Honey value chain in Slovak Carpathian Mountains

Topic
Author: Diana Surová (CZU)
More info https://www.moving-h2020.eu/reference_regions/slovak-carpathian-mountains-slovakia/

The Moving project in Slovakia focused on the value chain of honey in mountain areas. The project's working discussion activities included dozens of stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in honey production in mountain areas. A detailed description of the honey value chain and its contribution to mountain areas was developed. The main problems affecting the chain were identified, and several necessary measures were proposed to ensure the sustainability of this chain in the future. The honey value chain in Slovakia's mountainous regions is mainly ensured by small and medium-sized beekeepers who maintain local traditions and skills in beekeeping and produce high-quality and demanded honey. This honey is sold directly to customers from the beekeeper, representing a short supply chain, additional income for mountain communities, and promotion of mountain locations for recreation and tourism. Beekeeping also brings continuous environmental education and awareness of the connection between the quality of the environment and the health of bees and people. It is a "way of life" connected to nature and benefits mental health.

Figure 1. Slovak Carpathian Mountains (R. Srnka)

The project meetings also created an opportunity for face-to-face meetings and discussions of various actors in the value chain. They brought together experts on the given topic, local beekeepers, and actors of national governing bodies in a rich conversation about the current and future development of beekeeping in mountain areas. Indeed, the climatic, environmental, and social conditions for beekeeping today are significantly different compared to the past. To preserve the tradition of beekeeping, investments in new knowledge, practices, and cooperation between beekeepers and other actors and value chains in the region are needed to ensure the resilience of bee colonies and the sustainability of the value chain.

MOVING receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862739. The content of this document does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s).