



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
STATISTICAL OFFICE



WORLD BEE DAY

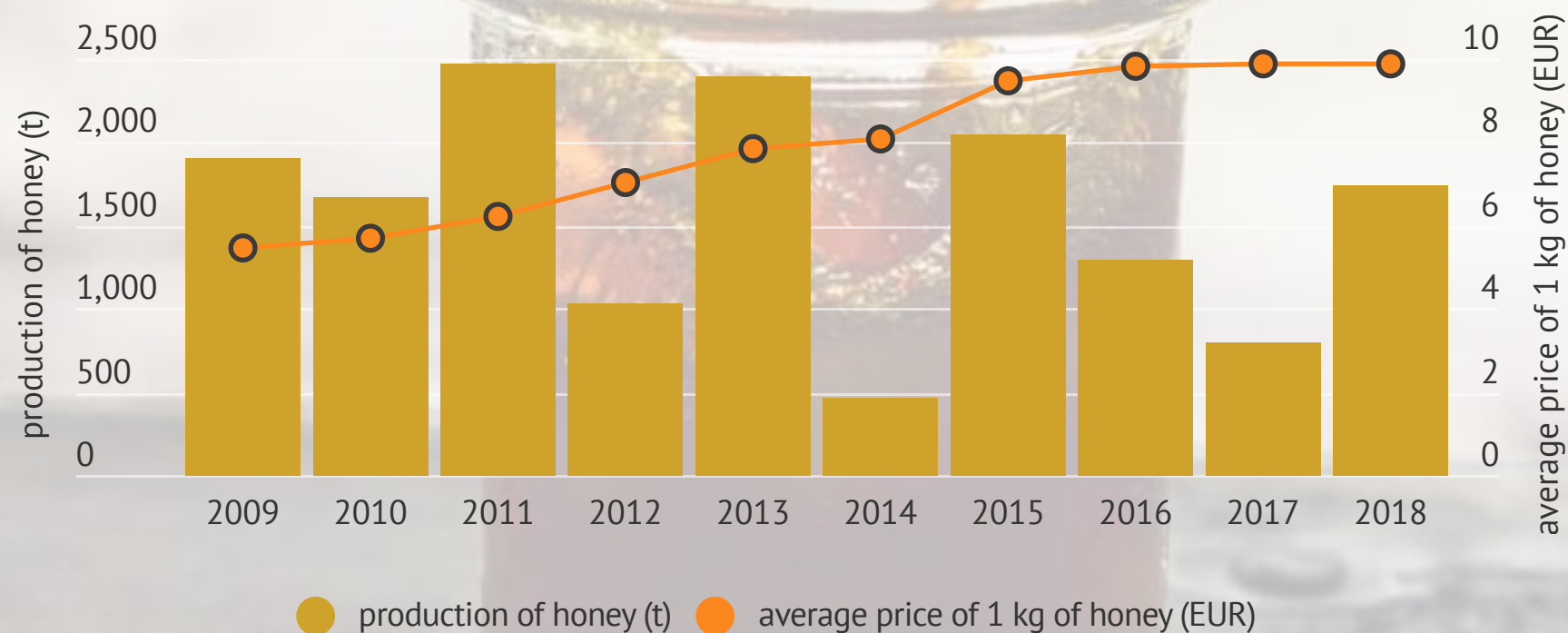
Why 20 May?



The World Bee Day was celebrated for the first time in 2018. 20 May was the birthday of Anton Janša, Slovenian beekeeper and painter. The main purpose of the celebration is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. One third of produced food is dependent on pollination, so bees and other pollinators have the key role for successful and sustainable agricultural production and last but not least for conservation of biodiversity.

Honey production depends on weather conditions

Production and average price of honey¹⁾



1) Average price of honey, sold by producers at agricultural markets.

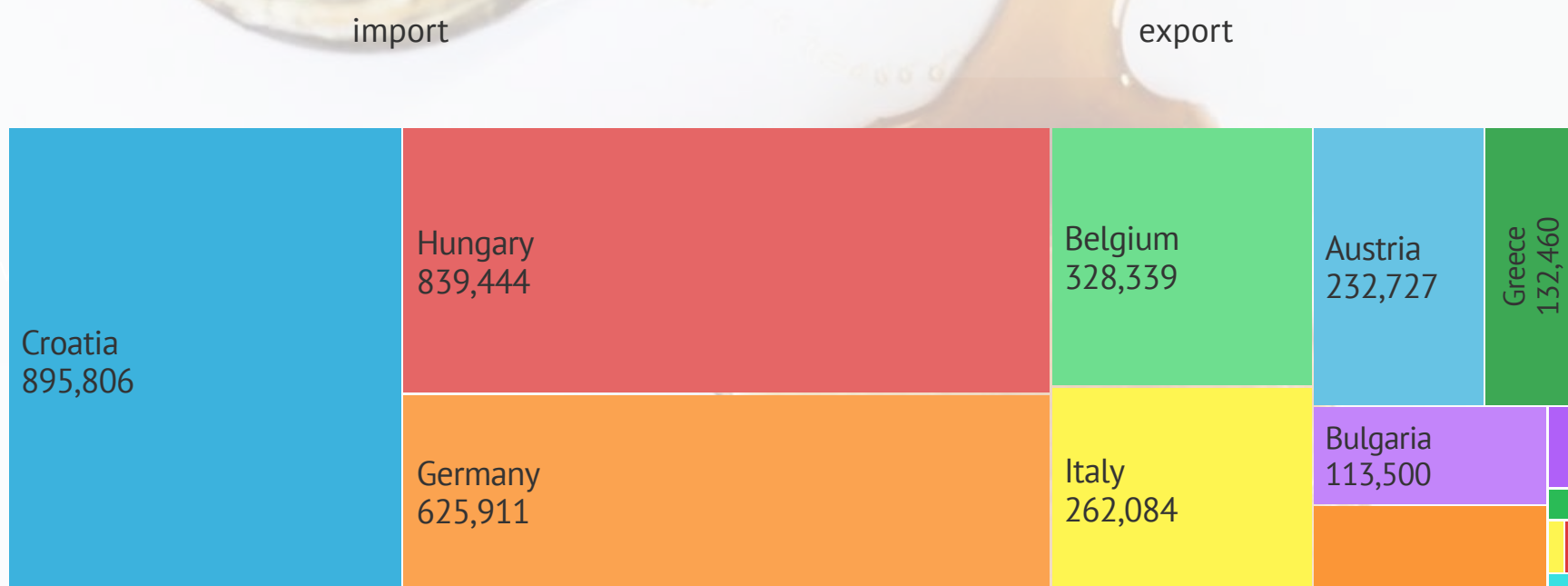
Source: SURS

Honey production varies between the years. Beekeeping is very dependent on weather conditions. In 2018 the conditions were very favourable, so Slovenia produced 1,746 tons of honey, which is 10% more than the average of the last ten years. Independent of production the average price of a kilogram of honey increased by 81% in the previous decade and reached nearly EUR 10 per kilogram.

Import of honey from EU Member States higher than export

In 2018¹⁾, Slovenia imported from EU Member States approximately EUR 3.5 million of honey – nearly one ton. We imported mostly from Croatia, Hungary and Germany. Export to EU Member States was much lower – we exported approximately EUR 212,000 of honey, mostly to Italy.

Import and export of honey (in EUR)



1) Data for 2018 are provisional.

Source: SURS

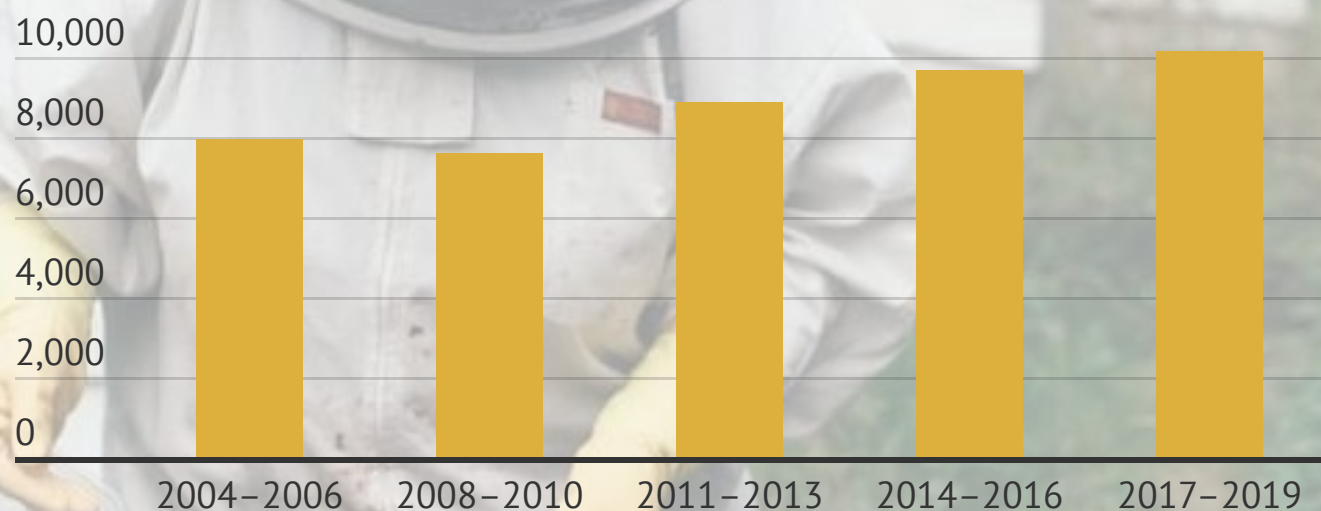
Where do we export the Carniolan bee

A close-up photograph of a sunflower head, showing the intricate details of the brown, textured center and the bright yellow petals. A small, dark-colored bee is perched on the sunflower's center, facing left. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the sunflower and some green foliage.

In 2018 Slovenia exported approximately EUR 47,000 of bees, mostly to the Middle East and to Japan. We exported approximately EUR 20,000 of bees to Lebanon and approximately EUR 18,000 of bees to Japan.

Slovenia in relation to other EU Member States

Number of beekeepers in Slovenia



Source: European Commission

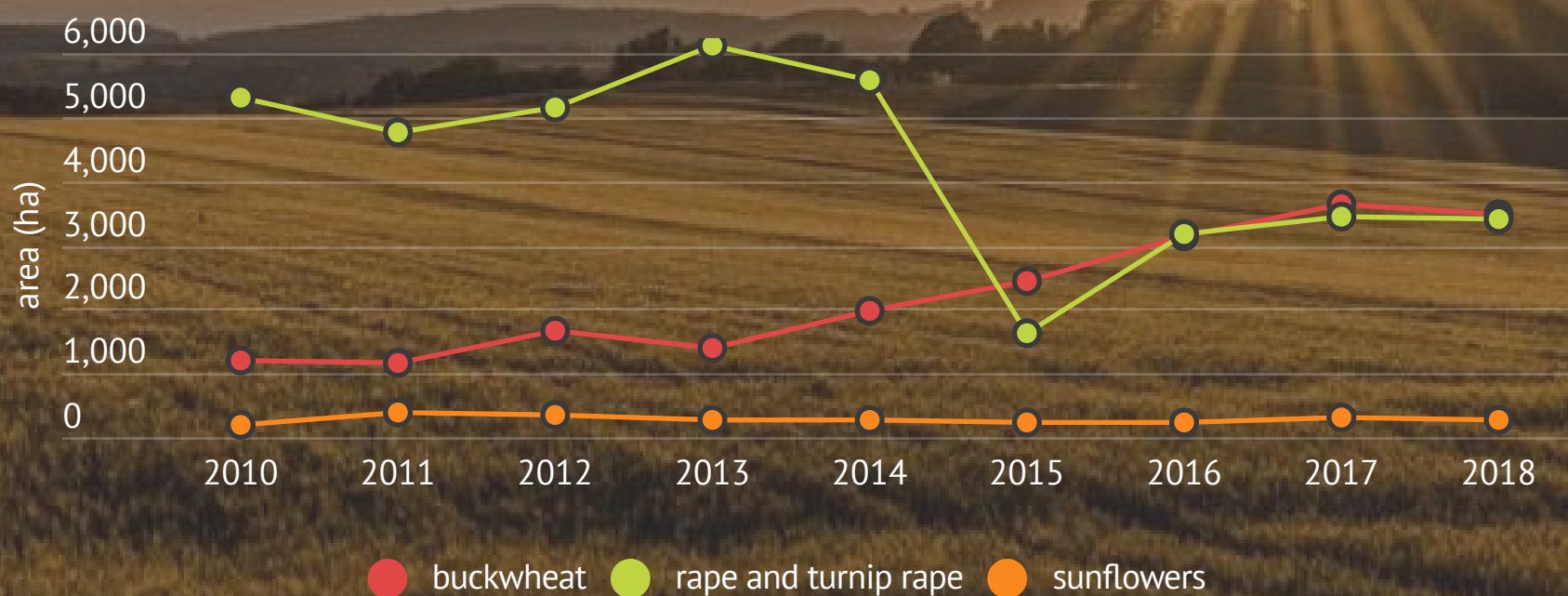
While in the EU the number of beekeepers is decreasing, in Slovenia it is increasing. In the last ten years it went up by more than 30%.

According to the European Commission, in 2016 most beehives in the EU were in Spain, Greece and France. Slovenia had 1.1% (167,000) of total beehives in the EU. In the last few years, at the EU level the number of beehives has been increasing; in 2016 there were 15.7 million beehives.

What area is intended for bee pasture?

Among honey crops we also classify rape and turnip rape, buckwheat and sunflowers. In 2018 sunflowers were sown on nearly 300 hectares, while rape and turnip rape and buckwheat were sown on nearly 3,400 and 3,500 hectares, respectively. Compared to 2010, the area with buckwheat almost tripled, the area with rape and turnip rape decreased by 36%, while the area with sunflowers increased by 42%.

Area of crops



Source: SURS

Other interesting facts

31

tons of organic honey produced in Slovenia in 2017.

210

beekeeping associations, unions and families in Slovenia in 2017.

17

beehives on average per beekeeper in Slovenia in 2016.

25

beehives on average per beekeeper in EU-28 in 2016.

EUR 383,000

of European funds received by Slovenia in 2017; among others, funds were intended for technical assistance, for combating against diseases and Varroa and for laboratory analysis of bee products.
Source: European Commission.