

Why a partnership on agroecology?



Under negotiation!



Time to step up the efforts!



...by 2030 = 9 years = 9 growing seasons...

Understandings of agroecology

Our point of departure:

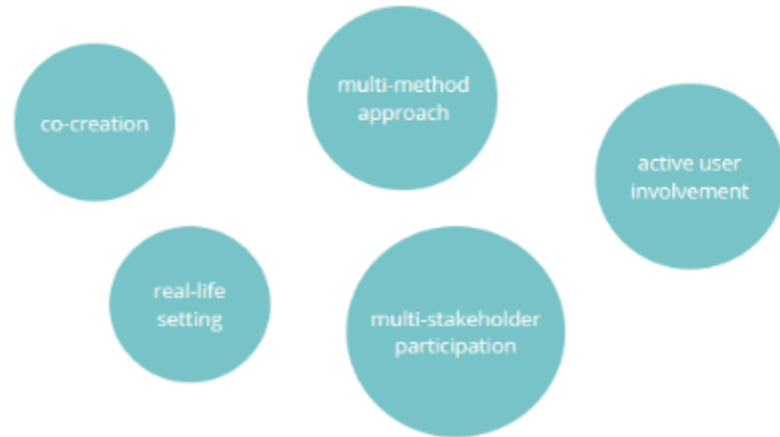
=> Science of ecological processes applied to agricultural production systems

Distinctive aspects compared with other systems:

- ⇒ Full transformation of farming systems => potential to trigger transformation of entire agri-food system
- ⇒ Ecological, economic and social dimensions
- ⇒ Focus on the local/territorial level



Understandings of living labs





Living Labs (LLs) are defined as **user-centred**, open **innovation ecosystems** based on systematic **user co-creation** approach, **integrating** research and innovation processes **in real life communities** and settings.

(EnoLL)

Living Labs <-> Social innovation


Key additional features:

- Place-based/embedded in real working landscapes/communities
- More systematic use of a wide range of social sciences (behaviour)
- Beyond projects, structuring the innovation ecosystem



Purpose

What is ALL and why is it important?



Transdisciplinary approaches which involve farmers, scientists and other interested partners in the co-design, monitoring and evaluation of new and existing agricultural practices and technologies on working landscapes to improve their effectiveness and early adoption.

Findings

Finding 1 ALL is a comprehensive approach needed to deal with complex issues.

Finding 2 Applying and integrating the three components of ALL offers the greatest benefits.

Finding 3 Participating countries are applying components of ALL already.

Finding 4 Implementation and interest in ALL is increasing.

5

Why focus on living labs in agroecology?

- **Change is urgent!**
 - Living labs have a potential to **accelerate change**
- **Agroecology elements fit well with living labs principles:**
 - Adapted to local ecosystems « **place-based** »
 - Involving **actors at territorial level** to **achieve large scale impact**
 - **Social and behavioural** dimensions
 - **Systems** approach
- **Partnership** = doing it with Member States/regions (place-based + long-term)

Agroecology living labs & research infrastructures

Objectives (input paper)

- **General objective:** accelerate the transition towards sustainable, climate and ecosystem-friendly farming systems in line with global commitments made by the EU (SDG, Paris, + EU policy priorities CAP, GD, F2F and Biodiversity strategies)
- **Specific objectives:**
 - Strengthen the **agroecology research and innovation ecosystem**
 - Improve farmers' knowledge on implementation of agroecology and its benefits => **adoption**
 - Improving the **sharing of knowledge and experience across regions and countries**
- **Operational objectives:**
 - Set-up a common framework for methods, protocols, data management for analysis of AE.
 - Create spaces for **long-term, site-specific, user-centred and real-life experimentation and innovation** (living labs) => **co-development of innovative practices and assessing impact at landscape scale in a variety of sites in the EU**
 - Create a **network of these spaces and knowledge-sharing mechanisms**

Activities (key features- input paper)

- **Land-based crop and livestock production systems**
- **Wide range of R&I themes** (genetics → territory)
- **All sectors** (arable, livestock, perennials, agroforestry, mixed farming systems etc.), **organic but also non-organic, food and non-food**
- **Systems approach** taking into account drivers of change (value chains, consumers etc.)
- **Integrated approach to agroecological processes at plot, farm, landscape and territorial levels :**
 - Agroecosystems biodiversity
 - Climate adaptation and mitigation
 - Transition pathways (reducing inputs/pesticides, adoption of more ecosystem-based practices, use of digital technologies)
 - Circularity of farming systems (e.g. efficient use of local streams and by-products to reduce fertilisers)
 - Landscape management <> farming
 - Cost-benefit analysis for farmers and others, income, well-being, connection to society, social capital

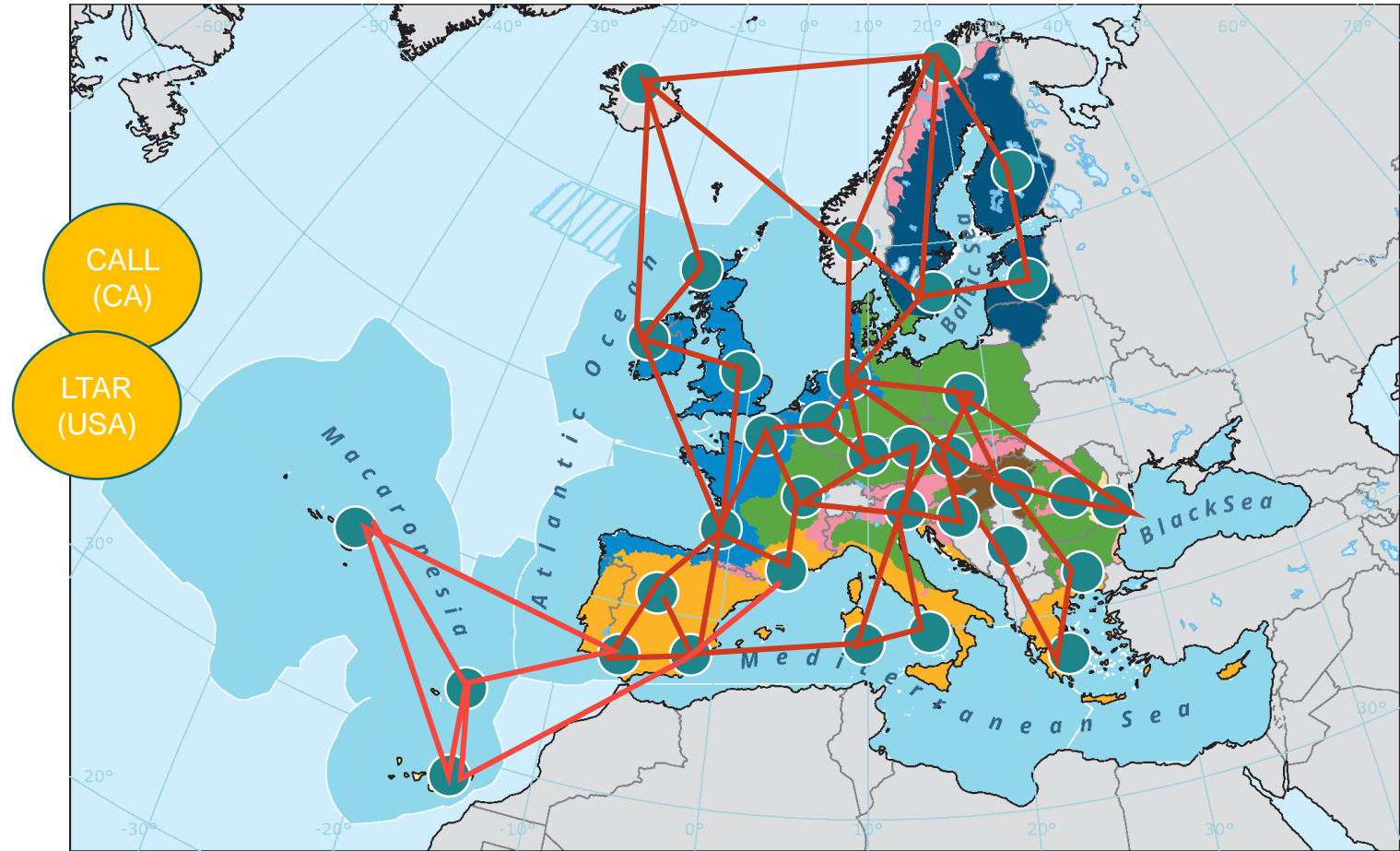
Covering diversity to foster wide adoption

- Agroecology LL

- **Networking, knowledge exchange:**

- Geographical areas/areas facing similar conditions/challenges
- Themes/ecosystem services/production types
- Disciplines/fields

- **International cooperation**
(CA agroecosystem living labs – LTAR etc...)



Reference data: ©ESRI

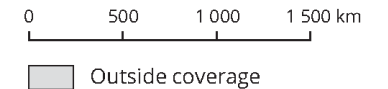
Biogeographical and marine regions in the EU

Biogeographical regions

Alpine	Macaronesia
Atlantic	Mediterranean
Black Sea	Pannonian
Boreal	Steppic
Continental	

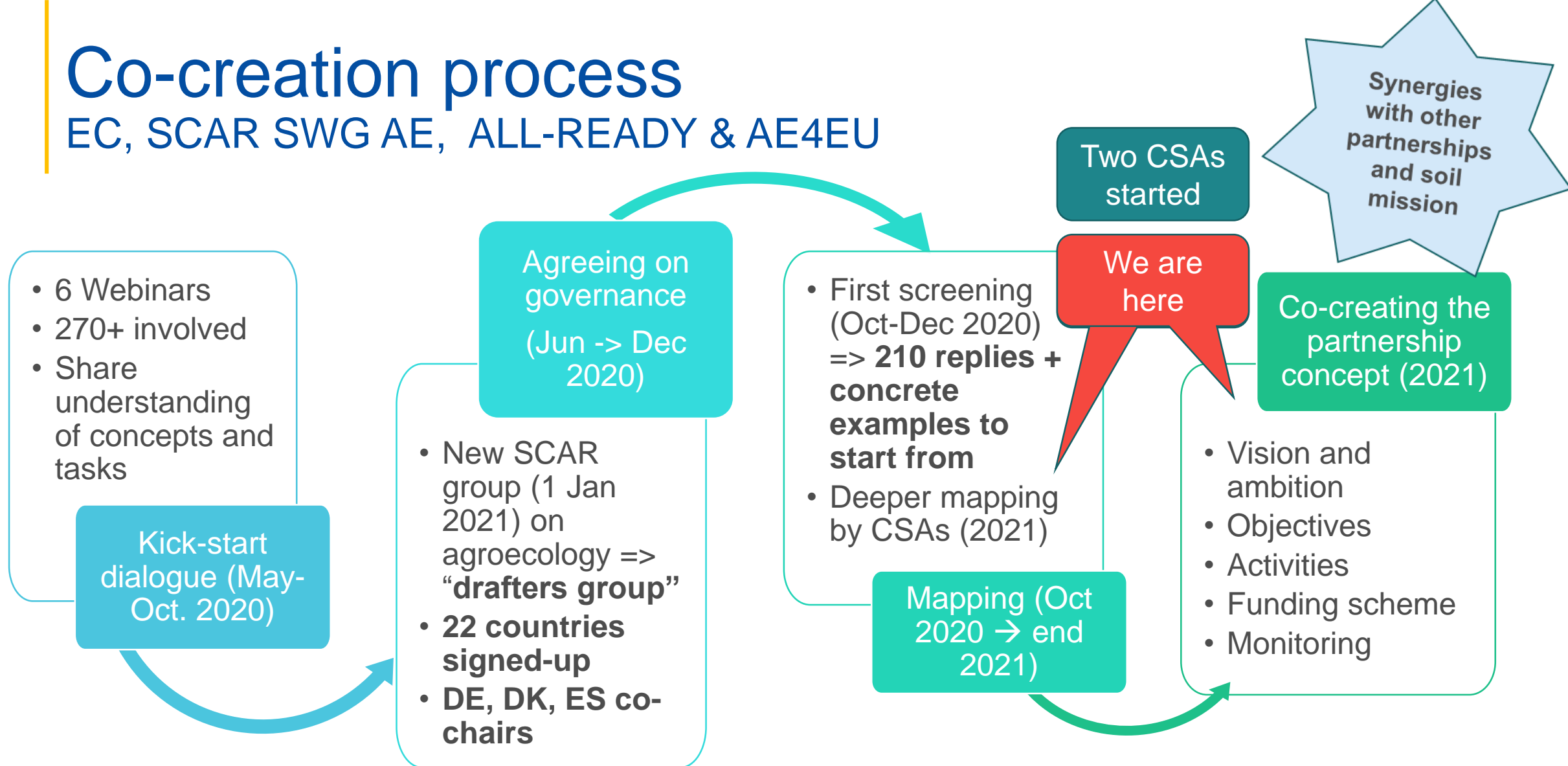
Marine regions

Marine region names are given in the map
Overlapping submissions to UNCLOS



Co-creation process

EC, SCAR SWG AE, ALL-READY & AE4EU



>> Develop a **SRIA (2021-2022)** > **Pilot** the network (2022) > **Build capacities** to create and run AELL (2022)

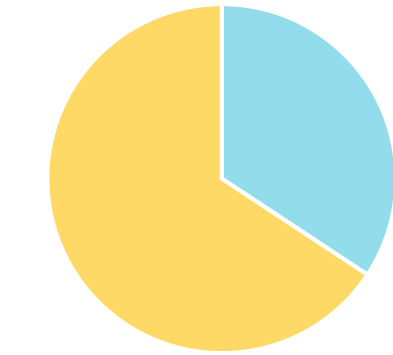
>> ALL-READY & AE4EU contributing to all steps of the process.

First screening of AELLRI (Oct -> Dec 2020)

Farming
+Environment +
local authorities
as main actors

- 210 responses from 24 countries (varying relevance)

Does the initiative work mainly on organic farming?



■ Yes

■ No, it works on other types of farming

Farming sector	Nb
Arable crops	135
Livestock	105
Horticulture, vegetables, ornamentals	115
Permanent crops/Trees	136
Other/combinations	76

<u>Beyond farming</u> , does the initiative cover some of the following aspects?	Nb	Ratio
Upstream (seeds, machinery, biocontrol, fertilisers etc.)	119	57%
Food processing	75	39%
Marketing and retail	71	34%
Labelling	45	21%
Consumption	73	35%
Local development	128	61%
Other	40	19%
No Answer	32	15%

Which types of actors are involved?	Nb	Ratio
Farmers	177	84%
Scientists	197	94%
Advisors	140	67%
Farmers cooperatives	131	62%
Chambers of agriculture/farmers organisations	127	60%
Upstream industry (pest control, fertilisers, plant protection)	65	31%
Downstream industry (food, bio-based)	69	33%
Retailers	52	25%
Consumers organisations	51	24%
Environmental organisations	108	51%
Citizens	104	50%
Public authorities	132	63%
Others	26	12%

Building synergies with the proposed mission ‘Caring for soils is caring for life’

Agroecological practices
beneficial to soils
Impacts of farm practices on
ecosystems

Sector: Agriculture with related market/value chains (food and non-food)

Territory: mostly rural – landscape scale

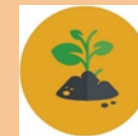
Theme: agroecology (farming with ecosystems)

Users: farmers and beyond (industry, citizens, envi NGOs, local authorities etc.)

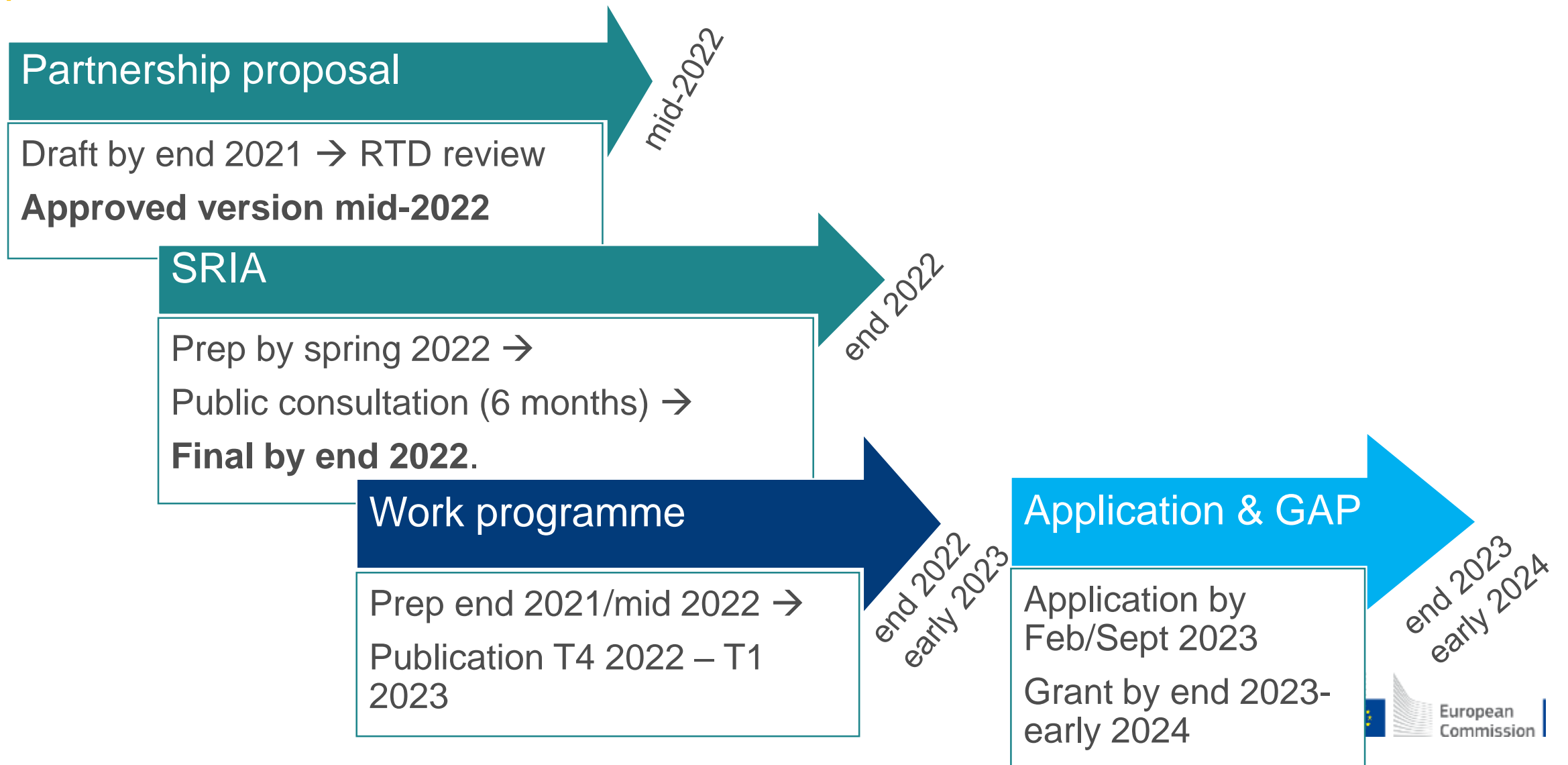
Agroecology
LL & RI

Soil mission
LL & LH

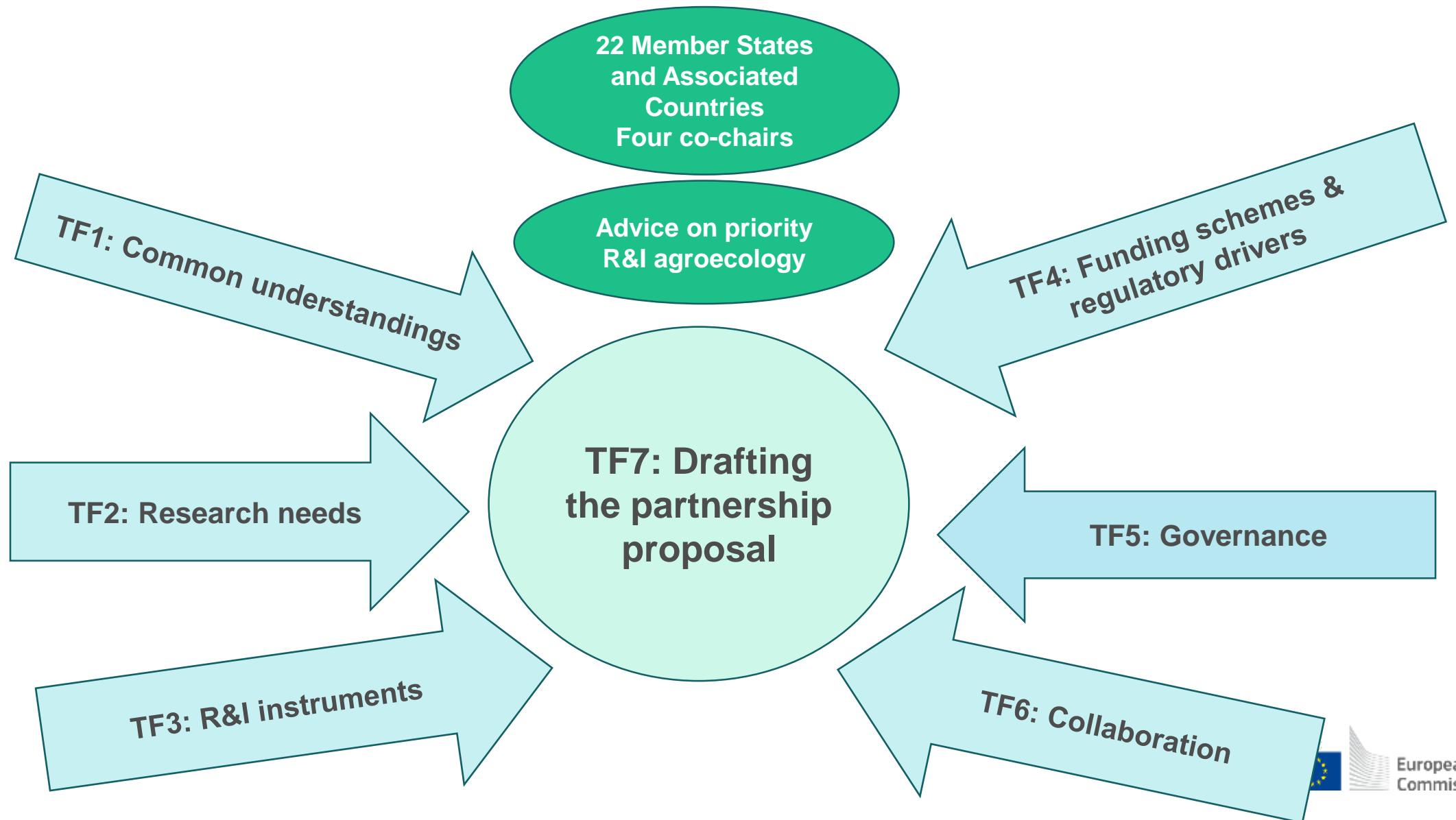
- **Sector:** All impacting soil (inc. Forestry, industrial contaminated soils etc.)
- **Territory:** All!
- **Theme:** Soil health & SDGs
- **Users:** all with impact on soils



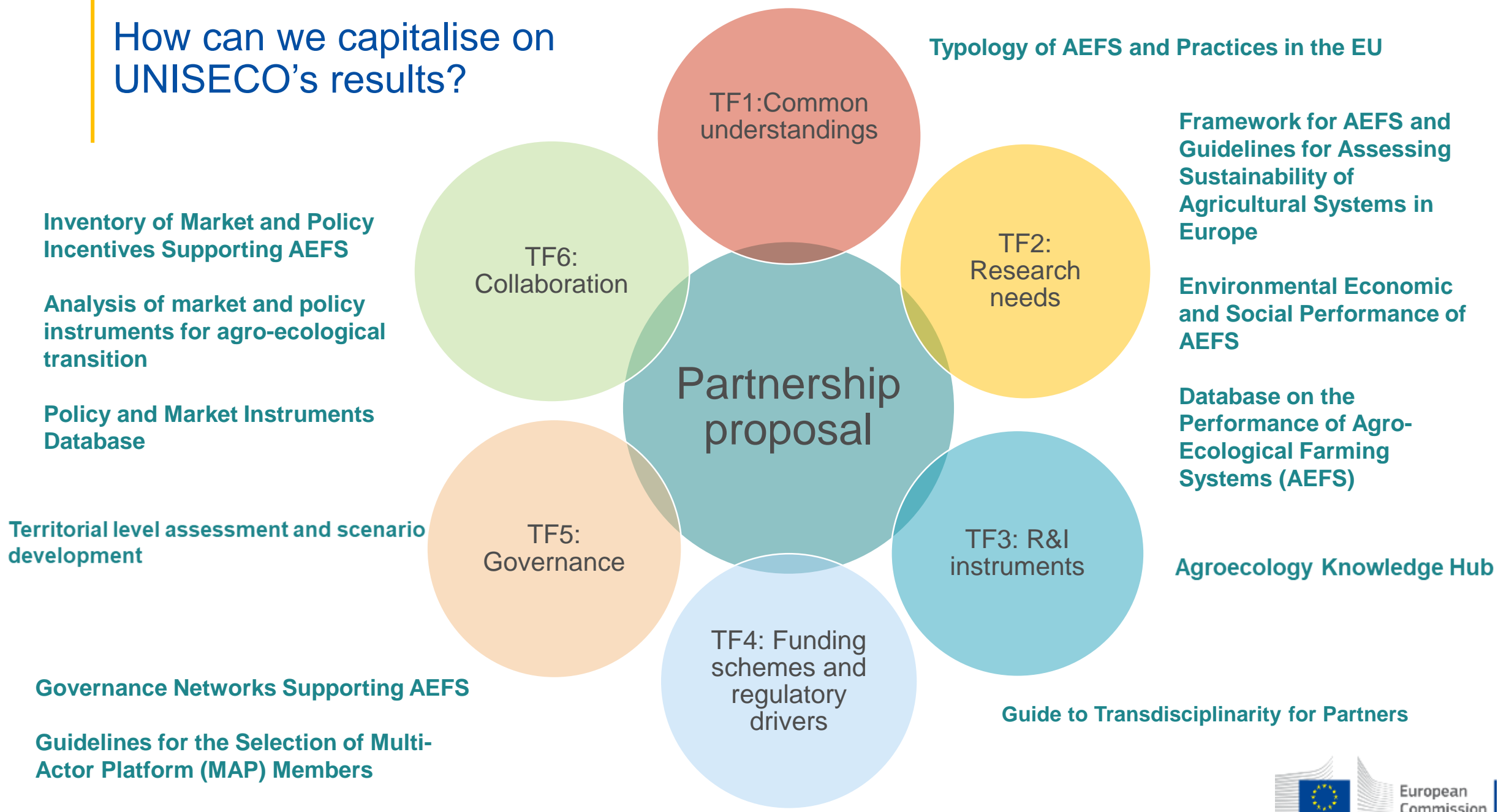
Timeline for the partnership preparation



New SCAR working group on agroecology (1 Jan. 2021)



How can we capitalise on UNISECO's results?



Thank you



- More information:
 - [European R&I partnership on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures](#)
 - [Webinars on building the European partnership on agroecology living labs](#)



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