



[scar-europe.org/refrescar](https://scar-europe.org/refrescar)

# RefreSCAR activities in support of a wider and more inclusive SCAR

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Funded by  
the European Union

# Project Overview



Coordination & Support Action (CSA)



€4 Million over 4 years



01 September 2023 – 31 August 2027



<https://scar-europe.org/refrescar>

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101060553>

# Supporting the SCAR Groups



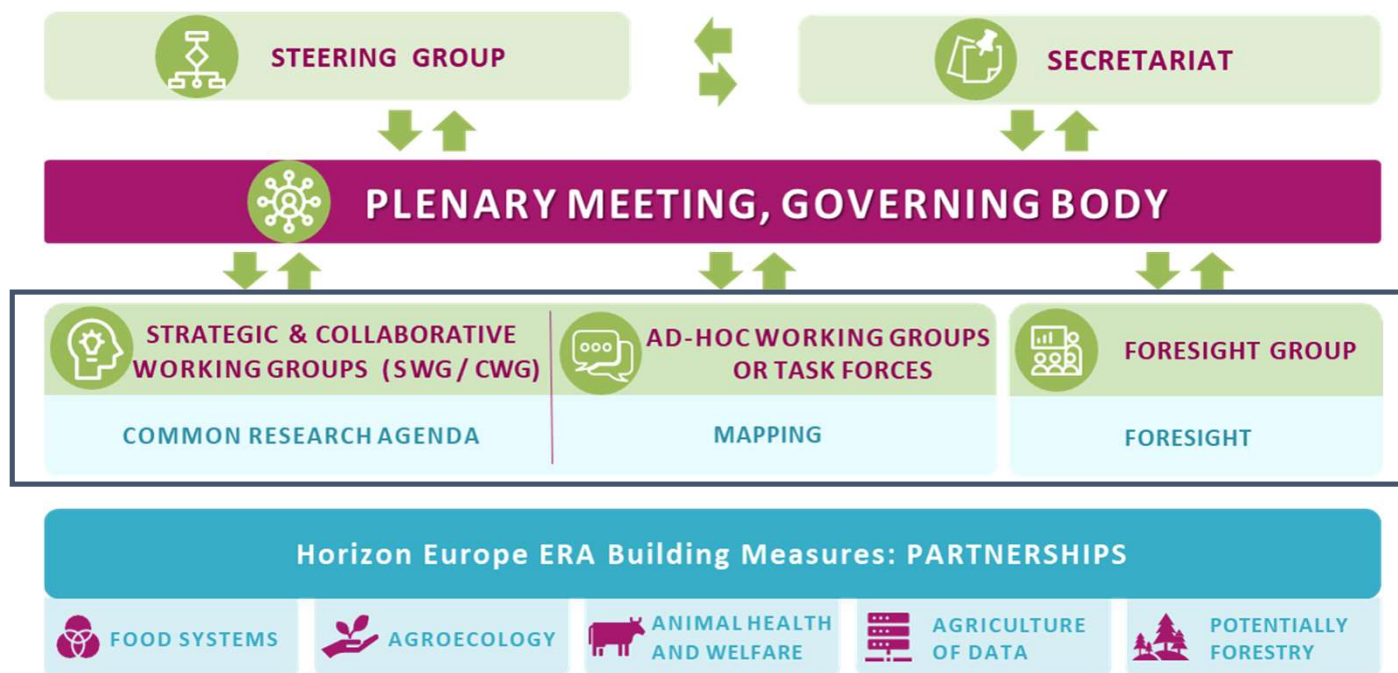
## Who is SCAR?

### More than 35 countries:

- EU Member States
  - Delegates of ministries (mainly ministries of agriculture)
  - Organisations such as research councils, research institutes and universities
- Observers
  - Candidate countries
  - Associated countries

### European Commission

- Secretariat
- DG RTD – Research and Innovation
- DG AGRI – Agriculture and Rural Development



# Our Vision



## OVERALL AIM:

- to facilitate improved coordination of national and European bioeconomy research programmes in the European Research Area through strengthened SCAR Working Groups

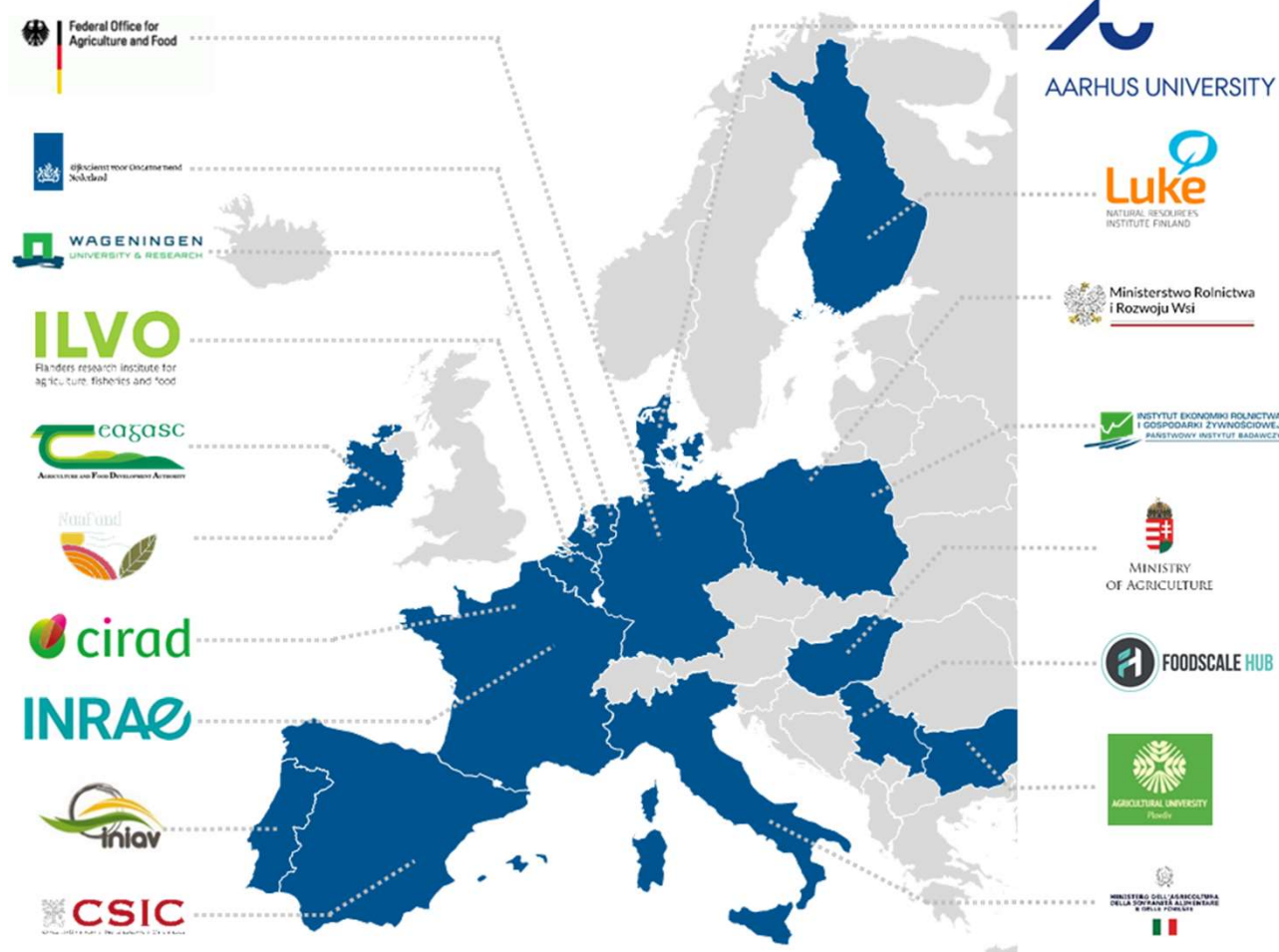
## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>SO1:</b> | Provide <b>scientific &amp; administrative support</b> to the work of the SCAR WGs, enhancing their capacity to formulate research policy advice and collaborate on matters of common interest |
| <b>SO2:</b> | <b>Enhance inclusiveness</b> within SCAR WGs and support <b>active engagement</b> of members   |
| <b>SO3:</b> | <b>Connect actors</b> across R&I, policy & practice with the aim of enabling SCAR to become a key bridging initiative across these domains   |
| <b>SO4:</b> | Help SCAR WGs to reach a <b>broader audience of stakeholders</b> and <b>strengthen linkages</b> with key EU and international initiatives  |
| <b>SO5:</b> | Support the development of a <b>strong SCAR Foresight process</b> , including the effective dissemination of its outcomes  |

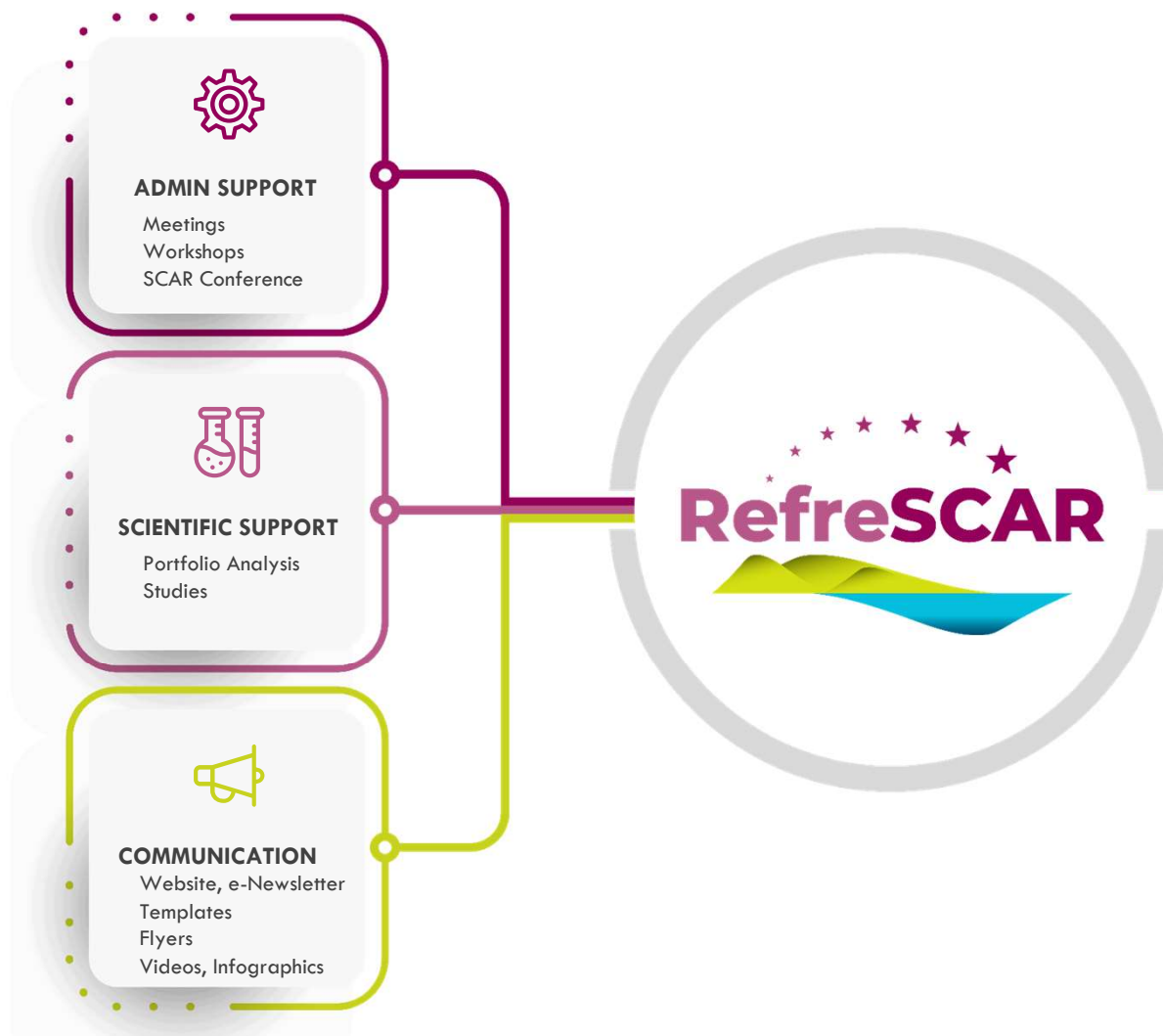
**A strengthened SCAR within the European Research Area**



# RefreSCAR Consortium



# Overview of RefreSCAR Actions



# RefreSCAR Contact Points for SCAR WG/TFs



<https://scar-europe.org/refrescar/consortium>

	Lead	Back-Up
<b>ARCH</b>	Johannes Bender	José Matos
<b>Forest</b>	Bríd McClearn	Marina Arnaut Stefanović
<b>Fish</b>	Hendrik De Ruyck	Olivera Stojilović Trivunić
<b>AKIS</b>	Arlene McGrath	Saske Hoving
<b>Bioeconomy</b>	Saske Hoving	Johannes Bender
<b>Food Systems</b>	Marina Arnaut Stefanović	Carla Brites
<b>Agroecology</b>	Bríd McClearn	Arlene McGrath
<b>AHW</b>	José Matos	Hendrik De Ruyck
<b>SAP</b>	Olivera Stojilović Trivunić	Bríd McClearn
<b>Protein</b>	Carla Brites	Arlene McGrath



Arlene McGrath



Bríd McClearn



Carla Brites



Hendrik De Ruyck



Johannes Bender



José Matos



Marina Arnaut Stefanović



Olivera Stojilović



Órlaith Ní Choncubhair



Saske Hoving

Annual Training Webinars:



Stefano Grando

General queries: [refrescar@teagasc.ie](mailto:refrescar@teagasc.ie)

# The SCAR Groups



SWGs



CWGs



SCAR Foresight Group



## SCAR Agroecology SWG

- One of the most recently established SCAR Groups - set up in 2021 to pave the way for the Candidate European Partnership on Agroecology, “*Accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures*”
- The group is focusing on the key issues of a sustainable transition towards agroecology, also accompanying the Agroecology Partnership (which was officially launched in February 2024)
- Mission is to support research and innovation policy development for agroecology at national, EU and international levels by:
  - Providing conceptual, methodological and practical frameworks on agroecology
  - Offering a platform for continuous strategic discussion between the EC, MS and AC as well as stakeholders on priorities in agroecology R&I

**Members:** 27 countries + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/scar-working-groups/scar-agroecology>

# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## SCAR AKIS SWG

- AKIS = Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System, i.e. cooperation between different actors working on knowledge transfer and innovation. SWG established in 2010, currently in 6<sup>th</sup> mandate
- **Mission:** to build an EU-wide knowledge and innovation network focusing specifically on working with and for farmers
- **Objectives**
  - Improving the functioning of knowledge and innovation systems in the bioeconomy
  - Pursuing the outcomes of all foresight studies to stimulate appropriate research and innovation activities, knowledge generation and knowledge exchange
  - Covering all agri-food and biomass chains, from producer to consumer, in a systemic approach

**Members:** 29 countries + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/akis-mission-and-aims>



# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## SCAR Animal Health & Welfare (AHW) CWG

- Established in 2005, aims to provide a forum for improved collaboration on research prioritisation and procurement, creating the necessary critical mass and focus to deliver the animal health and welfare research needs of policy makers and the European livestock industry
- **Scope:** R&I relating to the health, wellbeing and welfare of farmed production animals including fish and bees – including welfare, infectious and non-infectious diseases including those conditions which pose a threat to human health, food safety issues relating to livestock products, and diseases of wildlife where they act as reservoirs of infection for humans or production animals
- **Current focus 2025:**
  - Study on Risk Communication for Animal Health & Welfare
  - Study on Regulatory Science for Animal Welfare
  - Survey and workshops on 'Impact of climate change on animal health and welfare'

**Members:** 27 countries + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/ahw-mission>



**European Animal Health  
& Welfare Research**  
COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP

# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## SCAR ARCH SWG

- Formed in 2013, aiming to improve linkages between European and international agricultural research and working towards ways to increase the contribution of European Agricultural Research investments to the solution of global challenges such as climate change and the need for more sustainable food systems

### **Objectives:**

- Expanding the scope of European research to the global level in areas where global interdependences such as food systems, climate change and diseases are imminent
- Increasing research impact on meeting the Sustainable Development Goals
- Improving the efficient use of research funding

### **Current focus 2025:**

- Portfolio analysis on 'Achievements of EU Research, Innovation and Development projects in the last 10 years to address the global challenge of agriculture transformation'
- Roundtable event and report on 'Internationalisation of EU R&I co-funded partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities'

**Members:** 9 countries in Focus Group

<https://scar-europe.org/arch-mission-and-aims>



## SCAR Bioeconomy SWG

- Established in 2017, entered its fourth mandate in January 2025
- **Aim:** to contribute to a forward-looking bioeconomy transition in tight collaboration with other SCAR Working Groups, partnerships (e.g. CBE JU) and networks (e.g. BIOEAST), providing strategic advice and orientation on specific challenges and barriers to this transformative process
- Activities are organised along two main lines of action, which include the organisation of workshops and thematic studies, with the following scopes:
  - Knowledge collection and liaison with other SCAR Working Groups, partnerships and networks
  - Analysis of research, development and innovation gaps and needs with related recommendations

**Members:** 24 countries + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/scar-working-groups/scar-bioeconomy>



Bioeconomy Strategic  
Working Group



# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## SCAR FISH SWG

- SWG on Fisheries and Aquaculture Research
- Established in 2012
- **Scope:** all issues related to fisheries, including fresh water and aquaculture, identifying research issues, collating existing information in the areas of foresight, common research agendas and mapping EU capacities, and supporting the strengthening of a common European Research Area for fisheries and aquaculture.
- Important role in connecting the “blue” and the “green” dimension of SCAR

### Current focus 2025:

- Paper on ‘Innovation in fisheries monitoring science - Fisheries dependent data as a tool for real-time advice’
- Study on ‘Offshore renewable Energy (ORE) impacts on environment and marine food production’

**Members:** 24 countries + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/fish-mission-and-aims>



## SCAR Food Systems SWG

- Established in 2016 with the aim of providing strategic advice to the EU R&I policy framework including FOOD2030 from a food and nutrition security perspective
- Takes a systems approach including value chains in their widest form and the interactions between primary production, processing, logistics, retail, and consumers as well as ecosystem services, climate and citizens' diets and nutrition
- Currently in its third mandate period

### **Current focus – three priority areas:**

- Food system resilience
- Accelerating and monitoring the food system transition
- International dimension of food systems

**Members:** 20 countries + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/food-mission-and-aims>



# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## SCAR Forest SWG

- Established in October 2013
- Main objective under its 4<sup>th</sup> mandate (2023-2026) is to support the development of a future European Partnership on Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future

### **Sub-objectives**

- Identify knowledge gaps on topics of interest for the European partnership on forests and forestry
- Support future studies on European forests and the forest sector
- Map information systems and research infrastructures on forests
- Monitor trends in emergent forest-related value chains related to the transition of economies

**Members:** 24 Member States and 6 observers + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/scar-working-groups/scar-forest>



# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## SCAR Sustainable Animal Production (SAP) CWG

- Established in 2014, working with a holistic view on the sustainability of livestock farming
- Integrates different research areas like animal nutrition, breeding and genetics, housing, and health & welfare, in addition to a systems approach, interrelating with topics like food security, resource utilisation, GHG emissions, biodiversity, and farm economy

### Objectives

- Facilitate and stimulate collaboration and networking
- Build an evidence-based shared perspective and common vision for the development of a more sustainable animal production in Europe
- Support investment in R&I

### Current focus 2025:

- Study on 'Scientific methods to assess the overall sustainability of livestock farming systems'

**Members:** 24 countries + EC and key advisors

<https://scar-europe.org/sap-mission-and-aims>



# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## Protein Task Force

- Established in 2022, focusses on R&I for alternative protein sources with the aim of developing sustainable agricultural and food systems in European Countries

### Objective

- To support the EC by identifying barriers, drivers, gaps, and opportunities for transitioning to sustainable, diverse, and sovereign protein systems through R&I

### Approach

- Integrated and holistic approach to food systems addressing protein sources for food and feed with a systemic view, considering also dietary, socio-economics, environmental and health factors to explore transition scenarios from the co-existence and diversification perspective

### Current focus 2025:

- Portfolio Analysis on 'R&I for alternative protein sources: towards strategic autonomy and sustainability in EU protein production'

**Members:** 22 members from 10 countries

<https://scar-europe.org/scar-working-groups/protein-task-force>





# Introduction to the SCAR Groups



## Foresight Group

- Responsible for the SCAR Foresight exercises, promoting and steering the whole process, in the aim to regularly assess the future opportunities and challenges to developing an integrated R&I agenda in Europe
- Foresight Reports, released every few years, focus on specific challenges within the bioeconomy and offer valuable insights for policymaking
- Has successfully facilitated collaboration among MS/AC to proactively address upcoming challenges
- 6<sup>th</sup> SCAR Foresight Exercise currently underway

# THANK YOU

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