

IN-SIGHT PROJECT

Final Conference

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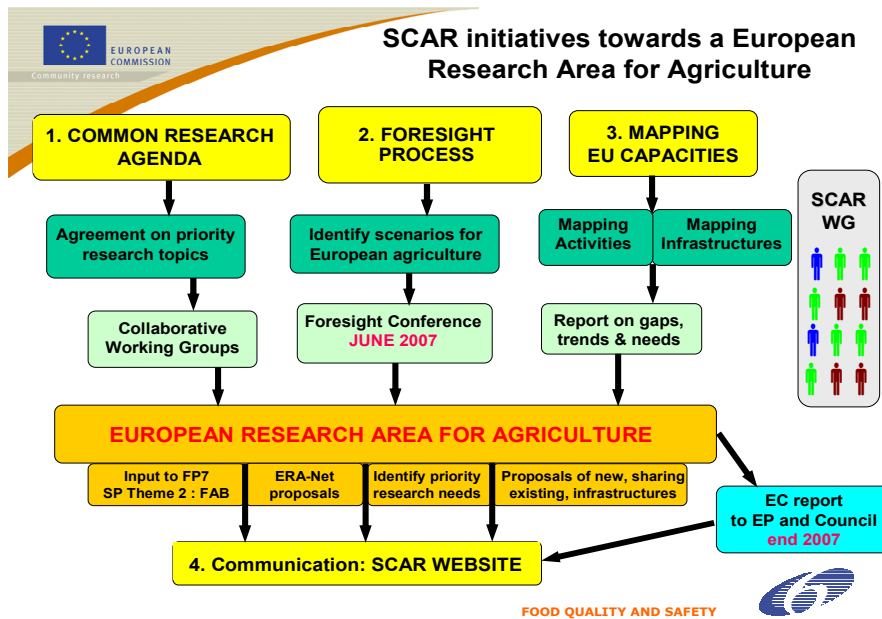
French representative
Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

SCAR

Background

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/agriculture/scar/index_en.cfm

- The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) was resurrected in 2005 with a renewed mandate from the EU's Agriculture and Fisheries Council of Ministers to play a major role in the coordination of agricultural research efforts in Europe.
- Therefore SCAR has a vital role to play in developing the European research Area for agriculture and the European Knowledge Based Bio-Economy (KBBE).
- The "new" SCAR is made up of all member states, with representatives from candidate countries and associated countries as observers.
- **It puts together funders and managers of research programme (those working in Ministries or in national funding agencies).**
- It works to a wider and more up-to-date definition of the term 'agricultural research', looking beyond the narrow aspects of research relating to production and encompassing the so called '**fork-to-farm**' concept, emphasising research for sustainable agriculture, and including biodiversity and rural development.



SCAR

- The Committee is taking forward coordination action on a number of fronts. It has taken a strategic view of on-going funder collaboration in Europe, identified **priority areas** for further collaboration and established a number of member state collaborative working groups.
- Since 2005 the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research has developed a range of important activities towards building a European Research Area for agriculture.
- With the long term needs of European research in mind the Committee has initiated
 - a **foresight process**
 - an **assessment of Europe's research infrastructure needs**
 - and has **provided expert input to the mapping of agricultural research capacity in Europe.**
- The **establishment of collaborative working groups** across several areas of research has brought together funding organisations from across the EU, many for the first time.

- Bottom-up innovation play a central role in the innovation systems, even if it's not always recognized and seriously taken in account
- Innovation process often depends on the meeting of the right persons having the right social capital and network at the right time and the right place
 - This kind of meeting is like a specific asset
- Innovation often rely on new relations between urban and rural areas and actors which constitute an essential research gap for the next years
 - Trans sectoral supporting systems are thus necessary

Sustainable European agriculture and spatial dynamics

- The multiple functions expected from a sustainable European agriculture have to cope with completely changed spatial dynamics.
- Many recent foresight analyses and other studies at a national or European scale agree on the fundamental aspects of the profound changes all European rural areas are experiencing.
- Their geographic, economic and human dynamics is increasingly influenced and shaped to a large extent by urban development in its broad sense, directly or through proximity effects: urban or semi-urban economic activities, infrastructures and habitat (transport, housing...), patterns of human movement and population flows (tourism, diary mobility commuting...), material flows (food products, wastes, biomass...), water supply, etc.

Inversion of dynamics between rural area and agriculture

- This strong urban movement leads first to increased requirement for improved connectivity between urban and rural areas, but also to an inversion of dynamics between rural area and agriculture:
 - previously agriculture determined rural area (countryside, landscape, land use...)
 - today it is the spatial context (urban or semi-urban, infrastructures, habitat, patterns of human movement, material flows, water supply...) that determines agriculture.
- What are the European issues regarding rural development **that have linkages with, mutual effects, mutual relations or interconnections with agriculture** ?
- Semi-urban agriculture illustrates this issue, but it is a specific case. At the scale of the European geographic area, this inversion of dynamics comes in a variety of forms, especially depending on countries and the level of integration of their economy within the EU economic area.

ERANet RURAGRI

(Accepted Proposal for FP7- ERA-Net Call)

**Facing sustainability :
new relationships between rural
areas and agriculture in Europe**

How to reinforce or to set up these kind of specific assets ?

- The main issues for the education, research and development actors in order to boost the innovation system are to :
 - Develop innovation skills during education and training
 - Be able to bring technologies and knowledge to potential innovators (of course knowledge and technologies are not the only aspects of an innovation process but they have an important role to play)
 - Facilitate dialogue and networking

- Researchers and research organisation don't know really to implement scientific knowledge, findings in an innovation process
- Innovation don't know what (or where) the relevant knowledge in regard their innovation is.
- They need each others.