



EU POLLINATORS INITIATIVE

A review of Member States actions to tackle the decline of wild pollinators

LATVIA



STRATEGY



INITIATIVES



Rural



Urban



Private sector



NATIONAL RED LISTS

Threatened species



Available for **some** wild bees [1998]



RAISING AWARENESS



Citizens



Schools children



Farmers & beekeepers

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*Latvia does not have a national strategy dedicated to wild pollinators. Latvian law provides legal protection for the bumblebee species *Bombus confusus* and 21 *Lepidoptera* species, and the possibility of establishing micro-reserves for *Bombus confusus*. The Latvian red list of invertebrates is now over twenty years old. It identified six threatened wild bee species, including *Bombus confusus*. Monitoring focuses on the protected species, and there is a lack of data on pollinator species richness and abundance, though citizen science observations are increasing. There is also a lack of research and taxonomic experts on pollinators in Latvia.*

No farmer or landscape initiatives directed at pollinators were identified, and there are no specific measures to reduce the impact of pesticides on pollinators. The national habitat action plan for the EU priority habitat Fennoscandian wooded meadows is likely to be protecting an important pollinator habitat, but because of its very restricted extent, it is insufficient for pollinator protection.

No awareness raising and citizen engagement campaigns or education and training opportunities focused on wild pollinators were identified.



STRATEGIES FOR WILD POLLINATORS OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR PLANS

Latvia does not have any national strategy specially dedicated for wild pollinators.

The Latvia Cabinet of Ministers adopted a [list of protected species](#) in 2000 (with amendment in 2004) (Noteikumi par īpaši aizsargājamo sugu un ierobežoti izmantojamo īpaši aizsargājamo sugu sarakstu – Noteikumi 2000 and 2004). The list includes one bumblebee species, *Bombus confusus*, and 21 Lepidoptera species. The bumblebee *Bombus confusus* is also included in the [list of species](#) for which a micro-reserve could be established, adopted by Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia in 2013 (Noteikumi 2013).

Some of habitats important for pollinators could be officially protected under the regulation on the list of expressly protected habitat types, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia in 2017 (Noteikumi par īpaši aizsargājamo biotopu veidu sarakstu 2017 – Noteikumi 2017).



IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF POLLINATOR DECLINE, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

RED LISTS ON POLLINATORS AND DATA ON POLLINATOR POPULATIONS

The Latvia Red List was published in 1998 and includes invertebrates (Spuris 1998). The table shows the species of wild bees included in the Red List (Spuris 1998), and their legal protection (Noteikumi 2004, 2013):

Species		Official protection
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	Red Data Book (Spuris 1998)	Noteikumi 2004	Noteikumi 2013
<i>Andrena curvungula</i> Thomson, 1870	yes	—	—
<i>Bombus confusus</i> Schrenck, 1859	yes	yes	yes
<i>Bombus pomorum</i> Panzer, 1805	yes	—	—
<i>Bombus schrencki</i> Morawitz, 1881	yes	—	—
<i>Rophitoides canus</i> Eversmann, 1852	yes	—	—
<i>Tetralonia dentata</i> Klug, 1835	yes	—	—

A checklist of all Lepidoptera species in Latvia was published in 2017 (Aarvik et al 2017).

POLLINATOR MONITORING SCHEMES

There is no official monitoring on native pollinators. There are no specialists in Latvia who could perform research and monitoring on Apidae. This has the consequence that the opportunities presented by the legal protection of *Bombus confusus* are not fully used (Anonymous 2016).

Lepidoptera: there is annual and periodical monitoring of butterflies in Natura 2000 sites and in some other protected areas. The focus is on rare and legally protected species.

Surveys have been carried out by scientists in their research projects. But these are not integrated into any national level programmes or databases.

Some citizens post their species observations on the national platform [Dabas dati](#).

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

There is no information about any research in Latvia on the causes of wild pollinator decline. Although there are funding opportunities (e. g. ERAF, grants from Scientific Council of Latvia), pollinator project proposals are in competition with other research initiatives and there is no special funding for wild pollinator research or projects.

TAXONOMICAL EXPERTS ON POLLINATORS

Wild bees: no taxonomical experts (see: Anonymous 2016).

Lepidoptera: there is one highly qualified taxonomical expert, and others are trained on particular species or species groups for monitoring needs.

Diptera: Brachycera: two taxonomical experts available. But there is no information that anybody does research on those species that could be potential pollinators. Research on Diptera happens mainly in faunal research level.

Training opportunities have been provided on the monitoring of protected species. Training opportunities also available always if corresponding funding is available, and, of course, if interested persons are available. Interested students can use funding opportunities (e. g. ERASMUS, Leonardo da Vinci programmes) to have training abroad. Job possibilities for experts are a problem in Latvia.



INITIATIVES TACKLING THE CAUSES OF POLLINATOR DECLINE

ACTION PLANS ON SPECIES AND HABITATS

There is no action plan for endangered pollinator species. There is a national action plan for protection of the EU Habitats Directive priority habitat “Fennoscandian wooded meadows 6530* (Biotopa „parkveida pļavas un ganības 6530*” aizsardzības plāns) (Bāra et al, 2015), which is likely to be an important pollinator habitat. Unfortunately, this habitat covers only 0.02% (1160 ha) of the Latvian terrestrial area, and it is insufficient for pollinator protection.

FARMER AND LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES, AS WELL AS LOCAL LEVEL STRATEGIES

None identified.

MEASURES ON PESTICIDES

According to the Latvia regulations regarding the use of plant protection products (Noteikumi 2011), pesticide users should follow the label requirements that specify how impacts on bees should be avoided.



RAISING AWARENESS, ENGAGING SOCIETY-AT-LARGE AND PROMOTING COLLABORATION

TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS

None identified.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND MATERIALS ON WILD POLLINATORS

None identified.

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGNS

None identified.

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES FOR WILD POLLINATORS

None identified.

APICULTURE SECTOR INITIATIVES FOR WILD POLLINATORS

None identified.

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Educational materials

None available.