

The project consortium, coordinated by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana "M. Aleandri" (Italy), includes partners from five European countries:

- University of Namik Kemal (Turkey)
- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (Slovenia)
- Centro de Investigación Apícola y Agroambiental de Marchamalo (Spain)
- Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (Austria)
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (Italy).

Moreover, the project involves:

- the International Federation of Beekeepers Association (Apimondia)
- the University of Genova (Italy)

and has the valuable collaboration of:

- the European Union Reference Laboratory for Bee Health (ANSES, France)
- the Mississippi State University (USA)
- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Technologies and practices for small agricultural producers (TECA) platform.

Website: www.izslt.it/bpractices

A close-up photograph of a beehive with many bees working on the honeycomb.

BPRACTICES (ERA-NET SusAn) PROJECT

towards
a sustainable
European
beekeeping

A decorative graphic of a honeycomb pattern in the background of the text.

Animal production is facing important problems worldwide: for example, the global spread of diseases or the increasing demand of quality and quantity in food production. Beekeeping sector, even if it has peculiarities comparing to the other animal production systems, is not an exception, and it need to find its way into sustainability and resilience in order to adapt to the present and future challenges.

These demands include improvement in competitiveness, resilience and productivity, enhancement of environmental sustainability and consumer acceptability and address societal challenges associated with animal welfare, product quality and safety, biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services.

The BPRACTICES project was created in order to satisfy the requirements of the beekeeping sector in the given context. BPRACTICES is the acronym of "New indicators and on-farm practices to improve honeybee health in the Aethina tumida era in Europe". This project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program ERA-NET SusAn – European Research Area on Sustainable Animal Production Systems. The aim of the project is the development of a sustainable bee breeding system by implementing innovative management practices in beekeeping (Good Beekeeping Practices - GBPs).



The main objectives of the project are:

1. to prevent and control the main honeybee diseases adopting proper good beekeeping practices (GBPs);
2. to evaluate the economic competitiveness and resilience of European beekeeping; consumers with useful information on the product's origin;
3. to develop an innovative traceability system that will provide beekeepers and 4. to approve at the apary level all the project innovations
5. to communicate project activities to ensure the visibility and sharing of the project results.

The avoidance of chemical treatments and the guarantee of quality and safety of hive products will be priority. This goal will be reached in collaboration with APIMONDIA. Consumer acceptance and knowledge will be assessed by collecting data to identify weaknesses and strengths and optimize the system.

