**Comparison of apiculture and winter losses of honey bee colonies in Austria and Czech Republic**

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Austria and the Czech Republic have historically shared beekeeping thanks to geographical as well as cultural proximity. Although the number of beekeepers (48132) and colonies (540705) is higher in the Czech Republic than in Austria (25207 beekeepers and 312740 colonies, respectively) the structure of apiculture is similar. For example, the average number of colonies per beekeeping operation is ca. 11 and 12 in Czech Republic and Austria, and the vast majority of beekeepers in both countries can be considered being hobbyists. The density of honey bee colonies in the Czech Republic (6.9 colonies / km2) is almost double than in Austria (3.7 colonies / km2). Winter loss data is only available for Austria so far, dating back to 2008. Supported by AKTION (project 69p11) cooperation between Austria and the Czech Republic was started to compare apiculture of both countries and for the first time evaluate winter losses in the Czech Republic. The international standardized COLOSS questionnaire on winter losses of honey bee colonies was distributed and promoted through beekeeping journals, internet and at meetings between February and May 2014. For the internet survey, LimeSurvey 1.91 was used. In total, 562 Czech and 1021 Austrian beekeepers answered the questionnaire. Average operation size of participants in both countries was ca. 18 colonies. Winter loss rate was 12.5% (95% CI: 11.4-13.6%) in Austria and 6.5% (95% CI: 5.5-7.6%) in the Czech Republic. Both datasets have been submitted to the international coordinator to facilitate understanding of risk factors for honey bees. Further cooperation between Austria and the Czech Republic will focus on the renewal of livestock (i.e. the production of new queens and colonies) during summer.