

**COST Insect-IMP WG1+WG2+MC meeting**  
**22nd-23rd May 2025**  
**Ljubljana, Slovenia**

<b>THURSDAY, 22nd May</b>	
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome and orientation
9:30 - 13:00	<p><b>WG1 presentations + discussion (led by Mert Kükrer)</b>            Topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Genetic Markers and Methodologies: including marker selection, harmonization across studies/species, and relevance for breeding (e.g., Pool-seq, microsatellites, whole genome sequencing, GWAS).</li> <li>2. Meta-Population Structure in Wild and Managed Insects: including how structure influences diversity, breeding, and selection signals, in wild vs. lab strains.</li> <li>3. Genotype × Environment Interactions: with relevance to insect breeding and genetic management, especially in relation to performance traits.</li> </ol> <p><b>Coffee break: 11:00 - 11:30</b></p>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch (on site)
14:00 - 17:30	<p><b>WG2 presentations + discussion (led by Olga Ameixa)</b>            Topics: Mating control and mating behaviour</p> <p><b>Coffee break: 15.30 - 16.00</b></p>

<b>FRIDAY, 23rd May Morning</b>	
9:00 - 10:00	<p><b>Theoretical introduction to Instrumental Insemination of Honey Bees (Janez Prešern, Jernej Bubnič)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why AI in beekeeping? (Genetic control, disease prevention, research)</li> <li>• Comparison to natural mating (Pros &amp; cons)</li> <li>• Basic bee reproductive biology (Queen vs. drone anatomy)</li> </ul>
10:00 - 11:00	<p><b>Practical demo (Georgia Baliota, Sofronis Zafeiriadis, Jernej Bubnič)</b>  <b>Group 1: AI in honeybees</b>  <b>Group 2: Hands-on Session &amp; Specimen Demonstration 'Identification and Application: Insects in Action'</b>            Stations with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Edible insects (mealworms, black soldier fly, crickets etc.)</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mosquitoes and fruit flies species</li> <li>3. Beneficial insects (ladybugs, bees etc.)</li> <li>4. Stereoscopy for anatomical observation</li> </ul>
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30 - 12:45	<p><b>Practical demo (Georgia Baliota, Sofronis Zafeiriadis, Jernej Bubnič)</b></p> <p><b>Group 1: Hands-on Session &amp; Specimen Demonstration 'Identification and Application: Insects in Action'</b></p> <p>Stations with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Edible insects (mealworms, black soldier fly, crickets etc.)</li> <li>2. Mosquitoes and fruit flies species</li> <li>3. Beneficial insects (ladybugs, bees etc.)</li> <li>4. Stereoscopy for anatomical observation</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 2: AI in honeybees</b></p>
12:45 - 13:00	<b>Group Activity &amp; Discussion - Wrap-up &amp; Certificate Distribution</b>

FRIDAY, 23rd May Afternoon: MC meeting	
14:00 - 14:15	<b>Welcome (Jana Obšteter, Action Vice-chair)</b>
14:15 - 14:30	<b>Financial update (Lea Mlekuš, Grant Holder Manager )</b>
14:30 - 15:30	<b>Working group updates (Working group leaders)</b>
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00 - 17:00	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>How to facilitate collaboration</b> – how to connect people, where to search for funding (please, prepare information on experience with different funding schemes, potential open calls, potential topics)</li> <li>2. <b>Future prospects</b> and how to get more engagement/how to motivate people to participate</li> <li>3. <b>Requirements for getting a grant</b></li> <li>4. <b>Next year's events</b> – what, when and where</li> </ul>