



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

## Summary LUXEMBOURG

### “National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture of Luxembourg for the period 2023-2030”

#### 1. State of the aquaculture sector

Underdeveloped sector. Luxembourg's geographical situation is not very favourable for the development of aquaculture. It is landlocked, with no access to seas or large lakes, and most of the aquatic areas are protected. Other disadvantages are population pressure and economic growth related to increased need for land, drinking water and energy. Therefore, the most promising productive systems in Luxembourg are recirculation systems. 99% of fisheries and aquaculture products are imported, domestic production representing less than 1%.

#### 2. Objectives for 2023 to 2030

The strategic plan focuses on the following 4 interdependent objectives:

- Strengthen resilience and competitiveness.
- Participate in the ecological transition.
- Ensuring social acceptance and consumer information.
- Increasing knowledge and innovation.

### 3. Measures for 2023 to 2030 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”<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Access to space and water

Assess rural and urban areas and small-scale and industrial areas that offer opportunities for the establishment of aquaculture facilities and, if necessary, map these areas in [geoportail.lu](https://geoportail.lu).

#### 2. Regulatory and administrative procedure

Establishment of an inter-ministerial advisory group bringing together the national public authorities concerned, the aim of which will be to provide interested companies with support on authorisation procedures and applications, as well as on the possibilities of obtaining national funding available in this area; where possible, to entrust this task to a formal group already operational in related areas (e.g. bioeconomy, circular economy).

Evaluate the ease and usefulness of the administrative and information portal "[MyGuichet.lu](https://myguichet.lu)"<sup>2</sup> in relation to aquaculture business start-up procedures).

Develop a short guide for businesses wishing to start up in aquaculture; where possible, identify similar types of projects (e.g. urban agriculture) and align procedures.

#### 3. Animal health and public health

Support the development of aquaculture farmers' knowledge and skills in good farming practices by promoting networking with foreign experts.

Extend the farm advisory modules to include aquaculture advisory needs as part of the [CAP 2023-2027](#)<sup>3</sup>.

Disseminate the European Commission's Background Paper on “Good husbandry practices” and raise awareness of the “[EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism](#)” and the [Aquaculture Advisory Council](#) (AAC) website, which support Member States, the EU aquaculture industry and other stakeholders in the implementation of the “Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030”.

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<sup>1</sup> [COM\(2021\)236 final](#)

<sup>2</sup> MyGuichet.lu is a digital government tool designed to make it easier for business to apply for and obtain authorizations.

<sup>3</sup> CAP 2023-2027: The common agricultural policy: 2023-2027

#### 4. Climate change and adaptation

Support the development of knowledge and competences among aquaculture farmers on climate change adaptation and resilience of aquaculture enterprises by promoting networking with foreign experts.

Extend the farm advisory modules to include aquaculture advisory needs as part of the [CAP 2023-2027](#).

Disseminate the European Commission's Background Paper on "Good husbandry practices" and raise awareness of the "EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism" and the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) website, which support Member States, the EU aquaculture industry, and other stakeholders in the implementation of the "Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030".

#### 5. Producer and market organisation

Support the collaboration and grouping of Luxembourg aquaculture producers in the form of producer organisations or their membership of transnational producer groups.

Support and promotion of cross-border territorial cooperation in The Greater Region<sup>4</sup> in the field of aquaculture ([Economic and Social Committee of the Greater Region](#)) and promotion of the creation of cross-border networks of aquaculture producers.

Promote certification under a label that reassures consumers about the quality of Luxembourg aquaculture production. [Act of 3 June 2022 on the approval of a quality or certification system for agricultural products](#) (control and promotion costs).

#### 6. Diversification and adding value

Assess the possibilities for diversification of farms into aquaculture or aquaponics production, carry out a market study ("Viability study on aquaculture in Luxembourg"<sup>5</sup>).

To assess the possibilities for the implementation of aquaculture in the framework of the [national "urban agriculture" strategy](#) ("Viability study on aquaculture in Luxembourg").

Encourage networking of aquaculture producers with farms, improvement of existing barns and infrastructures for aquaculture production (e.g. in case of cessation of farming activities) (following the results obtained in the framework of the "Viability study of aquaculture in Luxembourg").

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<sup>4</sup> The Greater Region: This concept has its origins in the intergovernmental commission set up by Germany and France in 1969. It covers 65.401 km<sup>2</sup> with more than 11.6 million inhabitants from the territories Lorraine in the French region Grand Est, Wallonia, the Federation Wallonia-Brussels and Ostbelgien in Belgium, Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany as well as the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

<sup>5</sup> Preliminary study carried out by an expert/group of experts to assess the potential development of aquaculture in Luxembourg.

## 7. Environmental Performance

Disseminate the European Commission's Guidance Document on "Environmental Performance" and raise awareness of the "EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism" and the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) website, which support Member States, the EU aquaculture industry and other stakeholders in the implementation of the "Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive European aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030".

Encourage aquaculture enterprises to participate in the monitoring of their environmental performance using the LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) approach, which is a decision-making tool to characterise the biological efficiency/sustainability of production systems).

In order to support the sector's efforts to adopt high environmental performance practices, focus national funding under the new law to support the sustainable development of rural areas on aquaculture enterprises that meet high environmental standards.

Support research and innovation to improve the environmental performance of the aquaculture sector, including research on alternative feed sources (insects, mushrooms, algae, etc.), in particular through participation in the [Interreg Grande Région programme](#) and ensure that aquaculture farmers are informed about relevant research and innovation to improve the environmental performance of their activities.

Encourage the use of state-of-the-art technologies to optimise the environmental performance of aquaculture enterprises, and focus national funding foreseen in the new act on support for the sustainable development of rural areas on this type of investment.

## 8. Animal welfare

Support research and innovation related to animal welfare and fish health, including multi-trophic aquaculture, stress prevention (breeding, transport, slaughtering) and the development of indicators characterising fish welfare (in particular through participation in the Interreg Grande Région programme).

## 9. Communicating on EU aquaculture

Support and ensure the dissemination, at national level, of the coordinated EU aquaculture campaign. It is important to use campaigns that are being set up at EU level or to align with existing joint campaigns with neighbouring countries.

Integrate and promote regional aquaculture production (if existing) in the existing campaigns "[Sou schmaacht Lëtzebuerg](#)" or "[#regionalsaisonal](#)".

Promote label certification to reassure consumers about the quality of Luxembourg or cross-border aquaculture production. Law of 3 June 2022 on the approval of a quality or certification system for agricultural products.

Organise study trips for interested producers and other stakeholders, visiting aquaculture systems abroad that serve as a model or pilot for a country such as Luxembourg.

Informing consumers and raising awareness about sustainable and quality aquaculture, e.g. through guided tours for schools and individuals, and the production of information articles and buying guides.

#### 10. Data and monitoring

Disseminate information on national research and innovation projects and their results. All research projects receiving financial support through the Ministry of Agriculture or benefiting from national grants are accessible through the Ministry's website.

#### 11. Knowledge and innovation

Support research and innovation to improve the environmental performance of the aquaculture sector, including research on alternative feed sources (insects, mushrooms, algae, etc.), in particular through participation in the Interreg Grande Région programme and ensure that aquaculture farmers are informed about relevant research and innovation to improve the environmental performance of their activities.

Support research and innovation related to animal welfare and fish health, including multi-trophic aquaculture, stress prevention (breeding, transport, slaughtering) and the development of indicators characterising fish welfare (in particular through participation in the Interreg Grande Région programme).

Support research and studies aimed at ensuring the economic sustainability and economic performance of the aquaculture sector (considering the specific conditions in Luxembourg) and ensure the dissemination of information to interested companies and new entrants.

Given the lack of technical expertise and the absence of technological support, in order to provide practical support to enterprises wishing to start up aquaculture in Luxembourg and to ensure continuous support, encourage access to technical expertise from external experts.

Ensure the establishment of partnerships with universities or research institutes, aquaculture advisory bodies and companies operating successfully in the field of aquaculture in order to ensure the implementation of solutions adapted to the Luxembourg context.

## 4. Funding

Establishment of an inter-ministerial advisory group bringing together the national public authorities concerned, the aim of which will be to provide interested companies with support on authorisation procedures and applications, as well as on the possibilities of obtaining national funding available in this area; where possible, to entrust this task to a group already operational in related areas (e.g. bioeconomy, circular economy).

Consider the priorities defined in this strategy when programming financial support from national funds and focus national financial support under the new law on support for the sustainable development of rural areas on aquaculture enterprises that comply with the guidelines defined in this

strategy. Support should encourage techniques and technologies that offer real economic prospects while minimising environmental impacts.

Make the payment of national financial support under the new law on support for the sustainable development of rural areas conditional on the demonstration of the economic viability of the aquaculture enterprise (submission of a business plan).

Encourage entrepreneurship in aquaculture by providing financial support for technical and economic feasibility studies.

Given that most bank loans are long-term, uncertainty should be reduced and the possibility of granting permits and authorizations, as well as long-term national financing, should be assessed to encourage the adoption of new modern technologies that are productive and have a low impact on the environment.

Granting of national financial support for processing and marketing, as well as for the creation of aquaculture farms in the framework of the renewal of the law on support for the sustainable development of rural areas.

Promote the use of renewable energies and encourage applications for subsidies to support investment in the production of renewable energies managed by the Ministry of Economy.