

**Scientific Congress to present the results of the research on Bees and Biodiversity
realized in the framework of the project
“Mediterranean CooBEEration: a network for beekeeping, food security and
biodiversity”**

Bologna, April 10th, 2017
University of Bologna, Aula “Giorgio Prodi”

“**Mediterranean CooBEEration**” is a three-years project, funded by the European Union, aimed at supporting beekeeping and its strategic role for the preservation of biodiversity, the improvement of food security and for socio-economic development. The project, begun in February 2014, involves many countries of the Mediterranean area, including in particular **Lebanon**, the **Palestinian Territories**, **Morocco**, **Algeria**, **Tunisia** and **Italy**.

Project partners are **FELCOS** Umbria (the Fund of Local Authorities for Decentralized Cooperation and Sustainable Human Development), **APIMED** (the Mediterranean Beekeepers Federation), **UNDP** (the United Nations Development Program), **DipSA** (the Department of Agricultural Science) of the University of Bologna, **DISAFA** (the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Science) of the University of Turin), and **INAT** (the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia).

One of the main thrusts of the project is the realization of an important scientific research, in Italy and Tunisia, aiming to evaluate the honeybee’s role in pollination of wild species, in particular within degraded areas (fire-ravaged areas of Italy and areas under desertification in Tunisia) and, in general, to preserve and/or restore biodiversity.

During the Congress - that will take place on **April 10th 2017** in the prestigious compound of **San Giovanni in Monte of the University of Bologna** (“Giorgio Prodi” room) located in the city centre - the results of the scientific research carried out in Italy and Tunisia will be presented. National and international researchers will also intervene in the conference as speakers.

The invitation to participate is addressed to all the organizations involved in the project: professors and researchers, beekeepers, technicians, officers and students from the Mediterranean countries, especially those in the Southern shore, jointly with national and local institutions representatives.

The congress will offer a good opportunity to reaffirm that crucial environmental issues, like biodiversity conservation, the defence of the territory and the preservation of beekeeping heritage, can be a powerful input for improving international cooperation between peoples.
