



▶ The new CAP will need to address the challenges related to the decline of pollinators in Europe



▶ Public funds need to support basic ecosystem services and improve agro-environmental conditions



▶ The EU Green Deal and its strategies require effective policies to achieve a real and just green transition

Pollinator Index

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CONTEXT

European citizens increasingly request to improve how we monitor the impact and efficiency of policies that affect the environment and landscape. For this reason, **BeeLife proposes to introduce a Pollinator Index as an impact indicator within the EU policies, including but not limited to the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).**

Pollinators, not only bees but other species as well, are essential allies to maintain a sustainable and productive food production system as well as resilient ecosystems. The European Court of Auditors denounced the inefficiency of public policies aiming to protect pollinators [1] and improving overall environmental conditions and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes [2]. There is an increasing need for more targeted measurements and an effective implementation of existing policies to accomplish real improvements in the field, such as the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive [3], which promotes beneficial measures (e.g. Integrated Pest Management).

The Pollinator Index has the potential to help to improve accountability, monitoring the effectiveness of public spending, and indicating when modifications are necessary.

The Pollinator Index: Parameters and provided information

Provided information	Parameters				
	<i>Pollinator abundance and richness in agricultural landscapes</i>	<i>Rate of Winter/Summer Honey bee colony losses</i>	<i>Botanical richness of bee collected matrices</i>	<i>Pesticide abundance and richness in bee collected matrices (Bees sample their surroundings)</i>	<i>Amount of honeybee colonies per km²</i>
<i>Identification of favourable/unfavourable landscapes for pollinators</i>	✓				✓
<i>Efficiency of policies aiming at improving bee health both within and beyond the CAP (multiplying food resources, improving habitats, decreasing pesticide use)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pollination potential</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Melliferous richness of a certain area along the year (availability of nutritional resources linked to climatic and environmental conditions)</i>			✓		
<i>Pollution in areas where landscape or agricultural policies have a direct or indirect effect versus the indicator of the intensity of pesticide use and, possibly, the appraisal of illegal uses</i>				✓	✓

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLLINATOR INDEX

- **Enable authorities to calibrate and re-calibrate public spending.**
- **Identify shortcomings or undesired effects of policies.**
- **Improve transparency and accountability for the effectiveness of public investments aiming to improve the protection of pollinators.**

CONCLUSIONS

The Pollinator Index is a toolbox, an opportunity to enable authorities to calibrate public spending, taking into account a useful indicator of real conditions in the field. Notably, the Pollinator Index would allow authorities to identify the shortcomings or undesired effects and devise strategies to counter them. The Pollinator Index may be introduced among a series of long-term measures to succeed in achieving the European ambitions for a green transition, embodied in the EU Green Deal and its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

The European Commission is envisaging the creation of a Pollinator Index within the frame of the EU Pollinators Initiative [4]. Nevertheless, it has still not seen the light, and it risks being left out of vital policies such as the CAP, which is currently under negotiation for reform. For this and its application to all other policies that impact pollinators, BeeLife requests and promotes the creation of a Pollinator Index. BeeLife remains at the disposal of European institutions and researchers to contribute to the development of the Pollinator Index.

The Pollinator Index is a possible tool that promises to improve our understanding of our impact on the environment. BeeLife's motivation for supporting the development of this tool is to help improve conditions for pollinators in the long run.

References:

- [1] European Court of Auditors. 2020. Special report No 15/2020: Protection of wild pollinators in the EU: Commission initiatives have not borne fruit. <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/NewsItem.aspx?nid=13925>
- [2] European Court of Auditors. 2020. Special Report 13/2020: Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline. <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=53892>
- [3] Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (Text with EEA relevance) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32009R1107>
- [4] European Commission. 2018. EU Pollinators Initiative. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS EU Pollinators Initiative [COM(2018) 395]. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?qid=1528213737113&uri=CELEX:52018DC0395>

For more information, please consult our following documents:

- ***Report on the future of CAP and Pollinators: <https://link.bee-life.eu/CAP2020>***
- ***Presentation document on the Pollinator Index: https://link.bee-life.eu/Pollinator_Index1***
- ***Article detailing our proposal for the Pollinator Index: https://link.bee-life.eu/Article_PollinatorIndex***