



Collecting and Sharing Data on **Bee Health**: a European Bee **Partnership**



European Week of Bees and Pollinators
High-Level Conference
28 June 2018- Brussels

BEE WEEK 2017



- **European Parliament tasked EFSA** to co-organise the Bee Week scientific symposium 2017 – with specific objective – to strengthen harmonisation of bee health data across the EU
- Symposium – organised with key stakeholders – EPBA, BeeLife, ECPA, COPA-COGECA and PAN-Europe – drew more 130 participants from across the sector

SYMPOSIUM RESULT AND ACTIVITY OVER PAST 12 MONTHS

Result – symposium concluded with agreement among stakeholders to set up an **EU Bee Partnership** – a platform for collecting, sharing data to help inform policy makers.

Over past 12 months, EFSA brought together stakeholder groups representing beekeepers, farmers, academia, scientists, veterinarians, NGOs and industry in a Discussion Group.

As a first step, the Group has drafted its Terms of Reference.



EU BEE PARTNERSHIP – TIMELINES TO SET UP TORS

**Dec
2017**

1st Meeting

**Feb
2018**

2nd Meeting

**April
2018**

3rd Meeting

**June
2018**

EU Bee Partnership to be presented at the Bee Week High Level Conference



DISCUSSION GROUP – BEE PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Discussion Group agreed Terms of Reference for Partnership:
- Vision: a platform run by stakeholders for the benefit of society to ensure bees can thrive and prosper.
- Objectives – to improve data collection, management, sharing and communications to achieve holistic approach to assessment of bee health in Europe and beyond.



TERMS OF REFERENCE - 2

- Partnership will consider honey bees, with potential for subsequent expansion to include bumble bees, solitary bees.
- Stressors for bee health shared between species – colony health of managed honey bees can be used as sentinel for population health of wild bees – to identify areas where wild bees may also be at risk.



SIX THEMES OF POTENTIAL WORK IDENTIFIED

- 1. developing inventory of data on health of honey bees, bumble bees, solitary bees;
- 2. need for data harmonisation
- 3. development of tools for bee health assessment;
- 4. provision of advice to decision makers about standardised methods for data collection, management;
- 5. dedicated dissemination strategy;
- 6. securing EU resources.



PHASED APPROACH TO FUNDING – RISK FACTORS

- Stakeholders identified need for both short- and long-term funding;
- Phased approach proposed – with clear recommendations that long-term resources needed.
- Risk factors to Partnership:
- Funding, confidentiality of data, time & resource, project coordination, stakeholder motivation.



PARTNERSHIP ON TRACK, NEED FOR SUPPORT

- Rare to have such diverse group of stakeholders working closely together – bound by common goal of protecting pollinators;
- Real enthusiasm among stakeholders to make the Partnership work. Discussions on pilot phase already under way.
- We now ask for your support.



EU BEE PARTNERSHIP

THANK YOU

