

Dear reader,
Welcome to the new
SCAR-Newsletter!

The SCAR-Newsletter provides information about on-going SCAR activities, about the workshops of the different SCAR Collaborative and Strategic Working Groups, CASA activities and Bioeconomy- and SCAR-related events in Europe. The Newsletter will be sent to you twice a year. Please feel free to share it with relevant colleagues and interested people.

Enjoy it!

NEWS FROM THE SCAR-GROUPS

76th SCAR STEERING GROUP MEETING: MAIN CONCLUSIONS (Brussels, 31 March 2017)

- The Commission informed about the planned adoption on the same day of an opinion from the Committee of Regions related to "The local and regional dimension of the bioeconomy and the role of cities and regions".
- SCAR is invited to contribute to the consultation on the importance of R&I in the CAP.
- The Commission informed about the latest developments of the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF). The Plenary will take place before the end of the year. The Commission intends to keep the IBF informal, but wants to ensure a proper representation of the Member states.
- Bulgaria gave an outline of the international Food 2030 event that will take place in June 2018 in Plovdiv in the context of the Bulgarian Presidency.
- Italy and Germany launched a call in order to enlarge the Foresight group. Recommendations from 3rd and 4th Foresight will be analysed by experts to feed into the bioeconomy strategy revision. First ideas for a 5th Foresight were presented. Further ideas will be collected during the next meeting of the Steering group to provide a draft for the Plenary in December. SWGs and CWGs are invited to collect ideas in their respective groups.
- A task force will be identified among SCAR delegates to prepare the positions of the SCAR Steering group in the CASA Advisory Board.
- The Commission gave the green light to host the SCAR website under www.scar-europe.org.

SCAR-FISH MEETING: MAIN CONCLUSIONS (Brussels, 15 March 2017)

1) Information on the "Food from the Ocean" project

The on-going work aims at providing by the end of 2017 a scientific opinion to Commissioner Vella on the question: How to sustainably extract more food from the ocean?

2) Updates on SCAR-Fish Work Plan for 2017

Climate Change:

Objectives: To identify research needs related to developing management options for climate impacted fisheries and aquaculture sectors

It was agreed to adjust the format of the planned SCAR-Fish work from a targeted workshop to a study on the same topic. CASA will help organising this workshop.

Valorisation of underutilised material:

Objectives: To provide priorities on the use of underutilised material should be for human consumption. When this is not possible, research should investigate how to increase the value of underutilised material. The topic is planned as a study.

Data management:

Objectives: To develop and encourage more efficient resources for the collection (surveys, staff, boats and funding) and to harmonise the Data Collection Framework and Marine Strategy Framework Directive obligations.

SCAR-Fish will wait for updated information and inputs from DG MARE before moving onward on this.

Fresh water management:

Objectives: To provide a summary of the freshwater activities in Europe; to collect freshwater aquaculture sector research needs; to propose recommendations to harmonise the legal backgrounds.

The next attaché meeting of the Friends of Freshwater Fishes (FFF) will be held in April in the Permanent Representation of Hungary in Brussels.

3) Response to the questionnaire about the recent Staff Working Document entitled "Research and Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security".

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SCAR CWG ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

(London, 16-17 November 2016)

Main topics were prioritization of research needs in Animal Welfare, objectives for the current SFU work groups dealing with maintenance of the CWG's Strategic Research Agenda, with unaddressed research needs and possible demand for a new ERANET, with data and research infrastructure, with Antimicrobial Resistance, and with Trends & Developments. The renewal of SCAR and the launch of CASA were discussed, also planned activities of the Commission in regard of H2020. Updates on FACCE and other initiatives relevant to Animal Health and Welfare were given. Every CWG partner country reported on current and intended research funding and potential collaborations were explored.

Experts gave an overview about outbreaks of 3 major animal diseases currently emerging in Europe (LSD, CWD, CCHF). The CWG also received an update about the preparations in regard of 2 new funding instruments, STAR-IDAZ IRC and EJP One Health. Thanks were expressed to DEFRA for hosting the meeting and to The Farmer's Club for a splendid dinner. The next meeting will be held April 19-20th, 2017 in Vienna.



The last plenary meeting as well as the Animal Welfare Subgroup and the Strategy & Foresight Unit (SFU) meeting were held in London on November 16-17 of 2016.

NEWS FROM SCAR FOREST: STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP ON FORESTS AND FORESTRY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Since December 2016, SWG FOREST has a renewed mandate until June 2019 with the ambition to strengthen coordination of research and innovation to meet the challenges of forests adaptation and mitigation of climate change, and of increasing sustainability and competitiveness of the EU's forest-based sector, by sustainably providing biomass and products for a growing circular bioeconomy, and by provisioning important ecosystem services for societal wellbeing. 18 EU Member states currently participate in SCAR FOREST, and one of the objectives of the mandate is to increase participation of Eastern European countries.

Two SWG meetings will be held this year on 8 and 9 June in Helsinki and on 19 October in Barcelona. Current activities of the group concern mainly the development of 2 studies supported by CASA: (1) mapping, analysis and synthesis on forest bioeconomy

research and innovation in Europe; and (2) assessment of transnational research cooperation and networking (forest-related ERA-NETs and COST FPS actions).

On 10 March 2017, SCAR FOREST activities were presented to the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) in Brussels and increased interactions are foreseen in the future between SCAR FOREST and SFC for the implementation of the Research and Innovation priority area of the EU Forest Strategy.

Several meetings were also held recently with COST office for the preparation of a joint event "COST Connect" in first semester 2018 on forests and forest sector resilience and role for global climate efforts post COP21.

Future activities in coming months will include intensification of collaboration with the Forest Technology Platform and with other SCAR Strategic Working Groups (e.g. Bioeconomy).

Core group of SCAR FOREST:

- Jean-Michel Carnus (France),
- Martin Greimel (Austria),
- Karin Perhans (Sweden),
- Kallioppi Radoglou (Greece)

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SCAR BIOECONOMY STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP:

MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP OF PARIS (February 23/24th of 2017)

The Bioeconomy strategic working group met in Paris, with the goal to reflect on the current bioeconomy strategy and advice for setting up a European bioeconomy strategy. This advice will be given in a policy letter, which is now under construction.

1° DEFINITION OF THE BIOECONOMY

The definitions of the bioeconomy vary in the different Member states. In relation to the EU bioeconomy strategy and regarding the discussions of the group importance was given to include ecosystem services into the definition and scope of the national and the EU Bioeconomy Strategies.

In order to support branding, participants advised that a common term (bioeconomy) should be used throughout all Member states and the EU. Sustainability has to be a main goal of any strategy and condition for implementation. It could be included into the titles of strategies to be clear and visible regarding the communication.

2° LINK TO OTHER POLICIES

It is important to address the notion of circularity also within the bioeconomy. The circular economy strategy is a strategy addressing the important issue of resource efficiency whereas the bioeconomy is addressing the equally important issue of the feedstock base.

Another important link is to address the Sustainable Development Goals.

3° GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

The EU strategy was an important impetus for many countries to develop their own strategies, most of which are now also in the process of reviewing/revising their strategies or finding the right approach to monitor the progress of the bioeconomy.

4° PRESENTATION BY DG R&I OF THE BIOECONOMY REVIEW PROCESS

The Bioeconomy review is a retrospective exercise. DG R&I intends to publish the result as a staff working document at the November 2017 Bioeconomy Stakeholder Conference. An expert group with 12 members has been set up and met for the first time on December 1st 2016 in Brussels.

SCAR SWG AKIS:

MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP (Budapest, October 2017)

The SCAR SWG AKIS4 meeting in Budapest was the third of the meetings proposed for the development of the mandate endorsed by the SCAR plenary in December 2015. This meeting looked to develop two particular topics identified in the mandate

- (1.B) "Thematic interconnection and collection of expertise of interactive innovation projects at different levels" and
- (1.C) AKIS supporting Infrastructures by exploring and benchmarking the several Interactive Innovation schemes in the EU member states and Regions and their related Infrastructures.

This meeting was also the opportunity to fulfill the widening objective by having on board representatives from all EU member states and particularly those who are not used to attend SCAR SWG AKIS meetings, by having presentations on the AKIS of most of the 28 EU MS, complementary to the topics mentioned above. It appears that important changes and evolutions of the National end Regional AKIS can be observed since the last 3 or 4 years and the launching of H2020 and the EIP-AGRI policy.

Furthermore, this meeting also addressed the cross-cutting theme in the mandate on:

- Learning and feedback from interactive projects by having presentations from FP7 VALERIE Project, FAO (Vision on AKIS) and EIT (European Institute of Technology).

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House of Estates, Helsinki, Finland



Budapest



WP1: REPRESENTATIVENESS

The first task of Work Package 1 “Representativeness” of the CSA project CASA is an analysis of the key factors of involvement and inclusiveness. Through interviews and analysis of SCAR meeting reports we aim to gain insight into the current state of participation. A general desk study on the matter is conducted for obtaining more theoretical background on possible barriers, aiding factors and actors, and options for action.

In the first round, the chairs and co-chairs of the Strategic Working Groups and Collaborative Working Groups are being interviewed. Next steps are interviews with SCAR Steering Group members and national delegates who take part in the SCAR Plenaries. This will be followed by discussion sessions within in the groups (to be prepared by WP1 and Group Chair), about the findings and possible modes of action to increase involvement and active participation. The findings will feed into sessions on representativeness at the SCAR Conference in December in Tallinn, after which recommendations will be finalized.

Another task in WP1 is the mentoring programme, for which guidelines are drafted, and a call for an expression of interest will be open soon, for mentors and mentees!

WP1 also supports also a series of meetings to increase visibility of SCAR in Member States and to connect the national with the European level with regard to stakeholder involvement. The first meeting of this series is in Spain on 10-11 May 2017, organised as a lunch-to-lunch meeting at INIA. Speakers from autonomous regions, national delegates in the SCAR working groups, and some international speakers will exchange on topics such as SCAR relevance for Spain, bioeconomy strategy, stakeholders manifesto, and regional influence.

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WP2: ADDED VALUE AND IMPROVED QUALITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

The first task of Work Package 2 “Added Value and Improved quality for greater impact” of the CSA project CASA was an analysis of experience from establishing and managing SCAR working groups and their need of support from CASA. This activity was initiated at an interactive facilitated workshop on Tuesday 8th November 2016 in Brussels.

The 2016 workshop consisted of two parts: Identification of lessons learned and Identification of the need for support to the SCAR working groups from CASA and inputs to SCAR Rolling Work Plan.

The results of a mini SWOT analysis of all of the SCAR working groups was presented and discussed. Results were also presented at the December 2016 SCAR Plenary. This is the first time such information has been gathered and will be useful in the further development of SCAR working groups and CASA activities.

One of the general outcomes from the workshop is that there is now an increased understanding of the role of the working groups, of SCAR SG and CASA and their understanding of each other's role. Reflections about the comments and discussion during the workshop led to identifying possible future developments for the SCAR bodies.

SCAR has a Rolling Work Plan and CASA was requested to support development of the plan. Outcomes from the workshop were used to revise and improve the SCAR Rolling Work Plan for presentation at the December 2016 SCAR Plenary. Work plans of the working groups have, as a result, become more aligned with the SCAR Rolling Work Plan.

Support of the working groups by CASA was discussed and preliminary areas for direct support identified. The process for implementation of this support started immediately after the workshop.

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WP3: STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC ADVICE

First SCAR CASA Workshop in Bonn

At the beginning of March 2017, 22 experts from eleven European countries gathered in Bonn, Germany. This was part of the first task of Work Package (WP) 3, Task 3.1: “Assess the state of play of research and innovation policy in the broader Bioeconomy area”. The experts represented most Strategic Working Groups within SCAR, as well as the Foresight Group, to ensure a broad expertise and knowledge in all different fields such as agriculture, food and the broader bioeconomy.

Main content of the meeting was the preparatory work for a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) Analysis on the assessment of play of research and innovation policy. It was not the task to perform the SWOT yet, but to discuss and think about directions where the SWOT will go, which aspects are important to consider and which topics have been discussed enough. Using different methods, every participant had the opportunity to engage and state his or her point of view. The results are needed to perform the SWOT Analysis, which will be presented at the SCAR conference in December 2017 in Tallinn.

Not only the SWOT Analysis was addressed during the Workshop, but also questionnaires on key factors of involvement and representativeness were filled in and discussed. This was part of Task 1.1 “Analyses of key factors of involvement and representativeness” within CASA. Furthermore, discussions on the impact assessment in the framework of SCAR took place. Last but not least, the starting signal for a 5th Foresight Study was given and the dissemination of SCAR Foresight results were discussed.

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◀ CASA Workshop in Bonn, 10th March 2017 ▶



WP4: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

- A logo was created for CASA. It aims at representing globalisation (circles), agricultural resources (leaf), marine resources, water use and sustainability (drop of water) and finally research.
- Dissemination tools has been developed: for presentations, meetings, reports.
- All CASA communication tools should be used by all SCAR-groups for reports and written documents. This will contribute improved harmonisation of all written documents of the groups and to give more visibility.
- A first survey was carried out in order to know the communication needs of all SCAR-groups. A new website and a newsletter seem to be needed.
- A CASA flyer is now available.
- CASA proposed to every SCAR-group to develop a specific logo and a flyer. Some groups already have a logo.
- A new SCAR website was designed and is working now: www.scar-europe.org
- A common SCAR workshop on climate change will be prepared. It aims at bringing together all SCAR groups while working on a common cross-cutting issue: Climate Change. Three pilot countries (Germany, Portugal and France) will organise at national level a SCAR mirror-group. Each national mirror-group will collect inputs from all SCAR-groups about climate change in order to design the common workshop which could take place at the end of the year.

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WP5: COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH coordinates CASA through the department Project Management Jülich. Rolf Stratmann and Hanna Steffens are the main contact persons for CASA.

During the first project-months several meetings were held to implement modalities for CASA and CASA-activities.

In the Beginning of November the Kick-Off-Process was started together with the first Task 2.1 Workshop to identify common tasks and facilitation-needs. In December 2016 a virtual General Assembly meeting was held. In February 2017 Hanna Steffens joined the CASA-project. The adoption of the draft Terms of Reference for the Supervisory Board and its implementation is still on-going. During discussions with the SCAR Steering Group in February 2017 the Supervisory Board was adjusted to become an Advisory Board only. The EC has observer status on the Advisory Board. Currently the process to implement a Taskforce preparing Advisory Board topics for the SCAR Steering Group is coordinated between the SCAR secretariat and CASA.

CONTACT FOR CASA WP5: rolf.stratmann@dlr.de (= Project coordinator)

EUROPEAN CALENDAR FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
10/11 May 2017	SCAR National meeting	Madrid
11 May 2017	SCAR SWG ARCH	Brussels
15 May 2017	Programme Committee SC2	Brussels
16 May 2017	SCAR/PC Workshop	Brussels
17 May 2017	SCAR Steering Group	Brussels
30/31 May 2017	SCAR SWG AKIS Meeting	Bonn
1/2 June 2017	EIP Seminar Digital Innovation Hubs	Kilkenny (Ireland)
6 June 2017	SCAR National meeting	Paris
7 June 2017	SCAR SWG Bioeconomy	Helsinki
8/9 June 2017	SCAR SWG Forest meeting	Helsinki
13 June 2017	SCAR SWG Fish meeting	Brussels
21 June 2017	SCAR Plenary	Brussels
28/29 June 2017	INRA/IRSTEA - Workshop on bioeconomy	Paris
10/11 October 2017	SCAR AKIS meeting	Lisbon
11-13 October 2017	Innovation week	Lisbon
12/13 October 2017	EIP Workshop "Digitising Rural Economies"	Lisbon
19 October 2017	Meeting on Pan-european Development of transnational Cooperation	Barcelona
November 2017	SCAR CWG Sustainable Animal Production	
16 November 2017	High level conference on Bioeconomy	Brussels
6 December 2017	SCAR Plenary	Tallinn



EVENTS RELATED TO INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN EUROPE



AGRI Innovation summit 2017
AIS 2017 www.aislisbon2017.com

- 12 October 2017. Lisbon / PORTUGAL -

The AIS2017 is a unique event that will put together the best of agriculture innovation in Europe. The event has the support of the Portuguese Government, the EU DG AGRI, the EIP-AGRI and the European Network for Rural Development. The main objective of the AIS2017 is to foster cross fertilization between EU Member States and Regions and debate the future of innovation in agriculture. Farmers, farmers associations, start-ups, advisors, public decision-makers, researchers and other actors of the agriculture innovation ecosystem will be together in Lisbon to learn from each other, to network, and to develop new international projects and partnerships.

Digitization will be the core driver of the event, but other relevant topics will also be discussed, organised around three main themes:

- Resource use (adaptation & mitigation)
- Management of farming, food and forestry systems & valorisation of the territory
- Rural development and digitization of rural economies

The program will last two days. The first day will be organized around Operational Groups, Focus Groups, Thematic Networks and other Multi-actor projects from different EU countries and regions. The second day is oriented towards innovation policy, with two sessions: unlocking current opportunities and shaping the future.

The AIS2017 is promoting a series of side events that will be organized on October 13 at the Oeiras Lagoas Park hotel

<http://www.tdhotels.com/en/Menu/Our-Hotels/Portugal/Lisbon/Lagoas-Park-Hotel/Hotel.aspx>

SCAR CONFERENCE ON REPRESENTATIVENESS

- 4-5 December 2017 in Tallinn / ESTONIA -

The SCAR Conference will focus on the representativeness of Member states and of bioeconomy areas in SCAR, with discussion on the impact of the recommendations so far and identification of points for attention for SCAR and CASA project.

The presentations and group discussions aim to increase knowledge of the objectives, activities and outcomes of SCAR and awareness of the opportunities and advantages of getting more involved. The meeting aims to reach out in particular to those countries that are currently less engaged but where the national authorities are interested to raise their countries' profile in SCAR and to increase visibility and use of SCAR outcomes nationally.

The conference is key to share findings, e.g. on success factors, to exchange and consolidate approaches for addressing inclusiveness, shared responsibility, and ownership in various SCAR Groups, involvement between different ministries across different countries.

Recommendations will be drawn to increase participation of Member states in SCAR activities, to effectively cover the wider bio-economy through involvement of different ministries, mandated organisations, and expertise, and to increase take-up of outcomes of SCAR on national level.

