The target species of the project is the Lesser Kestrel, a

## Why another LIFE Project on the Lesser Kestrel?









svivab 892 a dtiw Male Lesser Kestrel

## Project help the Lesser Kestrel? How does the LIFE FALKON

settlement of Lesser Kestrel; V Provide nest-boxes and nesting towers to foster the

decision makers; stakeholders (architects, geometricians, farmers) and V Implement communication actions addressed to key

of previous LIFE projects targeting Lesser Kestrel; V Share experiences with conservation experts and beneficiaries

V Implement a large scale public awareness campaign;

.sbaan gnigerof bne maps of breeding sites, suitability maps for both breeding V Set up standardised monitoring protocols providing



The partners involved are CNR-IRSA National Research Council - Water Research Institute (coordinator), ISPRA -Istituto Superiore Protezione e Ricerca Ambientale, Università Statale di Milano, HOS/Birdlife Hellenic Ornithological Society, ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy

LIFE FALKON aims at fostering the resilience of the central-eastern European Lesser Kestrel population to climate change, improving the conservation status of Italian and Greek populations breeding at the north-eastern margin of breeding distribution range. The project started in July 2018 and it will end in December 2023.

# LIFE FALKON Project Objectives of the

status of Italian and Greek populations; population to climate change, improving the conservation - Foster the resilience of the central-eastern European

project areas; Farmland areas and SPAs where the species breeds in the Prise for series and nesting habitat quality in intensive

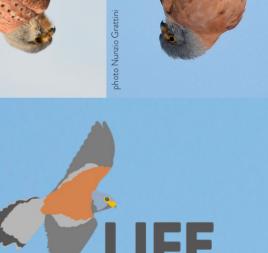
:uoiteonba biodiversity conservation, with emphasis on environmental public awareness concerning the Lesser Kestrel and - Establish a collaborative international network; Promote

•uoisuedxa of those populations crucial for the northward breeding - Obtain an accurate assessment of the conservation status



LIFE FALKON Team ringing a newborn Lesser Kestrel







### (and the Common) Kestrel look like? How does the Lesser

Diffused almost in any environment breeds from 0 to almost 2,500 m.a.s.l.	Confined to agricultural habitats, rarely occurs above the 500 m.a.s.l.	Habitat
Sparse single pairs	Constitute colonies of 2-40 breeding pairs	gnij29N
Mammals, birds, insects	Insects, small reptiles, rodents	Diet
Black	ətidW	Claws
Extremely similar to Lesser Kestrel, more marked black whisker	Brownish/White with black dots	(əlɛməî) ခဒ္ဒဧၮul႖
Reddish back mantle with black dots, black whisker behind the eye, absence of grey band in the wing	Uniformly reddish back mantle, grey/blue head, wide grey band in the middle of the wing	(əlɛm) əgɛmulq
All year round	March-September	Occurence in Europe
Partially migrant, overwinters in Europe	Long-distance migrant, overwinters in Africa	Мівгатогу behaviour
Falco tinnunculus	innemuen oole7	əmen niteJ
Common Kestrel	Lesser Kestrel	

trans-Saharan migratory raptor which mainly breeds in Mediterranean countries. This species suffered a dramatic population decline during the last century, due to changes in farming practices and climate change. The Lesser Kestrel is nowadays a species of EU priority interest because of its unfavourable conservation status.

The focus of LIFE FALKON are the populations settled at the northern edge of its current distribution range. Due to climate change, Lesser Kestrel will suffer a range contraction in the Southern breeding range while could expand towards the North-East in the near future. The Central-Eastern Mediterranean region will thus play a crucial role for any future northward expansion, which will likely be triggered by those populations located at the North-Eastern border of the current range. However, the persistence of these small and isolated populations is currently negatively affected by both intrinsic (e.g. small population size) and extrinsic (e.g. destruction of nest sites) factors.

The main objective of LIFE FALKON is thus to foster the resilience of the species to climate change by improving the conservation status of Italian and Greek populations breeding at the north-eastern edge of the breeding range.







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#### www.lifefalkon.eu

