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RefreSCAR ENTERS A NEW PHASE: FORESIGHT, VISIBILITY AND ENGAGEMENT AT THE CORE OF RECENT MILESTONES

The RefreSCAR project, which supports the Working Groups and Task Forces within the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), has recently marked three significant milestones, reinforcing its mission to boost cooperation, visibility, and strategic planning across Europe's agri-food, fisheries, forestry and wider bioeconomy research landscape.

I. Kick-off of the 6th SCAR Foresight Exercise



The much-anticipated 6th SCAR Foresight Exercise has officially been launched, with a successful kick-off meeting on the 7th March. RefreSCAR has been providing operational support to the SCAR Foresight Task Force

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for the planning, brainstorming, scoping and preparatory phases, including the organisation of two scoping workshops in Brussels in 2024.

With the publication of the [5th Foresight Report](#) - “Resilience and transformation. Natural resources and food systems: Transitions towards a ‘safe and just’ operating space” - a list of targets was identified to be met by Europe, by 2050, to sustain human and other life and maintain a fair and safe society. Three main transition pathways, capable of contributing to meeting the objectives of COP21 and the UN SDGs, were identified: (i) healthy, sustainable diets for all; (ii) a ‘circular’ food supply; (iii) greater diversity.

The 6th Foresight Exercise has been launched under the working title: ***‘Healthy and sustainable diets, Circularity, Diversity: Pathways in transition for resilient European agriculture and food systems in times of global crises. Explorative scenarios built upon the transition pathways with a deep dive on natural resources - land and water’.***

It will start with the main outcomes of the previous Exercise as the validity of the three transition pathways, to be updated in the light of the evolving context, has been confirmed by the scoping process for the 6th Foresight Exercise. The deep dive on land and water will be an opportunity to develop an in-depth analysis in relation to these strategic assets, beyond the planned exploration of general scenarios.

The first draft of the Foresight Expert Group Report will be presented in the Spring of 2026 to be discussed with a wide audience (SCAR, European Commission, external stakeholders).

Input and comments from these stakeholder groups will be utilised to further refine and consolidate the report and its recommendations.

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The final version of the Report will include policy recommendations for R&I, that will be used for a wide dissemination in Member States/Associated Countries and on European level. A dedicated SCAR Conference is planned for Summer 2027.

2. Launch of the New SCAR Website



To improve communication and outreach, the refreshed SCAR website (<https://scar-europe.org>) is now live. With a renewed design, streamlined navigation, and dedicated spaces for each Working Group and Task Force, the platform serves as a hub for sharing knowledge, events, publications, and updates across the SCAR community and beyond.

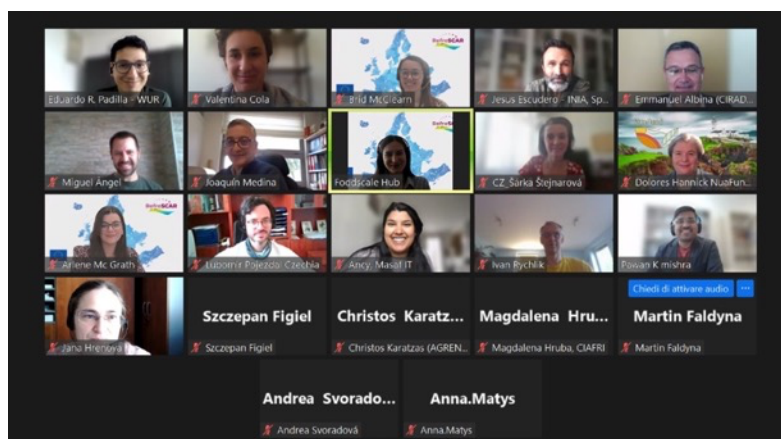
This update reflects the RefreSCAR project's commitment to improved communication, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among SCAR Working Groups and Task Forces, policymakers, researchers, and wider stakeholders. The most notable improvements are:

- A more intuitive and user-friendly interface
- Enhanced access to SCAR Working Group/Task Force latest news, reports, and events

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- A fresh, modern design aligned with our vision for the future
- A new 'History of SCAR' section describing its evolution since the committee was established in 1974

3. 2nd Round of the SCAR Engage Programme



The second round of the SCAR-Engage Programme has just been finalised! It resulted in 3 countries being onboarded (Czechia, Slovakia and Spain) with 9 new Working Group members.

The new members will be joining the SCAR Agroecology, Animal Health & Welfare, ARCH, Bioeconomy, FISH, Food Systems and Sustainable Animal Production working groups.

The SCAR-Engage Programme is an initiative designed to support new members of SCAR Working Groups and Task Forces and to increase country-level visibility.

It aims to empower new members, especially those from countries that are under-represented or less visible in SCAR, with knowledge, supports and connections to enable their active participation and smooth integration into Working Group/Task Force activities.

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The programme plans to run four times between 2024 and 2027, with each SCAR-Engage Programme round lasting twelve months from its official start date.

Participants in the programme will benefit from several forms of support. These include:

- Peer-to-peer support and networking: A series of meetings designed to foster networking and mutual support throughout the duration of the SCAR-Engage Programme.
- Country-level Individual Action Plans: Tailored documents addressing each country's needs and ambitions regarding future involvement in SCAR activities.
- Financial support: The programme offers financial assistance for new SCAR WG members to attend physical Working Group/Task Force meetings.
- Alumni involvement and a Certificate of Completion.

These three milestones mark a new phase for the RefreSCAR project, focused on supporting strategic vision, improving visibility and communication, and encouraging inclusive stakeholder engagement. Together, they help to bring the SCAR community closer to its mission of enabling more impactful and improved coordination of national and European research and innovation programmes in the European Research Area.

For more information, visit <https://scar-europe.org/refrescar> or follow RefreSCAR on [LinkedIn](#).