In accordance with the Point (1), Paragraph 12 of the Hungarian Law II of 1989 on the Right of Association and the requirements included in the Hungarian Law CLVI of 1997 on Public Benefit Organizations, the below-listed and undersigned Founding Members agree to establish the „Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe” Association:

1. Szarvas Akvapark Association, 5540 Szarvas I.kk.10., represented by its president, Dr. László Váradi.
2. Institute for Fisheries of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Animal Husbandry of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, 22 Stebeneva St., 220024, Minsk, Republic of Belarus, represented by its acting director, Vladimir Gennadyevich Kostousov.
3. Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, J.Lelevelando Str. 6, LT – 01102, Vilnius, Lithuania, represented by its director, Vytautas Grušauskas.
4. Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, MD-2028, Chisinau, Academiei,1, Republic of Moldova, represented by its director, Ion Toderas.
6. The Stanislaw Sakowicz Inland Fisheries Institute, 10-719 Olsztyn, ul. Oczapowskiego 10, Poland, represented by its director, Bogusław Zdanowski.
7. Federal Centre for Fish Genetics and Selection, 4 Strelninsko Shosse, Ropsha, Lomonosov Region, Leningrad Province, Russian Federation, represented by its director general, Valeriy Zalmanovich Krupkin.
8. Kaliningrad State Technical University, 1 Sovetskiy prospekt, 236000, Kaliningrad, Russian Federation, represented by its rector, Viktor Evgenyevich Ivanov.
9. State Research and Production Centre for Fisheries, 33, Odessskaya St., 625023, Tyumen, Russian Federation, represented by its director general, Aleksandr Ivanovich Litvinenko.
10. Russian Federal Research Institute for Fisheries and Oceanography, 17, Verkhnyaya Krasnosel’skaya St., 107140, Moscow, Russian Federation, represented by its director, Anatoliy Nikolaevich Makoev.
11. Institute for Fisheries of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, 135, Obukhivska St., 03164, Kiev, Ukraine, represented by its director, Ihor Ivanovich Hrytsynyak.
17. Ferenc Lévai, 7 Rákóczi St., H-7018 Sárbogárd, Hungary.
I.

DATA OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. Name of the Association

Hungarian name of the Association: Közép és Kelet-Európai Akvakultúra Központok Egyesülete
English name of the Association: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe
Russian Name of the Association: Сеть центров аквакультуры в Центральной и Восточной Европе

Short Hungarian name of the Association: NACEE Akvakultúra Egyesület
Short English name of the Association: NACEE
Short Russian name of the Association: НАСИ

Home page of the Association: http://www.agrowebcee.net/nacee/

Seat of the Association: H-5540 Szarvas, Anna-liget 8, Hungary

2. Legal status of the Association

The Association is an internationally operating independent legal body represented by its President alone or the Vice-President and the General Secretary, acting together.

3. Objectives of the Association: promoting aquaculture, as well as related educational, scientific and innovation activities, sustainable development of the Central and Eastern European Region, conservation of living aquatic resources and integration into the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area.

Main directions of the Association’s activities:
- Initiating joint research and training programmes;
- Facilitating better involvement of CEE institutions in European-level programmes directed towards aquaculture development and biodiversity conservation of aquatic ecosystems;
- Initiation of and participation in regional aquaculture development projects supported by the EU, FAO and other international organisations and funds;
- Organization and supporting of regional scientific fora (symposia, meetings, conferences);
- Development of educational programmes in the field of aquaculture and exchange of students;
- Exchange of information relevant to aquaculture development within the region;
- Exchange of scientists among the members, with special regard to young ones;
- Facilitating the improvement of partnership between science and practice within the entrepreneurial and production sector;
- Organization and hosting of training courses for fish farmers and entrepreneurs;
- Development of collaboration between NACEE and other regional networks/organisations;
• Publishing scientific and innovative results and dissemination of information on aquaculture development, as well as the rational use of aquatic ecosystems and preserving their biodiversity;
• Compiling and publishing NACEE’s own papers, journals, other printed publications and a website;
• Organization and hosting of professional competitions, especially for young researchers, specialists and students;
• Supporting of and participation in international fora and exhibitions on aquaculture, biodiversity conservation and protection of aquatic resources;
• Organization of the annual meetings of the Association members and the working groups covering all fields of aquaculture and living aquatic resources.

The Association provides access to its public benefit services not only to its members but others as well.

The Association can perform economic and entrepreneurial activities in support of attaining its objectives and assuring their economic bases; however, these cannot constitute the Association’s main activity. Entrepreneurial activities are performed by the Association only in support of its public benefit services and not compromising them. The income from its economic activities is undivisible, it can be used only for activities listed among the Association’s objectives. If the Association engages in investment activities, its General Assembly should prepare and adopt its investment rules.

The Association may choose to provide any of its services on a tender basis. The call for proposals cannot contain conditions that – considering all circumstances – imply that the winning proposal is predetermined (false call). False calls cannot serve as a basis for material support as determined in the objectives.

In order to reach its objectives in a more efficient way, the Association may establish regional and professional coordinational structures, provide grants or ad-hoc support, and may hire full- or part-time employees. The Rules of Procedure of the established structures should be submitted to the Executive Board.

The Association is not directly involved in political activities and is independent from political parties. It does not receive support from political parties and does not provide it to them. It does not nominate candidates to parliamentary elections or county and Budapest assemblies or support them.

**Classification category of the association:** public benefit organization

The public-benefit activities performed by the Association, as determined in Point c), Paragraph 26 of the Law CLVI of 1997, are:

„3. Scientific activities, research”;
„4. Formation and education, capacity building, information dissemination”;
„8. nature protection, animal protection”. 
II.

MEMBERSHIP

4. **Application for membership in the Association** is possible for all natural and legal persons, as well as organisations lacking legal personality that adopt the objectives of the Association.

Forms of membership in the Association:

- *a*) ordinary membership;
- *b*) honorary membership;
- *c*) supporting membership.

5. **Ordinary membership in the Association** is open to any natural person, legal person or organisation lacking legal personality that submits an Application for Admission stating its acceptance of the Statutes of the Association and willingness to comply with obligations arising from membership.

A Candidate can apply for membership in the Association by duly filling and signing an Application for Admission. If the Applicant is a legal person or an organisation lacking legal personality, it should attach a statement to the Application, clarifying who its representative in the Association will be.

The Application for Admission is to be submitted to the Executive Board of the Association. The application is presented by the General Secretary to the General Assembly, which decides on the admission of the Candidate as an ordinary member of the Association by simple majority.

The members of the Association have equal rights, which are exercised through their individual activity.

Rights of the ordinary members of the Association:

- *a*) they may participate in the General Assembly of the Association;
- *b*) they can exercise their right of consultation, right to make motions and to vote at the General Assembly;
- *c*) they can elect or be elected to any office of the Association, if they comply with the Points a./-c./ of Paragraph /1/ of Chapter 8 of the Law;
- *d*) they may participate in the events organised by the Association personally or through their legal or authorized representative;
- *e*) they may use any member benefits provided by the Association;
- *f*) they may receive information from the Association’s officers and the leaders of the Association’s bodies.

Obligations of the ordinary members of the Association:

- *a*) to comply with the Statute and other rules of the Association, as well as the decisions of the Association’s bodies;
- *b*) to fulfill the tasks voluntarily assumed in relation to the Association’s activities and promote the attainment of the Association’s objectives;
- *c*) to pay the membership fees without delay.
6. **Honorary membership in the Association** is open – by invitation by the President and after approval by the General Assembly – to persons assisting and supporting the attainment of the Association’s objectives through their outstanding activity for the Association in the field of aquaculture.

Honorary members can be invited to the Association’s meetings. Honorary members cannot be elected to offices, they are not required to pay membership fees, otherwise, their rights and obligations are the same as those of ordinary members.

7. **Supporting membership in the Association** is open to legal persons, non-profit or for-profit organisations that express their willingness to regularly and continually support the Association.

Supporting members with legal personality exercise their rights through a representative. The representative of a supporting member can participate in meetings of the Association’s bodies, but he does not have the right to vote, cannot be elected to offices, is not obliged to pay membership fees, otherwise, his/her rights and obligations are the same as those of ordinary members.

The decision on the admission of a supporting member is taken by the General Assembly on the basis of a motion by the General Secretary.

8. Membership is terminated:
   a) by a written termination request of a member addressed to the Executive Board;
   b) by exclusion;
   c) if a member with a legal personality ceases to exist without leaving a successor.

Reasons for exclusion: if the member’s activities or behaviour jeopardize the attainment of the Association’s activities.

### III. STRUCTURE AND OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

9. **Bodies of the Association**

Bodies of the Association:
   a) General Assembly;
   b) Executive Board;
   c) Technical Advisory Committee;
   d) Supervisory Board.

Officers of the Association:
   a) President;
   b) Vice-President;
   c) General Secretary;
   d) members of the Supervisory Board.
10. The General Assembly

The General Assembly consists of all the members and is the supreme body of the Association. Members with legal personality participate in sessions of the General Assembly through their representatives.

Sessions of the General Assembly may be regular or special. Regular sessions of the General Assembly are held by the Association once a year. Special sessions of the General Assembly are convened following a request signed by at least one-third of the members, wherein they should indicate the reason and purpose of convening the session. A session of the General Assembly is also to be convened by order of the Békés County Court.

Sessions of the General Assembly are convened in writing by the General Secretary. The convening of the session is valid if members are informed on the session in writing at least thirty days in advance of the session and they receive a description of the session’s agenda. Sessions of the General Assembly are public.

Sessions of the General Assembly can be convened not only at the Association’s seat but at seats of its members as well.

At sessions of the General Assembly, the quorum consists of 50% of the members with a right to vote plus 1 person. If a validly convened session of the General Assembly does not meet the quorum because of a low turnout of the members, a new General Assembly session shall be convened within one month with the same agenda, during which, quorum is not required for the vote to be valid. Even if the above conditions are met, this latter session of the General Assembly becomes valid only if the members are informed about this procedure in the original invitation. The General assembly is chaired by the President, or, in case of his/her unavailability, the Vice-President.

A report is prepared at each session of the General Assembly, which is validated by the Chair of the General Assembly Session and two members elected at the session.

The General Assembly generally takes its decisions by open vote and simple majority. The General Assembly can order a secret ballot vote by a motion by the President or initiative of one-third of the members. Vote on personal issues is always done by a secret ballot.

Persons are excluded from the decision-making process of the General Assembly if, as a result of the decision, they or their close relatives or companions (hereinafter: family):
- are freed from an obligation or responsibility, or
- receive any other advantage or are otherwise interested in the legal procedure in question.

The following are not regarded as advantages: non-financial services promoting the objectives of the Association and open without limitation to anyone in the frame of the services provided by the Association; or benefits provided by the Association to its members under the Statute in the frame of the membership.

A person, who had held an office on the board of a public-benefit organisation that did not pay its public dues under the Law on Taxation, and had been in that office for at least one year in the two-year period preceding the organisation’s dissolution, cannot hold an office in the Association’s Executive Board for two years after the dissolution.
The officers on the Association’s Executive Board or the candidates nominated to it are required to inform all relevant public bodies if they simultaneously have such an office in other public-benefit organisations as well.

The proceedings of the sessions of the General Assembly are always recorded in a Report and Register, allowing to identify the content of each decision, the time of its adoption and the time frame of its validity, as well as the proportion of the persons voting for and against the proposals (with their names, if appropriate). The Report and Register, as documents recording the decisions, are bound, numbered and stored among the Association’s documents. The constant management of this documentation is performed by the General Secretary of the Association.

The General Assembly informs the relevant parties on its decisions in writing – in a verifiable way – within two weeks following their adoption and publishes them on the Association’s home page.

The documents produced during the Association’s operation can be freely seen and copied (at own cost) by anyone at the seat of the Association at a time arranged with a representative of the Association.

Through its Internet page, the Association makes public the way of using the Association’s services, the support possibilities, amounts, conditions and implementation, as well as the professional and financial reports prepared on its activities. The benefits provided in order to attain the Association’s objectives are public.

Exclusive competence of the General Assembly:

a) electing the officers of the Association: the President, Vice-President, General Secretary and the Supervisory Board;
b) electing the Technical Advisory Committee;
c) deciding on relevant issues concerning the Association and develops the Association’s position on actual issues that are further represented by the President and the General Secretary;
d) adopting or modifying the Statutes and other rules of the Association;
e) deciding on membership applications presented by the General Secretary;
f) setting the amount of the membership fees for the next year;
g) discussing the issues proposed by members;
h) deciding on election of the persons recommended for honorary membership by the President;
i) accepting the annual report of the Executive Board. Simultaneously with the adoption of the Annual Report, the Association shall produce a Nonprofit Report. The approval of the Annual Report of the Association takes place together with the adoption of the Nonprofit Report, by the 150th day of the year following the report year, by decision of the General Assembly.
j) setting the annual budget;
k) declaring the establishment of branches, merger with another public organization or the dissolution of the Association;
l) revocation of the officers’ appointment if they become unworthy of their office and accepting their resignation.
11. The Executive Board

The tasks related to the operation of the Association are executed by the Executive Board consisting of 3 members. The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a period of 5 years. The members of the Executive Board are the President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary. Other members can be invited to the meetings of the Executive Board, depending on its agenda.

Persons are excluded from the decision-making process of the Board if, as a result of the decision, they or their close relatives or companions (hereinafter: family):
- are freed from an obligation or responsibility, or
- receive any other advantage or are otherwise interested in the legal procedure in question.

The following are not regarded as advantages: non-financial services promoting the objectives of the Association and open without limitation to anyone in the frame of the services provided by the Association; or benefits provided by the Association to its members under the Statute in the frame of the membership.

A person, who had held an office on the board of a public-benefit organisation that did not pay its public dues under the Law on Taxation, and had been in that office for at least one year in the two-year period preceding the organisation’s dissolution, cannot hold an office in the Executive Board for two years after the dissolution.

The officers on the Executive Board or the candidates nominated to it are required to inform all relevant public bodies if they simultaneously have such an office in other public-benefit organisations as well.

The meetings of the Executive Board are held as necessary, but at least once in half a year. The meetings of the Executive Board are convened in writing by the President. The convening of the meeting is valid if members are informed on the session in writing at least eight days in advance of the session and they receive a description of the session’s agenda. At meetings of the Executive Board, the quorum consists of at least half of its voting members. The Executive Board takes its decisions by an open vote and simple majority. In case of an equal number of votes for and against a proposal, it is considered dismissed. The meetings of the Executive Board are public.

In case of invalidity, the Executive Board meeting is convened again within 8 days. Even meetings reconvened because of invalidity are valid only if at least half of the members of the Executive Board are present.

The Executive Board decides on all issues not delegated to the General Assembly’s exclusive competence by the Statute.

Tasks of the Executive Board:
- performing the tasks related to the operation of the Association;
- preparing motions to the General Assembly on issues concerning the Association and other important issues;
- assuring the operation of the Technical Advisory Committee, submitting its recommendations to the General Assembly;
- acknowledgment of the receipt of a written termination notice of a member;
e) preparing Executive Board resolutions on the termination of a membership;

f) making proposals for granting Honorary or Supporting Membership;

g) deciding on any issue not in the exclusive competence of the General Assembly.

The Executive Board reports to the General Assembly on its activities between two sessions of the General Assembly. Its activities are approved by the General Assembly. The Executive Board informs the members on its decisions in the intersessional period.

The Executive Board excludes the following members from the Association:
- members who have not paid their membership fee for one year in spite of a written reminder by the Executive Board;
- members convicted by a legal court to non-appealable mandatory imprisonment and ineligibility to public offices.

The exclusion procedure is conducted by the Executive Board in the first instance. The procedure can be initiated by any member in writing. The member against whom such procedure is initiated needs to be informed on the beginning of such a procedure and on the arguments and evidence against him/her. An opportunity should be provided to him/her to defend himself/herself and present evidence in his/her favour. The member should be sent the Executive Board’s written ruling on exclusion containing the justification for the decision.

The excluded member can appeal to the General Assembly of the Association against the excluding verdict within 15 days. In addition, under the Law on the Right of Association, he/she can protest the decision in court within the legal deadline of 30 days.

12. Officers of the Association

The officers of the Association are the President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary and the members of the Supervisory Board. The officers are elected by the General Assembly.

The President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary and the members of the Supervisory Board are elected for a period of 5 years starting with the date of the election. After the end of this period, the President can be re-elected once to the same position.

Tasks of the President:

a) representing the Association;

b) directing the operation of the Association;

c) moderating the sessions of the General Assembly;

d) convening conferences and organizing events;

e) authorization of any payments jointly with the General Secretary.

The President reports to the General Assembly on his/her activities between two sessions of the General Assembly. His/her activities are approved by the General Assembly.

Tasks of the General Secretary:

a) performing tasks related to the operation of the Association;

b) acting as a consultant to the President;

c) informing the members on the Association’s work;

d) preparing the meetings of the Executive Board, assuring their operativeness, overseeing the implementation of their decisions and managing the register of such decisions;

e) maintaining direct contacts with the Technical Advisory Committee.
Tasks of the Vice-President:

a) assisting the work of the President and General Secretary

b) in case of the President’s unavailability, chairing the sessions of the General Assembly.

IV.

SUPERVISORY BOARD

The supervisory body of the Association is the Supervisory Board, which consists of 3 persons. Members of the Supervisory Board are elected by the General Assembly for a period of 5 years. In justified cases, the appointment of the members of the Supervisory Board can be revoked if they become unworthy of holding this office. The Supervisory Board shall prepare its own Rules of Procedure.

A person cannot be the president, member or accountant of the Supervisory Board if he/she:

a) is the president or member of the Executive Board;

b) is employed by the public-benefit organization in any way other than the assignment in question, performing tasks or work for the organization, if not stated otherwise by law;

c) receives benefits from the Association related to the attainment of its objectives, with the exclusion of non-financial services provided to anyone in an unrestricted way;

d) is a family member of any of the persons listed in Points a)-c);

e) is ineligible under Point (1), Paragraph 9 of the Law 1997 on Public Benefit Organizations.

Members of the Supervisory Board may receive a honorarium or cost reimbursement. The members of the Supervisory Board accept their assignment by a statement attached to the Statute.

The meetings of the Executive Board are held as necessary, but at least once in a year.

Members of the Supervisory Board have equal rights and obligations, namely: they may control the operation and finances of the Association, request reports, information and/or clarifications from the General Assembly and the employees of the Association, see and check the books and documents of the Association. They can participate in sessions of the General Assembly with the right of consultation. In case of violation of the law or severe nonfeasance they are required to inform the General Assembly and initiate the convening of a General Assembly session.

Meetings of the Supervisory Board are public. The Supervisory Board prepares numbered reports on its meetings and numbers its decisions as well. The report contains: the date and time of the meeting, names of the present members, invited persons and the rapporteur, the agenda, the statements and comments, the decisions and their validity. The report should permit to determine the proportion of the votes for and against a ruling. Any member of the Supervisory Board can request that his/her vote on a particular issue be registered in the report with his/her name. The report is signed by the members participating in the meeting of the Supervisory Board.

On the basis of Paragraph 11 of the Law CLVI of 1997:

a) the Supervisory Authority controls the operation and finances of the public-benefit organisation, in the process of which, it can request reports from the leading officers and
information or clarifications from the employees of the organization and can see and check the books and documents of the public-benefit organisation;
b) members of the Supervisory Authority may, or, if the law or the Founding Document requests so, must participate in the meetings of the Organization’s Executive Body;
c) the Supervisory Authority is obliged to inform the relevant superior authority entitled to take action and to initiate its convening if he receives knowledge that:
- law was violated or an action (nonfeasance) seriously contrary to the Organisation’s interests took place during the Organisation’s activity, and the resolving, elimination or mitigation of the consequences requires an intervention by the relevant superior authority entitled to take action;
- circumstances suggesting responsibility of the leading officers;
d) a session of the Superior Authority entitled to take action shall be convened at the suggestion of the Supervising Authority within 30 days of the submission of this motion; if it is not convened within this deadline, the Supervising Authority can convene the session itself;
e) if the entitled authority does not take action towards restoring the legality of the operation, the Supervisory Authority is obliged to immediately notify the regulatory supervision authority.

V.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Technical Advisory Committee is the consultative body of the General Assembly, maintaining direct contacts with the Executive Board. The Technical Advisory Committee consists of researchers and technical experts in aquaculture development, aquatic resource management and inland fisheries.

The Technical Advisory Committee is open to all members of the Association. Members of the Technical Advisory Committee are elected by the General Assembly by recommendation of the Executive Board. Members of the Technical Advisory Committee may be assisted by other experts and consultants.

Members of the Technical Advisory Committee will serve on the Technical Advisory Committee for a period not longer than five years, but can resign from the position at any time.

The Technical Advisory Committee determines its own Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, which is then submitted to the Executive Board.

The Technical Advisory Committee performs its activities mostly through electronic means of communication.

Tasks of the Technical Advisory Committee:

a) Assessing on a continuing basis the priority needs of aquaculture development, formulating technical and scientific recommendations and identifying areas in which technical cooperation among the members could make significant contributions to meet these needs;
b) Providing advice on the technical and scientific bases for decisions and recommendations on measures concerning general conservation and rational
management of living aquatic resources, including the biological, social and economic aspects of fisheries and aquaculture management;

c) Formulating detailed time-based technical programmes of work to be carried out by the Association, and recommending appropriate strategies for their implementation;

d) Providing independent technical and scientific advice and expert inputs to assist the Commission in implementing its work programme and in monitoring and evaluating such implementation;

e) Direct participation in the preparation of EU projects through its professional members.

VI.

FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION

13. Assets of the Association

Incomes of the Association:

a) membership fees;

b) incomes from events held by the Association;

c) support received in the frame of competitive grants;

d) sponsor support.

Ordinary members of the Association pay annual membership fees, the amount of which is determined by the General Assembly.

14. Use of the Association’s liquid assets

The Association prepares an annual budgets determining the expedient use of its liquid assets. The next year’s budget and the previous year’s financial report are submitted for approval to the General Assembly by the President.

Payments can be authorized by the signature of the President and the General Secretary together.

The Association is liable for its debts to the extent of its own assets.

In case of the dissolution of the Association, the fate of its property is determined by the General Assembly. The Association shall cease to exist if two-thirds of the General Assembly declare its dissolution or merger with another public organisation. In addition, the Association ceases to exist if a legal court dissolves it or ascertains its termination.

VII.

CONTROL OF THE ASSOCIATION

15. Regulatory control over the Association is performed by the following bodies: tax control by the State Tax Administration, control over the utilisation of budgetary funds by the State Audit Office, control over the utilisation of support received from state or local budgets or international sources by an internal audit board established under a separate rules and the regulatory control related to the public-benefit operation by the Prosecution Service, according to rules pertaining to it.
VIII.

FINAL PROVISIONS

16. The present Statute, prepared in Hungarian, English and Russian languages with the same content, was adopted by the General Assembly of the Association in the GA Resolution 2/2010 (XII.02.)

Date: Szarvas, 2 December 2010