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EU-funded Horizon 2020 project PoshBee gathers in Marseille to discuss all things bee health

The [PoshBee](#) annual general meeting took place between 14 and 16 January 2020 in Marseille, France. The event brought together more than 80 participants, including scientists, beekeepers, farmers, practitioners and other stakeholders from across Europe.

During the meeting, research talks on the progress achieved were delivered, alongside workshops where knowledge and ideas for future actions were exchanged. Some of the highlights and breakthroughs of the meeting included:

- The development of a site network, covering 8 countries and many dispersed locations, to assess bee health in the face of stressors like pesticides, pathogens, and nutrition
- Protocols developed by the project have been produced, tested and improved; these will eventually be published to be reused for other research
- A high number of field and semi-field experiments around Europe have been completed
- Methods for passive air sampling of contaminants inside the beehives have been discussed
- Toxicokinetics, toxicodynamics and interactions among agrochemicals were presented and discussed
- Effects of different pesticides on worker bees, male bees and bee queens were measured and analyzed
- The effects of sulfoxaflor effects on pollinators, from lab studies to semi-field experiments, were discussed
- The ongoing development of novel wild bee model species for risk assessment was reported
- The future impact strategy for engagement of stakeholders has been discussed by all project partners

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The AGM and its fruitful discussions marked significant success in the first third of PoshBee's duration and its path towards sustainable pollination. The information exchanged at the event will help all parties involved in their future work on the project. PoshBee's coordinator, Professor Mark Brown of Royal Holloway University of London, summarizes the results of the three-day-meeting as follows:

It was fantastic to see the huge amount of research that had been conducted across the project. While only 20 months old, PoshBee is well on its way to delivering significant knowledge on how pesticides, and their interactions with disease and nutritional stress, impact the health of wild bees and honey bees. Together with our stakeholders, we look forward to operationalising this new knowledge to enhance bee health across Europe.

