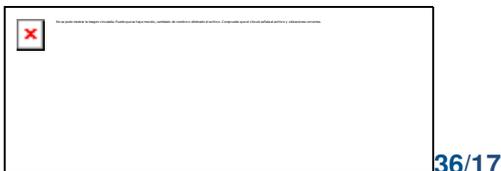


Marta Muñoz Fernández

De: Marta Muñoz Fernández
Enviado el: viernes, 30 de junio de 2017 9:39
Asunto: Circular Fedit nº36/17: Newsletter de EARTO Junio 2017



Estimados socios,

Os enviamos la Newsletter que hemos recibido de EARTO, donde podéis encontrar información de interés sobre sus actuaciones en el ámbito europeo de la I+D.



Nº2, 28th June 2017

If this newsletter does not load correctly in your browser, please click [here](#).

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EARTO Participation in EU Decision-Making Process

Following H2020 Latest Developments



Pascal Lamy, Chair of the [High-Level Group](#) on maximising the impact of European research and innovation programmes, will present the Group's vision and recommendations for the future, based on the results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, during the major [conference](#) "Research & Innovation – shaping our future" to be held in Brussels on 3 July. EARTO contributed to the European Commission (EC) and European Parliament (EP) work since the beginning of the evaluation process.

Over the last weeks, EARTO has been invited to speak up on this dossier:

- EARTO President was also invited to address the EC High Level Group on Horizon 2020 Midterm (Lamy Group) on the EARTO views on how to improve the impact of Horizon 2020 and the role of RTOs as key drivers supporting competitiveness of the EU industry.
- EARTO Secretary General was invited to an EP ITRE Working Group, the EC-EESC evaluation of H2020 event and Think Digital event organized by Siemens to discuss with industry around FP9. On those occasions, EARTO pledged for a continuity of the current Industrial Leadership Pillar of H2020 where EARTO members are very active collaborating with industry.

In addition to these communication efforts, EARTO prepared [amendments](#) to the [report](#) of MEP Soledad Ruiz, EP rapporteur for H2020 interim evaluation, highlighting the key messages of the recent EARTO papers on H2020 and FP9. The report has been voted and adopted by the EP in June.

The Lamy Group will publish its report on 3 July, followed by the EC reaction expected in October. The EC proposal for FP9 has been delayed and is now expected to be published by mid-2018, following the stakeholder consultation and the impact assessment in early 2018.

Joint Declaration by Industry and RTOs: An Ambitious FP9 Strengthening Europe's Industrial Leadership



EARTO along with its industrial and research partners representing European key industrial research & innovation stakeholders

- [ASD](#), [BUSINESSEUROPE](#), [CECIMO](#), [CEFIC](#), [CEMBUREAU](#), [CLEPA](#), [DIGITALEUROPE](#), [EFPIA](#), [EOS](#), [EREA](#), [ESA](#), [ETNO](#), [EUCAR](#), [EURATEX](#), [EUROFER](#), [EUROMINES](#), [EUROPABIO](#), [EUROPEAN ALUMINIUM](#), [FOOD DRINK EUROPE](#), [ORGALIME](#), [UEAPME](#), [UNIFE](#) - have published a [Joint Declaration](#) for "An Ambitious FP9 Strengthening Europe's Industrial Leadership". Together, the 23 signatories of this Joint Declaration call on the EC, EP and the Council to develop an ambitious next Framework Programme built on H2020's achievements, meaning:

- Increasing significantly the overall EU budget for R&I in FP9 within the current discussion on the Multiannual Financial Framework,
- Focusing on a well-balanced three-pillar structure, while allocating an equivalent share of the budget to each pillar,
- Strengthening the EU industrial leadership to guarantee sustainable application and implementation of European research,
- Continuing financial incentives in form of grants for all actors of the value chain, including small & large companies.

Together, we are ready to strengthen our cooperation with the EU Institutions to define and implement an ambitious FP9. This will be paramount to position Europe as a global industrial leader and safeguard our growth and jobs.

As this message will be crucial in the discussions on FP9, we strongly encourage all EARTO members to join forces to spread this paper to their relevant national and regional contacts.

For a complete view on EARTO position on the future of EU R&I policy, please see our publications on [FP9](#), [H2020 Mid-Term Review](#), and [H2020 Funding Model](#).

New EARTO Paper on RTOs' Deep-Tech Start-Ups



How to Exploit the Untapped Potential of RTOs' Deep-Tech Start-Ups in Europe

12 APR 2017

Following EARTO discussions with the EC DG R&I on EIC, EARTO published a [new position paper](#) detailing "How to Exploit the Untapped Potential of RTOs' Deep-Tech Start-Ups in Europe" on 12 April. The aim of this paper and its recommendations is to feed into the on-going thinking on the public instruments that could further support this important channel of technology transfer by RTOs, such as the H2020 SME Instrument, the EC Start-ups & Scale-up Initiative that will most probably fall under the future EIC. The paper will be presented to some 40 representatives from EU Institutions during the 5th EARTO Innovation School on 28 June.

EARTO Connects with New DG REGIO Management Team Looking at Smart Specialisation



In April, EARTO WG ESIF core team met with new Director Rudolf Niessler and with two new Head of Units (simplification ESIF & RIS3): the EC stated its concerns on their next budget discussions. Mr Marc Lemaître, new Director General of DG REGIO, stated that he will focus on inter-regional collaboration and seems to be supportive of smart specialisation/RIS3. Thinking on how to use the 15% (budget margin in operational programmes for spending outside the region) will be key in their discussion for inter-regional collaboration as not used so far. EARTO was asked to come up views on how to boost inter-regional collaboration (using RTOs): what works well, do we have examples, do we have new ideas? We also agreed to have a more specific meeting with the Head of Unit responsible of simplification to look at our last position paper that was very welcome showing shared efforts to be done both at EU and at regional level. We met the Head of Unit responsible for post-2020: they are waiting for the new EC papers to come from EC President Juncker in June to follow-up the various scenarios laid in last Juncker [paper](#) on the future of EU. They placed FP9 in a better position than Cohesion Policy in the next budget discussion.

Discussion Running on Structural Funds' Future



Lately, the Committee of the Regions has voted 2 opinions on the [future of Cohesion Policy](#) and on [RIS3](#).

In the meantime, the [High-Level Group](#) on ESIF Simplification continued its work and is expected to give its final conclusions and recommendations on 11 July 2017. The EC is also preparing a Communication on Smart Specialisation that should be published by early July. EARTO will keep monitoring these developments and see how to best prepare for the post-2020 period.

Linked to the drafting of the new communication on smart specialisation, the [VANGUARD Initiative](#) wrote a paper looking at new ways to support the financing of their pilot projects in the post-2020 ESIF.

EARTO Monitoring EU Funding Programmes

EIB Report on Access to Finance for RTOs



In the frame of the joint EIB-EARTO Working Group, EARTO experts gave inputs to the European Investment Bank (EIB) for its InnovFin report on how to enhance the access to finance for RTOs. The [report](#) has been published during the EARTO Annual Conference in March. Key conclusions include:

- Grants are and will continue to be RTOs main source of funding.
- In some cases, existing business models could be further optimised and complemented to reposition part of the current activities and, where possible, introduce a more commercial and market-driven perspective.
- Evolution of Open Innovation may provide opportunities to further strengthen the relations with industry and generate new income streams.
- Financial players should be supported by bringing technological know-how into the financial and due-diligence process. RTOs could play a role in providing this know-how and as such develop new services and associated streams of income.
- Policy-makers could support RTOs to optimise the use of existing financial instruments.

Several EARTO members are in contact with the EIB InnovFin Advisory to try to explore new funding mechanisms. Should you be interested to learn more about these possibilities, please contact [Arnold Verbeek](#), EIB InnovFin Advisory.

EARTO Activities Building on our WG SF Papers

EARTO has continuously advertised our last WG ESIF position papers and gained position in the thinking on post-2020 period on ESIF thanks to the support of our WG Chair and Co-Chairs:

- EARTO WG Chair Nerea Anacabe has been presenting RTOs views to the [RIS3 Mirror Group](#) meeting and to a DG REGIO Stairway 2 Excellence conference.
- EARTO also presented RTOs views on synergies at an ERRIN event on Smart Specialisation.
- On 8 March, two EARTO members from [Jozef Stefan Institute](#) and [Tecnalia](#) spoke at the joint DG REGIO and JRC [event](#) on boosting regional growth through innovation, which welcomed some 200 participants. They raised the concerns of RTOs on the complex implementation of Smart Specialisation, the effectiveness ESI Funds allocation and the challenges in combining different funds. Several speakers called for further simplification of ESI Funds and raised the issue that regional funds should, like H2020, be exempt from State aid rules and that auditing at regional level can be very burdensome.

As a next step, EARTO organises on 12 October a session in the frame of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2017 (EWRC). The session will focus on the post-2020 Cohesion Policy with high-level speakers from different EC DGs and other stakeholders. The final agenda and registration will be available on the [EWRC website](#) on 10 July.

2017 EARTO Annual Conference



The [2017 EARTO Annual Conference](#) was a great success, welcoming some 250 participants! The event was jointly organised and hosted by EARTO member [Fraunhofer](#) in Munich, Germany, on 29-30 March 2017. This year's theme was "Shaping Europe's Future: RTOs at the Forefront of Innovation Supporting Industry". Highlights of the conference included, among others, speeches by Sabine Herlitschka, CEO of Infineon Technologies Austria AG and Antonio Vicente, Head of Cabinet of R&I Commissioner Carlos Moedas, stating that the future of Europe is closely linked to industry and RTOs driving innovations with high societal value. All presentations, videos and photos of the event are available on the dedicated EARTO website [page](#).

The 2018 EARTO Annual Conference will be co-hosted by EARTO members, [Abelia](#), [Nofima](#) and [SINTEF](#) on 21-22 March 2018 in Oslo, Norway, save the date!

EARTO October Events – Save the Date



EARTO organises in October two events: the EARTO Policy Event and the EARTO Innovation Awards Ceremony. Both events will take place consecutively on Wednesday 11 October, first the Policy Event at the [BIP Info Place](#) from 14.45 to 17.30 and the Awards Ceremony at the [BelVue](#) from 17.30 to 21.00. More information on the agenda and registration will follow soon: save the date! You can have a look back at the previous editions of the Policy Event [here](#) and the Innovation Awards Ceremony [here](#). All 32 applications will be featured in the upcoming EARTO Innovation Awards brochure (see last years' [editions](#)).

Latest EARTO WG Meetings

On 9 June, our WG H2020 experts welcomed several EC speakers on topics of interest, especially concerning the H2020 midterm evaluation and the preparation for FP9. Our WG Security Research held two meetings since March, working on several topics of interest for its members like the applications for the selection of members of the advisory group for the Preparatory Action on Defence Research. The WG welcomed two speakers from DG GROW and DG HOME to discuss topics of interest and future cooperation. Other EARTO WG meetings and events scheduled before the summer are listed on the EARTO [website](#).

New EARTO Website Coming Soon!

To refresh our communication, a new EARTO website will be launched during summer. As the objective is to advertise your work, we are collecting communication materials on recent top-level innovations from your organizations. We are happy to receive any HD pictures (innovation, labs,

people working, application in everyday life) and any video material you might have! Please send those to [Sophie Viscido](#) and [Sophie Reiss](#).

EARTO Info - Staff Changes

After 6 years of great work at EARTO, our Senior Policy Officer Talita Soares took up a new challenge at the European Parliament. She became the assistant of MEP Christian Ehler (German, EPP). Talita will be working in our offices until 26 May. We wish her all the best in her new job. Our activities will continue as normal and to support our policy team composed of Erwan Kermadec and Sophie Viscido. Two interns joined the EARTO team as of mid-June: Loïc Charpentier who will assist us on policy topics until mid-December and Sophie Reiss who is doing a 2-month communication internship.

EARTO Next Events & WG Meetings



The table of EARTO 2017 events and scheduled Working Group Meetings is as follows:

Meeting	Date 2017	Timing	Place
EARTO WG Financial Experts	5 July	10.00-15.00	Brussels, Belgium
EARTO WG Legal Experts	6 July	10.00-15.00	Brussels, Belgium
EARTO WG European Data Space	7 July	09.00-11.00	Conference call
EARTO WG Security Research	11-12 July	11 afternoon & 12 morning	Barcelona, Spain
EARTO Steering Committee	5 September	09.00-15.30	Brussels, Belgium
EARTO Board	11 October	09.00-12.00	Brussels, Belgium
EARTO Policy Event	11 October	14.00-17.30	Brussels, Belgium
EARTO Innovation Awards	11 October	17.30-21.00	Brussels, Belgium
European Week of Region & Cities (EARTO Session)	12 October	09.00-10.45	Brussels, Belgium
EARTO Steering Committee	7 December	09.30-11.30	Conference call

EARTO Monitoring Trends

EARTO in EU Events

EARTO attends and speaks at a variety of events each month. The full list of events since the last newsletter is available for download [here](#).

Weekly EU Policy Monitoring and Press Review

June 26, 2017 | European news

OECD Publishes New Country Reviews of Innovation Policy

The OECD published its reviews of Innovation policy for Luxembourg, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, and Finland in 2016 & 2017.

The OECD Reviews of Innovation Policy offer a comprehensive assessment of the innovation system of individual OECD countries and partner economies, focusing on the role of government. They provide concrete recommendations on how to improve policies that affect innovation performance, including R&D policies. Each review identifies good practices from which other countries can learn.

These five reviews highlight the positive and key role of the RTOs in the competitiveness and innovation policy. They are the “connectors” between universities and industries. Despite these similarities, the reviews stress also the disparities between the European members such as the degree of dependence on public funding or the fragmentation of the research system in some European countries.

[Review of Innovation Policy in Norway](#)
[Review of Innovation Policy in Sweden](#)
[Review of Innovation Policy in Lithuania](#)
[Review of Innovation Policy in Finland](#)
[Review of Innovation Policy in Luxembourg](#)

June 23, 2017 | European news

EC Publishes the European Innovation Scoreboard 2017

On 20 June 2017, the European Commission published the [European Innovation Scoreboard 2017](#). The EU's innovation performance continued to grow in 2016, especially in 15 countries. Sweden remains the leader, while Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria and the UK are the fastest growing innovators. In the World, the EU is catching up with Canada and the US, but South Korea and Japan are pulling ahead.

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "The Scoreboard shows that still more can be done to improve research and innovation performance. That's why we're gearing up support to breakthrough innovators through the pilot European Innovation Council under the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation framework programme."

[European Commission Press Release](#)

June 22, 2017 | European news

EU Adopts MFF 2014-2020 Mid-Term Review

On 20 June 2017, the Council of the European Union adopted the revised EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020. The MFF regulation sets out annual maximum amounts which the EU is allowed to spend on different policy areas over the period from 2014 to 2020.

The revised MFF increases the resources earmarked for the EU's main priorities by €6.01 billion for the years 2017-2020. It aims at devoting more resources to help boost jobs and growth, to address the migration crisis, and to strengthen the EU's capacity to react to unexpected events. An additional €2.08 billion will help stimulate Jobs & Growth, including +€200 for H2020.

[Council of EU Press Release](#)

June 16, 2017 | European news

Research Europe article: Industry sets out vision for Framework 9

By Eleni Courea

A group of 23 industry groups and research and technology organisations has issued a joint declaration calling for an “ambitious” and better-funded Framework 9.

To build on the success of Horizon 2020, the EU must “significantly” increase the overall budget of Framework 9, according to the declaration, which was published today. Its signatories included the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations and the industry groups European Aluminium, Food Drink Europe and the European Council for Automotive R&D.

Read [full article](#)

June 7, 2017 | European news

Joint Declaration by Industry and RTOs: An Ambitious FP9 Strengthening Europe's Industrial Leadership

[EARTO](#), the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), along with its industrial and research partners representing European key industrial research & innovation stakeholders

- [ASD](#), [BUSINESSEUROPE](#), [CECIMO](#), [CEFIC](#), [CEMBUREAU](#), [CLEPA](#), [DIGITALEUROPE](#), [EFPIA](#), [EOS](#), [EREA](#), [ESA](#), [ETNO](#), [EUCAR](#), [EURATEX](#), [EUROFER](#), [EUROMINES](#), [EUROPABIO](#), [EUROPEAN ALUMINIUM](#), [FOOD DRINK EUROPE](#), [ORGALIME](#), [UEAPME](#), [UNIFE](#) - have published a **Joint Declaration** for "An Ambitious FP9 Strengthening Europe's Industrial Leadership".

Together, the 23 signatories of this **Joint Declaration** call on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to develop an ambitious next EU Research & Innovation Framework Programme (FP9) built on Horizon 2020's achievements. We strongly believe that this means:

- Increasing significantly the overall EU budget for research and innovation in FP9 within the current discussion on the Multiannual Financial Framework,
- Focusing on a well-balanced three-pillar structure, while allocating an equivalent share of the budget to each pillar,
- Strengthening the EU industrial leadership to guarantee sustainable application and implementation of European research,
- Continuing financial incentives in form of grants for all actors of the value chain, including small & large companies.

Together, we are ready to strengthen our cooperation with the EU Institutions to define and implement an ambitious FP9. This will be paramount to position Europe as a global industrial leader and safeguard our growth and jobs.

For a complete view on EARTO position on the future of EU R&I policy, please see our publications on [FP9](#), [H2020 Mid-Term Review](#), and [H2020 Funding Model](#).

June 6, 2017 | European news

Future Industry Congress 2017 on 21 June in Barcelona

This yearly congress that EARTO member [Eurecat](#) organizes on 21 June in Barcelona will address the topic of innovative industrial technologies. For this edition, 4 topics have been selected, in line with the FET programme of the Horizon 2020:

- Human Brain Technologies
- Quantum Technologies
- 5G Technology
- 2D Materials and Processes

More information, agenda and registration are available [here](#).

May 23, 2017 | European news

World Chemical Summit Workshop on European Competitiveness on 8 June in Brussels

The World Chemical Summit will focus on the themes of Energy, Water and Air, Food, Health, Resource Efficiency and the Digital Society, which together represent some of the biggest challenges facing society.

The workshop "The chemical industry an engine of the European competitiveness" will take place on 8 June in the European Parliament premises, with the participation of policy makers, advocacy groups, think tanks and practitioners. The main idea is approaching the chemical industry trends and the challenges the sector is facing in a common path.

More information and registration are available [here](#).

The World Chemical Summit event will take place in Barcelona on 4-5 October 2017, see website [here](#).

May 23, 2017 | European news

RISE Group Publishes Book on "Europe's Future: Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World"

The RISE group published its book 'Europe's future: Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World' on 15 May 2017. The report was presented to Carlos R&I Commissioner Moedas.

The book will act as the basis for further reflection and debate throughout Europe with experts and stakeholders on the economic and societal policy rationale for an open EU Research and Innovation strategy.

[Read Report](#)

[List of RISE Group Members](#)

May 23, 2017 | European news

OECD Publishes Report on "The Next Production Revolution"

The OECD has recently published a new report on "The Next Production Revolution - Implications for Governments and Business".

Extract:

"The next production revolution will occur because of a confluence of technologies. These range from a variety of digital technologies (e.g. 3D printing, the Internet of Things, advanced robotics) and new materials (e.g. bio- or nano- based) to new processes (e.g. data-driven production, artificial intelligence, synthetic biology). This report examines the economic and policy ramifications of a set of technologies likely to be important for production over the near term (to around 2030). As these technologies transform production, they will have far-reaching consequences for productivity, employment, skills, income distribution, trade, well-being and the environment."

[Read full report](#)

May 17, 2017 | European news

RIO Country Reports 2016 Published

The annual RIO (Research and Innovation Observatory of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre) Country Reports analyses and assesses the development and performance of the national R&I system and related policies. The report also assesses the match between national policy priorities and the structural challenges of the R&I system.

The new reports have been published a few days ago and are available [here](#).

May 17, 2017 | European news

Interim Evaluation of COSME Open Until 31 August

The EC launched a public consultation, as part of the interim evaluation of the COSME Programme. COSME is Europe's Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It started in 2014 and lasts until 2020 with a financial envelope of €2.3 billion.

Should you have any feedback for the EC on this programme, the consultation is open until 31 August. More details and the consultation itself are available [here](#).

May 10, 2017 | European news

ECSEL JU Symposium 2017 in Malta on 13-14 June

The ECSEL Symposium will provide opportunity and space for the ECSEL funded projects to present their progress and results to date, to disseminate the scientific and technological achievements, and to cast light on their contributions to the programme. The event will run over two days: Day 1 focuses on ECSEL JU projects' results and achievements in key areas (e.g. Smart Health, Production, and Mobility and Semiconductor technologies) while Day 2 is dedicated to a more strategic exchange featuring high-profile key note speeches and panel discussions. This event is organised under the auspices of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Practical information, agenda and registration are available [here](#). Registration are still open for 2 weeks !

May 10, 2017 | European news

Additive Manufacturing European Conference in Brussels on 7 June

CECIMO, the European Association of the MACHine Tool Industries, is organising this conference at the European Parliament on 7 June, on the theme of "Boosting the competitiveness of the European industry by supporting the adoption of additive manufacturing". Otherwise known as 3D printing, additive manufacturing is set to become one of the next most important disruptive technologies. But it needs to overcome a series of policy and market challenges to bring this technology into the industrial mainstream. The conference will gather together industry leaders and senior policy-makers to focus on barriers for the industrialization of additive manufacturing and discuss measures to bring them down.

More information, agenda and registration are available [here](#).

May 8, 2017 | European news

Digitalising Manufacturing Conference 2017 on 30-31 October in Coventry

On 30-31 October, EARTO member [the MTC](#) is organising the third Digitalising Manufacturing Conference in Coventry, UK. The conference will address international collaboration opportunities, national policy as well as practical knowledge to drive industrial digitalisation from within UK value chains.

Headlining the conference is the keynote speaker, Prof. Juergen Maier, Chief Executive of Siemens plc, who is leading the Industrial Digitalisation Review on behalf of the UK Government. The two-day programme will feature insightful panel discussions; interactive workshops and digital manufacturing demonstrators - making this the 'must-attend' conference on this topic in the UK.

More information, programme and registration are available [here](#).

May 2, 2017 | European news

EC Conference "Research & Innovation – shaping our future" in Brussels on 3 July

Against the backdrop of the Commission's White Paper on the future of Europe, the conference "Research & Innovation – shaping our future", hosted by Research, Science and Innovation Commissioner Carlos Moedas, will bring together policymakers from EU institutions, nearly 700 stakeholders and interested actors to discuss the role of research and innovation for Europe's future.

Pascal Lamy, the chair of the High Level Group on maximising the impact of European research and innovation programmes, will present the Group's vision and recommendations for the future, based on the results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

The conference will build further momentum for research and innovation as an investment for our future by:

- Discussing the recommendations of the High Level Group
- Debating game-changing ideas in an interactive panel format
- Launching the stakeholder consultation for the successor framework programme.

[More information](#)

[Registration](#) (the event will also be webstreamed)

May 2, 2017 | European news

Research Europe Article: Industry held back by state aid rules, study finds

By Craig Nicholson

EU rules around government support for industrial innovation are “complex, time-consuming and restrictive”, a study carried out for the European Commission has concluded.

These deficiencies make them “a handicap for EU industry and research” according to the study, which was written up for the Commission in November 2015 but not published until earlier this month. The study assessed the effectiveness of the rules and compared them with the equivalent rules in nine competing countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the USA.

The main conclusion of this comparison was that rules in these nations allow them to have genuine industrial policies, whereas “by contrast, EU member states cannot follow the same approach, in particular, due to the application of EU competition policy”. The study also found that the EU’s rules do not account for the needs of small and medium-sized businesses, and that they provide insufficient incentives for these businesses to collaborate with universities and research institutes.

[Read full article](#)

May 2, 2017 | European news

Research Europe Article: Horizon 2020 success rates are higher than they appear

Take proposals that should never have been submitted out of the figures, and the chances of winning funding look a lot brighter, says Seán McCarthy.

During 2015—the most recent year for which we have data—a total of 42,535 eligible proposals were submitted to Horizon 2020. Of these, 4,565 proposals were granted funding. When the European Commission says that the overall success rate was 10.7 per cent, then, it is mathematically correct. This, however, is not the real success rate.

To calculate the real success rates, it is necessary to understand the evaluation process. When a proposal arrives in Brussels, a Commission official checks it against eligibility criteria. Eligible means that the forms were filled in properly.

[Read full article](#)

April 28, 2017 | European news

EC Publishes Horizon 2020 Midterm Evaluation Results

The report is a detailed analysis of the feedback received following the EC consultation on H2020, with many revealing findings throughout. The results of the stakeholder consultation show a tremendous interest in and support for EU research and innovation across a wide group of stakeholders.

The results of the Horizon 2020 stakeholder consultation are part of the ongoing interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, which is due by the end of December 2017.

See EC report and position papers submitted by stakeholders [here](#).

April 25, 2017 | European news

EC Publishes Study Assessing EU State Aids Schemes for RDI

The European Commission has recently published a study on "State aid support schemes for RDI in the EU's international competitors in the fields of Science, Research and Innovation". This study evaluates and assesses the appropriateness and effectiveness of the regulatory framework for State aid to RDI in the European Union. It compares the competitiveness of RDI in the EU with that of certain competitor third countries to recommend improvements to the Community regulatory framework.

"ABSTRACT:

Despite RDI being fundamental to any economy and producing an extremely beneficial effect on social welfare, EU has not yet met the objective of 3% GERD/GDP. Moreover, an econometric analysis demonstrates that public financing to RDI in the USA, Japan and South Korea is more efficient than in the Union. It also shows that the Union's State aid Framework constitutes a handicap for EU industry and research.

Undoubtedly the USA has put a driving force innovation in place through its public procurement policies. However, the Union, through Pre-Commercial Procurement, cannot copy the US system without undertaking profound legal adjustments.

The EU RDI State aid rules which add a supplementary legal layer to each Member State's national innovation policies are complex, time-consuming and restrictive. There is no equivalent abroad. (...)"

Read more:

[Abstract & Executive Summary](#)
[Full Study in English & French](#)

April 12, 2017 | European news

New EARTO Paper: How to Exploit the Untapped Potential of RTOs' Deep-Tech Start-Ups in Europe

Europe has clearly realised that deep-tech start-ups are key for competitiveness and industrial renewal, delivering high social and economic impact. It is critical for Europe to refocus on developing a strong industrial base, where start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps, often "the hidden champions", play an important role. To support the creation of successful start-ups with high life expectancy and growth potential, EARTO published [a new position paper](#) detailing "How to Exploit the Untapped Potential of RTOs' Deep-Tech Start-Ups in Europe".

EARTO hopes that this analysis and the recommendations that derive from it will feed into the ongoing thinking on European innovative deep-tech start-ups, contributing to boost jobs and growth in Europe.

April 11, 2017 | European news

Horizon 2020 to be Topped up with €200 million

The European Parliament gave last week its consent to additional €200 million for Horizon 2020, the current EU research and innovation funding programme, by adopting a compromise on the mid-term review of the EU budget, reached with the EU Member States on 7 March. The final and formal approval of the Council of the EU is expected in the coming weeks.

The €200 million top-up for Horizon 2020 is part of additional means amounting to €6 billion that will help the EU tackle urgent challenges such as the migration crisis, strengthening security, boosting growth and creating jobs.

See [full news](#)

April 11, 2017 | European news

EC-EESC Event on the H2020 Stakeholders Consultation Results on 28 April in Brussels

The event will be an occasion for the European Commission to present the results of the open stakeholder consultation and for the EESC and stakeholders, including from the civil society, to comment on the outcome.

EARTO Secretary General will be one of the speakers to comment the results.

Programme and registration are available [here](#).

April 11, 2017 | European news

EERA High Level Political Event 2017 on Cooperation in Energy R&I on 3 May in Brussels

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) will organise on 3 May in Brussels its EERA High Level Political Event 2017 on "Cooperation in European energy research & innovation: reality and expectations". This will be the opportunity for the stakeholders in the energy R&I community to discuss their views on cooperation, what it means for them and how to work together to achieve the objectives of the Integrated SET-Plan and the innovation goals set out in the Commission's 2016 "[Clean Energy for All Europeans](#)" package (commonly referred to as the "Winter Package") to support a more competitive, modern and cleaner energy system.

Agenda and registration are available [here](#).

April 7, 2017 | European news

EY/EC Workshops on Renewable Energy Sector in May and June

Ernst & Young is leading a study for the EC DG R&I on its research and innovation policies in the area of renewable energy. The study supports the EC in an endeavor to use efficiently the TRL (Technology Readiness Level) scale as a key indicator for R&I programs focusing on renewable energy technologies.

The focus is specifically renewable energy and EY has reached the phase in the project of developing a set of guiding principles explaining how to address TRL for 10 selected renewable energy technologies, i.e. developing a new TRL scale. For more information and details about the project, see [here](#).

To involve the stakeholders, still 4 workshops will be organized in Brussels. For more information on the individual workshops per technology and for registration to the workshops, please follow the links below:

- [RE H&C](#) (9 May)
 - [Geothermal](#) (10 May)
 - [RE Alternative Fuel](#) (20 June)
 - [Ocean Energy](#) (21 June)
-

April 6, 2017 | European news

It's not you, it's me: UK research faces up to the realities of EU divorce

Éanna Kelly, Science|Business

EU and UK negotiators are not seen as far apart on research, but with Article 50 now triggered, getting a deal on R&D is likely to be some way down the list of priorities
Advertisement

With the ball finally rolling on Brexit this week, both sides are being urged to lock in an early deal on foreign citizens' rights and secure the UK's future access to EU research programmes.

However, there is a weary acceptance among research institutions that politics — and time — will see the sector submerged in a slew of complicated fights over post-Brexit freedom of movement and adherence to EU law.

"Top of the order for universities is getting a deal on the rights of EU nationals to remain in the country," said Oxford University's head of Brexit strategy, Alastair Buchan.

It is expected the UK will guarantee that the three million EU nationals already in the UK can stay, as long as British people living in the EU get the same assurance.

"I think there could be a quick win here," said Catherine Barnard, professor of EU law at Cambridge University.

[Read full Science Business article](#)

March 29, 2017 | European news

EARTO Press Release - Europe prepares the ground for RTOs to get more and better access to finance

PRESS RELEASE

Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) play a pivotal role in the European business landscape by bridging industry and academia and by adding value across the entire innovation value chain. However there is a need to optimise and complement RTOs' traditional business model and funding strategies with new additional business models and funding strategies to allow them to successfully navigate through a changing funding landscape and make full use of existing business opportunities. This is the result of a study "Access to finance for Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and their academic and industrial partners", launched today in Munich. The study was prepared by Innovation Finance Advisory under the EIB Group's InnovFin Advisory Partnership with the European Commission.

Werner Hoyer, President of the EIB Group, which also includes the European Investment Fund (EIF), commented: "This study shows that the European public funding landscape for R&D and innovation is changing rapidly. While grants are, and will remain, an important source of financing for RTOs, their uncertain future creates challenges. This may also create new opportunities, as new and optimised business modelling and, enhanced knowledge and expertise of the financial community can help to diversify funding sources. An optimised use and effective leveraging of grant funding by RTOs can help attract complementary sources of return-based financing."

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "It is encouraging that Research and Technology Organisations are actively exploring the full range of available financial instruments to diversify their funding options. The EU facilitates their access finance in various ways. For instance, InnovFin equity helps those pursuing market-driven innovation by transferring publicly funded and performed research to for-profit entities, including start-ups."

The President of EARTO emphasised “this study presents an interesting tool set, which invites the EARTO members and EIB to further explore new ways of financing the technology transfer on its way to the market. And we are happy to see that a first group of EARTO members is already looking very seriously into these new options. Our challenge now will be to follow the various discussions started and to get jointly through the learning curve. In the current economic and political European context, coherence of R&I funding instruments will be key for our future. Such joint efforts are stepping stones in this direction: R&I actors such as RTOs are the ones to create synergy by using the various funding tools which are at their disposal.”

For some RTOs existing business models could be further optimised and complemented in order to reposition part of the current activities and, where possible, introduce a more commercial and market-driven perspective. Furthermore, if RTOs in general want to benefit from debt instruments in complement to grant-based funding schemes, a business model that generates sufficient cash flows to repay debt directly is important. In addition, some RTOs could develop further knowledge and expertise on project risk assessment and potential mitigating factors to target the overall risk profile that fits with the risk appetite of the investment community, and as such improve the overall “bankability” prospects of their projects.

The report recommends that RTOs further optimise the use of existing financial instruments overall. Of particular relevance may be the financial instruments proposed by the EIB Group, which has a long-standing track record of providing financing to support research, development and innovation (RDI). In particular, the EIB Group and the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation have joined forces with a €25 billion investment into the InnovFin – “EU Finance for Innovators” and the “European Fund for Strategic Investments” to support innovative ideas.

President Hoyer: “As the financing arm of the European Union, we understand the challenges that many RTOs face in raising finance. The EIB Group is ideally placed to help RTOs in their quest for new funding models. We are ready to build on our existing range of financial instruments to deliver advice and products which will help RTOs optimise their funding possibilities. I extend a warm invitation to EARTO members to contact the EIB with their project proposals and look forward to developing our engagement as in a joint effort we seek to bring innovative ideas to market.”

[Link to study](#)

March 27, 2017 | European news

ALLEA European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity Launched

ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, published today the revised edition of The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, a document that serves the European research community as a framework for self-regulation across all scientific and scholarly disciplines and for all research settings. Particularly the revised Code addresses recent and emerging challenges emanating from technological developments, open science, citizen science and social media, among other areas.

EARTO has been invited last year to provide [feedback](#) on the content.

[ALLEA - European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#)
[Press release](#)
[EC factsheet](#)

March 23, 2017 | European news

EERA Questionnaire on Mobility of Researchers & Students - Deadline to Contribute 31 March

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) is working on a proposal for an operational student and researcher mobility scheme, to be finalised in November 2017. One of the key steps towards this objective is the collection & analysis of relevant experiences at EU and National level, which will enable the determination of inspiring and innovative best practices to be used in the development of an EERA mobility scheme and support its testing across the Energy sector.

To do so, EERA has developed a [questionnaire](#) with the purpose of collecting relevant information and experience concerning available national and international instruments supporting researcher (academic or industrial) and student mobility in any thematic area. Researchers' views will be very much appreciated and will be processed anonymously. Respondents will have the opportunity to receive a final report of the results.

The deadline to contribute is March 31st, 2017.

Should you need any clarification, please refer to any of these addresses:

- [Massimo Busuoli](#) (Coordinator)
- [AnnaMaria Sempreviva](#) (Task Leader)
- [Graeme Burt](#) (Questionnaire Lead)

March 23, 2017 | European news

Spin-Off of EARTO Member VTT Wins EC Food Scanner Horizon Prize

The winners of the €1m Food Scanner Horizon Prize are [Spectral Engines](#) (800k€), SCiOscan and Tellspec (100k€ each). The three innovators delivered breakthrough food scanning solutions in the context of the EU's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Spectral Engines is a Finnish start-up, spin-off of EARTO member [VTT](#), founded in 2014. It has a core competence in miniaturized spectrometers, turning them into plug-and-play industrial grade smart sensors. The start-up operates in several locations like Helsinki (HQ and manufacturing), Oulu (sales), US and Germany (sales reps). As a start-up, it has already demonstrated European industrial excellence in the photonics field by winning the Photonics West 2016 Prism Award in the 'Detectors and Sensors' category.

Spectral Engines was able to develop in a very short time-frame a food scanner prototype based on Near Infrared Spectroscopy, along with a Bluetooth connection to a mobile device and data connection to a Cloud server. Its food scanner prototype is compact and provides real-time results at a comparatively low price.

According to the jury, Spectral Engines provides a major step forward towards better food-sensor devices and may play a significant role in the emerging field of the 'Internet of Food' and smart personal nutrition. Unlike the other contestants the Finnish start-up had developed both food scanning hardware and software. The SME receives 800k€ in prize money.

March 20, 2017 | European news

EARTO Voting Recommendations for Globally Competitive Standardisation in the Digital Single Market

EARTO, the network of over 350 Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), would like to put forward [voting recommendations](#) ahead of the upcoming discussions and votes in the European Parliament:

- on the Draft Report on "European standards" by IMCO Committee MEP Marlene Mizzi,
- on the Draft Opinion on "European standards" by ITRE Committee MEP Hans-Olaf Henkel,
- and on the Draft Report on "Digitising European Industry" by ITRE Committee MEP Reinhard Bütikofer.

RTOs are non-profit research organisations with public missions to support society. Their work range from basic research to new products and services development. They are trusted and

critical partners at the core of innovation hubs: cooperating with industries, specifically SMEs, and with a wide array of public actors.

EARTO members urge MEPs to support amendments which stand for pro-interopability in the Digital Single Market (DSM) and pro-standardisation, both in favour of valuing investments in European RD&I. We also call on MEPs to reject amendments undermining Europe's economy and innovation ecosystems.

[EARTO Voting Recommendations](#)

March 17, 2017 | European news

EP & Council Agree on the Revision of the MFF - Awaiting for EP Official Consent on 5 April

On 7 March 2017, the Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the mid-term revision of the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. They for instance agreed on:

- the top-up of H2020 by 200M€ aligned on the Council's position (EC and EP had proposed 400M€), to be implemented in the years 2017 to 2020 in the framework of the annual budgetary procedure.
- the top-ups of other EU programme boosting Jobs & Growth spread over four years (2017-2020), including CEF 300M€; Erasmus+ 100M€; COSME 100M€; EFSI 150M€; Youth Employment Initiative 1200M€; etc.
- measures to avoid the accumulation of an excessive amount of unpaid bills and ensure that payment claims are duly reimbursed.

The Council has formally requested the Parliament to give its consent and approve the MFF revision package. Next steps:

- 20 March 2017: Exchange of views in EP BUDG Committee in the presence of Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Budget & Human Resources
- 27 March: Vote in EP BUDG committee
- 5 April: vote in EP plenary

Official documents:

[EC Communication](#) - 14 September 2016

[EP Resolution](#) - 26 October 2016

[Council Regulation](#) - 6 December 2016

[Draft Statement of EP & Council](#) - 6 March 2017

[Draft Council Regulation](#) - 6 March 2017

March 17, 2017 | European news

G-STIC 2017 Student & Research Challenges: New Technologies to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

EARTO Member VITO and its international partners are organising the **G-STIC 2017** Conference, a **Global Science, Technology & Innovation Conference** that aims to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, on 23-25 October in Brussels.

In this frame, the **G-STIC 2017 Student & Research Challenges** are launched to encourage students, PhD students and junior researchers worldwide to come up with original and innovative ideas on new technological solutions that hold great potential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants will be invited to submit a pitch - including a short video pitch - within any of the 9 technology themes addresses by the G-STIC 2017 Conference:

- Agriculture
- Circular Economy
- CO2 as a resource
- Energy
- ICT as enabling technology
- Sustainable technology and development
- Technology for climate change mitigation & adaptation
- Urbanization
- Water

Deadline for participation 15 May 2017

For more information:

- G-STIC 2017 Conference [website](#)
- G-STIC 2017 Student & Research Challenges [website - flyer - registration](#)

March 17, 2017 | European news

ECSEL JU Symposium 2017 on 13-14 June in Malta

The ECSEL Joint Undertaking is organising its Symposium 2017 on 13-14 June in Malta, under the auspices of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Topics discussed will include Smart Health, Semiconductor technology for the Internet of Things, Smart Production, Smart Mobility, but also the progress made towards the ECSEL JU's mission.

For more information:

[ECSEL JU Website](#)
[Practical information](#)
[Agenda](#)
[Registration](#)

March 17, 2017 | European news

New EC Study Calls For More Public Investment in R&I

Public funding of research and innovation (R&I) acts as a catalyst to boost private R&I activities and overall economic growth, according to a [report](#) released by the European Commission.

The study finds that roughly two thirds of economic growth in Europe can be traced back to innovation. It also estimates that the typical returns for private R&I investment range between 10% and 30%. These returns can be twice or three times higher for the economy in general, thanks to the positive spillover effects that enable other firms to benefit from these investments.

Public R&I investment helps generate and diffuse new knowledge. It also contributes to developing new skills and creating networks that enable stronger knowledge flows. Overall, the returns on public R&I investment are estimated to be around 20%, with returns on EU-funded R&I estimated to be even higher.

[See full news](#)

March 13, 2017 | European news

New EARTO Paper: How Joint Undertakings Boost RTOs-Industry Collaboration & Leverage Private R&I Investment

EARTO has published a [new paper](#) on "How Joint Undertakings Boost RTOs-Industry Collaboration & Leverage Private RD&I Investments in Europe". This paper will serve as EARTO contribution to the European Commission's public consultation on Joint Undertakings.

As one of the key missions of RTOs is to support industry, EARTO members are great supporters and beneficiaries of excellent collaborative research within Horizon 2020, including contractual Public Private Partnerships (cPPPs) and Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs). We hope that this short analysis will bring forward some further thinking on those instruments for the H2020 interim evaluation and FP9.

March 10, 2017 | European news

RESAVER, the First Pan-European Pension Fund, Is Now Operational

The first pan-European pension fund RESAVER, is now operational. RESAVER is a state-of-the-art occupational pension solution designed to meet the needs of the European R&D sector. It is a flexible pension arrangement that can be adapted to the requirements of each organisation in each country, while complying with national social and labour laws.

RESAVER is an occupational pension plan which:

- Is open to organisations in both the public and private sector performing R&D in the European Economic Area (EEA)
- Enables employees to remain affiliated to the same pension vehicle when moving between countries and employers
- Is also open to non-mobile employees
- Is designed for the benefit of R&D personnel but can also be used for other employees within an organisation
- Is supplementary to social security pension systems

For more information:

[RESAVER Website](#)

[RESAVER EC Factsheet 2017](#)

[RESAVER Pension Application Form](#)

[RESAVER Consortium Application Form](#)

[RESAVER Joining Roadmap](#)

[Contact](#)

March 10, 2017 | European news

EERA Questionnaire on Mobility of Researchers & Students - Deadline to Contribute 31 March

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) is working on a proposal for an operational student and researcher mobility scheme, to be finalised in November 2017. One of the key steps towards this objective is the collection & analysis of relevant experiences at EU and National level, which will enable the determination of inspiring and innovative best practices to be used in the development of an EERA mobility scheme and support its testing across the Energy sector.

To do so, EERA has developed a [questionnaire](#) with the purpose of collecting relevant information and experience concerning available national and international instruments supporting researcher (academic or industrial) and student mobility in any thematic area. Researchers' views will be very much appreciated and will be processed anonymously. Respondents will have the opportunity to receive a final report of the results.

The deadline to contribute is March 31st, 2017.

Should you need any clarification, please refer to any of these addresses:

- [Massimo Busuoli](#) (Coordinator)
 - [AnnaMaria Sempreviva](#) (Task Leader)
 - [Graeme Burt](#) (Questionnaire Lead)
-

March 10, 2017 | European news

EC Publishes 2017 European Semester Country Reports

The EC published the 2017 European Semester [Country Reports](#). The accompanying Commission [Communication](#) reflects that underinvestment in research R&I is hurting Europe's long-term productivity, through a slowdown in its the rate of innovation and technology diffusion. The Communication recognises equally that it is important to promote public investment in R&I and its capacity to induce business investment. In addition, the reports acknowledge that further reform efforts are needed in relation to, for example, better fiscal incentives for R&D or an improved business environment for innovation and start-ups.

The Reports are the analytical cornerstone of the Semester, the EU's yearly cycle of economic policy coordination. They identify the main R&I policy bottlenecks of each Member State, and assess whether adequate national policy responses are in place to address these bottlenecks. DG Research & Innovation concentrated its contribution on three focus areas:

1. the business environment for innovation, paying due attention to intangible assets and high growth innovative firms;
2. science-business cooperation;
3. the need for public R&I investments, that achieve higher quality and impact.

They monitored as well the countries' developments towards the 3% EU R&D investment intensity target.

[2017 European Semester Country Reports](#)
[EC Communication](#)

March 2, 2017 | European news

EC Presents H2020 Simplification Measures

R&I Commissioner Carlos Moedas presented a package of simplification measures this week, aiming to further simplify participation in Horizon 2020 by reducing administrative costs to participants and helping to prevent accounting errors.

The changes comprise:

- A revision of the Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement
- Streamlining the Horizon 2020 work programme for 2018-20
- Making the programme more relevant and easier to access for start-ups
- Wider use of lump-sum project funding

More information on each measure and slides from 28 February EC workshop, where EARTO was one of the speakers, is available [here](#).

March 2, 2017 | European news

EARTO Annual Conference 2017 - 29-30 March in Munich - Last Days to Register

EARTO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017
"Shaping Europe's Future: RTOs at the Forefront of Innovation Supporting Industry"
29-30 March 2017 - Munich, Germany
PROGRAMME
REGISTRATION
ACCOMODATION

EARTO is organising its Annual Conference 2017, kindly hosted by EARTO member [Fraunhofer](#) on 29-30 March 2017 in Munich, Germany.

The conference will focus on **"Shaping Europe's Future: RTOs at the Forefront of Innovation Supporting Industry"**. It will feature high-level speakers from the European Commission and other key Institutions, as well as members of EARTO and industry representatives.

Further information, [programme](#) and [registration](#) are available on the [conference website](#). Please make sure to book your hotel as soon as possible. [Hotel details](#) can be found on the conference website.

We look forward to welcoming you for a successful event!

EARTO Facilities & Services to Members

Job Vacancies in RTOs

Current positions at EARTO member [LIST](#):

- [Administrative And Financial Director](#) - Belval

Working Space for Members at the EARTO Offices in Brussels



A one-person working space in our offices is available for EARTO members to use whenever in Brussels. We warmly invite all our members to use this space any time during our offices opening hours, 08:30-18:00. Instructions on how to reach the EARTO offices are available on our [website](#). The space is offered on a first come, first served basis.

EARTO Meeting Facilities

The EARTO meeting room is available to members for meetings of up to 12 participants. The price of the room is €250 per day and includes a projector, a flipchart, wifi network and light refreshments (water, coffee and tea). Lunch arrangements are extra.

Members needing a larger meeting room in Brussels are welcome to contact the EARTO Secretariat for assistance. Please contact us by [email](#) or by phone at +32 2 502 8698.

