

# SCAR

Standing Committee  
on Agricultural Research

Dear reader,  
Welcome to the second  
SCAR-Newsletter !

The SCAR-Newsletter provides information about on-going SCAR activities, about the workshops of the different SCAR Collaborative and Strategic Working Groups, CASA activities and Bioeconomy- and SCAR-related events in Europe. Please feel free to share it with relevant colleagues and interested people.

Enjoy it!

## NEWSLETTER 2

Second half year 2017

## NEWS FROM THE SCAR PLENARY AND THE SCAR STEERING GROUP

### The 26<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the SCAR (Brussels, 21 June 2017)

Estonia presented the priorities of the Estonian Presidency related to the Bioeconomy, which include CAP modernisation, plant health, soils and vaccinology. The Estonian Presidency will host a SCAR conference in Tallinn from 4 to 5 December 2017, with the aim to expand the membership of SCAR. The next SCAR Plenary will be held on 6 December 2017 in Tallinn, back-to-back with the conference.

On 16 November 2017, the Staff Working Document following the review of the EU Bioeconomy strategy will be presented during a Bioeconomy policy day. The SCAR SWG Bioeconomy has developed a policy paper which calls for a revision of the EU Bioeconomy strategy and announced a future policy brief on the links between the Circular Economy and the Bioeconomy.

FR and IT presented their respective Bioeconomy strategies. LV and AT announced that they are working on a Bioeconomy strategy. In PL, the Bioeconomy is part of the roadmap currently being developed on Circular Economy. HU presented the latest developments on BIOEAST and announced a meeting that will take place in September with the responsible ministries and the EC.

The Foresight group announced that they will launch two studies, financed by CASA, to support the Foresight process, with a strong focus on dissemination. The first study aims at further disseminating the findings and recommendations of the previous SCAR Foresight studies, in order to feed into a potential revision of the EU Bioeconomy strategy. The second study is a meta-analysis of main Foresight studies. The Foresight group also announced the roadmap towards the 5th Foresight exercise and introduced first ideas for topics.

The mandate of the SCAR SWG ARCH was extended for 6 months. The group will request a new mandate at the December Plenary.

SWG AKIS made a presentation of the two policy briefs on agricultural education systems and on the future of advisory services while DG AGRI gave an update on EIP AGRI.

The Plenary took the decision to establish a task force among the SCAR Steering Group to work out a solution to involve the Member States in the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF). The IBF plenary will take place on 30 November 2017.

### SCAR SWG Bioeconomy



### The 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SCAR Steering Group

(Brussels, 5 October 2017)

The delegates first discussed the first conclusions of the Task Force that was established at the June Plenary to work out a proposal how to involve the Member States in the meetings of the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF). The Task Force is composed of NL, FR, FI, UK, DE and IE. The EC would represent the MS in IBF, also in the IBF WGs, but there could be a SCAR ambassador/representative, in addition to representation of relevant JPIs. Countries would, however, be able to participate directly, particularly in relevant IBF WGs. The SG endorsed the first conclusions of the TF. EC will look at the possibility to finance the participation of the SCAR representative in the IBF by the next SG meeting and someone will need to be appointed.

SCAR members and members of the Working Groups are encouraged to participate to the Foresight group in view of the next Foresight exercise of the SCAR. A brainstorming on the scope of the 5th Foresight will take place at the next SG meeting.

EE updated the delegates on the preparation of the SCAR conference that will take place in Tallinn on 4 and 5 December 2017, under the Estonian Presidency. The title of the conference is "SCAR Conference: Research policy, state of play and future steps in the European Bioeconomy".

Rolf Stratmann, coordinator of CASA, updated the delegates on the latest achievements of CASA. The mentoring programme was introduced to the delegates.

Interested mentors and mentees are invited to contact CASA. Basic material on SCAR should be developed so that the mentors can give unified information about SCAR to the mentees. Dorri te Boekhorst (CASA) presented the outcomes of the study on representation and inclusion of countries and organisations in SCAR. Full results will be presented at the SCAR Conference in Tallinn.

Alex Percy-Smith (CASA) presented the process leading to the adoption of the SCAR Rolling Work Plan for 2018-2019. The draft Rolling Work Plan will be presented at the next meeting of the SG.

All SWGs and CWGs presented an update on their activities. A detailed presentation on the renewal of the mandate of SWG ARCH will be on the agenda of the next SG meeting.

The afternoon session was dedicated to a participatory workshop around three areas:

- What are the main R&I challenges in the field of the BE that Europe will have to face beyond 2020 and that FP9 should address in priority.
- Main obstacles to transnational cooperation and coordination and how to overcome them, and contribution of the SCAR WGs in fostering transnational cooperation.
- How to strengthen SCAR strategic advice Alex Percy-Smith facilitated the workshop.

# NEWS FROM THE SCAR GROUPS

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## ARCH

In September 2017, ARCH commissioned (thanks to support from CASA) a study on the international dimension of European food systems. This study will highlight how much European food systems are interconnected with what happens outside European borders, both through physical incoming and outgoing flows of food and agricultural products, through international prices of agricultural commodities, and through immaterial flows of ideas and concepts on food systems (example: slow food versus fast food; reduction in meat consumption; growing demand in organic products; role of large supermarket in food systems...). This study may lead to a workshop co-organised in 2018 with the SWG "Food Systems".

Since June 2017, ARCH members have been consulted with SCAR delegates, other SCAR SWG and EC officials to develop a proposal for its new mandate. This mandate is expected to be approved at the next SCAR plenary, in December 2017 in Tallinn.

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## ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The consensus workshop to update the EU Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for Animal Health, organised by the Animal Health Collaborative Working Group (CWG AHW) of SCAR, will take place the next 28th November in Brussels. The main focus of the workshop will be to discuss and validate the animal health research priorities emerged from the on-line survey carried out during summer 2017. The survey counted the participation of 128 experts from 25 countries.

The workshop is part of a wider planned study to update the Strategic Research Agenda in Animal Health, unifying several recently developed SRAs and prioritizing their outcomes. CASA, a project that supports the activities of SCAR through facilitation and working group in order to consolidate the European Research Area, is supporting this study by Pangea scc."

- Special guests at the plenary meeting will be some representatives of EU industries: EUPIG, ECIP (tbc), AVEC and COPA-COGECA. The CWG has strong relationship with the livestock sector in Europe and participated in the establishment of two collaborative platforms with two of the main livestock sector: the European Cattle Innovation Partnership (ECIP), and the EUPIG platform. Members of these platforms are a number of farming-based organisations aiming to improve the cross border coordination of applied research, development and knowledge exchange in European livestock farming.
- A report on animal health and welfare research has been published on the CWG AHW website. It is the result of a gap analysis and a dedicated focus group with industry and other stakeholder realised by a subgroup on animal welfare of the CWG AHW.

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## BIOECONOMY

The Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group (BSW) held a meeting in Helsinki at the beginning of June 2017.

After attending the 1st World Circular Economy Forum and gaining new insights into the current developments in the Circular Economy, the group discussed the relationship between the Bioeconomy and the Circular Economy.

The outputs of the discussion lead to the drafting of a "Technical Note" on this issue, as a further refinement of the "Policy Brief on the future of the European Bioeconomy Strategy" ([https://www.scar-swg-sbgb.eu/lw\\_resource/datapool/items/item\\_28/policy-brief-23082017\\_final\\_template.pdf](https://www.scar-swg-sbgb.eu/lw_resource/datapool/items/item_28/policy-brief-23082017_final_template.pdf)).

In this Technical Note the group argues that Bioeconomy and Circular Economy are mutually reinforcing and need to be developed in synergy in order for Europe to develop a future-proof economic system. There are shared drivers, goals, barriers and instruments, but also unique contributions of these two economies towards solving the challenges ahead. The BSW further argues that a strengthened dialogue is necessary between Bioeconomy and Circular Economy players on all levels. The members of the BSW are ready to contribute to this dialogue.

The Policy Brief and the Technical Note were shared with the EU Commission and presented at a workshop on 15 November 2017 during the Bioeconomy Week in Brussels. These developments will be presented at the SCAR Plenary on 6 December 2017 in Tallinn.

The Common Agricultural Policy and the next framework programme for research and innovation are important issues the BSW is currently dealing with. On the CAP, the BSW has written a letter to DG AGRI highlighting the importance of the Bioeconomy and calling for a contribution of the CAP for research and innovation in agriculture and the Bioeconomy more generally.

On December 7 and 8 the BSW will meet in Tallinn to discuss research needs for the Bioeconomy, the future of the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking after Horizon 2020 and a study financed by the CASA project and performed by the Finnish research institute LUKE on the currently used monitoring systems for the Bioeconomy. It is expected that the group will produce a second Knowledge and Innovation Agenda (KIA) that could inform discussions on the next framework programme.

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## FOOD Systems

During the February meeting, held in Brussels, the SWG SCAR FOOD Systems identified the most impactful cross-cutting Food Systems issues and fixed the action plan.

Subsequently, the main activities of the SWG SCAR FOOD Systems in 2017 and 2018 were and will be focused on two of the five group's priorities:

- Monitoring Food systems: outcome in light of governance and future proofing;
- Increasing diversity.

In the same time, SCAR FOOD Systems Members are carrying out a qualitative and quantitative mapping related to the Food Systems of the MS. These mapping should provide an overview of national R & I funding and the type of existing policies and strategies related to food and nutrition security and priorities of FOOD 2030. This Mapping information across Member states reveals knowledge gaps as well as opportunities to collaborate in the future to fulfill FOOD 2030 expectations. An analysis based on the results of these mappings is in process. It will be finalized during the year 2018.

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## NEWS FROM THE SCAR GROUPS

Standing Committee  
on Agricultural ResearchPORTUGAL - Lisbon  
Praça do Comércio

## FOREST

## SCAR FOREST - Highlights from 2017

Widening participation: 5 additional Member States from Central and Eastern EU (Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia) have joined SCAR FOREST strategic working group during the year. In 2017, most SWG members were also involved in the strategic activities within SUMFOREST Era-Net and preparation of the new Era-Net Cofund FORESTVALUE – innovating the forest-based bioeconomy, which first call was launched on 17 October 2017 in Barcelona prior to SCAR FOREST second annual meeting.

Mapping forest bioeconomy research and innovation: first results of an expert study coordinated by EFI show that each part of Europe has sizable but fragmented R&I capacities in each segment of the supply chain, and that overall capacities increase along the supply chain, and from Southern across Eastern and Northern to Western Europe. The low level of collaboration between actors in different categories of topics inhibits innovative research-driven responses to policy challenges that require mobilization of entire forestry chains and systems from raw materials to final products end of life.

Assessing transnational collaboration: initial assessment indicates that since 1991, COST intergovernmental framework has generated and supported 100 collaborative pan European networks related to forests, forestry and wood-based products with strong international connections. This mechanism has been crucial in the past for enhancing transnational collaborations and advancing multidisciplinary research for the forest-based sector; since 2015, there is a strong decrease and quasi disappearance of forest related COST actions.

Exploring new horizons for R&I in the forest-based sector: this will be the main objective of a "COST connect" international workshop on Climate Change and Forests, jointly organised by COST office and SCAR FOREST in 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria (see detail on list of events).

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SPAIN - Barcelona  
Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site

## AKIS

The SCAR SWG AKIS organised four meetings in 2017:

- Bruxelles on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February with the SCAR SWG Food-Systems
- Bratislava on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March
- Bonn on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May
- Lisbon on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October

These meetings provided the opportunity to address most of the actions foreseen in the fourth SCAR SWG AKIS mandate, and specifically:

- To finalize two Policy Briefs on "New approaches on Agricultural Education Systems" and "The future of advisory services" – available on SCAR website: <https://scar-europe.org>
- To exchange with 11 coordinators of H2020 projects (Thematic Networks and Research & Innovation Actions) on the setting and implementation of the Multi-Actor Approach within these projects.
- To benchmark the implementation of the Digitization in several EU Member States and to come-up with some recommendations where digital aspects could improve the functioning of the several AKIS (Presented during SCAR plenary – June 2017).
- To work on the Topic of "Evaluation of Innovation" in the Rural Development Plans, together with the ENRD Evaluation Help-Desk.
- To get to know with the SWG Food-Systems members and to agree on specific themes of common interest to jointly work.
- To co-organise a Workshop with the SWG FOOD Systems (side event of the FOOD 2030 Conference) on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October in Bruxelles on "Agri-food SMEs collaborating for innovation along the supply chain - What, who, how?"

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## FISH

During 2017 4 meetings (11 January; 15 March; 13 June and October the 4<sup>th</sup>). A 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in December 2017.

SCAR Fish Work Plan for 2017 include to develop the following activities:

Climate Change, whose objective is to stimulate research into management options for climate impacted fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

A study is planned on the topic "To identify research needs related to developing management options for climate impacted fisheries and aquaculture sectors", under CASA umbrella. It is intended to complete this activity in quarter 4 of 2017.

Valorisation of underutilised material (UM), Whose objective is that research should look to increase the value of underutilised material - Increase the use of underutilised material for human consumption.

In order to produce the deliverable: Produce recommendations for research needed and how this research can feed into policy; the following actions are identified:

- Identify the main sources of underutilised material, how it could be used in food (on people's plates), and potential value.
- Identify any ongoing activities - the needs and gaps.
- Explore policy framework for utilising underutilised material for food and any bottlenecks.
- Identify success stories of developing underutilised material for food. Also identify failures to avoid making similar mistakes.
- Networking activities for sharing ideas and finding new ideas.
- Identify the main stakeholders to involve.

Data Management, whose objective is encourage more efficient use of resources (surveys, staff, boats and funding). - Harmonisation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) obligations. (EFARO).

SCAR FISH participates in the debates on this issue.

Fresh water aquaculture, the objectives are: A summary of the freshwater aquaculture activities in Europe. Collect the research needs of the freshwater aquaculture sector. Promote both freshwater aquaculture: extensive aquaculture in ponds and intensive recirculated aquaculture in tanks. Recommendations to harmonise the legal backgrounds

Resource management – share of infrastructure, the objectives of this activity are coordinating and sharing research vessels in order to reduce the costs and optimize their use. For the moment SCAR FISH will wait for update information and inputs from DG MARE before moving onwards on this.

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NEWS FROM



**CASA**

Common Agricultural  
and wider bioeconomy  
research agenda

**Wp1: REPRESENTATIVENESS**

The first task of Work package 1 (Wp1) "Representativeness" of the Coordination and Support Action CASA is an analysis of the key factors of involvement and inclusiveness. Through desk study and interviews insight is gained into the current state in SCAR and into the ambitions and expectations. Dorri te Boekhorst presented the findings at the October SCAR SG meeting.

In the first round, the chairs and co-chairs of the Strategic Working Groups and Collaborative Working Groups were interviewed. The second step included further interviews with SCAR Steering Group members and national delegates who take part in the SCAR Plenaries. A general desk study on the matter is conducted for obtaining more theoretical background on possible barriers, aiding factors and actors, and options for action. The outcomes are presented and discussed at the SCAR Conference in Tallinn on 4-5 December. This will be followed by discussion sessions about the findings and possible modes of action to increase involvement and active participation. The findings will feed into recommendations. In January 2018 the report will be finalized.

Another task in Wp1 is the mentoring programme. Procedures and a call have been drawn up and sent to all SCAR delegates in October. Task manager Annemarie Groot received within three weeks a lot of response.

Twelve mentees have been matched now with six mentors, and first mentor-mentee meetings are being planned. This first round of the mentoring programme will run until June, when we will present the intermediate evaluation to SCAR.

Wp1 supports also a series of meetings to increase visibility of SCAR in Member States and to connect the national with the European level with regard to stakeholder involvement. The first country was Spain, where INIA and CASA organised on 10-11 May 2017 a national SCAR meeting. For 2018 meetings in Hungary and Poland are already foreseen. In November the announcement was made that CASA can organise two or maybe three more meetings till August 2019 and National SCAR delegates from countries interested are to contact the Wp leader before 19 January 2018.

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**Wp2: ADDED VALUE AND IMPROVED QUALITY FOR GREATER IMPACT**

Work package 2 (Wp2) is progressing well. Support has been provided to SCAR for preparing the report for the Plenary on activities carried out in 2017 by SCAR SG and SCAR working groups (task 2.1).

CASA is supporting a number of external studies (task 2.3) which are being implemented for some of the working groups and several are about to be initiated. These studies will provide valuable information for SCAR.

Work on strengthening coordination and linkages among SCAR's Working Groups for improved policy advice within the broader bioeconomy (task 2.4) will be initiated in the near future.

Wp2 has initiated important work on identifying the extent to which recommendations from Foresight 4 have been used by the EC and by national systems and the need for further support to implementation Foresight 4 (task 2.5).

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**Wp3: STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC ADVICE**

The overall aim of Work package 3 (Wp3) is to strengthen strategic advice for SCAR. This will be achieved by supporting SCAR's internal and external work – especially by exploring new opportunities for alignment, collaboration and strategic action associated with relevant recommendations.

So far, preparatory work (D3.1) for a SWOT-Analysis of the SCAR and its structure, organisation, processes and activities (D3.2) was performed. This SWOT, assessing for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the SCAR in its current configuration is under preparation with a number of key informant interviews already completed. The subsequent final report will be finalized in early 2018. A detailed review of the bioeconomy research and innovation policy landscape in Europe (D3.3) has also been conducted. Furthermore, the Deliverable 3.6 dealing with guidelines on standardisation procedures of initiating new activities within SCAR was prepared. Preliminary results from many of these activities will be presented and further elaborated during the SCAR 2017 conference in Tallinn, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December. Further ongoing activities within Wp3 include work on improving policy alignment within SCAR, the future of SCAR Foresight exercises as well as an impact assessment framework. As the CASA project will end after 36 months, Wp3 looks also into scenarios on sustainability and follow up activities to ensure a sustainable and self-sustaining continuation of this collaboration.

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**Wp4: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION**

- A new logo was created for the SCAR groups which wanted to improve their visibility.
- A new SCAR website is working now: <https://scar-europe.org>. A specific working area is available for each SCAR group. Each group can provide the webmaster with various documents and presentations.
- A flyer presenting the activities of each SCAR group is available now.
- WP4 made a video in three languages to present the activities of the SCAR Forest group.
- Some specific workshops are planned in 2018:
  - A SCAR workshop for the French speaking area in Namur (Belgium) on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2018.
  - A workshop on EIP best practices in communication with the support of the EIP Service Point. This workshop aims at analysing the best EIP practices in communication which could be applied to SCAR and at defining a SCAR communication strategy for the future.
  - A French-German SCAR workshop in the second half year 2018 to address the CAP issue
  - Some relevant policy briefs produced by some SCAR groups will be translated into the three working languages of the European Union with the support of DG Translation and be available on the new SCAR web site in 2018.

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SPAIN - Madrid

INIA Conference Room



PORTUGAL - Oeiras

Wp4 team and  
CASA project coordinator



## Wp5: COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

CASA is coordinated by the Project Management Jülich division of the Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH. Rolf Stratmann and Hanna Steffens are the main contacts for CASA.

Since the last CASA newsletter was published in June 2017, the CASA Management Group has convened twice to discuss the current status of the project and the next activities to be implemented. To ensure a better flow of information from CASA to SCAR, and to inform the delegates and experts on relevant CASA activities, the SCAR SG requested an update document containing the necessary information after the summer break. An update document will now be prepared before each SCAR SG meeting and will be distributed by the SCAR secretariat along with other relevant meeting

documents well in advance of future SCAR SG meetings. The update document will contain topics for which recommendations and/or a decision is requested from the SCAR SG. An update document was provided for the SCAR SG meetings that took place in October and November 2017.

A second general assembly meeting addressing future CASA activities will be held in Tallinn on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Some of the CASA activities have evolved since their initial outline in the description of action and need to be adjusted accordingly. A second amendment process will be started in late December 2017, reflecting upon and describing the necessary adjustments.

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## EVENTS RELATED TO INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN EUROPE

“The promotion of innovation must be transversal and inclusive.”

LUÍS CAPOULAS DOS SANTOS  
Portuguese Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development



## AGRI Innovation summit 2017

The [Agri Innovation Summit \(AIS2017\)](#), a joint initiative of a Portuguese Consortium, the Portuguese Government, the EIP-AGRI network, the European Network for Rural Development, the Agronomic and Veterinary Research Institute (INIAV, CASA partner), INOVISA and the Portuguese Rural Network, took place in October in Oeiras, Portugal. The event brought together more than 500 participants including farmers, rural businesses, start-ups, RDP managing authorities, national rural networks, researchers, advisors and NGOs throughout the EU. The intensive program included the participation of Commissioner Phil Hogan, Luís Capoulas Santos, the Portuguese Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development and two renowned Portuguese scientists from different areas, Henrique Leitão (expert in history of science in the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries) and Elvira Fortunato (expert in materials science). The parallel thematic sessions included more than 100 innovation projects distributed in three main areas: Resource use (adaptation and mitigation); Management of farming, food and forestry systems & valorization of the territory; and Agriculture 4.0 and rural development. Project summaries can be found here:

<http://www.aislisbon2017.com/images/Innovation-Projects-Catalogue.pdf>

The "out-of-the-box" program and networking AIS2017 model, as many farmers mentioned, 'is very important' for 'sharing of experiences and new ideas' and was effective in promoting cross fertilization between multi-actor innovation initiatives, both under Rural Development Programs and Horizon 2020. The Startup Showcase, a competition integrated in the AIS2017, voted by the participants, recognized three start-ups for their innovative solutions: Wisecrop, Entogreen and Farmcloud were the winners honored by the Commissioner Carlos Moedas during the official AIS social dinner.

## SCAR CONFERENCE ON REPRESENTATIVENESS

4-5 December 2017 in Tallinn / ESTONIA

Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) Conference 2017 "Research and innovation policy, state-of-play and the role of SCAR in the European Bioeconomy" will be held during the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Tallinn Estonia, back-to-back with the SCAR Plenary on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

The conference brings together policy makers and bioeconomy stakeholders, including SCAR delegates and members of SCAR Strategic and Collaborative Working Groups to jointly build a stronger EU bioeconomy research policy.

The objective is to deliberate findings of recent foresight exercises and strategic reviews to increase the impact of SCAR outcomes at EU and member state levels.

Recommendations will be made to facilitate increased participation of Member States in SCAR activities, thus promoting a more effective coverage of the wider bioeconomy and the development of more successful national bioeconomies.

If you are interested in more information please take a look: [https://scar-europe.org/...](https://scar-europe.org/)



ESTONIA,  
Tallinn

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## SAVE THE DATE – 5 June 2018

### COST Connect CLIMATE CHANGE and FORESTS

New horizons for research and innovation in the forest-based sector  
Location: Sofia, BULGARIA

Climate changes and related extreme events and risks increasingly affect forests and their associated ecological, sociological and economic systems requiring pro-active adaptation measures for maintaining their sustainability. In parallel, the mitigation potentials of forests and forestry wood chains are progressively included in the international climate regime following Paris agreement. Increased knowledge and better understanding of interactions between climate and forest systems will be crucial in the future for supporting innovations and actions to combat climate change and to reach some of the sustainable development goals and targets. In this global context, COST and SCAR jointly organise an event to explore new horizons for research and innovation in the forest-based sector.

The event will be organised as an interactive workshop involving related COST actions and scientific communities, stakeholders and policy makers to facilitate dialogue and discussion on future research agenda.

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