



Summary Report of the Roundtables for the European Region at Apimondia Congress 2025, Copenhagen

The Apimondia Congress is not only a platform for sharing scientific knowledge and presenting innovations in beekeeping; it is also a unique opportunity for networking among people who share a passion for bees. The event provides a space where long-standing professional relationships are renewed and new collaborations begin.

During the 2025 Apimondia Congress in Copenhagen, beekeepers and representatives of beekeeping associations from almost every European country had the opportunity to meet and exchange experiences. Many visitors explored the results of European research initiatives, including projects such as BetterB, B-THENET, BeeGuards, and INSIGNIA EU, while others visited the Honey Bar to compare the flavours of more than one hundred European honeys.

Several workshops focusing on European beekeeping were organised during the congress. Among them were presentations of European scientific projects and discussions addressing honey fraud and analytical methods that are increasingly relevant to European beekeeping organisations.

“European Day” at Apimondia

Friday, 26 September, was dedicated to European beekeeping. Alongside workshops and the “World Café” on resilient beekeeping, two roundtables focusing on European beekeeping in EU and Non-EU Countries.

Together, European beekeepers form a very large community, representing more than one million beekeepers managing approximately 30 million bee colonies.

The discussions highlighted several key challenges and perspectives for the future of European beekeeping:

- **Pests and diseases:** approaches to treatment and prevention, invasive species, colony losses, reduced immunity, and queen health problems.
- **Changes in land use:** impacts on bee nutrition, climate change, corporate land ownership, and the influence of the EU Common Agricultural Policy.



- **Pesticides and contaminants:** the effects of agrochemicals, monocultures, and the importance of good agricultural practices.
- **Honey market:** honey adulteration, declining profitability of beekeeping operations, low honey prices, and market volatility.
- **Education and research:** involvement of young beekeepers, strengthening research and extension activities, and improving cooperation between Western and Eastern Europe.

Roundtable 1: Beekeeping in EU Countries

During the first roundtable, major European beekeeping organisations presented their activities and achievements:

- Noa Simon Delso presented the activities of Bee Life.
- Bernhard Heuvel introduced the work of the European Professional Beekeepers Association (EPBA).
- Giovanni Formato presented the activities of the European Beekeeping Association (EBA).
- Sebastian Spiewok and Torsten Ellmann presented German beekeeping projects and introduced Germany as the host country of the next Apimondia Congress to be held in Europe in four years.

Roundtable 2: Beekeeping in Non-EU Countries and Central Asia

The second roundtable focused on beekeeping in non-EU countries and Central Asia. The session was also translated into Russian to facilitate broader participation. National perspectives were presented by representatives from Ukraine, Türkiye, Kazakhstan, and Moldova, highlighting regional challenges and opportunities for cooperation.

Meeting on Funding Opportunities

On Thursday, 25 September, an additional meeting was organised in cooperation with the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. During this session, several FAO projects related



to beekeeping were presented, and participants discussed potential funding opportunities for both EU and non-EU countries.

Possible funding sources highlighted during the discussion included:

- **Horizon Europe**, particularly calls within Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment), but these calls are highly competitive and usually require large international consortia aligned with EU strategic priorities.
- **Interreg** and other interregional programmes (e.g. Interreg Europe, Baltic Sea Region, North Sea Region), which support cross-border cooperation projects.
- **Thematic networks** and multi-actor platforms, bringing together beekeepers, advisors, researchers, and SMEs. These networks not only receive funding themselves but also help build partnerships for future project proposals.
- **Funding calls** for NGOs and civil society organisations, including smaller grants for youth engagement, awareness-raising activities, and citizen science initiatives.
- Regional EU cooperation frameworks such as the **Eastern Partnership** and the **Southern Neighbourhood**.

Key Issues Raised in the Discussions

Across these 3 meetings, participants identified several common challenges facing European beekeeping:

- Protecting the reputation and image of honey.
- Decreasing honey production in many regions.
- Increasing imports of cheap and adulterated honey.
- Rising costs of production while producer margins decline.
- The sustainability of commercial honey production within the EU.
- Pesticide exposure and GMO-related concerns.



- Major health threats such as Varroa destructor and the invasive species as Vespa velutina and Tropilaelaps.
- Ongoing debate regarding potential competition between honey bees and wild pollinators.

Conclusions

A clear message emerged from the discussions: **the main challenges facing European beekeeping are well understood, but stronger professional representation is needed to influence policy effectively.**

Achieving this will require:

- better communication between national beekeeping associations,
- stronger participation in pan-European activities and initiatives,
- greater visibility of the beekeeping sector, and
- most importantly, speaking with a unified voice at the European level.

The roundtables held during Apimondia 2025 demonstrated the importance of dialogue and cooperation across the entire European region and confirmed that strengthening collaboration between Western and Eastern Europe remains a key priority for the future of sustainable beekeeping.

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