

# **BEEPATHNET RELOADED TEAM**

# The City of Ljubljana, Slovenia

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# EU cities – good for BEES is good for PEOPLE



Colophon:

EU cities – good for bees is good for people, A transformation into green sustainable cities

A transformation into green sustamable cities

Vesna Erhart, Maruška Markovčič, Klemen Strmšnik and partners of BeePathNet Reloaded

PHOTOGRAPHS: Agency for the Renewal of Osijek Fortress, Branka Trčak, City of Osijek, Gabriele Rinaldi, Katowice Special Economic

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Follow us on social media:





BeePathNet



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Join the Bee Path Cities network: www.urbact.eu/bees

Learn about our philosophy, read supporting materials including transfer guidelines and explore the library of thematic newsletters.

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# V Ljubljani so čebele doma



V Ljubljani se zavedamo, da so čebele izjemnega pomena za življenje vseh nas, zato z različnimi aktivnostmi in ukrepi omogočamo kakovostno okolje za življenje čebel. Spodbujamo urbano čebelarjenje, sadimo medovite rastline, že leta 2016 pa smo v okviru programa Ljubljana, zelena prestolnica Evrope 2016, zasnovali Čebeljo pot, ki je v zadnjih letih postala sinonim za vse dejavnosti, povezane s čebelami in čebelarstvom v Ljubljani. Ponosen sem, da smo dobro prakso ljubljanske Čebelje poti prenesli tudi na druga evropska mesta in tako zgradili čebelam prijazno mrežo mest, v kateri je trenutno devet članic. Prepričan sem, da bomo čebeljo mrežo širili še naprej.

Ljubljana je zeleno, urejeno, čisto in zdravo mesto, v katerem skrbimo za kakovostno življenje vseh meščank in meščanov. Odločno stopamo po poti trajnostnega, okolju, živalim in ljudem prijaznega razvoja mesta, saj smo prepričani, da nas le ta pelje v svetlo prihodnost.

Da smo na pravi poti, dokazujejo tudi priznanja v mednarodnem okolju. Ponosni smo, da je Ljubljana uvrščena na sam vrh lestvice dosedanjih zelenih prestolnic, letos pa nosimo tudi naziv »najboljša destinacija Evrope«, ki so nam ga podelili popotniki z vsega sveta, strokovna komisija pa izpostavila, da je naše prelepo mesto z izjemno kakovostjo življenja, zelenimi površinami in dostopnostjo vzor vsem evropskim destinacijam.

Ljubljana je solidarno, strpno in tovariško mesto, v katerem različni živimo skupaj ob medsebojnem spoštovanju. Vesel sem, da te vrednote širimo po Evropi. Prepričan sem, da se bodo mreži čebelam prijaznih mest v prihodnje pridružila še druga mesta. Prav vsa bomo sprejeli z odprtimi rokami in z veseljem še naprej prenašali dobre prakse skrbi za čebele.

Srečno!

**Zoran Janković** župan Mestne občine Liubliana

# Ljubljana—Home to Bees



Mestna občina Ljubljana City of Ljubljana





In Ljubljana, we are aware of the importance of bees for all our lives. Therefore, we undertake activities and measures aimed at providing a high-quality environment for them. We promote urban beekeeping, plant melliferous plants, and in 2016, the Bee Path was established as part of the Ljubljana, European Green Capital 2016 programme. In recent years, the Bee Path has become a byword for all activities concerning bees and beekeeping in Ljubljana. I am proud that we have succeeded in transferring this good practice to other European cities, thus building a bee-friendly network that currently includes 9 members. I am confident that this network will expand further.

Ljubljana is a green, neat, clean and healthy city with a high quality of life. We are determined to walk the path of environmentally-, animal-and human-friendly sustainable development, as we are certain that this is the only path leading to a better future.

The international awards that we have received prove that we are on the right track. We are proud that Ljubljana is ranked at the top of the list of cities that have been awarded the green capital award so far. In addition, this year, our city has been declared the Best European Destination for 2022 by travellers from all over the world. As emphasised by the expert panel, with its extraordinary quality of life, green areas and accessibility, Ljubljana is a model for all European destinations.

Ljubljana is a supportive, tolerant and friendly city where different people live with mutual respect. I am glad that we help promote these values across Europe and I am certain that other cities will join our bee-friendly network. We will welcome every single one of them with open arms and we will strive to continue transferring good practices regarding the well-being of bees.

Good luck!

Zoran Janković

Mayor of the City of Liubliana

# Sustainable Urban Development for Pollinators and Citizens



# **URBACT – The Honeypot of European Cooperation**



Adele Bucella Head of the Unit in the URBACT programme secretariat

What does European Territorial Cooperation have to do with BEES? The URBACT programme has the answer to this and many other strange questions!

URBACT is funded through the European Regional Development Fund and for the last 20 years, has been the European territorial cooperation programme aimed at promoting sustainable and integrated urban development in cities across Europe. Since 2014, a total of 83 networks of cities have been supported with 678 partners from 27 countries.

Through the 'bottom-up' principles applied in the URBACT programme, the voice of cities is heard loud and clear. Topics ranging from the integration of migrants, entrepreneurship, the use of public space, cultural heritage, local food policy and many more are covered by cities working in these networks. A true honeypot of topics that can inspire other European cities.

The BEE PATH initiative ticked all the boxes as a successful, integrated and participatory local action in Ljubljana. It was awarded the UR-BACT Good Practice label in 2017. Like many of the 97 approved Good Practice examples, there is a simple logic that has a high impact. In these times of diminished public funds, such a wealth of good examples demonstrating simple, low-cost yet effective solutions to common urban challenges had to be shared.

URBACT Transfer Networks were designed to facilitate this sharing but aimed to take it a step further with the goal of adapting the practice to different local contexts and reusing it. More than 150 cities took up the challenge

to transfer a variety of topics over a two-year period. With the support of the Good Practice leader, these cities dismantled the practice to ensure a clear and shared understanding, they worked with a group of local stakeholders to adapt the practice to their own needs and they tested its implementation locally.

The BeePathNet transfer network considers bees as the best indicator of health in our cities. The network used urban beekeeping to share solutions to challenges linked to the urban environment, biodiversity and food self-sufficiency. By engaging with stakeholders from all sectors and backgrounds, the good practice has demonstrated how our stripy little friends really can improve the general urban environment and support the local economy. The network was ambitious and through work at the national and European levels, has extended its reach way beyond the network partners.

BeePathNet is an excellent example of good practice transfer. More examples of European exchange and learning will be possible as part of the new, recently approved, URBACT IV programme. With a first call for projects planned in January 2023, URBACT will continue to play its role as an urban pollinator – spreading knowledge and sharing good practices around Europe and beyond. We look forward to welcoming you to our hive!

# How Urban Development Focusing on Nature Can Help Humans and Bees; Examples and Lessons Learned

Urbanization and intensive agriculture practices are what characterise our century. It is a real challenge for everyone, scientists, producers and citizens alike, to be able to maintain a high-quality living environment that is suitable for both humans and bee pollinators, as it is well-established that human health is correlated to the health of bees. Initiatives like the BeePathNet and <a href="BeePathNet Reloaded">BeePathNet Reloaded</a> projects enormously increase the awareness of citizens about the quality of the environment, the need for the protection of nature and the steps to be taken to reduce the effects of urbanization.

EU and URBACT projects on the enrichment of the urban environment of bee pollinators are essential for our societies and well-being. They can bring the whole world of bees to the notice of citizens in a nutshell through their toolboxes and action plans and develop new activities, such as agrotourism and in our case apitourism; they can ensure that honey bees, other pollinators and non-social bees, as well as humans, can live together in harmony.

EU cities and citizens both benefited from UR-BACT projects such as BeePathNet Reloaded in many different ways:

 Not only an increased awareness on the part of citizens about the value of bees for the balance in the environment, but also involving citizens in decision-making and the development of infrastructure

- Create the necessary niche for the further development of activities preserving nature and promoting a better quality of life
- The whole world is becoming greener and more beautiful
- Local products are promoted and apitourism is one of them
- All types of citizens are mobilised, from schoolchildren to the elderly
- We all find our place on the earth among the bees and the insects, as we are all part of the environment

There are some remarkable examples of free-living honeybee colonies in urban areas, which, together with managed honeybees and wild pollinators, prove that if citizens work together, participate in decision-making, develop ideas and start taking initiatives for the protection of their natural environment, they can create heaven on earth. The first example comes from Groix island in France and the second from Pantelleria island in Italy, where beekeeping and farming are two related and interdepended activities, as they ought to be for sustainability. These two examples add further knowledge and importance to BeePath collaborating cities and what URBACT projects can contribute to.



Dr. Fani Hatjina the President of APIMONDIA's Bee Health Scientific Commission and the ULG coordinator for Nea Propontida

# No Pollinator Diversity Means no Food Security



Dr. Danilo Bevk a researcher at the Department of Organisms and Ecosystems Research, National Institute of Biology (NIB)

Insect pollination is one of the most important ecosystem services, essential for both ecosystems and agriculture. In Slovenia, a lot of emphasis is placed on pollinators, but mostly on only one pollinator – the honeybee.

However, research shows that more than half of pollination in agriculture is done by wild pollinators. Pollinator diversity is critical for reliable pollination in agriculture and for biodiversity. No pollinator diversity means no food security.

What is pollinator diversity? We all know honeybees, but there are also wild bees such as bumblebees and solitary bees, as well as other insects such as flies, butterflies, moths, beetles and wasps. Together, they provide a reliable pollination service.

There are more than 500 species of wild bees present in Slovenia, and more than 20,000 species across Europe. They are very diverse. They differ in colour, size, way of life, nesting place... The smallest of them are only 3 mm in size. Compared to them, bumblebees are real giants. They are not all small, however. Carpenter bees are even bigger than bumblebees.

Pollinators are very important, but threatened. We hear a lot about the endangerment of honeybees, but their populations are increasing in many European countries, including Slovenia. This is because there are more and more beekeepers. On the other hand, the number of wild pollinators is decreasing. A quarter of the bumblebee species in Europe are threatened with extinction.

Pollinators are threatened by land use changes, pesticides, diseases, invasive alien species and climate change. How can they be protected? The most important thing is to protect their habitats, such as flowering meadows, hedgerows, diverse landscapes and green spaces in cities. They provide both food and nesting sites.

It is also very important to have good information about what is happening to the pollinator populations. That's why we need monitoring. Monitoring is important to know what is happening, to take actions based on the results, and then to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions

And remember: no pollinator diversity means no food security.

# The Transfer of Ljubljana's Good Practice on Urban Beekeeping to EU Cities



# From Ljubljana's BEE PATH Through BeePathNet and Further

As part of the activities connected to Ljubljana being named the Green Capital of Europe in 2016, we established the BEE PATH in May 2015. It grew day by day and now has 43 members ranging from educational and cultural institutions, to healthcare centres, economic entities and, of course, beekeepers and beekeeping associations. In the beginning, it was meant to be just an educational path, but it grew to be so much more: it is a movement, a network of like-minded people caring for the wellbeing of bees in the city through highly diverse activities. It represents the bridge between food self-sufficiency and biodiversity and encourages people to live responsibly and in an environmentally healthy way. Over the years, it has started to address specific urban topics – swarm management and the development of IT technology regarding the bees in the city. It also spread to the field of scientific research – the pollen diversity of urban honey.

In 2017, URBACT rewarded the BEE PATH with the Good Practice Award. This acknowledgement gave Ljubljana the opportunity to transfer (URBACT III – Transfer Network) its good practice to five EU cities covering the majority of climate conditions for beekeeping, various types of bees, as well as different situations related to the perception of bees among the general public. In the scope of the BeePathNet project, the highly diverse yet excellent results in the partner cities of Amarante (Portugal), Bydgoszcz (Poland), Cesena (Italy), Hegyvidek – XII District of Budapest (Hungary) and Nea Propontida (Greece) confirmed the transferability of the BEE PATH good practice, as well as the flexibility and sustainability of its solutions. The successful transfer was once again rewarded by URBACT in 2021 and we were given the privilege to share the knowledge gathered from this experience with four additional cities – Bansko (Bulgaria), Bergamo (Italy), Osijek (Croatia) and Sosnowiec (Poland) supported by the BeePathNet Reloaded project.

A strong connection with the first project partners also resulted in their volunteer participation and sharing their knowledge and experiences with second-wave partners. Together, we developed and upgraded key tools to ensure knowledge transfer within the partnership and beyond. We developed a pocket version and full guidelines on the evolutionary steps toward a Bee Path City, as well as a library of thematic newsletters. For the last four years, we have been sharing inspiring stories on our social media Facebook and Twitter, and we need to say that even the COVID pandemic gave us a positive push.

Founded based on the desires of the partner cities, encouraged by the responses of several other EU cities and supported by the URBACT secretariat, we are at our next milestone. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, we are launching the international Bee Path Cities network of urban authorities that have come together under the shared vision of creating cities that are

good for POLLINATORS and therefore good for PEOPLE.

Will you join us?

# The City of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Mestna občina Liubliana City of Ljubljana



"Transfer process"

20% hard work and

support,

30% voluntarism. stubbornness and willpower

and 40% pure passion.

operational

cocktail recipe:

10% creativity.

Two experiences of the Liubliana bee path: "Where heritage meets urban" and "The bees go buzzing one by one"

Beekeeping has been present in the area of today's Municipality of Liubliana since prehistory. Testimony to this includes traces like the name of the village Medno, derived from the word for honey - med. The area of Ljubljana (Green Capital of Europe 2016) is home to more than 350 beekeepers with more than 4500 bee families. Ljubljana, with its wealth of green areas and environmental consciousness, offers a home and quality development for the bees. They have pastures in the nearby forests, numerous green surfaces and melliferous plants within the city (more than 3.500 trees are planted in public spaces in Liubliana).

Urban beekeeping, in the contemporary sense, has been developing in the city since 2011 and is now flourishing in Liubliana with the Culture and Congress Centre Cankarjev dom as a pioneer leading the way. In 2014, the Association Urbani čebelar was established. It connects all urban beekeepers and takes care of their education, as well as activities connected to awareness-raising and the promotion of urban beekeeping.

► The educational apiary in the University Botanic Gardens and the beehives

in Tivoli Park are popular spots for various groups of

residents. Foto: Luka Dakskobler

Honey produced in the area of the City of Ljubliana is of very high quality. With the "The Bee in Ljubljana" programme, the city is taking care of the development of beekeeping, organises various promotional events, and educates the youngest population within the API kindergarten programme. In addition to the beekeepers, the City of Ljubljana also takes care of bees by planting autochthonous melliferous plants and increases biodiversity in public green spaces with programs such as "We will mow when the bees have eaten" (mowing grass just twice per year).





A Honey Day takes place as part of the celebrations of the Countryside in the City festival. Stakeholders of the Bee Path can offer their products to citizens. Foto: Luka Dakskobler Students of the Faculty of Architecture developed both beehive structures on the basis of a contemporary apiary that was constructed by the architect Jože Plečnik.

Foto: BeePathNet archive

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MOLjubljana



www.ljubljana.si/en/ljubljana-for-you/environmental-protection/the-bee-path www.ljubljana.si/sl/moja-ljubljana/podezelje/cebela-v-ljubljani/cebelja-pot



# Čebelja pot v Ljubljani

The Bee Path in Ljubljana



ČEBELJA POT / BEE PATH

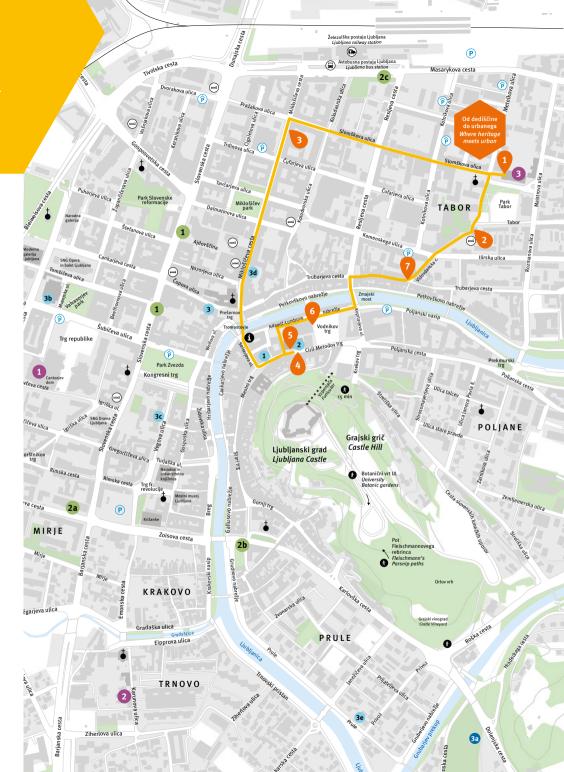
Od dediščine do urbanega Where heritage meets urban

- ♦ 40 min / 3 km
- Slovenski etnografski muzej Slovene Ethnographic Museum Metelkova ulica 2
- B&B Hotel Ljubljana Park
  Tabor 9
- Medex (Trgovina /Shop)
  Miklošičeva cesta 30
- 4 Ika (Trgovina /Shop) Ciril-Metodov trg 13
- 5 Stolnica sv. Nikolaja Cathedral of St. Nicholas Dolničarjeva ulica 1
- Osrednja ljubljanska tržnica
  Ljubljana Central Market
  Pogačarjev trg 1, Adamič-Lundrovo nabrežje 2-7
- 7 Trubar Okrepčevalnica in slaščičarna Snack bar and sweet shop Trubarjeva cesta 53

# BREZPLAČNA BROŠURA FREE BROCHURE



www.ljubljana.si/sl/cebela-v-ljubljani





# The City of Bansko, Bulgaria

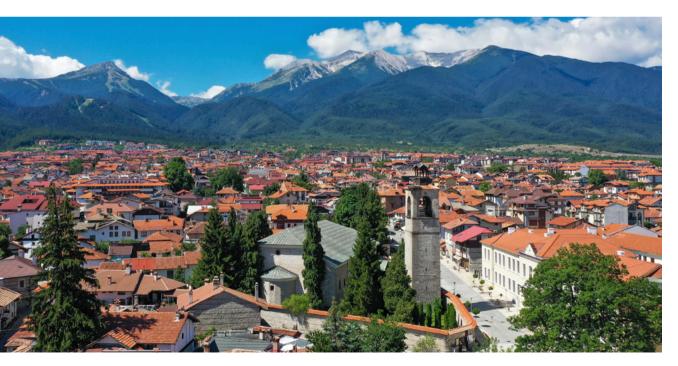


# Bansko Bee Path – Where Heritage Meets Education

We are honoured to be a partner in the BeePathNet Reloaded project, which aims to support urban beekeeping. The whole of Europe is facing challenges in the sector and it is necessary to take concrete actions to solve the increasing problems and Bansko is no exception. Young people have the key role of mind-changers in our society so we need to encourage them to be active participants in improving the quality of life and increasing the well-being of society.

The BeePathNet Reloaded project shows the public that it is necessary to live in harmony with the surrounding world, as well as to be more involved in the care and protection of this biological species that plays an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Ivan Kadev Mayor of the Bansko municipality







Bansko is equally attractive during the four seasons of the year, offering activities and a variety of options for your holiday. It entertains both Bulgarian and foreign tourists, because of its unique combination of tranquillity and nature. The popularity of Bansko in and outside Bulgaria is due to the wonderful conditions for skiing and summer tourism in combination with original folklore and unique architecture.

The main goal of the Municipality of Bansko is to make the area a welcoming place for bees, where farmers, beekeepers and citizens can cooperate and protect nature together. The Bansko Municipality and the Beekeeping Union ROI-Bansko held successful campaigns for the distribution of over 200 melliferous trees and 200 packs of flower seeds in support of urban beekeeping. The good cooperation between the different stakeholders and the Bansko Municipality is the engine for the realisation of many valuable activities.

Through our participation in the process of the transfer of good practices, we develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns and educational programs on the importance of pollinators and bees. We have created the Educational Bansko Bee Path "Where heritage meets education". An educational polygon will be built in the park designed with education-

al equipment for the youngest and materials about biodiversity.

Together with our ULG group we have successfully adapted the good practice and achieved even more than planned. Since the first meeting, all members (beekeepers, producers, researchers and educators) have generated ideas and themes to debate. That leads to the realization of many of them and the project will have to extend well beyond, mainly in the areas of education, tourism and new products.

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БанскоВапsko-Official

### MORE INFO

www.bit.ly/3EMb0MD

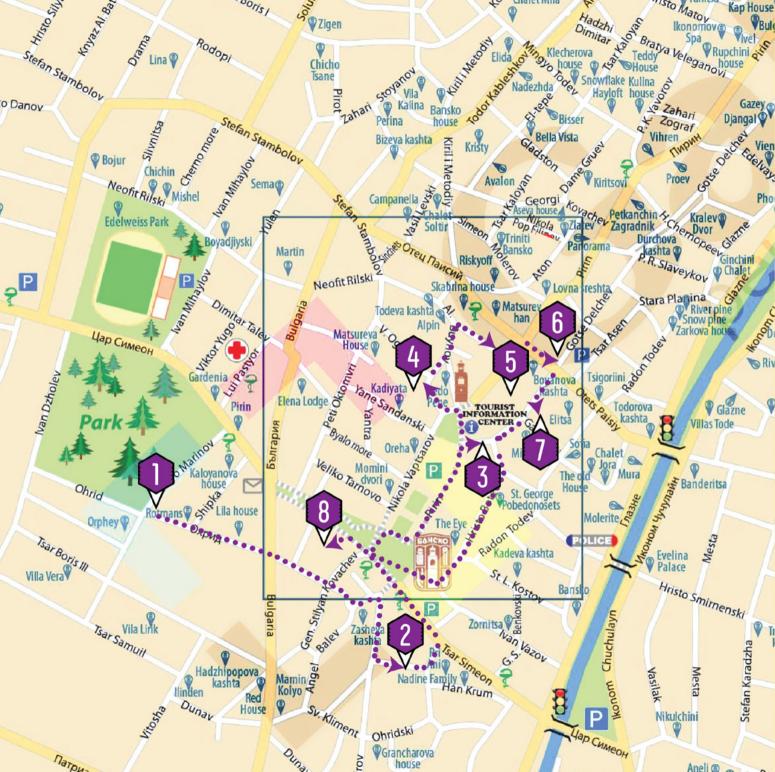
- ◆ Bansko, one of the greenest towns in Bulgaria
- At the market, you can find natural bee honey, bee pollen and propolis
- ▲ Educational programme, Neofit Rilski Secondary School Foto: Municipality of Bansko

"Inspire others with lessons and activities to know and talk about bees! The more we talk about their lives and problems, the more informed the society will be about them!"

Tanya Stancheva ULG coordinator

"Bee the voice of the bees. Even if we are not directly involved, we are directly affected"

Tsvetanka Obetsanova project coordinator



## Прадски парк ул. "Цар Симеон" №77

Градският парк предлага за най-малките образователна детска площадка. Дидактичните средства използвани на площадката, разчитат на сензориката и скритите послания за предаване на идеите на проекта.



В СУ, Неофит Рилски е разработена и внедрена пилотна програма, която има за цел да запознае учениците от втори, шести и седми клас с ролята на пчелите в природата и значението им за планетата. Пилотната програма е разработена от клубовете по интереси в училището.



Изложба на проекти на тема живота на пчелата, изработени от деца и информационни материали "Спаси пчелите"!

вторник - събота: 10 ч - 18 ч

Музей "Велянова къща" ул. "Велян Огнев" №7, тел.: +359 74 983132 www.facebook.com/muzeen.kompleks

Структура на пчелен кошер и изложба на печатни издания свързани с развитието на пчеларството в Банско.

вторник - събота: 10.00 ч - 17.30 ч



Прожекция на образователни филми за живота на пчелата и правила за държане около пчелен кошер в открита стая за уроци в двора на училището.



Пчеларството в миналото като начин на прехрана, производство на мед и здравословен начин на живот

вторник - събота: 9.00 - 17.30 ч

7. Заведение "Марушка" ул. "Гоце Делчев" №8

В заведение за чай и кафе Марушка непременно трябва да опитате прясно изцедена лимонада или чай с билки, сервирани с пирински мед.

Всеки ден от 10.00 до 20.00 ч

### 8. Неделен пазар ул. "Тома Вишанов" №14

На градския пазар в неделя може да си купите лично от производителя - пчелен прашец, мед. клей и восък.



















77, Tsar Simeon str., Main entrance

The green corner of Bansko, the City Park offers an educational polygon for the little ones. The didactic tools used on the site rely on sensory and hidden messages to convey project ideas.

2. Secondary school "Neofit Rilski" 13, Todor Aleksandrov str. www.subansko.com

A pilot program has been developed and implemented at Secondary School Neofit Rilski, which aims to introduce second, sixth and seventh grade students to the role of bees in nature and their importance to the planet. The pilot program was developed by the school's interest clubs.

3. Tourist information center 4, Vazrazdhane sq., tel.: +359 88 8251095 www.visit-bansko.bg

Exhibition of painting, drawing and different projects related to the bees, made by primary, secondary, high schools and information materials Save the bees!

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm

4. Velyanova house museum 7, Velyanova Ognev str.; tel.: +359 74 983132 www.facebook.com/muzeen.kompleks

Structure of a beehive and an exhibition of printed publications related to the development of beekeeping in Bansko.

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 am - 5.30 pm

5. Secondary school "Paisii Hilendarski" 16, Pirin str.; tel.: +359 74 988316 www.nu-bansko.bg

Screening of educational films about the life of the bee and rules for keeping around a beehive in the open room for lessons in the school yard.

6. Spiritual and Historical Center Paisii Hilendarski 21, Otets Paisii, str.; tel.: +35974983132 www.facebook.com/muzeen.kompleks

Beekeeping in the past was a way of subsistence, honey production and a healthy lifestyle in the Monastery of Sveta Gora-Aton.

Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5.30 pm

7. Coffee and tea shop Marushka 8, Gotse Delchev str.

In a tea and coffee shop Marushka you can try freshly squeezed juices and tea with herbs served with honey from Pirin Mountain.

Every day from 10 am - 20 pm

8. Sunday Market 14, Toma Vishanov str.

On grocery market you can buy from the local producers - bee pollen, honey, glue and wax.

# The City of Bergamo, Italy



In Bergamo, citizens and institutions act together for a bee- and pollinator-friendly city

"Bergamo is firmly committed to its participation in the European project BeePathNet Reloaded, aiming to become a more and more bee-friendly city with green infrastructure that is suitable for supporting pollinators but also aesthetically beautiful and functional from an ecosystem point of view. In addition, since we are a UNESCO Creative City for Gastronomy, locally produced honey is of great value to us, in part still to be conveyed, for example in combination with the great orobic cheeses, which our territory is proud of."

**Giorgio Gori** Mayor of Bergamo 97 beehives, 50 active beekeepers in the city including amateurs and professionals, 20 million honeybees in the summer in addition to the many other pollinators that live in the urban ecological corridors. This too is Bergamo, a city on the border between the Po Valley and the Pre-Alps, in one of the most productive and urbanized areas of Europe, but also a city linked to natural landscapes. It is a fully acknowledged part of the Natural Park of the Hills of Bergamo and has residual agricultural strips of land that need to be defended from urbanization.

With BeePathNet Reloaded, we have given strength to this vision through a participatory approach, so that more citizens feel responsible for a change that will have to continue even when the project is finished. Public institutions, associations, companies in the produc-

▼ Honey and cheese tasting Foto: Gabriele Rinaldi





tive world and individuals who share common values and interests were involved. Together, we have decided which objectives we want to reach and which actions we need to develop to achieve them.

Therefore, we have worked to promote the fight against mosquitoes with methods that are less harmful to the environment, pushing for anti-larval treatments in place of the adulticide treatments, in order to limit the death of pollinators. Bergamo has started to reduce the number of lawn cuttings in public areas, which means more flowers, and therefore more food for bees and other animals. We have talked about bees and other pollinators with almost 1,500 people who celebrated World Bee Day with about 30 initiatives and we noticed that the theme is appreciated and that it brings people, values and interests together. Some of the most attractive places of the city are currently connected by a tourist route that offers new glimpses of Bergamo, starting with the bees and flowers.

The process we launched is bringing about change. Those stakeholders who shared this passionate work with us have also understood that combining efforts to achieve common goals works and triggers virtuous mechanisms without great economic commitment.

Finally, we learned that thinking about the bees, pollinators, flowers and green infrastructure makes people better and cities more livable and sustainable.

### **CONTACT INFO**

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### **CONTACT PERSON**

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• Orto Botanico di Bergamo 'Lorenzo Rota'

▲ Bergamo, a green city Foto: VisitBergamo

Bergamo, a beefriendly city: a goal within our reach

Marzia Marchesi Bergamo City Council

Citizens live in the city and can change it if they act to help pollinators and green infrastructure.

Gabriele Rinaldi Bergamo Botanic Garden Director



# Bergamo BeePath - il percorso turistico delle api / touristic bee path

- ORTO BOTANICO DI BERGAMO "LORENZO ROTA": nel regno delle Piante, si spiega il rapporto tra impollinatori e fiori./ In the Plant Kingdom, the relationship between pollinators and flowers is explained.
- 2 IPPOCASTANI DEL VIALE FERDINANDEO: i colori dei fiori cambiano quando gli insetti vanno a raccogliere il nettare./ The colors of the flowers change when insects collect the nectar.
- MUSEO CIVICO DI SCIENZE NATURALI: un autentico alveare didattico è in esposizione con un apparato che racconta il mondo delle api./ An authentic educational beehive on display with captions that explain the world of the bees.
- BASILICA DI SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE: nel cuore storico-architettonico di Bergamo vi sono riferimenti alla leggenda di Sansone e il Leone, e a Deborah, la profetessa giudice. I In the historical-architectural heart of Bergamo, there are references to the legend of Samson and the Lion, and to Deborah, the judge prophetess.
- GIARDINI DI PALAZZO MORONI: in pieno centro storico c'è un apiario, nell'ortaglia dei giardini di Palazzo Moroni./ In the historic center there is an apiary, in the orchards of the gardens of Palazzo Moroni.
- ACCADEMIA CARRARA: qui si trovano parallelismi tra i soggetti delle opere dipinte, la vita delle api e i prodotti dell'impollinazione./ Here, there are parallelisms between the subjects of the paintings, the life of the bees and the pollination products.
- GAMEC: alcune opere scelte esprimono bene concetti che trovano riscontri nella vita delle api./ Some selected works of art express concepts that can relate to the life of the bees.
- TEATRO DONIZETTI: punto d'arrivo, ove ascoltare la Canzone dell'ape (l'ape attorno ai fior s'aggira) musicata da Gaetano Donizetti./ The end point, where you can listen to the Bee Song (l'ape attorno ai fior s'aggira) composed by Gaetano Donizetti.

Nei pressi del percorso sono presenti punti ristoro, gelaterie, negozi di erboristeria e d'antiquariato che hanno a che fare con le api./ Around the path there are places to eat and get an ice cream, herbalist and antique shops that are related to bees.

# The City of Osijek, Croatia



# Osijek is Again the Cradle of (Urban) Beekeeping

"We all want to learn from Liubliana and, of course, encourage Croatia to change the legal regulations regarding urban beekeeping. Therefore, celebrating World Bee Day was about more than certain fun activities. We wanted to point out the problem of the restrictive Croatian regulations, because, as we know, it is forbidden to keep bees in cities in Croatia, though in Europe we have some great examples where beehives are kept in the very centres of large cities, as in Liubliana, Even our twin city of Pforzheim (Germany) keeps beehives on the roof of the City Hall and produces "Mayor's Honey", which is sold for humanitarian purposes. These are all beautiful stories that we want to learn from."

**Vladimir Ham** president of the Osijek City Council

▼ URBACT Local Group in Osijek Foto: Osijek Cultural Centre, Helena Kolenić



The Osijek BeePathNet Reloaded project team formed the Osiiek Bee Path by establishing the ULG and through persistent work with them. We also managed to stir the spirits in our city and start discussions about urban beekeeping and easing the restrictive legal framework, which makes urban beekeeping very hard in Croatia, if not almost impossible. Currently, the beekeepers are fighting to ease the regulatory framework of urban beekeeping within the process of drawing up the new Ordinance on beekeeping. Luckily for Osijek, the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences, Osijek, managed to meet the basic criteria and set up the first urban beehive in Osijek, among the first in Croatia, on their roof. The faculty has also created a permanent exhibition of traditional beekeeping equipment and beehives in its own premises. The graduate (master) study programme 'Hunting and Beekeeping' in the field of Zootechnics uses the new beehive on the roof and their outstanding expertise to teach practical skills to their students. This is why the institution has the central role in Osijek's Bee Path. A very important point on our Path is the Osijek Cultural Centre as the driver of the urban beekeeping initiative on a city government level and as a prominent advocate of cultural green urban revolution in Osiiek. The Faculty of Food technology is the educational and scientific institution authorized for the analysis and assessment of honey and other bee product quality, which carries out the quality evaluation within the ,Honev Days in Croatia' event, which is organised every year by the Osijek branch of the Croatian Chamber of the Economy. Rather important from the tourism perspective is the 'Fortress'





Tourist Visitor Centre (refurbishment is nearly finished) as a central info point for visitors to Osijek, eastern Slavonia and Baranja, displaying the tourism, gastro- and wine offers of the region. Last, but not least, there is the main Osijek marketplace, which is the central selling point of domestic products, where several producers of honey and honey products regularly display and sell their products.

CONTACT INFO

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- gradosijekofficial
- kulturnicentarosijek

### MORE INFO

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"We all want to learn from Ljubljana and encourage Croatia to change the legal regulations regarding urban beekeeping."

### Vladimir Ham

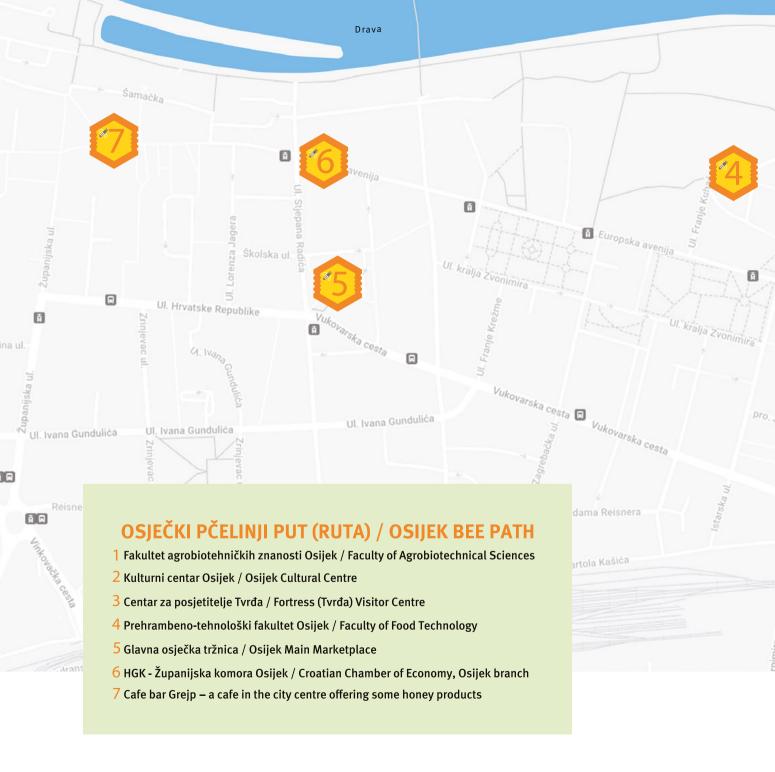
the president of the Osijek City Council

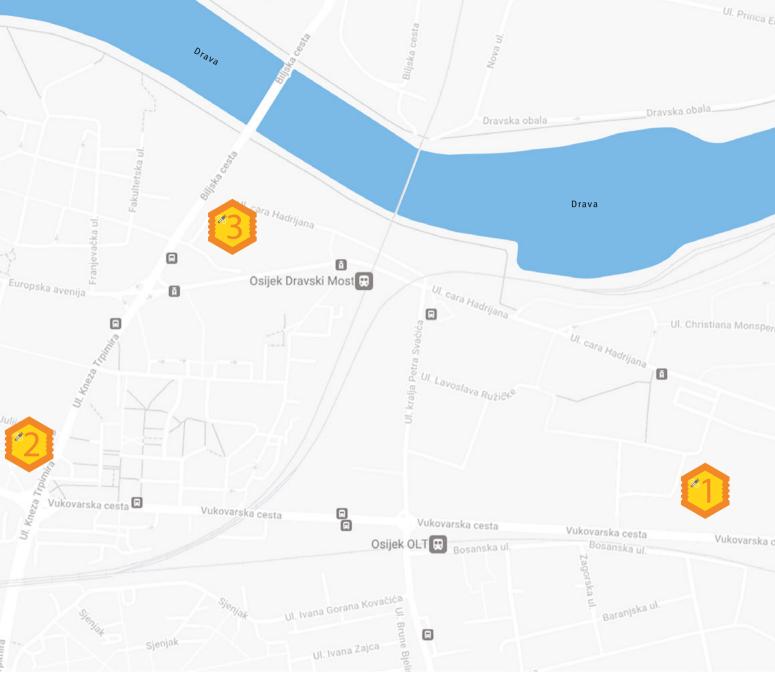
"We'd like very much to have beehives on the roof of the Osijek Cultural Centre in the near future and to contribute to the city's biodiversity."

Ivan Kristijan Majić the manager of the Osijek Cultural Centre

- ▲ Sakuntala Park in Osijek city centre (Upper town) / Sakuntalin park u središtu Osijeka (Gornji grad) Foto: City of Osijek
- ▲ Osijek from the air Foto: Agencija za obnovu osječke Tvrđe / Agency for the Renewal of the Osijek Fortress
- ▼ Osijek









# The City of Sosnowiec, Poland





▲ Arkadiusz Chęciński, The Mayor of Sosnowiec Foto: Municipality of Sosnowiec

# Sosnowiec - From Pine Woodland to Modern Metropolitan City

"How can we change the lives of our residents by changing the city? A green, friendly and sustainable city is our goal. The needs of the inhabitants are changing and so are our actions. Ecology and leisure time in the city are very important to us. We have built new parks and restored the lost splendour of the old ones. We have planted thousands of trees and tens of thousands of shrubs. We have also built houses for insects, boxes for bats and nesting boxes for birds. Our parks have become a home for bee families. The development of urban beekeeping is one of our goals and we are encouraging local institutions to set up their own apiaries. We hope the number of municipal apiaries will increase in the coming months."

Arkadiusz Chęciński the Mayor of the city The city's industrial past is just history. Today, Sosnowiec is one of the cities with the largest number of parks in the Metropolis GZM. We were one of the first cities to start planting bee-friendly urban flower meadows. We introduced one of the first programs to co-finance the construction of rain gardens and rainwater retention. Our actions are prompted by the challenges of climate change and the need to provide our residents with the best possible living conditions. We are aware that sustainable development is one of the most important trends in modern economy and administration. The prudent use of resources, ensuring that we use them efficiently now but also respecting the needs of future generations, is our priority. We have built new biodiversity parks and nature paths to educate and raise awareness about the environment. New pocket parks and green squares integrated into housing estates have also been created.

"Visiting the Bee Path in Sosnowiec is a real adventure! There are majestic historic buildings and modern hotels for insects, tales from nature and fascinating urban stories, green parks and colourful flower meadows, bee products and honey tastings. You can't get bored. The BeePathNet Reloaded project has enriched the urban jungle of Sosnowiec in a spectacular way!"

Barbara Kossowska-Siwiec ULG Coordinator

> ► The Biodiversity park Foto: Municipality of Sosnowiec









Our participation in the BeePathNet Reloaded project gave us a chance to improve our key skills, redefine the values and attitudes that are required to meet the current environmental challenges and to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society. We found the right tools and motivation to:

- develop education modules for students of all school levels and for adults
- build an educational polygon
- establish new urban apiaries
- run awareness-raising campaigns to promote urban beekeeping and teach our residents about the importance of pollinators and biodiversity
- regularly distribute seeds and seedlings of autochthonous melliferous plants
- regulate urban beekeeping in Sosnowiec and to put the topic of pollinators and biodiversity on the agenda at the city level
- deliver guidance to local entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners helping to turn their bee ideas into successful new local products
- develop a network of fruitful cooperation and the exchange of ideas and experience
- create a Bee Path in Sosnowiec as a new tourist attraction.

"Bees in the city? Yes! It's possible and even cherished here in Sosnowiec. Our local authorities have actively cooperated with the Sosnowiec Beekeepers' Association for years. The result of this cooperation are local recommendations on the establishment and maintenance of urban apiaries. It is extremely useful for all those who want to invite these beneficial insects to their gardens and thus enrich the biodiversity of the city. Bees aren't just honey-makers!"

**Agnieszka Knapczyk** member of the Beekeepers Association in Sosnowiec

### CONTACT INFO

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beepathnetsosnowiec

### MORE INFO

www.sosnowiec.pl/beepathnet-pszczela-sciezka

You haven't seen THAT yet! Discover secrets of bees in Sosnowiec and watch our movie.



# A beekeeping workshop for children.

Foto: Katowice Special Economic Zone; Sosnowiec and Dąbrowa Górnicza Subzone

- A private apiary in Sosnowiec established on the 20th of May 2022. Foto: Marcin Karaban
- ▲ Green boulevards form a tranquil setting for residents of Sosnowiec. Foto: Michał Kryczek

# PSZCZELA ŚCIEŻKA W SOSNOWCU

OD SOSNOWYCH POCZĄTKÓW PO METROPOLITARNĄ WSPÓŁCZESNOŚĆ...

















# NJZEUM MEDYCYNY I FARMACJI ŚLĄSKIEGO UNIWERSYTETU GEDYCZNEGO W KATOWICACH











# Świat owadów zapylających



# **PRZYJACIELE** PSZCZELEJ ŚCIEŻKI



# Bioróżnorodność w Sosnowcu



# KATONICKA SPECJALNA STREFA EKONORICZNA S.A. PODSTREFA SOSNOWIECKO-DARROWSKA



### WYŻSZA SZNOŁA HUMANITAS

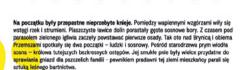


### CENTRUS PERTATRET IN. JANA PANNA TE V SASMONCE





## KOŚCIÓŁ P.W. ŚW. JOACHIMA -PSZCZELE GNIAZDO W MURZE PREZMITERIUM



Tak więc nasze wspólne z pszczołami bywanie ma bardzo bogate i piękne tradycje. Choć w wiekach minionych nieco zapomniane teraz powracają i kwitną na nowo. Niech zatem ta Ścieżka przez historii karty prowadzi nas z dawnych po dzisiejsze czasy.

W 120. lecie uzyskania przez Sosnowiec praw miejskich stworzyliśmy szlak, który w sposób symboliczny łączy ważne dla mieszkańców miejsca. Znajdziecie na nim obiekty związane z historią, nauką, wiedzą, sztuką, sacrum, biznesem i kulinariami. Szlak pokazuje efekty pracy wielu pokoleń "pracowitych jak pszczoły" mieszkańców Sosnowca. Przybliża nam dzieje i kulturę miasta, a przy tym przypomina o ważnej dla człowieka i przyrody roli pszczół oraz innych zapylaczy.

Pszczela Ścieżka w Sosnowcu zrealizowana została w ramach europejskiego projektu "BeePathNet-Reloaded" współfinansowanego ze środków Programu Urbact III.



## KŁODA BARTNA W LESIE ZAGÓRSKIM



### PARK TYSIĄCLECIA



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# ŚCIEŻKA EDUKACYJNO-PRZY "PRZYRODA DLA SOSNOWCA"



# GŁAZ PROFESORA WŁAGYSŁAWA SZAFERA GRAZ DAG ALEKSANDRA JANOWSKIEGO

# How to Transfer the Bee Path Good Practice

Ljubljana's BEE PATH good practice was transferred to nine highly diverse EU cities covering the majority of the climate conditions for beekeeping, various types of bees, as well as different situations related to the public perception of bees among the general public. The diverse yet excellent results in the partner cities confirmed the transferability of the BEE PATH good practice.

To support this process in other cities, partners developed three key tools: a pocket version and full guidelines on the evolutionary steps toward a Bee Path City and a library of thematic newsletters. Nevertheless, we invite you to follow us on social media Facebook and Twitter.

We need to emphasise that all these tools and inspiration sources are a result of the BeePathNet and BeePathNet-Reloaded Transfer Networks, which were co-funded and implemented under the URBACT framework. They are available at urbact.eu/bees.

# Evolving into a Bee Path City, the Guidelines and the Transfer journey of the BeePathNet Network Cities

This is a shortened edition of the full guidelines, presented in more detail below, where we summarise all the key aspects of our transfer journey and which was first developed in 2020, in close cooperation with the first five transfer city partners of the BeePathNet Network. This pocket edition – though for a big pocket – is meant to encourage new cities to follow our steps and, hopefully, read the full version of the guidelines – which is almost five times thicker. In this pocket edition, we have added links to some inspiring stories and good practices from an additional four cities that joined us in the BeePathNet-Reloaded Network, from 2021 to 2022.

The pocket digital version of the guidelines is available in Bulgarian, Croatian, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portugal, Slovenian and Spanish.





▲ BeePathNet team

▲ BeePathNet Reloaded team

# Full Guidelines "The Evolutionary Steps Toward a Bee-Friendly City"

In the guidelines on transfer modules, you will find a description of the BeePathNet Network transfer journey and detailed instructions for the development of urban beekeeping.

The guidelines have four parts, following the transfer logic – first, we present Ljubljana's BEE PATH good practice and evolution, this is followed by a description of two essential methodological approaches. Then comes the main part with the six key thematic modules of the BeePathNet Good Practice described in detail: Biodiversity, Education, Tourism and City Bee Paths, Development of Bee Products in the Bee Path, Awareness-Raising and Swarming. They are supported with practices from partner transfer cities and some tips and tricks. And at the end, we reveal how we did it – by looking into the background of the transfer journey.

The full guidelines are only available in English.

# Thematic newsletters library

During our transfer journey, we "built up" the library with thematic newsletters on Biodiversity, Education, Awareness-Raising, Tourism, the World Bee Day Celebration and Partner Cities' Bee Paths. They are providing the redline article on the theme supported with some scientific articles - Brainy Bee. In News from the Bee Cities and What is Buzzing Up, inspiring stories from partner cities on partnership meetings, promotion and dissemination can be found, and we spiced up the newsletters with cute, surprising and appealing short stories to communicate the importance of bees to the general public - Amazing Facts About Bees. To get closer to local people, these newsletters were translated into all the partner cities' languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, English, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Slovenian.

# 4

# Become a Bee Path City!

# Join our growing movement of bee-friendly cities in Europe!

# **Our Vision**

The Bee Path Cities is a **network** of urban authorities that have come together under the shared vision of creating cities that are **good for pollinators and therefore good for people**.

We believe that there is a lot to be gained from **exchange and learning between cities** that are keen to take steps along the Bee Path towards more environmentally sustainable and healthy urban areas for all living beings.

# **Our Aims**

# **Knowledge transfer**

- sharing information, ideas and initiatives for enhancing urban sustainability.

# loint action

 finding opportunities to fund common activities (in the form of local actions, information sharing and awareness-raising) and strengthening our movement around the world.

# **Awareness-raising**

- increasing public understanding of the connections between pollinator well-being and broader urban sustainability.

# **Our Members**

The founder of this network is Ljubljana (Slovenia).

The cities that have adopted Ljubljana's good practice so far are: Amarante (Portugal), Bansko (Bulgaria), Bergamo & Cesena (both Italy), Bydgoszcz & Sosnowiec (both Poland), Hegyvidek (Budapest, Hungary), Nea Propontida (Greece) and Osijek (Croatia).

The latest list and map of Bee Path Cities is available on our web page: urbact.eu/bees.

Does your city support the philosophy set out in this document? Join us today!

# Why Join?

- Become a part of a supportive network of cities.
- Learn more about the benefits of pollinators for urban sustainability.
- · Share your cities' experiences with others.
- Benefit from the knowledge and experience of our members.
- Create your own Bee Path or build on the original good practice example from Ljubljana.
- Take inspiration from specific activities in support of pollinators.

Becoming a Bee Path City entails no financial or formal obligations. It is based purely on a common desire to share and learn from other cities in Europe and around the world.

# **How to Join**

Interested in knowing more? Why not join our next regular online coffee morning?

Want to confirm your commitment? Fill in the online application form to become a formal member.

Contact us for more information on how your city can get involved and start your Bee Path journey.

E: beepathnet@ljubljana.si
W: www.urbact.eu/bees







# BeePathNet Reloaded project lead partner:



Mestna občina Ljubljana *City of Ljubljana* 

# BeePathNet Reloaded project transfer cities:







