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Estimados socios:

Os enviamos el Newsletter de EARTO (European Association of Research and Technology Organizations) correspondiente al mes de Octubre de 2017.



**Nº4, 10th October 2017**

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

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**EIB-EC InnovFIn Report on RTOs – New Financial Instrument for RTOs**

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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.

EARTO organised on 19 September its 6th [Innovation School](#), gathering around 40 EU policy-makers who had a lively discussion with experts from our membership and EIB representatives on those reformations. Following the completion of this report, our Joint WG with the EIB is now closed.

As one key conclusion of this study, we are very happy to announce the creation of a new instrument for RTOs under EIB-EC InnovFin portfolio: RIURO (InnovFin Research Institutes, Universities, Research Organisations Facility). Agreement has been signed by the EC & the EIB over the summer and is set as well in the Interim Evaluation of H2020 Financial Instruments [Report](#). The new palette of InnovFin products is available [here](#). We hope that our members will be able to profit from this new instrument especially targeting research infrastructures. This is a great conclusion of the work performed with the EIB & the EC under our InnovFin advisory services and EARTO would very much like to thank the EIB & EC colleagues for their collaboration on this.

## Monitoring Discussions on EU Budget



The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will lay down the maximum annual amounts which the EU may spend each year in different policy fields over a period of at least 5 years. It should be presented in May 2018. It will define the budget for the next Framework Programme (FP9) to be presented around the same time. With Brexit, the EU budget will have €20bn less per year. With new activities on defence and immigration, as well as the Cohesion Policy being debated, changes to the budget is expected and the place of R&I budget is at this stage unclear. EU institutions call for an FP9 budget higher than the one of H2020, including R&I Commissioner Moedas with support of Mr Pascal Lamy [LAB-FAB-APP report](#), and various key MEPs. However, the Council position is more ambiguous with its proposed cuts for H2020 budget for the year 2018. We therefore strongly encourage you to connect with your national finance ministries to promote EU collaborative research as one key future EU spending.

EARTO has met with the Cabinets of EC Vice-President Katainen and Commissioner Oettinger to discuss this key budget issue.

## Following Post-2020 Cohesion Policy

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In July, two reports of interest were published. The [High-Level Expert Group](#) monitoring simplification for beneficiaries of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) chaired by Mr Siim Kallas, to which EARTO provided inputs, gave [first recommendations](#) on which principles the future ESI Funds could be based on for the post-2020 period. EARTO welcomed this report in a [press release](#), as it is a first step to ensure that the funding of potential beneficiaries can be simplified in the next financial period. EARTO hopes for continued discussions around a new way of developing the links between EU R&I and Regional policies.

A few days later, EC DG REGIO published a [Communication on Smart Specialisation](#), giving perspectives for an efficient future of the Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). This Communication stresses the need to work jointly together at all levels, from local to European, to activate Europe's potential for innovation, competitiveness and growth. It identifies four main challenges to regional innovation. EARTO also welcomed the Communication in a [press release](#). EARTO will continue to follow the EC efforts to plan the next funding period of Structural Funds, hoping for extra support to R&I activities within EU Cohesion Policy.

## Review of EU Partnerships Towards FP9

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Increased coherence and openness of  
European Union research and  
innovation partnerships

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The current Estonian Presidency sponsored a [Technopolis report](#) on "Increased coherence and openness of European Union research and innovation partnerships" which was used as a basis during the Informal Competitiveness Council on 25 July. A summary of the key conclusions of this report is available [here](#). What was interesting in this report were the comments made particularly on public-public partnerships. With the [cPPPs mid-term review report](#) now published and the ongoing review of the JTIs, those efforts will be key in shaping future partnerships under FP9.

Following the publication of the [EARTO Contribution](#) to the EC Consultation on Joint Undertakings and the [Joint Declaration of RTOs and Industry](#), EARTO experts met with the Cabinet of R&I Commissioner Moedas and DG R&I representatives on 11 September to discuss RTOs' role in public private partnerships at EU level (especially JTIs). These instruments are under scrutiny in the frame of the ongoing mid-term review process. The meeting enabled an exchange of views on the added value of these instruments to boost industrial involvement and investment in R&I at EU level.

With a push by the Council to rationalise the number of instruments in FP9, EARTO is following-up these discussions closely.

## EARTO Monitoring EU Funding Programmes

### New EARTO Paper on Lump-Sums



#### EARTO Inputs: Towards Lump-Sums within FP9

15 September 2017

EARTO is a strong supporter of the European Commission (EC) efforts towards simplification of the EU R&I Framework Programmes (FPs). EARTO members being active participants of the FPs, especially in collaborative projects, EARTO very much welcomes the EC initiatives efforts towards simplification. The EC services are now looking at adopting a new approach to cover re-imbursement for the work performed within the EU FP projects based on lump-sums. EARTO remains happy to provide further inputs for this new EC effort towards simplification. This paper summarizes the questions raised by our Working Group Financial Experts while discussing the lump-sums approach.

In the frame of simplification of the EU R&I Framework Programmes, the EC is now looking at the possibility to use a new approach to allow costs re-imbursement for the work performed within EU FP projects, based on lump-sums. In this context, the EARTO Working Group Financial Experts shared their experiences in a [new position paper](#) summarising the main issues that a possible lump-sums' approach in FPs would raise, covering the various phases of a project's life cycle. EARTO hopes that this paper will feed into the discussions on lump-sums along with the two pilot calls planned for H2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 to be adopted on 27 October 2017 with pilot grants to be signed by mid/end-2018. The experience from those 2 pilot calls will be used to prepare FP9. EARTO position paper calls for a bigger and more representative pilot within FP9 to include much larger collaborative projects before launching lump-sums further in FPs. EARTO will continue to closely follow these developments. The next meeting of the EARTO WG Financial Experts will take place on 27 October.

### New EARTO Paper on Defence Research



#### EARTO Security & Defence Research Group Position Paper Designing the European Preparatory Action for Defence Research (PADR) & the European Defence Research Programme (EDRP) – Development of RTDs

11 September 2017

**Background**  
Over the course of the European Preparatory Action for Defence Research (PADR) development, several meetings and informal discussions took place between the members of the EARTO Defence & Defence Research Working Group and representatives from EDA and DG GROW. Comments have been raised and jointly acknowledged regarding the specifics of the PADR programme and its presentation. In this context, European RTDs are today starting their interest in a stronger involvement that would require addressing more Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) than aimed at so far within the PADR (today focus mainly on high TRL levels).

Following several meetings with relevant stakeholders such as DG GROW or European Defence Agency (EDA), the EARTO WG Security and Defence Research published a [new position paper](#) looking at the development of the European Preparatory Action for Defence Research (PADR) and the European Defence Research Programme (EDRP). With this, this WG is extending its coverage not only to security but also defence issues. This paper also claimed RTOs' interest in a stronger involvement in the PADR being built up now. EARTO received very positive feedback following the publication of the paper. A series of meetings between the WG Chair and members with relevant stakeholders are already scheduled to discuss further actions. EARTO hopes that the actions recommended in the paper will feed into the on-going thinking on the PADR & EDRP.

### EARTO Vice-President and Board Members in New EC High-Level Group on KETs



The EC has set up a new [High-Level Strategy Group on Industrial Technologies](#). It will advise the EC on how to best support and stimulate the development and deployment of industrial technologies to strengthen Europe's industrial and technological leadership. It will run from September 2017 to March 2018. EARTO is glad to see Mr Antti Vasara, EARTO Vice-President & [VTT](#) CEO and Mr Iñaki San Sebastian, EARTO Board Member & [TECNALIA](#) CEO, becoming members of the Group.

## Meetings with DG CONNECT and DG GROW

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EARTO WG Legal Experts Core Team met with DG CONNECT and DG GROW on 14 September to discuss common topics of interest, which include essentially:

- The European Licencing Framework for Standard Essential Patents (SEPs): the EC (DG GROW) is working on a new Communication to be published by the end of the year on this topic. EARTO experts are providing input to the EC to ensure a sustainable European regulatory framework for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), which is crucial for technology transfer in the R&I Ecosystem and key to boost innovation-led growth in Europe
- Public Procurement of Innovation: the EC is working on a new Guidance document and has launched a [public consultation](#) on this document. EARTO WG Legal Experts Core Team is expected to provide answer on this consultation.

The WG Legal Experts Core Team is drafting written inputs on these dossiers. The next meeting of the WG Legal Experts will take place on 16 November to finalise EARTO positions on those.

## EARTO Internal Affairs & Events

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### EARTO October Events This Week

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EARTO organises two events consecutively in Brussels this Wednesday 11 October: the EARTO Policy Event and the EARTO Innovation Awards Ceremony. First the Policy Event on "Towards FP9: Maximising R&I Impact to Ensure Europe's Position as Global Player" at the [BIP Info Place](#) from 15.00 to 18.30 and the Innovation Awards Ceremony at the [BelVue](#) from 18.30 to 21.00. Keynote speakers of those events will be Mr Pascal Lamy, former EU Trade Commissioner and World Trade Organization Director General, as well as Ms Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. Registration is now closed but agendas of the events are available [here](#) and [here](#). 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 [here](#)).

On 12 October, for the third year EARTO organised a high-level debate in the frame of the European Week of Regions and Cities, on "Cohesion Policy Post-2020: inter-regional collaboration of innovation hubs". The agenda is available [here](#).

## Welcoming New Members CIDETEC & IK4 Alliance



**CIDETEC** is a Spanish technological centre founded in 1997, which counts 166 employees and has an annual turnover of €12.3M. CIDETEC has technical competences and means to address industrial needs of the Aeronautics & space, Automotive/transportation, Chemical industry, Construction & building sector, Energy, Food, Medical & healthcare.

**IK4 Alliance** is a Spanish alliance of R&D centres, founded in 2005, which counts 1443 employees and has an annual turnover of €114,6M. It comprises 9 organisations in the Basque Country: AZTERLAN, CEIT, CIDETEC, GAIKER, IDEKO, IKERLAN, LORTEK, TEKNIKER and VICOMTECH. CIDETEC and VICOMTECH are already full EARTO members.

The full list of EARTO members is available [here](#).

## Latest EARTO WG Meetings

The WG European Data Space held its 2nd physical meeting in Brussels in September, with the goal of developing joint proposals among WG members.

Meeting minutes and documents of the EARTO WGs are available in the EARTO [Members Area](#).

## Speaking at Several EU Events



EARTO was invited to speak at a series of events lately. Mr Albert van der Steen from **TNO** spoke on behalf of EARTO at an ERRIN event on the topic of internationalisation of RTOs following the JRC Policy Brief on the topic. EARTO Secretary General was invited by the French Research Ministry to present RTOs and EARTO views for the preparation of FP9 (slides [here](#)). She was also invited to conclude the 6th OECD-EC Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation (slides [here](#)).

EARTO Secretariat strives to ensure EARTO representation at the most relevant EU events.

## New EARTO Website Coming Soon!



To refresh our communication, a new EARTO website will be launched this month. 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](#).

## EARTO Monitoring Trends

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## EARTO in EU Events

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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](#).

Meeting	Date	Location	Available Documents
1. IGLO Open on Focus Areas	5 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Presentation</a>
2. IGLO Open on EC Communication on Smart Specialisation	8 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Presentation</a>
3. ERRIN Event on Internationalisation (EARTO Speaker)	12 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">EARTO Presentation</a>
4. Roundtable Discussion: Tallinn Call for Action 2017 "Opportunity now: Research and innovation matter for the future of Europe" (EARTO Speaker)	14 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
5. Préparation du 9ème Programme cadre de recherche et d'innovation (EARTO Speaker)	15 September	Paris	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">EARTO Presentation</a>
6. EC H2020 Legal & Financial InfoDay	21 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Webstream</a>
7. EC Conference on the future of EU finances	25 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
8. JRC Annual Conference	26 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
9. 6th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation (EARTO Speaker)	27-29 September	Sevilla	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">EARTO Presentation</a>
10. EP Hearing Research & Innovation for Europe. What after 2020?	27 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
11. DigitalEurope - The importance of openness for sustainable knowledge societies	27 September	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
12. Industrial Innovation Info Days (EARTO Speaker)	3-4 October	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda &amp; Presentations</a>

## Weekly EU Policy Monitoring and Press Review

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October 6, 2017 | European news

### EC Innovation Radar Prize 2017

The European Commission launched the Innovation Radar Prize 2017. It recognises and champions excellence in new technologies and innovations. The Innovation Radar Prize public voting page is open and votes can be cast up to midnight on 15 October 2017. 5 of 48 the innovators competing for the Prize are EARTO members:

In 'Excellent Science' category

[Fraunhofer IAF](#)  
[IMEC - EDM](#)

In 'Tech for Society' category

[CEA - List Institute](#)

In 'Industrial & Enabling Tech' category

[CEA through its spin-off ISIBOT](#)

In 'Best early stage innovation' category

[CEA - LETI](#) in partnership with Bluemorpho

October 5, 2017 | European news

### EC Publishes Staff Working Document on Long-Term Sustainability of Research Infrastructures

The European Commission recently published a [Staff Working Document](#) on "Long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures (RI)". This document will be the basis for discussions on the priorities for getting RI sustainability in the medium and long-term. In this frame the upcoming Bulgarian EU Presidency will organise a high-level conference on RI on 22 and 23 March 2018.

The conclusions are also a contribution to the discussions on FP9 and future ESI Funds. The EC document provides relevant findings such as:

- Synchronizing national RI roadmaps and their budgets
- Making European RI available more broadly by establishing cross-border access schemes
- Launching large-scale pilots involving European RI and industry
- Exploiting the data produced by European RI in a more strategic way
- Putting in place effective governance mechanisms at European level
- Finding ways to increasingly and more efficiently use the European Structural Investment Funds, the European Fund for Strategic Investments, and the InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators programme for developing European RI
- Promoting the international outreach of European RI and using them as flagships for European science policy

### [EC Staff Working Document](#)

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October 3, 2017 | European news

### EC Launched Newsletter on R&I Policy Reform

The European Commission launches a newsletter on the latest findings and activities of the Policy Support Facility (PSF). This service provides independent expertise and practical support for spreading excellence and widening participation in EU R&I policies. It was created to tackle the innovation divide between Member States.

[Newsletter](#)  
[Registration Link](#)

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October 2, 2017 | European news

### EARTO New Paper: Towards Lump-Sums within FP9

Over the past years, EARTO, the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations, has remained a strong supporter of the European Commission (EC)'s efforts towards simplification of the EU R&I Framework Programmes (FP). EARTO members being very active participants in the FPs, especially in collaborative R&I projects, EARTO is glad to provide inputs and advice to support the EC's efforts for a more efficient Framework Programme for R&I.

The EC services are now looking at the possibility to use a new approach to allow costs reimbursement for the work performed within EU FP projects, based on lump-sums. In this context, the EARTO Working Group Financial Experts are sharing their experiences in a new paper

summarising the main issues that a possible lump-sums' approach in FPs would raise, covering the various phases of a project's life cycle.

EARTO hopes that this paper will feed into the discussions on lump-sums along with the two pilot calls planned for H2020 Work Programme 2018-2020. EARTO remains at the EC services' disposal to further discuss simplification of the EU R&I Framework Programmes.

## [EARTO Paper](#)

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September 29, 2017 | European news

Tenth Edition of the FCH JU Stakeholder Forum on 22 November in Brussels

The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking organises its tenth edition of the FCH JU Stakeholder Forum on 22 November in Brussels. This year, it will trace the story of this partnership. It also aims at looking ahead, consolidating the next vision and accelerating processes. Discussions will focus on the governance for innovation, hydrogen society and economy, collaborative innovation and the future outlook.

[Event website](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Registration Link](#)

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September 28, 2017 | European news

Research Europe article: FP9 needs stronger focus on industrial tech, experts say

Research Europe article: FP9 needs stronger focus on industrial tech, experts say

By Craig Nicholson

Publication date: 27 Sep 2017

The next EU Framework programme must provide more funding for Key Enabling Technologies, specialists have told Research Europe.

KETs—fields of technology that are expected to be important for economic growth—have a dedicated funding instrument under Horizon 2020: the Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) programme. But overall European funding for the KETs is insufficient and fragmented, said Leena Sarvaranta, vice-president of EU Affairs at VTT, Finland's technical research centre.

"We still have the question of how to pool financial and other resources," she said. "The different funding sources all have different rules, and the people running them need to think out of the box to look for new solutions. We also need some changes in the state aid rules."

According to Sarvaranta, these issues should be tackled by the High-Level Strategy Group on Industrial Technologies, which was launched by the European Commission on 15 September. The group's job is to advise on how Framework 9 should incorporate the next generation of KETs, including into the 'missions' being planned by the Commission. "The technologies should not lose visibility," Sarvaranta warned.

Mathias Rauch, director of the EU office of the Fraunhofer Society, a German applied research institute, spoke of a lack of clarity about the role of industry in Framework 9 so far. It will need a dedicated programme for the KETs, similar to Horizon 2020's LEIT programme, but also "a clear focus on industrial competitiveness" throughout the whole programme, he said.

This broad incorporation of industry-focused support would not conflict with the programme's funding for basic research, said Muriel Attané, secretary-general of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations.

"Collaborative research and innovation at EU level, creating strong links all along the innovation chain, is needed more than ever," Attané said. "It makes the ongoing technological transitions a success for both European industry and society."

Both Sarvaranta and Rauch were members of a group that, alongside one other, advised the Commission on KETs for Horizon 2020. Those groups had "a huge impact on Horizon 2020", Rauch said. They introduced large-scale innovation projects to the Framework programme, as well as the concept of technology readiness levels, which resulted in more funding for close-to-market projects, he said.

Sarvaranta agreed with this verdict. As well as securing the dedicated LEIT programme in Horizon 2020, the groups' work got the European Investment Bank to start financing innovation-driven projects, and helped to shape member states' use of EU structural funds, she said.

The six current KETs are micro and nanoelectronics, advanced materials, nanotechnology, biotechnology, photonics and advanced manufacturing technologies. The advisory group should consider not only whether these should change, but also topics such as how different sources of research and innovation funding can be made more complementary, how state aid rules should be relaxed, and how the importance of the KETs can be better communicated, Sarvaranta said.

"We must not stop now," she said. "There is good understanding of the need for Europe to strengthen its global competitiveness through industrial transformation. We are facing such huge challenges at the global scale that business as usual is not a sustainable option for Europe."

[Link to article](#)

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September 27, 2017 | European news

Science|Business Article: EC Releases Early Details of Future Research Megaprojects

by Eanna Kelly, Science|Business

The EC has published early details on funding opportunities for the next three years under the Future and Emerging Technologies (FETs).

The Commission says it wants to receive game changer proposals for new candidate megaprojects, or flagships, which will each receive €1 billion.

An outline paper appeared on a Commission [website](#), which generally does not publish draft materials. Final work programmes for the 2018-2020 period of Horizon 2020 are expected to be published next month.

(...)

See [full article](#)

[The EC document](#)

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September 25, 2017 | European news

JRC Workshop on RTOs' R&I Infrastructures on 30 November & 1 December in Gothenburg

The EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), together with RISE and EARTO, organises a two-day workshop in the frame of the TTO-CIRCLE network of the technology transfer offices of the large European RTOs. This event will take place in Gothenburg (Sweden) on 30 November & 1 December.

The aim of the workshop is to:

- Exchange best practices on opening research infrastructure to industry in Europe and beyond,
- Review different approaches for e.g. business models, quality controls, IPR conditions, funding opportunities, etc., with a view to their possible harmonisation,
- Contribute operation experience to the discussion on how to develop a strategy for test, demonstration and co-creation infrastructure at EU level bringing together different infrastructures in attractive and globally leading industrial environments.

The agenda will be available soon.

[Event Website](#)  
[Registration Link](#)

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September 19, 2017 | European news

IMI Stakeholder Forum on 18-19 October in Brussels

[Efpia](#) and [IMI](#) organise the IMI Stakeholder Forum which will take place in Brussels on 18-19 October. On the first day, the event will focus on IMI and open innovation. It will discuss the results that IMI is delivering through a multi-stakeholder and collaborative innovation ecosystem. On the second day, two parallel tracks will focus on two examples: patient and microbiome.

[Registration & Agenda](#)

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September 18, 2017 | European news

EC Organises its H2020 Coordinators' Day Gap on 27 September in Brussels

The European Commission organises its H2020 Coordinators' Day Gap on 27 September in Brussels. It aims at providing some help to stakeholders on the grant preparation process and identify the main risks and pitfalls. Registration is open until 24 September. The event will also be webstreamed [here](#).

[Registration Link](#)  
[Agenda](#)

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September 8, 2017 | European news

Fifth Edition of the Women Innovators Prize Launched

The EC has recently launched the fifth edition of its EU Prize for Women Innovators. This prize aims at giving public recognition to women innovators who:

- (co-) founded a successful company and brought an innovation to market
- benefitted from Research & Innovation funding from the public or private sector

Deadline for submission is on 15 November 2017.

September 6, 2017 | European news

### UK Publishes Paper on Future R&I Collaboration with EU

On 6 September the UK published its position paper on R&I collaboration with the EU. This would aim at defining the post-Brexit future partnership with the EU on science and innovation (Framework Programmes, Space programmes, Nuclear R&D, Defence R&D). Looking at the current collaborations between EU countries and international partners, the UK wishes for an agreement even more ambitious than the ones already existing.

#### [UK Position Paper](#)

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September 5, 2017 | European news

### EC Publishes Members List of High-Level Strategic Group of Industrial Technologies

The European Commission recently launched a new Horizon 2020 High-Level Strategy Group (HLG) on Industrial Technologies. This HLG aims at providing advice and strategic recommendations on the industrial technologies and innovation policy to the EC. This HLG on KETs will hold 3 to 5 meetings from September 2017 to March 2018. EARTO Vice President Antti Vasara from [VTT](#) and EARTO Board member Iñaki San Sebastian from [Tecnalia](#) are part of this HLG.

#### [More Information and Members List](#)

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August 28, 2017 | European news

### CSEM Press Release: New Records for the Solar Cell of Tomorrow

EARTO member CSEM, with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and EPFL, have worked together to demonstrate the high potential of silicon-based multi-junction solar cells: they raised the one-sun record conversion efficiency of III-V/Si solar cells to 32.8% for two junctions and 35.9% for three junctions. These achievements, published in *Nature Energy*, are a world first in the highly competitive race to improve silicon-based solar cells efficiency, confirming the potential of this approach.

See [full CSEM press release](#)  
[CSEM website](#)

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August 25, 2017 | European news

### The EIT Organises Two Webinars on Call for Proposals for Two New Innovation Communities on 6-7 September

The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) organises two webinars on call for proposals for two new Innovation Communities on 6-7 September which deal with Urban Mobility and Manufacturing. Following an introduction to the EIT and its Innovation Communities, there will be a short Q&A. Then, there will be a general introduction to the 2018 Call with a discussion of the evaluation criteria required for the Call.

- On 6 September, the webinar will focus on the call for EIT Urban Mobility.

### [Registration](#)

- On 7 September, the webinar will focus on the call for EIT Manufacturing.

### [Registration](#)

### [Events Website](#)

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August 24, 2017 | European news

#### EC Info Day for HRS4R Newcomers and Beneficiaries of H2020 Projects on 24 October in Brussels

The European Commission (EC) organises an Info Day for HRS4R newcomers and beneficiaries of H2020 projects on 24 October in Brussels. This event addresses all beneficiaries and potential applicants of H2020 contracts/projects who need to comply with article 32 stipulating the need to take measures to implement the European Charter and the Code for the benefit of all researchers and their institution.

The aim of the event is to inform 'newcomers' (research performing and research funding organisations) on the principles and the implementation of the charter and code as recommended in H2020 multi-beneficiary Grant Agreement.

### [Registration & Agenda](#)

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August 22, 2017 | European news

#### JRC Organises its Annual Conference on 26 September in Brussels

The EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) organises its annual conference on 26 September in Brussels. The aim of this event is to make clear recommendations for successful evidence-informed policy making. Moreover, it will offer an open encounter between leading experts from the fields of science, policy and media.

Two issues will be explored during the conference:

- Why should we trust science? - The role of science in times of fake news and 'filter bubbles'.
- Re-designing policymaking using behavioural and decision science - How can evidence and data be effectively balanced with values and emotions when policy decisions are taken?

### [Event Website](#)

### [Agenda](#)

### [Registration](#)

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August 21, 2017 | European news

#### EC and the Estonian Presidency Organise a Conference on Innovation Procurement on 17-18 October in Tallinn

The Estonian EU presidency and the European Commission DG CONNECT organise a conference on Innovation Procurement on 17-18 October in Tallinn, Estonia. The conference's aims include capacity building, experience sharing and networking about major ICT-related innovation procurement initiatives across Europe, as well as facilitating networking between stakeholders to discuss new ideas, initiatives and funding opportunities. The target audience is policy makers, public procurers and innovators.

The conference programme includes:

- Innovation procurement experiences in Europe
- EU Member States' policy and support framework for innovation procurement
- Economic impact of innovation procurement
- HORIZON 2020 calls supporting innovation procurements
- 2017 Procura+ Awards Ceremony on Sustainable and Innovation Procurement

[Event Website](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Registration](#)

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August 8, 2017 | European news

### EC Organises its Industrial Innovation Information Days on 3-4 October in Brussels

The EC organises the Industrial Innovation Info Days 2017 on 3-4 October, with support of external stakeholders. The event aims to focus on building the basis for the future of industrial research in Europe, informing relevant industrial technologies providers as well as users about EU activities in the field and enhancing cooperation among industrial stakeholders.

The programme consists of plenary sessions and key notes by high level speakers each morning and panel sessions with a focus on upcoming challenges for the next work programme during the afternoons.

There are possibilities to present your project ideas during the brokerage sessions and participate in networking and matchmaking activities.

[Registration Link](#)

[Event Website](#)

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August 4, 2017 | European news

### EIT Launches a Call for Expression of Interest to Select 5 Governing Board Members

The European Institute of Technology (EIT) launches a call for expressions of interest for the selection of five members of the EIT Governing Board. The application deadline is 29 September 2017.

The EIT Governing Board is entrusted with providing the strategic leadership of the institute and runs Innovation Communities which are a unique type of partnership within European innovation. These communities develop innovative products and services, foster new businesses and encourage growth. There are currently six Innovation Communities and each focuses on a different societal challenge such as climate, digital or health.

[EIT website](#)

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August 3, 2017 | European news

## JRC Organises a Workshop on RTOs' R&I Infrastructures on 12-13 October in Gothenburg

The EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), together with RISE and EARTO, is organising a two-day workshop in the frame of the TTO-CIRCLE network of the technology transfer offices of the large European RTOs. This event will take place in Gothenburg (Sweden) in October 12-13 2017.

The aim of the workshop is to:

- Exchange best practices on opening research infrastructure to industry in Europe and beyond,
- Review different approaches for e.g. business models, quality controls, IPR conditions, funding opportunities, etc., with a view to their possible harmonisation,
- Contribute operation experience to the discussion on how to develop a strategy for test, demonstration and co-creation infrastructure at EU level bringing together different infrastructures in attractive and globally leading industrial environments.

[Event Website](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Registration](#)

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August 1, 2017 | European news

## FCH-JU Highlights 3 of its High Impact Success Stories

The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) is a Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) supporting research, technological development and demonstration activities in fuel cell and hydrogen energy technologies, aiming at accelerating the market introduction of these technologies. FCH-JU highlights 3 of its high impact success stories:

[Driving hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to market](#): EU-funded project with support of the FCH JU has tested prototype fuel cell cars, installed hydrogen filling stations, and brought together car makers and infrastructure providers to push forward the commercial viability of this zero-emissions technology. Such hydrogen vehicle has also been tested by Commissioner Moedas (see [video](#)).

[Improved hydrogen fuel cells to power the cars of the future](#): To drive this zero-emissions hydrogen car for long distances, EARTO member CEA has coordinated a project supported by FCH JU, aiming for instance at increasing the quality of the battery which are inside the car and at cutting costs and making hydrogen cars a viable and competitive option for the future.

[Domestic fuel cells - the power within](#): This project aims at developing fuel cell batteries to produce electricity and heat at home and reduce environmental footprint while saving money. Residential fuel cell units could deliver these benefits to millions of homes in the EU, and preparations to ramp up their production are under way.

For more information on JTIs & cPPPs, see [EARTO response](#) to EC Consultation on Joint Undertaking: How Joint Undertakings boost RTOs-Industry Collaboration & Leverage Private RD&I Investments in Europe.

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July 31, 2017 | European news

## EC Launches Survey on Intersectoral Mobility of Researchers

The European Commission DG RTD is carrying out a study on Intersectoral Mobility of Researchers. The overall objective of this feasibility study is to see if there is a place for additional EU level initiatives to increase the level of intersectoral mobility in Europe, and what these initiatives could eventually look like.

## Survey

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July 27, 2017 | European news

Science|Business Article: EU Budget Chief Wants to Protect Research from Cuts in 2021-2027 Budget Cycle

by Eanna Kelly, Science|Business

Günther Oettinger says research should be the only programme spared spending cuts as the EU weighs how to make up for losing the UK's €11B per annum contribution.

Research should be the only EU programme spared spending cuts in the post-2020 budget period, EU Commission budget chief Günther Oettinger said on Tuesday, as Brussels looks for ways to cover the hole blown in its budget by the departure of the UK.

By the middle of next year, the Commission will publish a proposal for the EU's trillion euro budget plans for the next financing period that begins in 2021.

"There is no guarantee that any programme will avoid cuts", the Commissioner for budget and human resources said. "But if I had one option, it would be to avoid cuts to [research]."

(...)

See [full article](#)

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July 26, 2017 | European news

EU R&I Ministers Discuss FP9 at Informal COMPET Council on 25 July

EU R&I ministers met on 25 July for an informal Competitiveness Council meeting in Tallinn. Discussions served as an input to the Council Conclusions on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 and FP9. The Estonian Presidency aims to reach an agreement on the Council Conclusions by the end of the year.

Session 1: EU R&I ministers discussed how to build a stronger case for investing more in R&I and how to increase the impact and value of European R&I in the next FP. The ministers acknowledged that R&I investments should be seen as a necessity for Europe to be competitive in the future.

Session 2: EU R&I ministers discussed how to rationalise the research funding landscape and increase the coherence and openness of European research and innovation partnerships. Discussion on the role and added value of research and innovation partnerships, as well as the coordination of the system. The ministers conceded that it is important to make the partnership approach more strategic, align resources and activities around common concrete objectives, and to reduce the number of different initiatives.

[Informal COMPET Council 25 July - Agenda](#)

[Informal COMPET Council 25 July - Discussion paper \(I session\)](#)

[Informal COMPET Council 25 July - Discussion paper \(II session\)](#)

July 26, 2017 | European news

### JRC Organises the 6th EU Conference on Corporate RDI in Seville on 27-29 September

The JRC organises the 6th European Conference on Corporate RDI - CONCORDi 2017 - in Seville on 27-29 September 2017 in collaboration with the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation. The focus of this year's edition is on "Innovation and industrial dynamics: challenges for the next decade". Iñaki San Sebastian, CEO of Tecnalía and Board Member of EARTO, will be among the speakers of the plenary session.

Corporate R&D, innovation and technological development are crucial drivers for the dynamics of industry, competitiveness, job creation and welfare, and to guarantee the achievement of a sustainable territorial development in the EU.

A key objective of this Conference is to identify the research, business and policy challenges in this area for the decade to come, and to provide guidance to the EU industrial research and innovation policy agenda.

[Conference's website](#)

[Registration Programme](#)

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July 25, 2017 | European news

### Fraunhofer Survey on RIS3 Strategy - Deadline 30 September

EARTO member Fraunhofer is carrying out a survey on the "Future Options for Smart Specialisation". This is an independent annual RIS3 survey seeking to clarify local determinant factors for policy design and to identify obstacles to policy implementation that the European Commission could help remove in the future.

Deadline: 30 September 2017

[Survey: "Future Options for Smart Specialisation"](#)

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