

SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS Strategic Working Group,

Qualitative mapping of Food and Nutrition Security relevant policies in EU Member States and Associated Countries

Dear Members,

The main rationale for the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS Strategic Working Group – (SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG) is that the SCAR member states provide strategic advice and support to the EU Research & Innovation (R&I) policy framework FOOD 2030¹ as well as to the review of the Bioeconomy Strategy in which food plays a central role given the 'food comes first' principle.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this SWG, was endorsed at the SCAR Plenary of 6 December 2016. The ToR mentions that the main task in 2017 is to "provide strategic intelligence (EU 28) including the mapping of R&I funding done at National and regional level related to Food Systems and provide insight into the type of existing policies and strategies that are linked to Food and Nutrition security and the priorities of FOOD 2030".

The expected delivery date for qualitative mapping is end April 2017.

This task is further complemented by a quantitative mapping of R&I public funding at EU Member State and Associated Country level (expected delivery June 2017). This task has started with four pilot countries.

Thank you very much for your involvement.

With my best regards,

Monique Axelos ,

Chair of the SCAR Food Systems SWG

¹
http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2016/food2030/pdf/food2030_conference_background.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG

Qualitative mapping questionnaire

Participating country in SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG's:	Belgium: Flanders and Walloon region
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Date of submission of questionnaire:	5/5/2016

Please submit the questionnaire below to the chair of the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG:

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PART 1 – FNS related policy:

- 1. List the relevant national/regional policies or strategies that are relevant to ensuring food and nutrition security (e.g.: agriculture, health, food safety, climate, fisheries, etc).**

A. Weblink to the policies/strategies:

Federal level

Health -<https://www.health.belgium.be/en/health>

Food safety : <http://www.afsca.be/home-en/>

Flanders

1. Rural development plan: <https://ruraalnetwerk.be/welcome>
2. Climate and energy pact: <http://www.vlaamseklimaatop.be/vket-01-12-2016-vlaams-klimaat-en-energiepact>
3. Maritime and Fisheries Fund: <http://lv.vlaanderen.be/nl/visserij/subsidies-visserij/efmzv-europees-fonds-voor-maritieme-zaken-en-visserij-vanaf-2016>
4. Food: Flanders FOOD: www.flandersfood.com

Wallonia

1. Agriculture - Regional level -https://agriculture.wallonie.be/apps/spip_wolwin/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=37
<http://www.cra.wallonie.be/en>
2. Food – Regional level –
<http://www.wagralim.be/projets-wagralim/>
<https://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/?LANG=fr>
3. Climate –environment – Regional level -
<http://www.wallonie.be/fr/guide/guide-services/15945>
<http://www.issep.be/>

B. What issues do each of them cover?

Federal level

- health
- food safety

Flanders

1. Rural development plan

There are six common EU priorities for rural development:

- 1: fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas
- 2: enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management
- 3: promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture
- 4: restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry
- 5: promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors
- 6: promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

2. Climate and Energy Pact:

The Flemish Government acknowledges that in order to achieve the climate objectives a transition is needed in all sectors. This transition can only be achieved through close cooperation between the government and the various actors in society, based on a clear, ambitious and broad-based vision for the long term.

3. Maritime and Fisheries Fund:

The EFMZV support covers capital premiums for structural improvement in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, especially aimed at sustainability, which are granted both for production (shipping companies and aquaculture companies), commercialization (processing), equipment in auctions as for the promotion.

4. Food

Flanders' FOOD is a unique, strategy-driven platform for the facilitation of innovation, thereby contributing to a more competitive, innovative and sustainable agrifood industry.

Wallonia

- agriculture
- food
- climate
- environment

C. Which institutional actors are responsible for each policy/strategy?

Federal level

Health Federal public service : health, food chain, safety and environment

Food safety Federal public service : health, food chain, safety and environment

Flanders

1. Rural development plan:

- Ministry of agriculture and fisheries
- Ministry of environment
- Flemish land agency
- Ministry of Economy

2. Climate and Energy Pact:

- All Flemish Ministries

3. Maritime and Fisheries Fund:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

4. Food

Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Wallonia

Walloon ministry of agriculture http://collin.wallonie.be/gw_pages_equipe

DGO3 Direction générale Agriculture ressources naturelles et environnement

https://agriculture.wallonie.be/apps/spip_wolwin/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=37

Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques CRA-W : <http://www.cra.wallonie.be/en>

Food – Regional level

Pole of competitiveness in food : <http://www.wagralim.be/>

DGO6 : <https://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/?LANG=fr>

Climate –environment

Walloon ministry of environment <http://diantonio.wallonie.be/>

ISSEP Institut scientifique de service public <http://www.issep.be/>

- D. Are these policies/strategies focussed on your country only, on Europe or do they target International cooperation and development?

Except EU projects, in Wallonia and Flanders, most of the projects are at the Regional level.

- E. Do any of these policies/strategies contain an R&I focus? If yes, describe.

Flanders

1. Rural development plan:

- **EIP:** This measure aims to stimulate interaction between research and practice. EIP stands for "European Innovation Partnership" and it is used in various domains (including agriculture). By bringing closer research and practice, one wants to realize more innovations with a view to economic growth and competitiveness
- **Demonstration projects:** This measure aims to raise awareness through demonstrations of new possibilities in sustainable practices and techniques. Applicability of the new insights are of great importance. This is done with example companies or with groups meetings.
- **Innovation subsidy:** This measure stimulates innovation and renewal that takes place on the agricultural and horticultural business and complements the usual investment support.
- **Advisory aid:** Thanks to the advisory measure, a farmer can get customized business advice.

2. Climate and Energy Pact:

Scientific and practical research provides for the development of feasible and feasible climate measures for the agricultural sector: Development of a framework, funding and management of the applied research with a view to feasible and practicable agricultural measures that reduce methane, nitrous oxide and CO₂ (soil) emissions.

3. Maritime and Fisheries Fund:

Research on sustainable fishing techniques and aquaculture

4. Food

Flanders' FOOD leverages the innovation capacity of the agrifood companies by enhancing their scientific and technological knowledge by means of an integrated approach of knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination and partner matching. This way Flanders' FOOD also contributes to the economic and social development of the Flanders region. Flanders' FOOD, as future spearhead cluster agrifood, will broaden the scope in which it has operated for the past 10 years. Collaboration will become more important than ever. The spearhead cluster agrifood will put effort into collaboration across the value chain, cross-border and cross-sectoral.

Wallonia

- Food – Regional level

The Wagralim pole of competitiveness was created in the framework of the Marshall plan. It is working on the basis of project calls where private companies are always at the coordination of the projects. Research and innovation is one of the criteria for eligibility. DGO6 is focussed on industries (including the food industry) using the same principle.

- Agriculture - Regional level

The Walloon Agricultural Research Center (CRA-W) in close connection with DGO3 has in charge the coordination of the three years research plan of agriculture (PTR 2017-2019). This plan is under construction and is not yet fully adopted.

F. Are there any new relevant national/regional policies or strategies being currently developed that are relevant to ensuring food and nutrition security? If yes, describe.

Flanders:

No

PART 2 – Bioeconomy Strategy

2. Does your country have a national Bioeconomy Strategy?

A. If yes, what does it cover?

Flanders

The bioeconomy includes both the production of renewable biological resources and the use of those resources and residual streams. These are used in (for example environmental/biotechnological) processes and are processed into valuable products such as food, animal feed, (biobased) products and bioenergy. More specifically, the bioeconomy includes, among others, the following sectors: agriculture, forestry, fishing, the food industry, the wood-processing sector, the pulp and paper industry, the environmental technology sector, the construction and infrastructure sector, the energy sector and industrial sectors such as the textile industry, the chemical industry (including the pharmaceutical sector) and the biotechnology sector, and finally the end-user/consumer and the logistics sector (recycling and waste collection). In a nutshell, the bioeconomy therefore includes all activities associated with the production of biomass³ and the various ways in which this biomass³ and its residual streams are subsequently used.

Wallonia

No

B. Does it have a food related pillar? If yes, describe.

Flanders

The strategy is not sector, but policy driven. The strategic objectives are:

1. The development of a coherent Flemish policy that supports and facilitates a sustainable bioeconomy.
2. To put Flanders at the top for education and training and research and innovation in future-oriented bioeconomy clusters.
3. Biomass is optimally and sustainably produced and used across the entire value chain.
4. Strengthening of markets and competitiveness of bioeconomic sectors in Flanders
5. Flanders is a key partner within European and international joint ventures.

C. Weblink to the Bioeconomy strategy:

Flanders:

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/nl/publicaties/detail/bio-economie-in-vlaanderen>

D. If there is no Bioeconomy Strategy yet, is there one being developed at the moment?

PART 3 – Research and Innovation Policy and Programming

3. List specific national/regional R&I policies/strategies/funding programmes relevant to food and nutrition security (e.g.: agriculture, health, food safety; climate, fisheries, etc).

General descriptions of the Belgian R&I policies: see reports from several EU projects (with a focus on agriculture)

- PRO AKIS:
<http://www.proakis.eu/sites/www.proakis.eu/files/Country%20Report%20Belgium%2020%2006%2014.pdf>
- IMPRESA: http://www.impresa-project.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/IMPRESA/Filessharing/IMPRESA_country_report_Belgium.pdf

A. Weblink to the R&I policies/strategies/funding programmes:

In general, Belgium and the Flemish and Walloon regions have open funding schemes (not a programmatory approach). There is support for diverse type of actions

Research funding

- Structural funding for research organisations
 - Flanders: ILVO (<http://www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/>)
 - Flanders: Experimental stations
 - Wallonia: CRA-W (<http://www.cra.wallonie.be/fr>)
 -
- Funding of research projects
 - Fundamental and strategic research
 - Flanders: FWO – Research Foundation Flanders (<http://www.fwo.be/>) – grants, projects, infrastructures
 - French community: FNRS - Fund for Scientific Research (<http://www.fnrs.be/>)
 - Health - Federal level: <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/contractual-research>: contractual research calls
 - Food safety - Federal level: FASFC : Federal agency for the safety of the food chain
 - Applied research

- VLAIO – Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (www.vlaio.be) – agricultural trajectories
- Agriculture - Regional level - Wallonia :
 DGO3 Direction générale Agriculture ressources naturelles et environnement, CRAW in charge of a three years plan (PTR 2017-2019) for the research in agriculture (under construction)
- Walloon Agency air-climate (AWAC):
<http://www.awac.be/index.php/en/thematiques/politiques-actions/plan-pace>
- Demonstration and knowledge transfer
 - Flanders: demonstration projects, training and advice under the Rural Development Programme
<http://lv.vlaanderen.be/nl/landbouwbeleid/plattelandontwikkeling/pdpo-iii-maatregelen>)
 - Wallonia
 - Overall development program – Regional level -Wallonia:
 - Wallonia has an overall research and innovation program called "Marshall plan". The 4.0 version has been launched
<http://planmarshall.wallonie.be/le-plan-0>
 - Climate – Regional level – Wallonia: Air – climate plan
- Support to interactive innovation and networking
 - Flanders: start and functioning of operational groups under the Rural Development Programme
<http://lv.vlaanderen.be/nl/landbouwbeleid/plattelandontwikkeling/pdpo-iii-maatregelen>)
 - Flanders: instruments under the general science and innovation policy targeted towards university colleges (TETRA), groups of companies (VIS) and individual companies (SME portfolio, R&D projects)
 → managed by VLAIO www.vlaio.be
 - Wallonia: Le Réseau wallon du Développement Rural (RWDR)
 - Wallonia: The Producers' Committee where crop by crop representative farmers advise on the needs and are informed about results of research
 - Wallonia: Wagralim (<http://www.wagralim.be/>)
 - Flanders: Agrofood cluster (recently granted and embedded within Flanders' Food (<http://www.flandersfood.com/>))

B. What FNS relevant issues do each of them cover?

In general, there are specific programs for agricultural research (e.g. agricultural trajectories, demonstration projects, support to operational groups) and cluster policies for the food sector (Wagralim, Flanders' Food). All other types of funding are generally targeted towards all economic sectors, including the food sector.

C. Which institutional actors are responsible for each R&I policy/strategy/funding programmes?

See the first question.

D. Who does what and how do these actors cooperate?

An overview of the actors involved in the research and innovation actions is given in the next table. There is in general a cooperation on project level, but also several structural collaboration agreements exist. In Flanders, 18 research organisations for example collaborate in Agrolink Vlaanderen the increase their visibility towards the companies and stimulate succesfull participation in Horizon 2020-projects.

Kind of Infrastructure	Names	Users	Funders
WAL+FL : Research - universities and university colleges - Research institutes	- - UCL, Ulg -Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, ULB, Unamur, UGent, KU Leuven, UA - - ILVO, CRA-W, AWE	All	- Public - Private
WAL+FL : Experimental stations	- FL: 12 organisations in the provinces - WAL: Centres pilotes, CARAH, CRE, other units and structures	- Farmers - Research - Advisors	- Public - Private
WAL: Agricultural offices	7 regional offices at regional level and in the provinces	Province/region	All
WAL: Non profit organizations	- Advisory structure - Farmers' Union - Comice - Training structure	Organizations	Farmers
FL: Networks - general - topic related	Agrolink Flanders, Collaboration Platform for agricultural research Organic, fertilization, etc.	- Government - Actors themselves	- Research - Farmers' organisations - government
FL: Support centre	Innovation support centre	Boerenbond	Farmers

E. Are these R&I policies/strategies focussed on your country only, on Europe or do they also target RI & for international cooperation and development?

The instruments are in general targeted towards the regional level, but the same instruments are also used for participation in EU networks (ERA-NET, JPI actions) and international networks (ex : Global Research Alliance)

- F. Are there any new specific national/regional R&I policies/strategies/funding programmes being currently developed that are relevant to ensuring food and nutrition security? If yes, describe.

Flanders: the recently granted cluster for the agri-food sector aims to support SME's to innovate on common topics, but also aims to stimulate international collaboration and strategic basic research (oriented towards industry). Collaboration with all actors involved will be a central element in the activities and should guarantee that innovation stimulates the competitiveness of the sector.