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



**Nº1, 19 February 2018**

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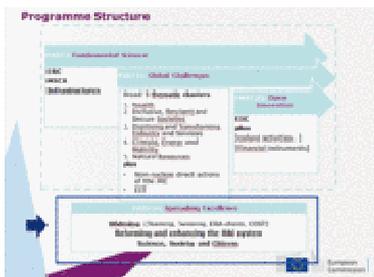
- EARTO Participation in EU Decision-Making Process
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## EARTO Participation in EU Decision-Making Process

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## Monitoring Developments on FP9

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The first EC internal draft proposal for FP9 will be ready by the end of the month. A [draft FP9 structure](#) is under discussion between the EC services. The 3-part structure remains however with a different focus:

- Pillar I - Fundamental Science: ERC, MSCA, Infrastructures
- Pillar II – Global Challenges: rationalization of from 7 Societal Challenges + LEIT in 5 thematic clusters (health; inclusive, resilient and secure societies; digitizing and transforming industry and services; climate, energy and mobility; natural resources). The JRC and EIT may feature in this second Pillar.
- Pillar III – Open Innovation: an EIC divided in two parts. The first part is the EIC Pathfinder, from TRL 2/3 to 5/6, for a long-term vision, supporting breakthrough scientific and technological targets (inspired by DARPA), supporting spin-offs, with grants up to €5 million. The second part is the EIC Accelerator, from TRL 5/6 to 9, knowledge to market and rapid scale-up. It would provide direct blended finance and be a one-stop-shop, funding up to €30 million. Support to RTOs spin-offs seemed to be included in this instrument following our EARTO [paper](#) on this topic.

## Missions in FP9

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It is still quite unclear how the concept of “Mission-oriented” approach currently developed by the EC will be integrated in FP9. It seems those may be offered as taking over the role of the current focus areas. Missions will not be quoted in the FP9 regulation. Professor Mariana Mazzucato is preparing a report proposing a list of illustrative Missions that will be published later this week. An open consultation on the basis of this report may follow. The concept of Missions may also be part of the stakeholder consultation to come under the Impact Assessment of FP9. EARTO has been following the discussion around these Missions and has participated in Ms Mazzucato workshop end December.

## EARTO Monitoring EU Funding Programmes

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### Consultation on EU Budget: Answer to Promote RD&I Budget!

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In preparation of the next MFF, the EC has launched a series of consultations for the budget to be allocated to several policies, including [R&I](#), [Security](#) and [Cohesion Policy](#). EARTO will answer those consultations but also urges its members to reply and to push for budget for applied research. The deadline of all consultations is 8 March.

## Status MFF Discussions

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In the frame of the discussion for next programming period post-2020, Budget Commissioner Mr Oettinger [stated](#) his plan to spare research from any budget cuts. The 28 EU Commissioners have also unanimously agreed to spare research and Erasmus from spending cuts in the 2020s and will explore ways to increase the R&D budget, maybe by increasing Member States contributions from 1% of total EU gross national income to a little over 1.1%. Cohesion Policy and CAP budgets will be modernised with announced cuts between 5-10%. On 23 February, an informal European Council will discuss the next MFF and political priorities. The EC has just published a [new Communication](#) on “a new modern MFF for a EU that delivers efficiently on its priorities post-2020” in order to prepare this Council discussions. EARTO very much welcomes the statements made supporting future EU RD&I budget and efforts as recalled in the extract below:



## OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

*How best to boost competitiveness through research and innovation?*

For advanced economies like Europe, research and innovation make the difference in enhancing productivity and boosting competitiveness. The future EU budget must therefore allow the EU to invest in the drivers of innovation enabling European industry to grow and thrive. The Union is currently spending close to EUR 80 billion for its Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme over 2014-2020. What research budget should it have in the future?

- ▶ **Maintaining or even lowering current investment levels** would not address the problem of underfunding. This would have knock-on effects on national and private investment, and undermine efforts to reach the target set by the Europe 2020 strategy of investing 3% of Gross Domestic Product in research and development. The Union would fall further behind compared to the world leaders. Research support to other EU policies would be reduced.
- ▶ **An increase in the Framework Programme by 50% to EUR 120 billion** would create an estimated additional 420,000 jobs by 2040 and increase Gross Domestic Product by around 0.33% over the same period. This would continue the growing trend of recent EU Research and Innovation budgets and ensure an acceptable share of high-quality proposals funded. It would increase the Union's world-wide attractiveness for leading researchers and tackle weaknesses in innovation and scale-up opportunities. It would support progress on priorities such as digital, energy, climate and health.
- ▶ **Doubling the Framework Programme to EUR 160 billion** would create an estimated 650,000 jobs by 2040 and add around 0.46% to Gross Domestic Product over the same period. It would enable the EU to emerge as a global leader in large-scale initiatives, preparing full market deployment of solutions in areas like batteries, infectious diseases, smart and clean buildings and vehicles, decarbonisation technologies, circular economy, solutions for plastic waste and connected/automated cars.

In addition, two reports by European Parliament on MFF and EU own resources are also expected by the end of March. In parallel, Member States wish lists are being made and discussed with the EC. The revised MFF is now expected by early May 2018.

## Defending RD&I Budget as Key for EU Industrial Competitiveness

In addition to the overall budget for R&I, EARTO strives to defend the budget for EU Industrial competitiveness. Various meetings with EC High Level representatives have been held to support the Key Enabling Technologies (KETs). A dedicated session will be held during the [EARTO Annual Conference](#) on 21-22 March. EARTO Vice President Antti Vasara and EARTO Board member Iñaki San Sebastian have been active members of the [EC High-level Strategy Group on Industrial Technologies](#) whose report will be published on 22 February in the frame of the Industry Day organised in Brussels on 22-23 February. EARTO President Frank Treppe, EARTO Board Member Mr San Sebastian and EARTO Secretary General will participate in three different panels during this event.

The EC is also launching a new [High Level Industrial Roundtable 'Industry 2030'](#). Its role will be to advise the EC in defining priorities for future actions in industrial policy. EARTO Vice President and VTT CEO Antti Vasara has been selected among the 20 members of the Group, and SINTEF CEO Alexandra Bech Gjørsvik is on the reserve list. Efforts of this round table will also be key to focus next FP9 budget and will play a crucial role in setting RD&I at the centre of EU industrial strategy.

## Financial Simplification of EU R&I Framework Programmes



During their last meeting, the EARTO Working Group Financial experts discussed the simplification of Horizon 2020 and future efforts to be done in FP9 with Ms Anna Panagopoulou, EC Director of the Common Support Centre, and with Ms Daniela Hristova from the European Court of Auditors. EARTO members gave feedback to the EC auditors on the H2020 audits that have been carried out so far, giving clear recommendations to make the process more efficient.

## ECA Consultation for its Simplification Audit: Please Answer!



EUROPEAN  
COURT  
OF AUDITORS

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) is now auditing the EC to assess whether the simplification measures put in place by the EC in H2020 were efficient enough to achieve real simplification for the beneficiaries. In that context, the ECA launched a survey to ask beneficiaries' feedback on some items, which we can only encourage you to respond to. The survey has been sent by the ECA directly to all H2020 beneficiaries. The ECA audit report should be finalised in September/October 2018. For those of you who have received this survey, please do take the time to fill it in! The ECA received already direct inputs from EARTO WG Financial Experts. However, the ECA will compile those inputs using also the answers it gathers during its consultation. Accordingly, the more we get to signal our issues the better.

## EARTO Collaboration with the OECD

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The OECD is an important source of reliable information and well-documented reports, often used by EU institutions for their evidence-based policy making process. In that context, EARTO has been collaborating with the OECD on various topics over the past years to make sure the specificities of RTOs are well accounted for in the OECD report. Topics of collaboration include for instance:

- *Socio-economic Impact of Research Infrastructures*: SINTEF is attending the OECD working group on this topic, which is working on a report analysing the specificities, impact and role of such infrastructures in the R&I ecosystem. We believe that this would be a very interesting way to communicate about the specificities of RTOs' technology infrastructures and to make sure that this is not only focussed on ESFRI-like ones. Shall you be interested to take part in such study please contact us.
- *Spin-offs*: The OECD is working on a report on the creation of deep-tech start ups and the policy support that such activity is receiving in the different OECD members states. EARTO presented its [paper](#) on this topic to an OECD workshop in November 2017 and will be liaising further with them to make sure some RTOs' case studies can be part of the report.
- *Impact and RTOs' statistics*: The OECD will be speaking at different EARTO events this year to present their work on the impact of R&I and R&I organisations, including during our [EARTO Annual Conference 2018](#) in Oslo. Discussions on this topic also follow our [paper on official data on RTOs](#) published in 2016.

## EARTO Internal Affairs & Events

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### EARTO Note on EU State Aid Rules for Research & Innovation

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EARTO Note on EU State Aid Rules for Research & Innovation

30 January 2018

EARTO Working Group Legal Experts finalised its [Note on the EU state aid rules](#) for RD&I, detailing the legal basis and rationale behind the EU state aid rules and how these apply to RTOs. Of interest, it explains:

- the key definitions of the concepts of "economic" and "non-economic" activities in this context,
- how to apply the EU state aid rules when an RTO or a research infrastructure carries out both economic and non-economic activities,

- and the special case of public investment in research infrastructures.

This paper is a general explanatory document: the analysis of a state aid case by the European Commission is highly dependent on the given context of the case, where professional guidance by qualified state aid or competition lawyers is required. The note is meant for internal purposes within our network and will be used to keep an open dialogue with key contacts within EU institutions to prepare the future review process of these rules which should start in 2019. We leave it to your discretion to circulate this at national level to your respective ministries.

Please note that the Working Group Legal experts will organise an internal workshop on this topic on 7 March in Brussels to share experiences and best practices. Please contact [Sophie Viscido](#) if your RTO's expert wishes to actively participate to such workshop.

## Launching of New EARTO WG Space Research

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EARTO is launching a new EARTO WG on Space Research to strengthen the visibility and implementation of RTOs' particularities and needs towards the European Space Agency and the European Commission. More information is available in the [WG proposal](#). Should your RTO be interested in joining the WG, please send the name, contact details and short info on your expert related experience in this field to [Erwan Kermadec](#).

## Latest EARTO WG Meetings

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Several WG held meetings over the last weeks which decided and set further actions for their work in the coming months:

- 29 January - WG EU Framework Programmes (former WG H2020 who changed name to better reflect its activities): discussed FP9 preparation with new structure, missions, EU partnerships' future, the future of KETs and the EIC.
- 1 February - WG Legal Experts: worked on the topics Open Science Policy Platform and related topics (To prepare next May Council conclusions expected on those topics), the SEPs, Public Procurement and State Aid rules for R&I.
- 30-31 January - WG Security and Defence Research: welcomed external speakers from DG GROW, EIB and EDA to discuss further collaboration.
- 7 February - WG Financial Experts: welcomed several EU officials of interest and discussed the financial rules and cost model in view of FP9.

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

Please note that the EARTO Steering Committee decided to close the WG EIC and merge the topic within the current WG EU Framework Programmes.

## EARTO Annual Conference on 21-22 March 2017 – Registration Still Open

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EARTO is pleased to invite you to the EARTO Annual Conference 2018, kindly hosted by EARTO members [FFA](#), [Nofima](#) & [SINTEF](#) on 21-22 March 2017 in Oslo, Norway. The event will focus on "Research & Innovation for Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth". It will feature high-level speakers from the Institutions as well as members of EARTO.

Further information, including programme and registration are available on the [conference website](#).

## Innovation Awards Ceremony 2018 – Application Process Open

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EARTO will organise its Innovation Awards on 16 October 2018 in Brussels. Six RTOs' innovations will be rewarded on two categories: Impact Expected and Impact Delivered. The call for applications for 2018 has been sent to all EARTO members and details on the two categories and the application forms can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is 8 March 2018. A dedicated EARTO Task Force will make a pre-selection of the best submissions, which will be forwarded to an external jury for evaluation and final selection. All the applications received will feature in the EARTO Innovation Awards brochure.

## Materials for EARTO Communication

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To refresh our communication, a new EARTO website will be launched in the coming weeks. 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. EC Conference “Shaping Our Future: Designing the Next Multiannual Financial Framework”	08-09 January	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda &amp; Videos</a>
2. DG REGIO Workshop on synergies <b>(EARTO Speaker)</b>	18 January	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">EARTO Presentation</a>
3. BAK Smart Specialisation Briefing	18 January	Brussels	<a href="#">Presentations</a>
4. FP9 - SwissCore R&I Seminar <b>(EARTO Speaker)</b>	25 January	Brussels	<a href="#">Summary</a>
5. Neth-ER Seminar on shaping FP9 <b>(EARTO Speaker)</b>	25 January	Brussels	<a href="#">Summary</a>
6. Séminaire Europe – CEA <b>(EARTO Speaker)</b>	02 February	Grenoble	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">EARTO Presentation</a>
7. EC-OECD event: OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Scoreboard 2017. The Digital Transformation	06 February	Brussels	<a href="#">Agenda</a>

## Weekly EU Policy Monitoring and Press Review

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February 15, 2018 | European news

### EC DG GROW Call for Applications for a Strategic Forum for IPCEI

The European Commission has set up a Strategic Forum for Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). This Forum has been announced in the [Industrial Policy Strategy](#) of 13 September 2017. The Commission has now launched the Call for Applications for individuals and organisations wanting to take part in the Forum. Applications should be sent by 16 March 2018 to [GROW-STRATEGIC-FORUM@ec.europa.eu](mailto:GROW-STRATEGIC-FORUM@ec.europa.eu). Read more on [EC page](#).

The objectives of the Forum are to identify:

- Key value chains of strategic importance to Europe
- Joint investments by public authorities and industries from several EU countries which can make value chains more robust, in particular new [IPCEIs](#)

The Forum will have up to 50 members including:

- national authorities
- other public entities
- individuals appointed in a personal capacity
- organisations representing academia, finance, industry, small and medium-sized enterprises, and employees

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February 14, 2018 | European news

### European Defence Agency Launches EDA Defence Innovation Prize

The European Defence Agency (EDA) today launched the EDA Defence Innovation Prize rewarding companies and research entities who will propose innovative and ground-breaking technologies, products, processes or services applicable in the defence domain. The prizes are especially (but not exclusively) aimed at non-traditional defence industries (civil or dual-use producers) and researchers as they play a growing role in inventing and creating the disruptive capabilities that our armed forces will need tomorrow.

There will be two different EDA Defence Innovation Prizes of 10,000 euros each to be awarded for the most innovative ideas addressing the following topics:

- Integration of multi-robot swarming concepts in support of future defence capabilities in the area of Guidance, Navigation and Control (GNC)
- Autonomous detection, identification and monitoring/sampling/analysis through sensor and platform networking in the area of CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) protection technologies and techniques

The prize winners are expected to propose innovations which, if implemented between now and 2035, would help improve and enhance Europe's defence capabilities in the two afore-mentioned domains.

The deadline for submissions is 16 April 2018. All necessary information to apply is available [here](#).

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February 12, 2018 | European news

### ECSEL JU Call Forum 2018 & Consortium Building Sessions, 6-7 March 2018, Warsaw

ECSEL JU's annual Call Forum for 2018 will take place in Warsaw, on Tuesday March 6th 2018. The event targets potential applicants for the Calls for Proposals under the ECSEL JU funding scheme, and will be an ideal opportunity to learn more about the project submission process, as well as to meet consortium partners. More information, programme and registration is available [here](#).

The event is followed on Wednesday March 7th 2018 by Consortium Building Sessions co-organised by the 3 Industry Associations AENEAS, ARTEMIS-IA, and EPoSS at the same location. To submit pitches and posters ideas for the Consortium Building Sessions, please register via the [ECS Collaboration Tool](#).

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February 2, 2018 | European news

### EU Industry Day on 22-23 February in Brussels - EARTO Speakers in Several Sessions

The 2nd EU Industry Day will update stakeholders on the Commission's [strategic approach to industrial policy](#) and actions to further develop industrial competitiveness in Europe. It will also be a forum where stakeholders contributing to European industrial competitiveness can showcase their activities, learn from each other, discuss cross-cutting issues and develop joint visions for the future. Attendees will come from a variety of industrial sectors, finance, research and innovation, government and public administration.

The main event in Brussels on 22-23 of February will be a high-level conference with many key experts and a number of stakeholder workshops. 3 EARTO speakers will be panellists in different sessions:

- **EARTO Secretary General** Muriel Attané will take part in the 22 February session on "Testbed Europe – accelerating innovation and strengthening eco-systems" organised by EARTO member [RISE](#).
- **EARTO President** Frank Treppe, Director International Affairs and Research Programs at [Fraunhofer](#), will be panellist in the 23 February session "Investing in strategic value chains for Europe"
- **EARTO Board Member** Iñaki San Sebastian, CEO of [TECNALIA](#), will participate in the 23 February session "Technologies of the future"

More information, agenda and registration are available on the EU Industry Day [website](#). Livestream will also be available.

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January 30, 2018 | European news

### H2020 Coordinators' Day on 22 February 2018 in Brussels

The event on 22 February 2018 will provide all details on the preparation and signature of your grant agreement. It will take place in the Charlemagne Building in Brussels from 9.30 to 17.00. It is mainly meant for coordinators of proposals who were invited to prepare a grant agreement. Other participants may be accepted subject to the availability of seats. Agenda and registration (first-come first-served) are available via this [website](#). You will also be able to follow the event online through a [live stream](#).

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January 12, 2018 | European news

### Competition for New EIT Innovation Communities Launched - Infoday on 13 February

The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) has launched a competition for new Innovation Communities in the areas of urban mobility (EIT Urban Mobility) and added value manufacturing (EIT Manufacturing).

The competition is open until July 2018 and the winning partnerships will be announced in December 2018. The proposals should be submitted by partners from business, higher education and research institutions to tackle societal challenges by developing innovative products and services.

The EIT is organising an Information Day for the 2018 Call for Proposals in Brussels on 13 February. You can register for the Information Day [here](#).

January 10, 2018 | European news

## EARTO's Views on EC Communication on Standard Essential Patents

Following the recent European Commission's (EC) [Communication](#) on "Setting out an EU Approach for Standard Essential Patents (SEPs)", EARTO experts would like to thank the European Commission for the extensive work done on this and for the balanced approach taken on this sensitive subject, key for our European competitiveness.

In the context of this Communication, EARTO had provided [inputs to the debate](#), to voice its key concerns on a potential unbalanced approach on this topic which would discriminate against IP holders and disrupt the EU R&I ecosystem. Indeed, the 350 Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) members of EARTO play an important role in the innovation ecosystem, covering all scientific fields, from basic research to new products and services development in close cooperation with industries, large and small, as well as a wide array of public actors. RTOs hold a high number of patents and are very active in Standard Setting Organisations, as they consider technical standards of paramount importance to the European innovation ecosystem.

However, following the publication of this EC Communication, EARTO members wish to point out areas that will need clarifications in future EU work to avoid giving room for misinterpretations that could be detrimental to our European Research & Innovation (R&I) ecosystem. EARTO's [short paper](#) aims at highlighting the issues that will need to be treated with care in the future:

1. Risks linked to 'smallest marketable component' or 'license to all' approach
2. Risks of complexity of the standardisation process slowing the production of standards
3. Risks linked to an imbalanced approach to Open Source Software (OSS) for standardisation

Finally, EARTO stresses that in future work, the European Commission should consider the recent shift of US Federal Competition Policy towards Standard Setting Organisations in favour of IP holders.

EARTO and its Legal Experts remain ready to provide additional input on this topic and are available for further discussion with EU institutions to ensure a sustainable European regulatory framework for IPRs, SEPs and essential copyrights, which is crucial for technology transfer in the R&I Ecosystem and key to boost innovation-led growth in Europe.

[EARTO Paper](#): EARTO's Views on EC Communication on Standard Essential Patents

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January 10, 2018 | European news

## EARTO Proposals to Leverage the Untapped Opportunities of Public Procurement of R&I in Europe

In answer to the European Commission Public Consultation on "How to stimulate innovation through a modernisation of public procurement", EARTO wishes to put forward proposals to leverage the untapped opportunities of public procurement of innovation in Europe.

Public governments and their public extensions, including Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), can drive innovation from the demand side by acting as technologically demanding customers buying new products or services for their own needs while testing new solutions. Public procurements of R&I can also be highly beneficial to the economy and society at large by addressing the funding gap for deep-tech start-ups and facilitating technology transfer, and by supporting SMEs to access funding, develop new technologies, and scale-up. However, public procurement of R&I remains underused in Europe despite recent efforts undertaken via Horizon 2020 to support such instrument.

EARTO hereby recommends to the European Institutions to improve the EU regulatory framework and further leverage the potential of public procurement of R&I in Europe. This entails to undertake the following steps, detailed in the [paper](#) attached:

1. Negotiate a derogation with the World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement (WTO GPA) Committee on public procurement of R&I. Such negotiation should aim to exclude the procurement of the goods resulting from successful R&I for the small businesses (commercialisation phase) from the scope of the WTO GPA to have the same rules as those negotiated by the US.
2. Amend the EU Public Procurement Directives accordingly. Such amendment should aim at exempting from their scope not only the provision of R&I services but also the subsequent purchase of the products resulting from the successful R&I.
3. Amend the EU RD&I state aids rules and the Horizon 2020 Pre-Commercial Procurement rules accordingly. EARTO members hope that those recommendations will be taken into consideration by the European Institutions in further actions towards improving our EU regulatory framework for public procurement of innovation.

[EARTO Answer](#) to EC Consultation on Public Procurement of R&I

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January 10, 2018 | European news

### EARTO Annual Conference 2018: Registration Open

This year's EARTO Annual Conference 2018 will take place on 21-22 March 2018 in Oslo (Norway), kindly hosted by EARTO Norwegian members [FFA](#), [NOFIMA](#) and [SINTEF](#). The conference will focus on "**Research & Innovation for Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth**".

More than 250 participants are expected from all R&I stakeholders and institutions at EU, national and regional level. The conference will feature high-level speakers from the European Commission and other key Institutions, as well as members of EARTO and industry representatives.

#### **Registration is now open!**

More information, registration, programme and hotel information are available on the [Conference website](#).

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January 9, 2018 | European news

### Call for Preparatory Action on "Digital Transformation of European Industry" Open Until 31 January 2018

In the context of the European Commission activities on Digital Innovation Hubs, a call has been launched to develop an approach to enhance the engagement of all relevant stakeholders interested in the digitisation of European industry, for a maximum amount of 1.494.000€.

The called preparatory action, Digital Transformation of European Industry, covers regions in Europe which have a large potential to benefit from industrial digital transformation and do not have a digitisation program or plan yet and regions for which industry capacity needs to be improved. It targets the identification of the industrial competitive advantages and the potential for digital specialisation in regions at sector-level across all Member States.

More information is available [here](#).

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December 14, 2017 | European news

### Infoday on EIT KICs 2018 Call for Proposals on 13 February in Brussels

The [EIT](#) is organising an Information Day for the 2018 Call for Proposals for two new Innovation Communities: EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility. The event will be held in Brussels on 13 February 2018.

During this event, the EIT will:

- Present details on the EIT's mission, activities and strategic priorities under the umbrella of Horizon 2020, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation;
  - Describe the EIT innovation model and the principles for funding, financing and contractual relations;
  - Provide first-hand information on the underlying philosophy of the Call for Proposals, the evaluation process and the roadmap;
  - Offer guidance to potential applicants in submitting high quality and successful proposals; and
  - Provide participants with the opportunity to network and engage with the EIT and with other potential applicants
- Registration is available [here](#).

See also the EIT [Framework of Guidance for the EIT's 2018 Call for Proposals](#)

**Marta Muñoz Fernández**  
Directora de Comunicación

Pº Castellana, 259C. Planta 18.  
Cuatro Torres Business Area.  
Torre de Cristal. 28046 Madrid.  
Tel.: (+34) 917 338 360  
Móvil: (+34) 609076141

[martam@fedit.com](mailto:martam@fedit.com)  
[www.fedit.com](http://www.fedit.com)



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