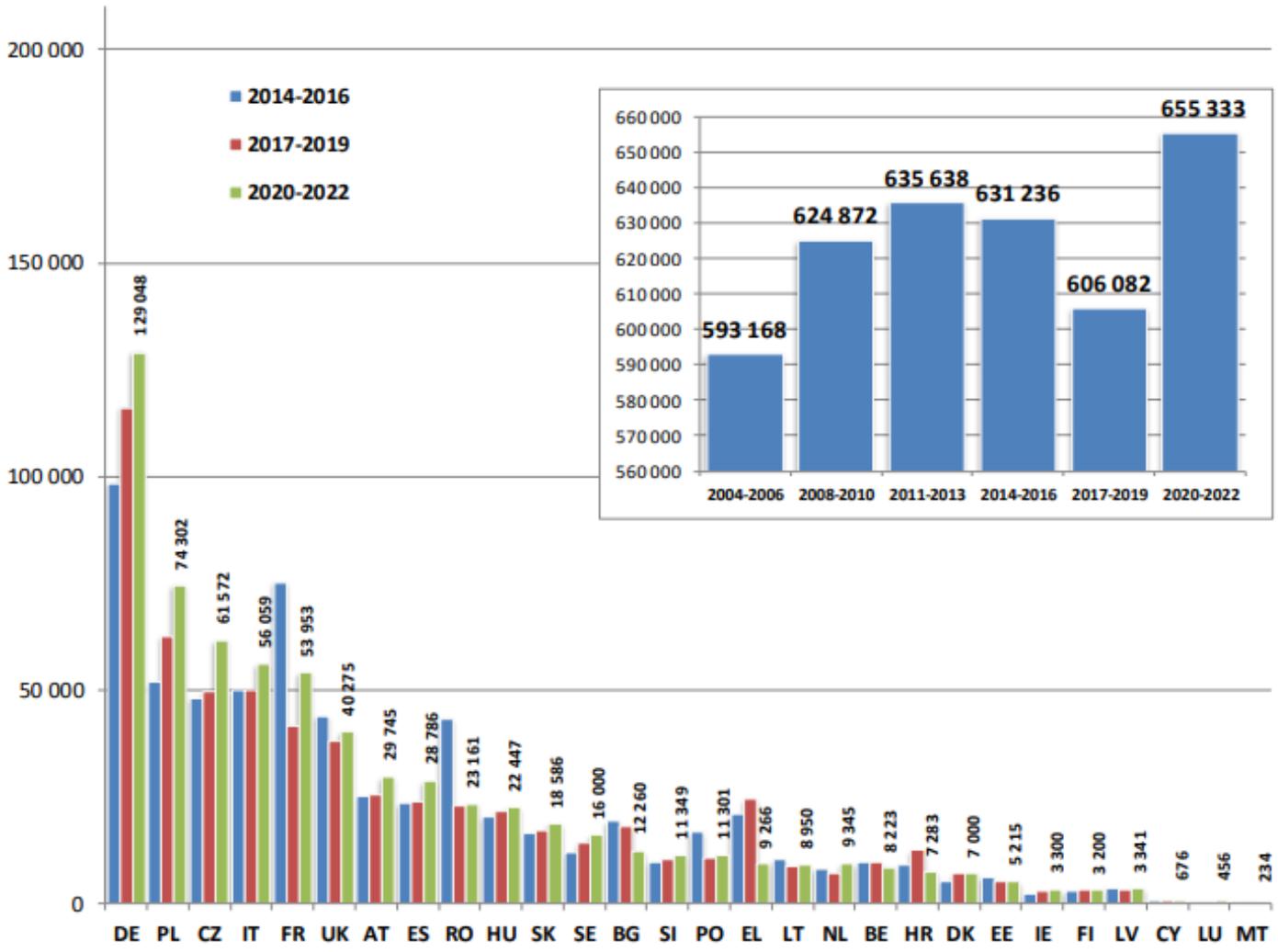


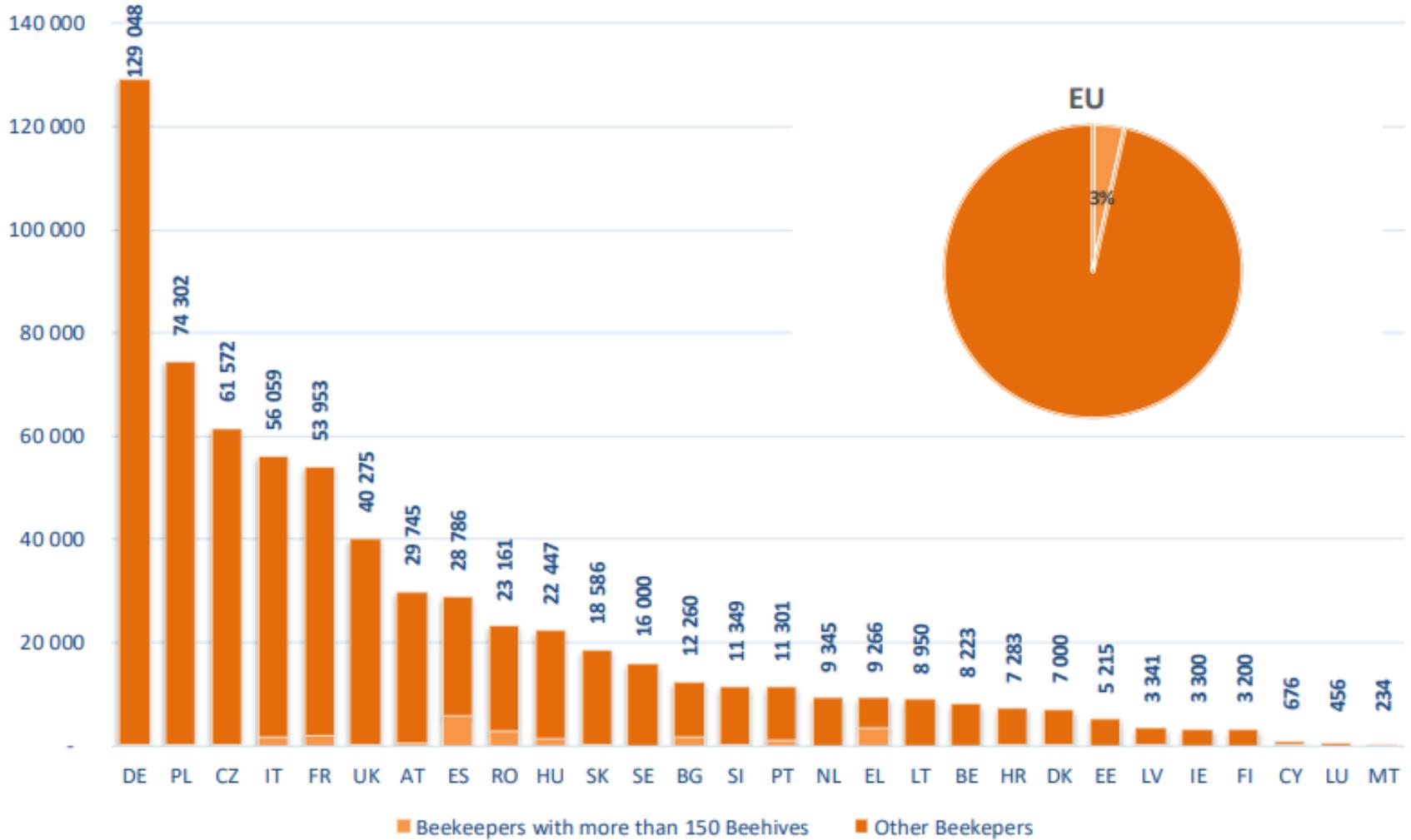
EU national apiculture sectors: current state and challenges

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Evolution of the number of beekeepers



Beekeepers with more than 150 Beehives (2017 -2018)



Export of honey from Ukraine: current state

- ▶ For the export of natural honey (code according to the EU–EC 0409), a duty–free tariff quota operates within the framework of the EU–Ukraine Free Trade Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

The size of the duty–free quota	The import duty rate within the quota limit	The duty rate over the quota
5000 tons / year (with a gradual increase over 5 years of 200 tons/year to 6000 tons / year)	0%	17.3%

- ▶ In addition, in autumn 2017, an additional duty–free quota for honey in the amount of 2500 tons / year for a period of 3 years was introduced in the framework of the EU's temporary additional trade preferences for Ukraine.

Export of honey from Ukraine: problems and challenges

- ▶ imported honey was on average twice cheaper than the honey produced in the EU; the EU imports around 200 000 tonnes of honey per year, mainly from China, Ukraine, Argentina and Mexico, which is creating a serious competitive disadvantage for Europe's beekeepers compared to producers from third countries and preventing a higher degree of self-sufficiency;
- ▶ despite this statistical increase, many professional beekeepers have ceased activity, and in some Member States the number of bee colonies has declined by as much as 50 % or more, owing to the effects of disturbances within the EU's internal market in honey;

Export of honey from Ukraine:

- ▶ However, a downturn in honey prices due to overproduction of cheap Ukrainian honey is now hurting beekeepers of such countries as Hungary, Romania, Spain or Lithuania.

Honey mislabeling and adulteration: current state

- ▶ whereas consumers often think they are eating honey from the EU, when a proportion of that honey in fact is a blend of EU and third-country honey, while a large proportion of imported honey is adulterated;
- ▶ honey is the third most adulterated product in the world; whereas adulteration does considerable harm to Europe's beekeepers and exposes consumers to serious health risks;
- ▶ Member States' honey samples were tested by the Joint Research Centre, which found, among other things, that 20 % of the samples taken at the EU's external borders and on importers' premises did not respect the honey composition and/or honey production processes laid down in the Honey Directive (2001 / 110 / EC), and 14 % of the samples contained added sugar; whereas in spite of this, fake and adulterated honey continues to enter Europe;

Honey adulteration: problems

- ▶ the imbalance in the European honey market resulting from the wholesale importation of adulterated low-cost honey has reduced the purchase price of honey in the EU's main producer countries (Romania, Spain, Hungary, Bulgaria, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece and Croatia) by half between 2014 and 2016, and this continues to put European beekeepers in a difficult and detrimental position;
- ▶ the second paragraph of point (a) of Article 2(4) of the Honey Directive as amended by Directive 2014/63/EU provides that, where honey originates from more than one Member State or third country, the mandatory indication of the countries of origin may be replaced by one of the following, as appropriate: 'blend of EU honeys', 'blend of non-EU honeys' or 'blend of EU and non-EU honeys'; whereas the indication 'blend of EU and non-EU honeys' is not informative enough for the consumer;
- ▶ many honey packagers and traders now abuse this way of indicating origin in order to conceal the real country of origin, as well as the proportion of honey from the different countries concerned, as purchasers are becoming more knowledgeable and are distrustful of foodstuffs from certain countries;

Honey adulteration: solutions

- ▶ consumers have the right to know the place of origin of all foodstuffs; however, labelling such as 'blend of EU and non-EU honeys', completely conceals the origin of the honey from the consumer and consequently fails to fulfil the principles of EU consumer protection law; the accurate and mandatory labelling of honey and bee products, is needed;
- ▶ the **'blend of EU and non-EU honeys'** on labels should be replaced by an indication of exactly which country or countries the honey used in the final product come from, and that these be listed in the order which corresponds to the percentage proportions used in the final product (additionally stating the percentage by country in a given product);

Honey labelling

- ▶ The European Union defines specific rules for honey supplementing its laws on foodstuffs according to the Council Directive 2001 / 110 / EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey.
- ▶ **KEY TERMS**
- ▶ * **Filtered honey:** honey obtained by removing foreign inorganic or organic matter in such a way as to result in the significant removal of pollen.
- ▶ ** **Comb honey:** honey stored by bees in the cells combs or thin comb foundation sheets made solely of beeswax and sold in sealed whole combs or sections of such combs.
- ▶ *** **Chunk honey or cut comb in honey:** honey which contains one or more pieces of comb honey.
- ▶ **** **Baker's honey:** the words 'intended for cooking only' must appear on the label in close proximity to the product name.

Honey labelling

- ▶ One more honey labelling added **“Raw honey”**
- ▶ Raw honey is best described as honey “as it exists in the beehive”.It is made by extracting honey from the honeycombs of the hive and pouring it over a mesh or nylon cloth to separate the honey from impurities like beeswax and dead bees.
- ▶ The production of regular honey involves several more steps before it is bottled — such as **pasteurization** and **filtration**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

