

Dear reader,

Welcome to the fourth SCAR-Newsletter.

The SCAR-Newsletter provides information about on-going SCAR activities carried out by all SCAR Collaborative and Strategic Working Groups as well as the CASA project which supports SCAR.

Please feel free to share it with relevant colleagues and interested people.

Whishing you a pleasant reading!



NEWS FROM SCAR GROUPS

THE SCAR FORESIGHT GROUP

– News from the 5th SCAR Foresight process

The Foresight process is a pillar of SCAR and supports SCAR in its advisory function for Member States and the Commission. The SCAR Foresight Group is mandated by SCAR Plenary to conduct Foresight Studies.

Since 2005, four Foresight Studies were carried out to identify possible future scenarios for the European agriculture and, starting from 2012, for the wider Bioeconomy. The SCAR Foresight Group is led by DE (Chair), FR, IT and DK.

Currently, a new SCAR Foresight process is started. The Terms of Reference (ToR) have been approved by SCAR Plenary in June 2018. The title of the 5th SCAR Foresight is "Natural resources and food systems: Transition towards a "safe and just" operating space." Experts to carry out the Foresight exercise were nominated by Member States over summer and selected with regards to scientific, geographic and gender aspects. The Commission has made available financial resources, through the Research Framework Programmes, to fund the 5th SCAR Foresight exercise and the experts. The Commission will sign the contract with Foresight experts in November 2018. The SCAR Foresight experts will start their work with a Kick Off Meeting in the beginning of 2019.

To support the 5th SCAR Foresight process during its lifetime a Task Force Group consisting of Strategic Working Group (SWG) & Collaborative Working Group (CWG) members and representatives from Member States has been set up. In addition, a case study, funded by CASA, will be carried out to support the Foresight experts with a profound literature research.



FOOD SYSTEMS

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS Strategic Working Group (SCAR FS SWG) had a productive year where the group provided the mapping report, carried out a study on the Food Systems approach, held joint workshops and produced a policy brief based on the lessons learned from these joint activities.

The FS SWG has successfully submitted the report on the mapping exercise "[Assessment of Research and Innovation on Food Systems by European Member States. Policy and Funding Analysis](#)" and presented the results during the High Level Event FOOD 2030 held in Plovdiv (BG) on 14th - 15th June 2018.

The mapping on the existing policies, strategies and research and innovation funding of the food system, reveals that the policy and the investments focus on the primary production and food processing. This shows the fragmented research and innovation (R&I) investments in food systems as well as a lack of interest in other stakeholders (non-primary production and society). The Bioeconomy is a relatively recent policy topic but either is already functional or it is developing in the majority of the countries.

Further details on the results and recommendations could be found out in the report that is available on the [website of SCAR](#).

The FOOD SYSTEMS SWG is currently finalising a second study on "Overview and synthesis of existing Food Systems studies and research projects in Europe" and the results will be disseminated by the end of the year.

The FS SWG is actively involved in common activities with other SWGs as AKIS and ARCH as well as JPIs HDHL, FACCE and OCEANS. Indeed, the FS SWG is planning also to increase the collaboration with Bioeconomy SWG and cooperate on relevant subjects.



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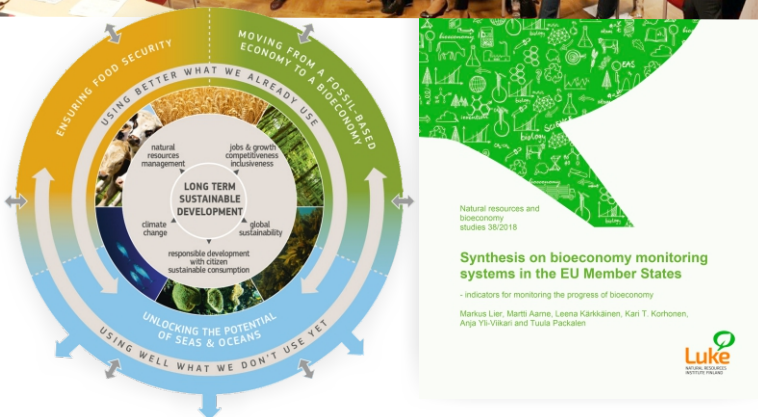
<https://scar-europe.org>

NEWS FROM SCAR GROUPS

BIOECONOMY

In the second half of 2018, the Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group (BSW) has held one meeting on 23th and 24th October that was organised back-to-back with the European Commission's high-level conference "Sustainable and circular Bioeconomy, the European way". During this meeting in Brussels the group discussed together with representatives from DG RTD F.1 how Member States can provide input (and which) to the various actions in the revised [European Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan](#), and which role the BSW - also under a possible third mandate - could play in this respect. Moreover, the draft version of the study "State of play of Central and Eastern Europe's Bioeconomies", carried out by the nova-Institute, has been presented. The study's objective was to map information and to help establishing data-driven support for the development and implementation of national bioeconomy policies in the BIOEAST macro-region. Last but not least, the [report of the Natural Resources Institute Finland on Synthesis on bioeconomy monitoring systems in the EU Member States](#) has been finalised and was also presented.

The next meeting, where the group will present a draft ToR for a third mandate, will take place in February 2019 in The Netherlands.



International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF)

Working Group Meetings - November 27th - 30th, 2018 in Ottawa, Canada

The International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF) is a European Commission initiative which was officially launched on 30th November 2017 in Brussels with the first plenary meeting. Besides the European Commission and AgriFood Canada, who took over the role as co-chairs of the IBF, the USA, Argentina, South Africa, India, China and New Zealand joined as IBF members. The SCAR is also involved, representing the European Member States.

The core of the IBF are working groups, focussing on specific subjects related to the bioeconomy. Four IBF working groups, on Plant Health, Microbiome, Forest Bioeconomy and ICT Precision Agriculture, were established and held their meetings in Ottawa. The main objective of these meetings is the development of clear roadmaps for each working group. These roadmaps will include identified objectives and priorities, planned research activities, expected impacts, and key deliverables. Eventually, the roadmaps will be the basis for the next plenary meeting of the IBF, which will be also hosted by Canada and will take place in May 2019.



SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL PRODUCTION

The Collaborative Working Group (CWG SAP) had their 10th Meeting on 22nd/23th Oct 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia (100 years Republic of Estonia 2018: Congratulations!). The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Rural Affairs.

The CWG SAP group amended their ToR and agreed to continue, taking into account that the group started to act as a think tank and, for instance, intend to develop different future scenarios and assess their potential impact. Ultimately, CWG SAP want to create a joint vision for animal production in Europe.

Knowledge gaps and research needs will be identified along the way.

At the meeting, Allan Buckwell, report director of the RISE Foundation's report on livestock, presented and discussed with CWG SAP the outcomes of the report which was released in Sep. 2018: <http://www.risefoundation.eu/projects/livestock>.

One of the next steps planned is an external study under the working title "Analyses of livestock production in the EU". The summary of the report shall be translated in the main EU languages. CWG SAP further plan to organize a workshop in relation to the study.

Last, but not least, CWG SAP visited the E-Estonia Showroom at the end of the meeting <https://e-estonia.com/showroom> as recommended.

FISH

Three SCAR FISH physical meetings were held in Brussels in 2018 and one more is pending for late November 2018. Main activities included the completion of the studies on "Mapping of fisheries organizations that are relevant for fisheries management and aquaculture development" and "Strengthening fish welfare research through a gap analysis study", the last one in collaboration with SCAR CWG Animal Health and Welfare Research. The group also worked to (a) produce recommendations on research into the use and value of underutilised fishery biomaterials and (b) collect and prioritize the research needs for freshwater aquaculture.

SWG SCAR FISH planned activities for 2019:

1. Contributing to the development of the Research and Innovation framework programme Horizon 2020 and beyond.
2. Develop synergies with other actions/groups (e.g. SWG Bioeconomy, SWG Food Systems, CWG Animal Health and Welfare, SWG ARCH, SCAR 5th Foresight task force).
3. Provide an opinion on the "Research recommendations on the valorisation of under used material in fisheries and aquaculture"
4. Provide an opinion on the "Prioritization of the research needs of European freshwater aquaculture sector".
5. Publish a report on "Strengthening fish welfare research through a gap analysis study".



NEWS FROM SCAR GROUPS

AKIS

Since the last issue of this newsletter, Strategic Working Group (SWG) SCAR AKIS held 2 plenary meetings in Warsaw (June 26th & 27th) and Brussels (October 30th & 31st). Topics discussed addressed among others: the improvement of the integrated approach within the European AKIS and the further implementation of EIP-AGRI, monitoring interactive innovation policies and benchmarking for sustainability, digitisation and knowledge reservoirs. The Brussels meeting was particularly devoted to the Final report of SWG SCAR AKIS' 4th Mandate (to be expected in March/April 2019) and the next Mandate 5. The draft proposal for mandate 5 was presented at the SCAR Steering Group meeting on November 16th.

Recent publications by the group:

- Policy brief on Programming Research and Innovation for Improved Impact (October 2018). A joint activity by SWGs ARCH, AKIS & Food Systems: <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/akis-documents>
- Report SCAR SWG AKIS 4 - 9th Meeting Warsaw, Poland : 26th & 27th of June 2018: <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/akis-reports-meetings>.

FOREST

SCAR Forest mission is to be a source of advice on European forest-based (R&I), thus contributing to the development of a coherent and ambitious forest-based research area. Despite the fact that approximately 40% of the land surface of Europe is covered with forest, R&I in the forest-based sector is still very fragmented. To tackle the challenge of connecting the R&I and ensure a stable network, a task force was established following the COST Connect meeting "[Climate Change and Forest Systems, New horizons for research and innovation](#)" in June 2018 (see [SCAR Newsletter 3](#)). Various possibilities of future topics and networking options are explored and elaborated.

Furthermore, SCAR Forest would like to announce that within the ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue, 17 projects were chosen in October 2018 with a total funding request of more than EUR 20 million. The projects will start end of 2018/beginning 2019. More information can be found here: <https://forestvalue.org>.

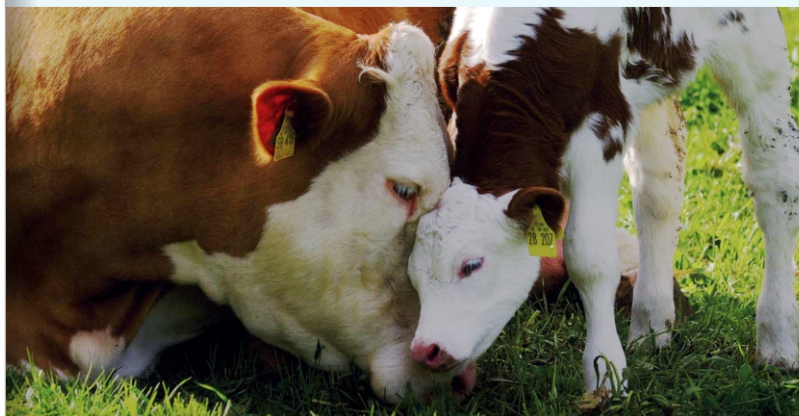
SCAR Forest is currently preparing to renew its mandate, as the current mandate will end in June 2019. Possibilities to prepare a study with the working-title "Main research and innovation on ways towards digitization and robotization in the forest-based sector" and a Workshop on "International cooperation in research and innovation for the future European forest-based sector" under the funding scheme of CASA are elaborated.

A final decision is expected in December 2018.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

In the second week of November this year, CWG Animal Health and Welfare research partners convened again for 4 days in Dublin/IR, hosted by the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) at the charming Backweston Laboratory Campus. The days were packed with a whole series of meetings - DISCONTTOOLS, Animal Welfare Subgroup meeting, Foresight and Strategy Subgroup meeting, a preparatory meeting for an ERANET Cofund and the CWG's regular autumn Plenary Meeting. In DISCONTTOOLS, topics and discussions gravitated around updating the disease database and associated dissemination activities, as well as next year's budget.

The AW Subgroup discussed research priorities and developments on the EU level (EU AW platform, EU Centre of Reference for AW, EFSA AHAW meeting, EU AW policy). The Foresight & Strategy Unit received a presentation the intended Impact Assessment, discussed the importance of "data" in animal health & welfare and examined possibilities for better integration into SCAR activities. The preparatory ERANET meeting brought together interested funding partners and discussed details regards layout, management and scope of the intended proposal. The discussion continued in the CWG Plenary meeting next day. In the Plenary the CWG was also updated regards recent developments in the EJP One Health, collaboration with SWG SCAR FISH on fish welfare, the current activities in the STAR-IDAZ IRC and the last SCAR workshop. DAFM also played host for a splendid CWG dinner on Thursday evening and outdid itself by providing a perfect environment for these successful and extremely productive meetings.



cost | **connect**
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Climate Change and Forest Systems
New horizons for research and innovation

Novotel Hotel
115 N Tsarigradsko Shosse Blvd
1784 Sofia (BG)
5 June 2018

Co-organised with:



SCAR
Strategic Working Group
on Research and Innovation
in the Forest-based Sector

in cooperation with:



MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE

NEWS FROM CASA

Wp2: ADDED VALUE AND IMPROVED QUALITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

Under task 2.1 a workshop was held in Brussels on 26th and 27th September 2018 with participants from all SCAR working groups, Project officers who follow the groups and members of the SCAR SG.

The main aim was to discuss activities completed in 2018 and planned activities for 2019 and also identify lessons learned. A number of conclusions can be drawn and include the fact that lack of resources remains as a major constraint for working groups. Whilst the groups have become more aware of working towards the main SCAR objectives, not all "members" of working groups are appointed by their SCAR delegate. Opportunities for joint activities, for example workshops, were discussed and in general thought to be positive although often a facilitator is needed to prepare such workshops. There was consensus that an annual meeting of all SCAR working groups would be of great value. Ideas could be exchanged, possibilities of joint activities discussed and interaction with the SCAR SG would be of considerable value.

In addition, the SCAR Task Force which has been asked to make a "light touch" evaluation of the working group had a good chance, at the Task 2.1 workshop, to meet the groups, explain the purpose of the evaluation and make observations. They will deliver their report and recommendations to the SCAR Plenary in December.



Wp4: ADDED VALUE AND IMPROVED QUALITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

The SCAR website hosts most of the SCAR documents and has grown over the last two years thank to all the inputs of the SCAR working groups. This website is maintained by INIAV in Portugal. Because the website allows both public and private areas, each SCAR working group has the possibility to have its documents hosted in the relevant area. Conceived as a flexible platform, the SCAR website also allows redirection to the specific SCAR working group web hosting domain.

In order to provide the best service possible to SCAR members, the website is often updated, providing new services: the latest update now allows an easy overview of SCAR events calendar and the SCAR Foresight group is having a dedicated area.

Last but not least, SCAR members as well as all public can freely have access to all SCAR production and advice.

The SCAR website can be reached : <https://www.scar-europe.org>

Thanks to the contribution of all participants to the SCAR SWG AKIS, WP4 (MAA) has produced a report on best practices in projects communication ([D.4.2: Report of best practices from SWG SCAR AKIS members](#)). The report has been presented to the AKIS SWG during the Brussels meeting (October 30th & 31st) and it is available on the SCAR website.



CASA
Common Agricultural
and wider bioeconomy
reSearch Agenda

Wp3: STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC ADVICE FOR SCAR

The overall aim of Workpackage (Wp3) is to strengthen strategic advice for SCAR. This will be achieved by supporting SCAR's internal and external work – especially by exploring new opportunities for alignment, collaboration and strategic action associated with relevant recommendations. Some parts of WP3 are finished already and were reported in previous newsletters.

Currently, a desk study within T3.4 (Support SCAR on better alignment of research and innovation policies) on "SCAR and alignment" is ongoing, in order to provide a basis for future workshops on alignment. Furthermore, T3.6 is supporting the SCAR Foresight group by creating a structure for future SCAR Foresight processes and helps with the ongoing actions. Task 3.7 is dealing with the development of an Impact Assessment Framework. The definition of the Impact Assessment Framework for the SCAR and related Implementation plan is ongoing. In the period from October to December 2018, meetings have been planned with the Collaborative and Strategic Working Groups of SCAR. In these meetings the key elements of the framework (target areas and evaluation questions), identified by task 3.7 team through desk analysis of strategic documents and a round of preliminary talks, are presented to and discussed with Working Group members. In particular, the evaluation questions will be validated, refined and integrated after a careful consideration of harvested feedbacks. This exercise is important in the definition of the Framework, but at the same time, it provides an opportunity for a joint reflection on each group activity in the broader context of SCAR remit.

All finalized public documents are provided on the SCAR website.

CONTACT FOR CASA Wp3: Vera Steinberg, vera.steinberg@ble.de

Wp5: COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

CASA is coordinated by the Project Management Jülich division of the Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH. Project coordinator Rolf Stratmann is supported by Hanna Steffens (deputy) and Sergi Costa.

In the period from July 2018 to December 2018 the coordinator provided two update documents to the SCAR Secretariat with information on actual CASA activities and deliverables, which were finished in advance of the respective SCAR SG meetings. In frame of the CASA agenda slots during the 83rd and 84th SCAR SG meetings on 27th September and 16th November 2018, upcoming CASA SCAR topics and activities were presented to the SCAR SG members, such as a new Impact study of progression of representation and inclusion in SCAR (T1.5).

After completion of the midterm reporting, the CASA Management Group currently concentrates on planning and organising activities for the second half of the Project period. On 4th September 2018 the CASA Management Group met in Brussels and in the weeks after, all activities, concepts for workshops, meetings and the SCAR Conference 2019 were discussed in close collaboration with the SCAR Secretariat and SG.

CONTACT FOR CASA Wp5: Rolf Stratmann, r.stratmann@fz-juelich.de

For contacting Chairs, Co-chairs of SCAR groups and CASA members, for finding published reports and deliverables, please refer to the SCAR website:

<https://scar-europe.org>