

## NATURAL BEE FEEDING AND HEALTH: REDUCING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY IN ECO FRIENDLY BEEKEEPING

Project number 2025-1-SK01-KA220-VET-000356528



### BeeCare

### BeeCare Project

The BeeCare project, formally titled Natural Bee Feeding and Health: Reducing Chemical Dependency in Eco-Friendly Beekeeping, is a 24-month Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Vocational Education and Training (VET).

Running from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2027, this initiative brings together a diverse consortium of six organizations from Slovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, and Spain.

The BeeCare project aims to address the critical need to alleviate stress factors endangering bee populations across Europe, particularly nutritional deficiencies caused by pesticide use and monocultures

### The Challenge

Bee populations across Europe are facing critical stress factors, including pesticide exposure and nutritional deficiencies caused by large-scale monocultures

A significant challenge identified by the partnership is the severe pollen deficit occurring between August and March, which compromises colony health and leads to high winter mortality rates. Currently, many beekeepers rely on expensive or chemically-laden commercial feeds because they lack the knowledge to prepare natural alternatives.

### ERASMUS+ programme

EU programme for education, training, youth and sport

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

It has an estimated budget of €26.2 billion. This is nearly double the funding compared to its predecessor programme (2014–2020).

The 2021–2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.



### Co-funded by the European Union

It supports priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan and the European Skills Agenda. The programme also:

- supports the European Pillar of Social Rights
- implements the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027
- develops the European dimension in sport



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# Objectives

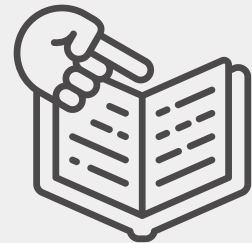
The BeeCare project aims to transform beekeeping practices through three core objectives:

- **Raise Awareness:** Educating beekeepers on the vital importance of proper autumn feeding to ensure colony survival through the winter.
- **Promote Sustainability:** Encouraging natural feeding strategies that minimize reliance on artificial, commercially formulated products.
- **Empower through Skills:** Providing beekeepers with the necessary tools and techniques to collect pollen and prepare homemade, 100% natural bee food.



# Core Results and Activities

- **Multilingual Digital Guide:** This comprehensive resource is designed to raise awareness of natural bee nutrition and healthy autumn feeding practices. It will be available in six languages (English, Slovak, Romanian, Polish, Bulgarian, and Spanish) and will feature step-by-step instructions, case studies, and expert recommendations.
- **24 Training Video Activities:** A series of instructional videos designed to enhance beekeepers' practical skills in natural feeding and pollen collection techniques. These videos will provide step-by-step guidance on creating homemade bee patties and monitoring colony nutrition, and they will be subtitled in all consortium languages



## Key Activities

Creating a multilingual Digital Guide for sustainable bee nutrition.  
Producing 24 instructional videos on bee nutrition.  
Hosting three transnational meetings (Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria).  
Hosting a training event in Poland for 24 participants.  
Testing and validation of project results.  
Creating national exploitation databases to ensure long-term sustainability.  
Dissemination of results.





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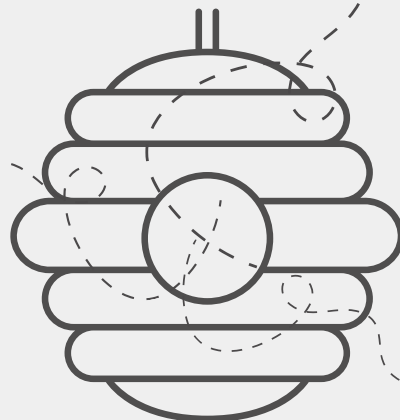
## BeeCare Project Officially Launches: Successful Kickoff Meeting in Nitra

On November 27, 2025, the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute (IZPI) hosted the inaugural transnational meeting for the BeeCare project at its headquarters in Nitra, Slovakia. This landmark event brought together all six partner organizations from Slovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, and Spain to establish a collaborative roadmap for the next 24 months of innovation in sustainable beekeeping.

The primary aim of the Nitra gathering was to introduce the partners and define the core objectives of the project. During the session, the lead coordinator, IZPI, presented the project's mission to raise awareness regarding proper autumn bee feeding, promote natural feeding strategies that reduce reliance on commercial products, and provide beekeepers with the practical skills needed to create their own 100% natural bee food.



The meeting concluded with a clear sense of purpose and a finalized timeline for upcoming milestones, including the start of state-of-the-art research and the planning of the next transnational meeting in Romania in April 2026. By combining scientific research with practical vocational training, the BeeCare partnership is now officially on its way to creating a more resilient and eco-friendly future for European pollinators.





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# BeeCare Consortium



The Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute (IZPI), based in Nitra, Slovakia, is the lead coordinator of the BeeCare project. As a public institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, IZPI serves as the national hub for agricultural expertise, innovation, and lifelong learning.



STOWARZYSZENIE ARID (ARID) is a private non-profit NGO based in Krakow, Poland, that operates primarily in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET). The organization focuses on promoting healthy, well-balanced lifestyles through lifelong learning and is deeply committed to environmental protection, particularly the preservation of bees.



Asociación de Estudios Almerienses (AEA) is a state-run non-profit NGO based in Almería, Spain. Founded in 2010, the organization is dedicated to the integral support of individuals through social intervention and labor integration, with a primary focus on Vocational Education and Training (VET)



The University of Forestry (UF), based in Sofia, Bulgaria, is a leading higher education institution and the only university in the country providing specialized training in Forestry, Wood Technology, Furniture Production, and Landscape Architecture. It also offers academic programs in Veterinary Medicine, Agronomy, Ecology and Environmental Protection, and Business Management



INCLUSIVE EDU HUB (IEH) is a non-profit NGO based in Timisoara (Giroc), Romania, dedicated to advancing inclusion, diversity, social innovation, and educational excellence. The organization specializes in providing dynamic educational experiences in fields such as agriculture, beekeeping, sustainability, and digitalization



SLOVENSKA POLNOHOSPODARSKA UNIVERZITA V NITRE (SPU), is a prominent public higher education institution located in Nitra, Slovakia. It is the only university in Slovakia dedicated specifically to research and education in agriculture and related biological sciences

