

The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide professional association representing the railway sector and promoting rail transport. UIC leads an innovative and dynamic sector, helping our members find opportunities and build success. The purpose of UIC's Ecological Effects of Railways on Wildlife (rEVERSE) project is to understand railway's role in the loss and gain of biodiversity and its habitats in Europe. It will seek to set out how railways can manage land in an ecologically sensitive way, providing solutions and best practice examples.



UIC is seeking solutions and best practice to manage rail lineside in a way that can help **halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity.**

This poster provides information about Theme 9:
Training of staff in biodiversity relevant skills or knowledge

AUSTRIA CASE STUDY

Biodiversity has not been touched as a topic in the original environmental training courses that have been offered to the staff before 2010. Traditionally environmental training was primarily focussing on waste management, contaminated sites or energy management.

THE SOLUTION

In 2010 a new internal training format, called "railway ecology" has been started. It's a 3 days seminar, 2 days indoor 1 day outdoor, that touches many environmental and sustainable development related topics, in the context of railway planning, building, maintenance and operation. Biodiversity and the understanding of the value of nature and ecosystem services are one important focus of the seminar. Specifically the outdoor day, which is dedicated to landscape management in order to foster biodiversity of the sites deemed to be very valuable to transport the idea of nature protection and the crucial role of biodiversity.



Outcomes

The More than 200 participants from almost all different departments and fields of the company. Excellent feedback from the participants (grade 1,4 – 5 been the worst), Network of colleagues all over Austria, that have ambitions to integrate sustainability issues and biodiversity into their daily business.

The training course "railway ecology" was awarded with the UNESCO certificate during the UN decade of education for sustainable development, in 2014



Ausgezeichnet von der
 Österreichischen UNESCO-Kommission



Keywords: Training, Biodiversity, Railway Ecology

ÖBB CONTACT [Thomas Schuh](mailto:Thomas.Schuh@landuse@uic.org)
landuse@uic.org