



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



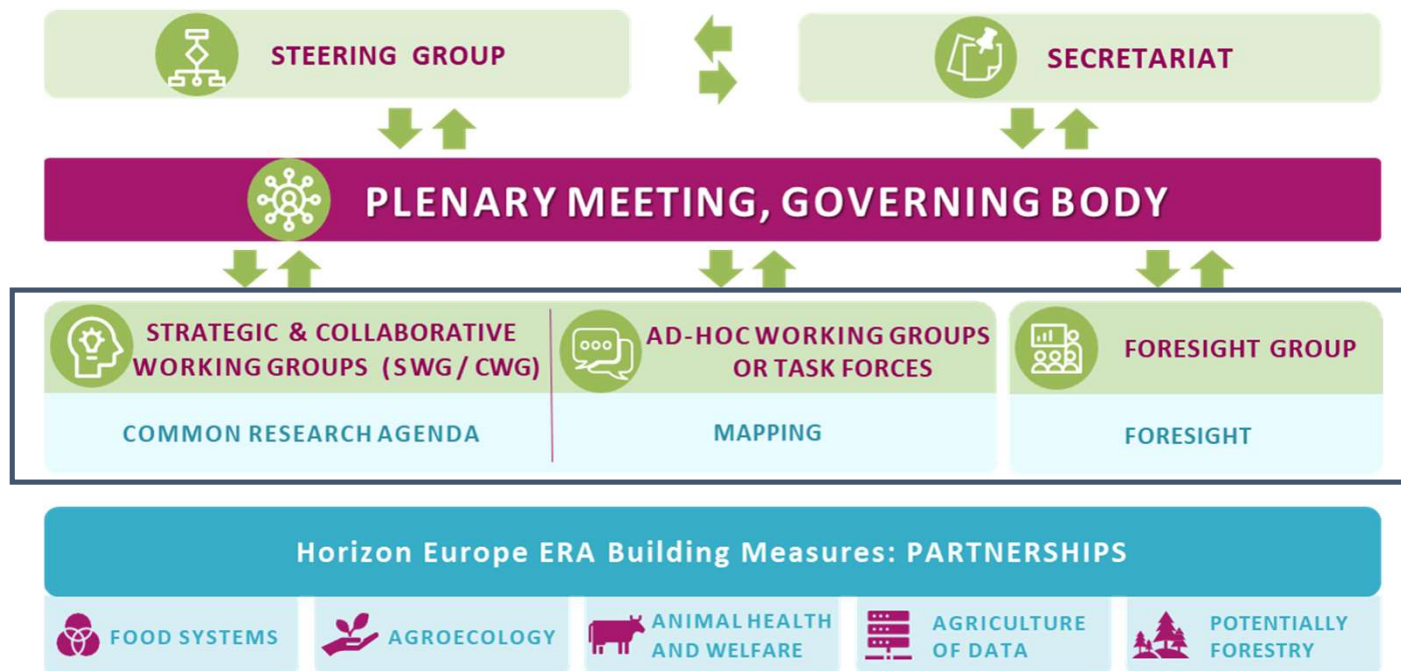
Who is SCAR?

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:

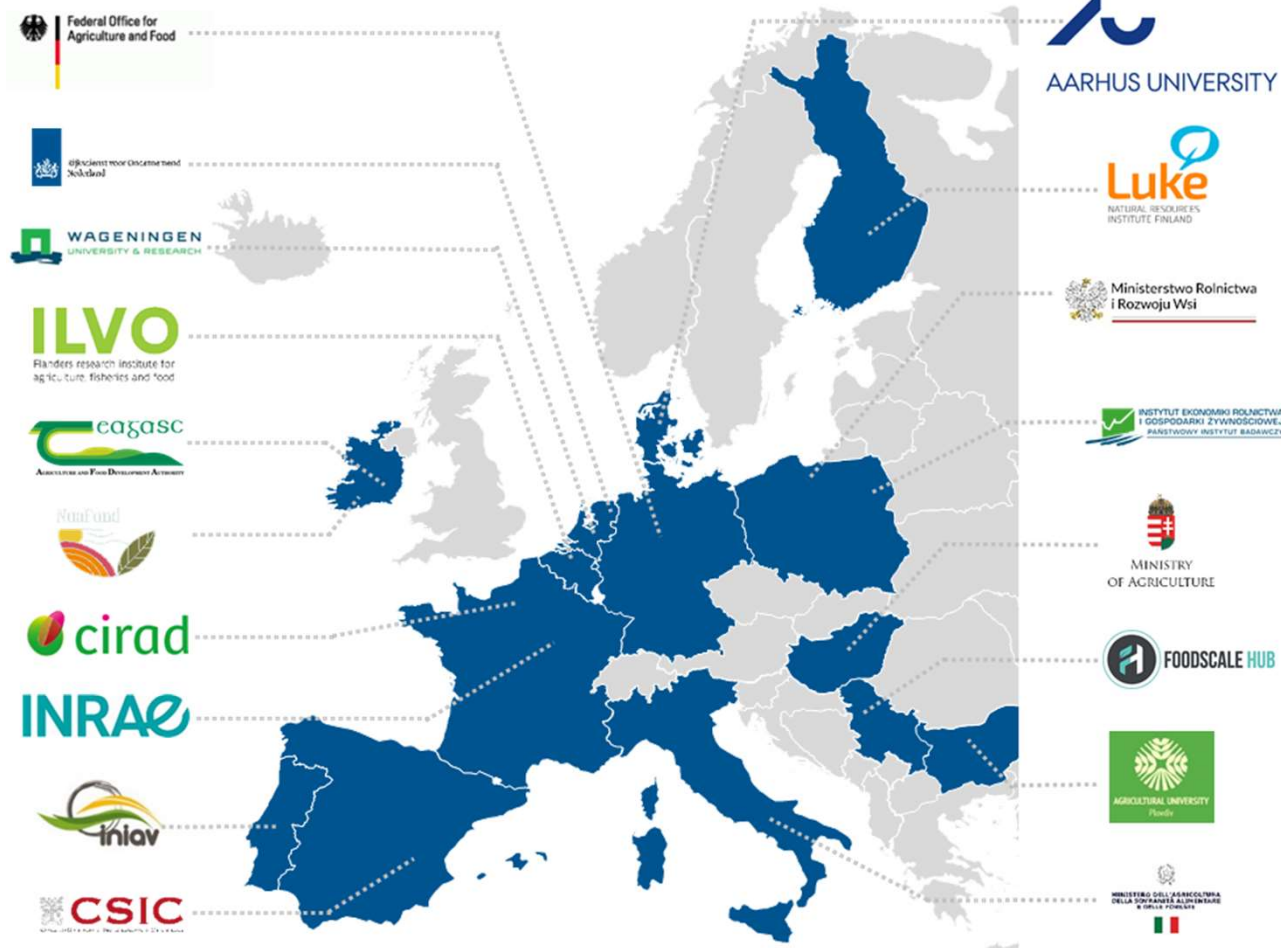
- to facilitate improved coordination of national and European bioeconomy research programmes in the European Research Area through strengthened SCAR Working Groups

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

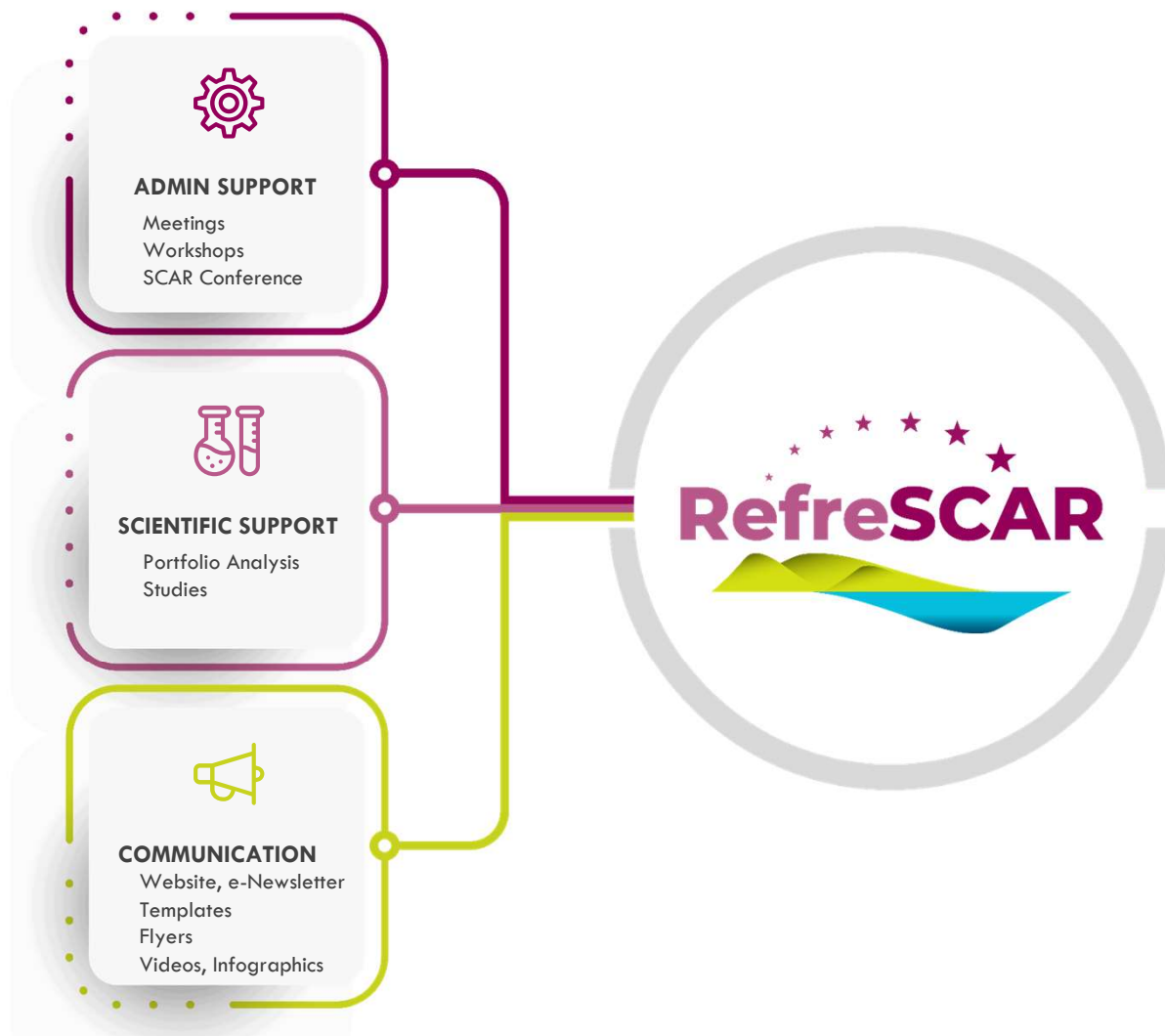
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| SO1: | Provide scientific & administrative support to the work of the SCAR WGs, enhancing their capacity to formulate research policy advice and collaborate on matters of common interest |
| SO2: | Enhance inclusiveness within SCAR WGs and support active engagement of members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



Arlene McGrath



Bríd McClearn



Annual Training Webinars:



Stefano Grando

General queries: refrescar@teagasc.ie

The SCAR Groups



WGs



TFS



SCAR Foresight Group

SCAR Agroecology WG

- 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 R&I policy development for agroecology at national, EU & international levels by:
 - Offering a platform for continuous strategic discussion between the EC, EU MS/AC as well as stakeholders on priorities in R&I for agroecology
 - Interacting with the AGROECOLOGY Partnership to strengthen conceptual, methodological and practical frameworks on agroecology

Members: 19 countries + EC and key advisors

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

SCAR AKIS WG

- AKIS = Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System, i.e. cooperation between different actors working on knowledge transfer and innovation. WG established in 2010, currently in 6th 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>



SCAR Animal Health & Welfare (AHW) WG

- 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 2026:**
 - 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

SCAR ARCH WG

- 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

Focus 2025-2026:

- Portfolio analysis on 'Achievements of EU Research, Innovation and Development projects in the last 10 years to address the global challenge of agriculture transformation'
- 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 WG

- 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: 27 countries + EC and key advisors

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



Bioeconomy Strategic
Working Group

SCAR FISH WG

- WG 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 Terms of Reference:

- Coexistence of aquaculture and fisheries with other economic activities
- Implementation of the biodiversity strategy and the potential nature restoration law in the aquatic domain
- Towards a more sustainable aquaculture production
- The potential of digital transition in fisheries and aquaculture

Members: 24 countries + EC and key advisors

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



SCAR Food Systems WG

- 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: 21 countries + EC and key advisors

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



SCAR Forest WG

- Established in October 2013
- Main objective under its 4th mandate (2023-2026) is to support the development of a 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: 25 Member States and 6 observers + EC and key advisors

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

The logo for SCAR Forest, with "scar" in purple and "forest" in green. Below it, the text "Strategic Working Group on Forests and Forestry Research and Innovation" is written in a smaller black font.

Strategic Working Group on Forests and
Forestry Research and Innovation

SCAR Sustainable Animal Production (SAP) WG

- 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
- Contribute to a shared perspective and common vision of future livestock farming in Europe
- Support investment in R&I

Current focus 2026:

- Study on 'Scientific methods to assess the overall sustainability of livestock farming systems' and a policy brief

Members: 25 countries + EC and key advisors

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



Startup & Scaleup Task Force

- Short-term initiative supporting the EC on the better valorisation of research and innovation ideas into business creation, startups and scaleups in agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems

Key areas of work

- Mapping examples of R&I-driven startups and scaleups across Europe through case studies
- Identifying barriers and enabling factors for innovation uptake
- Assessing support instruments and investment pathways
- Exploring synergies between EU and national funding mechanisms

Output

- The Task Force will deliver a concise report providing:
 - Key findings from selected cases
 - Identification of structural bottlenecks
 - Targeted recommendations to inform EU R&I strategies

Members: 14 countries + EC

<https://scar-europe.org/scar-working-groups/startup-scaleup-tf>



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
- 6th SCAR Foresight Exercise due for publication this year

THANK YOU

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Follow RefreSCAR on:



https://linktr.ee/refrescar_eu

The RefreSCAR logo features the word "RefreSCAR" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. Above the letters "e", "S", and "A" are several purple stars of varying sizes, arranged in a semi-circular pattern. Below the text is a stylized, wavy graphic with a yellow-to-blue gradient. The background is a light blue map of Europe with a grid pattern.

RefreSCAR



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