



# EIP-AGRI FOCUS GROUP

BEE HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE BEEKEEPING **MINI PAPER 1 PLATFORM OF INFORMATION AT EU LEVEL**

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# INTRODUCTION MOTIVATION

- **Knowledge transfer and capacity building** for healthy honeybees and sustainable beekeeping **is of major concern**. But what knowledge are to be trusted as **valuable information** and how can **we bridge best available knowledge** and existing beekeeping practices? Communication is a two-way activity, meaning that if we want to make a change **the bottom-up perspective is important**.
- If we compare beekeeping to other agricultural practices, there are some specific challenges to take into account: **diversified target group** (large- to small-scale), mainly **micro-businesses** and **self-subsistence, geographically scattered** rural entrepreneurs, gender and **wide age structure**, the will or ability to **pay for professional services**, lack of tradition in formalised competence development and **autodidacts** (trainers and educators are self-trained as pedagogues).
- This minipaper is describing the **actual situation for knowledge transfer** in Europe today and **is defining the trends** of how the beekeeping sector is gaining access to information.

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# 4 GENERAL ISSUES

Each country has specific beekeeping

## DIVERSITY OF BEEKEEPING

01

02

Diversity of support  
Validation of datas

## ACCES TO INFORMATION

## DATA COLLECTION

03

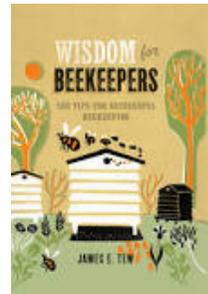
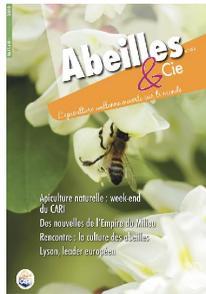
04

On the field (market, situation of beekeeping...)  
Of research (adaptation to beekeepers)

## DIVERSITY OF VIEWS

Beekeeping – public – farmers  
Avoid conflicts

# EXISTING PRACTICES



Journal, books, social networks, web sites, conferences, technical days, scientific databases, project reports, advisory services, courses, teaching resources

# EVALUATION OF THE EXISTING TOOLS

## COMPETITION BETWEEN THE MEDIA

→ Little exchanges between the structures

## LIMITED CIRCULATION OF THE INFORMATION

By group, region, language or specific topic

By interest, level of knowledge

Journals and magazines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT : Paper - often associated with a web version</li> <li>• PUBLIC : small to large scale beekeepers</li> </ul>
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT : Paper - sometimes associated with a web version</li> <li>• PUBLIC : all</li> </ul>
Social networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT : web version</li> <li>• PUBLIC : all, and non beekeepers</li> </ul>
Web sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT : Internet</li> <li>• PUBLIC : all</li> </ul>
Conferences, technical days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT : events</li> <li>• PUBLIC : small to large scale beekeepers</li> </ul>
Scientific databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT : web version of papers</li> <li>• PUBLIC : scientist</li> </ul>
Project reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT : Paper - often associated with a web version</li> <li>• PUBLIC : members of the project + scientist ans technicians</li> </ul>
Advisory services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPORT: Individual</li> <li>• Public: all, if available in the country</li> </ul>

RESEARCH TOOLS OFFER A GOOD LEVEL OF SELECTION

→ DIFFICULTY IN IMPLEMENTING A TOOL THAT AFFECTS A LARGE NUMBER OF BEEKEEPERS AT EU LEVEL

# ADVISORY SERVICES

## CENTRALIZE INFORMATION

Training, articles, publications...

## COLLATE INFORMATION FROM BEEKEEPERS

Advices, recommendations...

## DEVELOP

Services (analyses, sales...)

Apply research to answer  
beekeepers questions.

## TRANSMIT THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

For hive management: sanitary  
state, good production...

## SPECIALISED STRUCTURE

Target framework...

## FEW CENTER

on the interface

Agriculture - Beekeeping

# HOW TO MANAGE THE INFORMATION ?

## AVAILABILITY OF DATA

- Search engines
  - Inaccessibility of some information
- Inaccessibility of some information
  - Lack of translation, confidentiality of data...
- Type of medium on which it is stored

## MANAGEMENT OF THE DATA FOR THE READER

- Reliability, relevance, upstanding, type of medium ?
- Adaptation at
  - Lack the level of scientific knowledge
  - The local environment

# CONCLUSION

## KEY MESSAGES

DISSEMINATION OF APICULTURE INFORMATION  
IN EU IS CONFRONTED  
WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF PROBLEMS

- Most important: **the diversity** of  
beekeepers' profiles,  
production conditions,  
information sources that are often not  
reliable,  
up-to-date,  
complete and  
adapted to their current needs

# CONCLUSION KEY MESSAGES

DISSEMINATION OF APICULTURE INFORMATION  
IN EU IS CONFRONTED  
WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF PROBLEMS

■ To disseminate **validated basic information** that meets the needs of people in terms of health, environment or good apicultural practices

→ Adaptation of the **presentation and the channels** of dissemination according to the places and people affected.

The more the information is adapted to the target audience

→ the closer the transmission channel is, the better the transmission will be.

# CONCLUSION

## KEY MESSAGES

DISSEMINATION OF APICULTURE INFORMATION  
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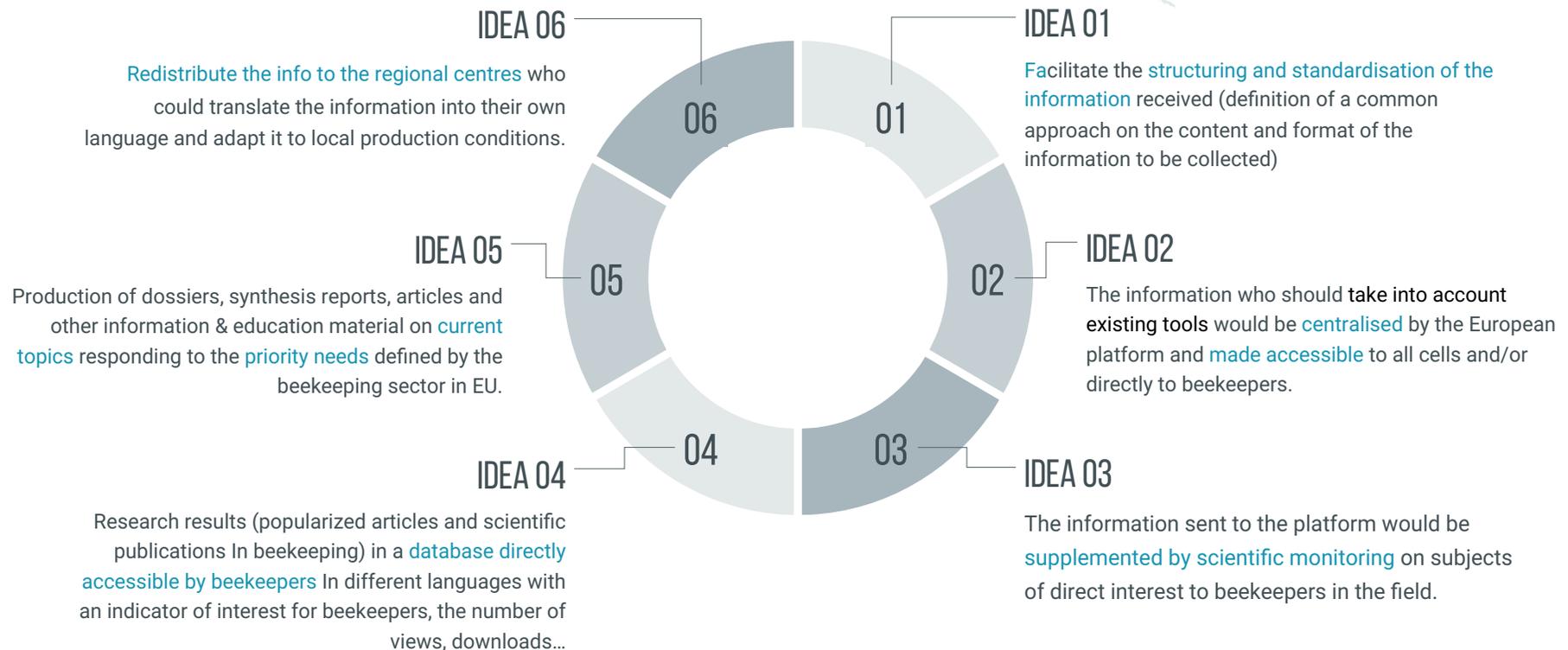
- Today, **new tools** in full development could be used without forgetting the **personal contacts** that remain essential.
- The **link between research and the field** is essential both
  - to adapt scientific articles to the beekeepers' level of knowledge and
  - to validate and disseminate the observations and field tests carried out by beekeepers.

# IDEAS FOR INNOVATION

CREATION OF A  
**EUROPEAN PLATFORM**  
ASSISTED BY A SERIES  
OF **REGIONAL CENTERS**  
LOCATED BY  
LINGUISTIC REGIONS .



# BASE IDEAS



# IDEAS FOR INNOVATION

Set up a study to better **describe the different sociological profiles of beekeepers** at European level in order to better understand their real needs and the motivations that lead them to become beekeepers.

# ASPECT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHILE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

## KEYWORD 1

**Ensure the promotion in communication among stakeholders at all levels.** New stakeholder synergies and networks can be established to support the existing and initiating new projects in mentioned fields and topics.

## KEYWORD 2

New tools and services, including education materials, on-site trainings, visits, demonstrations, **need to be performed by educated and professional personnel.**

## KEYWORD 3

Exchange of good practices and **fostering a long-term network to support exchange of knowledge** on existing research solutions findings and implementation into beekeeping practice.

## KEYWORD 4

Specific challenges need to be addressed at national levels, by **boosting the communication between stakeholders** (researchers, advisors, farmers/beekeepers, policy makers etc.).

## KEYWORD 5

Current official advising agencies need to be functional and be able **to create a long-term network** to support exchange of knowledge on existing best practices and research findings.

# ASPECT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHILE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

## KEYWORD 6

A set of tools and services need **to be re-evaluated and renewed** in order to promote essential innovative beekeeping and adjacent practices.

## KEYWORD 7

**New tools need to be identified**, to recognise and solve existing or potential problems in beekeeping.

## KEYWORD 8

End-users (beekeepers/farmers) included in communication **need to express their concerns and/or expectations**.

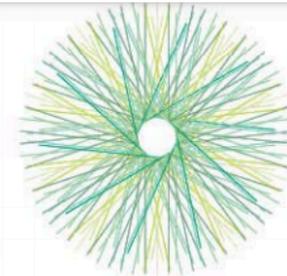
## KEYWORD 9

Experts and policy makers present research results, best beekeeping practices **in their fields and policy-based solutions**.

## KEYWORD 10

**Innovative practices have to be established through collaboration** between actors of the beekeeping industry, honeybee research groups/labs and national or international beekeepers' associations.

THE FUTURE STARTS TODAY, NOT TOMORROW.



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**THANK YOU!**  
ANY QUESTIONS?

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