

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

SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG

Qualitative mapping questionnaire

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

[1]

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Date of submission of questionnaire:	27-07-2017

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

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PART 1 – FNS related policy:

- List the relevant national/regional policies or strategies that are relevant to ensuring food and nutrition security:**

Agriculture

National Agricultural Policy for the Maltese Islands 2016 – 2025: Issues Paper

Health:

National Health Strategy

Food safety:

Food and Nutrition Policy and Action Plan for Malta 2015 – 2020

Climate:

Malta's National Environment Policy (NEP)

National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

- A. Weblink to the policies/strategies:

Agriculture

<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Documents/Agriculture%20Policy%20Issues%20Paper%20%20EN.pdf>

Health:

<https://health.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf>

Food safety:

https://health.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/FNAP_EN.pdf

Climate:

<http://msdec.gov.mt/en/decc/documents/environment/national%20environment%20policy.pdf>

<https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/Publications/Documents/MSDEC/National%20Adaptation%20Strategy.pdf>

B. What issues do each of them cover?

Health: *In line with the WHO European Health Policy - Health 2020, the action plan adopts a life course approach since the impact of nutrition on health accumulates from prenatal, foetal life continuing through early childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. Recognizing the fact that social inequities have a great impact on this public health challenge, this national policy ultimately seeks to enhance health and well-being and reduce Malta's burden of disease by achieving change in an equitable manner.*

Agriculture: *National Agricultural Policy for the Maltese Islands 2016 – 2025 outlines the following Five (5) categories of issues in order to create the basis for discussion and eventually the development of policy objectives. These five (5) categories include:*

1. Food quality and security
2. Consolidation of land holdings
3. Sustainability of key ecosystem services
4. Competitiveness and diversification
5. Adaptation to geo-climatic conditions

Environment: *National Environmental Strategy is focused on the fact that is imperative to use the resources efficiently and sustainably, especially in relation to the food provision due to the fact that Malta is entirely dependent on imports for all other natural resources.*

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

Agriculture: *Secretariat for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change); <http://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>*

Environment: *Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change; www.mra.org.mt*

Health: *Malta Health Information and Research Directorate; <https://health.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>*

Food safety: *Health Information and Research Directorate; <https://health.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>*

Climate: Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change

<https://msdec.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>

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

All policies in Malta are applicable at national level. They also take on board any European and International guidelines/standards.

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

Agriculture: Nil

Food and Nutrition Policy and Action Plan for Malta 2015 – 2020:

*Research is mentioned in the **Priority Action Areas**: To develop the capacity for research in the area of food and nutrition. A capacity-building programme for nutrition research is required and must deliver adequate training to upgrade local knowledge in the field of nutrition research. There is an understanding that it is important for the country "... to develop the capacity for research in the area of food and nutrition. A capacity building programme for nutrition research is required and must deliver adequate training to upgrade local knowledge in the field of nutrition research".*

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.

N/A

PART 2 – Bioeconomy Strategy

2. Does your country have a national Bioeconomy Strategy?

No

A. If yes, what does it cover?

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

C. Weblink to the Bioeconomy strategy:

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

No

PART 3 – Research and Innovation Policy and Programming

1. 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).

National Research & Innovation strategy (MCST, June 2014) and National R&I funding Programme “Fusion”

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

<http://www.mcst.gov.mt/Media/0f3855ec-025c-48b5-8ade-2171b8749276.pdf>

http://www.mcst.gov.mt/r_a_i/fusion.aspx

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

Aquaculture

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

Malta Council for Science & Technology, as well as the other actors (like University of Malta and the relevant Ministries) who are also responsible for implementation of the National Research & Innovation strategy, as far as their respective areas of competence are concerned.

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

In order to facilitate collaboration, a core group and the steering group were set up under the R&I Strategy.

- 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?

Malta's National R&I Strategy 2020 focuses on the national, European as well as the international level.

- 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.

PRIMA, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area is a 10-year Article 185 initiative which aims to devise new R&I approaches to improve water availability and sustainable agriculture production in a region heavily distressed by climate change, urbanisation and population growth. PRIMA will be launched in early 2018 and is partly funded by EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 as well as contributions from the participating countries.