

# Czech-UNDP Challenge Fund

## Milestone Reporting



**Project Title: Transfer of the new know-how and modern beekeeping methods for sustainable, ecological and economical beekeeping**

<b>Milestone number</b>	4	
<b>Innovator</b>	Apis Innovation s.r.o.	
<b>Local Partner</b>	The National Association of Beekeepers of the Republic of Moldova	
<b>Project Locations</b>	Chisinau, Moldova	
<b>Start date – End Date</b>	30.10.2022 – 15.12.2023	
<b>Funding (total USD)</b>	<b>UNDP Award</b>	<b>Co-Funding</b>
54865	39975	14890

## I. SUMMARY

*The executive summary is a concise brief on the progress towards the expected results during the reporting period. The section should include context and key developments of the project; progress against expected results; key challenges and risks faced in the implementation (and what has been done to mitigate them); lessons learned as appropriate; utilization update - mention the total project budget (as proposed in the application); report on cumulative utilization (indicating the % utilization in brackets) on utilization during the reporting period; key recommendations. Suggested length – 1 page maximum*

During the reaching of the fourth milestone, we have been able to execute all activities and finish the project. There has been a significant activity by our partner organization, primarily on the field of presentation and medialization of the project. Transfer of know-how and beekeeping technology went very well, it is and will be still in the process as we are in constant contact with beekeepers and reply to their questions and continuous experience (which was a crucial part of this last part of the project as well as public outreach and media coverage). A successful part of our project is also the development of new partnerships.

## II. BACKGROUND

*This section should provide a short introductory of the project, including an overview of the situation analysis, objectives and changes in the context/situation. It should be kept brief, expand only on key changes that might affect implementation. This part should include brief background of project and its rationale; context including linkage to other ongoing projects/programs; Project Approach, including Project Set up and management and coordination arrangements; listing of the main responsible parties. Suggested length - half a page maximum*

The project provides an alternative to chemical treatment in the fight against invasive Varroa Destructor mites (the biggest honeybee threat and colony killers in Moldova) to the local beekeepers. Beekeeping with Thermosolar Hive is sustainable and provides significantly higher honey production, therefore helping beekeepers to increase their profit.

Beekeeping research and beekeeping practice in Czechia offer other important new findings, which can help to develop the potential of beekeeping in Moldova. The anti-swarming rearing of drones proves to be the easiest and at the same time the most effective anti-swarming measure. The method is based on investment into the drone genes instead of the genes of the new queens.

Among other findings, which could be beneficial for beekeepers in Moldova is the natural attitude to beekeeping based on the wild bees and their nesting which significantly reduces the possibility of an outbreak of American foulbrood disease. There are also other beekeeping questions and findings we would like to share and discuss with the local beekeepers.

### III. MAIN ACTIVITIES AND KEY RESULTS

*This section should focus on results backed by evidence of achievements. Give an overall and clear sense of the 'before-and-after' of the project intervention. Describe and analyse activities but emphasis on linking them more solidly to expected results by also including references and evidencing how the total number of activities helped to reach the results within reporting period. Suggested length – 1-3 pages.*

During the fourth milestone we have been working on finalizing the project, know-how transfer and technology. We are in continual contact with our partner and also with beekeepers and are helping them with the smooth know-how transfer and utilization of Thermosolar hives. The contacts and help with the beekeeping questions will continue after the project is over. Also, important part was medialization and visibility of the project. We are continually working on partnerships not only with the Moldovan beekeeping association but also with other partners and are also connecting other partners (see section IV.).

#### IV. PARTNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

*Briefly describe all partnerships, including new ones built in the course of the reporting period. Report on the major impact that these partnerships have on results. How stakeholders, counterparts and/or local communities are/were engaged in implementation of the project to ensure sustainability of the project.*

*Suggested length – half a page*

We have reached local beekeeping communities and other beekeeping partners. We have cultivated our relations with our local partner - The National Association of Beekeepers of the Republic of Moldova. Our partner organization shows that it is a very good partner for such kind of project, they have been helpful and came up with their own suggestions regarding some of the steps of our project that positively changed some of the steps of the project. They have also helped us to contact other partnerships through the sector. We are now in contact with many beekeepers through Moldova and their local branches of beekeeping association. We are also in contact with the local beekeeping school, and we have discussed the possibility of cooperation with them. They have acquired one Thermosolar hive for their lecture room and we have connected their representatives with our Czech beekeeping school in Nasavrky. We are working on establishing a partnership between the two schools which could be primarily beneficial, especially for the Moldovan school as their school, facilities and know-how were not able to develop as fast as in the Czech school during the last decades. We are also seeking to help them to reach financial support for this emerging partnership.

At the moment, we are discussing possibilities for Moldovan beekeepers, who are very interested in Czech beekeeping know-how we have presented them (plus also other know-how, which was not primarily part of our presentation in Moldova and therefore was mentioned only minimally), with Czech Ministry of Agriculture and other subjects, as the Moldovan beekeepers under the National Association of Beekeepers would like to arrive to the Czech Republic to discuss the several topics and learn more know-how in the Czech Republic.

We will also continue to help with the evaluation of the current steps they are doing with new technology and know-how we are already transferring at the moment. The beekeeping year and seasonality force the beekeepers to utilize methods and technologies throughout the whole year or even in a few years before they eliminate possible problems, they need help with know-how transfer over a long period of time and we would like to help them as much as possible.

## V. KEY CHALLENGES LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMENDATIONS

*Mention key challenges encountered during implementation period and lessons learned as well as the way forward. For each of them, describe successful approaches taken to address challenges and highlight recommendations for future consideration in implementing the Project. This should include any modifications that needed or need to be made to proposed targets as well data collection and monitoring to track progress. Suggested length –1 page*

As mentioned in previous milestone, some lessons learned and some recommendations are mentioned below. Although no new problems appeared, we have learned several lessons during the whole project. It is clear that there is significant desire for future cooperation among Moldovan beekeepers and their Association, something that surpass expectations and our previous experience from the projects in other countries. This was one of the very positive parts of the project.

There have been two main challenges that we had to sort out during this milestone. The first one was connected with confirmation from the Moldovan government regarding our project. The whole project was significantly delayed due to the necessity to have the confirmation before we could proceed with the project and the process of confirmation took a few months.

As a recommendation, we would like to suggest changing this process, so other projects in the future will not have the same problem and delay.

The second challenge was connected with finding the interpreter. This process was difficult, even our embassy was not able to help us. We had tried to find the interpreter through different channels. There have been some connections via companies oriented on translations, however, we haven't been satisfied as the interpreters haven't been very motivated, or their Czech language was not good enough or they had problems with the dates of the event and the price for such service was significantly higher than it was anticipated. However, at the end we have been very lucky to find highly motivated interpreter with professional attitude originally from Moldova, who lives in Czechia for more than 10 years and know both languages fluently. We are happy to use her services also in the future.

However, only a few problems were connected with transportation time and customs, if compared with our previous experience, both have been quite fast and only with minor difficulties.

## VI. MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

*(Please summarize the media coverage and public outreach; include links to relevant articles and media)*

Media coverage and public outreach of the UNDP project, about our activities in Moldova and our innovations and methods reaching Moldovan beekeepers is wide. First, it focuses on beekeepers who were invited to the event in Moldova and then on medialization and public outreach after our departure. During our project, not only marketing and media activities have been used to attract attention to the project, but also public outreach of the project was highlighted by the beekeeping event on the Arcul de Triumf (Triumphal Arch), the most important central part of Chisinau. The event was visited not only by Moldovan beekeepers but also by the minister of agriculture of Moldova, by ambassador of the Czech Republic in Moldova and other important personalities from the government or other embassies. They have been also present for the awarding of winning certificates for women beekeepers who, after being chosen in the competition (rules of the competition by our partner organization are in the attachment), have received their Thermosolar hives (winners are Pantaz Doina, GȚ Pantaz Doina Grigore, Druță Angela, Visul Ursului SRL, Lisî Natalia, GȚ Apitera-Lisî). We have discussed the usage of Thermosolar hives in Moldova not only with beekeepers but also with the head of the beekeeping association and with the minister of agriculture of Moldova and have also discussed possibilities of government support for our solution of the most important problem of Moldovan beekeepers.

Media coverage and articles:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=695700119267940&set=pcb.695701742601111>  
<https://agrobiznes.md/castiga-stupi-termosolari-o-inventie-ceha-care-a-revolutionat-domeniul-apiculturii.html>,  
<https://agrobiznes.md/asociatia-nationala-a-apicultorilor-din-moldova-va-primi-o-solutie-inedita-de-combatere-a-acarianului-varroa.html>,  
<https://agrobiznes.md/asociatia-nationala-a-apicultorilor-organizeaza-festivalul-dedicat-zilei-nationale-a-apicultorului.html>,  
<https://agrotv.md/pentru-femeile-apiculatoare-castiga-stupi-termosolari/>,  
<https://agrotv.md/festival-dedicat-zilei-nationale-a-apicultorilor/>,

There are still a few articles that will be published in Moldova in the coming weeks. We are working with our partner on promotion of the UNDP project and also on reaching beekeepers with our technology.

## VII. PROJECT'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

***Please attach original budget sheet and add report current utilization of budget to the email.***

Financial performance of the project:

Expenses during Milestone 4 reflect the original budget sheet.

**Expenses during this milestone:**

Communication with beekeepers, help with medialization activities (1 600 USD)

Medialization and promotion of the project by our local partner organization (250 USD) (local partner)

Translation of communication with beekeepers, feedback (320 USD) (co-financing)

Phone call expenses from CZ to Moldova and in Moldova during the whole project (200 USD) (co-financing)

Accounting during the whole project (400 USD) (co-financing)

## VIII. DELIVERABLES AND ANNEXES

*Please include (attach to the email or share via online storage) deliverables listed in the Contract.*

*Please include any additional information such as articles, leaflets, publications, reports and drafts of studies developed during the project implementation.*

*Please include up to 3 photos relevant to the project implementation relevant for the current milestone.*

## IX. CHECKLIST

Deliverables described in the Contract included/attached

Photos attached

Budget sheet attached

Invoice attached



**PREPARED BY:**

**Date: 7.12.2023**

**Name of the responsible person: Jan Rája**

**Signature:**