

EARTO Annual Report 2023

Building Tomorrow: Securing EU RD&I Investments

From Vision to Funding

25 January 2024

Highlights 2023

- EARTO positioned **RTOs as key actors** of the EU twin **green & digital transitions**
- EARTO successfully developed and promoted EARTO **22 publications and position papers** with its WGs' support
- Coordinated the work of **800 experts coming from its members within its 7 Working Groups' expertise**
- EARTO promoted RTOs participation in EU RD&I programmes: Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, Regional, Space & Defence Programmes
- EARTO participated in **European Research Area (ERA) Forum** and promoted **RTOs as key RD&I actors**
- EARTO supported the European Parliament in **securing investments in RD&I within the EU 2024 Budget**
- EARTO worked closely with the European Institutions **on Horizon Europe's midterm review to prepare FP10**
- EARTO continued its **collaborations with key RD&I actors jointly promoting EU RDI investments**
 - With BusinessEurope to prepare FP10 (Joint event)
 - Joining forces with EUA, Science Europe and BusinessEurope to prepare common positions promoting further EU RD&I investments incoming years
 - Publishing with ASTP, Aurora Universities, CESEAR, Coimbra Group, EU-LIFE, EUA, The Guild, IDEA League & YERUN a Joint Reaction in response to the European Innovation Council (EIC) Board Statement on Intellectual Property
 - Co-chairing the Industry-RTOs Informal Group on RD&I framework programme with BusinessEurope and DIGITALEUROPE comprising 30+ EU sectoral industrial associations to promote the role of applied RD&I in EU framework programmes
- EARTO continued its **collaboration with the OECD**, working further on the recommendations of **OECD report on the role of RTOs developing new comprehension on the RTOs sector**
- EARTO continued its **collaboration with the EC DG JRC**, developing further new areas of collaboration on foresight

EARTO Network in figures



7 Working Groups: 4 Policy WGs and 3 Technology WGs
5 Task Forces active this year
Joining 800 experts capabilities together



Members covering now 31 countries, with 96% of members
actively involved in our Working Groups & Task Forces



Active & High-level EARTO management: Board & Steering
Committee members comprising RTOs CEOs who combined
met 7 times in 2023

Highlights 2023



22 publications, including many alliances with other key Stakeholders



EARTO active in 5 EC HLGs: DG R&I on the Interim Evaluation of HE, DG GROW EU Industrial Forum, DG R&I EIC Board, DG REGIO I3 Expert Group, DG REGIO CPR partners



EARTO Annual Conference, Policy Event and Innovation Awards, EU Presidency Events & various workshops/webinars

EARTO Members' participation in Horizon Europe (HE)



EARTO members represent 1% of the beneficiaries, but receive 8,6% of the available funding



Industry participation increases to 36% when EARTO members are involved in the project (27% when they are not)



EARTO members coordinate 1/3 of the projects in which they participate



EARTO members participate in large collaborative projects with on average €6.2m EU contribution and 16 partners per project



64% of the funding spent in Pillar II given to projects with EARTO members



25% of all Horizon Europe projects includes at least one EARTO members, and these projects represent 51% of HE EU funding

(eCorda data November 2022)

New EARTO Member 2023

EARTO welcomed four new members in 2023:

- **CEIT - Asociación Centro Tecnológico (Spain)**
- **I-CAN - Innoventures Canada (Canada) as International member**
- **Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Non-Ferrous Metals (Poland)**
- **MORE - Laboratório Colaborativo Montanhas de Investigação (Portugal)**



EARTO Communication



EARTO held various meetings with EU Institutions Representatives and SHOs & participated in more than 180 external events



X & LinkedIn EARTO accounts with around 6,100 followers and 13,000 members



And many more internal news sharing on key dossiers to Board, WGs & TFs

EARTO Innovation Awards 2023

PRIZE
1ST



eVSP



PRIZE
2ND



InfraTwins



PRIZE
3RD



Diabeloop



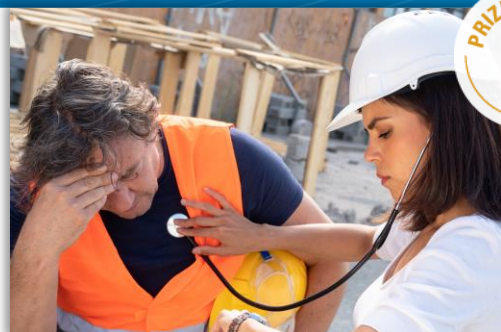
PRIZE
1ST



AEROPlaster



PRIZE
2ND



HTM



PRIZE
3RD

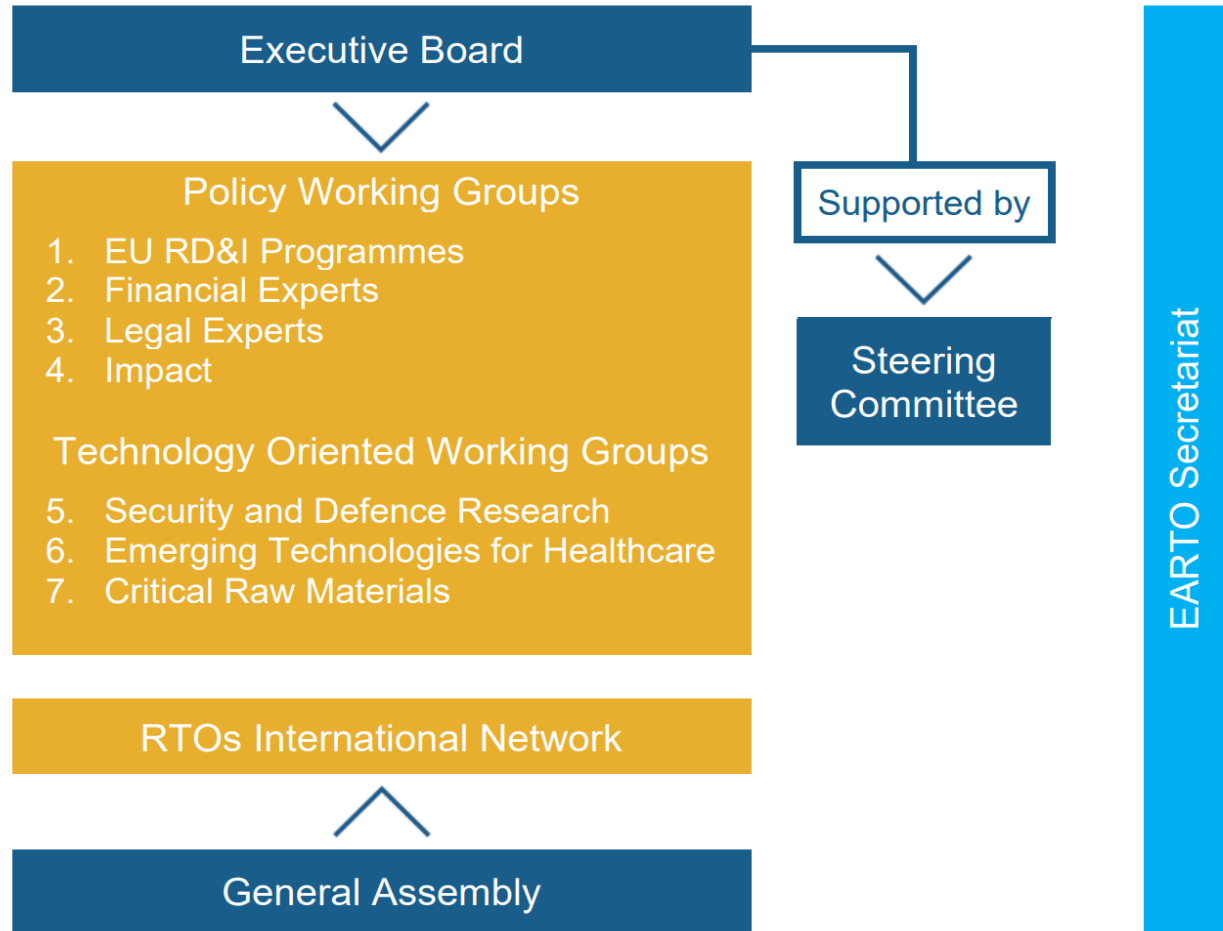


MyNPK



EARTO Structure

EARTO Organisation



Changes in WGs in 2023

- **WG Space closed as launched into a new stand-alone association: RTOs Space Association (EASTRO)**
- **Creation of a new WG on Critical Raw Materials**
- **New Chair and Core Team Members in WG Financial & Healthcare**

Task Forces in 2023

- **TF on Corporate Sustainability**
- **TF on RIN Personnel Exchange**
- **TF on RIN Benchmarking**
- **TF on Technology Infrastructures (TIs) - *closed in 2023***
- **Joint TF on Foresight with JRC – *launched in 2023***

EARTO Board 2023 (Voted at EARTO Executive Board 2023)



Antti Vasara, President
President & CEO, VTT Technical
Research Centre of Finland, FI



François Jacq, Vice-President
General Administrator, CEA, FR



Mathias Rauch
Chief Representative for the EU,
Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, DE



Tjark Tjin-A-Tsoi
CEO, TNO, NL



John Rodrigues
Director, INOV, PT



Andrzej Dybczyński
President, Łukasiewicz Research
Network, PL



Aureo Díaz-Carrasco
Executive Director, FEDIT, ES



Harry Heinzlmann
VP, Chief Technology Officer, CSEM,
CH



Jesús Valero, Treasurer
Managing Director, TECNALIA, ES



Marco Alvisi
General Manager, CETMA, IT



Alexandra Bech Gjørv
President & CEO, SINTEF, NO



Anne Van den Bosch
Vice-President Public R&D Policies
and Programmes, imec, BE



Ragnar Heldt Nielsen
Director, GTS, DK



Tasos Kounoudes
CEO, SignalGenerix, CY



Dimitrios Myttas
Associate Researcher, KEMEA, GR



William Scanton
CEO, Tyndall, IE



Sonja Sheikh
Managing Director, ACR, AT



Jeremy Silver
CEO, Digital Catapult, UK



Sigita Rimkevičius
Director, LEI, LT



Boštjan Zalar
Director, Jožef Stefan Institute, SI

EARTO WG EU RD&I Programmes Experts

Chair & Core Team: EARTO Secretariat, Eurecat, Fraunhofer, TNO, VTT

- Various meetings, events and 7 webinars with EU institutions' officials & SHOs

PAPERS PUBLISHED IN 2023

1. EARTO Answer to the EC Consultation on the past, present and future of the European Research & Innovation Framework Programmes 2014-2027
2. EARTO Members' Participation in Horizon Europe: Analysis from EC eCORDA data from November 2022
3. EARTO Reaction to the EC Proposal for a Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age
4. EARTO Open Letter to the EC on EU Institutions Own Transparency: European Commission's Who's Who Digital Tool
5. EARTO Inputs to ERAC on the next European Research & Innovation Framework Programme (FP10)
6. EARTO Inputs towards the Establishment of the European Economic Security Strategy and its Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform EARTO Memo on 2024 Budget

2023 KEY ISSUES

- Horizon Europe: following implementation, Clusters/KETs, Partnerships, Missions, EIC, EIT, etc., Strategic Plan 2025-2027 and EC Consultation on the past, present and future of EU R&I Framework Programmes 2014-2027
- Development of the Next Framework Programme FP10
- ERA implementation: Following ERA Forum & ERA actions of interest
- Digital Europe Programme: following implementation, Innovation Hubs & TEFs
- Interregional Innovation Investments (I3): promoting RTOs participation with regions

Cooperation with EC DGs & other Stakeholders

- **DG R&I, DG CONNECT, DG GROW, DG JRC, DG REGIO**
- **EP (ITRE & REGI)**
- **Council**
- **Committee of the Regions**
- **Industry: BusinessEurope, Digital Europe, Orgalim and 30+ other Industry associations**
- **Regions: ERRIN & Vanguard Initiative**
- **Universities: EUA, CESAER, The Guild, Science Europe**
- **EAIC**
- **Various consultants hired by DG R&I for EU studies**

EARTO WG Financial Experts

Chair & Core Team: CEA, AIT, EURECAT, Fraunhofer, Helmholtz, TNO

- Various meetings of the Core Team with EC representatives (e.g. Directorate of the Common Implementation Centre of the DG RTD)

PAPERS PUBLISHED IN 2023

1. EARTO Feedback on EARTO Members' Experiences with Lump-Sums Projects within Horizon Europe

2023 KEY ISSUES

- Horizon Europe implementation: Rules for Participation and Model Grant Agreement & Annotated Grant Agreement (financial aspects)
- Usual cost accounting practices, unit costs, allocation keys, internally invoiced goods and services
- Audits, cross-reliance, system and process audits
- Monitoring Lump-sum pilots and implementation in Horizon Europe Work Programmes
- New RD&I-related programmes' rules for participation: Digital Europe, Defence, Space

Cooperation with EC DGs & other Stakeholders

- **DG R&I, DG BUDG**
- **ECA**
- **EP (ITRE, BUDG, CONT)**
- **Members States' Horizontal NCPs**
- **Accountancy Europe**

EARTO WG Legal Experts

Chair & Core Team: CEA, TNO, VTT

- Various meetings with EC representatives to present the various papers published

PAPERS PUBLISHED IN 2023

1. EARTO response on European Symposium on SPLH – 2023 Questionnaire
2. EARTO Position Paper on the EC Draft Proposal for a Regulation on Standards Essentials Patents (SEPs)
3. Joint Reaction to the European Innovation Council Board's statement on intellectual property
4. EARTO Answer to the EC Consultation on SEPs
5. EARTO Answer to EC Survey Industry-Academia Co-Creation for Knowledge valorisation

2023 KEY ISSUES

- Horizon Europe implementation: Rules for Participation and Model Grant Agreement (legal aspects) & Annotated Grant Agreement, Data Management Plan
- Intellectual Property Rights, Standard Essential Patents & Standardisation
- EU State Aid rules: implementation and revision
- Open Science policy, incl. FAIR data, European Open Science Cloud, Open access to publications
- Pre-Commercial Procurement

Cooperation with EC DGs & other Stakeholders

- **DG R&I, DG COMP, DG JRC, DG CONNECT, DG GROW, DG EMPL**
- **EP (ITRE)**
- **Council**
- **EPO**
- **Industry: BusinessEurope, Digital Europe (especially on SEPs)**
- **Universities: EUA, CESAER, The Guild**
- **ASTP, ALLEA**

EARTO WG Impact Experts

Chair & Core Team: TNO, CEA, TECNALIA

- Several meetings with OECD on running projects & with the EC on key topics related to RTOs' impact and data on RTOs' sector

2023 KEY ISSUES

- Demonstrating the impact of RTOs: including exchanging members' best practices and sharing recent studies of RTO' impact
- Organising EARTO data collection with launching the new EARTO economic footprint study with support of IDEA Consult
- Organising EARTO/RIN benchmarking study with support of Technopolis Group
- Working towards official OECD and EUROSTAT data on RTOs: discussing on how to best organise the flagging of RTOs in national statistics, inputs given to the NESTI Pilot Project on RPOs data
- Continuing collaboration with OECD on other common topics: co-creation, knowledge transfer and RD&I Intermediary organisations, Technology Infrastructures, etc.
- Collaboration with OECD on several events: STI and geopolitics, Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy, Global Science Forum, etc.

Cooperation with EC DGs & other Stakeholders

- **DG R&I, DG JRC**
- **OECD**
- **EUROSTAT**
- **National Statistical Institutes**

EARTO Technology Oriented WGs



WG Healthcare

Chair & Core Team: AIT, CEA, CIDETEC, CSEM, imec

PAPER PUBLISHED IN 2023

1. EARTO Inputs on Healthcare Research and Innovation for the next Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe (2025-2027)

2023 KEY ISSUES

- Input to Horizon Europe Partnership on Health & Clusters looking at health-related topics
- Role of RTOs in Horizon Europe, including Partnership (IHI) & JUs
- Monitor the EU4Health programme
- Open innovation: OITB, ecosystem for developing and commercialising of health technologies

Cooperation with EC DGs & other Stakeholders

- DG R&I, DG GROW, DG REGIO, DG SANTE, DG CONNECT
- MedTech Europe, EFPIA, COCIR, Vanguard Initiative

WG Security & Defence Research

Chair & Core Team: TNO, INOV, Fraunhofer, VTT

PAPER PUBLISHED IN 2023

- 1. EARTO Inputs on RD&I for Civil Security for Society (Cluster 3) for Horizon Europe next Strategic Plan 2025-2027**
- 2. EARTO Comments on Civil Security for Society in the Draft Horizon Europe Strategic Plan (2025-2027)**

2023 KEY ISSUES

- Horizon Europe (Cluster 3 – Civil Security for Society/Strategic Plan 2025-2027/EDF)
- Security Mission Information & Innovation Group (SMI2G) Event
- Co-organisers and panelists of Community for European Research and Innovation for Security

Cooperation with EC DGs & other Stakeholders

- DG DEFIS, DG R&I, DG CONNECT, DG HOME
- EDA, IMG-S, CEN CENELEC, EIB, Seren 4

WG Critical Raw Materials

Chair & Core Team: Fraunhofer, CEA, VITO

PAPER PUBLISHED IN 2023

1. EARTO Answer to the EC Consultation on Towards a Secure and Sustainable Critical Raw Materials Supply for Europe

2023 KEY ISSUES

- Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) & SRIA
- Stable long-term investment in research and innovation
- Public awareness and acceptance
- Resilient CRM supply for Europe
- Skills

Cooperation with EC DGs & other Stakeholders

- DG GROW, DG R&I
- European Parliament

EARTO Temporary Task Forces

Running Task Forces in 2023:

- 1. TF on Corporate Sustainability:** follows the impact of the new CSRD directive & Exchange of best practice on Members' Current Efforts on Corporate Sustainability (Double materiality, Data & Digital Management, Taxonomy, etc.)
- 2. TF RIN Benchmarking:** follows the EARTO-RIN Benchmarking Study 2022-2024 launched with the support of Technopolis
- 3. TF RIN Personnel Exchange:** created a draft agreement template to facilitate exchange of personnel among members now under use and assessment
- 4. Joint with JRC TF on Foresight:** Exchange of best practices on foresight

Extra effort on HR related issues:

- EARTO Inputs for a European Framework for Research Careers
- EARTO Answer to EC consultation on EU cross-border regions – solutions to overcome legal and administrative obstacles

Task Forces to be launched in 2024:

- 1. TF EARTO New Recommendations 2024:** First meeting to be held in February 2024 to write the next EARTO recommendations for the next upcoming/to-be-elected European VIPs: Parliament and Commission will be changed autumn 2024
- 2. TF STEP:** Provide practical suggestions to the DG BUDG on how to set up the STEP including a Sovereignty Seal and Portal that would be of RTOs' benefits
- 3. TF EIB Study Update:** Update of the last EIB InnovFin Report from 2017: Access to finance for RTOs

Closed Task Forces in 2023:

- 1. TF on Technology Infrastructures:** Success of the TF with the publication of DG R&I Expert Group on Tis, the dossier is now followed by the WG RD&I programmes

EARTO Membership Categories

Interested in more information? Please contact [EARTO Secretariat](#)

Our Membership Categories following our statutes:

- **Category 1 – Full European Members**
 - Individual Full European Members
 - Association Full European Members
- **Category 2 – International Members (Corresponding)**
- **Category 3 – Associated Members**

For more details on those categories, please see our [website](#)

EARTO Services to its Members

- **Central point of contact:** EARTO Secretariat based in Brussels
- **Targeted information** on the development of future EU Research & Innovation funding programmes and procedures
- **A platform for discussion** and exchange of best practices for RTO
- **A strong network** with the relevant European Institutions and stakeholders
- Support and/or initiate **common positions** on key EU dossiers
- **Additional public exposure** of its members



Contact details

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