



## Flying start of pollinator courses!

In Germany, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Greece and the Netherlands, the first introductory courses for the SPRING monitoring network have been delivered. In total, over 100 European volunteers learned how to recognize pollinators and classify them into morpho groups. They also received instructions on the fieldwork methods used in the monitoring scheme.



*From top left to bottom right: Portugal, Netherlands, southern and northern Spain.*

### Divers groups of fieldworkers

Throughout Europe a diverse selection of participants joined the courses. In Germany most of the fieldworkers are connected to the organizations owning the field sites where the >>



>> research will be conducted. Many of them are already quite experienced in fieldwork and research. The same applies to Spain and Portugal, but in addition they also invited students, researchers and retirees.

In the Netherlands the participants came from very different backgrounds.

In Greece, university students joined the courses and will take up the fieldwork.

What they all have in common is their love for nature and for pollinators!

### More courses coming up

The SPRING project provides training on the identification of pollinators at various levels. The aim is to strengthen taxonomic knowledge among non-professionals as well as professional taxonomists across Europe.

The University of Mons in Belgium is preparing for Advanced Bee courses starting from August 2022. So far 40 candidates from 22 different countries have been selected to take part.

## Field training is part of the introductory courses



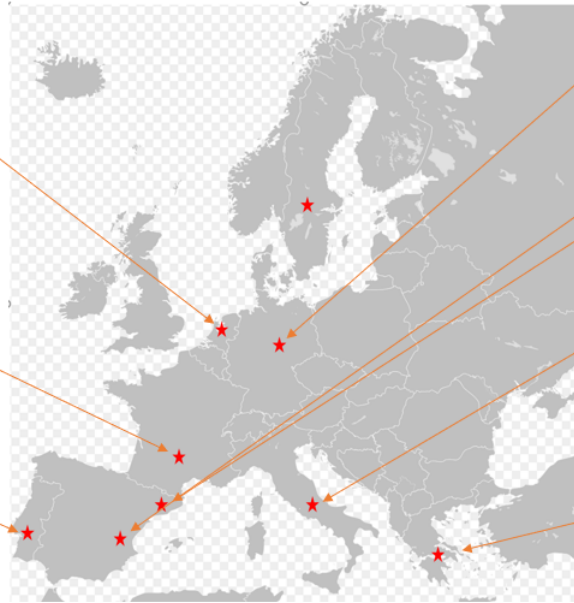


## Fieldworkers across Europe

**Netherlands:** eleven citizen scientists received field training in June and are now conducting fieldwork independently (various locations)

**France:** fieldtrip made with a group of volunteers in Guerins Guéreins near Lyon

**Portugal:** fieldtrip made with a group of volunteers to the Biological Station Herdade da Ribeira Abaixo – Tagis.

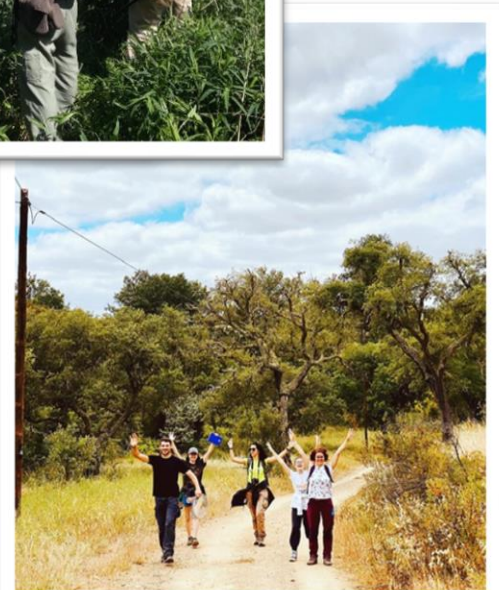


**Germany:** prospective fieldworkers received online instructions on how to conduct the fieldwork (16 locations)

**Spain:** two fieldtrips for volunteers were organized in Parque Natural de la Font Roja and at Rectoria de la Selva in Solsonès.

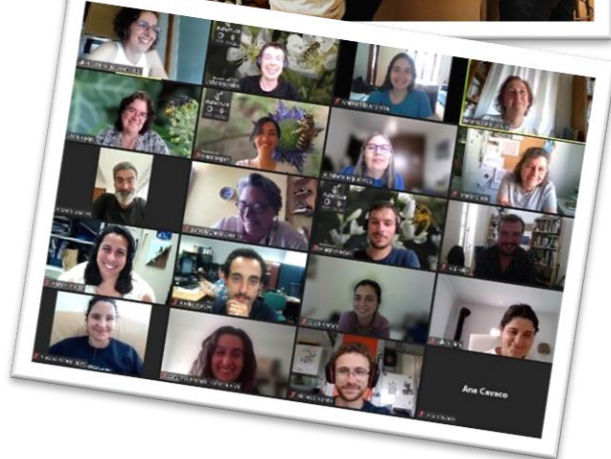
**Italy:** currently 14 sampling sites are being set up across the country. Instructions are given via video clips and a course will be given in the fall.

**Greece:** A group of student completed the basic course and practiced their fieldwork skills at the island of Lesbos. They each returned to their own island in the archipelago to conduct the fieldwork



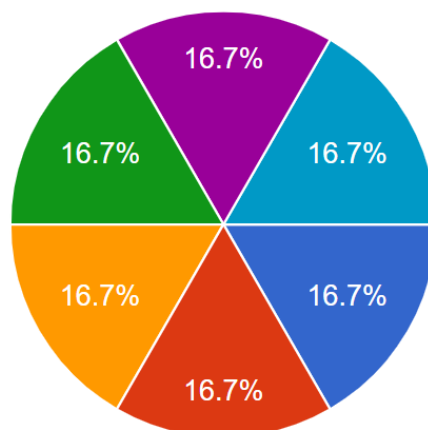


## Training online, in the classroom and in the field



### Great scores

- **120** volunteers took part in one of our SPRING courses during April-June 2022.
- **35** participants filled in and returned our evaluation form.
- The average overall satisfaction score was a **9**



- Very confident
- Fairly confident
- Not confident
- Very variable
- I don't know
- Field training not completed

### More training needed

We asked trainers:  
'How confident are you that the participants in your course will be able to carry out the transects in the correct way?'

Responses were mixed:  
The requirements in the field are high!

Volunteers will need:

- more practical training,
- guidance in the field
- follow-up throughout the whole survey process