

# SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG

## ACTIVITIES

02/06/2021

Monique Axelos, SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG chair  
Minna Huttunen, SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG co-chair

**SCAR**  
Standing Committee  
on Agricultural Research



# Membership and organisation of the group (update)

## Members:

- **21 Members States and Associated countries:** AT, BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, **FI, FR**, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, NO, PL, RO, SE, TR, UK - Representatives of National Ministries (agriculture, rural development, research and education, economic development, health, etc.) and research centres, universities.
- Representatives of **3 JPIs** (FACCE, HDHL, OCEANS)
- Representatives of the **EC** (DG RTD and DG AGRI)
- Representative of **COPA COGECA** since this year

The FS SWG is open to all SCAR participating countries which can join it at a later stage.

## Timeline:

**1<sup>st</sup> Mandate** : from December 2016 to December 2019 (The youngest SCAR SWG)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mandate:** from December 2019 to December 2022

## Meetings:

- Three ordinary meetings per year
- Workshops and joint activities

# 1st Mandate

## December 2016- December 2019

### Mission:

- provide strategic advice and orientation to MS and EC
- support the EU R&I policy framework FOOD2030 and its four priorities:
  - NUTRITION for sustainable and healthy diets
  - CLIMATE for smart and environmentally sustainable food systems
  - CIRCULARITY for resource efficient food systems
  - INNOVATION for empowerment of communities
- contribute to a policy coherence and adopt a system approach
- analyse public R&I funding at national and regional level related to Food Systems and their alignment to the FOOD 2030 priorities (*quantitative mapping*)
- analyse the existing policies and strategies that are linked to Food and Nutrition security (*qualitative mapping*)

## ALL DELIVERABLES 1<sup>st</sup> Mandate

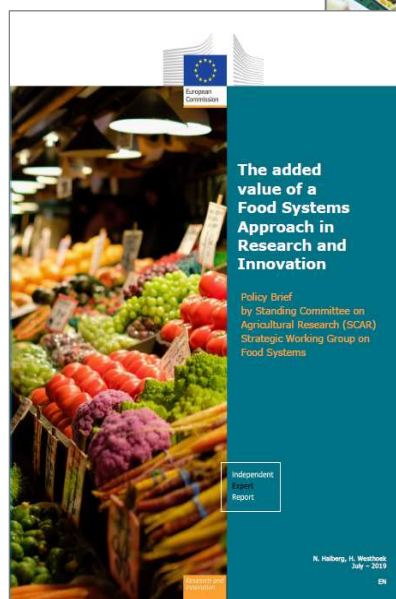
During its first mandate (2016-2019), the FS SWG carried out 2 studies, provided 3 policy briefs and 3 workshop reports

- **Mapping report** - Assessment of research and innovation on Food Systems by European –June 2018
- **Study** – **Synthesis of existing food systems studies and research projects in Europe**- Sept. 2019 + **Policy brief** – The added value of a Food Systems Approach in Research and Innovation. – Sept. 2019
- **Workshop reports and summary reports** – **Diversifying Food Systems in the Pursuit of Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Diets** –June 2019 + **Policy brief** – Diversifying Food Systems in the Pursuit of Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Diets
- **Workshop report** (*joint workshop SCAR AKIS and FS*) – "Agri-food SMEs collaborating for innovation along the supply chain - What, who, how?" –October 2017
- **Policy brief** (*Joint workshop SCAR AKIS, ARCH and FS*)- "Programming Research and Innovation for Improved Impact" – September 2018
- **Workshop report** -(*Joint workshop SCAR FS SWG and JPIs: FACCE, HDHL and OCEANS*)-"Future –proofing food systems" - Mai 2018 + **Joint Declaration – SCAR FS SWG and JPIs FACCE, HDHL and OCEANS** – Towards climate-smart, sustainable food systems for healthy Europe. –A joint declaration to support the transition to future-proofing food systems – February 2020

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## SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG DELIVERABLES and PUBLICATIONS



Available on the **SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG website**: <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/food-deliverables>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Mandate – December 2019- December 2022

### Rationale

#### SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG

contributes to:

- The development of the **European Green Deal** and its new “**Farm to Fork strategy**”
- The successful implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) and the **COP 21 commitments**.

promotes the development and shaping of Food System R&I Policy implementation at EC level (DG RTD, SANTE, AGRI, CNECT; JRC, etc.)

provides strategic advice and support to:

- The Policy Framework "**FOOD 2030**" and the **Cluster 6 of Horizon Europe**.
- DG RTD's **Updated Bioeconomy Strategy (2018)** as food plays a key role in Bioeconomy.
- DG RTD's International Collaborative activities and the International Bioeconomy Forum (**IBF**) on FS relevant areas.

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG will respond to **Member state needs** on:

- informal exchange on national FNS related policies and strategies and their implementation
- exploring and assessing national R&I strategies to future-proofing of Food Systems,
- supporting MS in their implementation of more efficient R&I initiatives and policy coherence for FNS.
- helping Member States to bring the message at greater European political level (EC, Council, EU Parliament etc.)

FOOD SYSTEMS SWG has selected 6 impactful issues to be addressed during the new mandate:

***A1: Food systems of the future***

*A2. Monitoring impact*

***A3: Translate science into policy***

*A4: Consumers and Food Systems*

*A5: Food system waste management*

*A6: Digitalization (DG) and Artificial intelligence (AI)*

The work of the group have focused on two actions: ***A1: Food systems of the future*** and ***A3: Translate science into policy***

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FS SWG is actively involved in the development of **EU Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems**.  
(contact point)

## A1: Food systems of the future

**A1: Food systems of the future** – this action aims at understanding of the complexity of adaptive food systems and methodology for systems approach.

### Objectives:

- Overview of current scenarios for sustainable food systems in 2030-40-50 (Images of future food systems) and critical assessments
- Monitoring current R&I programs in view of scenarios (observatory and appropriate indicators)
- Proposing alternative program options based on understanding of the complexity of the European food system and its regional/territorial sub-systems
- Translating new insights into Research and Innovation actions
- Monitoring and guiding these actions to review scenarios and actions
- Aligning actions with the SCAR Foresight group.



## A1: Food systems of the future

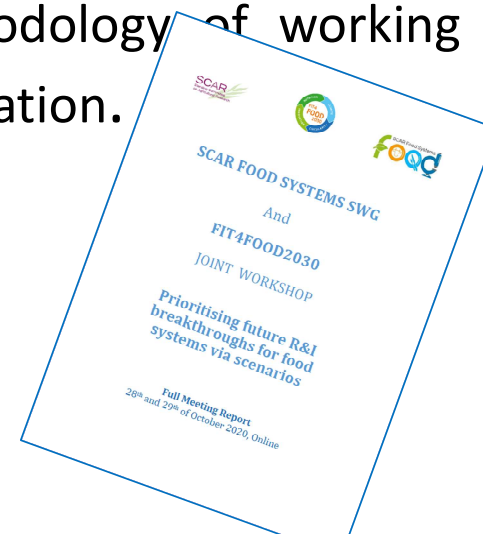
**Activity 2020:** Joint Workshop with FIT4FOOD2030 partners on

***“Prioritising future R&I breakthroughs for food systems via scenarios”*** in order to:

- obtain insights and experience in working with scenarios;
- understand how scenarios can be utilised to prioritise possible future R&I breakthroughs in FS;
- check the relevance of the prioritised R&I breakthroughs for 4 scenarios in the home contexts (countries) of participants.

**Deliverable:** workshop report on scenarios, explaining the methodology of working with scenarios and providing concrete and detailed examples of their utilisation.

Available at: <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/food-deliverables>



## A3: Translate science into policy

### Objectives of the action:

- Explore, within MS, **the links between government ministries** (departments) and **independent research bodies** (e.g. research centers and universities) where research outcomes are considered as part of policy formation.
- Evaluate and identify **examples within MS of existing policies where scientific/research outcomes have influenced policy**, focusing on the key contributing and hindering elements in the translation of science into policy.
- Identify the **key requirements** e.g. training, funding, and the strategic areas along the system from science to policy, where such key resources would benefit.
- Establish a **set of best practice principles** that enables effective translation of science/research outputs for future policy.

## A3: Translate science into policy

**Work in progress** – preparing a survey to identify examples from across all Member States and other participating countries of where food systems research has translated into policy.

### **Next Steps:**

Feedback on Questionnaire

Finalise the Questionnaire format; circulate to SWG members and collect responses.

Evaluate and summarize survey cases

Develop best practice guidelines and a policy brief

### **Deliverables:**

- Set of **best practice guidelines** in effective translation of science/research outputs to policy-practice using Member state examples.
- Policy recommendation in the form of a **policy brief** encapsulating measures identified that can effectively translate science into policy.

# SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG

## PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

02/06/2021

Monique Axelos, SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG chair  
Minna Huttunen, SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG co-chair

Hans-Joerg Lutzeyer, DG RTD, EC

**SCAR**  
Standing Committee  
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# Co-Creation process started in 2019

## STEP 1

- Workshop on “Food systems of future” (Food Safety) (organised by DG RTD) - **January, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**
- Workshop on Food Systems Partnership - (jointly organised by SCAR FS SWG and DG RTD) – **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**
- Workshop on “FOOD 2030 Pathways” (organised by DG RTD) – **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
- Workshop on Food Systems Partnership (jointly organised by DG RTD and SCAR FS SWG) - **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**
- **Survey on Food Systems Partnership** (DG RTD and SCAR FS SWG)- **July – September 2020**



## STEP 2

### **November 2020 – April 2021- DRAFTING A NARRATIVE**

4 drafting groups – 47 experts (volunteers) involved in the drafting process  
Coordination group to finalise a consolidated narrative by end of March



## STEP 3

**June 2021** – Develop a complete draft of the Partnership (Template)

## 4 Drafting groups - 47 experts (volunteers) involved, representatives of different countries

Covering different areas of expertise:

- Food systems/Food system thinking
- Food safety/ Risk assessment/ Food toxicology
- Fisheries/ Aquaculture/Seafood,
- Agriculture/Organic food/ Farming / Agro Ecology
- Food industry/ Food processing/
- Place-based approaches: City/Town/Region
- Nutrition/ Healthy diet
- Consumer/ responsible behaviour, etc.

# Drafting a Narrative

4 drafting groups have been invited to describe in a highly motivating way:

- **why** a Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems is needed and unique,
- **what** it will focus on
- **how** it will operate and **govern**

The aim of the narrative:

- give a direction of the Partnership
- convince Member State funding agencies, the European Commission and potential partners to engage and participate in the partnership
- Provide input to the development of a full document (template/ draft proposal)

The European Commission is preparing a **fact sheet** based on the consolidated narrative.

# TEMPLATE PROCESS

- A core group, which will develop the template has been created. The group is composed of 18 people and includes the drafters of the consolidated narrative.
- The core group will have for mission to:
  - Prepare the action plan for the template development
  - Contact the experts on different focus areas
  - Link with other partnerships to seek synergies and to identify complementarities in order to build long-term cooperation.
  - Fill in the template
  - Organise a workshop with different stakeholders and funders.



# Core Group Members

Areas	CORE GROUP MEMBERS
Climate change and food security	<b>Gianluca Brunori</b> , University of Pisa (IT)
Dietary shift; Consumer/ citizen behaviour Impact on food systems = co-benefice environment and health	<b>Hendrik De Ruyck</b> , ILVO, BE/ SUSFOOD2 <b>Beatrice Morio</b> and <b>Chrissie Brierley</b> (JPI HDHL)
Food systems thinking	<b>Niels Halberg</b> , Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture, Aarhus University, DK <b>Thom Achterbosch</b> , WuR, NL
The future of farming or the future of primary production including fisheries and aquaculture: Impact on food quality/ on food systems?	<b>Ivana Trkulja</b> , CORE ORGANIC <b>Bente E. Torstensen</b> , Nofima, Aquaculture Division
Organic sector	<b>Maria Gernert</b> , TP Organics
Environmental footprint, food processing, social life cycle assessment	<b>Saioa Ramos</b> , AZTI, ES <b>Hugo De-Vries</b> , EFFoST
Food safety /public health and one health	<b>Ricardo Assunção</b> , National Institute of Health Dr. Ricardo Jorge, PT <b>Anne Brisabois</b> , ANSES, FR (linkage to EFSA and PARC)
Impact of digitalisation on food systems	<b>Johannes Pfeifer</b> , ERA-Net ICT AGRI Food Systems
Public co-funders (Ministries, Funding Agencies)	<b>Minna Huttunen</b> , Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, FI <b>Nikola Hassan</b> , SUSFOOD2
Food Industry representatives	<b>Jonas Lazaro-Mojica</b> , ETP 'Food for Life'
Regional and local food systems	<b>Peter Defranceschi</b> , ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

# Why we need a European partnership on Safe and Sustainable Food Systems

**Anne Brisabois** (ANSES)

**Béatrice Morio** (JPI HDHL, INRAE) and **Chrissie Brierley** (JPI HDHL, ZonMw)

**Gianluca Brunori** (FACCE-JPI, University of Pisa)

The future health of Europe's people and the planet lies on the plate: the way that food is farmed, fished, processed, distributed, valued, consumed, prepared and wasted must change.

Food is one of the central issues for the transition.

A transition towards healthier, sustainable, safe and fair food systems is imperative, but also complex due to the barriers to change built into social systems and the many interconnections with feedback loops resulting in unexpected consequences, synergies and trade-offs.

## **The partnership on Safe and Sustainable Food Systems will**

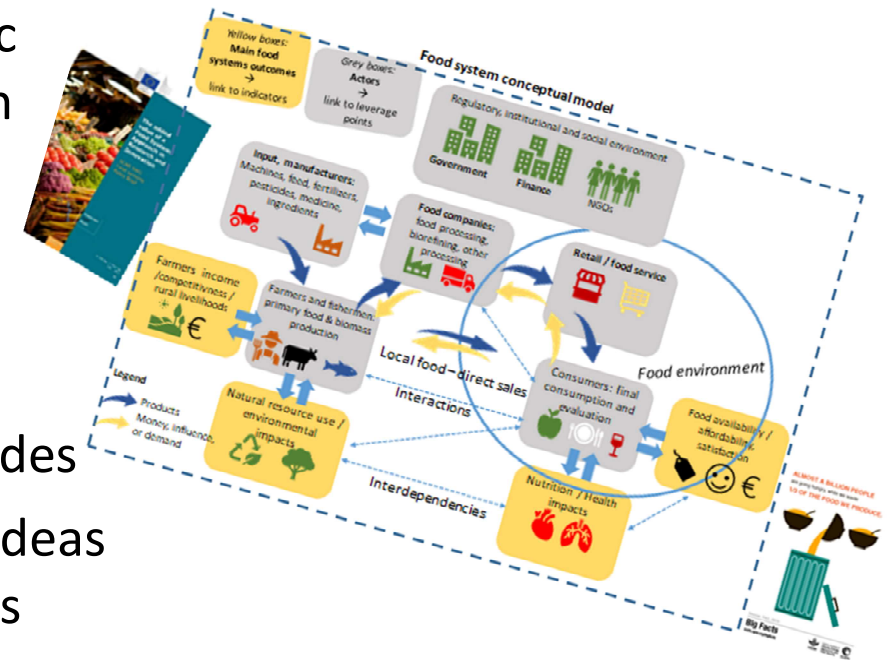
- Foster the connection between food governance and R&I governance
- Bring together different stakeholders from different parts of the Food System, build trust and understanding
- Strengthen policy-science-society interfaces
- Make use of integrated, innovative, transdisciplinary approaches
- Remain manageable to stay meaningful
- Work in synergy with and build on existing initiatives
- Focus on impact and implementation
- Deliver evidence to accelerate the transition of national, European and global Food Systems



# What is the Partnership SFS about?

(Niels Halberg, Saioa Ramos, Thom Achterbosch)

- The partnership will address challenges and thematic focus areas with a **food systems approach in focus** in complementarity to other more thematically focused initiatives.
- The focus areas should therefore be understood as aspects to be addressed from an **INTEGRATED PERSPECTIVE** and across food systems actors and nodes
- There is a need to innovate and test a wide array of ideas for local, regional and transnational FS improvements



## What is the Partnership SSFS about?

**Objective:** *‘To collectively develop and implement an EU-wide mission-oriented Research and Innovation partnership to accelerate the transition toward safe and healthy diets that are sustainably produced in resilient EU and global food systems’*

*While food systems are linked across Europe and beyond and many challenges seem identical, **there is no one “silver bullet” solution**, which may transform all European food systems following the same template.*

*The transition pathway will need a combination of Research, Innovation, Policy and Education*

*This translates into **four thematic focus areas for transformative R&I** under the Partnership SSFS, implemented through **five interconnected activities**.*

## WHAT – THEMATIC FOCUS

### TF1 - CHANGE THE WAY WE EAT

*Shift towards healthy, sustainable diets for all citizens in Europe.*

**Main objective:** Improve availability, affordability, and uptake of nutritious safe, affordable, and sustainable diets.

**How** (Subthemes)

- **Health-promoting strategies for combining sustainability and health in balanced dietary behaviour**
  - Range of switches in consumption: nutritious food, plant-based foods, animal food, alternative protein.
- **Reorienting the food environment towards affordable, sustainable, healthy choices and reducing inequalities**
  - Change food production, selection, technologies/practices/guides for food choice
- **Strategies for making diverse, resilient local food systems support diet shifts.**
- **Beneficial micro-organisms and microbiome for healthy people and a resilient food system**



## WHAT – THEMATIC FOCUS

### TF2 – CHANGE THE WAY WE PRODUCE & PROCESS FOOD

*Carbon neutrality and zero waste while staying within a safe operating space: towards diversity & circularity*

**Main objectives:** Increase the diversity of healthy and safe food products based on sustainable production from land and sea.

#### **How** (Subthemes)

- **Novel practices and technologies in food processing and food packaging** to make healthier and sustainable **choice options** more exciting and easier to adopt while not reducing food safety or leading to new emerging hazards.
  - e.g. low-trophic fish species and invertebrates, products based on mild processing, low-salt food
  - Outcome-oriented design initiates from food systems outcomes and consumer orientation.
- **Enhanced circularity in food systems, through innovations in supply chains, regulations, and social norms for waste and leakage** of natural resources in production and consumption.
  - Reduction of food waste in food service, retail and consumers.
  - Digitization of resource accounting in food systems, business innovation, valorization of side-streams and waste.

## WHAT – THEMATIC FOCUS

### TF3 – CHANGE THE WAY WE CONNECT CITIZENS AND FOOD PRODUCTION

*Ensuring food safety, quality, healthy, integrity, transparency and authenticity*

**Main objective:** Improve citizen engagement and consumer trust in transparent European food systems

**How** (subthemes)

- **Novel tools and practices for improved consumer/citizen engagement in food systems development**
  - Innovating in local farming systems, short supply chains and distribution models
  - Foster the diversity in food culture with local, traditional and authentic products.
- **New risk- benefit assessment approaches to integrate and link safe, high-quality and sustainable nutrition**
  - Increase and improve vigilance against food fraud and food safety hazards
  - Ensuring food safety, authenticity, integrity, and the necessary transparency across an adapting food system

Examples: Improve traceability of complex food systems against disruption and fraud, OneHealth approaches

## WHAT – THEMATIC FOCUS

**TF4 – CHANGE THE WAY WE GOVERN THE FOOD SYSTEMS**



## WHAT – TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

### Joint funding of R&I for food systems transformation

- Co-fund competitive calls pooling R&I funding from Member States agreeing on scope within the thematic focus in a food systems approach at various scales (local, national, regional, national, EU, transnational and global level).
- Agenda-setting and legal form for involving industry and SMEs representatives in programming and for involving SMEs in projects.
- **Food System Observatory :**
  - Develop methods for assessment of food system sustainability using data and modelling, EU in the global context
  - Monitoring of food systems drivers and outcomes by national research agencies
- **Food system knowledge Hub:** encompassing a network of **transformative research and innovation labs (FS-labs) at transnational, national or subnational level**
  - Supporting the establishing of a network of FS labs across Europe with context specific focus in a FS approach
  - Joint protocols and methodologies for designing, organizing and evaluating food system lab activities

## WHAT – TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

### **Learning from initiatives in the SSFS and beyond**

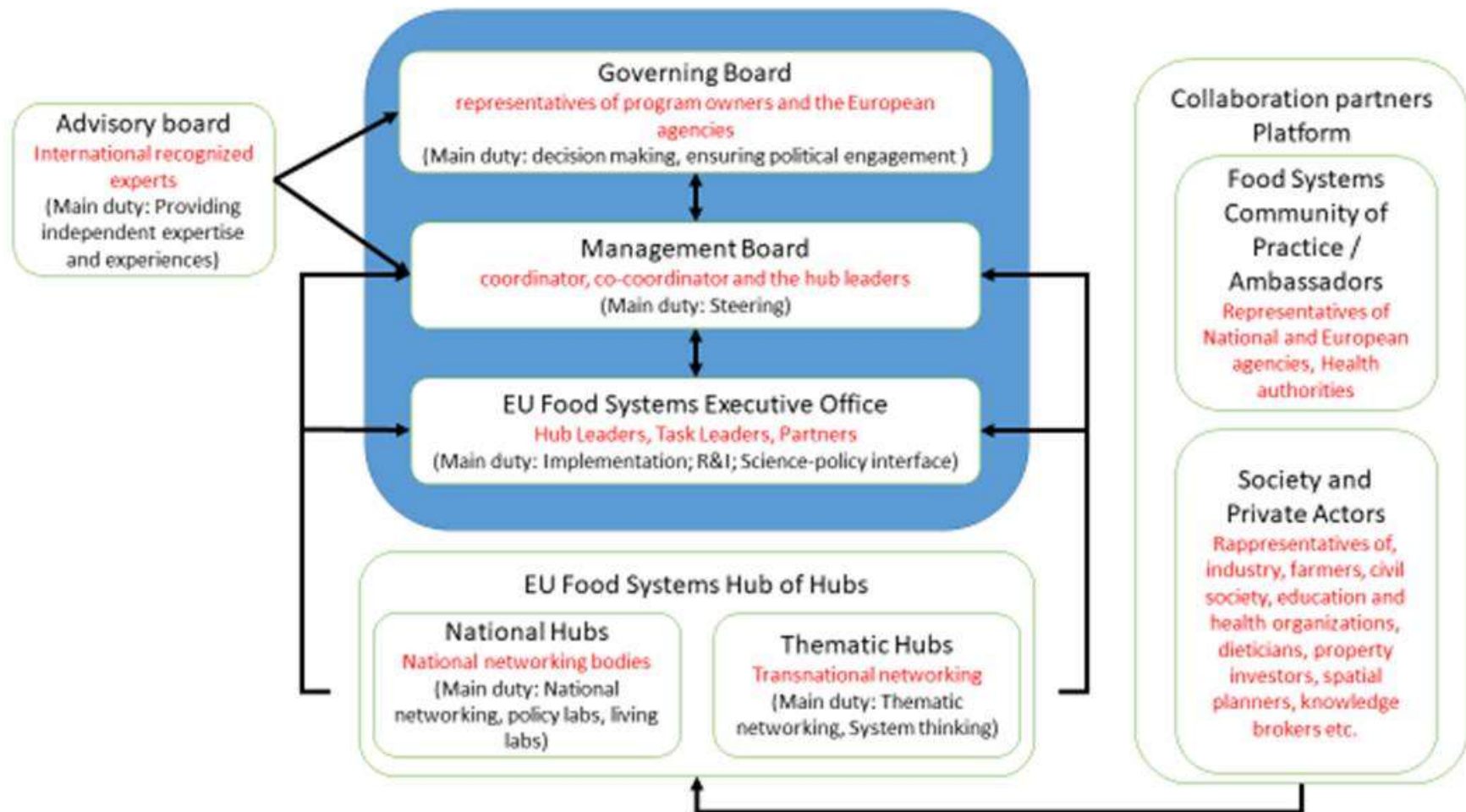
- Community of practice/learning network for food system labs
- Reflect on the value-added of the activities in the hub
- "R&I roadmap activity"

### **Knowledge transfer and competence building/education including science to policy advice**

- Develop education program and competence building for food system transformation
- Knowledge transfer for scaling innovations and policy coherence
- Science-policy interfaces including an Intergovernmental EU/global science-policy platform
- Co-create a Mission on Food Systems for the next MFF
- Innovation Nest : Liaison with existing tools (EIT Food; EIC; national incubators) for SME and start-up engagement including business development

# Governance

Ricardo Assunção, National Institute of Health Dr. Ricardo Jorge, PT  
Ivana Trkulja, ICROFS, DK/ CORE ORGANIC  
Hugo De-Vries, INRAE, FR



Will evolve !

## Next Steps:

- **Narrative** and **Fact sheet** will be published shortly
- **1<sup>st</sup> draft of the template** to be developed **in July**. It will be circulated to SCAR SWGs/ CWGs for comments
- Contact and link with other **relevant partnerships** - Agroecology, Blue Economy, One Health/ AMR, Chemicals Risk Assessment (PARC) and Animal Health and Welfare (PAHW). Seek synergies and identify complementarities in order to build long-term cooperation.
- Organise a workshop in September 2021

**THANK YOU**  
For your attention

Monique Axelos, chair of SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG

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