

## **gEo-BEE**

### **An open, participative information platform for protecting and promoting wild bees and honey bees**

The structure, use and management of landscapes, including infrastructure projects, can have positive and negative effects on wild bee populations and successful and sustainable beekeeping. The possibilities for beekeepers and conservationists to be actively involved in local and regional development measures are generally limited to formal rights to participate during the planning stage of a project, or active participation takes place in an uncoordinated manner (e.g. creating species-rich bee pastures). The same is true for agriculture, which plays a key role here (landscape conservation, plant cultivation and protection). The diverse participation formats of the Internet offer the opportunity to speed up existing information and communication pathways, to increase the quality of these pathways or to create them in the first place.

The participative discussion and information platform for protecting and promoting wild bees and honey bees establishes the technological basis for this. The platform uses internet-based mapping applications to combine existing databases and information sources of authorities with information on the current state of landscapes (e.g. deficits in agricultural areas due to plant cultivation systems, register of small habitat structures kept by the Julius Kühn-Institut).

One element of the internet platform is the option of new databases, which can be successively created by participating beekeepers and farmers (e.g. information on current positions of bee colonies, migration behavior of beekeepers, current form of use of agricultural areas). These data streams are protected according to the required guidelines for data protection. In other interactive formats with geographic aspects (geotagging) new objects and descriptions of existing objects (e.g. wild bee habitats) can be entered.

The tools and contents of the platform offer support for authorities and organizations that are proactively planning environmental measures as well as for activities of individuals. In addition to this, the platform promotes coordinated activities, e.g. of farmers and beekeepers regarding the pollination of agricultural areas.

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- Julius Kühn-Institut, Institute for Strategies and Technology Assessment
- Büro für tierökologische Studien
- Länderinstitut für Bienenkunde Hohen Neuendorf e.V.
- DELPHI IMM GmbH

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