



The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) supports the European Commission (EC), EU Member States and Associated Countries on R&I priorities to address Europe's challenges in agriculture, fisheries, food systems, forestry, and the wider bioeconomy.

Welcome to the SCAR newsletter. You will read more about the latest news, events, publications, and networking possibilities regarding the SCAR network.  
The SCAR newsletter is prepared every six months and sent to subscribers.

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## SCAR News



### **SCAR conference report: “Humans in transitions: towards agroecological approaches and sustainable food systems”**

The SCAR Conference was held on 14 June 2022 in Paris and was hosted by the EU French Presidency. The conference was built around two keynote speeches and four workshops. The themes were (1) Digitalisation, (2) Genetic resources and Agrobiodiversity, (3) Stakeholders and networks, and (4) Skills and Education.

Read the primary outcomes and next steps on the [website](#).



### **The upcoming SCAR Plenary Meeting**

The SCAR Plenary focuses on Cluster 6 Horizon Europe Partnerships and their Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda preparation process, and in particular on synergies and collaboration across Horizon Europe partnerships and missions. All SCAR groups will outline their ambitions for next year, their deliverables and potential impact. Other relevant topics in agriculture, food systems, bioeconomy, and forestry will be presented and discussed. The Plenary will take place online on 15 December and is by invitation only.



## Candidate European Partnerships

The SCAR is a key platform for co-creating four future European partnerships, as well as one candidate partnership, in Cluster 6 of Horizon Europe. European Partnerships under Horizon Europe are large-scale initiatives bringing together a wide range of EU, public and/or private partners. Partners jointly develop and implement a common agenda for research and innovation activities. The partnerships will coordinate, align, and leverage European and national R&I efforts on key areas under the European Green Deal.

An overview of upcoming European Partnerships in food, forestry, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment can be found [here](#).

### Four European Partnerships are ramping up

Earlier this year, the European Commission consulted all EU Member States, Associated Countries and Candidate Associated Countries on their indicative financial commitments to support the four upcoming partnerships. Most countries responded with a wide interest. All four upcoming Horizon Europe Cluster 6 partnerships will have a corresponding topic in the Horizon Europe Work Programme 23/24, to be released by the end of this year. Read a full update on the European Partnerships [here](#).

### A Candidate European partnership on Forest

Currently there are 11 proposals for partnerships across Clusters under the second strategic plan of Horizon Europe (2025-2027). Under Cluster 6, DG AGRI has proposed the partnership 'Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future'. The next step will be wider consultation with the Member States and Associated Countries. You can read more [here](#).

## SCAR Working Groups update

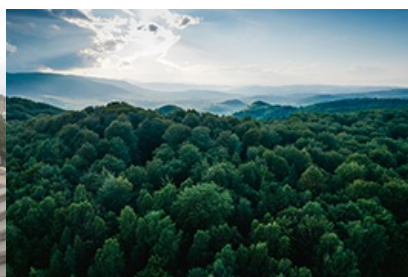
The SCAR Working Groups form an inspiring network of motivated peers. They offer unique platforms to develop R&I agendas, co-construct European R&I partnerships, and exchange experiences and best practices. There are currently nine SCAR Working Groups.



**AE - Over 100 contributions during SRIA consultation**



**AKIS - Focussing on education and training**



**ARCH - Combatting imported deforestation**



Earlier this year, the SCAR Strategic Working Group on Agroecology (SCAR AE SWG) organised a wide consultation to collect input on the upcoming Horizon Europe agroecology living labs partnership's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). Over 100 contributions were received from diverse sectors and individual citizens. The SCAR AE SWG has now reviewed and consolidated all these contributions. A final draft of the SRIA will be available this month. Once the partnership is launched, the SRIA will be formally adopted. [Read more.](#)

The 11th meeting of the SCAR Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems SWG (SCAR AKIS SWG) took place on 6 and 7 April in 's Hertogenbosch (NL). The meeting focused on four topics: Member States' CAP AKIS plans, strengthening the multi-actor approach, practice-oriented national knowledge reservoirs, and how to integrate advisors in the education system on agriculture. [Read more.](#)

Earlier this year, SCAR ARCH SWG and SCAR FOREST SWG organised an expert dialogue, gathering 36 internationally renowned experts and over 50 participants. This dialogue was the foundation for their recently published, joint policy brief: "Combatting imported deforestation – challenges for science". The policy brief will be presented at the plenary meeting in December and can already be read in full [here.](#)



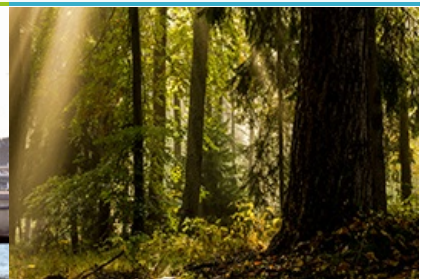
### **BSW - New co-chairs at the helm**

The SCAR Bioeconomy SWG has elected three new co-chairs. Johanna Kohl (Finland), Luka Juvančič (Slovenia) and Martin Behrens (Germany) will lead the working group in its future endeavours. The SCAR Bioeconomy SWG mainly discusses how renewable bio-resources can be sustainably produced for the Bioeconomy. You can read a short introduction on the new co-chairs [here.](#)



### **FISH - Raising awareness of the technological advances of fisheries monitoring**

The SCAR FISH SWG published the report "Innovation In fisheries monitoring science – fisheries dependent data as a tool for real-time advice". The document raises awareness of the need to integrate and operationalise technological developments in fisheries monitoring. The report also provides recommendations to optimise the use of these technological advances to comply with additional data needs. The ultimate goal is to guide the R&I agenda towards the need for new studies on improving Fisheries Spatial Management. [Read more.](#)



### **FOREST - Preparing the new candidate partnership**

The SCAR FOREST SWG has been developing a draft version of a fiche for a European Partnership on forest and forestry. The group has been in the works since 2021. It follows the EU forest strategy objective to propose a research and innovation partnership on forestry. [Read more here.](#)





### FS - The Food Systems Working Group would like your feedback!

The SCAR Food Systems SWG has developed a second draft of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the future Horizon Europe partnership on Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate. The Working Group (WG) is now consulting Member States, Associated Countries and stakeholders on this new, consolidated version of the SRIA. The WG would also like to encourage the Member States and stakeholders to get support from their national SCAR mirror groups, where they exist. The online survey is open until 19 December 2022. [Read more.](#)

### AHW - CIRCAH2; the new secretariat of STAR-IDAZ IRC

The AHW CWG operates as the European Network of the STAR-IDAZ International Research Consortium (IRC) on Animal Health. The STAR-IDAZ now has a new secretariat, SIRCAH2, which began on 1 October 2022 and will continue supporting STAR-IDAZ IRC for 4,5 years. The secretariat is funded by the European Commission and will build on previous collaborations in SIRCAH. [Read more.](#)

### SAP - Looking to the future of livestock production

The SCAR Sustainable Animal Production Collaborative Working Group (SCAR SAP CWG) organised an expert workshop on the future of livestock production. The workshop took place on 18 and 19 October, with both physical and online participants able to provide their input. The workshop will feed into a policy brief of the WG, which will be presented to the SCAR during the coming month. [Read more.](#)

## Funding opportunities



### € 897 million for Cluster 6 Horizon Europe Calls in 2023

Horizon Europe is the largest source of public funding for research and innovation from the



### 9 topics under the new call for the Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe

To support the Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe', nine call topics will be launched in the 2023 Work Programme.

European Commission. It has a total budget of € 95.5 billion, of which around € 9 billion is foreseen for Cluster 6 on Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment for 2021-2027. Around € 897 million is dedicated to the Cluster 6 calls in the 2023 Work Programme. The Info days to present the upcoming topics for Cluster 6 will take place on 13 and 14 December, followed by a brokerage event on 19 December. More info [here](#).

These will have a total indicative budget of € 126 million. Topics will focus on aspects such as soil pollution, desertification, setting up soil health living labs, and carbon farming. More info [here](#).



## Event Calendar

DATE	WG	EVENT NAME
06 December	SCAR AE SWG	AE SWG meeting
07 December	SCAR AKIS SWG	AKIS SWG meeting
15 December	SCAR	Plenary meeting under the Czech Presidency
31 May - 1 June (TBC)	DG AGRI	Agricultural R&I conference

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