



scar-europe.org/refrescar

The INDUCTION PACKAGE for new SCAR Group members

An overview

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Funded by
the European Union

The Induction Package for new SCAR Group members



- What is it intended for
- Future yearly updates
- SCAR website as the main and updated source of information
- **Where you find it and main contents**

Where you find the Induction Package

A screenshot of the SCAR (Standing Committee on Agricultural Research) website. The header includes the SCAR logo, navigation links (Home, SCAR, SCAR Working Groups, News, Events, Contact), a search bar, and social media icons. The main content area is divided into several sections: SCAR HISTORY, GOALS, ORGANISATION, OUR WORK, DOCUMENTS, and SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO SCAR WORKING GROUPS. A yellow arrow points to the "SCAR" link in the navigation bar. A red arrow points to the "RefreSCAR" link in the "SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO SCAR WORKING GROUPS" section. The background of the website features a map of Europe at night.

SCAR
Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

Home SCAR SCAR Working Groups News Events Contact

Search ...

Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)

SCAR HISTORY

The SCAR was established half a century ago, in 1974, through a Regulation of the Council of the European Communities (Regulation (EEC) No 1728/74 of the Council of 27 June 1974)...

GOALS

BUILD THE FUTURE RESEARCH AGENDA...

BECOME (MORE) ACTIVE IN THE SCAR COMMUNITY!

ORGANISATION

WHO IS SCAR?
More than 35 countries, they are EU MS (represented by delegates of ministries, organisations (research councils, research institutes and universities), with Candidate and Associated Countries (AC) as observers...

OUR WORK

European Research Area for agriculture, fisheries, food, forestry & bioeconomy...

DOCUMENTS

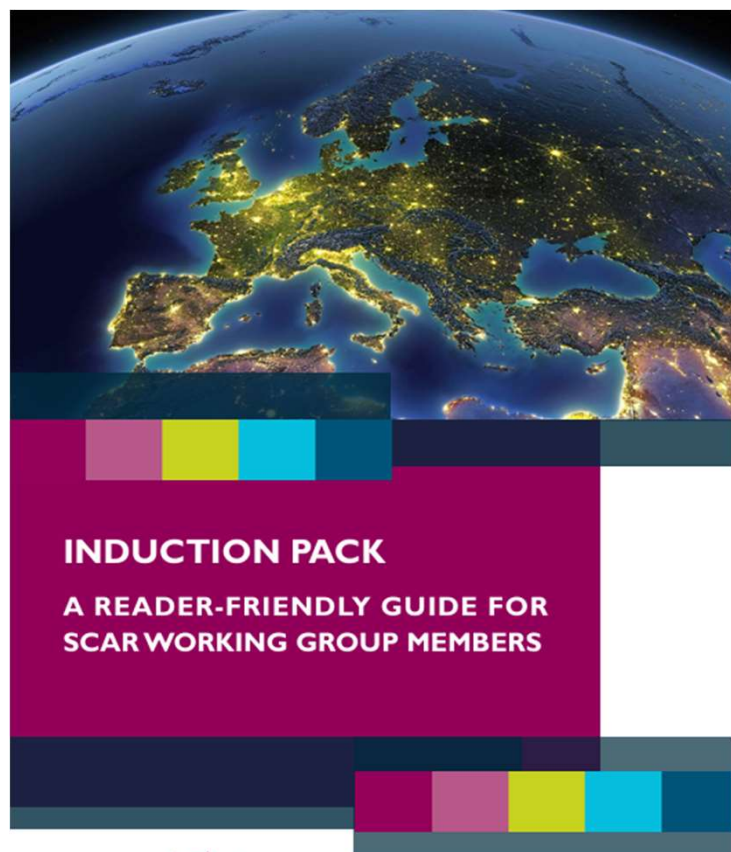
- SCAR Newsletter
- SCAR communication material:
 - Leaflet (PDF)
 - SCAR General PPT (PDF)
- Archived Content:
 - European Strategies Documents
 - Reports and outputs of studies funded through C&A
 - SCAR communication material

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO SCAR WORKING GROUPS

RefreSCAR

- RefreSCAR
- Consortium
- SCAR Engage Programme
- Documents
- Calendar events

Cover and Contents



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Nice
graphics by
INIIV team

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Introducing the SCAR



Mission of SCAR

The **SCAR leaflet** and the **SCAR PPT**, both downloadable from the SCAR website, are important sources for a clear and reader-friendly summary of the main aspects of the SCAR. These documents highlight the following four missions, or aims, of SCAR:

- SCAR **advises** the EC, EU MS and Associated Countries (AC) on R&I priorities to address Europe's challenges in agriculture, fisheries, food systems, forestry, and the wider bioeconomy.
- SCAR **co-creates** impactful R&I strategies, working closely with the EC.
- SCAR **inspires R&I** through foresight studies and by providing recommendations.
- SCAR **strengthens** the European Research Area. It is a key platform for co-creating Horizon Europe Partnerships: ambitious instruments that align EU and national R&I agendas to achieve actionable results in key Green Deal priority areas.

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Introducing the SCAR

Organisation and functioning

01. Introducing the SCAR

The structure of SCAR is visible in Figure 4. The Plenary, SCAR's governing body, is supported by the Steering Group and by the Secretariat, which is held by DG RTD and supported by DG AGRI, who chairs the Plenary meetings supported by the SCAR delegate from the country which is temporarily in charge of the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU. The various groups active under the SCAR umbrella are gathered according to their type. There are Strategic Working Groups (SWGs), Collaborative Working Groups (CWGs), any Ad-Hoc Working Groups or Task Forces (TFs) and the SCAR Foresight Group – from now onwards (when referenced in general) referred to as **SCAR Groups**.



Figure 4: SCAR organisation and structure

PLENARY MEETING, GOVERNING BODY

The Plenary Meeting acts as the SCAR's governing body. It brings together delegates representing more than 35 countries. The Plenary Meeting decides on the actions that should be taken to achieve its goals, including the creation of new SCAR Groups and the approval of SCAR Group mandates. It also discusses and advises on proposals made by SCAR Groups, and it reports to the EC and European Parliament regarding the decisions made. The Plenary Meeting is organised twice per year, the first one in late spring/early summer, and the second one is usually in December.

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Introducing the SCAR

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STEERING GROUP

The Steering Group can be seen as the main engine of the SCAR (together with the individual Groups, in their respective remits). The Steering Group and the SCAR Secretariat prepare the Plenary meetings and align the agenda with the current EU Presidency priorities. In doing so, they ensure alignment with the Horizon programmes. The Steering Group meets, usually in online form, twice per year. Issues of concern are discussed also, as are new documents to be adopted by the SCAR Plenary (for example, the mandate for a new Group or a new mandate for an existing Group).



SECRETARIAT

The SCAR Secretariat is hosted by DG RTD, which co-decides together with DG AGRI. The involvement of other Commission services (DGs) is also possible if needed. The SCAR Secretariat works with the SCAR Steering Group on the preparation of agenda items for the meetings of the SCAR Steering Group and the SCAR Plenary and aligns the agenda with the current EU Presidency priorities, ensuring alignment with Horizon Europe⁽¹⁾, the EC's Framework Programme for R&I.

⁽¹⁾ Information on Horizon Europe can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union/horizon-europe_en. See also the link provided in Annex II.

MANDATE

This is a document in which SCAR Groups indicate their main objectives and how they plan to achieve them, alongside an indication of the SCAR Group's planned future activities. This mandate is then presented at the SCAR Plenary for approval. The mandate is valid for a specific working period (often ~3 years). At the end of the indicated period, the group is required to develop a new mandate for approval by the SCAR Plenary, for the continuation of its existence.



WORKING GROUPS

The SCAR Groups (i.e. Strategic and Collaborative Working Groups and Task Forces) are the backbone of the SCAR. They are established upon a mandate endorsed by the SCAR Plenary. Focusing on specific priority areas, they provide policy advice, highlight priority R&I topics based on needs and gaps, and develop strategic R&I agendas.

The difference between a "Strategic" (SWG) and a "Collaborative" WG (CWG) is that SWGs mainly focus on strategic policy advice, whereas CWGs have a focus on thematic coordination. Some ERA-NETs (see in the next box what they are) have emerged directly from the work of CWGs in the past. Joint activities (e.g. workshops) and collaboration between SCAR Groups often occurs (e.g. collaborative workshops among two or more SCAR Groups).

All SCAR Groups are led by one or more Chairs and/or Co-Chairs, who are nominated by the SCAR Group members for a fixed period. Like the other SCAR Group members, Chairs and Co-Chairs work without remuneration on a voluntary basis. Their main task is to organise the work of their SCAR Group and to chair the group meetings.

SCAR Groups work autonomously; however, they often engage in joint activities (for ex: workshops) that are an important aspect of their work. The SCAR is one community!

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The SCAR Groups one by one

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SWG ARCH



The SCAR ARCH was established as a SWG in 2013. When the mandate as a SWG concluded in 2019, new modalities for continuing its tasks as an "international facility group" were endorsed by SCAR. ARCH aims at improving linkages between agricultural research and agricultural research for development with attention to collaboration with and in developing countries. Crosscutting global issues, such as climate change, food and nutrition security, sustainable and resilient food systems need to be tackled not only from a European, but also from an international perspective. Besides, the EU, as one of the biggest production and consumption area in the world, it is expected to undertake a leading role in addressing these challenges. In turn, mechanisms and processes are needed to facilitate this integration and up-take by SCAR and its thematic working groups. SCAR ARCH aims at improving linkages between European and International Agricultural Research as a contribution to SCAR reaching its objectives.

SWG BIOECONOMY (BSW)



The SCAR SWG Bioeconomy, sometimes referred to as "BSW", started working in 2017 and, from January 2025, entered its fourth mandate. Its aims are to contribute to a forward-looking bioeconomy transition in tight collaboration with other SCAR Working Groups, partnerships (eg. CBE JU) and networks (eg. 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: (i) knowledge collection and liaison with other SCAR Working Groups, partnerships and networks; (ii) analysis of research, development and innovation gaps and needs with related recommendations.

SWG FISH



The Strategic Working Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture Research, established in 2012, deals with 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. In doing so, it plays an important role in keeping these issues in contact with the other SCAR remits, connecting the "blue" and the "green" dimension of SCAR.

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Navigating the SCAR website

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The SCAR website was redesigned at the beginning of 2025, to make it more attractive, modern and communicative. The homepage presents a navigation bar (see Figure 7), right above a fascinating night photo of Europe, and below the link to the RefreSCAR social media channels on X, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube. The bar displays five available submenus after the home page, starting on the left with "SCAR", followed by the items "SCAR Working Groups", "News", "Events" and "Contact". We will come back to these submenus after a short description of the rest of the homepage.

Scrolling down, the homepage continues with general information on the SCAR and its Groups, a section with latest News, the Agenda with recent and forthcoming events, and the link to the SCAR newsletters, which are an important periodic source of information for the SCAR community. The link to the previous newsletters can be useful to have a quick view on the activities of and around the SCAR in the last years, which give also an idea of the type of activities still ongoing.

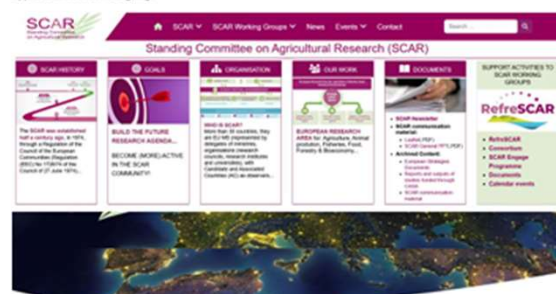


Figure 7: SCAR webpage menu (SCAR website)

Clicking on the main "SCAR" menu on the left of the navigation bar, a group of small windows appears, leading to pages with all the basic information on the SCAR, SCAR history, goals, organisation are consultable by clicking on each of the windows (but also moving directly from one to another, after accessing one of them).

The fourth window (moving from left to right) is under the header "Our work", and it offers an interesting and quite detailed description of the main activities and achievements of the SCAR, framed through the four main tasks of SCAR action as shown in Figure 1.

Still under the "SCAR" menu on the navigation bar, the fifth window leads to the SCAR "Documents". This section provides great introductory material on SCAR, in the form of a leaflet and deck of slides. As already mentioned, you can rely on them for a quick overview

on the main SCAR features and for further external communication and dissemination. Under "Archived content", there is also a link to reports and outputs generated by the Horizon 2020 funded action CASA. CASA was a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) aimed at giving support to the SCAR in the years from 2016 to 2019.

From the "Documents", you can also link to the Newsletter section. This is the same section accessible from the bottom of the homepage. Indeed, the possibility to access the same content from different pathways is quite frequent in the SCAR website, in the aim of facilitating easy navigation.

On the extreme right of the "SCAR" menu, you see the link to the section dedicated to the CSA RefreSCAR, the action now supporting the SCAR Groups which also supported the creation of this Induction Pack.

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Navigating the SCAR website

Induction Pack



The screenshot shows the SCAR website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to SCAR, SCAR Working Groups, News, Events, and Contact. Below the navigation bar is a large banner featuring the RefreSCAR logo and the text: "Improved coordination of national and EUROPEAN BIOECONOMY RESEARCH and INNOVATION programmes in the European Research Area (ERA) through strengthened SCAR Working Groups". Below the banner is a section titled "PROJECT INFORMATION" which includes a map of Europe and details about the project, such as the start date (September 2025), end date (August 2027), and funding sources. At the bottom, there is a section titled "CONTEXT" and "VISION & OBJECTIVES".

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Being a SCAR Group member

Induction Pack

“ National “mirror groups”

Some countries have established national “mirror groups”, where issues of interest that are in SCAR agendas can be discussed and agreed upon before or after being addressed at SCAR group or at Plenary level. In the countries where such mirror groups are established, SCAR delegates, and Groups members can interact with each other and with other experts and stakeholders interested on the issues.

A SCAR Group member could be expected to...

SCAR Group members work on a voluntary basis, so there are no “contracts” binding participants to perform specific duties. However, they are expected to actively participate in the Groups’ activities. It is not possible to list all activities, as they depend on the Group in question and their Mandates. Just as examples, members could be expected to contribute to:

- Participation in periodic meetings (online and/or in presence);
- Update on national level news (events, documents, policy decisions, etc.);
- Organisation of workshops, even jointly with other SCAR Groups;
- Identification of topics for mapping, studies, or gap analyses;
- Participation in sub-groups dedicated to specific themes or initiatives;
- Communication activities, support to the SCAR Foresight Exercises, update of the SCAR website;
- Coordination with the SCAR national delegate of their country.

TIPS FROM YOUR COLLEAGUES

– what makes a “good” SCAR group member!

Focus Groups held by RefreSCAR in 2023 provided a forum for discussing with SCAR Group members what in their view makes a “good” SCAR member. Some key attributes were:

- Experienced and competent in the WG topics,
- Self-motivated, confident, and able to push for change,
- Capable of strategic thinking and systemic view, and open to multidisciplinary
- Capable of addressing the science-policy interface and to engage in dialogue at this interface,
- Capable of thinking at both national and EU level, open to seeing issues from different perspectives,
- Endowed with non-scientific skills like management, communication, negotiation and cooperation,
- A strategic thinker

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Annexes

I. List of RefreSCAR Contact Points for each SCAR Group

The table below provides the names of the RefreSCAR Contact points for each SCAR group. Details and emails are retrievable on the RefreSCAR page on the SCAR website.

| | Lead | Back-Up |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ARCH | Johannes Bender | José Matos |
| Forest | Brid McLearn | Marina Arnaut Stefanović |
| Fish | Hendrik De Ruyck | Olivera Stojilović Trivunčić |
| AKIS | Arlene McGrath | Anne Cobben |
| Bioeconomy | Anne Cobben | Johannes Bender |
| Food Systems | Marina Arnaut Stefanović | Carla Molta Brices |
| Agroecology | Nikki DeClercq | Brid McLearn |
| Animal Health & Sustainable Animal Production | José Matos | Hendrik De Ruyck |
| Protein | Olivera Stojilović Trivunčić | Nikki DeClercq |
| | Carla Molta Brices | Arlene McGrath |

05. ANNEXES

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II. Selected links

The provided links showcase various EU initiatives, policies, and programs related to research, innovation, and agriculture.

They represent different aspects of the EU's comprehensive efforts to advance scientific knowledge, promote sustainable agriculture, and foster collaborative research and innovation across Europe. These initiatives align with the EU's overarching objectives of stimulating economic growth, addressing societal challenges, and building a competitive and sustainable knowledge-based economy.

Obviously, this list only displays some key websites, no list can be exhaustive given the variety of remit, actors, levels of initiatives, geographical areas.

05. ANNEXES

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EC COM(2021) 345 A long-term vision for Rural Areas

This Vision builds on the emerging opportunities of the EU's green and digital transitions and on the lessons learnt from the COVID 19 pandemic, and identifies means to improve rural quality of life, achieve balanced territorial development and stimulate economic growth.

EC SWD(2023) 4 Drivers of Food Security

“This EC working document aims at analysing the main drivers affecting food security from both the supply and demand sides. Relying on an evidence-based approach, this document provides a factual assessment of the key drivers and their interlinkages, to inform the ongoing debate in today's context. It looks at short and longer term horizons and linkages between the drivers”.

EC COM(2024) 137 Building the future with nature

As its subtitle highlights, this Communication aims at “boosting biotechnology and biomanufacturing in the EU”. These sectors are seen as key for competitiveness and modernisation

due to their high growth potential and increased labour productivity. Challenges and opportunities to move forward are described.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/summaries/2024/COM\(2024\)137/](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/summaries/2024/COM(2024)137/)

EC COM(2025) 75 A Vision for Agriculture and Food.

With this Communication, the EC proposes a vision and a roadmap for the future of agriculture and food in Europe, ideally looking towards 2040 in a perspective of economic, social and environmental sustainability. The aim is to develop an attractive, competitive, sustainable and fair agri-food system for current and future generations of farmers and operators in the sector.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/summaries/2025/COM\(2025\)75/](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/summaries/2025/COM(2025)75/)

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

The Strategy aims at addressing the biodiversity crisis in the European Union. Adopted by the European Council in May 2020, it outlines ambitious targets and measures to protect and restore biodiversity over the next decade. The strategy covers various sectors, including agriculture, to ensure a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation and the SCAR may have a strong involvement, particularly regarding the impact of agricultural practices on biodiversity and the role of research in addressing biodiversity challenges.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en

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THANK YOU

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https://linktr.ee/refrescar_eu



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