



# Beekeepers' involvement and needs

Collecting and  
Sharing Data on  
**bee health**  
Towards a  
European Bee  
**Partnership**

BRUSSELS, 26 JUNE '17

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## DOMAINS OF BEE RELATED DATA

- colonies / beekeepers / operations / hive tracking systems
- biodiversity of bees and breeding
- bee diseases / pathogens / strains / treatments
- environmental data / contaminants and residues in bee products
- modelling data as well as calibration data (MUST-B)
- data on authenticity of bee products (NMR method etc.)
- market data for bee products (prices, trade flows)



## DATA AVAILABLE TO SHARE

- Beekeepers need to track their hives:
  - location, health status, age of queen, honey production etc.
- Beekeepers need to track their hive products:
  - honey productions, inventory, sales, lot numbers, customers etc.
- Beekeepers track their breeding activities
  - race, breeding line etc.
- Beekeepers get their bee products analysed
  - pollen profile, residues etc.



# INCENTIVES TO SHARE DATA

- Participation as condition for receiving government support.
  - Money actually received by beekeepers is too insignificant to be a factor.
- Participation as condition for placing products on the market.
  - Does not work for the many hobby beekeepers.
- Participation may result in valuable expert assistance from government agencies.
  - Not enough practical beekeeping expertise at government agencies to be perceived as valuable assistance.



# DISINCENTIVES TO SHARE DATA

- Producers in other farming sectors like dairy, pigs, poultry are fully transparent, dependent on government handouts and in terrible financial shape.
  - No desire of the beekeeping sector to follow this example.
- Participation may lead to loss of privacy and independence.
- Tax consequences with arbitrary thresholds.
- Beekeepers forced into farmer's insurance system to compensate for declining number of farmers paying into the pool.
- Draconian measures without sufficient compensation in the case of SHB eradication efforts have reduced trust that authorities will act in beekeepers best interest.
- Governments need data to act. No data is perceived as a good way to keep government out of the sector.



## DATA NEEDS

- Beekeeper is major source of detailed records in his operation but could benefit from "big picture" data.
- Data entry more likely, if system also may help beekeeper with own needs for record keeping and hive management.
  - Focus on the practical needs of beekeepers first.
- Beekeepers need to coordinate certain activities with other beekeepers.
  - varroa treatment, AFB outbreaks, SHB control.



## DATA NEEDS

- Useful data could be provided back to the beekeeper:
  - “varroa weather” (overall varroa pressure and best time to treat in region)
  - environmental data to protect health of bees and avoid contamination of bee products.
  - data on honey flow (prediction of honey dew)
  - data on disease resistance of breeding lines



## RECOMMENDATIONS

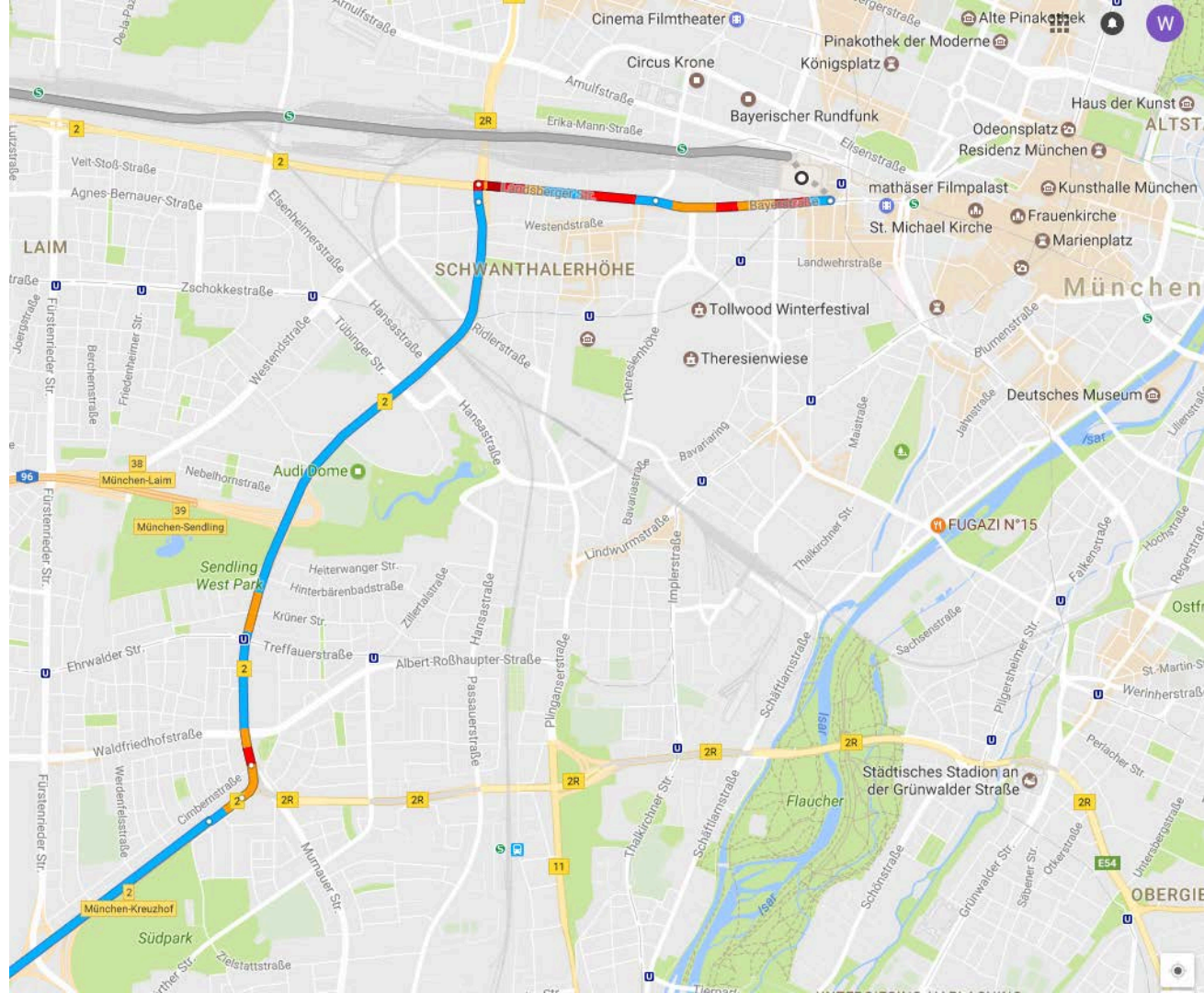
- Beekeepers need privacy built into the system.
- Strong encryption with the beekeeper holding the key.
- Clearly define limited needs for data at the government and research level.
- Good aggregate data may be sufficient for many functions.
- Anonymized data may also be sufficient for many purposes.
- Alerts and notifications can be transmitted to the beekeepers without need to know any personal data.

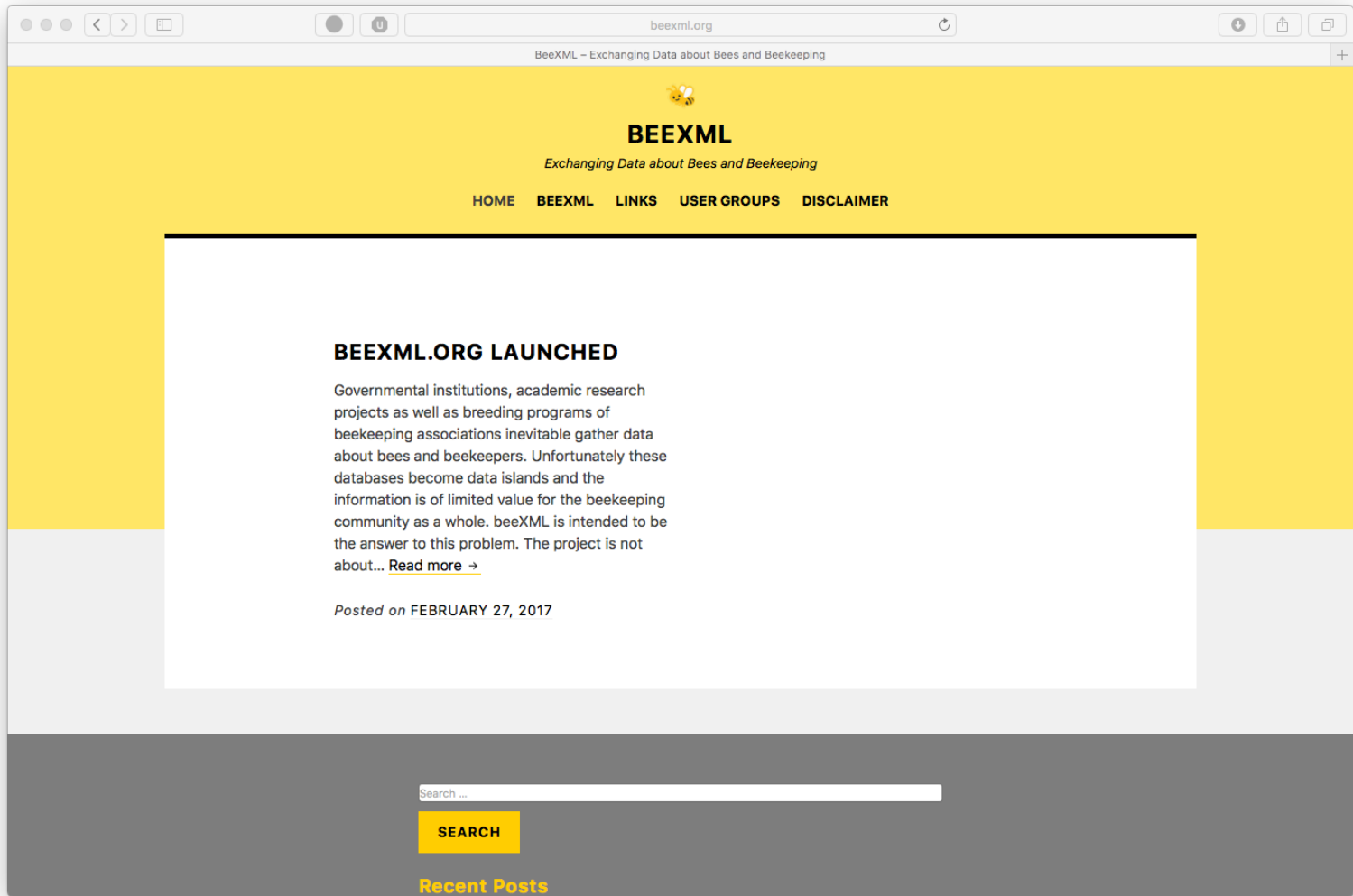


Example for useful data without privacy invasion:

## Car Navigation systems

Aggregate data from mobile phones provide real time traffic flow without need to know identity of user.





# BEEXML

Exchanging Data about Bees and Beekeeping

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## BEEXML.ORG LAUNCHED

Governmental institutions, academic research projects as well as breeding programs of beekeeping associations inevitable gather data about bees and beekeepers. Unfortunately these databases become data islands and the information is of limited value for the beekeeping community as a whole. beeXML is intended to be the answer to this problem. The project is not about... [Read more](#) →

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# Thank you for your kind attention!

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