

GCA +20 Conference Secretariat

Szarvas, 4th of September 2021

Letter of support to the draft Shanghai Declaration

The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) welcomes the draft Shanghai Declaration and expresses its support for it.

In view of the looming environmental and climate crisis, NACEE especially appreciates the Shanghai Declaration's recognition of aquaculture's energy efficiency, as well as its potential role in achieving sustainable development and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. NACEE, as an organization active in a region with age-long traditions of pond aquaculture to which these statements fully apply, aligns with this position and supports the call of the Shanghai Declaration to make use of opportunities for sustainable aquaculture to fulfil its potential, consider aquaculture as a national, regional and global priority, and develop strategic plans that encompass all the subsets of the industry. The next ten years should be crucial in the development of an aquaculture sector that is both adapted to the local environmental, social and economic realities and builds on the latest scientific knowledge to improve its own resiliency, competitiveness and productivity while maintaining the existing ecosystem services and improving the sustainability of production. The commitments and strategic priorities identified by the Shanghai Declaration provide an excellent roadmap for both governments and the industry to the achievement of these goals and making further progress towards a number of sustainable development goals, in particular, SDG 2, 8, 12 and 13.

NACEE, as a regional multistakeholder platform promoting cooperation between the academia, the industry and the governance, fully supports and can mostly contribute to the Declaration's commitment of strengthening partnerships to generate and share knowledge, information, and technology. In particular, NACEE commits to:

- Stimulate demand-led and relevant research and innovations by strengthening NACEE's intra- and interregional partnerships for information exchange, research and development and assisting cooperation among centres of excellence within the Central and Eastern European region;
- Strengthen its operation as a regional multistakeholder platform to promote cooperation among industry, research, academic and other stakeholders to assist the development of strategic research and innovation agendas for regional and national aquaculture development;

- Promote technology transfer, networking, and partnerships in aquaculture research, extension and education. both among its members and with other regional networks;
- Assist cooperation between educational institutions for the development of aquaculture training and education and its inclusion in existing curricula, as well as development of education programmes and curricula relevant to sustainable aquaculture.
- Promote pond aquaculture systems for their ability to provide habitat and refuge for both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, as well as the use of extractive and unfed aquaculture species, including their provision of ecosystem services.

These commitments can contribute to a number of the strategic priorities of the Shanghai Declaration, including the expansion of the contribution of aquaculture to sustainable food systems, its integration with the natural environment, improvement of its performance and capacity to respect and better use natural resources and enhance ecosystem services, promotion of aquaculture development approaches that conserve and improve ecosystems and biodiversity and reduce the carbon intensity of food production systems, as well as the promotion of opportunities for young women and men. In addition, through the contribution of its members representing governance, research, education and the industry, NACEE also hopes to indirectly catalyze progress in a number of several other strategic priorities, such as the mitigation of impacts from global crises or strengthening data and information collection and analysis.

Yours sincerely



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president