



D1.2

Year Meeting Report

M12

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del Lazio e della Toscana *M. Aleandri*



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Abstract	The present report is based on the minutes of the first Year Meeting of the EU project B-THENET ("BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE BEEKEEPING"), which took place in Uppsala (Sweden) on the 26 th of June 2023. The core points addressed, main agreements made, and pending decisions discussed during the Year Meeting and General Assembly are reported in the Executive Summary. The more-in-depth detail of the discussion can be found in the whole body of the document, under the respective point of the agenda. The results of the TN monitoring survey distributed during the General Assembly are also reported.
Keywords	EU beekeeping, Thematic Network, Year meeting, General Assembly

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1 Executive Summary

Deliverable 1.2 Year Meeting Report M12, provides a detailed overview of the 2023 Year Meeting of the Thematic Network B-THENET, that took place on the 26th of June 2023 in Uppsala, Sweden. The core points addressed, main agreements made, and pending decisions discussed during the Year Meeting and General Assembly are summarised here:

- [Developing the core outcome of the project: validation of the collected and described beekeeping practices](#). By September 2023, practices need to be validated online and by December 2023 they need to be validated on-field.
- [In WP1](#), the results of the financial interim report (M1-M9) were presented. An internal agreement will be made to establish the ratio of budget [that can be moved between cost categories](#) (from person-month to costs, or to other cost categories) without making an amendment to the GA (e.g., 10-15%).
- [To further assist the scheduling of the tasks and workload in a predictable way, and therefore ensuring that all the targets of the project are reached, and all tasks and deliverables are completed on time by the Beneficiaries, the timeline of B-THENET activities \(Online Tool\)](#) was presented and the timeline legend was explained. A practical demonstration on how to use the table was provided on the B-THENET Centres activities as an example.
- [In WP2](#), practices in the Exchange platform are needed to be fully described by the end of August 2023. As many beekeepers as possible need to be engaged to validate the described beekeeping practices based on real-life and everyday practice approach.
- [In WP3](#), the results of the preliminary sociological investigation were shared and more sociological analyses to maximise the effectivity of the dissemination of Best Beekeeping Practices will be developed.
- [In WP4](#), LOBA will finalise the dissemination materials for B-THENET Centres (e.g., logo, brochure, map with Geolocalisation), will develop a toolkit for beekeepers based on the Best Beekeeping Practices identified (e.g., video, infographics, audio assets), and will propose a schedule to create opinion articles and blog posts for the website that can be used for the newsletter. APRE will collect inputs from partners on to the possible [exploitation of outputs, activities, and results of the B-THENET project and how to ensure the sustainability of the achievements](#).
- [National B-THENET Centres:](#)
- [To make Centres more visible](#) LOBA will finalise the National B-THENET Centres logos, brochure (can be translated in local language) and a plaque to place outside their premises and facilities (including info on how to print materials in an appropriate way).
- [Beekeeping practices will be validated](#) by the “beekeeping community” consisting of beekeepers and advisors working side by side in the National B-THENET Centres. Beekeepers and advisors need to agree that the description of the practices corresponds with what is carried out in practice in their own country (online). Moreover, the beekeeping community must specify that the described practices are feasible at the apiary-level (on-field). Validation should be cross-checked and re-discussed in a dedicated meeting focusing on National B-THENET Centres.
- [To maximise the impact of exchange activities and improve the bottom-up approach](#), beekeepers should be more physically engaged (e.g., in consultation meetings) at the

National Centres level. Collaboration and synergy with the collaborating partners needs to be strengthened.

- **International B-THENET Centres:**
- The [International Centre for other Stakeholders](#) (BEELIFE) will organize one webinar each year (for a total of three webinars) and one physical conference at the end of the project. BEELIFE proposed to organize a [workshop in November 2023](#) between B-THENET and other major EU projects (e.g., Insignia, B-GOOD, etc.) to find synergies and build bridges among the various actors.
- The [International Centre for Beekeepers](#) (APIMONDIA) discussed how to create the [common English template of the Best Beekeeping Practices](#). Two options were proposed, which should be agreed upon:
 1. To have a common English template for each of the 20 practices identified (realized in co-creation among partners). The template can be translated in the 13 local languages and tailored to the national beekeeping reality. Once the best practices are validated by EU beekeepers and advisors, they can be re-translated in English.
 2. To have countries develop the 20 practices individually in their 13 local languages without referring to a common template. Once practices are validated by EU beekeepers and advisors, partners will work in co-creation to translate only the validated best practices into English.
- The [International Centre for Advisors](#) (SLU-UCM) reminded partners that one [advisor](#) (or two) should be [appointed in each country](#) to attend the two translational events to be organised. The initial part of the [advisory training](#) will be organised by applying a self-learning approach. SLU will create an online platform (such as Canvas), where advisors can learn methodologies on how to teach effectively and transmit knowledge (i.e., how to be a good advisor). Only advisors that completed all modules can participate in the first transnational training of trainers' event. [The first transnational event will take place in Madrid, Spain on the 14th of June 2024](#) as it also will be anticipated by the guidelines on how to train advisors (due in February 2024, M18). The transnational event will be followed by the [International Symposium for Bee Health](#) organised by APIMONDIA on Saturday and Sunday ([15th-16th of June 2024](#)) and finally by the [second yearly meeting of B-THENET](#), taking place on Monday the [17th of June 2024](#).
- **General Assembly: decisions agreed upon.**
- As the Joint Controllers Agreement has come into force, [databases can be shared among partners](#). All 18 beneficiaries should invite their professional contacts to join the B-THENET platform, where they can register as beekeepers / advisors / other stakeholders, populating B-THENET databases. Contacts from these three main categories can be shared with project partners to improve and/or realize the relevant project activities or outcomes (e.g., to reach goals on National/international B-THENET Centres).
- [One expert per partner](#) (having good English skills) should be appointed to be in charge of [the translation of the Best Practices in English](#).
- The current list of [Advisory Board](#) members was revised, new candidates were discussed (e.g., EFSA, Consumers' Associations such as Slow Food etc.). If the list is changed, the coordinator will inform the consortium.

- The [outputs of the first transnational event for stakeholders in Romania](#) (about use of Veterinary Medical Products, VMP in beekeeping) will be discussed internally and with the scientific commission of APIMONDIA aiming at reaching out to the EU Commission.
- [Certificates issued to beekeepers by National and International B-THENET Centres](#) will have a standardised layout produced by LOBA and will be signed by the coordinator and the national/international B-THENET Centre's main representative. The certificates will be issued both in local language and in English.
- A [TN Monitoring survey](#) was distributed online to all partners to assess the project performance, gather feedback on possible issues and formulate solutions. The results were analysed in the following months and are reported here. Partners' overall mean evaluation of the project performance and management was 75,71%.

2 Introduction

On the 26th of June 2023, the Yearly Meeting of the project B-THENET “BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE BEEKEEPING” (GA. N. 101059812 Call: HORIZON-CL6-2021-GOVERNANCE-01) took place in Uppsala (Sweden).

The yearly meeting was a hybrid event, and online connection was available to partners not able to attend in-person. The meeting was recorded after giving due notification about the fact of the recording to the participants, and the videos are stored in Cisco Webex Meetings and available for the consortium to download.

Participants in-person: Giovanni Formato (IZSLT), Veronica Manara (IZSLT), Francesca Santaniello (APRE), Beatriz Correia (LOBA), Alexandre Almeida (LOBA), Lotta Fabricius Kristiansen (SLU), Lars Hellander (BEELIFE), Flemming Vejsnaes (BIAVL), Maria Aranzazu Meana Manes (UCM), Fani Hatjina (HAO), Ivana Tlak Gajger (UNIZG), Dagmar Mudronova (UVLF), Leon Reinhold (UHOH), Peter Kozmus (SBA), Kristina Gratzner (UGRAZ), Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ).

Online participants: Marco Pietropaoli (IZSLT), Andrea Györfy (IZSLT), Flavia Fusconi (APRE), Maria Carmela Fierro (APRE), Filippo Jannoni Sebastianini (APIMONDIA), Ivana Pahulyiova (UVLF), Jacek Jachula (INHORT), Atilla Kunszabó (UVMB), Johanna Kóczán (UVMB), Vitalijs Komasilovs (LBTU).

“**Deliverable 1.2 Year Meeting Report**” is a detailed report of the Year Meeting of the project B-THENET. For each point of the agenda (shown below), the presentations given by the project partners, the questions asked and the following discussion, the decisions taken, and the pending objects are reported. The deliverable also reports the decisions taken during the General Assembly of the project, and the results of the analysis of the TN Monitoring Survey that was distributed at the end of the event.

AGENDA:

Meeting venue: Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet, SLU, Ulls väg 16, Uppsala
26/06/2023

Time	Topic	Presenter
8:30 - 9:00	Arrival to SLU and registration	-
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome and meeting agenda	Lotta (SLU)
9:15 - 9:30	State-of-the-art of project implementation	IZSLT
9:30 - 9:45	Financial overview of M01-M09 of the project - Summary on costs claimed in M01-M09 - Suggestions for future financial statements	APRE
9:45 - 10:00	Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP1 in M01-M09 and overview of upcoming assignments.	IZSLT (WP1 leader)
10:00 - 10:15	Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP2 in M01-M09 and an overview on upcoming assignments.	APIMONDIA (WP2 leader)
10:15 - 10:30	Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP3 in M01-M09 and an overview on upcoming assignments.	LBTU (WP3 leader)
10:30 - 10:45	Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP4 in M01-M09 and an overview on upcoming assignments.	APRE (WP4 leader)
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break	On campus
11:00 - 12:00	Voice to national B-THENET Centres	Open mic discussion
12:00 - 13:00	Voice to International B-THENET Centres - Building a stakeholder ecosystem - Organising beekeeping advisors - Harmonising beekeeping practices	BEELIFE SLU-UCM APIMONDIA
13:00 - 14:00	Light lunch	On campus
14:00 - 15:00	Dissemination strategies of B-THENET outputs - VR/R tutorials/interactive courses - Exploitation of results - Sociological analyses - Clustering activities	LOBA APRE LBTU BEELIFE
15:00 - 16:00	General assembly TN monitoring Survey	IZSLT

3 State-of-the-art of project implementation

- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT), the project coordinator, provided a brief overview of the deliverables and milestones achieved in each work package, thanking partners for their work for meeting all submission deadlines. So far, each submission deadline was successfully met.
- The scientific paper written based on the results of WP2 analysis will be soon shared with the authors for revision.
- We are about to begin **WP3** activities, and the next crucial phase of the project is the **validation of collected and described beekeeping practices**. By September 2023, practices should be validated online and by December 2023 they must also be validated on-field (**Fig. 1**).

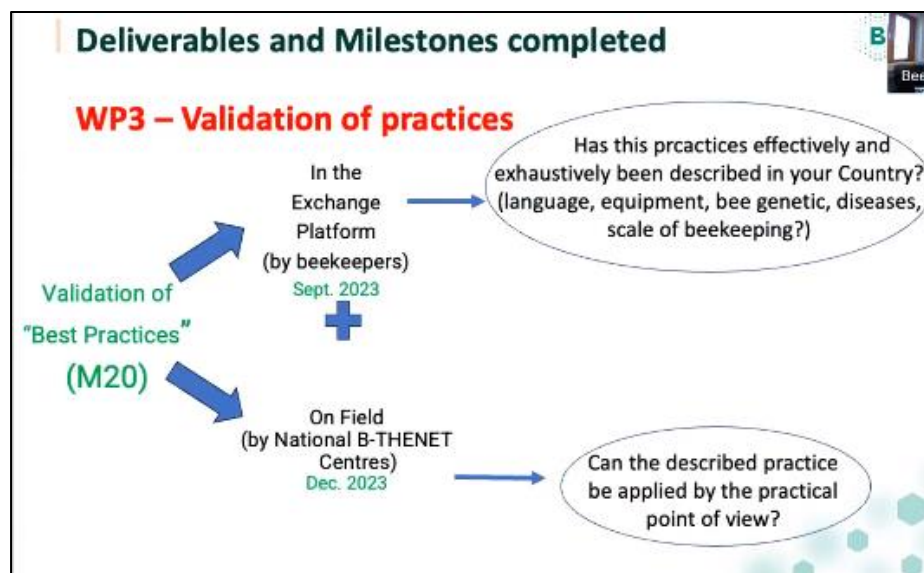


Figure 1. Validation of practices at country-level (online + practical validation).

- In **WP4**, various dissemination activities and materials need to be produced based on TN outputs (listed below) and IZSLT requested APRE and LOBA to organise a meeting to discuss the following points:

Infographics: 4 on Communities; 4 on national B-THENET Centres; 60 on practices.
 Audiovisual material: 60 on practices.
 Videos: 4 of the transnational events; 2 of transnational training of trainers.
 2 VR/R tutorial/interactive courses
 Factsheets: 1 on analysis of practices; 4 on results of validation of practices.
 Booklets: 4 on priority practices + 1 on best beekeeping practices.

- All the M24 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (Table 1) for B-THENET platform have been reached, while even 2 of the 3 M48 KPIs have also been met. By M10, KPIs achieved: 2,854 Visitors; 13,207 Page views; and 42 Countries reached.

Table 1. KPIs for B-THENET platforms. Target values at M24 and M48. Excerpt from the Grant Agreement.

Metric method	Target M24	Target M48
N. of visits; time spent on website and returning visitors; N. of countries	>2,000 platform visits; >2,500 tot page views; > 15 countries reached	>5,000 platform visits; >10,000 tot page views; > 30 countries reached

4 Financial overview of the project implementation (M01-M09)

- Flavia and Maria Carmela (APRE) presented the results of the Financial Interim Report (M01-M09), showing how each partner is progressing in the project' financial reporting, stressing that this internal report was important to [familiarise with and prepare for the official EC financial report that will take place in February 2024 \(M18\)](#).
- As a consortium, by M9 the consortium have reached the [11% of the person month planned across the 4 WPs \(Fig. 2\)](#). By [M18](#), we should reach [at least the 25% of expenditure to show that the project is progressing as planned](#).
- In terms of [reported costs vs estimated costs](#), by M9 the consortium have reached the [11% of the total consumption of the project](#).



Figure 2. Person month estimated (blue) vs reported (orange) for the whole consortium.

Questions and Answers (Q and A):

- **Q1:** Leon Reinhold (UHOH) and Fani Hatjina (HAO) asked how flexible they could be when moving budget from person-month to different cost categories.
- **A1:** An internal agreement will be made to establish the ratio of budget [that can be moved between cost categories](#) (from person-month to costs, or to other cost categories) without making an amendment to the GA (e.g., 10-15%). Changes should be always reasonable and justified, and the partner should be able to carry out all its activities planned as described in the Grant Agreement, despite the budget shift.

5 Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP1 in M01-M09 and overview of upcoming assignments.

- Veronica (IZSLT) provided a brief overview of the deliverables and administrative tasks achieved in WP1 during the first 9 months of the project.
- The [timeline of B-THENET activities \(Online Tool\)](#) was presented to the consortium. The tool consists of a comprehensive timeline listing all actions needed to achieve B-THENET goals. It is an online resource in the format of an Excel file that will be sent to all partners and is available for download from B-THENET One Drive platform accessible by all Beneficiaries.
- The [timeline legend](#) was explained to allow all partners to analyse and use the table. **Fig. 3** reports the main features of the legend. On the timeline, each partner is identified with an [ID number](#), and different [colours](#) mark different [project target groups](#). To understand what activities they are involved in, partners must look for their target group colour/s, and then check if their ID number is indicated next to the illustrated task.

1	IZSLT
2	APRE
3	APIMONDIA
4	LOBA
5	SLU
6	BEELIFE
7	BIAVL
8	SBA
9	UCM
10	HAO
11	UNIZG
12	INHORT
13	UVLF
14	UGENT

Partners	IZSLT, APRE, APIMONDIA, LOBA, SLU, BEELIFE, BIAVL, SBA, UCM, HAO, UNIZG, INHORT, UVLF, UGENT, UHOH, LBTU, UVMB, UGRAZ
National B-THENET centres	APIMONDIA, SLU, BIAVL, SBA, UCM, HAO, UNIZG, INHORT, UVLF, UGENT, UHOH, UVMB, UGRAZ
International B-THENET centres	APIMONDIA, SLU-UCM, BEELIFE
Management Board	IZSLT, APRE, APIMONDIA, UCM, LBTU
Communication team	APRE, LOBA

15	UHOH
16	LBTU
18	UGRAZ
19	UVMB

Figure 3. Legend of the Timeline of B-THENET activities. ID numbers allocated to identify each individual partner (left), in line with GA. Colour coding of different target groups involved in B-THENET project activities (right).

- An overview of the timeline was given (**Fig. 4**). In the table, activities are listed per month in each work package. **Deliverables** are marked with **bold colours** to highlight an important deadline.

	June
2023	M10
WP1	Yearly meeting [all]
	2 TN monitoring surveys [1, all]
	MB meeting [all]
WP2	
	Plan transnational event for stakeholders in Romania [6, 1]
	Description and tailoring of practices in the platform and exchange meetings [all]
WP3	
	Submit deliverable 3.15 on establishment of 13 B-THENET centres [7, all]
WP4	
	Social media posts validation [all]
	Social media post production [4, 2, 1]
	Create dissemination material for event for stakeholders in Romania [4, 6]
	Development of a survey for beekeepers and advisors on dissemination activities [1, 5-9, 3]
	Collect inputs from partners and assess TN outputs to identify practical actions to exploit them for deliverable 4.13

Figure 4. Example of B-THENET timeline for the month of June 2023 (M10). Activities across the four WPs are marked with different colours and ID numbers, to identify individual partners and project target groups involved in the listed task. Important deadlines (e.g., deliverables) are marked with bold characters.

- A practical demonstration on how to read the table was also provided, showing the **activities foreseen between June and December 2023** on the timeline, **with a focus on National B-THENET centres' tasks**.

Questions and answers:

- Q1:** Dagmar Mudroňová (UVLF), asked if it is possible for their National B-THENET Centre to carry out the **on-field training over the summer**, for the more ideal weather conditions that allow testing biosecurity measures for Varroa in more optimal way.
- A1:** The answer to this question was positive. It is highly encouraged that partners critically evaluate the timeline as Dagmar Mudroňová did, reporting to WP leaders,

task leaders and the coordinator when changes are made. All constructive activities and suggestions are welcome!

- **Q2:** Alexandre Almeida (LOBA) asked if it will be possible to [add notes](#) to the Excel file (Timeline of B-THENET activities online tool). He also asked who should be informed in case a deliverable is to be [postponed](#).
- **A2:** It will be indeed possible to add notes, but it is suggested to communicate changes to WP leaders, task leaders and the coordinator. Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) reminded the participants that deliverables cannot be postponed. Problems in task implementation should be promptly communicated, so that they can be addressed finding even temporary solutions that can be later improved and polished into a sound final product.

6 Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP2 in M01-M09 and an overview on upcoming assignments.

- Filippo Jannoni-Sebastianini (APIMONDIA) provided [an update on past and future activities within WP2 that focuses on the collection and evaluation of practices](#).
- [Past achievements](#): the strategy to build a community of stakeholders (Task leader: BEELIFE); the development of a methodology for the analysis of practices (sustainability, scientific value, readiness-to-use) (leader LBTU); the realisation of a bottom-up survey to identify priority practices and innovations (Task leader: UGRAZ); survey translation in 14 languages (responsible APIMONDIA) and distribution to beekeepers operated by all National B-THENET centres, with the aim of understanding the relevance of each practice from the beekeepers' point of view.
- [Highlights](#): The survey obtained more than 2,000 replies and resulted in the 2023 inventory of priority practices and innovations. A list of 22 practices falling under the themes of *Apiary set-up and management/maintenance* (Good Beekeeping Practices) and *Varroosis* (Biosecurity Measures) was categorised (Task leader: IZSLT), including the country's' different climatic area (temperate, cold, sub-tropical), item (e.g. apiary, beehive, colony, nucleus), colony status (growing, stable, wintering preparation, overwintering), production line (honey, royal jelly, pollen, propolis, bees, wax, venom), services (pollination, environmental monitoring, education, apitourism, apitherapy) and tools and supplies required for practices implementation.
- [Current tasks and future activities](#): the refinement, description and tailorization of practices in the Exchange platform, trying to engage as many beekeepers as possible to have more consistent validation of the practices; the participation online to the first transnational event for stakeholders that will take place on the 7th of July 2023 in Romania.

7 Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP3 in M01-M09 and an overview on upcoming assignments.

- Vitalijs Komasilovs (LBTU) summarised [past and future activities of WP3, the work package dedicated to the validation of Best Beekeeping Practices](#).
- In brief, within WP3 practices published in the Exchange platform are [validated online](#) by the platform users and reports of the acceptance of practices are analysed. B-THENET centres are also in charge of conducting the consecutive [on-field validation](#). The validated best practices are subsequently investigated with the aid of a [sociological study](#) to understand how to maximise their dissemination among beekeepers. The formal identification of Best Beekeeping Practices and their submission to EIP-Agri networks will follow.
- **Highlights:** in March 2023, along with the first round of WP2 surveys, LBTU developed and distributed a preliminary sociological investigation (a survey), to identify the preferred means of communication of EU beekeepers. The results were integrated into the scientific publication on best beekeeping practices collected and described by the partners. The highlights of the analysis were described, as shown in **Fig. 5**. The insights gained through the preliminary sociological analysis will be used to implement the sociological study on the 22 best practices identified by the B-THENET Thematic Network (TN) in 2023.

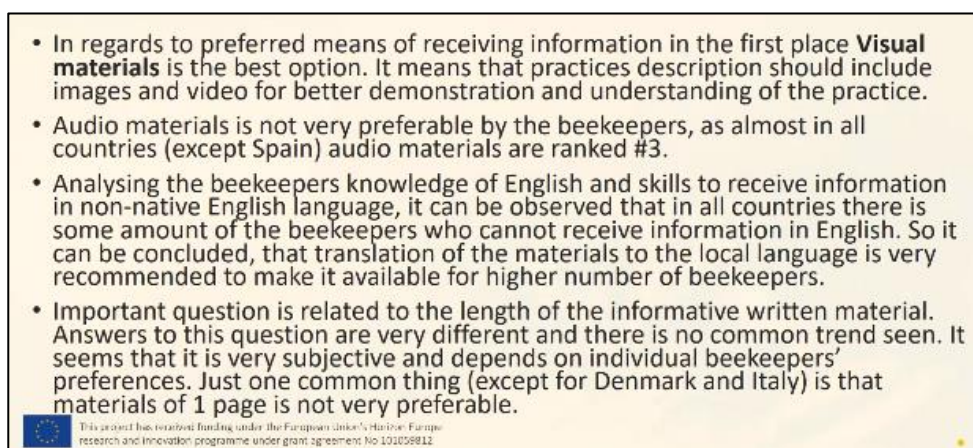


Figure 5. Results from the preliminary sociological study distributed in March 2023. Preferences of EU beekeepers in regard to means of communication (visual and audio materials), analysis of beekeepers' knowledge of English language, and ideal length of the informative written material are reported.

- [Future activities](#) were also summarised showing the [deliverables](#) foreseen in [WP3](#), as listed below.

- D3.1 Results of validation of practices from the exchange platform (**APIMONDIA**, M13, 22, 31, 40)
- D3.2 Report on the practical validation of practices on-field (**BIAVL**, M16, 25, 34, 43)
- D3.3 Report on the analyses by the sociological studies on the Best Beekeeping Practices (**LLU**, M19, 28, 37, 46)
- D3.4 Submission of best beekeeping practices to EIP-Agri (**IZSLT**, M24, 48)

Comments:

- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) commented on the results of the sociological analysis. The fact that beekeepers prefer visual means of communication is an important information for LOBA. [Videos on Best Beekeeping Practices could be recorded in the premises of one hosting B-THENET partner.](#)

8 Updates on tasks and activities carried out in WP4 in M01-M09 and an overview on upcoming assignments.

- Francesca Santaniello (APRE) and Beatriz Correia (LOBA) introduced [past, ongoing, and future activities of WP4](#) that focuses on dissemination, communication, and exploitation.
- [Past achievements \(M1-present\)](#) are shown below:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for Dissemination and Communication Activities (T4.1, D4.1) • Dissemination and Communication tools and activities (T4.2) • Development of the splash page & platforms (T4.3) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the first set of practices (no.22) and their publication on the platforms • Development of the first booklet (1 of 4) summarizing the 22 practices developed in 2023, and its publication on the platforms • Website launch |

- [Ongoing activities](#):

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem building, clustering with EIP-AGRI and other projects and network (T4.4) • Planning of the activities for the International B-THENET centres (T4.5) • Collection of data for the Exploitation Plan (T4.6) • Fine tuning of the dissemination and communication strategy (APRE/LOBA) • Production of new promotional material & update of the previously produced materials |
|--|

- Francesca Santaniello (APRE) reported a comment from Noa Simon Delso (BEELIFE), mentioning that clustering activities (T4.4) will be implemented starting from September 2023.
- [Future activities \(present to M12\)](#):

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of the Exploitation Plan (by the end of August)
Timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First draft ready by mid July; - Internal review by the end of July; - Submission by the end of August. <p>Request: to set the internal review process and related calendar.</p> |
|--|

- Francesca Santaniello (APRE) kindly asked partners to send their contributions fostering how to [exploit B-THENET outputs, activities and results the best](#) and [submit Deliverable 4.13 \(Exploitation and Sustainability Plan\)](#) by M12.
- Francesca Santaniello (APRE) also asked partners to fill in the table ([Internal calendar: summer holidays and fieldwork](#)) on the shared B-THENET One Drive.
- Beatriz Correia (LOBA) complemented Francesca Santaniello's (APRE) presentation by introducing the [video](#) that will be prepared, showing the [steps required for video creation](#) (video script, creating a mood board and story board, recording voice over, production, post-production, marketing and distribution).
- The [communication materials](#) already produced by LOBA were listed: template PPT and Word, letterhead template paper, virtual web backgrounds, roll up of the project, infographics. Materials on the making were also introduced: project general presentation (PPT), brochure, flyer, poster for national centres.
- [Social media](#) accounts have also been created since January 2023, under the tag "@bthenet". Partners are advised to inform the communication team in advance if [events are planned](#), so that [LOBA can advertise them](#). KPIs and potential reach to as well as engagement capacity of social media were reported as shown in **Fig. 6**.

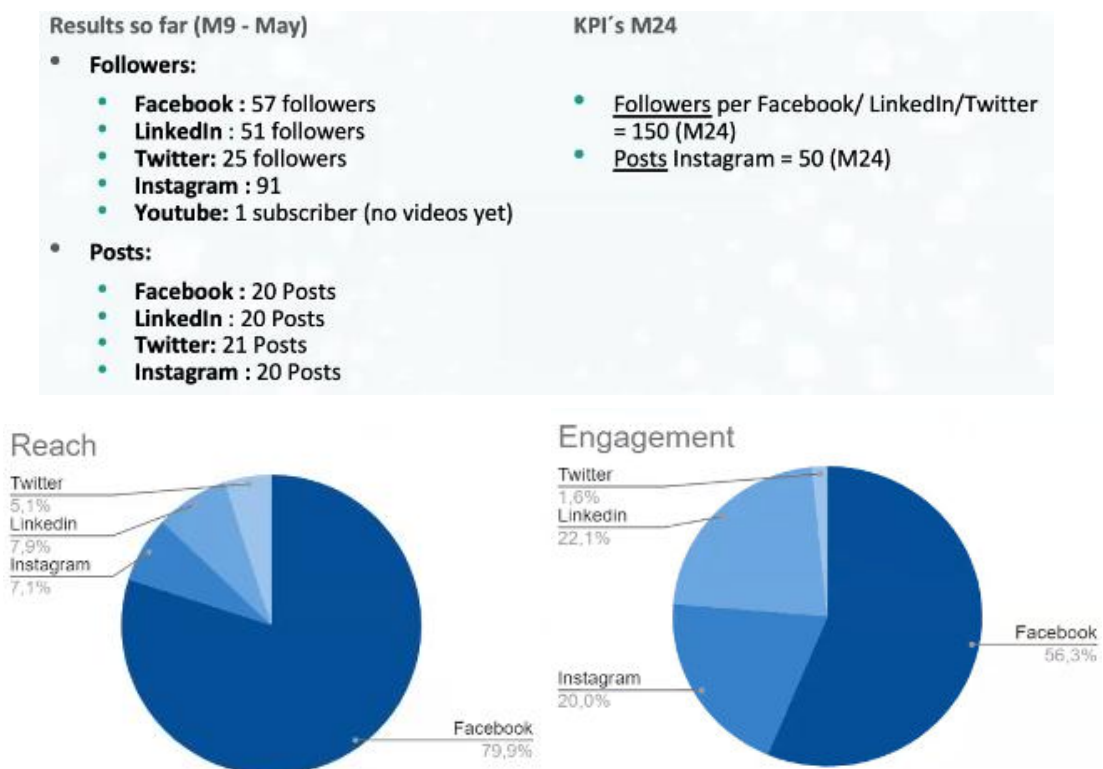


Figure 6. Key performance indicators (above) and reach and engagement capacity of B-THENET social media accounts (below). KPIs achieved in M9 are compared against KPIs in M24. Facebook is the social media where target audience can be potentially reached and engaged most effectively.

- Beatriz Correia (LOBA) also proposed a schedule to create opinion articles and blog posts for the website that can be used for the newsletter. The proposed schedule is biweekly from September 2023. The topics that could be included were listed:

Article or blog post about, for example:

- Outcomes from the National/ International Centres;
- progress of tasks and results from deliverables;
- opinion on current topics and practices;
- events outcomes;
- written interviews to members of the community (experts);
- Other topics.

Questions and answers:

- Q1: Fani Hatjina (HAO) asked if it possible to change the location of the National Centre for Greece, as it is currently not accurate. Filippo (APIMONDIA) also pointed out in the chat that Corsica and Malta are shown on the map as if they were part of Italy. Robert (UGRAZ) added that their National Centre location is inaccurate. The map showing National B-THENET Centres needs therefore to be adjusted, Beatriz Correia (LOBA) commented that the map is a draft, and an e-mail will be sent out to all partners to collect the exact geo-localisation. This could lead to the creation of a digital map showing where all B-THENET centres' premises are located in the EU.
- Fani Hatjina (HAO) also requested if APRE and LOBA could provide partners with a file in which names and responsibilities of each member of the communication team are listed, as their team is made of numerous members. An organigram will be created by APRE and LOBA.
- Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) proposed that T-shirts and hats with the visual identity of B-THENET could be produced.

9 Voice to national B-THENET Centres.

- Flemming Vejsnæs (BIAVL), the chair of National B-THENET Centres led the open mic discussion, to which all partners were invited to participate.
- Q1: The discussion was opened by Flemming Vejsnæs (BIAVL) with the following question: [How can we make National Centres more visible?](#)
- A1: LOBA is finalising the National B-THENET Centres logos, brochure (can be translated in local language) and a plaque to place outside their premises and facilities (including info on how to print materials in an appropriate way).
- Q2: Leon Reinhold (UHOH) asked [what made a national B-THENET centre better than a beekeeper's association?](#)
- A2a: Flemming Vejsnæs (BIAVL) replied that in Denmark they rely on B-THENET to improve and standardise their education programmes for advisors. Lotta Fabricius (SLU) added that it's the joint partnership between a university and beekeeper's association that improves the value of the information and the strength of the information.
- Q3: The second question posed by Flemming Vejsnæs (BIAVL) to further elicit the discussion was as follows: [How are beekeeping practices going to be validated?](#)
- A3: Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) clarified that validation is provided by the "beekeeping community" of beekeepers and advisors working side by side with the National B-THENET Centres. Beekeepers and advisors need to agree that the description of the practices corresponds to the practice carried out in their own country (online). Moreover, the beekeeping community must confirm that the practice described is feasible at the apiary-level (on-field). Validated practices can be published in the repository platform and used as training material.
- It was discussed that the topic of validation should be re-discussed in a dedicated meeting focussed on National B-THENET Centres, but due to time constraints it was necessary to move on to the next agenda point.
- Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) provided a presentation and critical thoughts, highlighting [operational areas of B-THENET Centres, and a bottom-up approach that could be implemented](#). He brought his personal experience as pilot example on how to organise consultation meetings, to exploit the physical presence of beekeepers, and create a more engaged community. UGRAZ is currently conducting consultation meetings asking beekeepers what outcomes they are expecting from B-THENET. When they meet physically (e.g., at meetings, conferences, etc.) they can more easily engage with beekeepers and collect their agreements to receive newsletters by physical means (e.g., collecting signatures on paper). During physical B-THENET consultation meetings, UGRAZ printed B-THENET Survey to collect the rating of beekeepers and allowed to fill them in manually. Moreover, they already conducted a survey on AFB involving veterinarians, in view of the second round of investigations that will be conducted in October by B-THENET. Robert's suggestion to the consortium was to carry out these physical exchanges and activities, to increase the power of the bottom-up approach that he sees currently not enough strongly implemented in B-THENET.

- Another input suggested by Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) was to carry out a [scientific review](#), finding good beekeeping practices that are scientifically tested (e.g., on-field, or survey data) in key areas of interest. For example, are there good practices scientifically proven to improve winter survival, honey quality or honey production? The same could be applied to Biosecurity Measures in Beekeeping. This could also be useful to identify possible knowledge gaps based on data mainly originating from Europe and North America.

Relevant comments

- María Aranzazu Meana Mañes (UCM) replied that in the Spanish National B-THENET Centre, all the practices developed have been fully written by 5 beekeepers, with the online contribution of a large body of local beekeepers using their own channels.
- Fani Hatjina (HAO) reported that for the Greek National B-THENET Centre it was difficult to engage beekeepers in drafting the description of the practices, but Robert suggestions were good inputs to take on board.
- Peter Kozmus (SBA) mentioned that for the realisation of the drafts he relied upon his own experience as beekeeper, and that beekeepers will be involved in the revision and validation phase.
- Veronica Manara (IZSLT) highlighted that to increase the outreach of National B-THENET centres, it is crucial to strengthen the synergy between the partner and collaborating partner making up the National Centre. Their collaboration is well designed to always include a Beekeeper's Association along with a Research Institution or University, and beekeepers should be more easily reached through their already established networks.
- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) added that most B-THENET Centres are made up by beekeepers, and that the final goal is to identify best practices with the help of beekeepers, along with advisors and researchers. He also suggested to increase the synergy with collaborating partners to decrease the workload of the National Centres from the practical point of view.
- Leon Reinhold (UHOH) commented that they are having difficulties in engaging their collaborating partners.

10 Voice to International B-THENET Centres.

International B-THENET Centre for other Stakeholders: building a stakeholders' ecosystem.

- Lars Hellander (BEELIFE) opened his presentation by defining the main goals of the “International B-THENET Centre for other Stakeholders”. The first goal is to create a strong and lively community of ambassadors, champions, industry representatives and main actors of the beekeeping sector. The second goal is to organize webinars and workshops to create further engagement and foster discussion concerning findings and problems highlighted by B-THENET. The third objective is to create tools to achieve future TN perspectives.
- In order to engage and keep track of old and new stakeholders populating the network of B-THENET a database is currently being created. Every three months BEELIFE will send invitation to new potential Stakeholders, while recording the number and stakeholder's category of existing members of B-THENET Platform.
- The International Centre for other stakeholders will organize one webinar each year (for a total of three webinars) and one physical conference at the end of the project. The first transnational webinar for stakeholders will take place on the 7th of July 2023 in Romania, and its focus will be on “Accessibility to veterinary medicines for beekeeping in the EU”. Some of the B-THENET partners will be present at the conference, to draw comparisons across European countries on the use, availability and accessibility of veterinary medicinal products.
- BEELIFE proposed to organize a workshop in November 2023 with the participation of the B-THENET TN and other major EU projects (e.g. Insignia, B-GOOD, etc.) to find synergies and build bridges among the various actors in the field of sustainable beekeeping.
- The next key focus of the International Centre for other Stakeholders will be to strengthen collaboration with the EIP-AGRI actors.

International B-THENET Centre for Beekeepers: harmonising beekeeping practices.

- Filippo Jannoni-Sebastianini (APIMONDIA) listed the main parameters to harmonize beekeeping practices across EU partner countries. [Climatic area](#) is a key parameter that could cluster/differentiate beekeeping practices. Another relevant parameter is the [use of veterinary medicines](#) in beekeeping, comparisons can be drawn across different countries where the respective treatments are authorized/not authorized for honey bees.

Discussion

- Filippo Jannoni-Sebastianini (APIMONDIA) highlighted that a limiting factor to reaching the whole EU is the fact that practices are currently not described in English in the Exchange Platform, which should be worth considering if more non-partner countries are to be reached.

- Fani Hatjina (HAO) pointed out that at the end of the project, the Guideline collecting all 80 Best Beekeeping Practices identified by B-THENET will be published in English language.
- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) added that each partner country should appoint a person with good English communication/writing skills who will be responsible to collaborate in the co-creation of the above-mentioned manual. Non-partner countries interested in our methodology will have access to the English material and will be able to translate it and use it as training material.
- Veronica Manara (IZSLT) highlighted that the project already received attention from several third countries (Morocco, Turkey, Fiji, Iceland), and non-partner EU countries (Malta, Belgium, Ireland).
- Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) asked how the process of harmonisation work will be organised, since practices are currently described in different languages and involve different approaches (e.g., formic acid treatments differ across countries, which one will be selected?)
- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) explained that the final manual will include the description of how practices are carried out across all countries, highlighting similarities and differences (e.g., description of how formic acid treatment is implemented in all partner countries).
- Lotta Fabricius Kristiansen (SLU) said that a methodology on how to carry out this harmonisation process should be agreed upon.
- Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) replied that in his opinion the work on the English version of the practices should start as soon as possible, to save time over the work that will be carried out at the end.
- Fani Hatjina (HAO) proposed that a common template written in English should be realised once all the practices compiled and described in 2023 will be validated by beekeepers and advisors, to avoid spending time describing practices that might not be validated, therefore not being publishable as training material (Best Beekeeping Practices).
- Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) suggested that for the development of the 2024 inventory of practices, it would be easier to realise a common template in English (before practices are described and validated), where all partners can contribute by adding their inputs. Later each country can copy from this standardised template and re-adapt it to their national reality (currently practices are developed and tailored by individual National B-THENET Centres in their 13 local languages to best reflect the country-specific approach to beekeeping).
- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) highlighted that the development of practices in 13 native languages is an important asset of the project B-THENET. In the 2023 EU-FarmBook conference, it was emphasised that optimal EU research and innovation projects should opt for the multi-language approach. In fact, one issue encountered in many research frameworks of such kind, is that knowledge reservoirs are available only in English language, making them less accessible for the end-users with language barriers, and therefore reducing the potential impact of EU-funded projects. B-THENET methodology was indeed appreciated by the EU-FarmBook coordinators, who stated that the multi-language approach adopted in our TN was an added value for engaging the potential users. Therefore, at the EU level, International B-THENET Centres will translate Best Beekeeping Practices in English as already agreed in the

project' Grant Agreement, but at the local level, National B-THENET Centres should work in their native language to make Best Beekeeping Practices readily available to most EU beekeepers and maximise the impact of the TN.

- Flemming Vejsnæs (BIALV) added that according to B-THENET Grant Agreement, good practices should be developed in local languages.

At the end of a long discussion, two proposals were made concerning the translation of the practices identified in English:

1. To have a common English template for each of the 20 practices identified (realised in co-creation among partners). The template can be translated in the 13 local languages and tailored to the national beekeeping reality, to later re-translate in English only the best practices validated by EU beekeepers and advisors.
2. To have countries developing the 20 practices individually in their 13 local languages without referring to a common template. Once practices are validated by EU beekeepers and advisors, partners will work in co-creation to translate in English only the validated best practices.

International B-THENET Centres for Advisors: Organising beekeeping advisors.

- Lotta Fabricius Kristiansen (SLU) reminded partners that **one advisor (or two) should be appointed in each country** to attend the two translational events organised by the International B-THENET Centres for advisors. Moreover, their contacts should be sent to SLU as soon as possible, to start creating an international network for advisors which is currently lacking in Europe.
- The **first transnational event** will take place in **Madrid, Spain on the 14th of June 2024**, and it will be anticipated by the guidelines on how to train advisors (due in February 2024, M18).
- María Aranzazu Meana Mañes (UCM) added that the transnational event happening on Friday the 14th of June 2024 will be followed by the **International Symposium for Bee Health** organised by APIMONDIA on Saturday and Sunday (**15th-16th of June**) and finally by the **second yearly meeting of B-THENET**, taking place on Monday the **17th of June 2024**.
- In the **initial part of the advisory training**, will be organised by applying a self-learning approach. SLU will create an **online platform** (such as Canvas), where advisors can learn methodologies on **how to teach effectively** and transmit knowledge (i.e., how to be a good advisor). Only advisors who completed all modules will be able to participate in the first transnational training of trainers' event taking place in 2024 in Madrid.
- Trainings will be carried out in English, but advisors will be able to take knowledge back to their countries and transmit it in their local language.
- Partners should provide a definition for "advisor" in their countries.

11 Dissemination of B-THENET outputs: strategies.

- Beatriz Correia (LOBA) provided an overview of the materials that will make up the [kit for beekeepers](#) foreseen in WP4, Task 4.2.1. The materials shown below will be produced mainly based on the 80 Best Beekeeping Practices collected by B-THENET and will aid communication with beekeepers using easy to understand, informative assets. Beatriz Correia (LOBA) added that a plan of action for the development of these materials will be proposed by LOBA, then defined and validated with APRE and IZSLT.

Task 4.2.1- B-THENET kit for beekeepers (M6 – M48)

LOBA will develop appealing end-user material for beekeepers, mainly arising from the 80 best practices identified and will be made available in the platforms.

These materials will be:

- a set of at least 60 **audio-visual assets** published as a library;
- two VR/R tutorial/**interactive courses** on selected best practices explaining how to implement them;
- at least **60 infographics** of the practices organised in a library

- Beatriz Correia (LOBA) also explained in greater detail what the kit for beekeepers will consist of.

Task 4.2.1- B-THENET kit for beekeepers (M6 – M48)

Audio-visual assets : Can be the recordings of Webinars or Workshops, Visual with motion, small videos, photographs, promotional materials, Animated visuals etc

Virtual reality/Remote reality tutorial/interactive courses can be videos, audio recordings, animations, and interactive presentations to deliver course material in engaging and diverse format.

Infographics are versatile tools for visually presenting information, making complex topics more accessible, and engaging audiences across various fields .

- Francesca Santaniello (APRE) proceeded with collecting opinions from partners on the possible [strategies that](#) could be implemented [for the exploitation of B-THENET outputs](#), especially in view of the forthcoming submission of Deliverable 4.13 (“Exploitation and Sustainability Plan”), due on the 31st of August 2023.
- Francesca Santaniello (APRE) started the conversation by asking partners the following [question](#):

Can you think of a way to disseminate B-THENET outputs in countries that are not partners in the B-THENET consortium?

- Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) highlighted that the Spanish outputs could be very important to reach major Spanish-speaking countries (e.g. Chile, Argentina, etc.) and establish collaborations (e.g. in [APIMONDIA Congress taking place in Santiago, Chile 4-8 September 2023](#)).
- María Aranzazu Meana Mañes (UCM) suggested that once the description of practices in the platform will be finalised in August 2023, she could select 3-4 examples of fully developed practices that could serve as the models for the B-THENET methodology, and she could present them.
- Fani Hatjina (HAO) added that during the APIMONDIA Congress to be held in Chile there will be a 3-hour European round table focussed on challenges and activities in beekeeping ongoing in Europe, and the European representative of APIMONDIA, Robert Chlebo, has already been informed that there will be a focussed discussion about B-THENET. Local people could be easily reached through these discussions and opinions and suggestions on possible collaborations could be collected.
- Peter Kozmus (SBA) suggested that dissemination materials with QR codes linking to B-THENET Platform, and also leaflets should be available for dissemination at the upcoming APIMONDIA Congress to be held in Chile.
- Flemming Vejsnæs (BIAVL) suggested that also the forthcoming [APIMONDIA Congress](#) which will take place in [Copenhagen in 2025](#) could be a place to exploit B-THENET outputs (e.g., roundtables, workshops, etc.).
- Lotta Fabricius Kristiansen (SLU) informed the consortium that she already had a conversation with the APIMONDIA's current president, Jeff Pettis, about having a Thematic theme on dissemination and outreach at the APIMONDIA Congress due in Copenhagen in 2025.
- Vitalijs Komasilovs (LBTU) closed the discussion concerning the dissemination of B-THENET outputs, by outlining the future strategy to [maximise the impact of the results obtained by the TN on its primary target audience: beekeepers](#).
- The goal of this task (Task 3.3) is to use knowledge collected from beekeepers, to identify their preferences and pinpoint the most effective format and means for disseminating best practices among them. Some useful insights have been already gained in the preliminary sociological investigation of preferred communication means. More precise indications will be collected in further sociological analyses that will be carried out during the second survey distributed by B-THENET, in October 2023. The investigations are repeated altogether four times.

12 General assembly and TN monitoring Survey.

- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) opened the General Assembly explaining that it is a yearly event, when the consortium can take joint decisions in a democratic way, by means of voting (one representative for each partner).
- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) listed the discussion points:
- The Joint Controllers Agreement has come into force; therefore, [databases can be shared among partners](#). All 18 beneficiaries should invite their contacts to join the platform, where they can register as beekeepers, advisors or other stakeholders, populating B-THENET databases. Contacts from these three main categories can then be sent to project partners for relevant project activities or outcomes (e.g., to reach goals on National/international B-THENET Centres).
- The general assembly decided that [only registered users will be able to view users' profile and personal details](#) (such as email address) on the platform, in harmony with the relevant measures.
- Giovanni Formato (IZSLT) then moved to the second point of the agenda, and the General Assembly agreed that [one expert per partner](#) should be appointed (speaking good English) to be in charge of [the translation of the Best Beekeeping Practices in English](#).
- The list of Advisory Board members was revised, and the General Assembly agreed on contacting the members shown in the table below.
- Moreover, it was agreed that [one person from EFSA](#) should be invited to join the Advisory Board.
- Fani Hatjina (HAO) proposed to also involve [consumers' associations](#) in the Advisory board, while Robert Brodschneider (UGRAZ) suggested one consumers' association based in Italy called Slow Food, that is interested in sustainability.
- It was agreed that once the list will be finalised, the coordinator will inform the consortium.
- It was agreed that the [outputs of the first transnational event for stakeholders in Romania](#) (about use of VMP in beekeeping) will be discussed internally and with the scientific commission of APIMONDIA to reach to the EU Commission.
- The General Assembly also decided that [Certificates](#) issued to beekeepers by National and International B-THENET Centres will have a standardised layout produced by LOBA and will be signed by the coordinator and the national/international B-THENET Centre main representative. The certificates will be issued both in local language and in English.
- The General Assembly was closed informing the consortium that a TN Monitoring survey was being distributed online by APRE to all partners to gather feedback on the project performance and management and address possible issues.

13 Results of the TN monitoring survey

The TN monitoring survey was developed by APRE and IZSLT and validated during the 22/06/2023 Management Board Meeting before its distribution. It consisted of two parts: the first part to assess the performance of the coordination team and the TN (7 questions that could be rated from 0 to 5) and the second part where written feedback could be also left (4 open questions).

14 partners participated in the survey. In the analysis of the 7 questions, partners' ratings were converted to % according to the following criteria: 5=100%; 4=80%, 3=60%; 2=40%; 1=20%; 0=0%). The overall mean score expressed as percentage is shown in **Figure 7**.

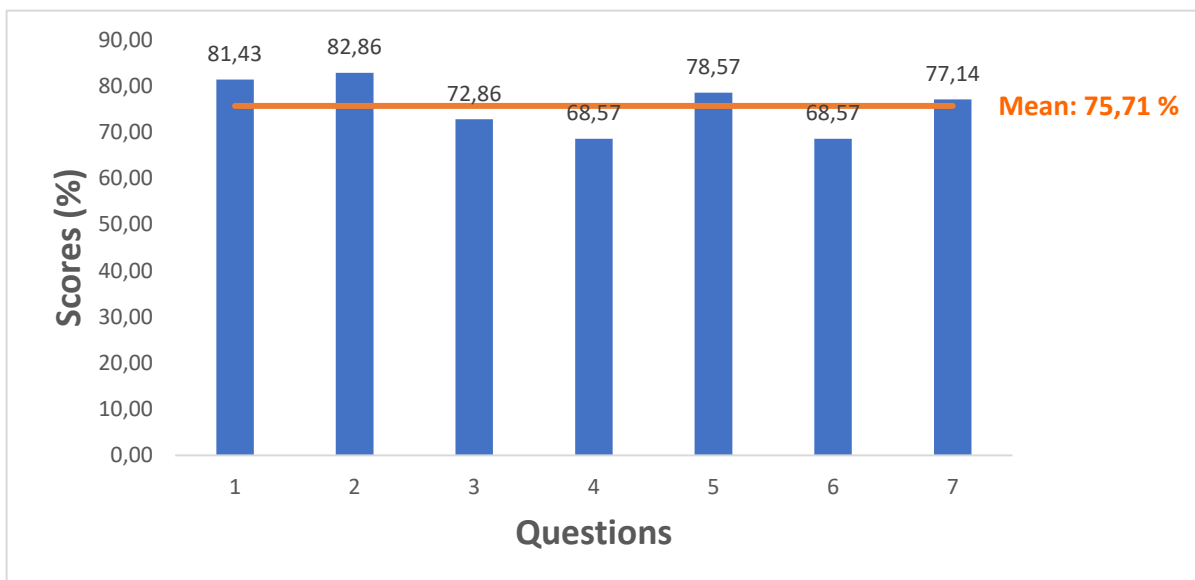


Figure 7. Results from the TN monitoring survey. Percentage scores across questions and overall mean score obtained.

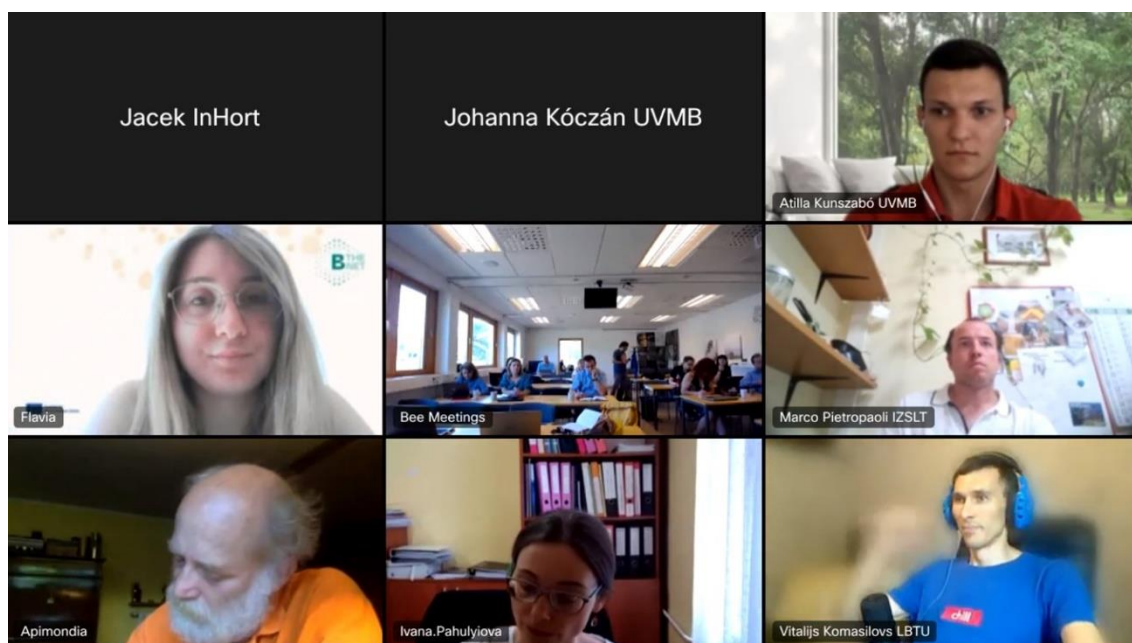
The written feedback left by the partners in the four open questions was addressed in a dedicated internal meeting of the project, and solutions were formulated based on the inputs provided by B-THENET consortium.

14 Pictures of the Year Meeting

In-person participants of the first yearly meeting of the project B-THENET that took place in June 2023 in Uppsala, Sweden.



A screen capture of the online participants to the first yearly meeting of the project B-THENET, taking place in June 2023 in Uppsala, Sweden (not all online participants are shown).



B THE NET



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