

CALL FOR PROPOSALS PP-1-1-2018

Call for proposals on Environmental monitoring of pesticide use through honeybees

Concerned about honeybee colony losses, beekeepers, beekeeper technicians and scientists in specific areas of Europe started analysing the pesticide content of bees and bee products. The results are often the same: bees are exposed to a wide variety of contaminants simultaneously and consecutively. Surprisingly, on many occasions the pesticides detected were not authorised, while in others they were found in natural areas away from the sources of contamination.

The Financing Decision for the pilot project "Environmental monitoring of pesticide use through honeybees" was adopted on 15 December 2017. Its Annex sets out the main activity areas for this pilot project to be implemented through the present call:

- The project should develop a non-invasive environmental monitoring system via the collection of biweekly pollen samples during two beekeeping seasons by beekeepers from several countries (n= 5-6) in Europe (citizens' science project). The countries will be chosen on the basis of the following criteria: existence of regional/national activities and scientists/technicians able to sample pollen in their country, at least one representative of each authorisation zone (Annex 1 of Regulation 1107/2009). This monitoring system should be easy to carry out and reproducible across Europe. In specific cases, fresh honey samples may be collected.
- The project should develop a protocol, agreed between scientists and field practitioners, and following official methodological recommendations (i.e. the European Food Safety Authority HEALTHY-B, the EPILOBEE study). In doing so, the outcome of the project can be integrated in multiple stressor models linked with bee health and risk assessment in accordance with the relevant parts of the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES) report on pollinators, pollination and food production¹. Practitioners' work will be coordinated by scientists/technicians. Pollen and pesticide analyses will serve to establish the botanical origin and contamination of the samples, respectively.
- The project should identify areas at risk for bee health by putting analytical data in a geospatial context, aiming to understand the possible sources and variability of both bee food and contaminants.
- The analysis of samples will screen for both authorised and non-authorised pesticide and veterinary products. Additionally, the fate of the colonies participating to the sampling will be surveyed to explore potential correlations with the parameters measured. The interpretation of the monitoring results will contribute to the evaluation of the implementation of European legislation in terms of pesticide application (sustainable use directive), pesticide authorisation and efficiency of agro-environmental and greening measures from the common agricultural policy. Evaluation of the results and methodology to assess whether they could be enlarged to wild pollinators.
- The project should give an indication of the plant biodiversity of the landscape linked to the biology of honeybees throughout the year.

¹ https://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/pdf/individual_chapters_pollination_20170305.pdf

- The project should perform a verification of the quality of the CORINE database (or other more detailed land use dataset available in the countries participating) for landscape-level exposure modelling

The activities funded will be implemented within a period of no longer than **30** months.

Link to the participant portal with relevant info:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/pppa/index.html>

Contacts

For problems with the online submission tools please contact the IT helpdesk set-up for this purpose via the participant portal website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries>

For non-IT related questions, please contact DG SANTE helpdesk at the European Commission email: SANTE-PP-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting an application), reference must be clearly made to this specific call. Once the electronic exchange system allocated a proposal ID, the applicant must use this number in all subsequent correspondence