

# Včelí kRaj

## 1. introduction

Včelí kRaj - le centre éducatif est situé près du village de Kokava nad Rimaviciou, dans la vallée de Liešnica, dans les montagnes de Stolické (Slovaquie centrale). Le projet Včelí kRaj a commencé en 2013 en tant que projet de l'association civique kRaj. Le rucher attire les visiteurs intéressés par l'apiculture dans un environnement calme, propre et au contact des terres agricoles traditionnelles. Le rucher offre également de l'apithérapie. Les bâtiments folkloriques traditionnels contribuent au caractère rural du rucher et les nouvelles constructions multifonctionnelles représentent des idées novatrices.

## 2. PROFIL DE PROMOTEUR

**Prénom**

Dávid

**Nom de famille**

Turčáni

**Année de naissance**

1985

**Le genre**

mâle

## Éducation

Tertiary, doctoral

### 3. PROFIL DE LA FERME









**Address**

Liešnica 1214/7 985 05 Kokava nad Rimavicou-Liešnica

**Pays**

Slovaquie

**Secteur agricole dans hectar**

1.00

**Date de création de la ferme**

2013

**Date depuis quand le promoteur est propriétaire / loue la ferme**

mar 01/01/2013 - 12:00

NUMBER OF WORKERS	FAMILY MEMBERS	EXTERNAL WORKERS
<b>Full time</b>	0	1
<b>Part time</b>	0	1

**Description de la ferme**

The apiary is located in the Liešnica valley that is the local part of the village of Kokava nad Rimavicou. The apiary is not a part of a protected landscape area. Since the 15th century, the landscape had been used for mining and glass production. Later on, the paperwork industry was established. After the Velvet Revolution the industry gradually declined and disappeared. Today's landscape still shows signs of historical industrial land uses. Grasslands and arable land and scattered settlements are used often mainly for recreational purposes. Formations of non-woody vegetation and orchards located in the vicinity of settlements support the diversity of land structures. The apiary owner continues the family beekeeping tradition of more than 60 years. It is nationally and internationally known for its educational activities for people all age groups, experts and non-experts alike.

## **Site Web et des liens de réseaux sociaux**

[www.kraj.sk](http://www.kraj.sk)

Facebook

## **4. Multifonctionnelle / agriculture durable et des paysages agricoles européens (EAL)**

### **Multifunctional & sustainable farming Key Words**

Social farming

Tourism and recreation related to EAL

Traditional buildings

### **Texte libre**

Protected landscape areas are more profitable for beekeeping if a beekeeper applies for a trade mark of organic bee products because such bee products are more financially valued. However, this apiary is not located in the protected area. Nevertheless, its business strategy brings positive economic outputs that are being further invested into innovation and new educational activities. The success lies in a high-quality education provided directly at the apiary, primary schools or at seminars and trainings. Experiences are being shared with domestic as well as for foreign visitors on the topics such as beekeeping, eco-beekeeping, and the most recently apitherapy. Creative workshops, bee care experience, bee products tasting and hiking through the traditionally farmed landscape rich in biodiverse grasslands and fruit orchards are increasingly becoming very popular with the public. A fusion of innovative ideas and traditions is visible in the newly build multi-purpose constructions nearby old folk farming buildings that are still well-preserved and will undergo renovation in near future. The modern multi-purpose building will be used for educational purposes as well as for apitherapy. Its spatial disposition, material and features show deep understanding of cultural landscape values. The owner takes great care of the whole apiary, thus greatly improving the visual quality of the landscape type.

### **Conseils / Recommandation**

"Bees are not only honey producers but they also have another very important function – they serve as natural pollinators. Our food depends to a large extent on their work. The active management of traditionally used landscapes with grasslands rich in biodiversity and fruit orchards is crucial in providing bees enough food and clean environment. "

## **5. CONSIDERATIONS, compétences / compétences impliquées et requêtes / questions.**

### **Considérations générales**

A high rate of unemployment as well as many opportunities for multifunctional farming are a

characteristic feature of the Stolické Mountains. Recreational potential of the traditional farmland with scattered settlements is undervalued. Winter recreational activities are quite well developed but without adding value to this landscape type itself. Moreover, this kind of tourism boosts uncontrolled construction of modern recreational buildings, thus disturbing the characteristic appearance of the landscape. Such activities adversely affect agritourism. Therefore, the apiary owner highlights the necessity to manage traditional agricultural landscape in a sustainable way, one which is beekeeping. The owner of the apiary emphasizes that agricultural activities in the region shall be based on traditional farming practices, thus producing organic products of high quality as well as organizing agricultural events. To prove his point, the beekeeper introduced his product "Med Medved' z Liešnice" (honey) that was recognized and marked as the regional product of Gemer-Malohont region. There is a huge potential for bee products to reach the local as well as national market. Moreover, the apiary represents a symbiosis between modern and traditional architecture - a move that would be supported in revitalization efforts concerning other similar farms as well. The owner uses the historical oven for bread baking for baking home-made products like pizza. Furthermore, it should be noted that old farming buildings build in the local architectural style were renovated and a new building was constructed featuring carefully selected typical features of the local architectonic style as well as innovative design features, thus creating a unique and nice multifunctional building.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environnement calme et non pollué.</li> <li>• Attraction touristique toute l'année.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homesteads abandonnés ou rarement utilisés et terres envahies par la végétation.</li> <li>• Insuffisance des infrastructures de loisirs dans les environs et dans le village de Kokava nad Rimavicou (présentant également des sites en décomposition).</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Les activités éducatives dans les écoles primaires peuvent susciter l'intérêt de la jeune génération pour l'apiculture.</li> <li>• Les activités éducatives attirent des visiteurs d'autres régions et de l'étranger.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Les résidents quittant la campagne (le niveau de vie est bas en raison du chômage).</li> <li>• Les maladies des abeilles pourraient avoir un impact important sur toutes les activités liées à la ferme.</li> </ul>

# Mots-clés

## EAL Keywords

Farmland

## Farming Key words

Beekeeping

## Main Training/Skills/Competences

The apiary owner used his knowledge of ecology and environment gained from his study at the university as well as passed down from previous generations (over 60 years of tradition) to establish educational activities in the apiary. Finances from a grant were used for the further development of apiculture business, and income from educational activities financed the renovation of the apiary. Currently, the owner also focuses on apitherapy. The apiary cooperates with primary schools in order to establish a relationship between children and the art of making living with one's own hands - beekeeping. On top of the high quality education the project has an international impact as well as demonstrated by the presence of foreign visitors at educational events (and some of them regularly return). Since 2017, further educational activities on the traditional land use have started at the apiary and the surroundings. The activities also include an "open classroom project" where children can see domestic animals while listening to the explanation of ecological relations between pollinators and the landscape quality.

## Multifunctional & sustainable farming Key Words

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## Requêtes / Questions

- Do you think that an apiary established in a protected area can further develop its business activities?
- Which activities would be organized by an apiary to carry out active landscape management activities that are important for the preservation of distinctive features of the landscape as well as functional ecological relations and biodiversity?

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