

## **EARTO Press Release New JRC Publication - RTOs Open to the World!**

Brussels, 13 February 2017

At a time when the societal challenges that affect our everyday lives are increasingly complex and of global scale, Research and Innovation (R&I) have expanded beyond the national borders to become fully internationalised. Today, the creation of excellent knowledge, ideas and innovations are nurtured by international networks of cooperation. Research & Technology Organisations (RTOs) are key actors in those networks, and their internationalisation is becoming essential to fulfil their core mission of producing high impact R&I.

In line with Europe's ambition to be "Open to the World", EARTO was very happy that the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) looked at RTOs' Internationalisation process in their [new Policy Brief on the Internationalisation of RTOs](#).

This analysis builds on great examples of what RTOs can do at a global scale, working with partners all around the world to discover new diagnostic tests for diseases like Ebola, improve air quality in the big cities, or make airports' security measures more efficient. Most RTOs have internationalised their activities: TWI (UK) works across 70 countries worldwide and is linked to over 1000 companies outside the UK; Imec (BE) employs researchers from 74 different nationalities; Fraunhofer (DE) has over 30 research units outside of the EU; DHI (DK) has over 80% of its turnover coming from international funding. And these are just a few examples among the 350 RTOs represented in the EARTO network.

The internationalisation of RTOs is also acknowledged as a crucial feature for supporting industry's R&I needs, boosting jobs, growth and competitiveness and leveraging Europe's R&I potential. These activities are worth supporting and we hope that this JRC policy brief will help bring forward a new thinking on such issue.

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### **EARTO - European Association of Research and Technology Organisations**

*Founded in 1999, EARTO promotes Research and Technology Organisations and represents their interest in Europe. EARTO network counts over 350 RTOs in more than 20 countries. EARTO members represent 150.000 highly-skilled researchers and engineers managing a wide range of innovation infrastructures.*

### **RTOs - Research and Technology Organisations**

*From the lab to your everyday life. RTOs innovate to improve your health and well-being, your safety and security, your mobility and connectivity. RTOs' technologies cover all scientific fields. Their work ranges from basic research to new products and services development. RTOs are non-profit organisations with public missions to support society. To do so, they closely cooperate with industries, large and small, as well as a wide array of public actors.*

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