

Report about organisation of the SCAR Conference 2017

CASA Deliverable 1.2
July 2018



EUROPEAN UNION

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Written by: Christine Bunthof, WP1 leader

The overall objective of CASA, a Coordination and Support Action (CSA), is a **consolidated common agricultural and wider bioeconomy research agenda** within the European Research Area.

CASA will achieve this by bringing the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), which has already contributed significantly to this objective in the past, to the next level of performance as a research policy think tank. CASA will efficiently strengthen the strengths and compensate for the insufficiencies of SCAR and thus help it evolve further into “SCAR plus”.

Report about organisation of the SCAR Conference 2017

Introduction

Originally, CASA had planned to organise a SCAR conference each year. One conference would be organised in the frame of WP1, another in the frame of WP3, and in the last year of CASA WP4 would organise another SCAR Conference. Once plans were further developed within CASA and in consultation with SCAR SG and the SCAR Secretariat, a decision was made to merge the 'Conference on representativeness' (task 1.2) and the 'SWOT Conference' (task 3.3) into one conference, and to organise this in the second half of 2017. This unified conference ('SCAR Conference 2017') was docked onto the SCAR Plenary meeting in December 2017 in Tallinn in order to ensure that the greatest possible numbers of members of SCAR and of the European Commission were able to participate.

The resultant SCAR Conference 2017 was held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 4–5 December 2017 and was attended by 70 guests.

The organisation had started approximately one year in advance, in particular as it was organised as an event under the EU presidency of Estonia in the second half of 2017.

SCAR Conference 2017 Organising Team

An organisation team was formed with members drawn from the Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs (SCAR delegate is from this Ministry), Wageningen UR (CASA WP1), BLE and Teagasc (CASA WP3), and JUELICH (CASA coordinator).

- Külli Kaare, Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
- Helena Pärenson, Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
- Christine Bunthof, SCAR CASA WP1
- Dorri te Boekhorst, SCAR CASA WP1
- Vera Steinberg, SCAR CASA WP3
- Maeve Henchion, SCAR CASA WP3
- Laura Devaney, SCAR CASA WP3
- Rolf Stratmann, SCAR CASA Coordinator
- Hanna Steffens, SCAR CASA Coordinator

Announcement

The conference had been announced in SCAR SG and SCAR Plenary meeting by the Estonian presidency. A save the date was sent on 18 July, and the invitation was sent on 1 November. Annex 1 shows the invitation enclosed in the invitation email of 1 November.

Estonian Presidency website

A webpage was made by the EU presidency that provided an introduction about the conference, a link to a registration page, the programme and essential reading material, and the link for the live webstream. It also contained information about the venue, nearby accommodation, and Tallinn.

Programme

The full title of the conference was: SCAR Conference 2017 - Research and innovation policy, state-of-play and the role of the SCAR in the European Bioeconomy.

Set within a broader research, innovation and bioeconomy policy landscape, the themes of the conference revolved around the impact of SCAR outcomes at the European and national level.

One theme was the inclusiveness and representativeness of Member States, and of bioeconomy areas, in SCAR. The part about this theme aimed to consolidate approaches for successful inclusiveness, shared responsibility, and ownership. The meeting programme was set to deliberate on the outcomes of an in-depth analysis, to identify points for attention for SCAR, and to consolidate recommendations on how to foster inclusion and representativeness. One aspect is Member State participation in SCAR activities. The other aspect relates to achieving more effective coverage of the wider bioeconomy by involving different ministries and mandated organizations leading to the development of more successful national bioeconomies.

The other theme, which was related to the first, was the structure of SCAR *vis-a-vis* its suitability to deliver on SCAR's role within the research and innovation policy landscape. Preliminary results from a review of the current organisation and structure of the SCAR were presented and further elaborated upon through workshop activities with the ultimate aim of identifying opportunities for greater value addition in SCAR, and prioritising actions to improve the quality of results for greater impact.

The keynote presentations and group discussions aimed to increase knowledge of SCAR objectives, activities and outcomes. They were designed to make the advantages and opportunities for active involvement in SCAR more visible. The meeting wished in particular to engage those countries where the national authorities are interested in raising their respective countries' profile in SCAR and to foster the uptake of SCAR outcomes nationally.

Annex 2 shows the meeting programme.

Meeting documents

In the week before the meeting these key documents were sent to the participants:

- the programme
- the Participants List.pdf
- the document Representation and inclusion in SCAR Executive Summary (2 pages essential reading for Session 5)

Besides these reading essentials, the following documents were provided through a download link for background reading:

- SCAR CASA Paper 'Representation and inclusion in SCAR – Final paper for the Tallinn Conference, by Dorri te Boekhorst, for Wageningen University & Research, SCAR CASA WP1, November 2017
- SCAR CASA D3.3 Bioeconomy Research & Innovation Policy Landscape in Europe: A Review, by Laura Devaney & Maeve Henchion, Teagasc, SCAR CASA WP3, November 2017
- EC Communication on modernising and simplifying the CAP 'The Future of Food and Farming' – 29-11-2017 (in particular for Day 2 - Parallel Group 3)

Dissemination at SCAR website

Presentations from the meeting were made available on the SCAR website on the page <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/home-scar/events/conferences>. Here you also find a speakers booklet that was included in the meeting binder. It introduces all speakers and session moderators with mini-CVs.

As this was one of the Estonian presidency events, it was live streamed. The conference videos were retrievable from the website of the Estonian Presidency for two months, and after that from the SCAR website's conference page.

Recommendations and Conclusions

Results from the sessions were used to consolidate findings and draw recommendations with regard to the representation and inclusion in SCAR (in WP1) and with regard to the role of SCAR and strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities (in WP3).

The reports are:

- Representation and Inclusion in SCAR – Task 1.1 Analysis of the key factors of involvement and representativeness (61 pages), January 2018, by Dorri te Boekhorst.
- SWOT Workshop Report (35 pages), February 2018, by Dr Laura Devaney and Dr Maeve Henchion, Teagasc.

The reports are available on the CASA-Tasks and Deliverables webpage of the SCAR website <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/home-scar/documents/casa-deliverables>

Photo impression

On both days of the conference many photos were made. Annex 3 is a photo impression of the conference.



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS



INVITATION SCAR Conference 2017

“Research and innovation policy, state-of-play and the role of the SCAR in the European bioeconomy”

**4 – 5 December 2017
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Conference Centre**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia is pleased to announce the SCAR Conference 2017 *“Research and innovation policy, state-of-play and the role of the SCAR in the European bioeconomy”*. The conference will be held on the 4th and 5th of December 2017 during the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Tallinn. The SCAR Plenary is held consecutive to the Conference, on the 6th of December.

The conference brings together policy makers and bioeconomy stakeholders, including SCAR delegates and some members of SCAR Strategic and Collaborative Working Groups to jointly contribute to building a stronger EU bioeconomy research policy.

The objective is to deliberate findings of recent foresight exercises and strategic reviews to increase the impact of SCAR outcomes at EU and Member State levels. Recommendations will be made to facilitate increased participation of Member States in SCAR activities, thus promoting a more effective coverage of the wider bioeconomy and the development of more successful national bioeconomies.

We are very pleased to welcome the national SCAR delegate of each Member State, or an official replacement, and a second participant from the same country appointed by the SCAR delegate – to enable effective, balanced and constructive input, create a platform for discussions and maximise national synergies for greater impact.

For further information about the conference, contact details of the organising team, and registration, please refer to the conference website <https://www.agri.ee/en/scar-conference-2017>



Please note that in the context of fostering representativeness the CASA project has some financial resources to reimburse travel costs to support countries financially, if needed, to appoint a *second* participant along with the national SCAR delegate. For more information, please contact Christine Bunthof (christine.bunthof@wur.nl).

I look forward to welcoming you to Estonia.

Yours sincerely,



Tarmo Tamm
Minister of Rural Affairs of Estonia



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The conference is co-organised by the Estonian Presidency
and the SCAR CASA project.





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SCAR Conference 2017

Research and innovation policy, state-of-play and the role of the SCAR in the European Bioeconomy

4 - 5 December, 2017, Tallinn, Estonia

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (entrance: Lauteri 2)

Programme

Set within a broader research, innovation and bioeconomy policy landscape, the themes of the conference revolve around the impact of SCAR outcomes at the European and national level.

One theme is the inclusiveness and representativeness of Member States, and of bioeconomy areas, in SCAR. We wish to consolidate approaches for successful inclusiveness, shared responsibility, and ownership. The meeting programme is set to deliberate on the outcomes of an in-depth analysis, to identify points for attention for SCAR, and to consolidate recommendations on how to foster inclusion and representativeness. One aspect is Member State participation in SCAR activities. The other aspect relates to achieving more effective coverage of the wider bioeconomy by involving different ministries and mandated organizations leading to the development of more successful national bioeconomies.

The other theme, which is related to the first, is the structure of SCAR vis-a-vis its suitability to deliver on SCAR's role within the research and innovation policy landscape. Preliminary results from a review of the current organisation and structure of the SCAR will be presented and further elaborated upon through workshop activities with the ultimate aim of identifying opportunities for greater value addition in SCAR, and prioritising actions to improve the quality of results for greater impact.

The keynote presentations and group discussions aim to increase knowledge of SCAR objectives, activities and outcomes. They are designed to make the advantages and opportunities for active involvement in SCAR more visible. The meeting wishes in particular to engage those countries where the national authorities are interested in raising their respective countries' profile in SCAR and to foster the uptake of SCAR outcomes nationally.

SCAR Conference 2017 Organising Team:

Küllli Kaare & Helena Pärenson, Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia

Christine Bunthof & Dorri te Boekhorst, SCAR CASA WP1

Vera Steinberg, Maeve Henchion & Laura Devaney, SCAR CASA WP3

Rolf Stratmann & Hanna Steffens, SCAR CASA Coordinator



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The conference is co-organised by the Estonian Presidency and the SCAR CASA project.

SCAR Conference Day 1 - Monday 4 December

9:30 Registration and welcome coffee

Session 1: Opening session (Chair: Toomas Kevvai, Deputy Secretary General for Food Safety, Research and Development, Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs)

10:00-10:15 Welcome by Illar Lemetti, Secretary General of the Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs

10:15-10:30 Introductory presentation: The new role of SCAR (Mike Collins, SCAR representative)

10:30-11:15 Keynote: Main findings from the innovation policy reviews of different countries by OECD (Catherine Moreddu, OECD)

Session 2: Examples of national bioeconomy strategies, and presentation of Policy Briefs and activities from SCAR Working Groups (Chair: Toomas Kevvai, Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs)

11:15-11:30 Presentation: development of a national bioeconomy strategy in France (Valérie Dehaut, Ministry of Agriculture)

11:30-11:45 Presentation: progress towards a national bioeconomy strategy in Ireland (Maeve Henchion, TEAGASC)

11:45-11:55 Presentation: Outcomes of the Agri-food SME workshop organised by DG RTD and DG AGRI 17 October 2017 Brussels (Anikó Juhász, AKI)

11:55-12:05 Presentation: SCAR AKIS policy briefs (Anikó Juhász, AKI)

12:05-12:15 Presentation: policy documents from SWG Bioeconomy (Stefan Rauschen, Projektträger Jülich)

12:15-12:25 Video: SCAR Forest

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Session 3: Group discussions on SCAR Review: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and next steps (Chair: Maeve Henchion, TEAGASC)

This session will present results from a recent SWOT exercise of the SCAR structure and its activities. It will invite comments and feedback through tailored group exercises with a view to developing recommendations for improved SCAR structure and organisation in the future.

13:30-13:35 Welcome back by the CASA project coordinator (Rolf Stratmann, Projektträger Jülich)

13:35-13:45 Introduction to group discussions by the chair

13:45-14:15 SWOT analysis of the SCAR - preliminary results (Laura Devaney, TEAGASC)

- 14:15-15:00 Breakout Activity 1 – Sense checking SWOT results (miscommunications, factual inaccuracies, missed opportunities, etc.)
- 15:00–15:30 **Coffee break**
- 15:30–16:00 Breakout Activity 2 – Ranking Prioritisation and Next steps: What a (more!) successful SCAR would look like and how we will get there
- 16:00-16:40 Feedback of the Group discussions and wrap-up by the chair
- 16:40-16:45 Closing of Day 1 (Küllli Kaare, Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs)

Evening Programme

- 18:00-19:00 A guided walk in Tallinn Old Town (ends at the Conference dinner venue)
- 19:15 Conference dinner in Olde Hansa (<https://www.oldehansa.ee/making-contact/#google-maps>)

SCAR Conference Day 2 - Tuesday 5 December

8:30 **Registration desk open**

Session 4: SCAR Foresight Process (Chair: Christine Bunthof, WUR)

9:00-9:20 Presentation: The SCAR Foresight Process (Elke Saggau, BLE)

Session 5: Representation and Inclusion - Setting the Scene (Chair: Christine Bunthof)

9:20-9:50 Keynote: Inclusiveness in research and innovation processes (Erkki Karo, Tallinn University of Technology)

9:50-10:20 Presentation: Outcomes of study Representation and Inclusion in SCAR (Dorri te Boekhorst, WUR)

10:20–10:40 **coffee break**

10:40-10:55 Presentation: Policy Brief on inclusiveness from PLATFORM project, including identified bottlenecks (Martin Greimel, BMLFUW)

10:55-11:10 Presentation: EURAGRI experiences in increasing involvement of underrepresented regions and/ or organisations (Bettina Heimann, EURAGRI)

11:10-11:20 Presentation: Outcomes of CASA-SCAR national meeting in Spain, organised to raise SCAR visibility and involvement at national and regional level (Rocío Lansac, INIA)

11:20-11:30 Presentation: Rationale and background for a CASA-SCAR national meeting in Poland, planned for 2018 (Eugeniusz Chyłek, Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

11:30-11:40 Presentation: Rationale and background for a CASA-SCAR national meeting in Hungary, planned for April 2018 (Ákos Kristóf, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture).

Session 6: Parallel group work on Representation and Inclusion, Stakeholder Involvement, and Policy Connections and Synergies (Chair: Christine Bunthof)

11:40-11:50 Introduction of aim and structure for group work by the chair

11:50 Coffee “to go”

12:00-13:30 3 parallel group discussions
Check the participant list to know your group

Group 1. Representation and Inclusion

Moderators: Dorri te Boekhorst & Christine Bunthof

Group 1 will discuss representation and inclusion challenges, and work towards concrete suggestions to improve representation in SCAR bodies.

Group 2. Stakeholder Involvement

Moderators: Laura Devaney & Maeve Henchion

Group 2 will consider the role of stakeholders in planning and implementing national bioeconomy strategies.

Group 3. Policy Connections and Synergies

Moderator: Stefan Rauschen

Group 3 will discuss connections and synergies of the SCAR with key EC policies in its domain, such as the Common Agricultural Policy, Common Fisheries Policy, Research & Innovation Policy, and Food 2030. The goal is to prepare an “engagement strategy” for SCAR towards the ongoing policy processes.

13:30- 14:30: Lunch

14:30-15:15 Reporting back from the breakout groups

Session 7: Closing Session (Chair: Toomas Kevvai, Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs)

15:15-15:45 Conclusions (Waldemar Kütt, European Commission)

15:45-16:00 Closing words from Estonian Presidency organisers of SCAR meetings in Tallinn (Küllli Kaare, Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs)



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Photo impression

















