



SURVEY RESULTS – GREECE

Deliverable IO1.A1

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Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Description	Action	Pages
[01]	18/04/2020	IDECA S.A	[Creation]	[C]	10
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(*) Action: C = Creation, I = Insert, U = Update, R = Replace, D = Delete

Referenced Documents

ID	Reference	Title
1	2019-1-UK01-KA204 062075	Plan Bee Proposal
2		

Applicable Documents

ID	Reference	Title
1	IO1.A1 Deliverable	IO1.A1 National report - Greece

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1. Introduction

1.1 Methodology

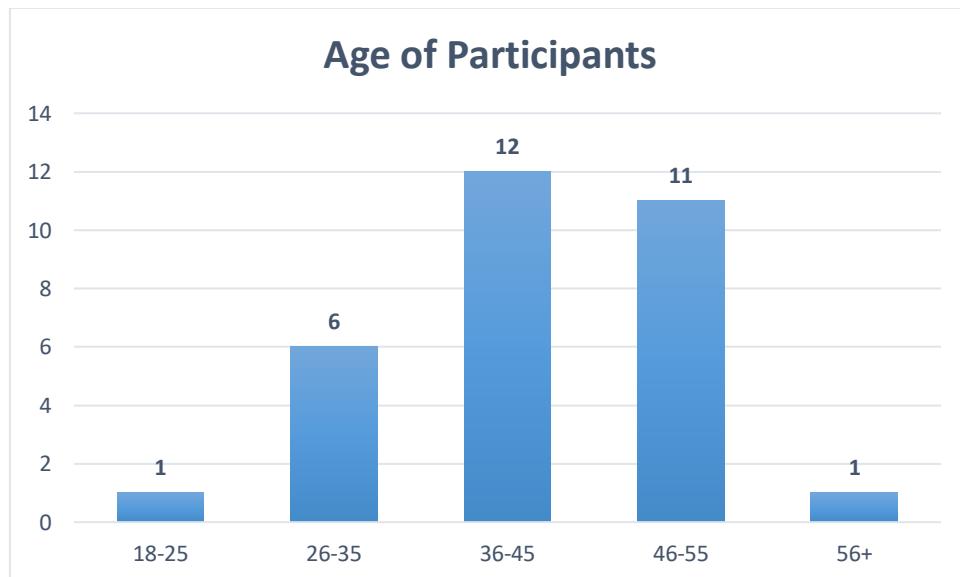
The survey was shared on social media (Facebook and Twitter beekeeping pages) and via direct e mail to beekeepers who were invited to take part anonymously.

This resulted in 31 participants, many of whom have agreed to take part in further research and/or activities as the Plan Bee project continues.

1.2 Participants

A total of 31 survey answers were received. The following demographic data were extracted by the responses.

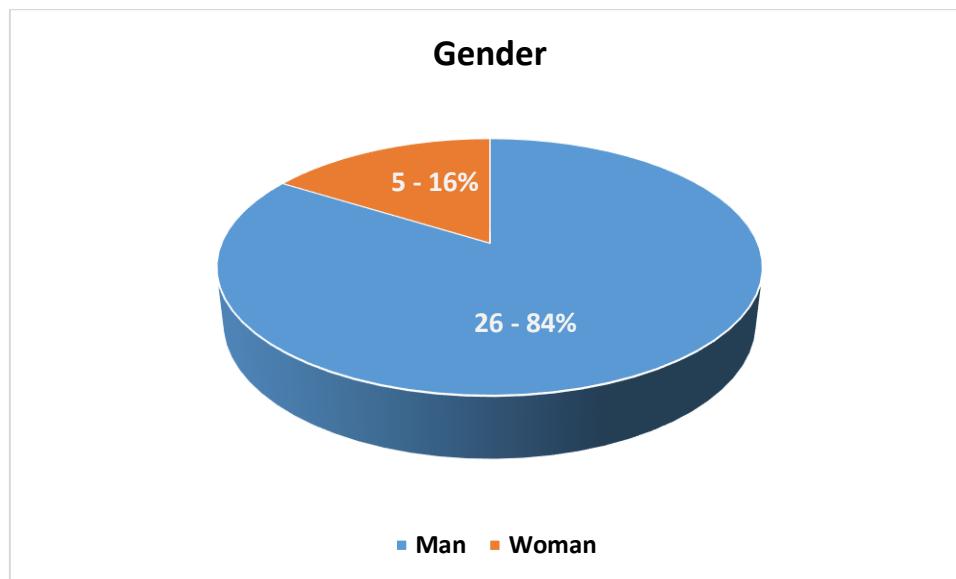
- Age of participants



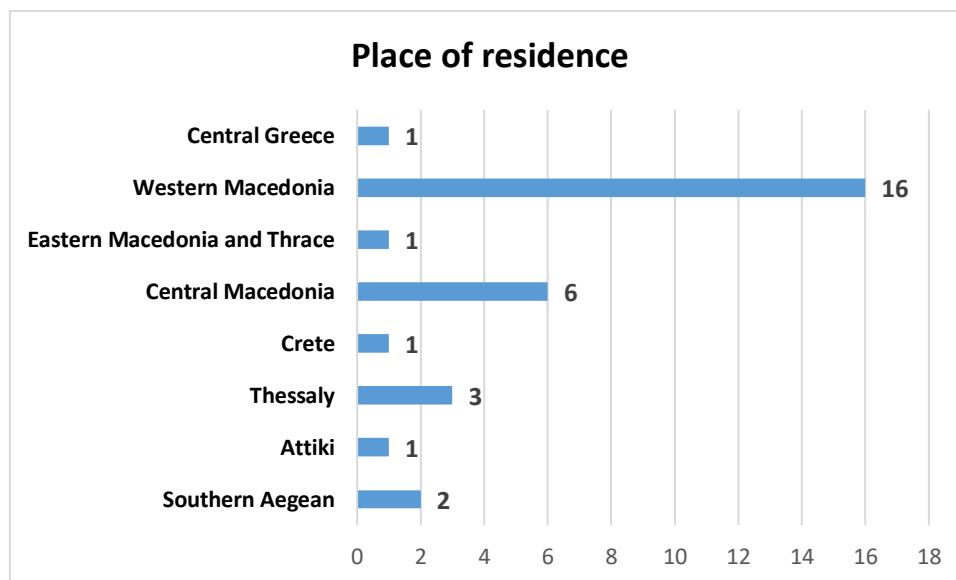
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- Gender:

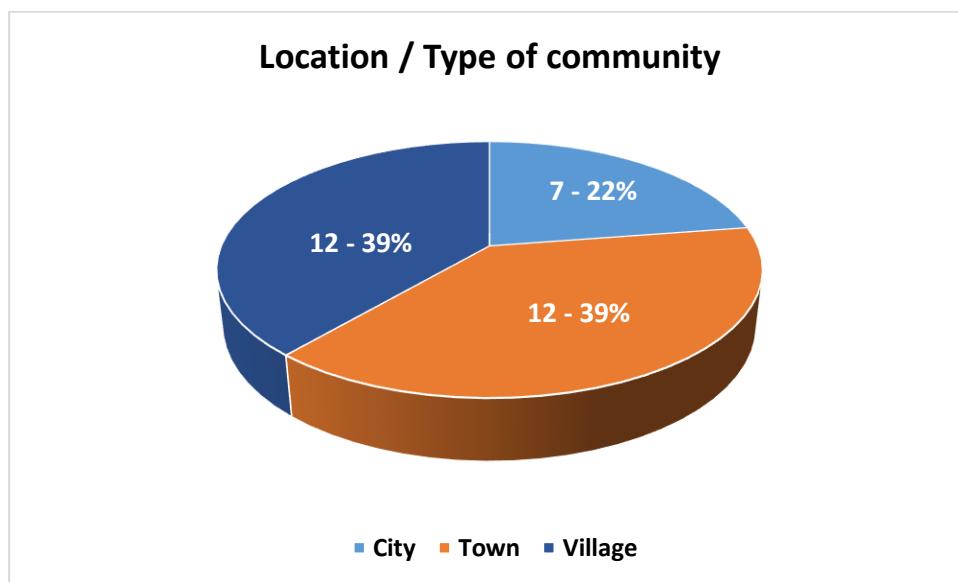


- Location:

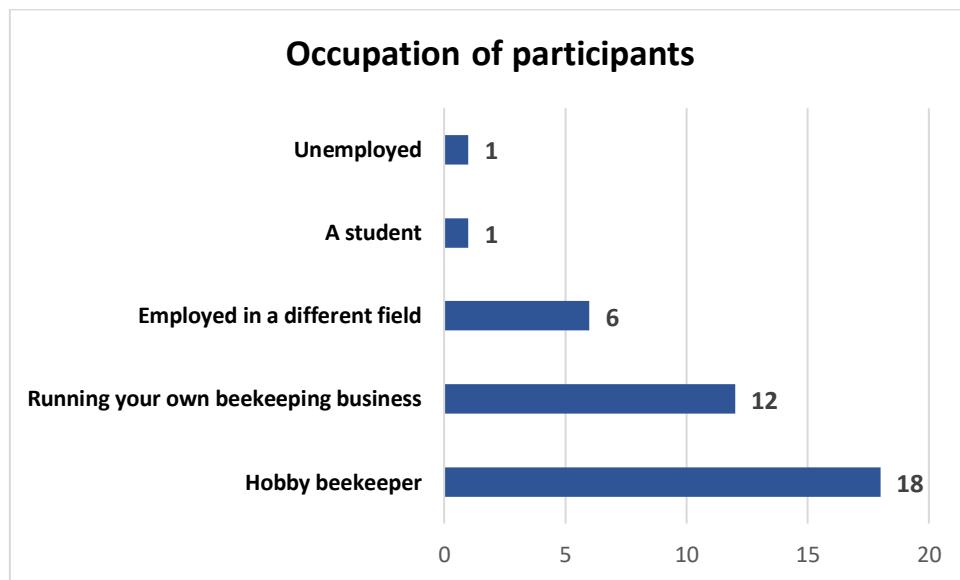


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- Occupation:



Multiple answers were allowed which resulted in 18 people are hobby beekeepers but also 5 of them are employed in different field of business and one of them is unemployed. Only one person is a student and none of them is retired.

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Key facts:

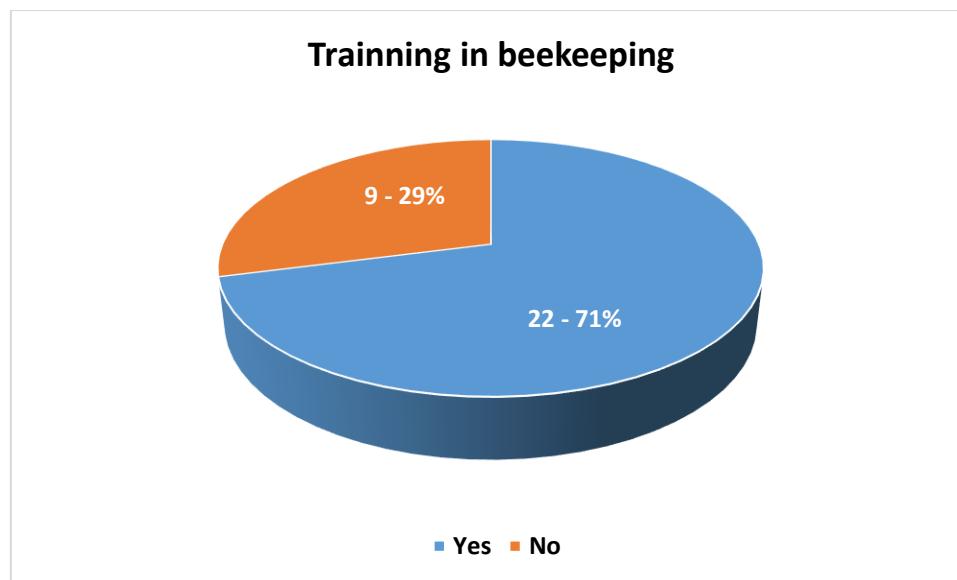
The key facts from the above responses are:

- 84% of participants were male
- 39% of participants were aged between 36 and 45 years old while only 3% of them is over 56 years of age while another 3% of them is between 18 and 25.
- 78% of the participants live in rural areas (towns and villages)
- The majority of participants are hobby and profession beekeepers

2. Survey results

This section contains more detailed information on the participants beekeeping knowledge, skills and on running a business.

Question: Have you ever attended a formal or informal training in beekeeping?



- If yes, please provide more details (title, organiser, length, type, etc.).

The participants that answered yes to the above question, mentioned the following trainings:

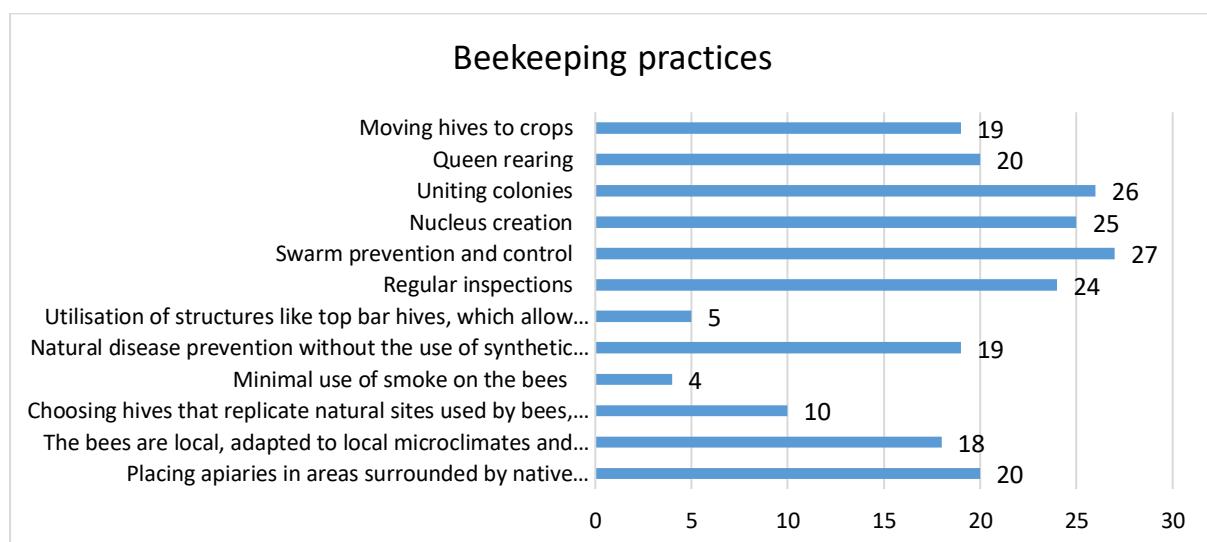
- Advanced course in beekeeping – BeeLab of AUT (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) 3 days seminar / 24 hours on this topic
- Advanced course in beekeeping – EU programme Blue Economy 75 hours training on this topic

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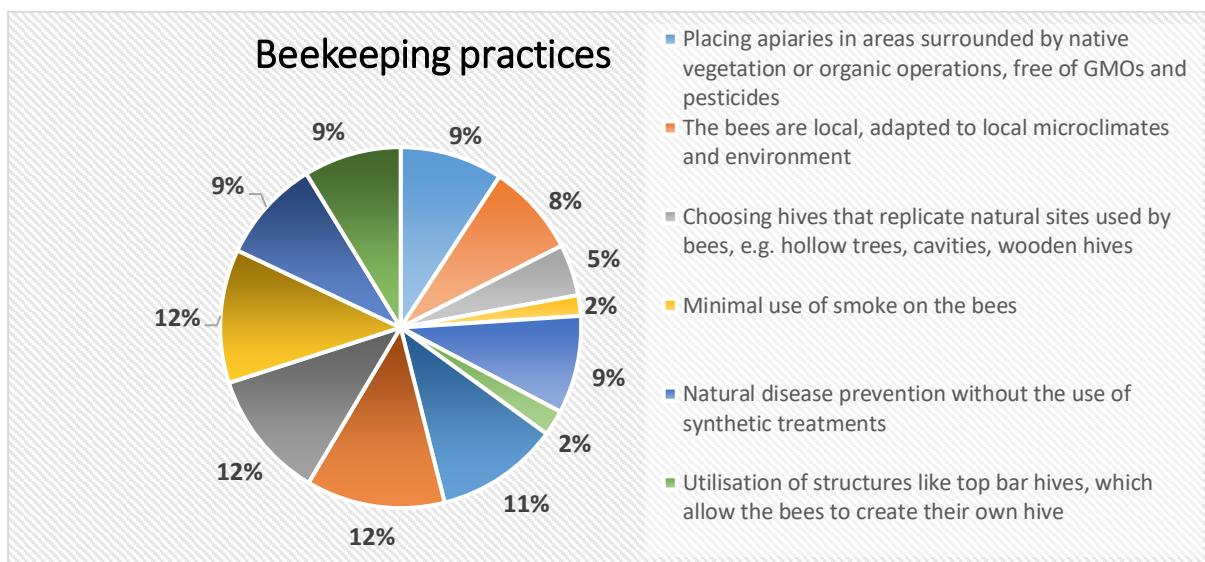
- Bees' diseases – BeeLab of AUT (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) 3 days seminar / 24 hours on this topic
- Bee production, packaging and traceability– Institution of agricultural development ELGO DEMETRA (Training Body) 3 days seminar / 10 hours on this topic
- Bee production, packaging and traceability – BeeLab of AUT (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) 3 days seminar / 24 hours on this topic
- Production of royal gelly – AUA (Agricultural University of Athens) 3 days seminar / 6 hours on this topic
- Best practices in beekeeping – Institution of agricultural development ELGO DEMETRA (Training Body) 3 days seminar / 5 hours on this topic
- Best practices in beekeeping – BeeLab of AUT (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) 3 days seminar / 24 hours on this topic
- Organic (Bio) beekeeping – Institution of agricultural development ELGO DEMETRA (Training Body) 3 days seminar / 4 hours on this topic
- Queen rearing – AUA (Agricultural University of Athens) 3 days seminar / 10 hours on this topic
- Queen rearing – BeeLab of AUT (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) 3 days seminar / 24 hours on this topic

Question: Which of the below beekeeping practices are you familiar with?

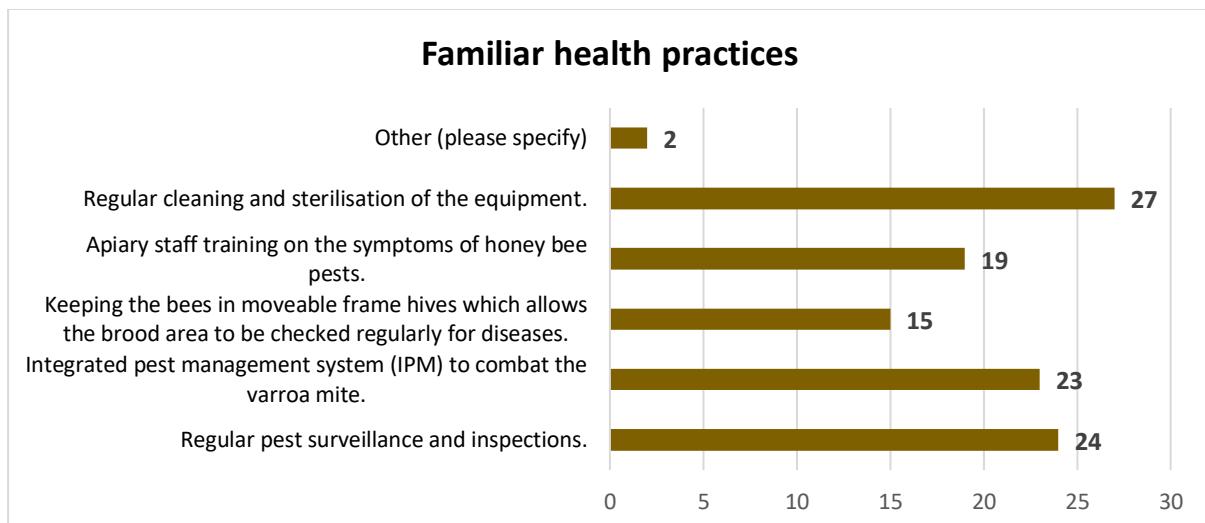


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Question: Which of the below bee health practices are you familiar with?

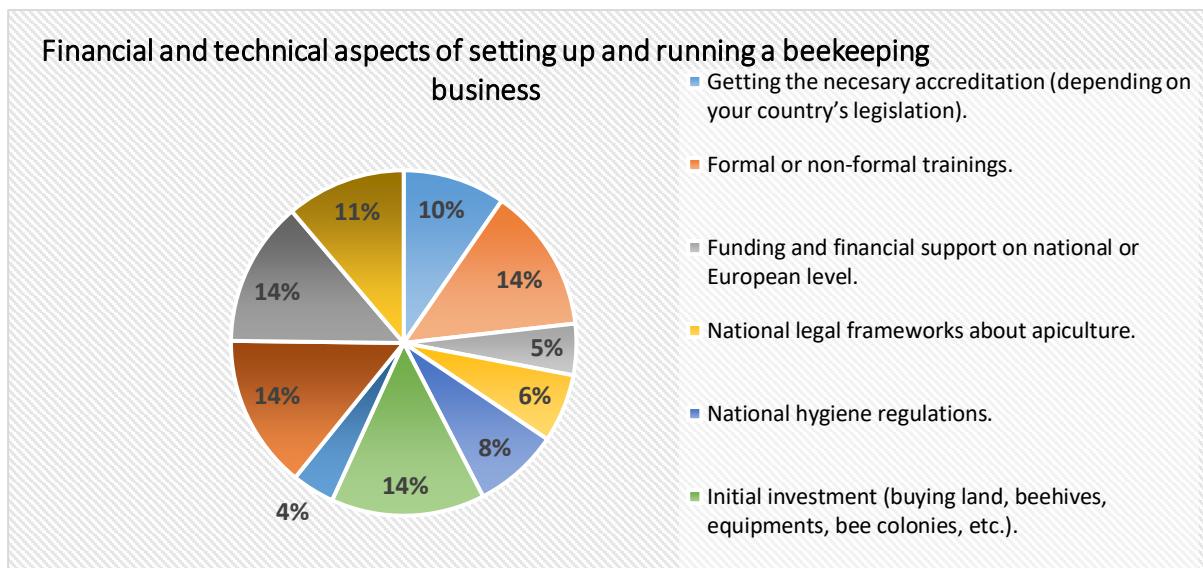
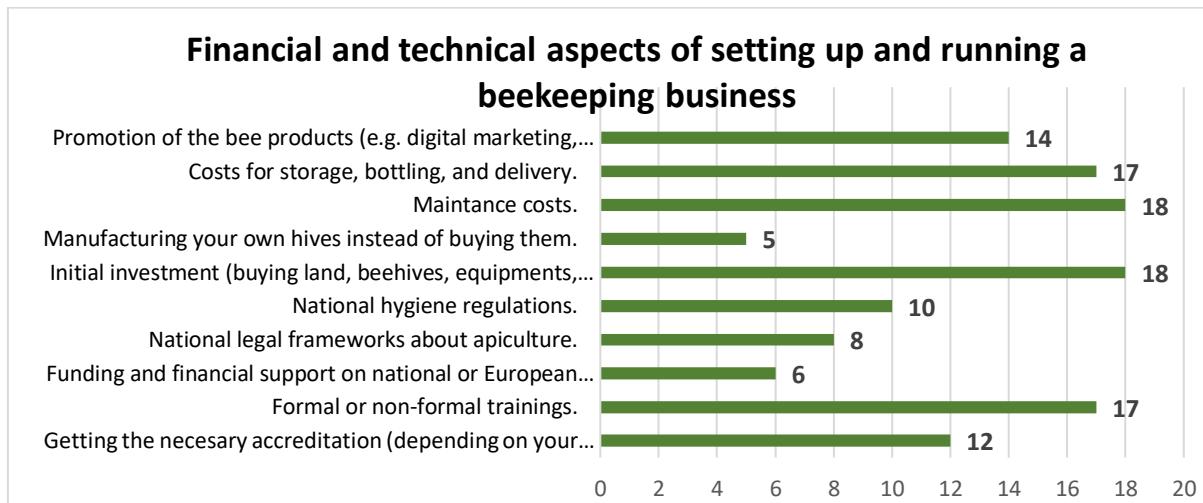


Two responders mentioned other practices one of them is familiar with the selection of bee colonies that are resistant to diseases without any treatment and the other responder is familiar with stocking bee hives into place with steady temperature on summer season.

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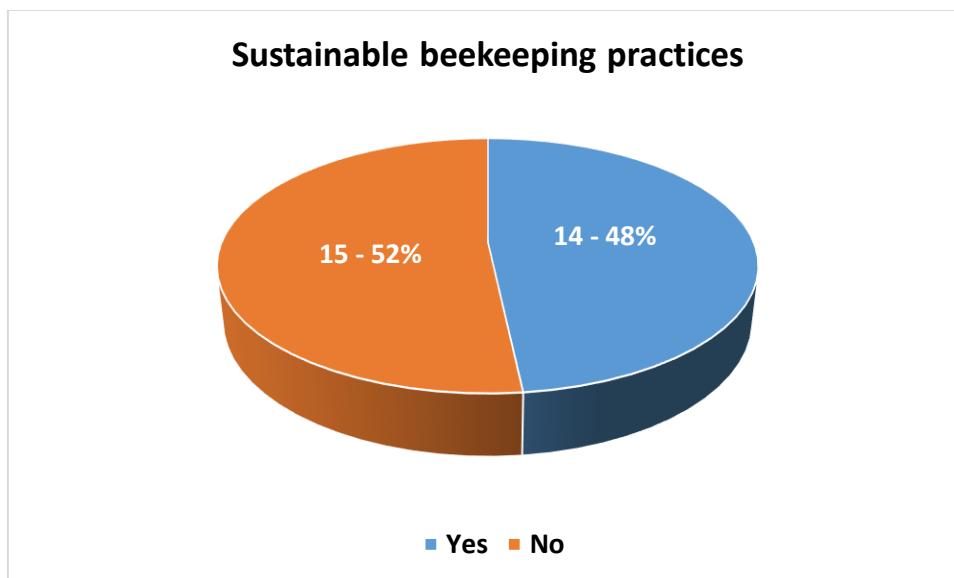
Question: Which of the below financial and technical aspects of setting up and running a beekeeping business are you familiar with?



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Question: If you are a working in the beekeeping field, are you following any sustainable beekeeping practices?



- If yes, please provide more details (title, organiser, length, type, etc.).

The participants that answered yes to the above question, mentioned the following sustainable beekeeping practices:

- Mobile beekeeping by avoiding crops
- cultivation of aromatic plants biologically in property and beehives placement in it
- Biological disease control
- Mobile beekeeping with a stable bank of two hundred queens / nucleus creation each year, biological control of disease by overcoming herbs and oils and genetic selection only from the strong bees that will survive, feeding them with honey, pollen and only 50% sugar, not commercial food. Nutrition and antibiotic costs are zero, bees also overwinter in a semi-mountainous area in western Macedonia, and only a local breed is reproduced possible in the region's adversity.
- Selection of local genetic material with resistance to Varroa
- Cost management

The phrase sustainable beekeeping has different meaning between beekeepers. Some of them are confused with the real meaning of sustainable beekeeping, probably because they don't have the right training to understand the real meaning of sustainable beekeeping.

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Question: What do you consider the main obstacles in setting up and running a beekeeping business?

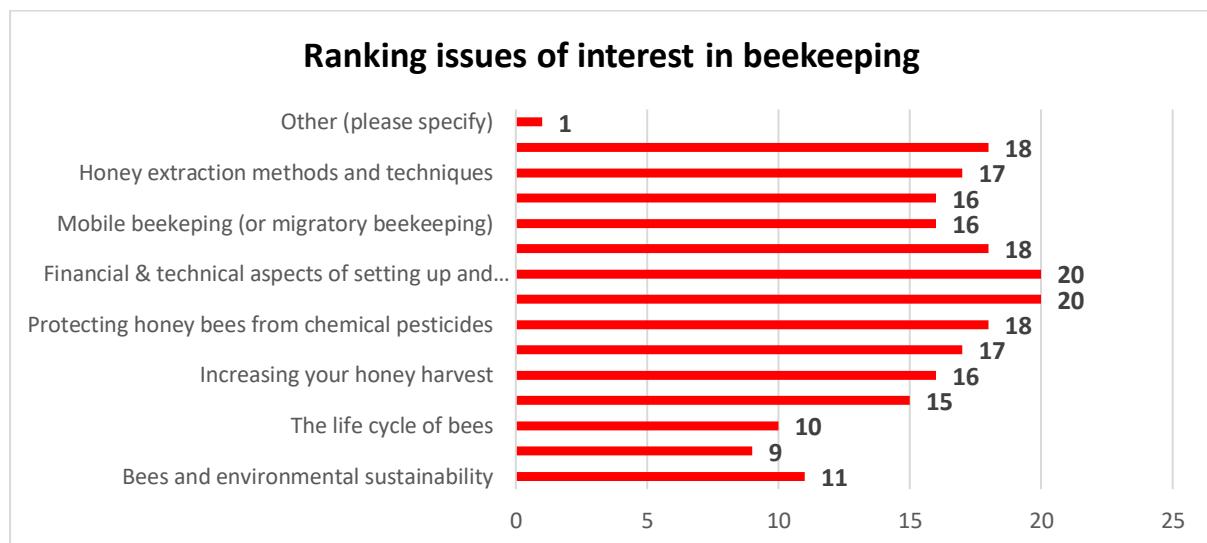
Participants were asked to write down the main obstacles and here is a selection of responses.

- The deep knowledge of beekeeping, lack of experience
- Business funding
- Competition from imported cheap goods.
- Location, land access
- Wrong distribution of resources
- The promotion of bee products
- Set up cost
- Legislation, licencing, certification
- Financial issue, economic factor
- The precariousness of production and beekeeping in general due to theft, sabotage
- Weather conditions, climatological changes, floods, fires, the greenhouse effect, etc.
- The learning process
- Increased taxation
- Unfair competition
- The destruction of nature by conventional agriculture / livestock
- High cost of maintenance and production
- Illegal use of pesticides, poisons, etc.
- There is no obstacle until the company reaches the point of setting up a packaging plant
- Positioning of the product to the market
- National planning of distribution of bee products
- The Bureaucracy
- Unprofessional and poor training of beekeepers
- Low price of bee products
- Investment costs, branding
- The absence of organized legal spaces for the placement of apiaries.
- Sales plan
- Business verticalization
- Provision of forest positions for beekeepers by authorities
- Poor information of farmers in order to minimize the use of pesticides

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Question: Which of the below areas are you interested in learning more about?



Key facts:

- Total (100%) of the participants have attended so type of training in beekeeping
- Beekeeping practices that respondents state they are most familiar with are:
 - ✓ Swarm prevention and control
 - ✓ Uniting colonies of bees
 - ✓ Nucleus creation
- Beekeeping practices that respondents state they are least familiar with are:
 - ✓ Minimal use of smoke on the bees
 - ✓ Utilisation of structures like top bar hives, which allow the bees to create their own hive
 - ✓ Choosing hives that replicate natural sites used by bees, e.g. hollow trees, cavities, wooden hives
- The main bee health practices that most respondents state they are familiar with are:
 - ✓ Regular cleaning and sterilisation of the equipment
 - ✓ Regular pest surveillance and inspections
- The financial and technical aspects of setting up and running a beekeeping business that most participants are familiar with are:
 - ✓ Initial investment (buying land, beehives, equipment, bee colonies, etc.)
 - ✓ Formal or non-formal training

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- The most common obstacles in setting up and running a beekeeping business among the participants are:
 - ✓ Cost and finance
 - ✓ Licensing and funding
 - ✓ Understanding the market
- The topics most participants want to learn more about are:
 - ✓ Best management practices in beekeeping
 - ✓ Financial & technical aspects of setting up and operating a beekeeping business

3. Conclusions

- a) The analysis of survey's results suggests that there is a well-structured training system available to beekeepers in Greece with all participants stating they have attended some short of training in beekeeping.
- b) Training in helping beekeepers to run a beekeeping business is limited or non-existent.
- c) Although only 48% of participants stated that they follow sustainable beekeeping practices, the answers in other parts of the survey indicated that even more follow at least some of sustainable beekeeping practices. For example, 87% practice some sort of swarm prevention and control, 64% place apiaries in areas surrounded by native vegetation or organic operations, free of GMOs and pesticides and 58% state their bees are local and adapted to local microclimates and environment.
- d) Additionally, 77,4% of participants state they carry out regular pest surveillance and inspections which is a key tool in sustainable beekeeping.
- e) The main obstacles in setting up and running a beekeeping business were stated as cost and finance, difficulties in licensing, lack of funds and not understanding the market as well.
- f) Finally, above the half of participants (64,5%) wish to learn more about best management practices in beekeeping and financial & technical aspects of setting up and operating a beekeeping business.

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