



Multi-annual National Strategic Plans for the development of sustainable Aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030

Summary LATVIA

“Latvian Aquaculture Development Plan 2021-2027”

1. State of the aquaculture sector

The majority of aquaculture farms are the type of pond farming where fish or crayfish are cultivated in open ponds. However, production areas and production volumes in basins and recirculation systems have increased in recent years. Latvia has practically no experience in marine aquaculture, and it has only been carried out in the form of experiments. The main production and income are made up of one species, the carp, which is mainly grown in pond farms. Other fish with around 20 species still do not reach enough quantities to change the dominant position of carp production in production. In terms of species diversity, fish farming in recirculation systems is distinguished, which can provide the various farming conditions necessary for the species concerned. Between 2015 and 2019, the volume of aquaculture production varied between 626 tonnes and 863 tonnes, and the value of the production ranged from 1, 6 million up to EUR 3.9 million. In 2019, 173 aquaculture enterprises were recognised of which 78 were active. 305 workers are employed in the sector.

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

Further development of competitive, growth-enhancing aquaculture through innovative, cost-effective and environmentally friendly solutions.

3. Objectives for Measures for 2021 to 2027 responding to the 13 key areas listed in the “Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030”¹

1. Access to space and water

Latvia has approved a plan for sea 2030, which also covers the use of marine areas for aquaculture activities. This plan does not impose specific sites or restrictions on the development of aquaculture at sea. Each development plan shall be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the technology to be used and, taking into account the recommendations contained in the plan, the compatibility of aquaculture with other uses of the sea. Existing legislation and existing arrangements for access to land, freshwaters and marine areas for aquaculture activities can be considered as clearly defined and sufficiently open for aquaculture business.

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

In Latvia, administrative procedures and monitoring of aquaculture activities comply with the requirements of the food market chain and environmental protection, they are sufficiently simple and transparent. Overall, it can be concluded that an effective management system has been put in place to monitor the performance of the inland aquaculture sector and to provide data, and that the creation of additional or new administrative capacity in this sector would not be justified.

3. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Aquaculture providing environmental services.
- Tackling the negative impacts of climate change.
- Supporting pond farms that offer environmental services and whose production efficiency is influenced by the protection requirements of fish-breeding birds and animals, as well as the creation and development of new organic farms. It is necessary to continue to provide public support to cover income foregone or additional costs for enterprises.

4. Diversification and adding value

- Appropriate investments should be encouraged to increase the added value of the products produced and to expand the range of aquaculture products and market outlets.

¹ COM(2021)236 final

- Given the narrow market coverage of aquaculture production (mainly the local market) and the small number of species to be reared, it would be important to encourage initiatives to develop the production of exported species and to expand the range of products offered on the local market.

5. Communicating on EU aquaculture

The implementation of market research projects, the promotion of aquaculture, including organic aquaculture fish products, and the participation of producers in international fisheries fairs are also very important. As there is currently little demand on the market for processed aquaculture products, there is also a need to develop consumer information and education measures on this subject. When implementing this type of measure, it is important to ensure that consumers are informed about the food value of organisms obtained from aquaculture and the advantages of local origin (freshness, rapid supply of products, etc.).

6. Knowledge and innovation

- Pilot/research projects, innovation development.
- Transfer of experience and knowledge.
- Collection and processing of data for management and scientific purposes.
- Innovative projects in the established centre and other scientific institutions, in cooperation with the industry, should be further developed also in the 2021-2027 period, ensuring their further uptake in production.
- It could develop opportunities for cooperation and cooperation between scientific and aquaculture enterprises for the implementation of innovative solutions and methods in aquaculture.

4. Funding

The financial security for the implementation of the plan will consist of own funds of aquaculture enterprises, attraction of investments from commercial entities interested in project implementation, bank credit resources, as well as a substantial contribution from EMFAF support funds (including Latvian co-financing), which is in line with the distribution of public funding foreseen in the FAP 2021-2027. The support measures for aquaculture included in the FAP 2021-2027 will also stimulate additional private investment in line with the intensity of the co-financing rate of the projects under the specific measures.