

## Rural connectivity for the health and management of beehives

In rural Latvia, an EU-funded start-up is using digital connectivity to promote healthy bee colonies and modern hive management. Thanks to €15,000 in LEADER funding covering two thirds of the total budget, Jānis Kronbergs developed the BeeKing app, which aims to help beekeepers – and especially newcomers – to learn from others, implement best practices and become more efficient. In this video, he explains the tool as well as its motivation, saying that “bees are very important for our nature, for pollination and biodiversity” and digital technologies can help beekeepers stay competitive.



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The app not only allows beekeepers to plan their hive care and update their records on the go and hands-free, using voice notes (a useful feature when your fingers are sticky with honey); it can also be paired with hive sensors to log data such as hive temperature, humidity and weight, which can be a measure of the hive’s health and what treatments may be needed.

BeeKing’s most important feature, however, may be that it allows beekeepers to optimize their practices and know-how through the connection with other beekeepers. As Mr Kronbergs explains:

“Connectivity in rural areas is very important. Farmers and beekeepers need to cooperate and share knowledge and data. It’s very important to use it to make your beekeeping more efficient.”

He concludes by saying that digitalisation is “a new dimension in how we can work, and it’s a big opportunity”.

## Find out more

- BeeKing
- Video interview series on broadband and digital projects in the EU
- Information on EU funding for broadband
- Information on technical assistance for broadband
- The status of connectivity in your area: the European Broadband Mapping Portal

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