



Availability of Veterinary Medicinal Products
for use in beekeeping in the EU
B-THENET SATELLITE EVENT, Bruxelles, September 28th, 2023

Relevant outputs of the B-THENET international event on Veterinary Medicinal Products for Honey Bees held in 2023

Presenter: **Dr. Giovanni Formato**
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B-THENET Thematic Network

B-THENET is the first Thematic Network in Europe Focused on Best Beekeeping Practices and Innovations.

It is based on a **multi actor approach**, engaging: beekeepers, advisors, researchers, policymakers, industry, consumers, and all stakeholders of the beekeeping sector.

Best practices and ready-to-use research innovations are: prioritized and described, using a **bottom-up methodology**.



**HORIZON
EUROPE**



The B-THENET TN activities of knowledge sharing and training on Best Beekeeping Practices



13 NATIONAL B-THENET CENTRES

to knowledge sharing and training among:
beekeepers (2080)/young beekeepers (780),
advisors (520) and all other stakeholders in the EU

3 INTERNATIONAL B-THENET CENTRES

- specific for **Beekeepers,**
- **Advisors** and
- **Other Stakeholders.**

Headquarters are based in 4 different countries.







The project website and platform
www.bthenet.eu






The screenshot shows a dark teal website landing page. At the top center is the B THE NET logo. Below it, the main heading reads "Bee Stronger Together" in a light orange font. A dark teal horizontal bar contains two buttons: "the project" and "the platform", each with a right-pointing arrow icon and the text "click for more" underneath. At the bottom, the text "Find and follow us at" is followed by social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram.

B THE NET

Bee Stronger Together

the project 
click for more

the platform 
click for more

Find and follow us at     

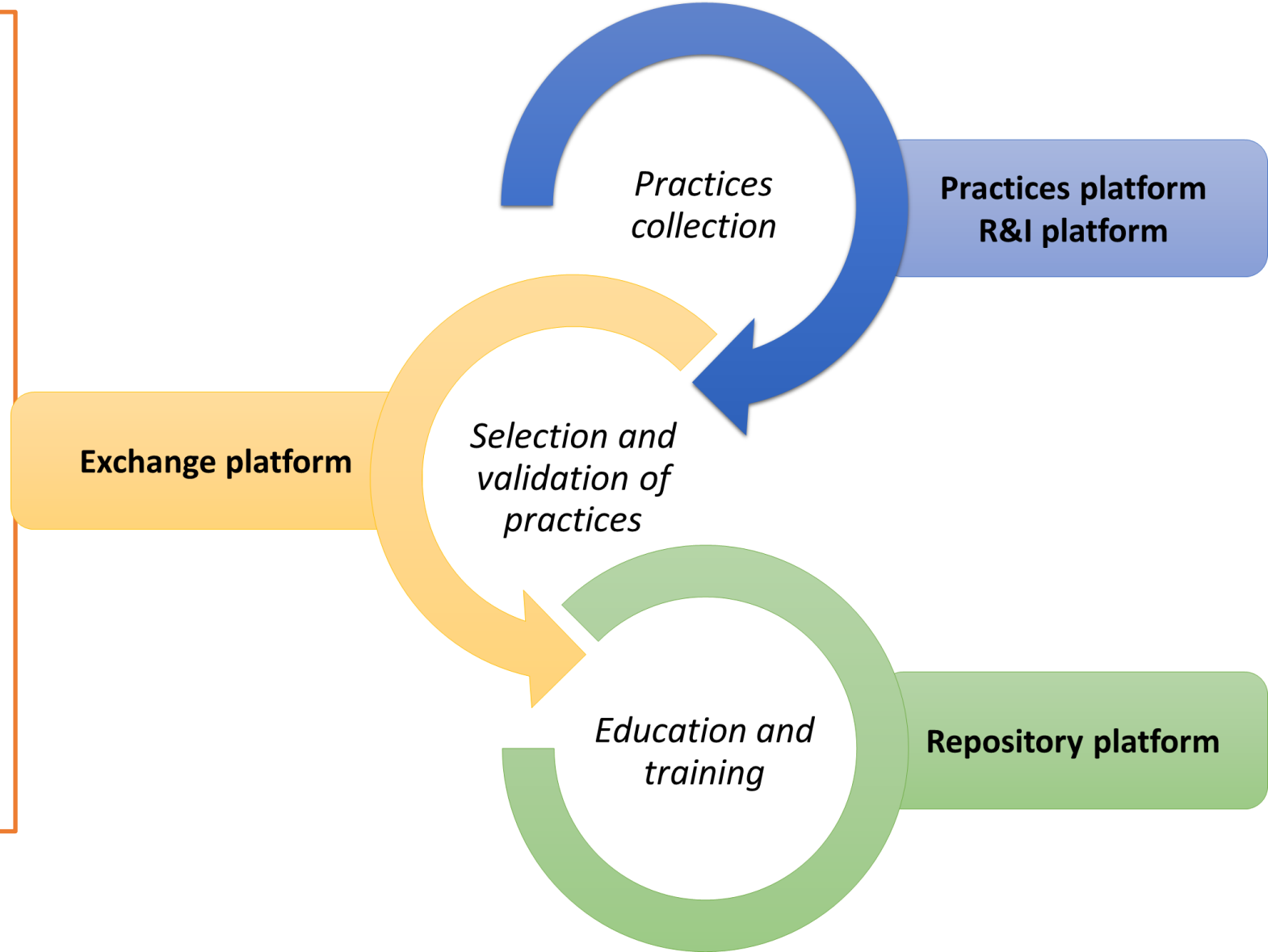


The B-THENET TN structure

Activities started on 1st Sept. 2022 and will last 4 years (end: on 31st Aug. 2026)

Activities consider the practices' collection and **prioritization, description and validation**, via **3 ONLINE PLATFORMS**

Stakeholders are involved in a process of **knowledge sharing**, education and **training on Best Beekeeping Practices**.



Project meetings and dissemination: international events and workshops



Kick-off meeting
Rome, Sept 2022

www.bthenet.eu/



Year meeting
Uppsala, June 2023

www.bthenet.eu/

Funded by the European Union



Transnational Event for Stakeholders
Romania, July 2023



B-THENET at the
48th Apimondia Congress

Santiago, Chile
4 to 8 of September 2023

www.bthenet.eu/

Funded by the European Union

Apimondia Congress
Chile, Sept 2023

Output of the Meeting in Romania

Two main issues related to the accessibility of VMPs in EU beekeeping were revealed:

1. it is **not easy for all EU beekeepers to have access to Veterinary Medicines** for varroa (above all in those countries in which the sector is small for distribution);
2. **access to Veterinary Medicines should still be harmonized in EU** (e.g. POM and non-POM).



How to guarantee beekeepers access to VMPs

According to the new Regulation on VMPs (2019/6), EU should harmonize VMPs prescription.

It may require costs (e.g. costs for revision of the dossiers of VMPs, or costs for veterinarians and technicians' support).

This may cause even more difficult access for beekeepers to veterinary medicinal products. But this should be avoided!





Possible solutions

1. Mitigate costs with funding initiatives

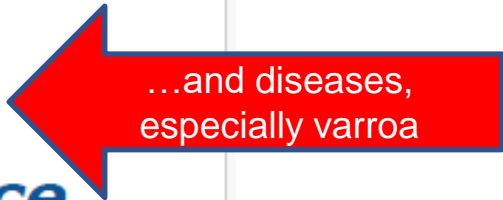
- e.g. in the National Apiculture Programmes: increase budget for measure B “Combating beehive invaders”; include possibility to mitigate costs of VMPs for varroa treatment; cover costs for vets and beekeeping technicians

2. promote the role of beekeeping associations in supporting accessibility to VMPs (e.g. buy and distribute) under the supervision of a veterinarian (where needed).



Apiculture Programme Measures*

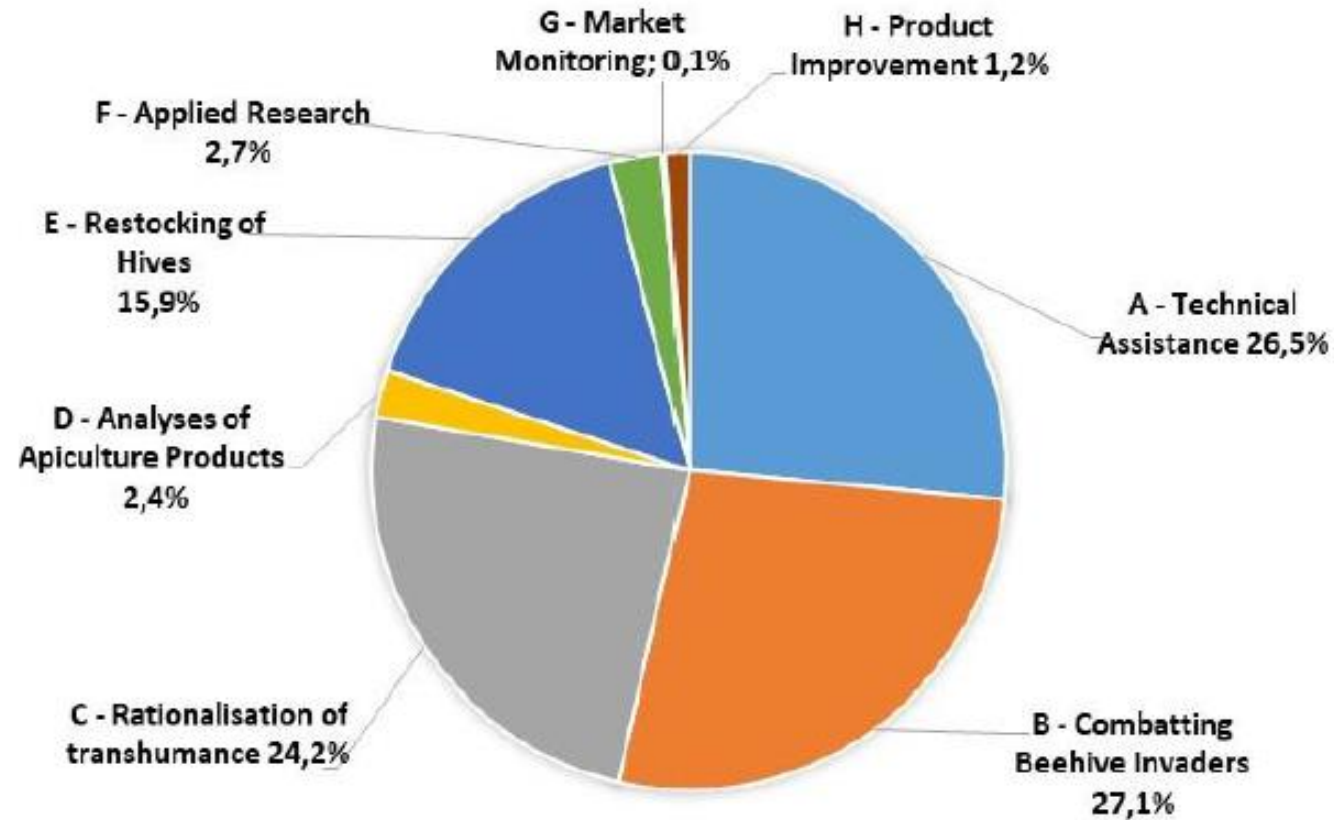
- *Measure A: **Technical Assistance***
- *Measure B: **Combatting Beehive Invaders***
- *Measure C: **Rationalisation of Transhumance***
- *Measure D: **Analyses of Apiculture Products***
- *Measure E: **Restocking of Hives***
- *Measure F: **Applied Research***
- *Measure G: **Market Monitoring***
- *Measure H: **Product Improvement***



...and diseases,
especially varroa

*According to Art. 55 of REGULATION (EU) No 1308/2013

Expenditures of MS by type of measure in 2021



From EU Apiculture Programmes – Overview of Annual Implementation Reports for Apiculture.

B-THENET Satellite event

Availability of VMP for use in beekeeping



Noa Simon (BeeLife) and Giovanni Formato (IZSLT)

13.30-13.40 – “Relevant outputs of the B-THENET international event on Veterinary Medicinal Products for Honey Bees held in 2023”

Giovanni Formato (IZSLT)

13.40 – 13.50 – “Regulatory tools in the VMP Regulation”

Alfonso Las Heras (DG SANTE)

13.50 – 14.00 “Use of Veterinary Medicinal Products in EU: feedback from FVE”

Despoina Iatridou (FVE)

14.00 – 14.10 “Comparison among POM and non-POM on trade in EU for varroosis control”

Andrea Gyorffy (IZSLT)

14.10 – 14.20 “Accessibility of VMP to beekeepers: the case of France”

Jean-Marie Hédon (FNOSAD)

14.20-14.50 Round table on the availability of VMPs for use in beekeeping in the EU:

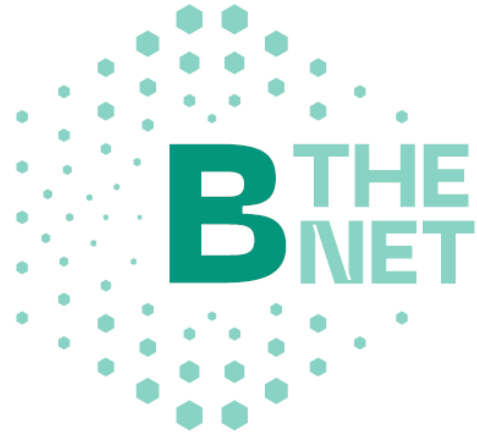
- “How to guarantee beekeepers’ access to the varroa treatments EU-wide: experiences and proposals”

Noa Simon (BeeLife), Despoina Iatridou (FVE), Riccardo Pelani (COPA-COGECA),

Jean-Marie Hédon (FNOSAD), Alfonso Las Heras (DG SANTE), Giovanni Formato (IZSLT)

14.50-15.00 Take home message

**Thank you for your
kind attention!**



Dr. Giovanni Formato
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Join the Network!



Register to the
platform!

Take home message

Several interventions are needed to guarantee beekeepers' accessibility to VMPs:

- 1. promote the role of beekeeping associations in supporting the access to VMPs**, under the supervision of a veterinarian (where needed).
- 2. increase funds to support access to VMPs by beekeepers:** e.g. for EU Apiculture Programmes (measure B “Combating beehive invaders”) or other initiatives;
- 3. by side of FVE:**
 - commitment to train vets and farmers (e.g. on bee diseases)
 - provide contacts of vets with expertise on bees



**Thank you for your
kind attention!**



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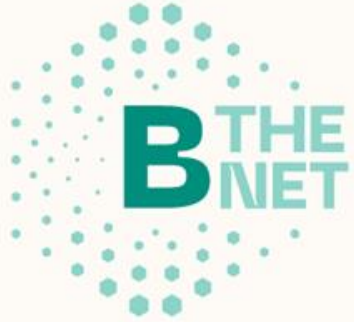


Register to the
platform!

Thank you!

Contact us

info@bthenet.eu



Our Consortium



KARL-FRANZENS-UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ
UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ



LOBA



- (a) technical assistance** to beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations;
- (b) combating beehive invaders** and diseases, particularly varroasis;
- (c) rationalisation of transhumance;**
- (d) measures to support laboratories for the analysis of apiculture products**
with the aim of helping beekeepers to market and increase the value of their products;
- (e) measures to support the restocking of hives** in the Union;
- (f) cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes** in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products;
- (g) market monitoring;**
- (h) enhancement of product quality** with a view to exploiting the potential of products on the market.



The B-THENET TN Consortium

Beneficiaries

IZSLT (Coordinator; Giovanni Formato)

APRE (Chiara Pocaterra)

APIMONDIA (Jeff Pettis)

LOBA (Alexandre Almeida)

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

(Lotta Fabricius Kristiansen)

BEELIFE (Noa Simon Delso)

Danish Beekeepers' Association

(Flemming Vejsnaes)

Slovenian Beekeepers' Association

(Peter Kozmus)

Complutense University of Madrid

(Aranzazu Meana)

Hellenic Agricultural Organization (Fani Hatjina)

University of Zagreb (Ivana Tlak Gajger)

National Institute of Horticultural Research

(Malgorzata Bienkowska)

University of Veterinary Medicine and

Pharmacy in Košice (Juraj Toporcak)

Ghent University (Dirk de Graaf)

Hohenheim University (Kirsten Traynor)

Latvia University of Life Sciences and

Technologies (Aleksejs Zacepins)

University of Veterinary Medicine of Budapest

(Gyula Kasza)

University of Graz (Robert Brodschneider)

Utilisation of the EUR 120 million total* available

- 2 MS = 100%
- 3 MS = 90%-99%
- 6 MS = 80%-90%
- 8 MS = 70%-80%
- 4 MS = 60%-70%
- 4 MS < 60%

**includes EU and MS contribution 50/50*

	2021		
	Expenditure	Budget	% Utilisation
BE	801.798	845.934	95
BG	3.347.658	4.127.770	81
CZ	2.185.223	4.243.056	52
DK	221.862	591.078	38
DE	2.485.962	5.581.750	45
EE	181.134	280.946	64
IE	88.188	123.280	72
EL	11.172.193	12.325.290	91
ES	16.325.189	19.119.888	85
FR	6.839.624	12.838.124	53
HR	2.399.832	3.826.580	63
IT	8.754.956	10.333.074	85
CY	321.881	339.306	95
LV	414.639	657.608	63
LT	847.868	1.099.656	77
LU	44.447	61.242	73
HU	7.172.083	8.542.454	84
MT	28.274	28.274	100
NL	402.269	590.344	68
AT	2.156.184	2.954.376	73
PL	7.955.754	10.049.936	79
PT	3.244.475	4.408.464	74
RO	12.160.304	12.163.260	100
SI	1.000.370	1.298.910	77
SK	1.684.739	1.999.946	84
FI	282.063	392.364	72
SE	1.026.978	1.177.090	87
EU27	93.545.947	120.000.000	78%

Source: MS notifications