshop in Bulgaria

The **Journey Continues:**

Independent · International ·
Interdisciplinary · Inclusive
IENE grows through participation.

Thirty years is not the end of IENE's story. It is one point on a much longer journey. The work continues wherever infrastructure meets a living landscape — in planning offices, construction sites, field monitoring and classrooms. IENE exists to support that work: bringing people together, strengthening knowledge and helping turn it into better decisions.

Whether you work in infrastructure, ecology, planning, design, research, policy, consultancy, education or conservation, there is a place for you in the network.

Be Part of the Network!

JOIN IENE

Become part of IENE's international community — learn from peers, contribute your expertise, find collaborators and stay close to emerging knowledge, events and opportunities.

CONTRIBUTE TO A WORKING GROUP

Bring your expertise to one of IENE's thematic groups, where specialists collaborate on practical and emerging challenges.

MEET THE NETWORK

Join IENE international conferences, workshops and other events to exchange knowledge, build collaborations and see infrastructure ecology in practice.

PARTNER WITH US

Partner with IENE to bring international expertise, cross-sector dialogue and practical knowledge into projects, events and policy processes.

2026
The Journey Continues



In Memoriam

Miklós Puky | 1961—2015
Biologist,
Danube Research Institute, Hungary

A conservation biologist, amphibian specialist, educator and member of the IENE Steering Committee, Miklós combined scientific knowledge with an unusual ability to bring people together.

Some people participate in a network.
Others help keep it alive.
Miklós was one of them.

The network he helped restart continues.

His work ranged from research on habitat fragmentation and transport impacts to practical conservation, teaching and environmental education.

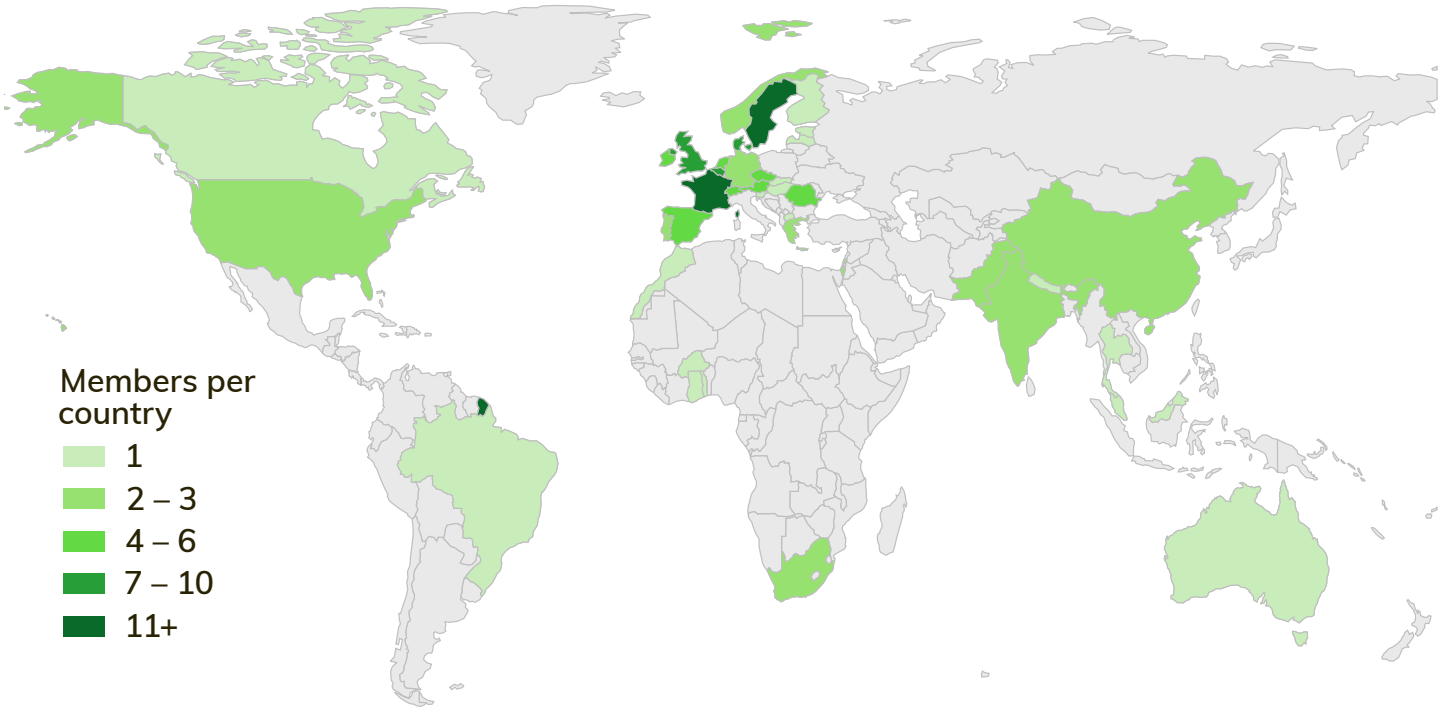
His relationship with IENE went far beyond membership. He helped represent the network internationally, contributed to its scientific work and hosted the 2008 Re-start IENE Workshop in Nyíregyháza — a moment that helped open a new chapter in IENE's history.

He remained actively engaged until the end. Only weeks before his death in March 2015, he was working with IENE colleagues in Southeast Asia on greener approaches to transport infrastructure.

IENE later honoured him with a Special Award for his long and enthusiastic dedication to the network, his ecological expertise and his lifelong commitment to engaging others in nature conservation.

IENE members around the world in 2026

124 active members in 40 countries
78 individual members · 46 organisational members



Be part of what comes next.

Welcome to IENE!

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Biodiversity & Infrastructure:
A Handbook for Action
www.biodiversityinfrastructure.org

IENE
Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe

The Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe (IENE) is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-political association of experts in ecology, transport and infrastructure, established under French law.

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