

## RGI-DTEK Grids workshop

### Agenda

Time (CEST)	Content
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>
10:15 – 10:20	<b>RGI Introduction</b> Antina Sander
10:20 – 10:27	<b>Statement from DSO</b> Michael Wahl, Westnetz GmbH
10:27 – 10:30	<b>Statement from TSO</b> Frédéric Dunon, Elia
10:30 – 10:37	<b>Bird mortality: Electrocutation, collision &amp; disturbance</b> Manon Quetstroey, RGI
10:37 – 10:45	<b>Solutions &amp; implementation issues</b> Liam Innis, RGI
10:45 – 11:15	<b>First Q&amp;A</b>
11:35 – 11:50	<b>Practical solutions &amp; policy in EU</b> Marek Gális, Raptor Protection Slovakia
11:50 – 12:05	<b>Natura 2000 legislation</b> Thierry Bara, ENEDIS Oleg Dudkin, USPB Former Deputy Minister
12:05 – 12:35	<b>Second Q&amp;A</b>
12:35 – 12:45	<b>National collaborative sensitivity mapping, Belgium</b> Dominique Verleben, Natuurpunt
12:45 – 12:55	<b>AVISTEP – Sensitivity mapping tool</b> Tris Allison, BirdLife International
12:55 – 13:00	<b>LIFE-SafeLines4Birds</b> Manon Quetstroey, RGI
13:00 – 13:05	<b>Collaborative Bird Portal</b> Liam Innis, RGI
13:05 – 13:35	<b>Third Q&amp;A</b>
13:35 – 13:40	<b>Final words</b>

### Workshop content description

After welcoming words by RGI's Deputy CEO, Antina Sander, participants heard grid operators' experiences from Michael Wahl, Project Manager for Environmental Route Management at [Westnetz GmbH](#)/E.ON, as well as two colleagues from Belgian TSO, [Elia](#), Deputy CEO, Frédéric Dunon, and Environmental Expert, Johan Mortier. Next, RGI's Liam Innis (Manager – Energy Ecosystems) and Manon Quetstroey (Junior Manager – Energy and Nature) presented the causes of bird mortality from electrocution, collision, and disturbance; practical and institutional mitigation measures; barriers to

implementation; and guidance on how to overcome these difficulties. A first open discussion round followed.

Next, Marek Gális of [Raptor Protection Slovakia \(RPS\)](#) gave a detailed account of the practical and policy solutions to the issue, largely based on the landmark study, '[Electrocutions & Collision of Birds in EU Countries: The Negative Impact & Best Practices for Mitigation](#)', compiled by RPS and commissioned by RGI Member, [NABU](#) (BirdLife Germany). Further practical, institutional, and political factors were presented by Thierry Bara, Head of Environment Mission at French DSO, [ENEDIS](#). Oleg Dudkin, CEO of the [Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds \(USPB\)](#) presented the regulatory requirements for the Natura 2000 network, relevant for the Ukrainian context. A second Q&A followed.

The final session focussed on best practice examples. First to speak was Dominique Verbelen, Scientific Officer for Birds and Amphibians of Flemish NGO, [Natuurpunt](#), who presented the [collaborative sensitivity mapping](#) activities carried out continuously in Belgium for more targeted risk mitigation and better grid planning. Next, Tris Allison, Senior Conservation Scientist for BirdLife International presented [AVISTEP – the Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning](#), which can help to identify where renewable energy and grids should be planned to minimise impact on avian biodiversity. To conclude, RGI's Manon Quetstroey and Liam Innis presented the collaborative projects, [SafeLines4Birds](#) and the [Bird Portal](#) respectively. SafeLines4Birds is a 6-year project, co-funded by the LIFE Programme between partners from Belgium, Portugal, France, Germany, and the USA, collaborating to reduce mortality for 13 bird species along power lines, targeting collision, electrocution, and disturbance. The 'Bird Portal' founded by RGI in 2017, is a collaborative endeavour between NABU and 7 grid operators, which aims to improve the information basis for bird protection measures through a portal whereby anyone who finds a dead bird around a power line can register it for follow-up by project partners.