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TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY AT A NEXUS OF CHALLENGES

Research and innovation as drivers for transformative changes

AGENDA

5 TO 9 JUNE 2023 - ENGEES AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRASBOURG, FRANCE

5 and 6 June - Final Seminar of the BISON project
7 June - Joint seminar
In cooperation with the UNEP-led Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership
8 June - Workshops - Young researchers days
9 June - Field trips
BACKGROUND

Transport infrastructure is one of the drivers of global economic development. However, through its impact on land use change and ecosystem fragmentation, it is also one of the main causes of climate change and the decline in biodiversity. Indeed, very heavy investments are currently being made to address this and meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. However, the impact on biodiversity is much less well known and understood. Given the heightened global concern over this issue, new regulations and approaches with stricter biodiversity standards are expected in the wake of the negotiation of a new global framework within the Convention on Biological Diversity. Yet given the dearth of research-based guidance on how to address biodiversity concerns through the development of transportation infrastructure, no broad consensus exists on how to create a biodiversity-friendly transportation sector.

At the end of two and a half years of work, under the combined auspices of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme-led Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP), this seminar will convene diverse national, regional and international high-level actors and stakeholders into an event aiming at engaging in dialogue on the subject of infrastructure and biodiversity.

Major results of the BISON project will be presented on June 6, and then proceeding to a full day dedicated to connections between the results of the BISON project and the wider sustainable infrastructure community.

In collaboration with the SIP and international partners, the 7 June joint seminar will explore ways to feed the research results into policymaking and investment decisions, and to catalyze next steps.
**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

The final seminar will be hosted by the Council of Europe (CoE) and by ENGEES from 5 to 9 June.

**June 5** afternoon will be for BISON project members, advisory group members and invited partners only.

**June 6 and 7** will be open to all at the Council of Europe and will be dedicated to the restitution of the various works. 6 June will be a day entirely dedicated to the operational deliverables of BISON. 7 June will be co-organised as part of the collaboration within the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership as a day of mobilisation of major international stakeholders.

Two extra days supported by the MTECT and the OFB will bring further opportunities to deepen topics and work with smaller groups of discussion.

**June 8** will be a half day dedicated to young researchers and thematic workshops. It will be organised in conjunction with the BISON project and will take place at ENGEES.

**9 June: Field visits** will take place. Limited place

The event will take place in a hybrid format to facilitate the dissemination but speakers will be in presentational.

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**BISON PROJECT FINAL RESULTS**

12:30 pm  Welcome coffee

2:00 - 2:30 pm  Welcome word
Jean-Marc WILLER, Director of the ENGEES
Thierry GOGER, FEHRL
Charlotte NAVARRO, FRB
Yannick AUTRET, MTECT

2:30 - 4:00 pm  WP1 – Project management
Adewole ADESIYUN, FEHRL

4:00 - 4:30 pm  Coffee break

4:30 - 6:00 pm  WP2 – Mobilisation of actors
Charlotte NAVARRO, FRB
Anette MERTENS, AGRISTUDIO

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

7, rue de la Kruteneau
67000 Strasbourg
BISON PROJECT FINAL RESULTS

08:00 - 09:15 am
Security control access to CoE building and registration

09:15 - 09:30 am
Welcome word

09:30 - 11:00 am
WP3 – Existing and future synergy between Infrastructure and Biodiversity
- Overview of the results of the WP and website ‘Handbook for Action’ (Carme Rosell & Luis M. Fernández - MINUARTIA)
- Best practice identification
  Eric Guinard (CEREMA) & Eleni Chalkia (CERTH)
- Emerging trends, and digitalisation:
  Andreas Seiler (SLU) & Sylvain Moulherat (UPGE)

11:00 - 11:30 am
Coffee break

11:30 am - 12:30 pm
WP4 – A strategic research agenda for biodiversity-friendly transport infrastructure in Europe
- The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA):
  Denis FRANÇOIS (UGE)
- A new framework for research and innovation:
  Yannick AUTRET (MTECT)
- Reflexions on implementing the SRA in Central and Eastern European countries:
  Ivo DOSTÁL (CDV)

12:30 - 2:00 pm
Lunch and networking time

2:00 - 2:45 pm
Testimony of regional networks for research and innovation on infrastructure and biodiversity
USA - Fraser SHILLING (ICOET - US)
Africa - Wendy COLLINSON (ACLIE - ZA)
Oceania - Rodney VAN DER REE (ANET - AU)
Israel - Edward YOSSILEF (NETIVEI)45

2:45 - 4:15 pm
WP5 – Recommendations, future scenarios and innovation towards the mainstreaming of Green & Grey infrastructure
- Recommendations towards the mainstreaming of Green & Grey Infrastructure:
  Matina LOUKEA (CERTH)
- The European Defragmentation Map:
  Marita Böttcher (BfN)
- Transport infrastructure life cycle tools, processes and implementation barriers:
  Marius NISTORESCU (EPC Consultancy on behalf of WWF RO)
- Scenarios for the future:
  Catherine DE ROINCÉ (UPGE) & Adewole ADES ÌYUN (FEHRL)

4:15 - 4:45 pm
Coffee break

4:45 - 5:30 pm
Capacity training tools for action
Ceren Sila Husar and Maros Finka (STUBA)

5:30 - 6:00 pm
Conclusion of the day
Open exchanges - Networking time

OFFICIAL DINNER
**Joint Seminar BISON & UNEP**

**Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership**

**08:00 - 09:15 am**
Security control access to CoE building and registration

**09:15 - 09:30 am**
Welcome word
MTECT - Lionel MOULIN (Deputy Director for Research an Innovation)
DG MOVE - Torsten KLIMKE (Head of Unit)
UNEP - Sheila Aggarwal-Khan (Industry and Economy Division Director)

**09:30 - 11:00 am**
Keynote speeches
- Council of Europe / Bern Convention programme coordinator: Eoghan KELLY
  The challenges of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats
- PIARC - General Secretary
  Patrick MALLEJACQ
  The World Road Association’s measures and recommendations to its 125 member countries to better integrate biodiversity
- UIC - General Secretary - François DAVENTE
  European Railways: Strategy and Actions for Biodiversity
- G7/G20 - Sustainable Quality Infrastructure Investment - Nicolas BUCHOUD
  Advancing climate resilience and environmental objectives in infrastructure planning, development and finance

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Avenue de l’Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
The role of private investments shaping the incorporation of biodiversity into infrastructure
Moderator: Nicolas BUCHOUD (G7/G20 - Sustainable Quality Infrastructure Investment)
Introductive presentation “Scenarios for the future”
Catherine DE ROINCÉ (UPGE) and Eleni CHALKIA (CERTH)
- Savina CARLUCCIO (ICSI, Executive Director)
- Louis DOWNING (Global Infrastructure Basel, CEO)
- Caroline LHUILLERY (ISO - TC 331, Committee Manager for Standardisation on Biodiversity)
- Claire TUTENUIT (EPE, General Delegate)
- Cédric VAN RIEL (Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation, Senior Integration Manager)

Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership - community of learners, the role of hubs and perspectives
Moderator: Savina CARLUCCIO, Executive Director at International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI)
Lazaros GEORGIADIS (CERTH)
Elizabeth LOSOS (Duke University)
Mladen MARKOVIC (Roads of Serbia, Chief Engineer for the National Integration Program for Road Infrastructure)
Rowan PALMER (UNEP)
Rodney VAN DER REE (WSP in Australia & New Zealand)

Research and innovation as drivers for transformative changes
Moderator: Yannick AUTRET - MTECT
Sebastien DENIS, (Europe’s Rail - Senior Programme Manager sustainable and green solutions)
Elke HAHN (BMK - IENE – DACH, President of the IENE association)
Rainer SODTKE (Biodiversa +, Vice Chair)
Nicolas WALTER, (CoARA - Coordinator of the CoARA Secretariat)
Yannick AUTRET (MTECT, National Research Programme Manager)
Thierry GOGER FEHRL (General Secretary)
Charlotte NAVARRO (Executive Secretary of the IENE association)
Carme ROSELL, Minuartia (Senior expert on biodiversity and transport)
Andreas SEILER, (SLU, IENE Scientific and Expert Committee chair)

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Nicolas WALTER, (CoARA - Coordinator of the CoARA Secretariat)
European Commission, Claudia CIUCA (CINEA - DG Research)
Edward Perry, (OECD, Analyst - Climate, Biodiversity and Water)
**June 8**

**Young Researchers Day**

- **08:30 am** Welcome Coffee and registration

- **09:15 - 12:00 am**
  - Young researchers day
  - “Infrastructure, Ecology, Landscape, Society, and Territory” (Event in French with EN supports - Joint seminar of the National Research Program ITTECOP and IENE)
  - Journée jeunes chercheurs : “Infrastructures, écologie, paysages, société et territoires” (Evènement en Français avec documents support en anglais - séminaire conjoint du programme national de recherche ITTECOP et IENE)
  - Open registration - detailed programme on www.ittecop.fr

- **Technical meetings**
  - Moderated registration
  - UNEP SI-COL (Hybrid format)
  - ECOV4R project - UIC (Hybrid format)
  - BISON workshops

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**June 9**

**Field Trips**

**Half Day**

- **1. Kolbsenbach**
  - An in-situ compensation site (adjacent to the A355): site with 1 or 2 wildlife passages, either ecopont or specific hamster release.
  - Stakeholders: UPGE, Federation of hunters, Elements 5 and Vinci.
  - Specific conditions:
    - Departure early in the morning.
    - About 3 hours

- **2. Dachstein**
  - An ex-situ compensation site (1 km from the A355): site with wildlife passages, either eco-bridge or hamster specific.
  - Stakeholders: UPGE, Federation of hunters, Elements 5 and Vinci.
  - Specific conditions:
    - In the morning.
    - About 3 hours

- **3. Hydroelectric power plant of Strasbourg**
  - Theme: production, ecological continuity, fish pass.
  - Stakeholder: EDF Hydro
  - Specific conditions: from 2pm to 4:30pm.
Acknowledgements:
This event is financed by funds from the BISON project, by the Ministry of Ecological Transition - General Directorate for Sustainable Development (MTE - CGDD), the French Office of Biodiversity (OFB) and the Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME) with the technical and logistical support of UNEP, Duke University, the IENE association, the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB), the International Railway Union (UIC), EDF and the companies members of the UPGE.

We thank ENGEES and the Council of Europe for their unfailing support.

Logistic:
info@fehrl.org

Programme questions:
info@iene.info
The growing international interest in mainstreaming biodiversity in transport infrastructure (roads, railways, waterways, ports, airports and energy related networks) offers new opportunities to develop innovative solutions. Whether technological, organisational, managerial, or methodological, these solutions can simultaneously benefit mobility, trade, energy, climate change and biodiversity policies. From an environmental point of view, there is an urgent need to address land use change and ecosystem fragmentation, which are the main drivers of biodiversity loss in the world, caused in particular by transport infrastructure. As a result, new regulations with stricter biodiversity standards can be expected in the wake of the negotiation of a new global framework for biodiversity within the Convention on Biological Diversity. The European Union has funded the BISON project to address for the first time the research and innovation challenges associated with biodiversity mainstreaming in whole life cycle of transport infrastructure. The European Commission’s support for the BISON project represents a major breakthrough at the international level to establish an objective basis for the available knowledge and which should be supported in the future.

The Sustainable Infrastructure-Community of Learners (SI-CoL) Initiative aims to share knowledge and build capacity among sustainable infrastructure practitioners – engineers, government planners, investors, etc. – through the development of SI-CoL Virtual Learning Hubs. Through Virtual Learning Hubs, sustainable infrastructure practitioners share best practices in infrastructure planning and project development; access data, tools, and research findings; learn from each other’s experiences; and connect with sustainable infrastructure specialists. This SI-CoL hub model – adapted from a highly successful program in the health sector, Project ECHO – is a highly effective, rapid, and inexpensive means of real-time knowledge sharing, stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and innovation. SI-CoL is currently developing plans to create one or more Virtual Learning Hubs that bring together transportation infrastructure practitioners with sustainable infrastructure and biodiversity specialists to disseminate and apply the findings and innovative approaches generated by the BISON project.

- https://bison-transport.eu/
- https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/initiatives/sustainable-infrastructure-partnership
Mr Davenne is the Director General of UIC since June 2019. He graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications d’Evry in 1988 and from the Ecole Nationale d’Administration (ENA) in 1999. Throughout his career, he has consistently promoted interdisciplinarity as a key factor for success. Having gained experience in international satellite telecommunications, he initially held various roles in the housing sector, making use of his strong financial and legal skills. He was involved in policy and regulation of the sector and managed key operational programmes, most notably for the city of Paris.

After three years with the French Ministry of Transport, working on railway safety and regulation, with an emphasis on European regulations, he was elected in 2012 as Secretary General of OTIF, the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail. From early 2013 to the end of 2018, he promoted interdisciplinarity and partnership building in order to expand and develop the uniform regulations for international carriage by rail.

Nicolas J.A. Buchoud is a policy-advisor and expert across the G20 and G7. As the co-chair of the G20 infrastructure taskforce since 2019, he has directed and edited numerous policy-briefs, books chapters books and reports on that topic and organized several ministerial-level seminars. He has recently edited (March 2023) the book ‘A world in crisis, a world in progress’ (ADBI, Tokyo) exploring a decade of work of the group of think-tanks of the G20 and initiated the T7/T20 Dialogue with the T7 Japan and T20 India.

A fellow of the Global Solutions Initiative (GSI) in Berlin, Nicolas is an advocate of new solutions to de-risk infrastructure investments to maximize their sustainable socio-economic spillover effects. He is a co-editor of the Intersecting global editorial project initiated in 2020 as with 10 volumes to date.

In the past years, Nicolas has also provided expertise and support to the urban agenda within the G20 and lately, with the G7.

He is the co-founder and president of the Grand Paris Alliance for Metropolitan Development, an awarded Paris based think-tank established in 2011 and the owner and founding principal of Renaissance Urbaine strategic advisory, est. 2006, with a track-record of high-level policy-advisory on all continents.

Nicolas has spent ten years in the public service in France. He is an alumnus of Sciences Po Paris (public law, public administration, major in evaluation of public policies), of Sciences Po Paris School for Urban Affairs and he holds a MA in 17th century Chinese history (summa cum laude) which he completed at Paris I La Sorbonne jointly with Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) de Fontenay St-Cloud. He was raised in France, rural China, and the Middle-East.

Eoghan Kelly, from Ireland, has worked as a coordinator at the Bern Convention secretariat since 2019, dealing with a multitude of conservation issues, notably the many case-files that the Convention deals with, such as on conflicts between nature protection and unsustainable infrastructure projects. He studied Commerce and has a Master’s Degree in Sustainable Leadership.
Patrick MALLÉJACQ

Patrick is a French civil servant (« ingénieur général des Ponts, des eaux et des forêts »). As Secretary General of PIARC (World Road Association), Patrick Malléjacq’s mission is to provide support to road administrations and professionals across the globe.

Before joining PIARC, Patrick was instrumental in organising the Transport Research Arena conference in Paris in 2014 and in developing EU-sponsored research programmes and projects at IFSTTAR-France. He held positions at SETRA-France and at the French ministry of transport, mainly on road safety and ITS issues, and led « EasyWay » implementation projects. Patrick was posted at the French Embassy in Tokyo and started his career at IGN, the French national mapping institute.

PIARC focuses on identifying and disseminating best practice between all PIARC members, including governments from 125 member countries, high income as well low- and middle-income countries. More than 20 PIARC Technical Committees are in operation, through which 1 000 international experts share knowledge on a wide range of topics, including resilience of road infrastructure and transportation systems, road safety, tunnels operations, road network operations, road and transport planning, etc. PIARC also publishes the “Routes/Roads” magazine, and operates an ambitious knowledge-sharing programme with the publication of a report per month and the organisation of a seminar every six weeks on average.

Recent projects included the 26th World Road Congress (Abu Dhabi, October 2019), kick-starting the 2020 - 2023 Technical Committees in 2020, organising more than 30 online seminars on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on roads, and organising the XVIth World Winter Service and Road Resilience Congress, with Transport Canada and Calgary (Canada) as an online event in February 2022. PIARC’s current projects include supporting Committees in the organisation of in-person seminars in the early publication of knowledge products, and preparing for the XXVIIth World Road Congress, which will take place in October 2023 in Prague (Czech Republic).
ABOUT BISON

BISON is the first EU-funded H2020 coordination and support action project to focus on transport infrastructure and its interactions with biodiversity.

Launched in January 2021 for a period of 30-month, BISON aims to set the future European strategic research and deployment agenda on transport infrastructure and biodiversity. BISON provides European states and stakeholders tools and recommendations to integrate biodiversity into the design, construction, and operation of infrastructure.

BISON brings together more than 16 countries and 45 partners across Europe. BISON will thus enable Europe to be a leading continent in this field.