

## **PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE NACEE (2005-2006)**

### **1. Progress Report on NACEE status and network activities 2005-2006**

#### **1.1 NACEE membership**

After its informal establishment in 2003, the Network was formally founded during the First Meeting of NACEE Directors (Szarvas, Hungary, 21–24 November 2004), when directors and representatives of 23 institutions and organizations from 13 CEE countries signed a formal Founding Document and agreed on the structure and the operational framework of NACEE.

By the Second Meeting of NACEE Directors (Astrakhan, Russian Federation, 8–9 September 2005), NACEE increased its membership to 31 institutions and organizations from 13 countries, which has increased in 2006 with four more institutes, namely:

- Center for Experimental and Applied Biology, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Department of Fish Culture, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Szent István University, Hungary
- Division of Ichthyobiology and Fisheries, Warsaw Agricultural University, Poland
- Faculty of Ecology, Belaya Tserkov State Agricultural University, Ukraine

#### **1.2 FAO liaison status**

After requesting the establishment of formal relations between the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FAO decided to grant the Network liaison status with the Organization on 7 June 2006.

The liaison status is determined and agreed upon exchange of correspondence between the two parties, which is defined as follows:

- NACEE will be invited to be represented in an observer capacity at FAO meetings on matters of mutual concern.
- FAO will be invited to be represented at meetings of NACEE that may be of interest to the Organization
- The two organizations will seek to develop further cooperation through informal consultations and contacts.
- FAO will send to NACEE its catalogue of available publications and Books in Print to enable it to request publications on FAO's activities related to the work of NACEE.
- FAO and NACEE will exchange unpriced documents on subjects of mutual interest.

A representative of NACEE was invited to the third session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture held in Delhi between 4–7 September 2006. NACEE has been referred in the meeting report as a good example for regional networking, and NACEE could also contribute to the development of inter-regional collaboration, which is encouraged by the COFI Aquaculture Sub-Committee.

### 1.3 EU Projects with collaboration of NACEE member institutions

HAKI, with collaboration of European institutions and organizations, has submitted two project proposals to the European Commission in 2005 and 2006, namely, EASTAQUANET and EUROCARP.

The **EASTAQUANET** project proposal was submitted in the frame of the “Specific Support Actions (SSA) for Multilateral co-ordination of national RTD policies and activities” (FP6-2002-INCO-COMultiratRTD/SSA-5) together with the European Aquaculture Society and EUROFISH in March 2006. The main idea is that EASTAQUANET project will form a sub-network within NACEE having one representative NACEE member from each region of similar geographical, economical and sociological character. Although all of the NACEE members will be invited to the meetings and workshops of the project, in some activities, the countries will be involved only through the sub-network institutions. These institutions and countries will be the hosts of local workshops and study tours as well. The main aim of the EASTAQUANET project is to encourage the NACEE network members’ participation in FP6 and FP7 research and innovation projects, mainly in the following research fields:

- Irrigation
- Water quality management
- Wetland management and nature conservation
- Freshwater ecology
- Inland fishery and freshwater aquaculture
- Marine aquaculture and coastal management
- Aquaculture and the environment

The planned members are from the regions of West-Balkan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, EU Accession Countries in Eastern Europe, New EU Member States (Central-Europe and Baltic States). The project is managed by a consortium, including EAS, EUROFISH and HAKI (coordinator). The members of the sub-network are the following institutions:

- Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation, Hungary
- All-Russian Research Institute of Freshwater Fish Farming, Russian Federation
- Institute for Fisheries of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Ukraine
- Institute of Fisheries, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Belarus
- Department of Aquaculture, University of Dubrovnik, Croatia,
- Institute of Research and Development for Aquatic Ecology, Fishing and Aquaculture, Romania.

During the evaluation process, the proposal reached the minimum threshold level (score 17.5), however, with this score, we do not have a real chance to be granted. HAKI together with EAS and EUROFISH decided to rewrite the proposal and resubmit it again in 2007.

The **EUROCARP** project is a major project on carp genomics in Europe, which indicates the recognition of the importance of carps in the European aquaculture. The consortium led by HAKI competed with three other consortiums for the research fund, but finally the HAKI-led consortium proved successful and the project received a grant of about 1 million euros. The main parameters of the project are the following:

- Title: “Disease and Stress Resistant Common Carp: Combining quantitative genetic, genomic, proteomic and immunological markers to identify high performance strains, families and individuals”
- Policy-oriented research, 8.1: Specific Targeted Research Projects (STREP)

- Priority: 1.3 Modernisation and sustainability of fisheries, including aquaculture-based production systems
- TASK 9: Identification of suitable source strains for disease and stress resistance for common carp
- Planned project period: 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2008.
- Project budget: 1 094 283 euros

The members of the consortium are the following institutions:

- Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation, Szarvas, Hungary – coordinator
- University of Stirling, Institute of Aquaculture, Stirling, UK
- CEFAS Weymouth Laboratory, Virology Research, Weymouth, UK
- University of Liverpool (UOL), School of Biological Sciences, Laboratory for Environmental Gene Regulation, Liverpool, UK
- AKVAFORSK – The Institute of Aquaculture Research, Ås, Norway
- Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), Division of Molecular Genetics, Moscow, Russian Federation
- Federal Center for Fish Genetics and Selection, Moscow, Russian Federation

Main objectives of the project are:

- The identification of strains, families and individual carp with enhanced disease resistance response and growth performance by the end of year 2.
- Development of tools that will help in the future management and improvement of common carp strains world-wide: disease and stress microarray, immunological and proteomic markers, linkage map incorporating type1 and 2 markers by the end of the project.
- Design of optimised breeding programmes informed by quantitative, functional genomic, proteomic and immunological data on disease response and how this correlates with other production traits by end of the project.
- Dissemination of information on the tools and disease resistance and multi-trait selection programmes will be released continuously through existing networks (including NACEE) to increase the sustainable production of carp world-wide.

#### **1.4 AQUA 2006 – Workshop “Aquaculture in Eastern Europe”**

The AQUA 2006 Conference organized jointly by the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) and the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) was an excellent opportunity to introduce NACEE to a wide circle of aquaculture professionals and discuss specific issues in aquaculture development in Central and Eastern Europe. Thus, HAKI, as coordinator of NACEE, decided to organize a workshop with the title “Aquaculture in Eastern Europe” and open a booth at the exhibition that was organized parallel to the conference. The active attendance of NACEE member institutions at the AQUA 2006 Conference and Exhibition was made possible by the financial support provided by the Aquaculture Unit of DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the European Commission.

The Workshop “Aquaculture in Eastern Europe” was held on 11 May 2006. It was chaired by László Váradi and Andrey Bogeruk. The participants were greeted by Uwe Barg (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Inland Water Resources and Aquaculture Unit) and Constantin Vamvakas (EC DG-Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Aquaculture Unit). During the session, Hungarian, Russian, Czech, Ukrainian and Polish experts reported on the main trends of aquaculture development in the region and on the activity of the Network of Aquaculture

Centres in Central-Eastern Europe (NACEE). The workshop was attended by about 70 people, among them, professionals of countries of the NACEE region (Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine). The presentations clearly demonstrated that scientists from Eastern Europe were equal partners of their colleagues in other parts of the world as far as scientific level and quality was concerned, however there was still a gap between Eastern and Western Europe as far as language knowledge and international experiences were concerned. The Workshop was a major milestone for many Eastern European scientists, especially for young ones, to improve their language knowledge and international experiences.

The NACEE booth on the AQUA 2006 Exhibition was a good opportunity to introduce NACEE at a major world-wide aquaculture event. At the exhibition, there were 143 companies and institutes with their own stands. NACEE and the Federal Centre for Fish Genetics and Selection (FCFGS), Russian Federation, had a twin stand at the exhibition. Both NACEE and FCFGS were listed among the official sponsors of the Conference and Exhibition. At the NACEE stand, a leaflet was available about NACEE and its member institutions. A NACEE flag had also been produced for the exhibition. Both the leaflets and the flags will be distributed among NACEE members. There was a great interest in the NACEE stand. There were many visitors from outside the Central-Eastern European region interested in possible cooperation with the member institutions and working groups of NACEE. Most of them were interested in the cooperation in mariculture and sturgeon culture, but many of them wanted to have more information about NACEE itself.

## **1.5 Networking and exchange of information**

### **1.5.1 NACEE website**

There has been a continuing work on the development of NACEE web site. The majority of the work has been done in HAKI, but significant assistance has been received from the FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe. A well-designed and operational webpage is available now; however, there is a need for its further improvement, which requires contributions of information, data and visual materials from the member institutions as well. More information is available in Meeting Document NACEE:3DM/2006/4b (Annex 11).

### **1.5.2 Exchange of information among members**

HAKI, as the Coordinating Institution, has facilitated the communication and exchange of information among members and provided information of common interests to member institutions. The improved knowledge about the activities of member institutions through NACEE has also encouraged the establishment of direct contact and the development of collaboration between various member institutions. More information is available in Meeting Documents NACEE:3DM/2006/4b and 5 (Annexes 11 and 12).

### **1.5.3 Collaboration with other institutions and organizations**

Of the institutes and organizations that have been identified as potential partners (Akvaforsk, AquaTT, EAS, EC DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, EFARO, EUROFISH, FAO, FEAP, IUCN, NACA), there has been regular exchange of information with EAS, EUROFISH, EC DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs and NACA). A joint project proposal was elaborated in the frame of FP6 together with EAS and EUROFISH. The EC DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs provided financial support to the organization of the “Aquaculture in Eastern Europe” Workshop during the AQUA 2006 Conference and Exhibition. NACA invited a representative of NACEE to the Meeting of NACA Lead Centers in Bangkok, 27-28 November 2006. Negotiations have been started with AquaTT and EFARO to develop

collaboration. More information is available in Meeting Document NACEE:3DM/2006/6 (Annex 13).

## **2. Financial Report 2005-2006**

The Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2005 has been finalized and sent to all members by the Coordinating Institution. No comments have been received from the member institutions and the Financial Report is considered to be approved according to the Rules of Procedure of NACEE. The Financial Report for 2005 is attached in Annex 1 of the present document<sup>1</sup>. It can be clearly seen from the Financial Report that the income from the membership fees does not cover the costs related to the coordination, correspondence, translations and web site development, and HAKI, as the Coordinating Institution, contributed more than 6 500 euros to the budget from its own sources last year.

As agreed by the members, the membership fee has been raised up to 300 euros/year in order to have a better balance between income and expenditures. It should be noted that almost all member institutions agreed with the proposed membership increase. The estimated cost will be 9 880 by the end of 2006, which is 9% higher than in 2005 due to the increases in costs and the relatively higher cost of the initial development of the web site. The income from membership fees is 10 500 euros in 2006 (35 members x 300 euros), and thus, the estimated balance is 620 euros in 2006. The preliminary financial report is attached in Annex 2 of the present document<sup>2</sup>. The largest cost item is the personal cost that comprises 64% of the total cost. Based on the experience in the past period, this cannot be reduced further. At the end of Fiscal Year 2006, the Final Financial Report will be sent to member institutions for their approval.

Since bank transfer of the membership fee is still difficult in many countries of Central and Eastern Europe, members usually pay the membership fee in cash during the annual Directors' Meeting. Thus, HAKI should pay the incurred costs in advance. HAKI is trying its best to finance the NACEE coordination activities in a flexible way also in the future, however, it is suggested to transfer the fee via banks by the end of the first quarter of the year wherever it is possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Not attached in this publication.

<sup>2</sup> Not attached in this publication.