thematic network for experience beekeepers

Co-funded by the European Union

website: www.honeyexperience.eu

WELCOME TO THE SECOND NEWSLETTER OF THE ENFORCE PROJECT!

There have been a lot of interesting events in the last period, which we would like to share with you!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL READ ABOUT

- update on the stakeholder analysis
- collection of best practices
- insights from the transnational project meeting in October
- best practices visited in Romania

TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN ODORHEIU SECUIESC, ROMANIA 14-15 OCTOBER, 2024

Our partner, CIVITAS, hosted a fruitful transnational meeting in Romania in October. On the 1st day our host gave a very brief introduction to Romania and Szeklerland.

2nd transnational project meeting

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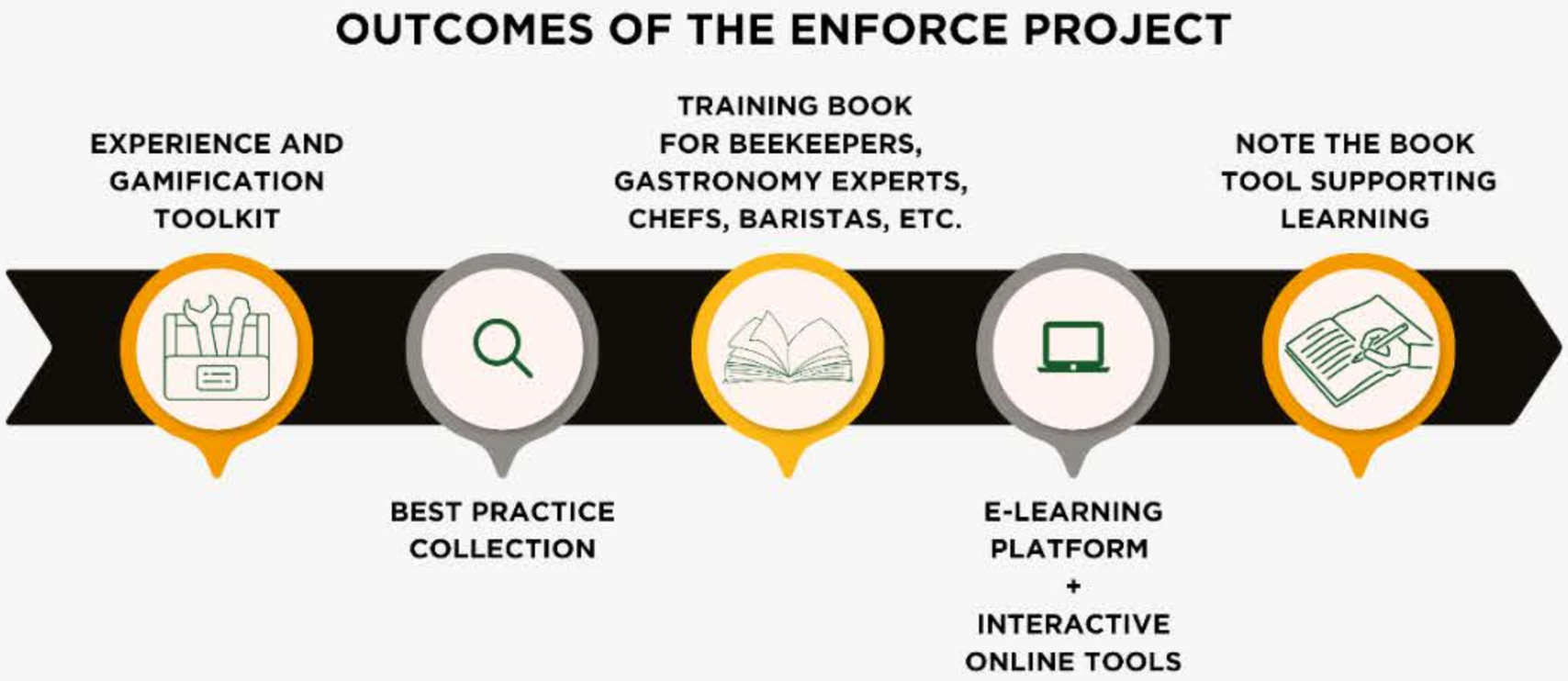
Topics covered during the meeting: the status of the stakeholder analysis, training book for beekeepers, gastronomy actors, chefs, baristas; e-learning platform including interactive gamification tools which will support the training to be innovative and joyful!

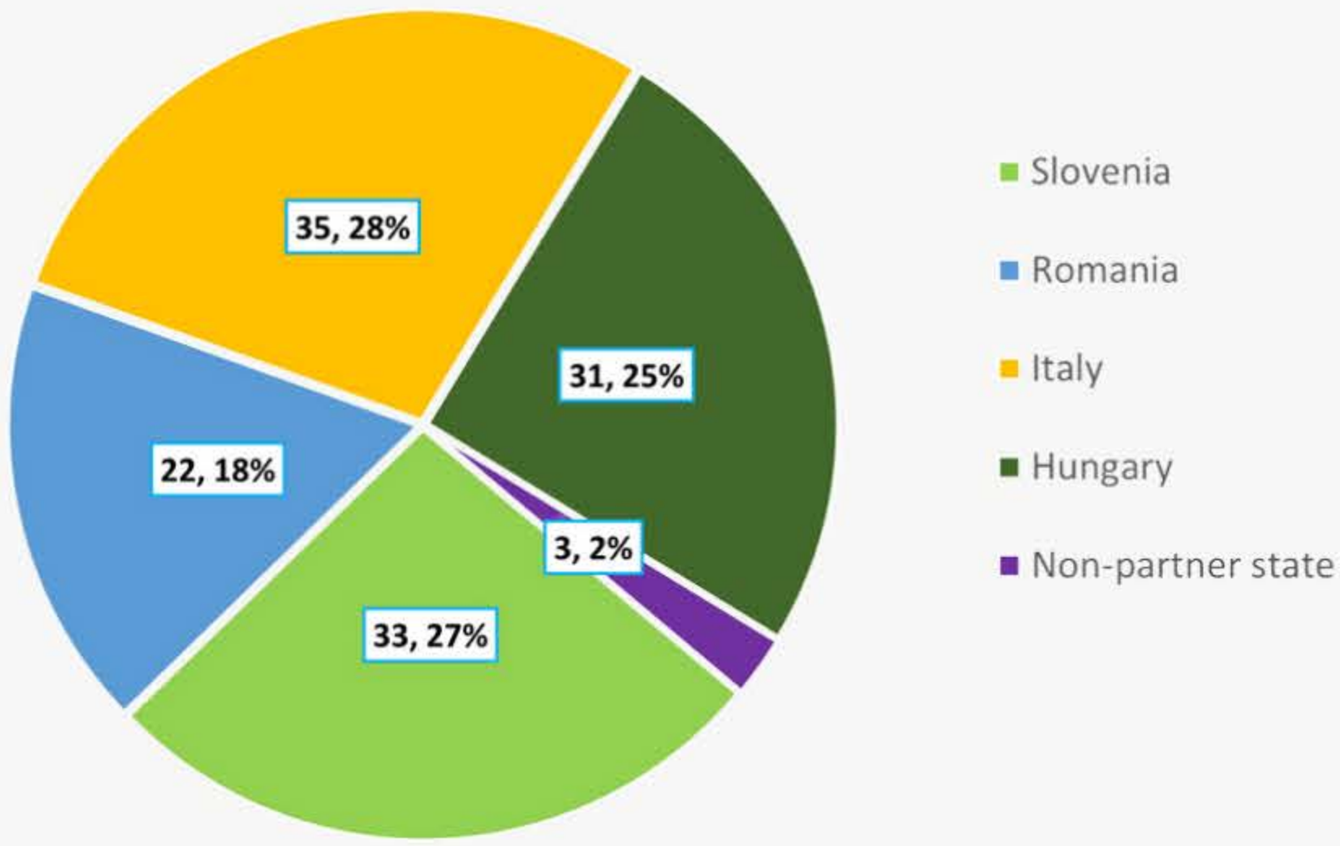
The consortium further developed the concept and **the key outcomes of our project...**



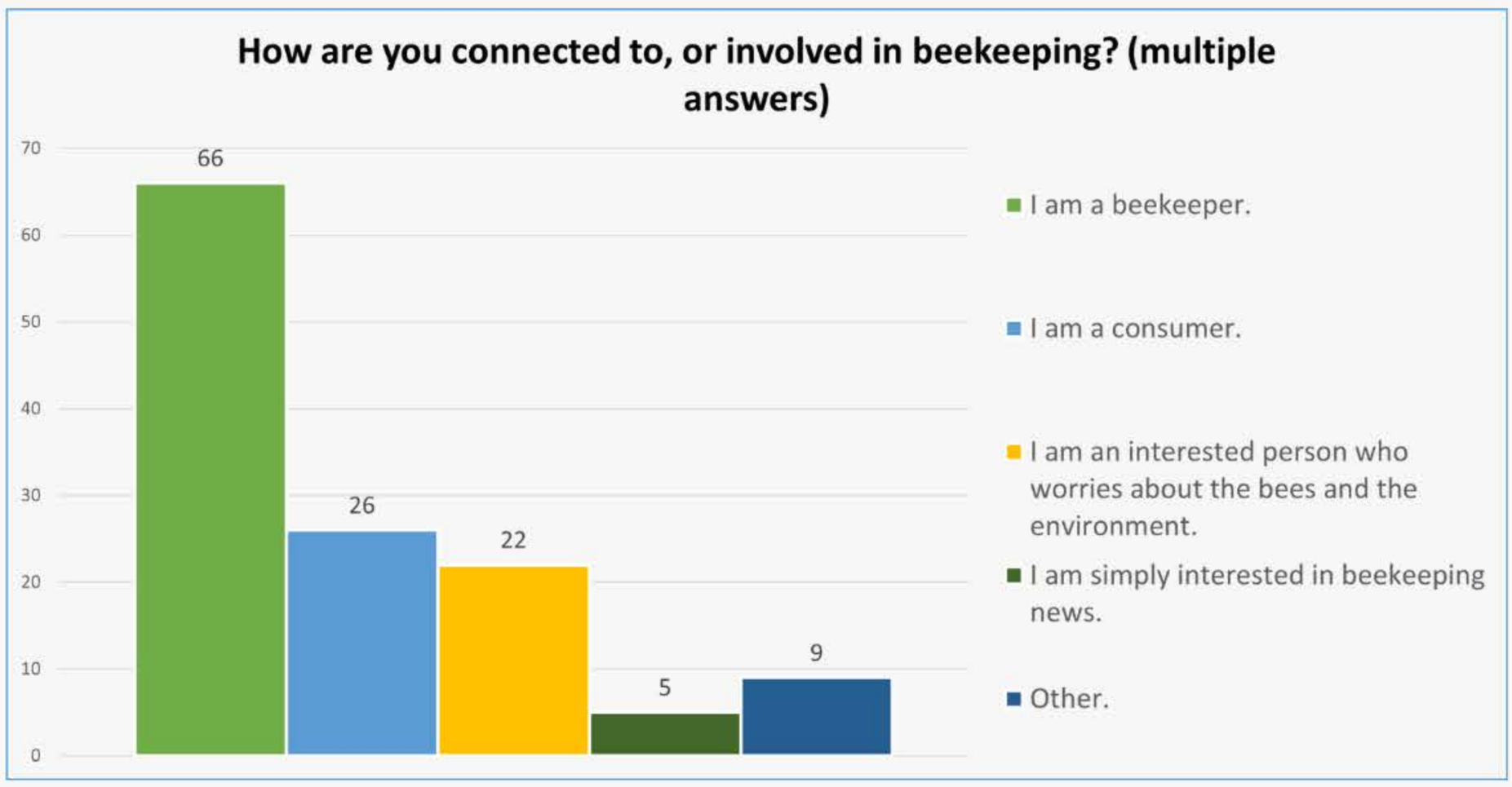
...and Activities that are going to be organised in 2025, the final year of the project

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Enforce Consortium implemented a comprehensive stakeholder analysis including the honey and gastronomy sector under the lead of our partner A.L.P. PECA, the Consortium managed to map several stakeholders and include them in a database of contacts to disseminate a prime of the project results and to build a network.



A total of **124 stakeholders** have joined so far our initiative in the partner countries by filling in an online form. All respondents have some kind of relation or interest in beekeeping or honey, such as environmental harm, knowledge development and sharing, and monitoring the future of beekeeping. Most of the respondents are beekeepers so far.



The stakeholders who join our network may receive information about the project developments, and are also welcomed to participate at **national level multiplier events**, and be part of the **pilot trainings** organised in each partner country which will include newly developed tools for organising experience-based activities related to beekeeping and honey tasting. The training materials will be shared with the stakeholders and will be available online with innovative, gamification gadgets to make learning effective and creative.

BEST PRACTICES COLLECTED

The purpose of the best practice collection is to present practical examples of apiaries that organise their activities based on the principles of experience economy, gamification, including honey collection and sales, but also to showcase innovative solutions for the challenges that affect the beekeepers. We intended to find and describe these best practices from the partner countries but external good practices were not excluded. The examples serve to encourage novice and young beekeepers to follow these practices, and to allow practising beekeepers to see successful examples that may offer innovative ideas, solutions in beekeeping practices or experience activities. The collection consists of 25 practices from Slovenia, Italy, Romania, Greece, Hungary and Sweden.

TO CHECK THE BEST PRACTICES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

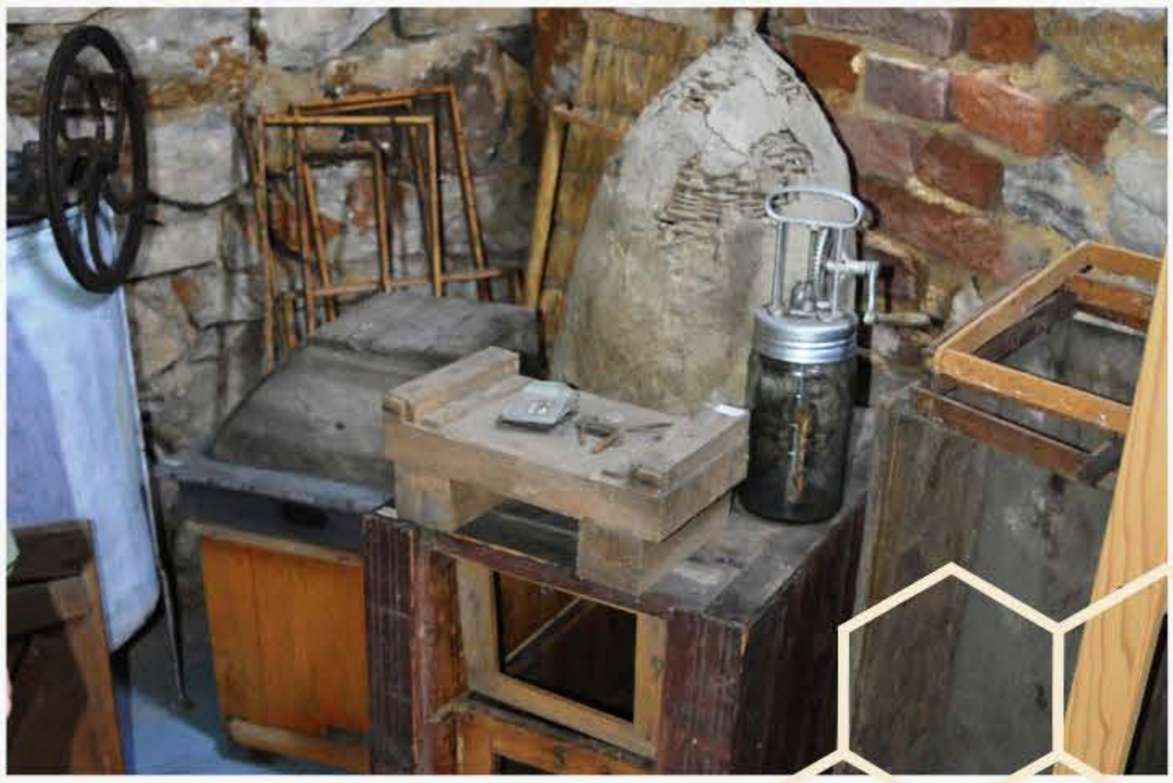
VISITING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIA

On the 15th of October the partnership visited relevant apiaries during a field visit.

The first stop was at the Mezei Apitherapy in Lazarea - Transylvania, in Harghita County. The apiary focuses on the production of unique, quality products such as mated bee queens and “havasi” honey for which the bees collect the nectar from the altitude above 700 meters, at the edges of the pine forests.

Mezei Apitherapy, as its name says, mostly focuses on APITHERAPY services. The owner provided an uplifting presentation with insights into the health benefits of apitherapy. At the apiary, people can heal, relax and enjoy the healing effects of the bees in a beautiful setting surrounded by a stream.

The apiary dates back almost a hundred years. Since no previous written record has been found, let's consider the first recorded year of beekeeping as the first beehive built by his grandparent 92 years ago. The 18 hive back handler country size bee house was built in 1928 and has since been renovated. During our visit we also had the chance to take a walk on the educational trail which is a tool for the beekeepers to showcase the process of honey-making, and the successful Mezei Apitherapy mini-museum of the history and tools of beekeeping.



Apitherapy ház, méhkaptárak és méhészeti múzeum
Mezei Apiterápia, Lazarea

Field visit to Ilyés family

In Korond, Transylvania, Mátyás Szász a young beekeeper gave an insight into the everyday life of this family apiary. The apiary, which offers a wide range of services, award-winning honey and related products, is currently engaged in the **breeding of queen bees.**

Mátyás worked in the family business during his university years in Cluj-Napoca, and has been involved in uterine nutrition for many years. His grandfather used to have a few hives at the end of the garden, but his father, Ilyés Szász, upscaled their activities. Their company has had a bio- beekeeping licence since 2006, they have 250 hives, produce acacia, linden, conifer pollen, pollen, propolis - they also do the updating, propagation and mother rearing of the colonies in the lap of the Salt Lands.

A young specialist, he has grown into this profession, having watched and helped his parents work for many years, and has long been interested in beekeeping. The aim of their work is to protect the genetic purity of the Carpathian bee *(Apis mellifera carpatica)*, a bee species indigenous to Szeklerland, and to develop and maintain its resistance to certain pathogens. During the active months (April to September), the physiological status of 250 hives, their productivity and the presence of pathogens are assessed. The data are used to evaluate the hives, establish breeding lines and monitor the viability of the offspring. Artificial insemination is used to maintain genetic purity.

Queen rearing at the Szász-Ilyés family, Korond