

Ringing Scheme (RS)	RS is based in: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	Ringing Licenses								Ringing Courses			Rings & Equipment		Ringing Data			
		GO, NGO or RS issues them?	Field control	Needed info when applying: spp, No's	Duration (years)	Permit grades	Practical training	Field exams	Theoretical exams	Ringing Courses	Organised by ot RS or Ringing Groups (RG)?	Teaching: Free/ Paid	Rings: Free/ Paid	Equipment: Free/ Paid	Data ownership: RS, ringers, shared or host institution	Data requests	Release decision – by RS or Ringing Committee?	Data requests : Free /Paid for commercial use
<b>EURING Members</b>																		
<b>Albania [ABT]</b>	NGO	NGO	No	-	-	-	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	Free	Paid	RS	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Belgium [BLB]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	Yes	yes	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	RG	Free	Paid	Paid	host inst.	Yes	RS	Free/Paid
<b>Bulgaria [BGS]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	Yes	both	1-2	No	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Channel Is [CIJ]</b>	GO – Museum	GO+RS	No		1	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	Paid	Paid		Yes	R Comm.	Paid
<b>Croatia [HRZ]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	No	both	1	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RG	Free	Free	Paid	RS/shared	Yes	RS	Free/Paid
<b>Cyprus [CYC]</b>	NGO	NGO			1	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free/Paid
<b>Czech Rep. [CZP]</b>	GO – Museum	GO	Yes	-	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS	Free	Paid**	Paid**	ringers/ host. inst.	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Denmark [DKC]</b>	GO – Institute & Museum	GO	No	Both	1	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	RG	Free	Free	Paid	host inst./ government	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Estonia [ETM]</b>	GO	GO	Yes	both	< 10	No*	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Finland [SFH]</b>	GO – Museum	GO	No	both	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	RG	Free	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free/Paid
<b>France [FRP]</b>	GO – Museum	GO		spp	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS	Free	Free	Paid**	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Germany-He [DEW]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	No	spp	4(2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS	Free	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Germany-Hi [DEH]</b>	GO – other	GO		spp		No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS	Free	Free	Paid	host inst.	Yes	RS	Free/Paid
<b>Germany-R [DER]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	No	spp	2-5	No*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	RS	Free	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Hungary [HGB]</b>	NGO	GO	Yes		1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	-	Free	Paid	RS	Yes	R Comm.	Free
<b>Iceland [ISR]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	No	-	-	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	R Comm.	Free
<b>Italy (IAB)</b>	GO – Institute	GO + RS	Yes	spp, projects	3	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	-	-	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Lithuania [LIK]</b>	GO	GO		spp	1	No*	Yes	No	No	Yes	RS	Free	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free

<b>Macedonia [MKS]</b>	NGO	RS	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	RS,NGO	Free	Free	Free	RS	Yes	RS,NGO	Free
<b>Malta [MLV]</b>	NGO	GO	No	-	1	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	-	Free	Paid	RS	Yes	RS	Free/Paid
<b>Netherlands [NLA]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	No	-	1	No*	Yes	-	-	No	-	-	Paid**	Paid**	shared	Yes	RS	Paid
<b>Poland [PLG]</b>	GO – Institute & Museum	GO+RS	No	both	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS	Free	Paid	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Portugal [POL]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	Yes		1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	RS+RG	Free	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free/Paid
<b>Serbia [RSB]</b>	GO – Museum	GO	No	spp	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS+RG	Paid	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Slovakia [SKB]</b>	NGO	GO	(Yes)	spp	3-7	Yes	Yes	(Yes)	Yes	No	-	-	Paid	Paid	ringers	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Spain-M [ESI]</b>	NGO	GO	No	variable	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS/RG	Paid	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	R Comm.	Free
<b>Spain-SS [ESA]</b>	NGO	GO+RS	No	variable	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	RS/RG	Free/Paid	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Sweden [SVS]</b>	GO – Museum	RS	(Yes)	spp	1	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	-	Free	Free	Paid	RS	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Switzerland [HES]</b>	Institute	GO	No	spp	1	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Turkey [TUA]</b>	GO	GO	No	both	No limit	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	RS+RG	Free	Free	Paid	host inst.	Yes	Each station	Free
<b>UK &amp; Ireland [GBT]</b>	other	GO	No	-	1-3	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	RS/RG	Free	Paid	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Paid
<b>Ukraine [UKK]</b>	GO – Institute	GO	No	both	1	No	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	Free	Paid	shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>EURING Associate Members</b>																		
<b>Israel [ILT]</b>	GO – other	GO	No	-		Yes	Yes			Yes	RS	Paid	Paid**	Paid	RS/shared	Yes	RS	Free
<b>Other Schemes</b>																		
<b>USA</b>	GO – other	GO	Yes	spp	3	Yes	Yes	-	-	No (Yes)	RG	Paid	Free	Paid	host inst.	Yes	Freely available	Free

\* Different applications for a single species, group of species and all species or special application for sensitive/rare species and bird colonies or different projects

\*\* For CES-projects the rings/mist-nets (all or at least part of them) are provided for free.

(...) – not regularly.

Compiled by: Boris Nikolov (Sofia Ringing Scheme) – update: September 21, 2015

**Albania [ABT]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	RS itself.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No licenses.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	No licenses.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	No licenses.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No license grades.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Training period with experienced ringer is required prior to independent ringing.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringing courses.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Ringing data belong to the scheme
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other	Yes. RS decides.

institutions/organisations as well?	
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

### Belgium [BLB]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Scientific Institute
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Regional Ministry of Environment
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Internal control throughout ringing group leaders, external control via regional inspectorates.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	RS has to report annually to the regional ministries about objectives, activities and numbers of bird ringed per species (pu vs FG). The application sensu stricto lists the name and address of the ringers for whom a licence is asked.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	One year
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Three levels: <u>nestling permits</u> allows to ring nestlings and make illegal the use or possession of catching material (nets etc), <u>catching permit</u> for ringing every species (within working procedure) allows the use of catching material, <u>specific permit</u> corresponds to a catching permit but for max 3 coherent species within a study protocol.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	A candidate for a nestling permit must: 1) be integrated in a ringing group, 2) satisfy a stage period of minimum 2 years within the ringing group, 3) be positively evaluated on practical and ethical aspects by his ringing group leader at the end of the stage, 4) be successful in the presentation of a written (circa 20 pages questions) & practical (circa 50 study skins) exam organized at the Institute (1 session/year). A candidate for a catching permit must first be holder of a nestling permit and then satisfy to the 4 criteria for a nestling permit. A candidate for a specific permit must satisfy to the 4 criteria for a nestling permit except that the stage period is 1 year minimum. The structure of the exams are similar for every level but with an increasing level of exigence between nestling and catching permits. An ad hoc procedure is published.

<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Training is continuous within ringing groups during stage period and may be considered as ringing courses
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No, they are free.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Not directly but a fee is asked according to permit level whatever the number of birds ringed
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringing equipment is paid by the ringers
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data belong to the Institute but ringers are authorized (en encouraged) to use freely their own data in a non-commercial use.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. The application is evaluated at the Institute level on basis of the application document.

### **Bulgaria [BGS]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Institute
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Local MoEW subdivisions – Regional Inspectorates, perform control locally. They should be informed about the ringing activities in advance.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	When applying for licences, rough estimates of the bird numbers & species expected to be caught, as well as ringers' personal data should be provided.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually or every second year.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No license grades.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be	It normally takes about two years. Practical training only, no written exam. The opinion of second ringer (trainer) is very important.

ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringing courses.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	In general, all ringing equipment is paid by the ringers. RS often helps in finding the cheapest solutions by arranging coordinated orders or providing lists of recommended delivery companies.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. Few data requests from abroad, none from the country. RS decides about data requests.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are free.

### Channel Islands [CIJ]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Museum. However, all work is done by volunteers.
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Licences are issued by CIJ but a covering letter from the relevant States Authorities in Jersey and Guernsey is needed to allow ringers to have exemption from the bird protection laws.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No

When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Permits are issued to qualified and trainee ringers on receipt of the relevant application form and fee.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. Two grades of ringing permits: (1) full and (2) trainee; on the full permit - three endorsements a) to ring fledged birds; b) to use mist nets and c) to ring pulli.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	It normally takes about two years. Practical training only, no written exam. The opinion of second ringer (trainer) is very important.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringing courses.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are paid by the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	All ringing equipment is paid by the ringers.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	So far no data requests from abroad. If the administrators are uncertain about any request we would consult a informal committee or seek advice from the BTO or EURING.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Paid (costs covering data extraction only).

### Croatia [HRZ]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO –	GO (Public institution – department of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts)
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Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Ringling licenses are issued by the RS but a covering letter from the relevant Government Ministry is needed to allow the RS to organise and manage the bird ringling and to have exemption from the bird protection laws.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No
When applying for a ringling license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	A candidate needs a recommendation from at least one experienced ringer and a vouch of experience that meet requested minimal conditions (time spent on ringling, diversity of habitats in which it was performed and number of manipulated birds under supervision). A person that keeps in captivity Croatian native bird species can not become a ringer (list of bird breeders is available in the database administrated by the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection).
How long the bird ringling license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Licenses are renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringling licenses – for example ringling only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No. Exceptionally, a few single-species-licenses have been issued in the past for a scientific research of a single species.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringling licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	To access a bird ringling examination, a candidate must have spent a min. 30 days within min. two years in bird ringling under supervision of, at least one but preferably more, licensed ringer/s. Participation in a ringling camp and ringling in different habitats is advised. A candidate has to pass the ringling examination in front of the 5 members of board composed of RS staff and a representative of the relevant Ministry. Exam, organised by the RS annually, consists of the practical and theoretical section. In practical section a candidate demonstrates knowledge of birds’ trapping and manipulation in the field. In theoretical section a candidate demonstrates knowledge of nature protection laws, bird ringling regulations (like specific rules for ringling colonial species, endangered species etc.), ringling ethics, ringling and recovery reports, organisation of the Croatian ringling scheme and ringling in Europe. Each candidate is required to accurately identify all bird species from a sample of 30 selected bird skins in order to demonstrate the skill of identifying species of the Croatian bird fauna.
<b>Bird ringling courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringling groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringling courses yet.



Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	-
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	No. RS covers the cost of the metal rings.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringing equipment is paid by the ringers. Rulers have been donated to ringers to encourage measuring (of wing length).
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Ringing data are owned by the RS or shared.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	In the case of a data request, a decision is made by the RS staff or in consultation with the ringer/s that share the property of the data.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	RS decides. In general, for scientific and educational purposes data are free, for commercial use a payment is requested.

### Cyprus [CYC]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	BirdLife Cyprus
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	The permit must maintain minimum number processed each year.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There are 3 grades: (1) Full – All species. Some conditions may apply e.g Specially protected birds according to national legislations/use of banned methods. (2) Restricted – Only named species. (3) Trainee – Must be under the supervision of a licensed ringer.

How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Candidate needs to ring minimum total and number of species. No theoretical exams at present.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringing courses.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS decides about data requests.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Paid for commercial organisations only.

### Czech Republic [CZP]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Museum
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Ringing scheme issues individual permits to ringers under a license from the Ministry of Environment
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Yes, staff of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate.

When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Bird species must be mentioned in the application. RS reports the number of permits and the number of birds ringed to the Ministry of Environment annually.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. (1) General licence (2 years of supervised field work, take a part of ringing course and both of field and theoretical exam is needed). (2) Student licence. Only ringing of certain species or group of species (e.g. Tits in nestboxes) is possible under supervision of teacher/experienced ringer. Only theoretical exam is needed.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Two years of supervised field work (ringing with experienced ringer nominated by RS) is needed. In this period, newcomer must take a part of 5-days field course organized by RS, ended by theoretical and field exam.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Ringling course is organized by RS only.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Five-days course are free, except travel costs, food and accomodation.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Yes, ringers pay for rings, but the rings used on CES, RAS and ringing of target species are free to stimulate participation in projects.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for equipment. However, ringers on CES project receive 1-2 mistnets annually.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is property of ringers and National Museum.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS decides to release data for requests.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	No

**Denmark [DKC]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – University institute/museum
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	RS issues individual permits to ringers under a license from the Nature Agency.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Documented experience, aim and planned activities, species and numbers.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Renewed every year
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Three categories: A – responsible for ringing and reporting B – responsible for ringing but not with own rings C – individual ringing allowed but A/B ringer responsible X – trainee; only ringing under direct supervision of A/B ringer Regarding species: any combination allowed.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Depends on species and capture methods. Typical C license approx. one field season. B license: two-three field seasons (500-1000 birds handled individually). A license: several seasons as B ringer. No exams. Written evaluations from A/B ringers. One for C license, two for B/A license.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Ringing group with assistance from RS.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Supported by RG. Participants pay for food and transport.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Paid by RS.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Paid by ringer.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Host institution (University) and Nature Agency
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad?	Requests of data for analyses based exclusively on Danish data handled by RS.

If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Otherwise referred to EURING. RS decides whether to release data on behalf of host institution and Nature Agency. In principle, data are open access but conditions such as ongoing investigations and sensitive data are taken into account
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Normally free. Commercial requests handled on a case-by-case basis.

### Estonia [ETM]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO (Estonian Environment Agency).
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Estonian Environmental Board within the Ministry of Environment
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Environmental Inspectorate perform control of the bird ringing activities
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Bird species and approximate number, as well as the ringing place and ringing equipment must be mentioned in the application.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	The ringing permit can last up to 10 years.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No special grades but different applications for a single species, group of species and all species; special application for sensitive/rare species and bird colonies.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Practical ringing under supervision of a second ringer (trainer).
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Under development (will be organised in the RS and the stations).
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses yet, but they are planned to be free. Ringers will have to pay for transport, meals and accommodation only.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.

Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS decides about data requests.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	No, they are free.

### Finland [SFH]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Museum
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	The ringing licences are issued by (1) Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (protected species) and (2) Finnish Wildlife Agency (game species).
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	The RS needs to report of the use of permits to abovementioned regional authorities once a year.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Bird species and approximate numbers must be mentioned in the application.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	The ringing permit lasts 5 years.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There are six grades (incl. bats): (1) General license - a permit for all projects, all bird species, all age classes and catching the individuals with all legal catching methods (however, extensive mist netting always needs SFH's allowance). (2) License to ring at bird observatories. (3) License to ring at specific monitoring projects (e.g. CES). (4) License to ring nestlings and their parents. (5) License to ring specific groups of birds (e.g. birds of prey). (6) License to ring bats.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird	The trainee needs to pass a species identification test and show certificate of practicing with experienced ringer(s). Usually it goes from the bottom to the top, but also exceptions are possible, e.g. bird station ringers have quite often trained

ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	enough to be graded directly as bird station ringers. In order to ring nestlings, the candidate has to pass a basic species identification test that includes 30 samples (museum skin specimens). They need to be identified to the species level. Misidentification leads to -6 points, and an empty answer to -3 points. To pass the test, the candidate should not have more than -6 points. For ringing in monitoring projects and at bird observatories, the candidate needs to pass a more demanding test in which also the sex and the age of the bird must be identified whenever possible. The limit of acceptance is -10 points (wrong species -6, empty species -3, wrong sex/age -3, empty sex/age -1).
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Only few bird ringing courses, usually organised by the staff of local universities.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Mostly free of charge.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data belongs to the institution, but the ringer has the right to use his/her own data.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS staff or the Head of the RS decides about them.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data are free for scientific purposes and paid for commercial use.

### France [FRP]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Museum
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	French Museum (CRBPO i.e. RS) is allowed to issue ringing licenses, delegated by

	the Ministry of Environment.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Bird species and approximate numbers must be mentioned in the application. However, in order to renew CRBPO habilitation to issue ringing licenses, a report is presented to the Ministry of environment every 4 years.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	The ringing permit lasts 5 years but is renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes, with a special exam is requested for waders. There are two grades: (1) Generalist (G) - all bird species; (2) Specialist (S) - one or few species, but only as part of a special research program (PP).
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	No duration is required, but 2 years are usually recommended. (1.) S : variable according the PP: exams or supervision of licensed ringers. (2) G : By exam. two phases: (2.1.) Theoretical training session (in Paris) for 2 days. (2.2.) Practical training session for 5 days with 4 trainees max. Each trainee is autonomous. He have a place to ring, the material to ring; and we control his abilities to ring following two major criteria: bird safety and data quality. But to access at the former session, the candidate have to fill a training book (validated by licensed ringers). More info onto website (in French) : <a href="http://www2.mnhn.fr/crbpo/spip.php?rubrique29">http://www2.mnhn.fr/crbpo/spip.php?rubrique29</a>
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Theoretical training session (in Paris) for 2 days. Practical training session in different parts of the country (field organisation is not under RS's responsibilities).
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Theoretical & practical training session are free of charge. Ringers pay for transport, meals and accommodation.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment. Except for CES-projects, where the RS purchases the mist-nets.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS. Data from PP - property of the responsible of the program (but we have to receive the data, but we are not allowed to use them or analyse them).
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other	Yes. The RS decides about data requests. If major part of the data comes from one ringer, he is asked about it. Data from PP: - not allowed to release unless the



institutions/organisations as well?	responsible person agrees on that.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	In general, data requests are free.

### Germany (Helgoland) [DEW]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Institute
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Nature conservation administration (highest authority for this is the Bundesland).
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Data of the ringer, area, permit can be restricted to specific species or catching methods
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Normally 4 years. First permit 2 years.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No grades.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	At least 2 years. First the trainee must learn from a ringer with experience or at a ringing station for at least two years. Then participate on the ringing course given by the RS. The course takes one week with theoretical and practical units. There is no exam but the skill of the trainee is evaluated
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	The obligatory ringer course is only organized by the RS.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Ringing courses organised by the RS are free but ringers have to pay for transport, meals and accommodation.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.

<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	The rings are property of RS and one of the rules to use them is the complete handing over of all ringing data. RS declares that data of still active groups or individuals will not be used against the will of these groups unless these data are only a smaller part of a large scale analysis.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. It is only the ringing scheme and – in cases where the data request mainly concerns data of one group or one ringer – of this group(s) or ringer(s).
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

### Germany (Hiddensee) [DEH]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO (other?)
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Nature conservation authorities of federal states.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	RS has to report annually to the ministries of the five east German federal states about numbers of bird ringed per species and how the targets of ringing programs on different levels were reached. There are: a) 16 official centrally organised ringing programs on international or nationwide level; b) ringing programs organised on state level; and c) ringing programs on regional or local level. Ringers have to provide the following information to get their permits: (1) which species (one or more) they want to ring, (2) if ringing is planned to be within the frame of a centrally organised ringing programs, if not, for what reasons/targets ringing is performed, (3) where are the birds caught and ringed (description of site), (4) by which methods the birds are caught, (5) for which time period the program will be run, (6) how many persons/ringers are engaged in the program, (7) which kind of own data analyses are planned and when results are presented.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders,	Ringling permits can be restricted to specific groups of birds only - like raptors and

only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	owls.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them ("below to top") or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	There is a ringers' course, which has to be passed successfully before a person can apply for a license. To the ringers courses only people are invited who at least one year worked as a helper of an experienced ringers. A personal recommendation from this ringer is necessary. During the ringers courses the candidates are generally checked for their skills in bird catching, handling, measuring, ringing. Beside this theoretical questions relevant for ringers are raised (e.g. nature conservation law) and technical aspects of data assessing, handling and submitting to the RC. Knowledge on bird determination in the hand (species, sex, age) is examined at a catching site with living birds and additionally with a collection of museum skins.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	The bird ringing courses are organised by RS only.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Generally they are free of charge.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data belong to the institution, where the RS is based.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. The Head of the RS decides about data requests.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Only when data are requested for commercial purposes a fee (for elaborating the data, not for the data themselves) has to be paid.

**Germany (Radolfzell) [DER]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Institute
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Nature conservation administration (highest authority for this is the Bundesland).
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Holders of a license have to briefly report once every year or every second year their activities to the authorities, some Bundesländer also want to receive the ringing totals (not the ringing data or recovery data). Generally all authorities rely on the direct supervision of the ringing scheme.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Species yes, and the permit will be restricted to these. Numbers no. A special research question (or research project) must be defined and the permit is only restricted to this project.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Normally 2, 3 or 5 years. If possible after the second renewal RS wants to receive an unlimited permit “restricted to the time of cooperation with the RS”.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	All licenses are bound to species or species groups.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Normally it takes 2-3 years, but not necessarily. All ringers have to pass a theoretical course with exam (1 weekend). All ringers also have to show sufficient experience through either several weeks of work at a ringing station (with informal report of the head of the station to the ringing centre) or through work with a mentor (experienced ringer).
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	The basic obligatory ringer course is only organized by the ringing scheme, sometimes abroad from the institute and then in cooperation with a local conservation or university group. There are more courses available about data analysis, trapping methods etc. and these are organized by either the ringing scheme or other groups.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Ringing courses organised by the RS are free but ringers have to pay for transport, meals and accommodation. Courses by “Pro Ring” are under the same conditions for “Pro Ring” members, but non-members have to pay a moderate participation fee.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	In general, ringers pay for their own equipment. However, if the ringers directly work for a genuine project of the institute where the RS is based, RS provides the

	material for free. In most cases not, but RS assists in finding the cheapest solutions by arranging coordinated orders or providing lists of recommended delivery companies.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	The rings are property of RS and one of the rules to use them is the complete handing over of all ringing data. Further, RS supports applications for ringer's licenses only when RS receives all recoveries. In return RS declares that data of still active groups or individuals will not be used against the will of these groups unless these data are only a smaller part of a large scale analysis (like a recovery atlas or a 30-year analysis on a larger regional scale).
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. It is only the ringing scheme and – in cases where the data request mainly concerns data of one group or one ringer – of this group(s) or ringer(s).
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

### Hungary [HGB]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Certification of bird ringing: by Ministry of Rural Development (examination). Licenses: National Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Yes, the territorial nature protection guard can control the bird ringers.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually. The ringing centre applies for licenses of all ringers. This is a very complex documentation.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There are four categories of bird ringing certification: (1) Water birds and waders etc., (2) Raptors (birds of prey and owls) etc., (3) Passeriformes etc. (etc. means that there are a lot of additional species) and (4) Special certification (for example only for one species or genus).

How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Examinees need two experienced recommenders. There are 4 parts of the examination: nature conversation low, species, knowledge of bird ringing and prevention.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringing courses. Training take place at ringing stations and camps.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	The rings are free for projects and ringers. However, the active ringers pay a yearly fee to the Ringing Centre since 2006.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Ringing data belong to the scheme. Some data belong to the scheme and to the large projects.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. HGB releases data only for the requesters from inland (only for academic or nature conservation use). Foreign requesters can use the EURING form. The Board of the HGB decides whether to release the data or not in both cases. The Board - 5 members: two members are delegated by Ministry of Rural Development and two members are delegated by BirdLife Hungary; one member is elected by ringers.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data are free in Hungary.

### Iceland [ISR]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Institute
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	RS itself.

Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No licenses.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Account of experience.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	No limit.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No license grades.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Training period with experienced ringer is required prior to independent ringing. No tests. The teacher decides when ready.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No formal courses but trainees are advised to take part in ringing activities to gain experience.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are not paid by ringers. Sometimes ISR charges for the rings in cases of big projects with external funding.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringing equipment is not provided to ringers.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Ringing data is shared property of ISR and ringers. No special regulations available.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes, mainly from abroad. Decisions are made within a Ringing Committee (based in the same Institute, where ISR is).
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

**Italy [IAB]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Institute ISPRA. ISPRA is wildlife scientific reference institution for Ministry of the Environment, Central and Regional Governments. Ringing Centre at ISPRA foreseen by national wildlife and hunting law, which refers to the Italian Ringing Centre to act as Italian representative within EURING (which is explicitly mentioned in the national law)
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	National Ringing Centre ISPRA issues the technical advice towards Regional Governments, the latter issuing the administrative document allowing ringers to act in the field
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Local Regional and Provincial Inspectorates perform control locally. Very often they require being informed about the ringing activities in advance.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	CV and detailed description of ornithological experience. Since 2015 specific projects required being proposed by applicant, or new ringer joining projects coordinated at national level by Ringing Centre.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are directly renewed every third year by RC, provided a ringer has been active. If not, permit not renewed. Ringers not active for at least 3 years (regardless of their last permit level, i.e. including highest level ringers) are invited to pass again an exam before being allowed to resume their activities.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	There are 3 permit levels (C, lowest, to A, highest). Use of specific traps (e.g., ducks, raptors, waders, etc.) requires specific permit. The same applies to ring chicks (including nest boxes), ringing at colonies, etc. Decoys only allowed for ducks and some waders. No tape lure allowed, if not through a specific license and against a project justifying use.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	It normally takes about 3 years before starting with lowest permit level. Applicant accepted as trainee by Ringing Centre. Trainee to join 2 experienced trainers with highest permit level (A). Must follow them for 2 years; trainees report to RC on field experience gained and propose the trainee to be examined. Practical training hence through trainers. Ringers required to cover all permits, bottom to top. It is however becoming increasingly frequent that, after at least 1 year with lowest level, ringers attend an exam and get directly highest level. Exam based on 20 multiple choice questions on moult strategies, EURING coding, etc., plus 60 wing/plumage slides with questions on diagnostic plumage/moult features and related EURING age coding.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well,	No bird ringing courses organised by RC. Field training of trainee ensured through



which are based in different parts of the country?	direct involvement in activities of 2 A level trainers for 2+ years.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Nets, poles, bags, balances, etc. purchased by ringers. Ringing Centre provides pliers and P8 and max-chord rulers.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and Ringing Centre. Ringing Centre database (EPE) part of wildlife databases at ISPRA. EPE servers recently moved to ISPRA headquarters in Roma in order to ensure best possible infrastructural conditions
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes, mainly from Italy. Possible requests from abroad are redirected towards EDB. RS decides about data requests.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are free.

### Lithuania [LIK]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Museum
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	RS itself.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Species yes, numbers no.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No grades, but species (or groups of species) permitted to ring are listed in the license.

How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them ("below to top") or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Firstly we have conversation (something like to an exam) with a candidate. If a candidate knows birds, birds' biology and ecology he/she quite well he/she must attend bird ringing courses. After that he/she gets a permit to ring birds under the supervision of an experienced (licensed) ringer. When the supervisor (an experienced ringer) decides that a candidate has become a quite qualified ringer, he gets a permission to ring birds (separate species, separate groups of birds or all species) independently.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Bird ringing courses are organized by Ringing Centre and by Bird Ringing Stations as well.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Bird ringing courses are not paid by candidates but they pay living costs (usually – food).
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Ringing data is shared property of RS and ringers
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS decides.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

### Macedonia [MKS]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO (BirdProtection Macedonia)
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	RS itself
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	No.

perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	-
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	-
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	-
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	-
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	RS, NGO
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No, BirdProtection is covering all their expenses
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	No
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	For free
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	RS, NGO
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	No.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	For free

**Malta [MLV]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	MEPA (Malta Environment & Planning Authority) and the Police Commissioner are responsible for issuance of licenses
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No. Once permit is issued there is no actual control but an annual reporting system by the scheme to the authorities. The police can stop and ask for ringing licenses at any time of year.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	RS provides name, address and passport photo of ringer plus sites used for bird ringing.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	It is valid for a year and prior to renewal RS needs to send data list of birds ringed, sites used, recoveries/controls.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No, one type of license only.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Much depends on extent of training but minimum of two years requirement; exams have been introduced in 2010.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringing courses.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No bird ringing courses.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	No. BirdLife Malta pays for the rings; the ringers pay an annual fee of that goes towards covering part of the expenses needed to purchase rings.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	

Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	The RS is run by BirdLife Malta who owns the data.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes, we get EURING data request (and occasionally other requests). The local ringing committee decides.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	At times yes, but rarely – if for commercial organizations then yes, there is a fee.

### Netherlands [NLA]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Institute
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Vogeltrekstation issues individual permits to ringers under a license from the Ministry of Nature, Agriculture and Food quality.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Vogeltrekstation reports the number of active permits and the number of birds ringed to the ministry on an annual basis.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Not necessary, Vogeltrekstation issues the permits.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually on 1 March.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes, but there are no fixed categories. The permit lists the number of projects that the ringer takes part in. For each project, the species or species group is listed, the locality (municipality/ies or province(s) and the project name.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	A candidate becomes a trainee (‘assistent-ringer’) first with a licensed ringer. The licensed ringer is responsible for the training. The licensed ringer informs the RS when the training is completed and the candidate then does a practical exam with a ringer or ring group that has been specifically appointed by us. The examiner reports back in a standard way and the RS decides whether the permit is issued or not. The length of the training depends on the level of knowledge and expertise that is required. The licensed ringer decides when the training is finished, but the RS might ask for a second opinion from another ringer that knows the candidate on order to minimize the risk of failure due to the exam being taken too soon.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well,	No ringing courses yet, but RS organizes c. 10 one-day training courses for licensed

which are based in different parts of the country?	ringers and trainees annually. Licensed ringers need to take part in these courses once every 3 years at least. These days usually have a theme, and can be field courses or theoretical courses or course using skins.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	One-day courses are free, except travel costs.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Yes, ringers pay for rings, but the costs of rings used on CES, RAS and ring-MUS (CES in cities) projects are reimbursed annually to stimulate participation in these projects.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment. However, ringers on ring-MUS receive one mistnet, ringing pliers and colour rings for free. For a special project on effects of artificial light on birds all material and rings are free.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS decides to release data for requests from the EDB or directly to the RS but RS asks permission from individuals ringers or groups when the request relies heavily on the data of a few persons / group.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Yes. RS charges for requests directly done to RS depending on who is asking and what the purpose is. In case of a collaboration data are supplied free of charge, in exchange for co-authorship.

**Poland [PLG]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Institute and Museum
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	RS issues individual permits to ringers under a license from the General Department of Environmental Protection or Ministry of the Environment.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No. RS reports of the number of birds ringed to the General Department of Environmental Protection or Ministry of the Environment on an annual basis.

When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	When applying for licences we provide information about the species of birds to be ringed, the maximum number of ringed birds of each species, and a list of ringers.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Is it renewed every year.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There are three grades: (1) General license - a permit for all bird species; (2) License to ring specific groups of birds (e.g. waders, birds of prey etc.); (3) Licence to one or few species.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	No duration is required. The candidates for ringers have to pass theoretical and practical training session and exams. Theoretical training session (in Gdańsk) takes 4 days. Practical training session at the field station and final exam takes 3-5 days. During the exam student should indicate 40-60 birds belonging to different species. Criteria evaluated are: safety of birds, the accuracy of the species, age and sex of the bird. During the exam student has access to books and other literature.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Bird ringing courses are organized only by RS.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Theoretical and practical training session are free of charge. Ringers pay for transport, meals and accommodation.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Yes.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data belong to the RS and ringers.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS staff or the Head of the RS decides about them.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data are free for scientific purposes.

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – Museum
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Ministry of environment, mining and spatial planning
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No field controls.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	RS provides species estimates (not numbers!), protected areas where ringing activities will be performed, as well as ringers names.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There are 3 grades (not for different birds, but for level of knowledge): (1) Master ringer. Those are well experienced ringers, who have ringed birds for many years (>10). (2) Independent ringers: They are allowed to get rings from the RS but for two years from passing exam they are obliged to have mentor who will be informed every time when the B-holder goes out in the field to ring birds. It is not necessary for mentor to go every time with him but is desirable from time to time at least, so that he can get insight of the B-holder progress. (3) Trainee: capable of bird ID and extracting birds from the nets, but still have not passed the exam. They can only ring with A-holders.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Usually several years. Both practical and theoretical exams are performed. Practical: at a ringing camp (live birds) and at the Museum (15 skins; 3 mistakes are allowed, as well as usage of books & guides). Theoretical: 3 questions related to bird protection, recoveries, obligations and duties of a ringer, biometrics of birds etc.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Bird ringing course is organized by NGO in coordination with RS, once per year, at the same locality.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Yes, the course is paid by each candidate. He/she has to spend at least a week. The fee includes everything: food, accommodation, use of equipment, supervision of a licensed ringer.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.



<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes (from abroad - EDB). RS decides.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

### Slovakia [SKB]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Common permission for organisation is issued by Ministry of Environment (MoE). Special permissions for individual researchers or other institutions are also issued by MoE.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Theoretically yes, the State Nature Conservation and Slovak inspection of environment (GOs) can control the bird ringers. But practically the control is concentrated on the documents and reports.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Reasons (based on the law), skilled background, ringers' personal data.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Common permits for SOS/BL Slovakia are renewed in 3-7 years period. Other special permits are renewed individually
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. The categories are not clearly specified, they depend on the threatening and on the view of the Ministry of Environment. Common permission is issued for the most bird species, special permission is issued for some species of raptors, owls, herons ...
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	The new ringer should have experience from the field work (under supervision skilled ringer), knowledge of nature conversation low, species, knowledge of bird ringing. There is not established exact period for training. There is a theoretical exam with commission. Field exams are not always performed. There are not different grades for common permission. From the common permission is excluded ringing of chosen species at nests, and in colonies where special permission is

	needed.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Training takes place at ringing places (CES, SEEN ...) and camps in different parts of country.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No such bird ringing courses. Ringing and trainings of candidates are organised mostly on voluntary basis.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	In general, all rings are paid by the ringers. In some cases, thanks to the projects, ringers can ask for the free rings (or with the discount).
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	In general, all ringing equipment is paid by the ringers. In some cases, thanks to the projects, ringers can use mist-nets or other equipment free .
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Ringling data belong to ringers. RS or somebody else can publish data only with ringers' allowance.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes, sometimes. RS and all organisation can freely use data (without special agreement with the ringer) only for non commercial use e.g. nature protection or research summaries . The decision about releasing of data is made by the director or chairmen under special rules after consultation with the chief of RS.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Not yet (non commercial).

### Spain (Madrid) [ES!]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	The general license is given by the Ministry of Environment, and each local administration also issues another local license. To ring in Spain it is mandatory to have both ringing permits.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No. The NGO (SEO/BirdLife) controls the field activities by checking all the data each year: checking that ringers use the adequate ring models/sizes, the species they have permit for, etc.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be	It depends on the local administration. Apart from the personal (ringers) data, for

presented?	special ringing licenses a complete project description is needed, also for the specific ringers.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Both licenses (national and local) are renewed each year, although there are some exceptions in some local regions.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Two categories: (1) Expert ringers can ring all species. (2) Specific ringers are restricted to ring only one species or family or genus and operate within a specific project, specific ringers need to be endorsed by an expert ringer for specific projects.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Expert ringers need to pass an exam after at least 2 years of training with different ringers. The applicant needs the support of an expert ringer in order to be qualified to sit the exam. Exams take place twice a year (June and December) and include theory and a field test. Both exams need to be passed to become an expert ringer.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	The courses are organized by both RS office and (mainly) ringing groups.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Yes, ringing courses are paid. The fee is variable and depends on the course program.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers, Ministry of Environment and the NGO.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. A Board formed by different staff decides about each request.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

**Spain (San Sebastian) [ESA]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	NGO
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	In Spain the ringer must have two licenses: one is given by the scheme Aranzadi-San Sebastian (ESA) or Icona Madrid (ESI) and the other one - by the local administration.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No, the Ministry only has and utilizes data of the rings from Icona-Madrid
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	It depends on the local administration: some ask for the bird numbers expected to be caught and ringed, as well the bird species or the data when they are expected to be caught; others ask for a project, and still others only ask for the license given by the RS
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Permits are renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Two grades: (1) Expert ringer, who can ring every bird. (2) Specific ringer, who can only ring one species of bird (no more than two), one expert ringer must endorse him and he has to justify the ringing activity by a project.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	To become an expert ringer 60 ringing sessions or more are needed, 1500 birds ringed of 60 species (no more than 100 birds for species) and expert ringer must endorse the candidate. The exam consist on two parts: (1) 17 photos (11 Passeriformes, 2 raptors, 2 waders, 2 birds of other species) to ID species, age and sex. (2) Theoretical questions related to bird ringing licences and RS rules. To pass the exam one needs at least 75% correct answers.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Yes, the courses are organized by RS office and ringing groups as well.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	If the course is organized by the RS they are always free, but if ringing group organizes the course de ringer group is who decide the tax price.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS/institution.

Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS decides.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

### Sweden [SVS]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	Swedish Museum of Natural History (GO)
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	RS at the Swedish Museum of Natural History (regulated in the hunting law)
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	Not on a regular basis.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	A project plan or a description of ringing activity.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Yes, renewed every year.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes, but this refers to what the ringer has applied for. All licenses are restricted to a geographical area.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Differs very much, but we have a system where a private ringer can have licensed helpers. In most cases a new license is based on a recommendation from a ringer or a bird observatory (normally one that has acted as a teacher). Some ringers only have permission to ring nestlings. The bird observatories apply for licenses for ringers and are responsible for that they have the skills needed to perform the work conducted at the bird observatory in question. Many private ringers licensed lately have been trained at bird observatories. We do not have exams.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	No bird ringing courses are arranged by RS. At some occasions ringing courses are arranged by bird observatories.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Differs between courses, but normally the candidates pay at least for the food.

<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers (except for a few project that pay for costly rings).
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringing equipment is not provided to ringers.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Ringing data is owned by the RS. To collect morphometrics is optional and the RS has decided not to use such data unless the ringer has agreed or the data is older than five years.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes, but mainly from our country. If a request includes other countries as well they are recommended to contact EDB. It is decided by the head of the scheme.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are free of charge.

### Switzerland [HES]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	Institute
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) under the expertise of the RS (RS does the license, they sign it).
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No official control in the field from the RS. RS takes however measures if it is aware of important violation of the rules.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Licenses are tied to projects. The description of projects has to mention beyond its target, how the birds will be caught, and what species it concerns. Some projects are not tied to a limited number of species. Ringers working in such project have a special license. A ringer committee decide if a project is agreed (with modifications or as such) or not.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	The license is renewed every year, mostly without that the ringer has to justify it. RS sends them a form where they can just choose “the project will continue next year”.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There are three grades: (1) A. For all species; (2) B. For a limited set of species (mostly for populations studies); (3) C. For injured birds.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both	We have a very minimalistic strategy. Candidates have to practice with experienced

theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	ringers in their regular activities (no training is organized) and the signature of this experienced ringer suit in itself. Ringers who want to collaborate in project where all species might be caught have to make an exam where they have to recognize stuffed birds to the species level. Candidates for the license C will do the same, but only with raptors and owl as only those species are allowed to be ringed as cured bird. This way to do is at the moment not sufficient and some changes are expected.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	At the moment only data entering course. More global courses are planned from 2016.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment, except for some project of the Swiss ornithological institute (which hosts the ringing scheme) where volunteers are involved.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers and RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. Such decisions are mostly made by the head of scheme alone. Other persons might be consulted as well.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Most of the queries come from the contributors themselves (mostly ringers). They are of course free for them. Costs for commercial uses are foreseen. Usually, such queries of recoveries are of international level and are redirected to EURING.

### Turkey [TUA]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – The Ministry of Forestry and Water Issue, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	

Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	The Ministry of Forestry and Water Issue, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	The candidates have to fulfil these requirements: (1) Have to take part to the “Ringers Course” and have to pass the theoretical exam. (2) Have to report that they have sufficient expertise. After getting expertise, have to ring 500 birds from 35 species under supervision of a qualified licensed ringer. (3) Have to submit reference letter from 2 qualified ringers from active ringing stations. After receiving the license, for each research study or ringing activity an application for a permit to the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks has to be done every year. A submission of a proposal about the ringing project has to be performed. The proposal has to contain information about target species, numbers, capture technique, project duration, study site, project team, marking technique (ringing, wing tag, GSM/GSM, radio transmitters etc). Beside ringing if the captured birds will be sampled for feathers, ectoparasites, blood etc.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	There is no time limitation.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There is a “mist-netting license” where people receive the license where they have permit to ring all birds captured with mist-nets. For different methods and for ringing of nestlings there are different kind of “special license” maximum for three species.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	The duration of becoming a ringer depends on the person. People good in bird identification and have problems of ageing and sexing have to participate at least three weeks each season to gain practice in ageing, sexing and measuring. If the person is even new in bird identification it takes much more time. After people are ready to get the license they have to ring 500 birds from 30 species under supervision of a ringer. There is only a theoretical exam, after a four day course. Only people passing this exam can have the license.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	The RS is organizing the course at an active ringing station in cooperation with a ringing station, institution.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	They have to pay for accommodation and transport.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	



Are rings paid by the ringers?	No. Since the beginning of 2015 the rings are for free.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Each institution or ringing station is buying its own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Every stations ringer(s) own their data. Each station submits a report every six month to the RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	We get data request from both. Every station or institution itself is responsible for data sharing, using. But all institutions/stations are responsible to inform the RS about the used ring codes, the bird numbers and species that have been ringed.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid

#### UK & Ireland [GBT]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	other
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Government conservation agencies in each country.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	We are given licenses that allow us to issue permits to our ringers.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	None, but we send a copy of our report each year.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Generally one year, but we have had a license for England for 3 years.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. Two broad types: (1) General - in which the ringer is free to ring all species subject to prohibitions in force at the time and the rules of the Ringing Scheme. (2) Specific - in which the ringer defines a special field of interest and seeks only to ring those species or groups of birds, or areas, specified. Within this framework there are three grades of permit, 'T', 'C' and 'A': 'T' Permit Someone who has formally started to train as a ringer and has officially registered and obtained a 'T' permit. 'C' Permit A conditional grade recognising the holder as sufficiently competent to work alone but requiring more practice and wider experience before being ready to operate entirely independently. The permit holder remains under the absolute authority of a trainer (see below). 'A' Permit Allows the permit holder to operate entirely

	independently. They can order rings in their own name, are responsible for submitting the relevant ringing data and are required to submit annual ringing totals to account for their personal rings.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them ("below to top") or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	At least a year for a general permit so that they see birds at different times of year to understand how the plumage changes. • No theoretical exams – but field session. For "C" they can be approved by just their trainer. For "A" they have to be seen by another trainer as well – one that they do not usually ring with. There is at least a year between getting a "C" permit and getting an "A" permit.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Organized and run by various ringers and groups around the country with advice from the office and a staff member attending most courses.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Yes – price is very variable depending on the group running the course, the quality of the accommodation and how food is provided. The ringers running the courses give their time for free and there is no charge for the time of the staff member attending a course.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are paid by the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	All ringing equipment is paid by the ringers.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Shared by RS, conservation agencies for some where they provide some funding and ringers.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes. RS decides what to release, but if a single ringer or group has generated a substantial minority of the data (around 20%), then we ask their permission before releasing the data.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Yes, with higher charges for commercial organisations and no charge for volunteer ringers.

### Ukraine [UKK]

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO (Institute of Zoology, Academy of sciences).
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	

Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Ministry of ecology
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	No. They haven't enough qualification
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	The information about of the bird species and numbers expected to be caught.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Renewed annually.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	No.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Our candidates have no the certain terms. All depends on knowledge of the candidate.
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	Various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	No.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	No.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	All ringing equipment is paid by the ringers.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data is shared property of ringers (5 years after ringing) and RS.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Yes.  RS decides what to release, but if recoveries are received less than 5 years after ringing we ask permission of ringers before releasing the data.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

**Israel [ILT]**

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – other
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	Nature Reserves and Parks Authority (NPA)
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	IBRC was designated as the body supervising ringing activities for the NPA, not NPA itself, apart for licensing.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	The ringers are not expected to work according to a pre-defined plan, though this is I place especially for the ringing stations.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	Yes. There 3 grades. Highest level – A -5 years, B – 3 years, C – 2 years
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	Three levels: C-trainee, cannot ring without direct supervision, B – independent, needs A ringer as supervisor, A – fully independent, can train other ringers and issue permit applications for trainees
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	By IBRC (the RS) and also by a few other ringers, most of whom also work for SPNI which IBRC is part of.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	Bird ringing courses are usually introductory, last two days and are paid for.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Yes. Only rings for CES projects are given for free.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	Ringers pay for their own equipment.
<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	Data owned by IBRC. Specific data requires the ringers permission (eg. biometrics for scientific publication)

Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	Not very often, IBRC decides.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	Data requests are not paid.

## USA

Where the Ringing Scheme (RS) is based: Governmental Organisation (GO – Institute, Museum, other), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), other	GO – other
<b>Bird ringing licenses &amp; exams</b>	
Institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses	United States Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) is responsible for issuing ringing permits for anyone wishing to band birds within the USA and its territories.
Does the institution/organisation responsible for issuing the bird ringing licenses perform field control of the bird ringing activities? If yes, how?	The BBL is a program within the US Department of the Interior. International bird conservation treaties and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act mandate that the regulation of bird ringing is a responsibility of the US government. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act provides the legal basis for issuing ringing permits and regulating the activities of ringers within the USA. Enforcement of the ringing regulations is also a responsibility of the US government.
When applying for a ringing license what kind of information it is necessary to be presented?	Applications for US ringing permits require submission of proposals describing the proposed ringing projects. These proposals describe the species that will be ringed or marked, the capture techniques, the type of auxiliary markers and attachment methods, the objectives of the research, the duration and location of the projects, and any other relevant information. When new authorizations are requested for a ringing permit, a new proposal must be submitted to support the need for these authorizations.
How long the bird ringing license lasts? Is it renewed every year?	Most BBL ringing permits last for 3 years.
Are there different grades of bird ringing licenses – for example ringing only waders, only birds of prey, all bird species etc.? If yes, please provide the categories with a short description for each of them.	There are two levels of permit categories: (1) Master permit that allows the ringer to conduct their approved ringing projects and a (2) Subpermit that allows experienced trainees to assist a Master permittee with their ringing project. Inexperienced ringers are not allowed to work independently and must be directly supervised by a permitted ringer at all times. BBL ringing permits specify the species or groups of species that each ringer is authorized to ring. Some permits are issued for only a single species, while most permits are currently issued for a group of

	species (such as waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, or passerines). At this time, the BBL issues very few permits allowing ringers to work with all species of birds, although this was a common practice in the past.
How long does it take a candidate to become a ringer? Does he/she cover both theoretical and practical exams, or simply a certain number of birds is needed to be ringed under the supervision of licensed ringers? In case of different grades of bird ringing licenses, does the ringer need to cover all of them (“below to top”) or he/she can cover the highest level at once? Are there separate/different exams for each level? Please provide short information about the exam(s).	<p>There is no formal examination process required for a ringing permit in the USA. Permits are issued based on a subjective assessment of the applicant’s previous banding experiences with the requested species or group of birds. This assessment is based on the species and number of birds they have previously handled and written letters of recommendation from permitted Master ringers who are personally familiar with the applicant. The BBL provides general guidelines regarding banding experience qualifications expected for Master ringers, but each application is unique and assessed based on the specific qualifications of the applicant. The length of time required to obtain a Master permit depends upon a number of factors. Someone who wants to ring only a single species could become qualified in 3-6 months of intensive training, while someone who wants to ring a large number of species such as all passerines would require a minimum of 2-3 years of fairly intensive banding training. Species with specialized ringing requirements, such as hummingbirds, require a general ringing background before they would start the training to band those species.</p> <p>A ringer does not need to work through the various grades of permits before obtaining a Master permit from the BBL. Many ringers work as subpermittees under a Master ringer, frequently for many years, before they obtain their owner permit. But some ringers make the jump from an unpermitted assistant to a Master ringer without possessing a subpermit.</p>
<b>Bird ringing courses</b>	
Are they organised by the main RS office only, or by various ringing groups as well, which are based in different parts of the country?	In the USA, the BBL does not currently offer any ringing courses. There are a few structured ringing courses offered in the USA by a few ringing groups, but these opportunities are fairly limited. Most ringers are trained through direct experience working with a permitted Master ringer.
Are the courses paid by the candidates? If yes, what they pay for – everything necessary (accommodation, food, transport, use of equipment) or just for any of these (please indicate which)?	The candidate is responsible for paying all costs associated with any ringing course. The prices vary depending on geographic location and the length of the course, but in general, are in the range of \$400-800US for a week-long training course, which may include accommodation but not food or transportation to the course.
<b>Bird rings &amp; equipment</b>	
Are rings paid by the ringers?	Rings are free for the ringers.
Is ringing equipment (mist-nets, calipers, rulers, scales) paid by the ringers or is given to them for free?	All ringing equipment is paid by the ringers.

<b>Bird ringing data</b>	
Who owns the ringing data? Is it shared property of the ringers and the relevant RS, or data belong to the institution/organisation, where the ringing scheme is based?	In the USA, all data stored in Federal government databases is freely available to the public. The BBL requests that data users obtain permission if the requester is using large quantities of data from an individual ringer, but the data are freely available upon request.
Do you get data requests – from your country or from abroad? If yes, who decides whether to release the data or not – is it only the staff from the RS or a larger body (board), consisted of members from other institutions/organisations as well?	The BBL normally answers 150-200 data requests annually. Most requests are from US citizens, but we also receive requests from outside of the USA. As indicated above, US government policy is that these data are freely data to anyone upon request. The BBL does withhold some location information for a small number of sensitive species, but the entire banding records are provided for these requests.
Are data requests paid? If yes, is it for all or just for some cases like requests from commercial organisations etc.?	The BBL data are available at no charge to the requester.