

About the 13th ICPPR Symposium of the Bee Protection Group in Valencia

Pieter A. Oomen, board member & editor of the proceedings

The symposia of the ICPPR Bee Protection Group are being organised principally every three year, each time in another European country. It started in 1980 in Wageningen, the Netherlands, and the 13th symposium was organised for the first time in Spain in the beautiful city of Valencia. The local organiser was Carmen Gimeno, director of the company Trialcamp in Valencia. She found an extraordinary location for the symposium, at the Palau de la Musica in the famous former river bed in the centre of Valencia. The symposium held on 18-20 October 2017 counted about 150 participants from 15 European and 6 non-European countries.



Photo: All 165 participants of the symposium (except the photographer), lined up in the famous former river bed of Valencia. Photo: Pieter A. Oomen

Country	Participants	Country	Participants
Austria	1	India	2
Belgium	5	Italy	3
Brazil	6	Netherlands	8
Canada	5	Norway	1
China	1	Slovakia	1
Denmark	1	Spain	18
Estonia	2	Sweden	2
France	8	Switzerland	8
Germany	60	UK	20
Ghana	0	USA	12
Greece	1	Total	165

The symposium counted three full days of oral with presentations of 20 minutes each and 37 poster presentations, included a city tour by bus to see the impressive modern architecture of Valencia and a walking tour to see the beautiful old city centre. The tour ended with an excellent dinner with the paella – Valencia is famous for – and a traditional dance show during which all participants got the chance to intermingle and establish many new contacts.



Photo: Secretary Anne Alix and chairman Jens Pistorius (left) after doing homage to leaving board member Véronique Poulsen, and retiring Jozef van der Steen (right) who ended more than 30 years of merit for the ICPPR Bee Protection Group. Photo: Pieter A. Oomen.

At the end of the three day symposium, Jens Pistorius and Anne Alix, chairman and secretary of the board of the Bee Protection Group, decided to honour two departing long standing group members: Mrs Véronique Poulsen who had served during two symposia as organising board member on behalf of Anses, France, and Dr. Jozef van der Steen from Wageningen UR, the Netherlands, who had contributed nearly from the early eighties in the beginning of ICPPR to the scientific work of the Bee Protection Group as a working group coordinator.

The next, fourteenth symposium is already in preparation. Our Swiss colleagues have confirmed the next meeting can take place in Bern in Switzerland on 23-25 October 2019.