

Final conference of the LIFE Elia-RTE project

Conference proceedings

Brussels, Elia's headquarters - 5/12/2017

life  elia

The LIFE Elia-RTE project is co-financed by the European Union's LIFE+ programme

The final video of the project is available at <https://vimeo.com/lifeelia>.

Reference EC:
LIFE10 NAT/BE/709

More information:
www.life-elia.eu/en/



Program

Timing	Topics	Speakers
08.30-09.00	Welcoming coffee	
09.00-09.10	Opening speech	Ilse Tant (Elia)
09.10-09.15	Program of the day	Simon de Voghel (LIFE Elia-RTE)
09.15-09.35	The LIFE Elia-RTE project: alternative vegetation management in Belgium and France. Project and results.	G�rard Jadoul (LIFE Elia-RTE)
09.35-09.55	Elia: the Transmission System Operator in Belgium. From the beginning of the project to the perspectives.	Johan Mortier (Elia)
09.55-10.15	RTE: the 7 French sites and the environmental global approach	Agn�s Labbaye and Jean-Fran�ois Lesigne (RTE)
10.15-10.30	Q&A	
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-11.15	LIFE Elia-RTE: the 13' movie	LIFE Elia-RTE
11.15-11.35	The main challenges for the Energy sector and for the Transmission System Operators	Tomasz Jerzyniak (EU, DG Energy)
11.35-11.55	Building strong tools to develop and monitor of actions on site: mapping, database and indicators	Jean-Fran�ois Godeau (LIFE Elia-RTE)
11.55-12.15	Cost-benefit analysis and communication actions of the LIFE Elia-RTE	Simon de Voghel (LIFE Elia-RTE)
12.15-12.30	Q&A	
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-14.20	Combining business and nature : how private sector and linear infrastructure can contribute to halt the loss of biodiversity	Micheal O'Briain and Christina Pantazi (EU, DG Environment)
14.20-14.40	Financing projects through the Natural Capital Financing Facility	Stefanie Lindenberg and John Sinner (European Investment Bank)
14.40-14.55	European networking actions of the LIFE Elia-RTE : main results and perspectives	Simon de Voghel (LIFE Elia-RTE)
14.55-15.15	Q&A	
15.15-15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30-16.45	Roundtable "Public acceptance, biodiversity and vegetation management : towards which future for Transmission System Operators"	Roundtable
16.45-17.00	Closing speech	G�rard Jadoul (LIFE Elia-RTE)

Afternoon Round table

Wrap-up of the day

Here are the answers of the 4 different groups.

Group 1: What are the obstacles to develop alternative vegetation management?

The obstacles are (without hierarchy):

- Acceptance by the landowners which can be increased by the diversity of the situation of the landowners and also the complexity of the cadastre of the parcels
- Lack of human resources and expertise inside of the companies, because it's not their core business.
- The safety for people working under the lines. TSO want to be sure that the job can be done in safe conditions.
- The initial costs. And some of the participants consider that the results of the cost-benefit analysis are not always relevant to change the management.
- The shift needed in the habits and procedures within the company
- Will the regulator accept the new vegetation management methods?
- The legal context, which is different in each country

Group 2: What are the 3 key messages you are going to take back home? Could you also give 1 point that surprised you in the presentations?

- Good return from the money invested
- Relevant solution for the public acceptance of the network
- Although there is a lot of things to learn about what was done in the LIFE Elia-RTE, every TSO will have to adapt to the local situation (authorizations and controlling organism are different)

The surprise from the presentations is the fact that we noted that what was done within the LIFE Elia-RTE project is a lot of work! (mapping, agreements, on site work...)

Group 3: How this vegetation management actions can be pushed forward in Europe... what would be the next steps?

- To create an apply a toolkit (for example "how can we practically apply actions in the field" , also to explain to our employees how and why doing it)
- An enhancing communication: we have to convince people, internally but also externally; what are the benefits of alternative vegetation measures (financial, societal and for the biodiversity)
- Emphasize on existing legislation (N2000 directives)
- For a company, it's also important to describe targets, to make it clear, "what is the way, what do we want to achieve?" It's not only for internal personal but also for the external perception.
- Start actions! To copy best practices examples that we already know. We can transfer them to others areas. We can start on small projects, and also upscale small ones to bigger one.

Group 4: What are, for you, the main assets (positive points) these actions could bring to a TSO company? Any other insight concerning other type of companies?

- Improve social acceptance (working with local landowners, local stakeholders, community groups...) improve how people see projects and the TSO (----> quicking up processes and avoiding the perception of greenwashing)
 - The pride with TSO's staff. Good for the company that the staff is enthusiastic about the project.
 - Whatever the CBA's outputs, the fact that actions are aiming at improving nature is a self-standing reason to launch projects.



Life Elia - RTE and Public Acceptance

Life Elia-RTE – December 5, 2017

Ilse Tant

Elia & Life Elia-RTE since 2011

Aim: establish ecological corridors under overhead high voltage lines



As well as...

- ... restore natural habitats within the framework of Natura 2000, and beyond
- ... provide training and information to target groups.
- ... raise the general public's awareness.

These factors account for a general knowledge of **the principles of Elia** and **support the public acceptance.**

Resumed

- Elia signed for this LIFE project 6,5 years ago and at the beginning, we did not really know which journey we were going for.
- It has been a challenge to change our way to look at vegetation under overhead lines, but the maintenance department managed to adapt its way of working
- Our teams are discovering new challenging and interesting ways of managing vegetation



What does Life Elia-RTE contribute in terms of Public Acceptance?



Life Elia-RTE helps Elia to **reinforce its mission**, namely ensuring a **sustainable energy transition**, with care for **the environment, biodiversity and local residents**.



What does Life Elia-RTE contribute in terms of Public Acceptance?

Through Life Elia-RTE, Elia connects and works together with regional and federal stakeholders: this project is carried out by and for them.



What happens next?

Elia is willing to push things forward by continuing this project, knowing all the benefits

This collaboration has a positive impact on the local environment and our relationship with stakeholders.

Elia therefore seizes the opportunity to expand this project to the rest of Belgium and...

- ... further enhance **local biodiversity**.
- ... further **reduce the cost of maintaining** ecological corridors beneath power lines.
- ... dispose of more redeveloped areas to emerge as **educational** or **touristic sites**.





Life Elia-RTE and Public Acceptance

Thank you for your attention