



# 2025

# Activity Report

# Our Commitment in a Changing Landscape

2025 has been a year that required courage, clarity and — above all — unity.

We are living in a time of profound transformation in European agricultural and environmental policies. The ongoing simplification of regulatory frameworks and the uncertain direction of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) raise serious concerns. While presented as efficiency measures, many of these changes risk weakening environmental safeguards and reducing ambition in biodiversity protection, **which is the basis for a resilient economy.**

In such a complex landscape, reciprocal listening is not optional — it is essential. Listening to each other as members. Listening to scientists. Listening to beekeepers on the ground. Listening to citizens who care about the quality of food, landscapes, and ecosystems.

BeeLife exists precisely for this reason: to transform diverse experiences and national realities into a shared European voice. Individually, our members are strong and deeply rooted in their territories. Together, through BeeLife, we become audible at the European level.

In 2025, we strengthened our commitment to coordinated action and common positioning. Being a niche sector does not mean being marginal. On the contrary — pollinators stand at the crossroads of agriculture, food systems, biodiversity, economy, trade, public health, and climate resilience.

Our responsibility — as associations and as a European umbrella organisation — is twofold:

- To provide policymakers with analytical keys and field-based evidence that they cannot ignore.
- To raise awareness among farmers and citizens, empowering them to understand the context they are living in and become active protagonists of change.

Complex times demand collective intelligence. Bees teach us that cooperation is strength. In 2025, we chose to act together once again.



**Anna Ganapini**  
President at BeeLife

# Introduction

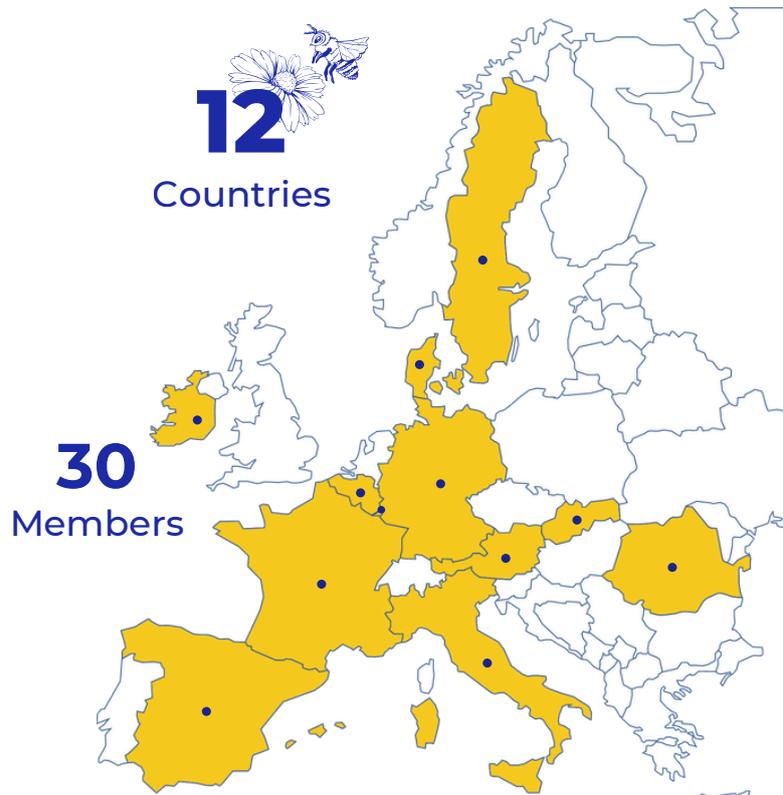
BeeLife continues to serve as a European coordination point for beekeeping associations and pollinator defenders.

Throughout 2025, the association consolidated its advocacy capacity, expanded interdisciplinary collaborations, and strengthened its role as a bridge between science, policy, and the beekeeping sector.

This report summarises the key activities and milestones carried out in 2025 and outlines the strategic priorities for 2026.

## Member Beekeeping Associations

Our network continues to grow, reflecting the increasing need for coordinated European representation in a rapidly evolving policy environment.



# 1. Political and Regulatory Engagement



## CAP Reform and Policy Simplification

The revision process of the Common Agricultural Policy marked 2025. BeeLife actively monitored developments, submitted position papers, and engaged with institutional representatives to ensure pollinators remain central in agricultural debates.

Special focus areas included:

- Eco-schemes and pollinator integration horizontally in the CAP
- Risks of deregulation under simplification processes

BeeLife advocated already for the current CAP for the inclusion of a dedicated pollinator indicator to monitor the real environmental performance of agricultural spending. This proposal continues for the CAP 2028-2034, having been defended through various activities, including:

- Agri-Food Days and European Parliament (EP) events
- Collaborations at NGO and industry events
- Meetings with Commissioner Hansen and his cabinet
- Active participation in Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs).



## Chemical Regulation and Pesticides

The debate around pesticide authorisation intensified, including discussions on:

- Emergency authorisations of banned pesticides or their uses
- Cumulative and cocktail effects
- Development of risk assessment methodology of pesticides in Non-Target Arthropods and indirect effects on biodiversity and nature.
- Drone-based aerial spraying practices, which may seem to be a good option to reduce pesticide risk, but field data do not reveal the same.

BeeLife contributed legal and scientific analyses to ensure pollinators are properly integrated into risk assessment frameworks and worked for Member States to finally embrace up-to-date methodological proposals.



## New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)

Following regulatory developments, BeeLife continued its work on technical and legal dossiers concerning the risks linked to the deregulation of new genomic techniques for plants and animals.

By engaging in policy and legal advocacy, EFSA consultations, and joint appeals, BeeLife has championed:

- Transparency
- Traceability
- Application of the precautionary principle

It is important that decision makers realise that technological opportunities do not go without threats, and the legal framework needs to ensure clear liabilities should things not go as expected.

In 2025, the focus shifted from approval to implementation. BeeLife worked to ensure that pollinators are explicitly included in restoration plans - tools that should serve as leverage to mitigate environmental threats, such as pesticides, and to oppose misinterpretations that marginalise beekeepers instead of improving habitats.

## 2. Scientific Projects & Collaborations



### EU Pollinator Hub

Following its launch in 2024, the Hub entered a consolidation phase, strengthening data quality standards and collaboration between EFSA, researchers, and civil society actors.

The platform continues to serve as a cornerstone of evidence-based policymaking.



### B-THENET – Sustainable Beekeeping Practices

The network expanded its database of best practices, supporting resilient and innovative beekeeping across Europe.



### PollinERA – Pesticide Risk Assessment

The project further advanced pesticide risk assessment methodologies and concepts, broadening the perspective from honey bees alone to all insect pollinators, and “Reforming EU chemical risk assessment: from regulatory bottlenecks to systems solution” in the first policy brief of the project, published at the end of 2025.



### Butterfly – Economic Impact of Pollinators

The economic valuation of pollination services progressed, reinforcing arguments linking biodiversity to economic resilience and food system stability.

## Interdisciplinary Legal Contributions

In 2025, BeeLife reinforced interdisciplinary dialogue, integrating legal expertise into policy analysis. With *Fabrique Avvocati Associati* - a Turin-based law firm, with desks in Brussels and Rome, specialising in the intersection of environmental law, agri-food regulation, and EU policymaking - brought valuable regulatory insight into two highly strategic topics for the future of pollinators and agriculture: aerial spraying and the use of drones for pesticide application. This cross-sector approach strengthened the association's institutional credibility.



## EU BeeLover Project

In 2025, the foundations were laid for the launch of **a new three-year strategic campaign**: the EUBeeLovers Project. The project is a large-scale, multi-year communication and awareness campaign dedicated to promoting the value of honey bees, the essential role of beekeepers, and the distinctive characteristics of sustainable European honey production, funded under the AGRIP-MULTI-2025-IM-SUSTAINABLE call.

It will be implemented primarily in Belgium, where BeeLife is headquartered and thanks to its multilingual and European-wide approach, the campaign will also reach audiences well beyond national borders, strengthening awareness and engagement across the EU.

In 2025, BeeLife structured work planning, partnership consolidation, and the opening of competitive selection procedures for key service providers, ensuring transparency, quality standards, and full alignment with EU funding requirements.

In 2026, the programme will enter its first year of full implementation.

### 3. Communication and Outreach

BeeLife intensified its communication strategy to ensure:

- Relevant updates to members
- Greater institutional visibility
- Clear translation of complex policy debates into accessible informations
- Involving donors in BeeLife's vision and communication actions

Channels included:

- Website
- Newsletter
- Social media
- Direct member briefings
- Online policy sessions



## 4. Awareness and Mobilisation Campaigns

Throughout 2025, BeeLife significantly strengthened its presence in high-level public events, institutional debates, and international gatherings, ensuring that pollinators remained central in agricultural, environmental, and food system discussions. Beyond campaigns, this year was marked by active participation in moments of political confrontation, scientific exchange, and global dialogue.

### Apimondia 2025 (Copenhagen)

From 23 to 27 September, Copenhagen hosted the 49th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress.

Apimondia is the leading global gathering for the beekeeping community, and BeeLife actively contributed to the dialogue.

The team met with members and stakeholders, presented ongoing advocacy work, and strengthened institutional positioning. Noa Simon Delso moderated strategic sessions and participated in a B-THENET World Cafe, reinforcing BeeLife's role in connecting science, policy, and the sector.



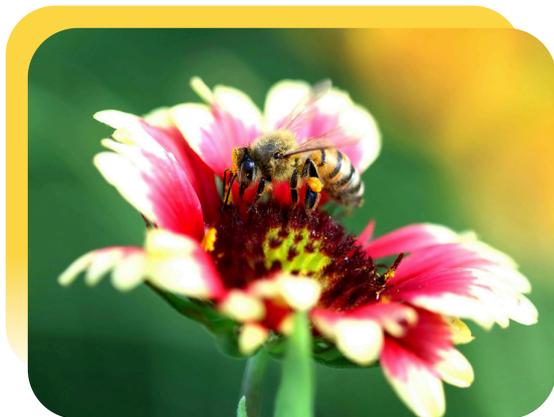
### Pollinating EU (Danish Parliament)

On 22 September, ahead of Apimondia, the initiative Pollinating EU organised a high-level conference at the Danish Parliament under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The event placed pollinators firmly within the European political agenda, linking biodiversity, agriculture, and climate resilience at the institutional level.

## Bees & Bugs Roundtable (European Parliament)

On 15 July 2025, PAN Europe and POLLINIS, alongside MEPs César Luena and Sebastian Everding, addressed EU shortcomings in pesticide protection for bees and arthropods. BeeLife intervened through Noa Simon Delso and Constantin Dobrescu, Vice President of Romapis and BeeLife Board Member. For this occasion a new MANIFESTO was produced in collaboration with PAN Europe, Pollinis and BugLife: *Protecting Arthropods: a call for urgent reform in EU pesticide regulation*. This technical document outlines the rationale and demands for a better risk assessment of pesticide on non-target arthropods and their indirect effects on nature. The discussion reinforced the urgency of science-based pesticide regulation.



## World Bee Day & Biodiversity Week

During the week of 19–23 May 2025, which marked World Bee Day and the International Day for Biological Diversity, BeeLife participated in meetings and advocacy discussions in Brussels.

The focus: promoting a unified “One Health” vision linking pollinators, ecosystems, and human well-being.

## PAW Pesticide Action Week

BeeLife organised a breakfast training for members of European Parliament and assistants on the status quo of pesticide regulations implementation, and joined environmental NGOs in a demonstration in Brussels, highlighting the societal costs of pesticide-related damage.

The action took place in front of CropLife Europe, symbolically presenting a “bill” for impacts on biodiversity, food security, and public health.



## 5. Team and Organisational Development

BeeLife continues to grow as a multidisciplinary platform serving its members, reinforcing interactions with the research world through its projects. 2025 was marked by organisational consolidation and strengthened coordination among staff, board members, and external collaborators.

Internal processes were improved to ensure:

- Faster response to political developments
- Stronger project management
- Greater integration between scientific, legal, and communication functions

In 2026 BeeLife enters a new phase with a renewed governance structure and we are pleased to introduce the current Board of Directors:



**Anna Ganapini**  
(CONAPI, Italy) President



**Roderick Wheatley**  
(UNAF, France) Treasurer



**Etienne Bruneau**  
(APILOMBARDIA, Italy) Vice  
President



**Constantin Dobrescu**  
(ROMAPIS, Romania)  
Secretary

### Board Members:

- Francesco Panella (UNAAPI, Italy)
- Ingrid Schmaranzer (BÖ, Austria)
- Frank Aletru (SNA, France)
- Torsten Ellmann (DIB, Germany)
- Richard Johansson (Biodlarna, Sweden)
- Kristian Stokholm (BIAVL, Denmark)

Together with BeeLife's members, partners and scientific network, the Board will continue to advance our mission: ensuring that pollinators, biodiversity and sustainable food systems remain central to European policymaking.

## 6. Financial Overview 2025

Diversification of funding remains a priority to guarantee long-term stability and independence.

The financial structure of 2025 reflects:



**Increased** project-based income



**Consolidation** of strategic partnerships



**Continued support** from private donors



**Careful** cost management

## 7. Outlook and Objectives for 2026

BeeLife will continue to work toward a coherent European framework in which pollinators are not treated as a sectoral issue but as a structural pillar of sustainable policy. The followings are the pillar focus points for 2026:

- **Strengthening** advocacy during CAP, Omnibus and NGT negotiations.
- **Monitoring** implementation of environmental legislation.
- **Expanding** pollinator data integration.
- **Developing** new tools for members.
- **Reinforcing** institutional alliances.

Furthermore, we aim to be an active participant in environmental campaigns addressing the risks that European deregulation poses to nature protection and the bioeconomy.

# Conclusion

2025 confirmed that complexity is our 'new normal.' However, we must ensure that simplification efforts target redundant bureaucracy, not the inherent complexity of natural ecosystems. Streamlining procedures must never lead to an indiscriminate dismantling of the safety measures that protect nature and people.

Being a niche sector does not mean being peripheral. On the contrary, pollinators are at the centre of agricultural productivity, ecological balance, and food sovereignty.

BeeLife and its members demonstrated that coordinated action, mutual listening, and a shared European voice are not only possible — they are necessary.

We invite all members and partners to continue strengthening this common path in 2026.

**Together, we are louder.**  
**Together, we are heard.**  
**Together, we give nature a voice in Europe.**

# Contacts and Resources

- Additional details and documents are available for new members on Google Drive and in the Welcome Pack.
- Newsletter
- Website: [bee-life.eu](https://bee-life.eu)
- Admin & general info: [info@bee-life.eu](mailto:info@bee-life.eu)
- Media & communications: [comms@bee-life.eu](mailto:comms@bee-life.eu)



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