**NETWORK OF AQUACULTURE CENTRES IN**

**CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (NACEE)**

 **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING**

**OF THE NACEE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Vilnius, Lithuania, 15 May 2013**

**Persons present:** see list of participants in Annex 1.

1. Mr. Ryszard Kolman, the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee, greeted the participants and explained that the principal objective of the present meeting was to finalize the NACEE research agenda. All participants had received the draft research agenda and the suggested principles of work, which were developed in cooperation of the NACEE Secretariat and the TAC Chair. Mr. Kolman proposed to go through the draft agenda together and requested the topic coordinators to evaluate the progress and the perspectives of the individual projects.
2. Ms. Lidiya Vasilyeva asked why the topics were divided into two categories. Mr. Ryszard Kolman and Mr. Peter Lengyel explained that only topics wherein there was interest from two or more institutions were included into the Research Agenda. All topics proposed by any NACEE member wherein no other member indicated their interest were moved to the „Other proposed topics” section. These topics were considered to be a „reserve” wherefrom projects could be moved into the Research Agenda if any additional members indicated interest in cooperating therein.
3. Ms. Vasilyeva asked why Mr. Oleksiy Khudyy, who was not even a NACEE member, was attending the meeting. Mr. Kolman explained that Mr. Khudyy was a member candidate who intended to join NACEE at the General Assembly Meeting later that day. He also had a history of cooperation with IRS and this was the reason why Mr. Kolman invited him to the TAC meeting as an observer.
4. After clarifying these issues, the participants reviewed and discussed the individual topics. The following comments and changes were made:
	* Topic 1.1: The NACEE Secretariat should act as the facilitator; NACEE members should inform the Secretariat on the concluded bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements.
	* Topic 1.2: The NACEE Secretariat should act as the facilitator.
	* Topic 1.3: The establishment of a joint electronic library on fish farming issues was considered highly important by the members, some even proposed to facilitate the availability of the existing online materials by translating them, but most participants agreed that neither NACEE nor its members had sufficient capacity for the translation of all available materials. If needed, some individual materials could be translated on a case-by-case basis if the necessary human and financial resources were available. It was decided that the NACEE Secretariat should act as the facilitator, providing links to online literature on its site, and that NACEE members should inform the Secretariat on their new publications.
	* Topic 1.4: The participants agreed that the existence of joint publications was an important evaluation criterion during the submission of joint projects, but their preparation was a task for the members, not the Secretariat. The Secretariat could assist this activity by placing links to the journals published by NACEE members on its website. (Topic 1.5)
	* Mr. Viktor Golod proposed to add another topic (Topic 1.6: Preparation of a monograph on fish breeding in CEE countries) coordinated by FCFGS with the participation of IF NAASU and „Acvacultura-Moldova”.
	* As a general comment, Ms. Vasilyeva complained that, although ASU sent information to all members on its conference, only one answer was received. Cooperation would require a different attitude. Several members noted that participation in each other’s events depended mostly on the availability of financial resources. Information on events was appreciated but possibilities of participation were often limited.
	* Topic 2.1.1: Mr. Kolman told the participants that IRS had a good cooperation on Baltic sturgeon with FCFGS and the Fisheries Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania. A Life+ project was under preparation with the involvement of Poland (IRS) and Lithuania (Fisheries Service), as well as Germany (Institute of Hydrobiology and Fisheries).
	* Topic 2.1.2: Mr. Kolman reported that IRS had a cooperation agreement with IF NAASU and Acvacultura-Moldova regarding sterlet in the Dnester river.
	* Topic 2.1.3: Mr. Yuriy Pilipenko reported that there was a good cooperation on sterlet in the Dnieper river between IF NAASU and KSAU. Mr. Vladimir Kostousov added that the Institute of Fisheries of the NAS of Belarus (IF NASB) also tried to apply for a project with the Ukrainian partners, but received no support.
	* Topic 2.1.4: Ms. Vasilyeva reminded the participants that ASU had already requested information from all NACEE members on the status of sturgeons in their respective countries. Much information was received, which was then processed and published. However, as some time had already passed, the published information needed updating. The TAC members agreed to provide the requested information if Ms. Vasilyeva sent them the templates for information submission.
	* Topic 2.1.5: Mr. Lengyel informed the participants that a TCPf project proposal on genetic resources in aquaculture had been submitted to FAO and was actually under evaluation. In case of success, the project coordinated by NACEE with the participation of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine could significantly contribute to the topic’s success.
	* Topic 2.2: Mr. Lengyel noted that, similarly to the previous point, the planned TCPf project could be a tool for the attainment of the objectives of the topic. Mr. Zsigmond Jeney added that another project had also been submitted on the topic but, unfortunately, it did not receive support. However, the currently running AQUAREDPOT project (allowing the recruitment of a geneticist) and the AQUAEXCEL project (offering a possibility for 3-month research tenures at HAKI for researchers of other institutions) could also contribute to a better cooperation in the field.
	* Topic 2.3: Mr. Kostousov indicated the willingness of IF NASB to join the research topic.
	* Topic 3.1: Mr. Kolman proposed the topic to be moved to „Other suggested topics”.
	* Topic 3.2: IRS was suggested as the coordinator instead of Gosrybcenter. In addition to the already listed Gosrybcenter and ASTU, ASU, FCFGS and FROV JCU also indicated their intention to participate.
	* Topic 3.3: ASU was proposed to replace Gosrybcenter as the coordinator of the project. In addition to the already listed Gosrybcenter and ASTU, IRS also volunteered to join the research topic.
	* Topics 6.1 and 6.2 were moved to „Other suggested topics” by request of Mr. Pilipenko.
	* Topic 7.1: Both actual participants of the project were absent from the meeting. However, considering the overarching importance of the issue of fish health, TAC decided that the topic should remain in the Research Agenda. The NACEE Secretariat should invite all interested members to participate in the research topic. Should VNIRO decide to step back from its coordination, a replacement coordinator should be elected from the interested members.
	* Topics 9.1 and 9.2: The education topics, being closely interrelated and of overarching importance, were decided not to be separated into smaller projects but to be merged into a single „Education” Thematic Working Group coordinated by Mr. Pilipenko. Participating organizations could be ASU, IZ ASM, Acvacultura-Moldova and KSTU, as well as other interested educational institutions.
	* As required by Topic 9.2, Mr. Pilipenko proposed to start the preparation of joint textbooks and coursebooks on aquaculture-related issues. He presented an initial Russian version of a sturgeon farming coursebook prepared in cooperation of several NACEE members, and proposed to finalize and translate it jointly and publish it as a Russian-English bilingual edition under a NACEE logo and with a recommendation by NACEE. This task would be coordinated by Mr. Pilipenko, while further participants would be ASU, IRS and the NACEE Secretariat.
	* Mr. Pilipenko, seconded by Ms. Vasilyeva, proposed the following NACEE recommendation text to be used in jointly prepared educational, methodological, reference, scientific and production-related publications:

*„Recommended by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) as a textbook/handbook/teaching aid/reference book/manual, etc. for undergraduate and graduate students in aquaculture”*

* + Mr. Golod indicated the interest of FCFGS in Topic 2.1 of the „Other proposed topics” section and proposed to include it into the Research Agenda under Point 2.4.
	+ IF NAASU proposed to include Topic 2.2 of the „Other proposed topics” section into the Research Agenda under Point 2.5 and indicated that it was willing to coordinate it. Other partners in the programme could be VNIIPRKH, IRS and FROV JCU.
	+ Topic 9.1 of the „Other proposed topics” section was included into the Research Agenda and merged into the Education WG.
1. After discussing all the points of the draft Research Agenda, the TAC Chair requested the NACEE Secretariat to finalize the document and circulate it among all NACEE members for further comments and discussion. The amended Research Agenda is attached as Annex 2 of the present Minutes.
2. Finally, having thanked all participants for their contributions, the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee closed the Meeting.

Vilnius, 15 May 2013

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 Rapporteur Chair of the TAC

Annex 1

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**THIRD MEETING OF THE NACEE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Vilnius, Lithuania, 15 May 2013**

**TAC members:**

* Ryszard Kolman
* Galina Curcubet
* Ihor Hrytsynyak
* Zsigmond Jeney
* Vladimir Kostousov
* Viktor Golod
* Yuriy Pilipenko
* Lidiya Vasilyeva
* Elena Zubcov

**Observers:**

* Vitaliy Bekh
* Oleksiy Khudyy
* Otomar Linhart

**Rapporteur:**

* Peter Lengyel