

# D4.18

## REPORT NR. 2 FROM NATIONAL MIRROR-GROUPS

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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

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## Abbreviations

BIOHORIZON	H2020 CSA project, network of specialised NCPs for Horizon 2020
CWG	Collaborative Working Group
EIP-Agri	Agricultural European Innovation Partnership
EJP	European Joint Programme
ERA-Net	European Research Area Net
FACCE	The Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security & Climate Change
FCT	Portuguese national funding agency
FISH	SCAR-Strategic Working Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture.
H2020	Horizon 2020
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
MS	Member State
NCPs	National Contact Points of H2020
SC2	Societal Challenge 2
SCAR	Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
SCAR AKIS	SCAR-Strategic Working Group on Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems
SG	Steering Group
SWG	Strategic Working Group
WG	Working Group-generic term including strategic and collaborative working groups



## Introduction:

In order to better disseminate the SCAR activities at national level, some Member States (MS) have decided to set up a national mirror-group to hold meetings at which SCAR issues are addressed. The expected outcomes of such national mirror-groups are a better involvement of interested national stakeholders in SCAR activities and to better disseminate SCAR outputs at national level in order to reach a wide range of actors in the Member States.

The first Member States which have set up a national SCAR mirror-group are France and Portugal.

The potential use of national mirror-groups has been analysed and support given to those countries which have expressed interest in establishing a national mirror group. This has aimed at demonstrating and informing about SCAR activities including activities of the SCAR SWGs and CWGs.

In order to give support to other Member States and to identify the potential interest in setting mirror groups a survey on SCAR dissemination at the National level was launched by CASA in month 27 and delivered by BIOHORIZON coordinator to the SC2 NCPs.

The task leader is Portugal (INIAV) and the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAA) is contributor.

This report addresses activities under Work Package 4 of the CASA CSA and corresponds to the deliverable D4.18. This is a follow up to the first report which was [deliverable D4.17](#) and submitted in November 2017.

## Survey on SCAR dissemination at the national level

The survey on SCAR dissemination at the National level launched by CASA was described in <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/forms> (Annex 3) and delivered by BIOHORIZON coordinator in January 2019 to the SC2 NCPs.

Six answers were obtained from 5 countries (Germany-two answers, Luxembourg, Kosovo, France, and the Czech Republic) without any mirror group identified and plan to set up one. The German justification is that most relevant federal ministries, as well as a state representative for representing all 16 states are involved in SCAR. The Czech Republic point out that dissemination of information is already provided by SCAR representatives through e-mails and at meetings with research organizations. The answers from Luxembourg, Kosovo, France, and the Czech Republic reveals interest in obtaining support for the implementation of SCAR mirror groups.

## French SCAR mirror-group

The French SCAR mirror-group is composed of SCAR delegates, SCAR experts from the different SCAR groups, representatives from the JPIs (e.g. FACCE), from ERA-Nets, from the Ministry of Research, the Ministry of Agriculture, from the EJPs (e.g. Zoonoses, Soils etc.).

Based on the success of the first SCAR France meeting, the French SCAR delegate and experts decided to meet on a regular basis. The French SCAR meetings took place in Paris on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2018, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 and November 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 (agendas in Annex 1).

The latest meeting was extended to French speaking MS (BE, LU and CH).

The aims of the French SCAR mirror group are the following:

- to exchange information related to the activities of all the SCAR WG, SCAR SG and Foresight;

- to prepare national position for the SCAR steering group and for the SCAR plenary;
- to inform about latest development related to Agriculture Research and Innovation European policies and Challenge 2 Programme Committee;
- to inform about important events related to the scope of SCAR.

And whenever applicable: to inform about relevant projects (e.g.: news from CASA and support from WP4).

Each of the French SCAR mirror group meetings gather between 10 and 20 persons. Meetings have always been considered with a high priority by the French members of the SCAR groups. In case of not being able to attend, representatives have always prepared presentations which were commented during the meeting.

The exchanges also make possible the reinforcement of the interactions between the SCAR groups and to contribute to common reflection about them.

The added value of this mirror group is also to contribute to monitoring the “who’s who’ in the SCAR group and to ensure that the SCAR French representative are aware of who the French experts are.

## Portuguese SCAR mirror-group

The Portuguese SCAR mirror-group is a joint initiative of Portuguese staff members from the governmental departments of Agriculture and Science and the work process is described in <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/national-presentations-portuguese>.

In 2016, in a preliminary meeting of SCAR delegates and of the National Funding Agency (FCT) and NCPs of SC2 H2020 the main topic discussed was the identification of tools to increase the effectiveness of SCAR national representation and the aims of the mirror group were identified:

- i) Increased capacity to collect national information (mapping) to provide to SCAR working groups and plenary;

- ii) Increased capacity to disseminate SCAR activities and publications to higher education institutions, companies and other stakeholder's;
- iii) Better articulation with other national groups (e.g. Rural Development Programme, National Rural Network/EIP Agri, Thematic Area of Innovation / Centers of Competence, BlueBioAlliance, PortugalFoods);
- iv) Joint actions with other Member States (e.g. France, Spain).

The Portuguese SCAR mirror-group was divided into two sub-groups (SCAR-AKIS and SCAR-FISH) and in 2018 a call for interest was launched by FCT to the 49 and 51 experts identified in course of the development of National R&I Agenda for Agri-food, Forestry and Biodiversity and R&I Agenda for the Sea respectively. The sub-groups were consolidated in February 2018 and integrate 14 experts from academy and private sector (SCAR-AKIS-9 experts, SCAR FISH-5 experts).

The Portuguese SCAR mirror meetings took place in Lisbon on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (agendas in Annex 2).

## **Flemish reflection of regional SCAR mirror group**

More recently, in 2019, CASA CSA members learnt that the Flemish stakeholders of Belgium are thinking of setting up a Flemish SCAR mirror group to better contribute to the SCAR CWG, SWG and SG.

## **Discussion and recommendations**

According to the analysis of the key factors of SCAR involvement and representativeness, the important recommendations and suggestions for a successful member state-driven dissemination requires a national structure well equipped to coordinate between the different national policy players, as well as between policy, science and stakeholders. The awareness, visibility and impact of SCAR to foster enthusiasm and thus support participation could be raised by organising national events with additional support on communication and dissemination activities. The ability to involve a wide range of national players may also



leverage influence with policy makers and bringing different Ministries together. Several countries which are more active in SCAR take advantage to nominate the same people or colleagues in SCAR bodies (Plenary or SG) and the Programme Committee for Societal Challenge 2. However, for effective member state-driven dissemination the more general concern is the barrier for effective communication and cooperation and the difficulty of many countries have in establishing inter-Ministerial platforms. The coordination at the national level could be organised in different ways and the setting of SCAR 'mirror groups' was analysed by CASA with implementation of two national mirror groups (France and Portugal) and the launch of survey to other member states.

From the interview analyses we can conclude that Germany has a specific strategy for SCAR representation and Luxembourg, Kosovo and the Czech Republic have expressed interest in obtaining support for the implementation of SCAR mirror groups. This is likely to also be relevant for other MSs.

From the lessons learnt the important recommendations for establishing mirror groups are:

- Identify key inter-Ministerial actors for bringing different Ministries together (academic and policy makers);
- Identify country priorities and specific areas of common interest related to SCAR WGs;
- Launch of call for an expression of interest from experts from academia and private stakeholders to enlarge the mirror group representativeness;
- Define SCAR mirror sub-groups according experts' common interest.

## **Annex 1: Agenda of the French meetings**

### **19<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

- Update on the 5th SCAR Foresight
- Latest news from SCAR groups
- News at European level

### **17<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

- Déjeuner avec collègues Francophones
- SCAR Francophone (with BE, LU and CH colleagues)
- Presentation des travaux des différents groupes SCAR par représentants FR dans les groupes
- Update on HEU
- Point sur la Conférence SCAR / CASA du Juin et update sur CASA et future Newsletter

### **29<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

- Point d'information sur les négociations Horizon Europe
- Faits marquants des groupes SCAR - représentants des groupes
- Point sur le SCAR Foresight
- Point sur "light touch evaluation" des groupes SCAR
- Point sur le futur mandat du groupe SCAR AKIS

## Annex 2: Agenda of the Portuguese meetings

### 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

14h30	Boas vindas, Maria Maia, Departamento de Relações Internacionais, FCT
14h40	O que é o <i>Standing Committee on Agricultural Research</i> (SCAR) e o que é o projeto CASA - <i>Common Agricultural and wider bioeconomy reSearch Agenda</i> . José Matos, INIAV, Delegado Nacional do SCAR e responsável nacional pelo projeto CASA
15h00	O que é o SCAR-Fish e qual o papel da representação portuguesa, Aida Campos, IPMA, Representante Nacional do Grupo de Trabalho Estratégico SCAR-Fish
15h15	O que é o SCAR-AKIS e qual o papel da representação portuguesa, Luís Mira, INOVISA, representante nacional ao Grupo de Trabalho Estratégico SCAR-AKIS
15h30	O que se pretende com a constituição dos Grupos Espelho. Quais as expectativas e vantagens para o país e para as Instituições. O que se espera da parte dos membros de cada Grupo Espelho, Carla Brites, INIAV, Delegada Nacional ao SCAR, Delegada Nacional Comité de Programa do Desafio Societal 2
15h50	Perguntas e respostas e planeamento do funcionamento do Grupo Espelho
17h00	Encerramento da reunião

### 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (in <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/05-02-2019-pt-mirror-group-meeting>)

14h30	Welcome , Maria Maia, Department of International Relations, FCT
14h40	SCAR activities (Foresight, IBF, WGs, ...) (in PT), European Strategy for Bioeconomy (in PT), José Matos, INIAV, Carla Brites, INIAV
15h00	Discussion
15h15	The bioeconomy in Horizon Europe (in EN), Maria João Fernandes, GPPQ/ANI
15h30	Discussion
15h45	Innovation in the future Common Agricultural Policy - SCAR-AKIS (in EN) Luís Mira da Silva, InovISA, ISA
16h00	Discussion
16h15	EIP-Agri: Focus Groups and Operational Groups (in PT), Maria S.L. Centeno, DGADR, Custódia Correia, DGADR
16h30	Developments in SCAR-Fish (in EN), Aida Campos, IPMA
16h45	Discussion
16h55	Next steps
17h00	Closing

## Annex 3 Survey on SCAR dissemination at national level (in <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/forms>)



Select Language



Search ..

SCAR

Strategic Working Groups (SWGs)

Collaborative Working Groups (CWGs)

Foresight



### SURVEY ON SCAR DISSEMINATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

#### Brief background

The results are an input to strengthen SCAR visibility at the national level and this work is being conducted in the frame of a Coordination and Support Action for SCAR (CASA), designed in general to support SCAR and enhance its impact & visibility.

According to the analysis of the key factors of SCAR involvement and representativeness (<https://scar-europe.org/index.php/home-scar/documents/casa-deliverables>), the important recommendations and suggestions for a successful member state-driven dissemination include:

- Effective operating at the European level requires a national structure that is well equipped to coordinate between the different national policy players, as well as between policy, science and stakeholders. The ability to involve a wide range of national players may also leverage influence with policy makers;
- Create more awareness and visibility of (the impact) of SCAR to foster enthusiasm and thus support participation. Awareness and visibility of SCAR at the national level could be raised by organising national events. Additional support on communication and dissemination activities is necessary;
- Bringing different Ministries together could be organised in different ways at the national level, the most common seem to be 'mirror groups' or inter-Ministerial platforms.

Some initiatives like "SCAR Force in France" and the SCAR Portugal mirror group have paved the way to show improvements in this sense. The first one focuses on SCAR representatives from the different SCAR groups, Ministry of Research, Ministry of Agriculture, related JPIs, ERA-Nets and EIPs and the second one is a joint initiative of Portuguese staff members from the governmental departments of Agriculture and Science.

#### Questions

To improve SCAR visibility CASA explores different ways of support and requires information to get a complete picture of the situation across Europe.

We kindly ask you to provide us some information concerning the SCAR dissemination in your country by answering the following questions directly in the text:

#### Required \*

Name: \*  Filiation/Position: \*   
Country: \*  Email: \*

1. Did your country set up a national SCAR mirror group or other type of national SCAR group? \* Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know ☐  
(e.g. inter-ministerial, interdepartmental)

1.1. IF YES:

When was it established?  Does it work? Yes ☐ No ☐

Why?

1.2. IF NOT:

Does your country plan to set up one? Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know ☐

If YES: What are the main hurdles?

Would you need support and if yes, which kind of support and from whom?

If NO: Why not?

2. How are SCAR activities disseminated in your country to relevant bioeconomy target groups from academy, private sector and NGOs?  
(Score the proposed answers by preference: 1 = most preferred, 3 = least preferred).

2.1. By SCAR members themselves on a person to person basis: 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

2.2. By SCAR members themselves using institutional channels (mirror group, NCP, etc.): 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

2.3. Target groups already know SCAR and go by themselves to the source of information: 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐  
(i.e. visiting SCAR website, reading newsletter)

2.4. Other:

2.5. Not disseminated: ☐

3. CASA could provide recommendations/best practice/experience and ideas from existing national mirror groups, for example from Portugal.

Would you be interested in such support? Yes ☐ No ☐

By answering these questions, we wish to collect an overview of good practices, (institutional) challenges and opportunities that may support SCAR in allowing more coordination and visibility at the national level.

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