



IENE
Infra Eco Network Europe



IENE 2018 CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 2018, THE NETHERLANDS

Crossing borders for a greener and sustainable transport infrastructure



'Crossing borders' is the central theme of IENE 2018, because that is what habitat defragmentation is all about, both literally and figuratively. Plants and animals do not respect boundaries and transportation infrastructure does not stop at country borders. Crossing borders is therefore inevitable in order to establish and maintain sustainable populations of flora and fauna, particularly where they clash with infrastructures.

Cross-sectoral cooperation between very diverse partners is also essential in this respect and an example of crossing borders. This holds true for policy development, planning, finding the necessary funding, communication and implementing, managing and monitoring projects. This is a challenge because people of very different backgrounds with very different sets of knowledge and experience have to work together to accomplish a successful project.

Exchange of knowledge

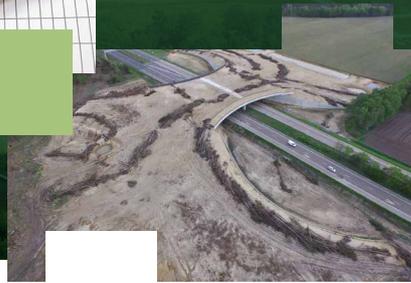
Crossing borders also means leaving behind one's own familiar way of life and thinking. IENE 2018 aims to take a step in this direction by giving more attention to the technical details of habitat defragmentation measures and giving architects, engineers, contractors, insurers and designers the opportunity to present their vision. Their experiences can inspire others when developing future projects. Engineers and ecologists still have much to learn from each other in this regard.

Waterways

When it comes to defragmentation, the emphasis is often on the land transport infrastructure: roads and railways. However, for a number of reasons, such as promoting sustainability and reducing the environmental impact, canals and watercourses are increasingly used for transport. Therefore, waterways too should not constitute borders that obstruct the passage of animals!

Focus on maintenance

In Europe, as in the rest of the world, a whole range of defragmentation measures have been implemented since the start of IENE, ranging from small structures to large wildlife bridges. But there is more to it than that: to ensure that structures remain effective in the long term, proper management and maintenance are just as important as solid building work. This topic will also receive a lot of attention during IENE 2018.



The fact that defragmentation does not stop at country borders is also evidenced by the cross-border project 'ecoduct Kempengrens' for which the Dutch and Flemish partners received the IENE project award in 2014. It was the first international wildlife overpass in the world. The theme of IENE 2018 is also reflected by a cross-border partnership between the Netherlands and Flanders, which will be highlighted in the programme and the available excursions.

Multi-annual defragmentation program

Furthermore, 2018 will be a very special year for the Netherlands: the MJPO (Multi-Annual Defragmentation Programme) will be completed by that time. This is a nation-wide, region-oriented programme in which the central government and provincial governments, often in consultation with municipalities, water boards and nature conservation organisations, work together to resolve 178 bottlenecks between the existing national infrastructure and the main ecological network. The IENE Conference 2018 will be an excellent occasion to share the results of this programme with the rest of the world and to festively conclude the programme with the many parties involved.

The MJPO is honoured to organise the conference together with the Flemish government and the Dutch provinces of Noord-Holland and Noord-Brabant. Many wildlife measures have been created thanks to the close cooperation between the MJPO and these partners.

A unique environment

This successful partnership also provides the opportunity to present the vast array of landscapes and habitats in the Low Countries: from the low-lying dune and river landscapes and the peat and clay polders to the dry heathland, forests and the Kempen landscape on the higher grounds. All of these unique landscapes have their own habitats and fauna species and therefore unique wildlife measures. The Low Countries boast more than 2,000 wildlife measures in total!



We would very much like to welcome you all
to the **IENE 2018 conference**

IENE 2018 will be organized by:



Government of the Netherlands



Provincie Noord-Holland

Provincie Noord-Brabant

For the latest updates, check www.mjpo.nl and/or www.iene.info