



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 on the latest news, events, publications and networking possibilities regarding the SCAR network.

The SCAR newsletter is prepared every 6 months and sent to subscribers.

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SCAR News



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

The SCAR conference is held on 14 June 2022 in Paris, France. It is hosted by the EU French Presidency.

Paths for transitions are multiple and research has a major role to play in finding those. The way the SCAR working groups are addressing transitions is evolving from a silo-based to a more cross-cutting approach. Issues are tackled more holistically, allowing for closer cross-fertilisation among the various groups. The overarching goal of the conference is to engage and further motivate the SCAR working groups to tackle cross-cutting issues related to transitions.

The conference aims to foster discussion between SCAR members on the question “How to manage all the transitions (agroecosystems, food systems, knowledge systems) at the same time in order to have the human being as a focus point”.

Read more on the conference [here](#).



The SCAR Plenary Meeting

The SCAR Plenary focusses on Cluster 6 Horizon Europe Partnerships and their Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda preparation process. It will also tackle current relevant topics in agriculture, food systems, bioeconomy, and forestry, including the response of SCAR to challenges triggered by the war in Ukraine and other SCAR Groups priorities.

The agenda can be found [here](#).



Highlights from the French Presidency

At the SCAR Steering Group Meeting on 11 March 2022, the French Presidency gave an overview of their priorities. The French Presidency called attention to the current difficult times due to the war in Ukraine and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Presidency highlighted that European food sovereignty, including protein autonomy, is now more important than ever. The need to push the agroecology transition forward, producing in a more sustainable manner, is more important than ever. Reducing pesticides and finding nature-based alternatives, applying low carbon agriculture, and keeping carbon in soils and agricultural markets alive are some of the levers promoted by the French Presidency. The French Presidency is supporting Cluster 6 Partnerships.

You can find the programme of the French Presidency [here](#).



Food security in times of crises - A SCAR Foresight Reflection

To better understand possible consequences of crises for the food supply in Europe, the SCAR Foresight Group and the European Commission have organised the workshop: "Food security in times of crises" on 25 May 2022. The workshop results will be presented at the SCAR Plenary Meeting in June 2022. More info on the SCAR Foresight Process can be found [here](#).



Present the SCAR: new tools

The SCAR Support Team has developed a PowerPoint and leaflet to present the SCAR and its goals to a wider audience. Both documents can be downloaded [here](#).



Candidate European Partnerships

European Partnerships under Horizon Europe are initiatives bringing together EU and a wide range of public and/or private partners. Partners jointly support the development and implementation of a common agenda for research and innovation activities. The partnership will coordinate, align, and leverage European and national R&I efforts.

An overview of European Partnerships in food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and

environment can be found [here](#). The SCAR is a key platform for co-creating four candidate partnerships in Cluster 6. The upcoming SCAR newsletters will explore these Partnerships further. [Go to the European Partnership overview](#).

European Partnership for sustainable food systems for people, planet and climate



The goal of the partnership is twofold. Firstly, the partnership is meant to ensure future-proof food systems through an integrated and transdisciplinary systems approach. It will also provide solutions to the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#). The partnership will provide the scientific evidence, as well as the collaborative experience among professionals and citizens, to support the transformation of local, national, European, and global food systems. [Download the proposal](#)

European Partnership accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures



This partnership will tap into the potential of agroecology and local innovation. The goal is to accelerate the transition towards sustainable, climate- and ecosystem-friendly farming systems in Europe. The partnership will structure and support a network of agroecology living labs and research infrastructures. It will provide spaces for long-term, site-specific, multi-stakeholder and real-life experimentation, and will also deliver ready-to adopt practices that support farmers in understanding and implementing agroecological practices for positive economic, environmental, and social impacts. [Download the proposal](#)

European Partnership for agriculture of data



This partnership will support sustainable agriculture in the EU, policy monitoring and policy implementation by using digital and data technologies in environmental observation. The partnership will generate EU-wide data sets and information through combining geospatial and Earth Observation datasets. The goal is to provide solutions to the agricultural sector allowing for more efficient, environmentally friendly, and profitable production. [Download the proposal](#)

European Partnership for animal health and welfare



The European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare aims to deliver key knowledge, services, tools and products to improve the monitoring and control of animal infectious diseases and animal welfare in a coordinated way. It will strengthen the preparedness of all actors and stakeholders, and support evidence-based intervention and policy making. This will sustain animal production and protect public health, and will reinforce the One Health-One Welfare principles through enhanced cross-sector collaboration. It will involve reference laboratories, research performing organisations, funding agencies, and cooperate with the private sector and other stakeholders. [Download the proposal](#)

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 - Laying the groundwork for a European Partnership on agroecology

The SCAR Agroecology Strategic Working Group (SCAR AE SWG) is the co-creation platform that currently prepares the candidate European Partnership on “Accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures”. Since its creation in January 2021, the SCAR AE SWG has made huge progress, with the publication of the partnership dossier in March 2022. The final draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) is expected by the end of the year. [Find out more.](#)



AKIS - Training and education in agriculture spotlighted

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.](#)



ARCH & FOREST - Joining forces against imported deforestation

Earlier this year, SCAR ARCH SWG and SCAR FOREST SWG joined forces to identify research gaps and needs in order to better address the issue of reducing the deforestation and forest degradation triggered worldwide by European imports of commodities (raw materials, food, timbers,...). The goal is to publish a policy brief on the scientific challenges for Europe to reduce the so-called “Imported deforestation”. An expert group dialogue held on 2 and 3 February was the first step in the process. [Find out more.](#)



BSW - Cross-cutting issues of the bioeconomy

A report of the European Commission. “European bioeconomy policy: stocktaking and future developments” outlines the state of play of the European Bioeconomy and assesses the progress in the implementation of the 2018 EU Bioeconomy Strategy and its Action Plan. SCAR BSW SWG prepares an analysis of



FISH - Using Nature Based Solutions to halt aquatic biodiversity loss

SCAR FISH SWG published a document titled “Recommendations for applying Nature-Based Solutions as an approach for sustainable use of aquatic resources while achieving the policy goals of the biodiversity strategy”. The document explores the potential of using the Nature-



FS - Safe, nutritious and healthy food for all citizens

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG is developing the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the candidate Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Partnership. The SRIA will be developed with an interactive co-creation process involving experts and SCAR FS SWG members.

bioeconomy-relevant topics in Horizon Europe. The analysis will focus primarily on the cross-cutting issues of the bioeconomy, take stock of the current situation, and identify possible fields of action for future funding. Results are expected towards the end of the year. [Read more.](#)

Based Solutions (NBS) concept for societal challenges, and further advances the knowledge of NBS for the HE programmes working in the area. [Read more.](#)

On 23 May, the first workshop took place in Brussels with the core drafting group, experts, and EC services. The attendees discussed food system approaches with two goals in mind. Firstly, to unravel the complexity of food systems. Secondly, to strive for sustainable outcomes. The SRIA will define the necessary actions to achieve the partnership's vision. Not only a safe, sustainable, and healthy diet. But also, a European Sustainable food system in 2050 and beyond, based on inter-connected, territorialized, Sustainable Food Systems. [Read more.](#)



AHW - Preparations for the AH&W partnership are ramping up

The SCAR AH&W CWG is the co-creation platform for preparing the candidate Animal Health & Welfare Partnership. As certain animal diseases and resistant germs can be transmitted to humans, combating them has also a beneficial effect on human health. The AH&W partnership will carry out research and will promote cooperation between the partners so that they are better prepared for future disease outbreaks. It will also encourage the implementation of the results by others e.g., for the development of new diagnostics, vaccines, or welfare tools. The partnership's SRIA is being

SAP - The future of livestock production in Europe

After the success of ERA-NET SusAn, which produced a Strategic Research Agenda and resulted in 31 European research projects, the SCAR SAP CWG will develop future scenarios for animal production systems in typical European regions. By autumn this year, an expert workshop will kick off the work. [Read more.](#)



developed in cooperation
with ICRAD ERA-NET.

[Read more.](#)

Funding opportunities



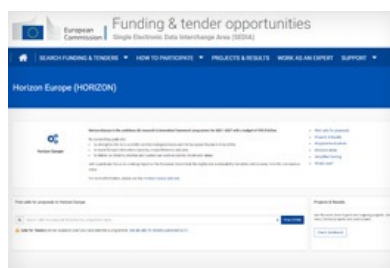
EU Soil Mission: €95 million call opens

The EU Mission “A Soil Deal For Europe” Work Programme 2022 calls for proposals are open until 27 September 2022. The Soil Mission’s overall goal is to pilot 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses as testing grounds for major innovations in soil health. This goal is backed-up by specific objectives such as finding strategies for land contamination, as well as ideas on how to implement carbon-farming practices. On 17 and 18 May 2022 the [EU Missions info days](#) took place, to explain to potential applicants what to expect and how to apply. You can listen to the recordings [here](#). Learn how to apply and join the call through [this link](#).



ICT Agri has launched the 2022 joint call

ICT-AGRI-FOOD has launched a Joint Call on more transparent agri-food systems for consumers and other stakeholders, based on ICT technologies. ICT-AGRI-FOOD aims to address the challenge of transforming the European agri-food systems into sustainable, resilient, transparent, and fair systems. All information on proposals for the Call can be found [here](#).



Horizon Europe Calls Cluster 6 update

This cluster aims at helping to reduce environmental degradation, halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity on land, inland waters and sea. It also aims to support a better management of natural resources through transformative changes of the economy and society in both urban and rural areas. All funding information and details on how to apply are on the [Funding and Tenders portal](#). The 2023-2024 calls are scheduled to open in December 2022.



Event Calendar

DATE	WG	EVENT NAME
23 May	FS SWG	Food Systems Partnership SRIA creation

25 May	Foresight	Food security in times of crises - SCAR Foresight reflection
25 May	SCAR ARCH SWG	SCAR ARCH SWG meeting
May-June	SCAR SAP CWG	SCAR SAP CWG meeting
09 June	SCAR FISH SWG	39th SCAR FISH SWG meeting
09 June	SCAR SAP CWG	SCAR SAP CWG meeting
10 June	SCAR AE SWG	SCAR AE SWG meeting
16 June	SCAR FS SWG	SCAR FS SWG meeting
20-21 June	SCAR AKIS SWG	12th SCAR AKIS SWG meeting, 5th mandate
July	SCAR SAP CWG	SCAR SAP CWG meeting
July	SCAR AE SWG	Workshop in the frame of the SRIA development
21 September	SCAR FISH SWG	40th SCAR FISH SWG meeting
September	SCAR AKIS SWG	13th SCAR AKIS SWG meeting, 5th mandate
September - October	SCAR BSW SWG	SCAR BSW SWG meeting
October	SCAR AE SWG	Workshop in the frame of the SRIA development
November	SCAR AE SWG	SCAR AE SWG meeting
November	SCAR AKIS SWG	14th SCAR AKIS SWG meeting
December	SCAR AKIS SWG	15th SCAR AKIS SWG meeting
Autumn	Foresight	Follow up Food security in times of crises - SCAR Foresight reflection
Autumn	SCAR SAP CWG	Expert Workshop on the Future of European Livestock Farming

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