



EARTO promotes the interests of over 300 Research and Technology Organisations in Europe

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS

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EARTO 2007 Annual Conference Munich, 2nd- 4th May



The EARTO 2007 Conference is an official event of the German EU Presidency

The major event of the EARTO year in 2007 will be held in Munich, capital of Bavaria, home to many leading high-tech companies and, of course, headquarters of our Munich hosts, Fraunhofer.

Following the EURAB Report on "RTOs in the European Research Area", the 2007 EARTO Annual Conference will welcome Commissioner Potočnik and will underline the key role which RTOs play in the evolving European R&D and innovation landscape.

The conference programme is available on the EARTO website.

[More...](#)

The EARTO Working Group Munich, 2nd May

A meeting of the EARTO Working Group will be organised on the afternoon of May 2nd, the day preceding the EARTO Annual Conference.

The programme will be finalised and published before the end of February.

An important part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing EARTO members' first experiences with FP7. We plan to survey all members in late March about their FP7 experiences and to invite comments and questions about any aspect of the new Framework Programme. A panel of experts will give answers.

www.earto.eu

EARTO has adopted the ".eu" internet domain name format. Please adjust your web browser accordingly.

We have also adopted new e-mail addresses:
schlesing@earto.eu
hull@earto.eu
taffah@earto.eu

The old "earto.org" internet and e-mail addresses will remain valid for some time.

EARTO FP7 Proposal Review Service

The EARTO FP7 Proposal Review Service is now available.

It offers to accompany an EARTO member from the initial planning of an FP7 proposal through to submission to the Commission, including a critical review of the complete proposal prior to submission.

[More...](#)

FP7 News

Associated Countries in FP7

Along with the 27 Member Countries of the EU, a number of Associated Countries will also be able to participate in FP7 on the same basis as the EU Member States.

The Science and Technology Agreement associating **Israel** and **Switzerland** to FP7 applies provisionally as of 1 January 2007. Therefore, subject to the successful completion of the decision-making procedure, legal entities established in Israel and Switzerland will also be able to receive EC funding for FP7 contracts signed after this date.

Similarly, for **Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein**, a clause in the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement is due to be amended by a decision of the EEA Joint Committee extending the association of these three countries to FP7. Therefore, subject to this decision being taken, legal entities established in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein will be also be able to receive EC funding for contracts signed after 1 January 2007.

Turkey, Croatia and Serbia are also set to associate themselves to FP7 and Memoranda of Understandings (MoU) associating these countries are expected to enter into force with effect from 1 January 2007. Turkish, Croatian and Serbian researchers will be able to receive EC funding for FP7 contracts signed after this date once all internal procedures are completed and the MoUs come into force.

FP7 Grant Agreement

The Commission has officially released a draft grant agreement for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). This is the version dated 22.12.2006, which is already circulating widely. Take good note that this is a draft, not the definitive document. Major changes are not expected, however.

The Grant Agreement is the key document with regard to FP financial regulations.

There are indications that no detailed Financial Guidelines document will be produced for FP7. Instead there would be a commentary on the Grant Agreement.

[More ...](#)

FP7 STREP Budgeting Spreadsheet

The Finance Helpdesk, which is a Commission-sponsored project to support FP proposers and projects, has published a "STREP Budgeting Spreadsheet" tool for FP7, which is available free of charge.

[More ...](#)

Electronic Proposal Submission

The Commission's EPSS software tool is still expected to go on-line on around 19 March 2007.

Electronic submission is mandatory, so be prepared for a big rush once the tool is available.

Free FP7 Book Published

EFP Consulting is offering a free 185 introduction to FP7. The downloadable book is constantly updated and registered users are notified of important changes and updates by Email.

[More ...](#)

How to Write a Competitive Proposal for FP7

Hyperion Ltd (Sean McCarthy) is offering two one-day workshops about preparing an FP7 proposal on March 7th and 8th in Brussels.

Further details about these courses, and additional courses offered by Hyperion in Brussels and elsewhere later in 2007, are available on the Hyperion website.

[More ...](#)

Two-Day FP7 Proposal Writing Workshop in Brussels

The Finance Helpdesk, together with Alprocor Belgium and EFPConsulting, is holding a two-day FP7 Proposal Writing Workshop on 21st & 22nd March 2007 in Brussels.

There is also a one-day FP7 Financial Workshop on 20 March.

[More ...](#)

EU Online Forum for Technology Foresight

A forum for analysing future-oriented technology has been launched by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The objectives of the Future-Oriented Technology Analysis (FTA) Forum will be to:

- provide an open space for dialogue between different but overlapping communities, such as foresight, technology assessment, future studies, technological forecasting, evaluation, quality management, with a view to promoting mutual understanding;
- to nurture the FTA community's ability to organise itself, and
- to identify needs within the FTA community and to enable mutual support between its members.

The FTA will start by discussing issues raised at an international seminar on FTA that took place in September 2006: building capacity; customer-client relations and corporate foresight; evaluation, monitoring and quality control; preparedness to address global problems; and building community links.

Users are welcome to propose new issues for future rounds of discussion.

[More ...](#)

DG Regional Policy Report on Innovation in the Structural Funds

This report analyses the contribution of Structural Funds measures to the development of innovation and knowledge in the recipient regions.

It takes into account the increasingly frequent development of regional innovation strategies, operational programmes (OPs) and measures in favour of research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) or more generally 'competitiveness' at regional level. These instruments have been designed and funded with the support of the Structural Funds since the early 1990s. Since 2000, the emphasis on RTDI type measures in the Structural Fund has been increased in line with the Lisbon goals.

This report provides an EU-wide review of options and good practice examples for future Structural Funds programming in the field of innovation and knowledge.

In total, some EUR 10,198 million were allocated to RTDI initiatives in 2000-2006, or 5.5% of total funds in the EU25.

Over three quarters of this amount were devoted to Objective 1 zones. This represents an average planned spending of 4.9% on RTDI from total available Structural Funds resources in these cohesion regions. In Objective 2 regions, the share of RTDI expenditure rose to 9.8%.

While these figures tend to suggest that RTDI measures, particularly in Objective 1 zones, have not been a central plank of EU regional policy interventions, the study also finds that the share of Structural Funding devoted to RTDI is related to the existing national intensity of investment as measured by gross expenditure on R&D.

The report provides a detailed analysis of the different RTDI measures and strategic approaches and of the support provided by the Structural Funds in this context.

Distinguishing between different types of regions, it explains the drivers and specific regional challenges as well as the varied models of innovation governance in the regions.

It concludes with an analysis of the Structural Funds investment priorities and a set of strategic recommendations for regional innovation policies and direct support to enterprises.

[More ...](#)

France Failing to Leverage Research Results

The exploitation of research results has remained stagnant in France, despite measures introduced to boost the country's innovation and research base, according to a 250-page report published by the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

The authors of the report reached their conclusion by comparing and contrasting the structures of French and overseas public and private laboratories and their ability to leverage their research results.

On public-private research partnerships - one of the key indicators employed - the study notes that the volume of contracts between public research institutes and industry has not increased since 1992. This has resulted in a weakening in France's competitiveness, which has had a knock-on effect on the country's participation in the EU research framework programme.

The situation is similarly stagnant in terms of the value gained by research institutes from their intellectual property. Although the number of patent applications filed increased over the last 10 years, with the number practically doubling since 1996, France has seen very little economic gain as a result. The study argues that the increase in patents is due to a desire to protect inventions, not to exploit them. A second reason for lack of revenue gained could be the fact that many of the patents are shared between research institutes.

The study also judges France's ability to leverage its research by the number of innovative companies created by public research institutes. At first glance, the figures are encouraging, with a total of 90 companies starting up annually at the initiative of public research institutes. But the situation is less encouraging when looking at the growth of these companies. The study estimates that fewer than 1 out of 10 companies reaches a turnover of €1 million after four years. It lists structures that fail to facilitate rapid technology transfer and the non-participation by industry as factors behind this stunted growth.

The 250-page report is available in French only.

[More...](#)

Organising A Meeting in Brussels? EARTO Has the Perfect Facilities

We have fully equipped modern meeting facilities in central Brussels. Close to the Commission (just around the corner from DG Research) and Parliament, and easily accessible by public transport.

The EARTO Meeting Room

Space for 25 people classroom style and up to 55 people cinema style.

Natural light, air-conditioning, video projector, Panaboard, whiteboard, paper boards, transparency projector, wireless Internet connection, photocopying facilities. Full catering service available.

Available by the day or half-day, at cost price to EARTO members.

A sliding sound-proofed partition permits division of the main meeting room into two separate rooms (1/3 – 2/3).

We also have a second, smaller room suitable for meetings of up to five people. It is available free of charge to EARTO members

For further information, please contact Kadija Taffah at the EARTO Secretariat: +32-2-5028698



Recent and Upcoming Events by and with EARTO

May 3 rd – 4 th	EARTO Annual Conference and related events	Munich
May 2 nd	EARTO Working Group	Munich
March 28 th	DG Research SME Advisory Group	Brussels
March 25 th -26 th	EUROTECH Special Interest Group	Ivalo
March 7 th	EARTO Working Group on RTO Development Strategies	Brussels
March 6 th	DESCA Consortium Agreement Consultation Group	Brussels
February 15 th -16 th	Innovaction Conference	Udine
February 8 th	EARTO Steering Committee	Brussels
January 18 th	EARTO Working Group on Spin-offs	Berlin
January 17 th	Launch Event for DESCAs Consortium Agreement	Bonn
January 10 th	EARTO Working Group on RTO Development Strategies	Brussels