



Raising awareness

Different sectors will be targeted with information on the topics dealt with by the LIFE ELIA project:

- **general public:**
35 educational signs, 3 viewing areas
- **forest managers :**
drafting vade mecums on management methods that promote species and natural habitats underneath and alongside high-voltage power lines
- **staff at electricity network operators :**
training modules on taking biodiversity into account

Serving as an example

Beyond the projects in Belgium and France, the innovative techniques developed by the LIFE project will be suggested to other European electricity transmission system operators. The 300,000 km of high-voltage power lines in the 27 Member States could, from this point forward, fully play their part as active vectors for biodiversity.

Similar management actions will be implemented as part of the LIFE project in 8 regions across France:

Ile de France, Franche Comté, Champagne Ardenne (2 sites), Aquitaine, Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Brittany.



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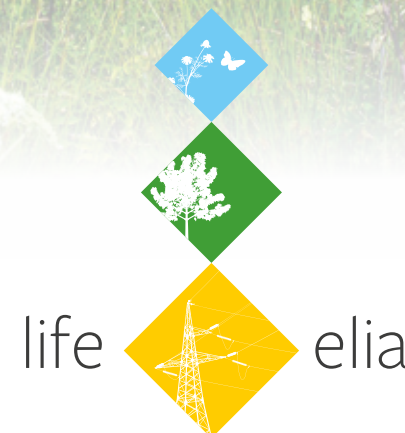
The LIFE ELIA project is co-financed by the European Union's LIFE+ programme.

LIFE-ELIA
Using electricity transmission network routes as active vectors for positive developments in biodiversity

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More information on
www.life-elia.eu



High-voltage power line routes

No man's land



The high-voltage electrical network marks our forests with huge gaps: corridors created through felling, pruning and rotary cutting.

While essential for safety reasons, this heavy and costly work is not without impact on our landscapes and biodiversity. As things stand, these open areas represent a “no man’s land” from which no-one can properly benefit.

By modifying the management practices and without increasing the maintenance costs, the routes for these electrical power cables may be able to play a part in restoring an ecological network and in doing so ensure the spread of biodiversity once again by encouraging species and natural habitats.



This is the challenge for LIFE ELIA

High-voltage power line routes

LIFE ELIA project actions

Assets and concrete solutions



Planting forest edges

Graded forest edges, comprising a variety of tree species in the places where forests and open areas meet, play host to a surprisingly rich biodiversity



Creating protected orchards

Wild apple and pear trees, medlars and other fruit trees are species that have become rare in our forested regions.



Restoring peatlands, moors and sparse meadows

Around 20 hectares of these environments, which are rare but have an extremely rich and special biodiversity, will be restored.



Digging ponds

Roughly one hundred ponds will be dug in the corridors for high-voltage power cables. They will guarantee a continuous network of environments suitable for dragonflies, frogs, toads and waterbirds.



Fighting against invasive species

The development of invasive species is one of the significant causes of the loss of biodiversity.



Management through mowing and pasturing

Mowing or pasturing using rustic cattle will allow open areas to be maintained sustainably and will ensure that the flora that is typical for these areas can develop.



Setting up simple flower meadows

Sparse meadows are rich in a special kind of flora that is ideal for pollen-gathering insects.