

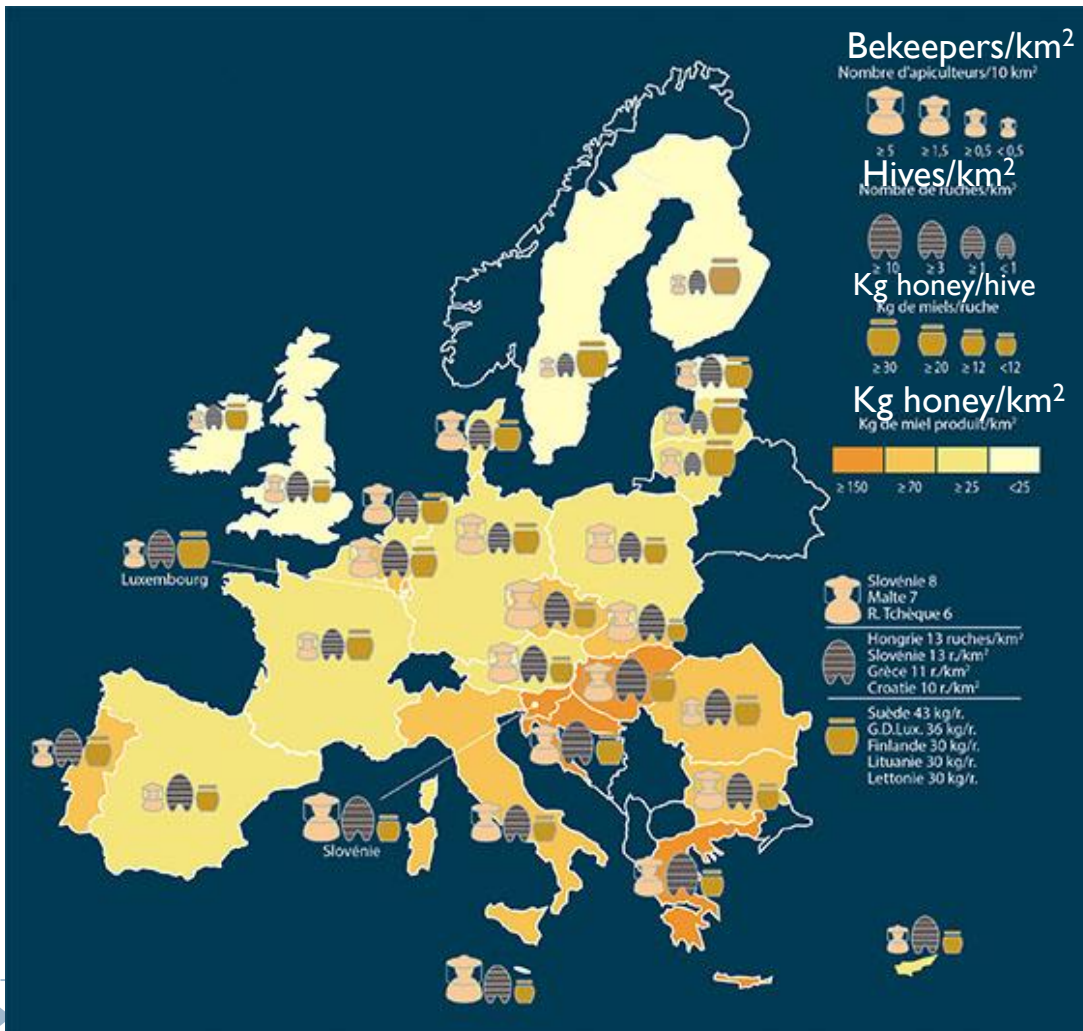


# *The Situation of the EU Apicultural Sector*

Hearing at the *Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development*  
Etienne Bruneau – COPA – COGECA      CARI asbl



# Beekeeping



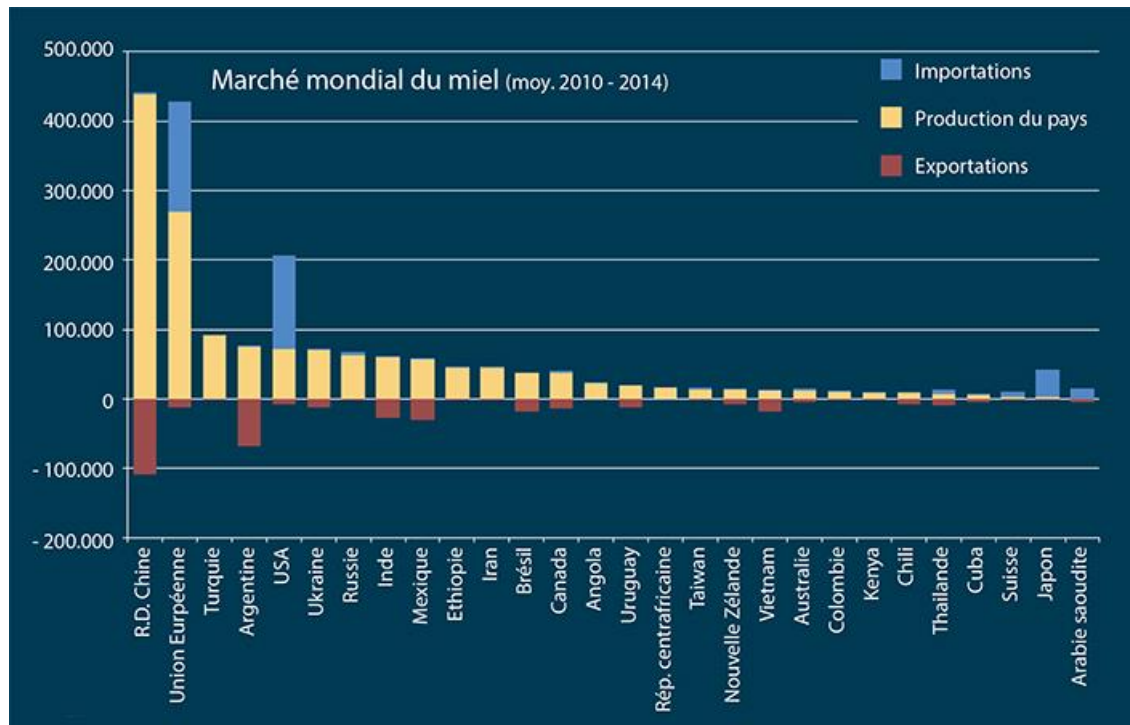
- ▶ 600.000 beekeepers (5% > 150 hives)
- ▶ 17.000.000 hives (40% > beekeepers 150 hives)



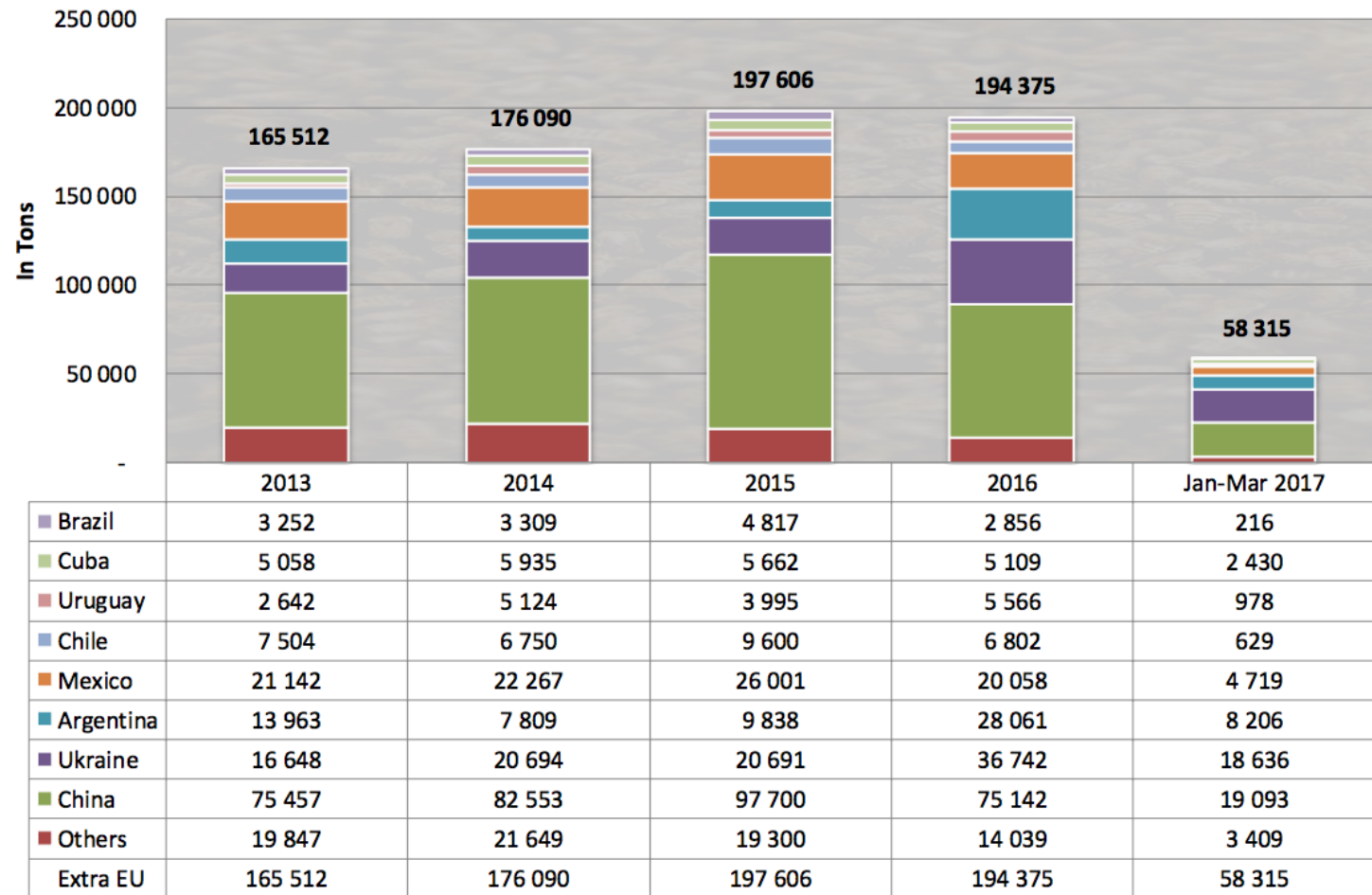
# Honey market



- ▶ EU is not self-sufficient in honey
- ▶ 246.300 t honey produced = second in the world (12%)
- ▶ 197.545 t imported honey = first in the world (39,5%)



# Honey Import of Honey by Origin (in Tons)



Source : Eurostat Comext

## EU COORDINATED CONTROL PLAN ON HONEY (DG SANTE, DG JRC, Member States)

- All Member States + CH and NO participated
- 2237 samples tested
- Non compliances:

Non-compliance	Physico-chemical parameters	Botanical source	Geographical origin	Sugar	Other labelling	Total
% non-compliant samples	2%	7%	2%	6%	2%	19%

- Suspicious of non-compliances:

Nature of the suspicion	Pollen content and declared geographical origin	Adulteration with sugar	Total
% suspect samples among the remaining samples	2%	11%	13%

**""The results concerning adulteration with sugar are only preliminary and further investigations were conducted on 1200 samples that will be tested with advanced laboratory methods.""**

# Impact: Market - Adulteration

- ▶ **Results of the JRC on 893 honeys: 14 %** of the honey samples checked **did not conform** to published benchmark purity criteria indicating that foreign sugars may have been added. The applied analytical method only indicates the presence of foreign sugars; it does not allow quantifying the level of addition

Origin	Samples (n)	Suspicion of non-compliance	
		(n)	(%)
Blend of EU honeys	96	19	19.8
Blend of EU and non-EU honeys	426	40	9.4
Blend of non-EU honeys	30	3	10.0
Single EU Member State	275	53	19.3
Single non-EU country	55	11	20.0
<i>Unknown</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9.1</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>14.2</b>

Table 7. Prevalence of suspicion of non-compliant honeys depending on their declared origin (n, number of samples).



# Impact: Beeswax adulteration issue: *aspects of contamination and outcome*



- ▶ Categorization and distribution of analysed comb foundation samples by adulteration level (category)

<b>Adulteration category</b>	<b>Paraffin share (%)</b>	<b>Samples 2014+2015+2016=tot (n)</b>	<b>Samples (%)</b>
Higher middle level	45-70	14 + 3 + 1 = 18	7,9
Lower middle level	20-45	6 + 6 + 7 = 19	8,3
Low level	5-20	28 + 32 + 58 = 128	56,1
Genuine beeswax	< 5	11 + 14 + 31 = 56	24,6
<b>Total</b>		<b>61 + 62 + 105 = 228</b>	<b>100%</b>

- **70.5 %** samples **adulterated with paraffin**
- **up to 94.2 %** of paraffin
- **Stearic acid** (20-35 %) found in 6 samples (Netherlands)
- Prevalence of the paraffin adulteration on the market

# Actions to improve the economic situation

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- ▶ Improve the knowledge of markets and information
- ▶ Establishment of traceability measures at the level of farms, packers and other operators: from the hive to the consumer
- ▶ Member States have to focus on the search for fraud (on quality and origin) and not only on residues of veterinary medicinal products
- ▶ In order to improve the value of other bee products, it is essential to establish regulatory definitions for all beekeeping products at EU level
- ▶ ...



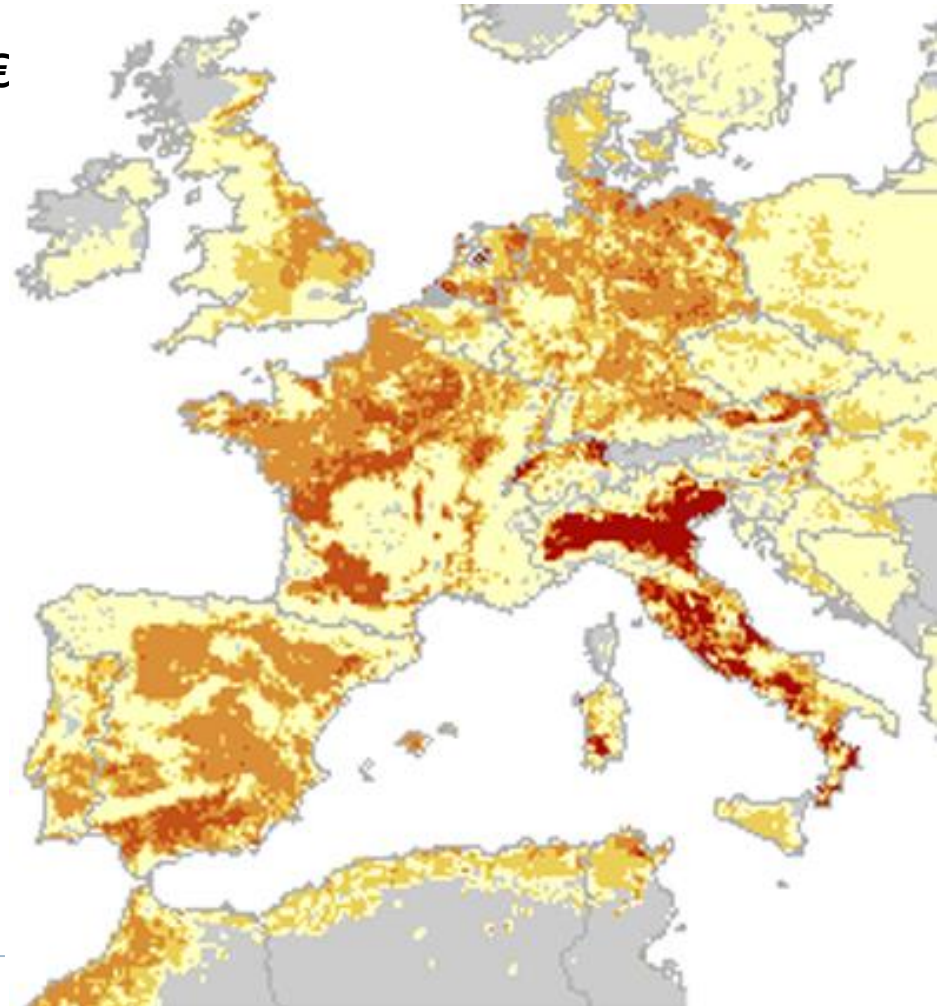
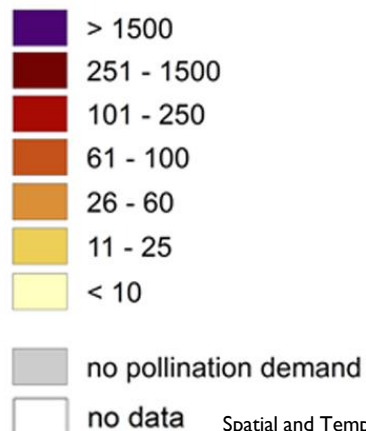


# Global map of pollination benefits



- ▶ Pollination of crops = 14,2 billions € (10% of alimentary value)
- ▶ Most wild plant species (80%) are directly dependent on insect pollination

Values are given as US \$ /h



Spatial and Temporal Trends of Global Pollination Benefit  
Sven Lautenbach, Ralf Seppelt, Juliane Liebscher, Carsten F. Dormann

# Bee decline : multifactorial

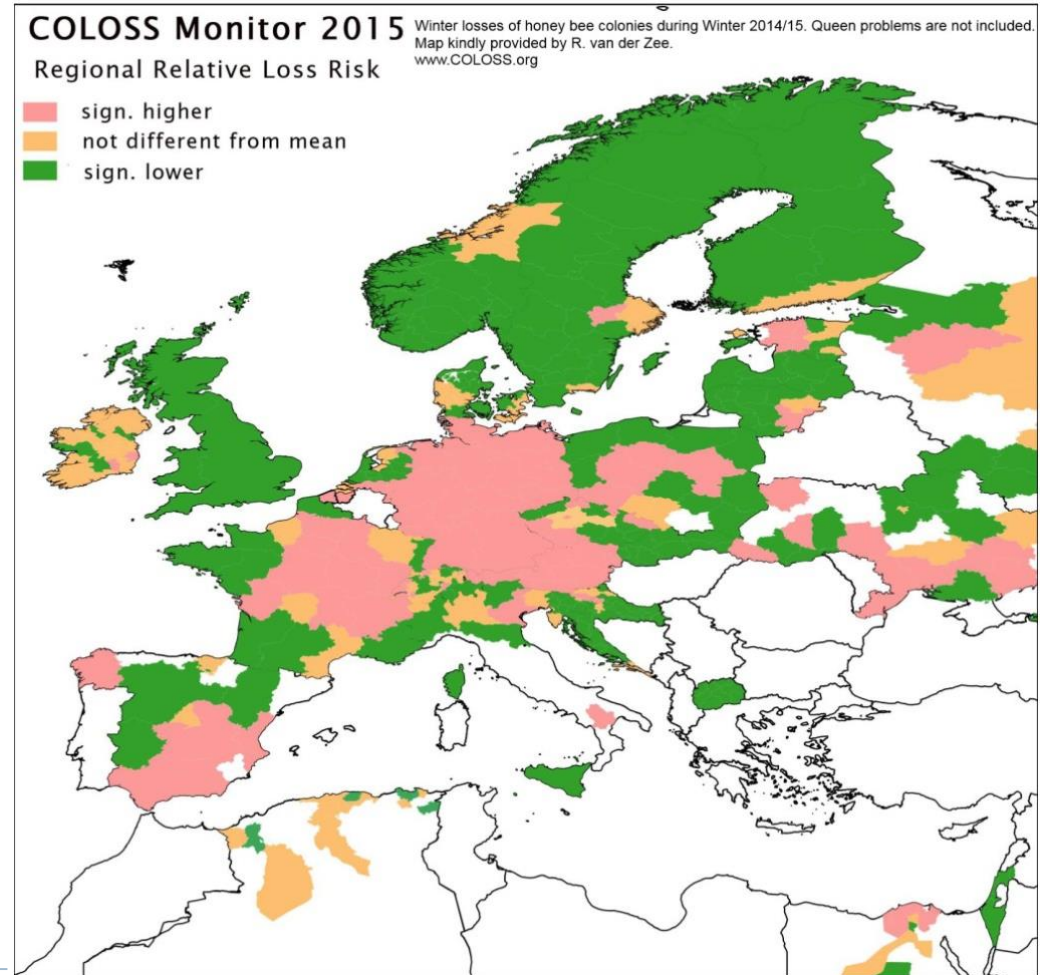


## ▶ Bee decline

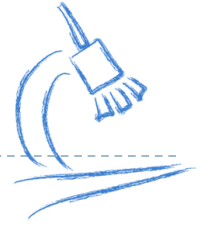
- ▶ Average  $\pm 15\%$
- ▶ Can be  $> 40\%$   
f (country, year)

## ▶ Multifactorial

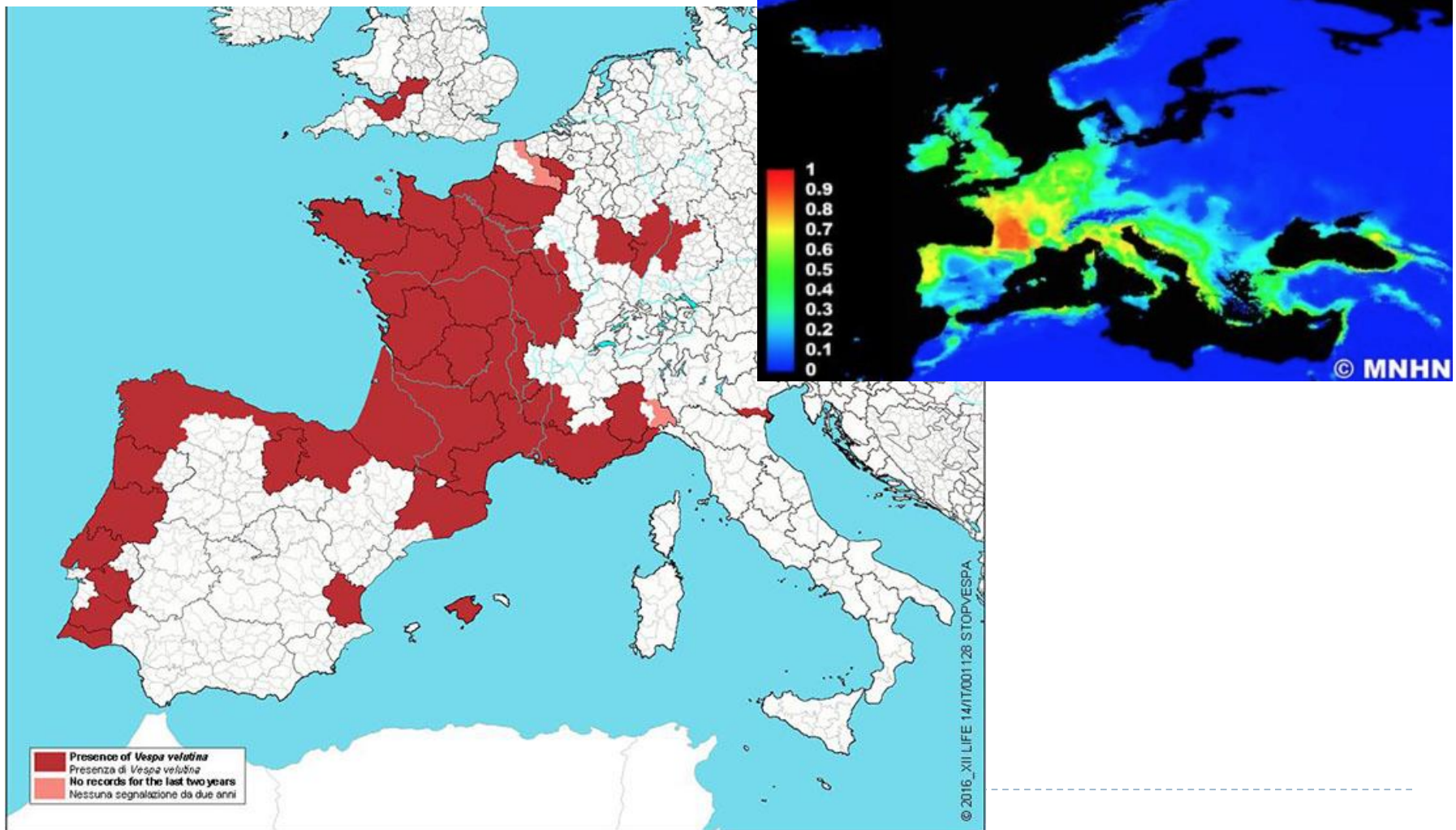
- ▶ *Varroa destructor*
- ▶ Pesticides
- ▶ Loss of biodiversity
- ▶ Climate
- ▶ ...



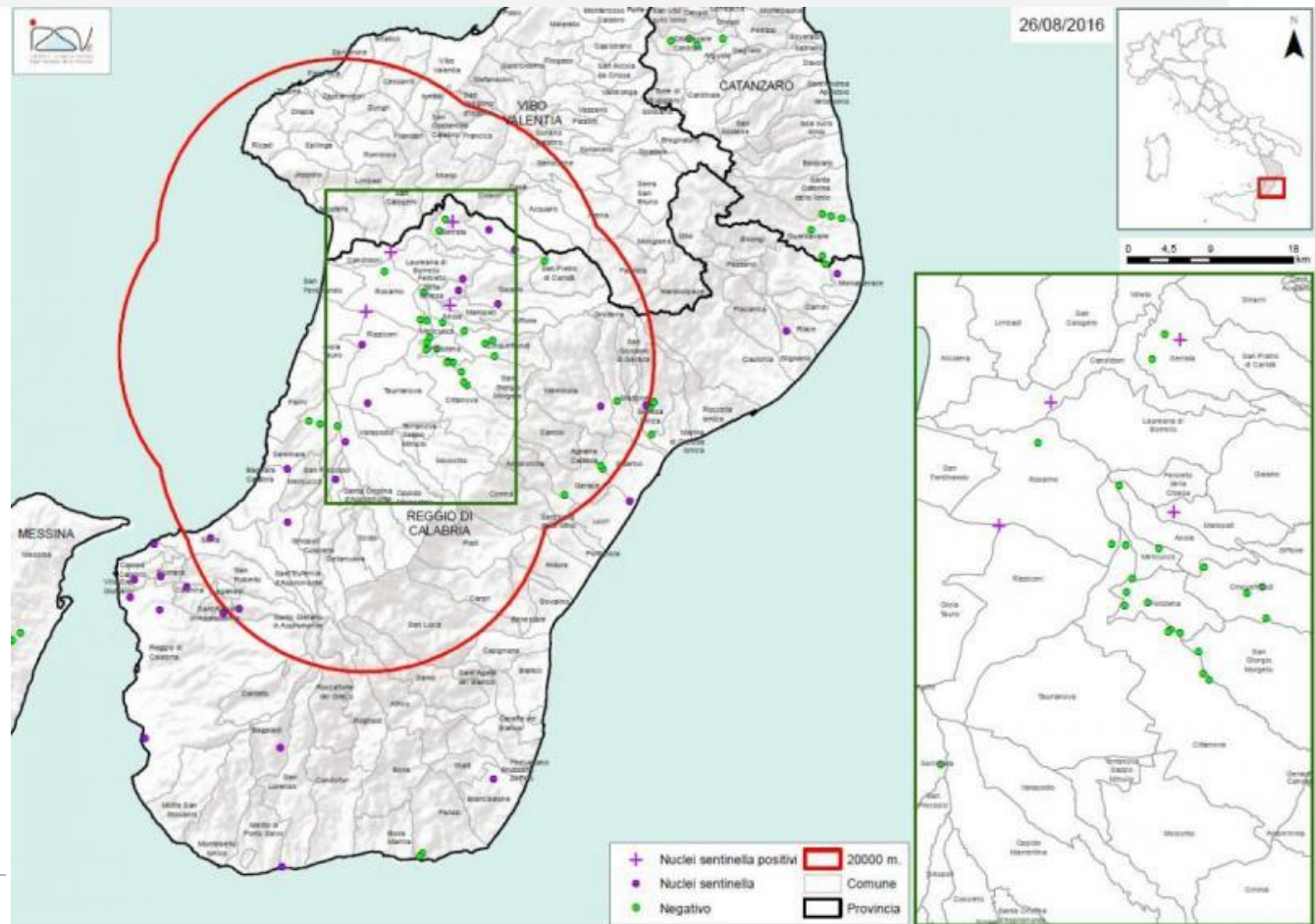
# *Vespa velutina*



## ► Invasive species



# *Aethina tumida*



# European tools



- ▶ **Beekeeping program**

- ▶ 36.000.000 €/year...

- ▶ **Agriculture**

- ▶ Greenings...

- ▶ **Pesticides**

- ▶ New risk assessment...

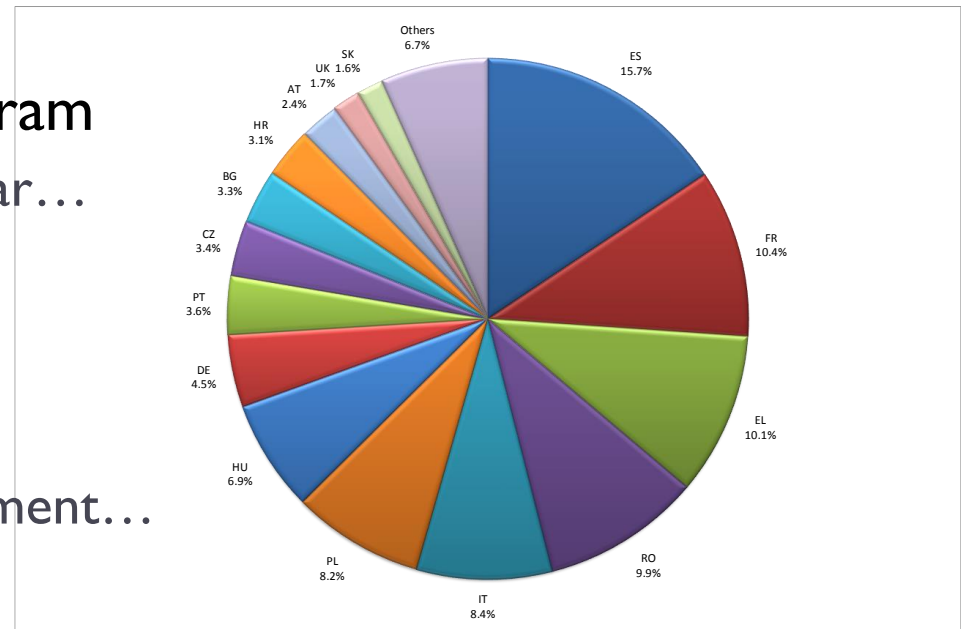
- ▶ **Veterinary**

- ▶ EU reference laboratory on bee pathologies

- ▶ EFSA - MUST BEE...

- ▶ **Environment**

- ▶ **Research**





Thank you for attention

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