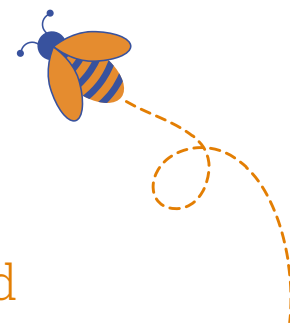




Annual Event 2023 Report



Annual Event 2023 overview



Date and location:

03-05 March 2023, Skopje, North Macedonia

Objective:

Closing event for the the beeEFB Program 2022 and brainstorming sessions for the 2023 activities with the EFB Alumni

Participants:

70+ coming from different generations and programmes EFB implemented between 2007-2019, including 13 new members from the beeEffect programme

Organizers:

beeEFB Board members with support of the EFB Secretariat



May the hive **Bee** with you!

1. Introduction



After the first Alumni Event in Tirana in 2022, this year's annual event was held in Skopje, North Macedonia, from 3-5 March 2023.

The 2nd beeEFB Alumni Network annual event gathered more than 70 Alumni from Turkey, Serbia, Romania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and North Macedonia, the host country. The Event was also an opportunity to welcome the 13 beeEffect participants from the 2022/2023 cohort into our community.

Aleksandra Tomanić, Executive Director of EFB welcomed the participants. Ms. Tomanić emphasized the many accomplishments achieved during last year and the need to employ the Alumni's energy wisely. She supported the beeEFB initiatives, such as the new beeEFB effect program launched last year and the engagement of active beeEFB Alumni.

In addition, Mr. Franz Karl Prüller, Chair of the EFB Steering Committee (ERSTE Foundation), greeted the participants "from Bee to bees ☺" He noticed the enthusiasm, the energy but also the commitment to give back, to reach out from this network as an evidence that something very beautiful continues and will continue to come out of this group. He expressed his confidence that the beeEFB Alumni network is standing on its own feet now, which will create possibilities to work together for the region.

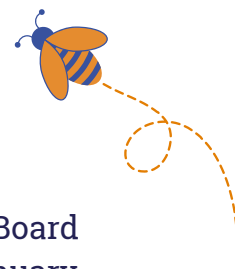
The objective of the annual event was to shape the relevant patterns aiming to influence the further engagement and closer collaboration between Alumni.



Through this annual event, we wanted to create a safe space for conversations that go across countries and different sectors and to talk together about how we tackle EFB programs proactively, rather than being in a reactive state.

Mr Darius Polok, Managing Director of International Alumni Center (IAC), provided an interactive presentation of the multi community networks that put focus on understanding the key actors in a Network. Mr. Polok highlighted that developing connections, trust and community building through coordinated action creates space for different levels of involvement.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the various possibilities to learn and empower the Network.



2. New board members new challenges

Throughout this Annual event, we had the pleasure to thank the former Board members' for their contribution and engagement during the last two years (January 2021- December 2022). Also, the event included five presentations from our Alumni representatives, with relevant topics in network policy analysis, green agenda for the Western Balkans, good neighborly relations between states and EU enlargement, green mobility through youth engagement, and agri-food as a common priority in the WB region.

In addition, 6 new Board members were introduced who will serve with a 2 year mandate. **The main objective for the new period January 2023-December 2024 is strengthening the community, continuing and further developing the Network's initiatives, programmes and expanding both external and internal communication.**

The Annual event invited the Alumni to advance their engagement level and connection throughout different EFB and beeEFB activities and build up the community spirit for exploring new models of cooperation, learning exchange and concrete actions.

3. Expanding the EFB Alumni network

Expanding the beeEFB Alumni network is an important instrument, however the high expectations approach for EFB Alumni network still remains the engagement of alumni not only on delivering ideas but managing and making them a reality as part of the community.

The annual event coincided with the conclusion of the first edition of the beeEffect programme which was designed and led by the alumni themselves.

The offline and online activities were realized in the course of 2022 and beginning of 2023, so the final results were presented at this gathering which also welcomed the group 13 new Alumni in the beeEFB Alumni network.



4. Key takeaways 2023

Through this event, we made it possible for everyone to come to join us by supporting the regional and cross-border initiatives created and implemented by the EFB Alumni Network.

In the above alignment statement, three parallel co- design sessions were organised:

I. Building on the current Alumni network programme

The session was focused on assessing the different components of the current programs in place, the potential modifications and further development.

II. New opportunities and themes for engaging the Alumni

This session was focused on identifying new ways to inform and activate members of the alumni by including new opportunities for action based on the thematic interests that were identified in the alumni network gathering.

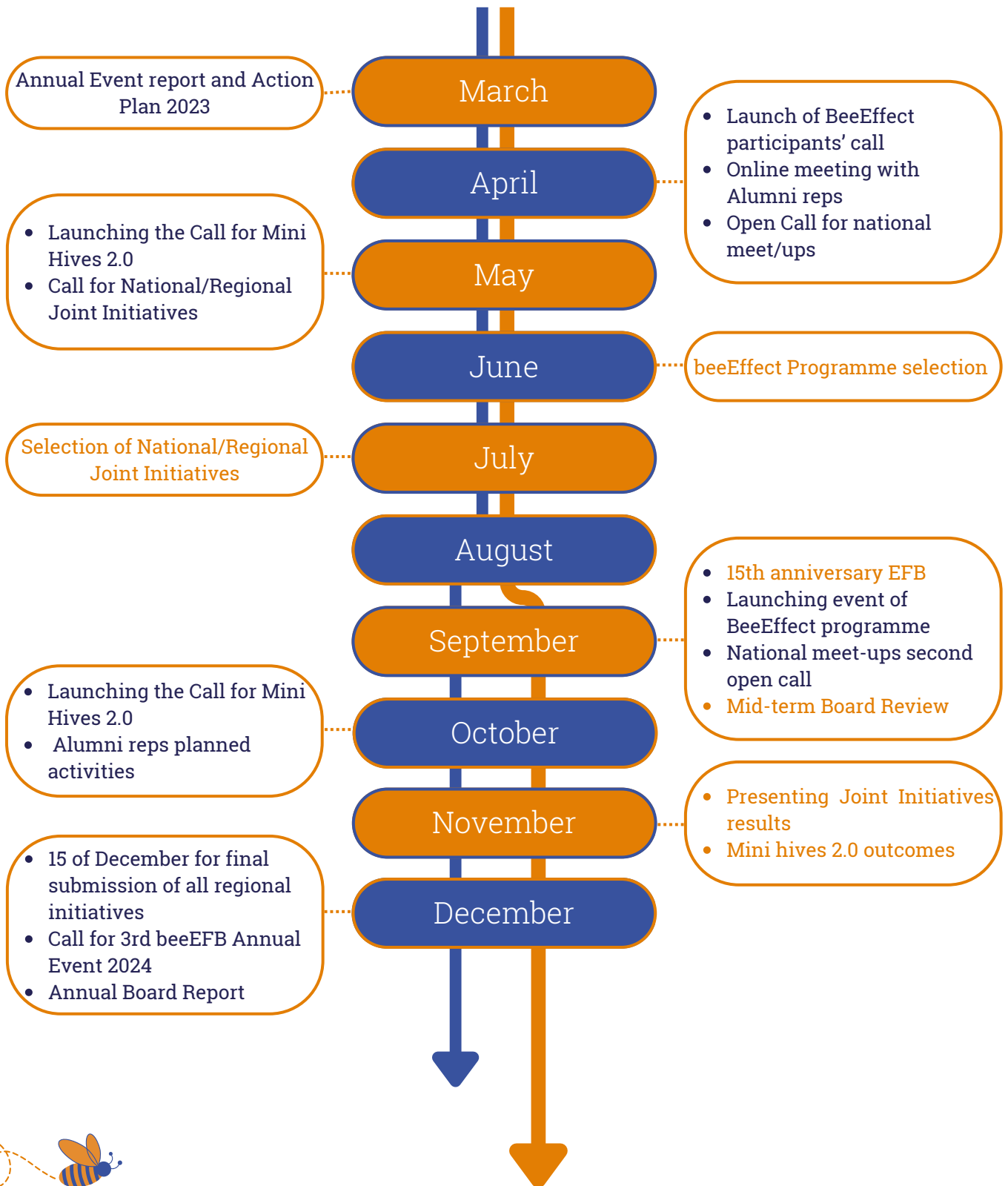
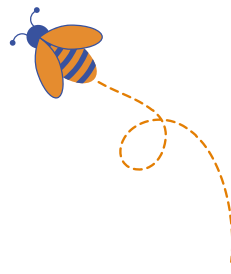
III: Partnerships development within and outside of the Network

This session was focused on the development of the EFB community for 2023 -2024 by exploring new opportunities for action and potential strategic partnerships with other alumni organizations and institutions.

Considering the insights and conclusions drawn from each design session, the beeEFB board member developed the Action plan for 2023, which outlines the principal activities to be undertaken throughout the year.



EFB Alumni Board Action Calendar 2023



5. Stay connected near and far!

If you want to find out more about the beeEFB Alumni Network planned activities, , our approach, the platform, or the results of the others alumni's works/ project/joint initiatives, please get in touch through:

- **EFB Alumni network** group at **LinkedIn**,
- **EFB Alumni Network** private group at **Facebook** and for
- Follow the beeEffect Programme section at the EFB website and the **beeEffect programme Instagram account**;
- Register on **www.boschalumni.net** to learn more about the Bosch Alumni networks activities and opportunities, and to get connected with your peers.

Send an email to **efbalumni@gmail.com** if you have any comments, questions and suggestions.



May the hive **Bee** with you!