



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

Summary SLOVAKIA

“Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture of the Slovak Republic until 2030”

1. State of the aquaculture sector

Aquaculture in Slovakia focuses on freshwater fish farming. There was only a more or less short-term presence of a small number of holdings with other aquatic animals (sea shrimp). These were predominantly individual experimental holdings. At the time of the preparation of the SPRASR 2030, one aquaculture plant was active in Slovakia, using water used in aquaculture to produce cucumbers and tomatoes in the form of aquaponics. Historically, aquaculture in Slovakia was shaped in two separate specific groups: lowland fish farming (carp, pike, tench, catfish...) and salmonid farming (trout) to which a new group of non-traditional fish species in Slovakia (European eel) in the RAS has added in recent years. According to 2020 data, 119 aquaculture operators were registered by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The total production of the aquaculture sector in 2021 amounted to 3547,6 tonnes. According to the data available from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, 385 permanent and 354 seasonal workers were employed in the aquaculture sector in 2021.

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

- Promoting sustainable aquaculture.
- Mapping the appropriateness of the deployment of new aquaculture operations.
- Efficient administration and regulation of aquaculture.
- Ensuring a high level of public and aquaculture animal health, ensuring the welfare of aquaculture animals.
- Mitigation of the effects of climate change.

- Creation of a producer organisation or an interbranch organisation.
- Ensuring traceability of fishery and aquaculture products.
- Creating greater added value for aquaculture products.
- Reducing the environmental footprint of aquaculture.
- Raising awareness and raising awareness of the aquaculture sector.
- Obtaining accurate data on the aquaculture sector.
- Support the uptake of innovative methods in the aquaculture sector, including the promotion of science and research.

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

Creation of a document, including a map of the suitability of the construction of different types of aquaculture facilities, considering protected areas, water, soil, flood risks, etc.

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

- Introduction of a central record in aquaculture.
- The Aquaculture Act will be prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at the end of the 2022.
- Modification of the administrative requirements of the beneficiaries of the FOP 2021-2027.
- Introduction of a simplified form of reporting for grant applicants from the FOP 2021-2027.
- Reduction of administration for the authorisation of small water buildings for aquaculture purposes up to 2 hectares, and consequential amendment to the Water Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, etc.

3. Animal and public health, animal welfare

- Organisation of seminars on safer food of aquaculture origin, prevention, and control of diseases in aquaculture animals, welfare of aquaculture animals.
- Support for research and innovation in preventing and combating diseases in aquaculture animals.

¹ COM(2021)236 final

- Promotion of the gene pool of native species produced in aquaculture.
- Establishing conditions for the establishment of breeding programmes for farmed species of aquaculture animals.
- Establishment of quarantine aquaculture facilities.

4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Construction and reconstruction of aquaculture facilities, including improvement measures.
- Support to repair damage caused by climate change (floods, drought, hail, strong wind...).
- Aligning the objectives of the water policy concept for 2021-2030 with the prospects for 2050 of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic with those in aquaculture.
- Preparation of workshops for aquaculture actors on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

5. Producer and market organisations

The establishment and operation of producer organisations or interbranch organisations.

6. Control

- Staffing checks on traceability of fishery and aquaculture products.
- Use of digital tools to improve the traceability and transparency of fishery and aquaculture products throughout the value chain.

7. Diversification and added value

Diversification of aquaculture facilities through agri-tourism, direct farm-to-fork sales, with the possibility of processing aquaculture animals directly on the farm.

8. Environmental performance

- One way of improving the quality of outgoing water from aquaculture operations is to build self-cleaning water receiving water that improves water quality through water vegetation.
- Non-production functions of aquaculture facilities related to the maintenance of habitats and the reduction of environmental impacts.
- Monitoring of the health status of the ponds by laboratory examinations, mud water, aquaculture animals.

- The elimination of environmental burdens on aquaculture facilities.
- Waste management in aquaculture facilities.
- Measures to avoid adverse impacts of the effects of fish predators.
- Increasing the share of organic- extensive aquaculture.

9. Communicating on EU aquaculture

- Promotion campaign for the aquaculture sector with the participation of regional producers.
- Increase consumer awareness of the beneficial characteristics of aquaculture products and their correct labelling.
- The introduction of digital tools to ensure that consumers are informed about the aquaculture sector and their products.
- Informing the public about successful projects in the aquaculture sector.

10. Data and monitoring

Introducing a more accurate collection of data on the aquaculture sector, linking to the central register.

11. Knowledge and innovation

- Uptake of innovation in the aquaculture sector.
- Preparation of training at international and national level on the development of aquaculture skills.
- Establishment of aquaculture research projects.
- Promoting the commercial uptake of innovation.

4. Funding

The objectives set out in the SPRASR 2030 can be implemented with the support of the EMFAF and subsequently with the funds of the 2021-2027 FOP. The next programming period of the FOP 2021-2027 foresees the introduction of a new IT monitoring system that will introduce simplification of the processes for the application and implementation of projects. The new IT administrative system is based on full electronic communication and takes over some attachments automatically from other government systems to fulfil and demonstrate selected funding conditions. The preparation of national legislation implementing the General Regulation on the Funds (No 2021/1060) foresees administrative simplification for the benefit of applicants and beneficiaries of the 2021-2027 FOP.