

Bee Path
Cities



PHILOSOPHY



THE KEY PRINCIPLES of a Bee Path City



PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES ARE ESSENTIAL

Becoming a Bee Path City is all about fostering the inclusive, multidimensional engagement of individuals, organisations and government entities to deliver more diverse and sustainable actions.

Bee Path Cities can take inspiration from the URBACT method and consider forming a dedicated local group.

(www.urbact.eu/urbact-local-groups)

Key local stakeholders include: beekeepers and their associations; schools; local business owners; health organisations; other local NGOs/associations; experts with specific knowledge and skills; as well as other interested individuals.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTION

Urban authorities should not only consult with local stakeholders but help them **establish a local group** and **empower them to take action**.

At the very least, urban authorities should **provide operational support** to local groups and ensure that they have adequate facilities for regular meetings.

Having a budget for specific actions can help. Even a small budget can add value in giving confidence and motivation to local stakeholders.

Ideally, the urban authorities will also **incorporate** the proposed actions and ideas of the local groups **into city urban policies**.

A SUPPORTIVE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

Urban authorities need to **create a supportive environment** for local action benefitting bees and other pollinators.

This starts with encouraging and nurturing a **cross-sectoral mindset** and involving various departments across the urban authority and transferring their knowledge and expertise into actions.

Creating a supportive framework could mean **integrating urban beekeeping** and a broader consideration of all pollinators into **urban management and planning**.

It can also involve passing and implementing **specific legislation**, e.g. to encourage ecological practices and tackle pollution.

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

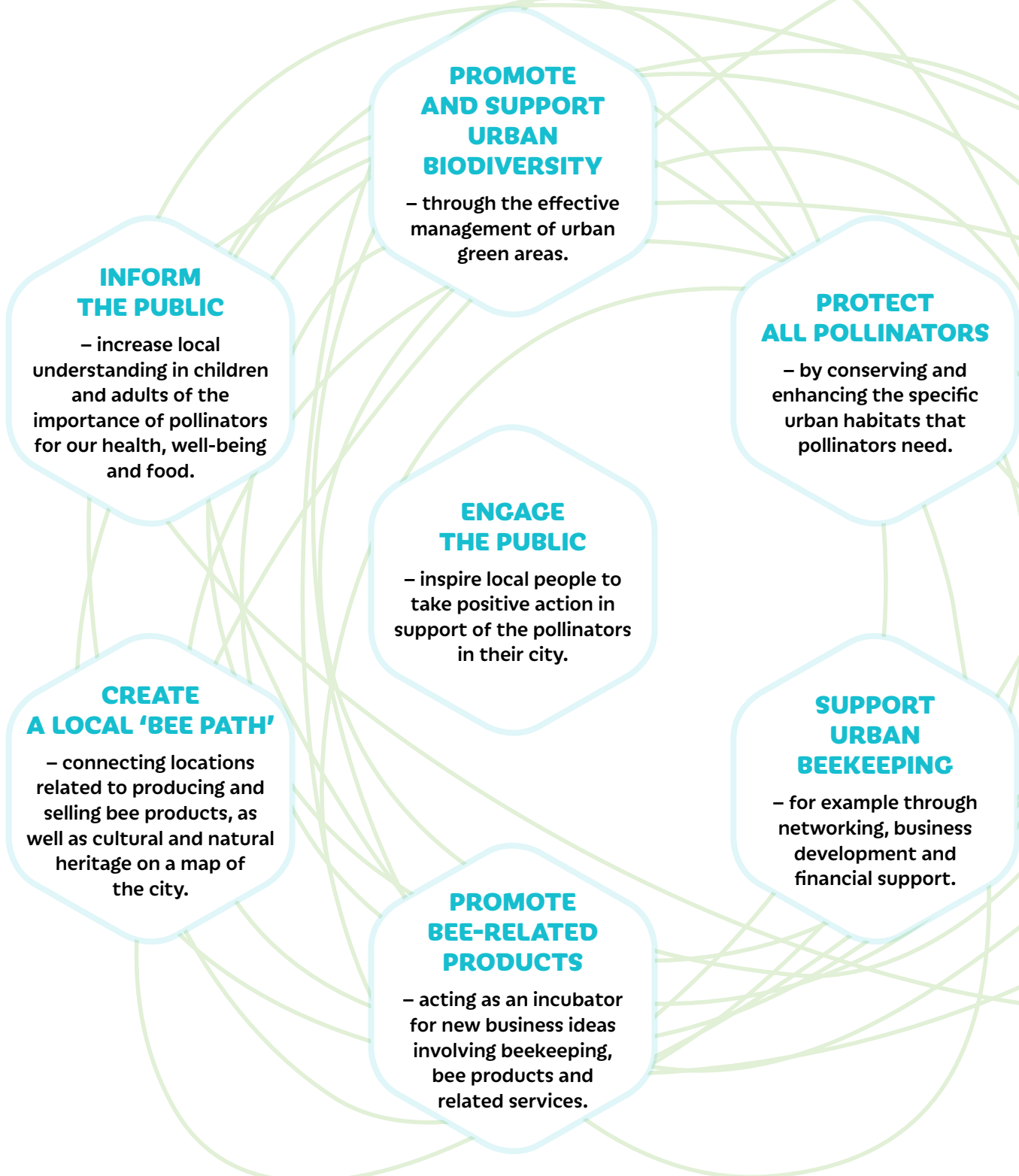
- **Knowledge transfer**
– sharing information, ideas and initiatives for enhancing urban sustainability.
- **Joint action**
– finding opportunities to fund common activities (in the form of local actions, information sharing and awareness-raising) and strengthening our movement around the world.
- **Awareness-raising**
– increasing public understanding of the connections between pollinator well-being and broader urban sustainability.

OUR ACTIONS

- **Regular online coffee mornings**
– to share information, ideas and practices.
- **Annual meetings**
– to review the partners' accomplishments, discuss challenges, exchange knowledge and good practices, and plan joint activities.
- **Biannual thematic conference**
– to discuss specifics of urban beekeeping and learn about new approaches and good practices.
- **Training for new partners**
– biannual basic training for new cities on key modules of sustainable urban beekeeping.
- **Bee Path Cities events**
– a range of events with the aim of reaching out to citizens, NGOs, companies and institutions to involve them in this mission – especially the May 20th World Bee Day.
- **Promotion**
– of network principles and cities' innovative approaches at different events and on social media. All information will be published on the network webpage.

LOCAL ACTIONS of Bee Path Cities

A range of local actions can be undertaken by urban stakeholders in support of our shared vision. Cities do not need to do all of these – the important thing is to start somewhere and seek continual improvement.



BECOME a Bee Path City!



OUR HISTORY

The Bee Path Cities network emerged from two networks (BeePathNet¹ and BeePathNet-Reloaded²) supported by the European cooperation programme 'URBACT'. These ran from 2018 to 2021 and from 2021 to 2022 engaging a total of nine EU cities in seeking to understand, adapt and re-use the inspiring 'Bee Path' practice of Ljubljana (Slovenia).

The Bee Path Cities network³ was launched in October 2022 to continue the exchange and learning opportunities for cities beyond URBACT support. It is now open to all urban authorities in Europe and around the world.

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: www.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



¹ www.urbact.eu/beepathnet

² www.urbact.eu/beepathnet-reloaded

³ www.urbact.eu/bees

DECLARATIONS FROM THE FOUNDING BEE PATH CITIES

Bees and **ALL POLLINATORS** are our friends and indispensable companions throughout life. Let's make sure that we can all live together in a healthy and green environment!

— Zoran Janković
Mayor of the City of Ljubljana



Mestna občina
Ljubljana

We develop ways to support beekeeping and the entire economy focused around **BEE PRODUCTS**, but also community awareness of the importance of bees and their products.

— José Luís Gaspar
Mayor of the Municipality of Amarante



It is not only a project that aims at the protection of bees, but also a transfer of **KNOWLEDGE AND SOLUTIONS** of the problems and challenges faced by beekeepers.

— Ivan Kadev
Mayor of Bansko Municipality



Citizens and institutions **ACT TOGETHER** for a bee- and pollinator-friendly city.

— Giorgio Gori
Mayor of Bergamo



Bydgoszcz is not only taking into account the aspirations of civilisation, but also the importance of a city as a safe place for **WILD NATURE**.

— Rafał Bruski
Mayor of the City of Bydgoszcz



A **COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING** of the meaning of "green and bee-friendly" has been built and will continue to be pursued.

— Cesena



Comune di Cesena

Hegyvidék is addressing global and local environmental challenges from a different angle, while we can also involve and cooperate with the **RESIDENTS** in this process.

— Zoltán Pokorni
Mayor of Hegyvidék, XII District of Budapest



We have created a form of **ALTERNATIVE TOURISM** and a powerful educational tool about the biodiversity, sustainability and nutritional adequacy provided by pollinators in cities.

— Emmanouil Karras
Mayor of the Municipality of Nea Propontida



We all want to learn from Ljubljana and, of course, encourage Croatia to change the legal regulations regarding **URBAN BEEKEEPING**.

— Vladimir Ham
President of Osijek City Council



Grad Osijek

A green, friendly and **SUSTAINABLE CITY** with a strong system of parks and recreation facilities is our goal. The needs of the inhabitants are changing and so are our actions.

— Arkadiusz Chęciński
Mayor of Sosnowiec



reloaded