

**Strategic Working Group:**

**Agricultural Knowledge and  
Innovation Systems**

**SCAR**  
Standing Committee  
on Agricultural Research



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## Strategic Working Group (SWG)

In more recent years dedicated subgroups have been established to discuss strategic matters for which there is insufficient time or opportunity in the Plenary meetings. The strategic matters cover broad issues with a specific remit, described in terms of reference, approved by the Plenary meeting.

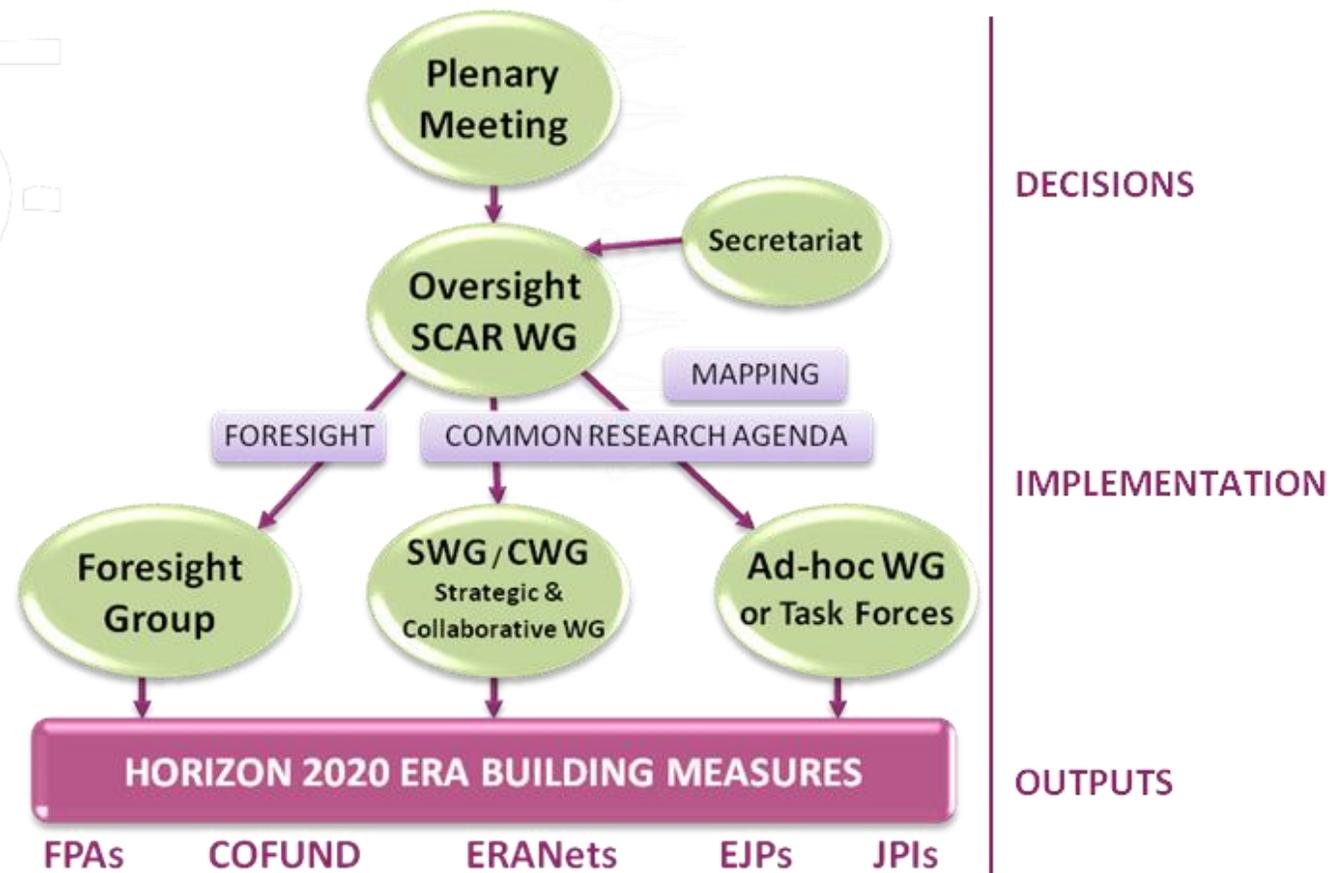
Today these groups have focused on formulating research policy advice on issues such as the Bioeconomy (**SCAR Bioeconomy**), fisheries and aquaculture research (**SCAR Fish**), agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (**SCAR AKIS**), food systems (**SCAR Food Systems**), forestry research and innovation (**SCAR Forest**) and European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global challenges (**SCAR ARCH**).

## Strategic Working Group (SWG)

- **Membership in these groups is voluntary and is financed through national resources;**
- **Commission staff too is actively involved in them. In various cases individual Member States have contributed funds to pay for coordination efforts and/or expert input.**



## Strategic Working Group (SWG)



## AKIS

### Thinking out of the box to co-create and share knowledge

The term **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)** is used to describe the whole knowledge exchange system: **the ways people and organisations interact within a country or a region.**

**AKIS can include farming practice, businesses, authorities, research, etc. and can vary a lot, depending on the country or sector. When developing new AKIS, technical, organisational and social dimensions should be taken into account (a “systems approach”), this helps bridge the gap between science and practice.**

## AKIS 1.0:

### Understanding how knowledge flows support the agricultural sector

Farmers, advisers, researchers, education and training providers, input suppliers, retailers, media services, ministries are all part of a national or regional AKIS since they all either need, produce or exchange knowledge.



## **AKIS and advisory services in Bulgaria**

### **Report for the AKIS inventory (WP3) of the PRO AKIS project**

**In Bulgaria, AKIS is represented by different institutions:**

- **public sector – Ministry of Agriculture and Food with its secondary structures, including National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS);**
- **private advisory sector, independent advisors, international trade organizations, regional suppliers;**
- **farm-based organisations (co-operatives and few producer groups),**
- **educational and research organisations**
- **non-government organisations – professional association and foundations.**

## AKIS 2.0:

### Building a future knowledge exchange system adapted to farmers' needs

- New approaches to exchanging knowledge take time to become fully established.
- New skills are needed to make wise and effective use of new communication channels.
- Language barriers exist and in many cases there are still gaps between research, advice and practice which block the two-way flow of information that is needed to foster innovative solutions to farming needs and opportunities.



## *Improving Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) supporting farmers*



## **SWG SCAR-AKIS Policy Brief on New approaches on Agricultural Education Systems**

**Digitization, less farmers but better trained, as reflected in the recent SCAR AKIS reports and in the outcomes of different FP7 and H2020 related projects (such as PRO-AKIS and AgriSpin).**

**This paper contributes to identifying main drivers for the agricultural education systems and its evolving needs within the interactive innovation model.**

**It provides food for thought for the H2020 multi-actor approach and also for national and regional education engaged at different levels (tertiary, secondary and primary formal education and lifelong training).**

## **SWG SCAR-AKIS recommendations for transformation of the agricultural education system**

- **A people centred interactive approach connecting production with consumption**
- **Basic agricultural education for efficient valorisation of new developments and innovation**
- **Cross-sectoral education**
- **Lifelong learning**
- **Students learn better in real live practical settings**
- **ICT tools can enrich teaching methods**
- **Promote multi-actor cooperation through EU instruments for knowledge and innovation**

## SWG SCAR-AKIS Policy Brief on the Future of Advisory Services

1. Future roles of advisory services
2. Many kinds of people are so-called “advisor”. What should be the criteria for being considered an advisor?
3. How to shape an advisory system ready for the future?
4. How should future policies and programmes make an enabling environment where advisors play an interactive role connecting between practice and science?



## **SWG SCAR-AKIS Policy Brief on the Future of Advisory Services**

- 5. How can collaboration and networking between researchers and advisors make knowledge flowing and stay public?**
- 6. How should interactive advisory services be structured, funded, trained and networked to move to a more interactive innovation model?**
- 7. Is this structuring of modern advisory services happening and if not, why is it or why not? Who should take what initiative?**
- 8. Reflection about the adequate levels which can incentivize modern advisory services, be it at regional, national or EU level, and the connections between them.**

## Member States' CAP Strategic AKIS Plans for the CAP 2021-2027 period

### Communication „The Future of Food and Farming “

- Support for knowledge, innovation and technology will be crucial to future-proofing the CAP.
- The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) have proven their value in mobilising the agricultural sector for innovation. It has funded multi-participant pilot projects and is networking across Europe to make new knowledge generally available.
- A modern CAP should support the strengthening of farm advisory services within the AKIS systems. **This should become a condition for the approval of CAP Strategic Plans.**

*Thank you for your attention!*

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