



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

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS

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In this issue:

- *EARTO Annual Conference*
- *EARTO Working Group*
- *www.earto.eu*
- *FP7: New Work Programmes and Call Fiches*
- *FP7: Model Grant Agreement*
- *FP7: Rules of Participation*
- *FP7: DESCA Model Consortium Agreement*
- *FP7: Proposal Writing Workshops*
- *Industry R&D Spending at US Universities*
- *European Research Council Launched*
- *Innovation Gap with US Narrowing*
- *European R&D Spending Stagnating*
- *YEAR launched*

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 headquarters of our hosts, Fraunhofer.

The 2007 EARTO Annual Conference will welcome Commissioner Potočník and will underline

the key role which RTOs play in the evolving European R&D and innovation landscape.

The conference programme and registration facilities are available on the EARTO website.

[More...](#)

The EARTO Working Group Munich, 2nd May

The EARTO Working Group will meet on the afternoon of May 2nd, the day preceding the EARTO Annual Conference.

The programme will be finalised and published in the next few days.

An important part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing EARTO members' first experiences with FP7, and to providing practical advice about FP7 issues.

We plan to survey all EARTO 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.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance about the DESCA Model Consortium Agreement: www.desca-FP7.eu

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.

FP7 News and Resources

Current FP7 Calls for Proposals: Newly Adopted FP7 Work Programmes and Call Fiches Published

When the first 42 FP7 Calls for Proposals were published on December 22nd of last year, the Call documents were qualified as provisional because not all of the formal decision-making procedures relating to FP7 had been completed in time.

That has now been done, and the European Commission has just published the final versions of the work programmes and call fiches.

Project proposers are invited to download and use these new documents. Any adjustments to the work programmes and the call fiches already published are clearly shown in the texts and are also summarised on CORDIS.

[More...](#)

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.

Members interested in using the service are invited to contact hull@earto.org.

[More...](#)

FP7: Model Grant Agreement

We are still waiting for the Commission to finalise the FP7 Model Grant Agreement.

The latest news is that we shall probably have to wait at least another week before the final version is published, and that it may be late March before additional explanatory material becomes available.

In the meantime, the Commission has published a provisional version of the Model Grant Agreement in order to give proposal writers some guidance.

[More...](#)

FP7: Rules of Participation

The other key document setting out rules for FP7 projects are the Rules of Participation.

These were finalized just before Christmas last year and have now been published in many language versions.

[More...](#)

Electronic Proposal Submission System

Sources inside DG Research have confirmed (March 1st) that the system is on track to go on-line on March 19th.

DESCA: A Model Consortium Agreement for FP7

DESCA is a comprehensive, modular consortium agreement for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

It has been developed by a group of experts from EARTO members together with colleagues from other European R&D organisations.

DESCA aims to offer a reliable frame of reference which seeks to balance the interests of all of the main participant categories in FP research projects: large and small firms, universities, public research institutes and RTOs.

A first version of DESCA is now available. This is a complete but still provisional version. It is provisional because:

- the European Commission has not yet finalized the FP7 Model Grant Agreement (DESCA_09 is based on the most recent Commission drafts of the Model Grant Agreement) and because
- consultations among FP7 stakeholders associated with DESCA on some clauses in DESCA are continuing

[More...](#)

FP7 Proposal Writing Workshops Brussels, March 7th and 8th

Hyperion Ltd (Sean McCarthy) is organising two one-day workshop sessions in Brussels on *How to Write a Competitive Proposal for FP7*. The sessions will be held at the Hotel Leopold.

[More...](#)

Industry R&D Rises at US Universities but Government Spends Most

Industrial funding of R&D at U.S. universities recovered in 2005 from a three-year slump - but the federal government remained by far the largest source of academic R&D funding, according to a new report by the US National Science Foundation.

Industry spent \$2.3 billion in fiscal year 2005 on science and engineering R&D at US universities - up 7.7 per cent from the prior year, the NSF said. Still, industry funding represented just 5 per cent of total academic R&D funding.

By far the biggest spender on campus remains the US government, which supplied 64 per cent of the total, \$45.8 billion bill for on-campus R&D. And among the many Washington agencies, the biggest spender continued in 2005 to be the Department of Health and Human Services, with more than half the total cost - reflecting the rapid build-up in cancer, genomics and other biological research funding. By contrast, the Defense Department and NASA spent less than a fifth as much as HHS.

[More ...](#)

European Research Council Launched

The European Research Council was officially launched at a special event in Berlin on February 27th and 28th.

Unlike most parts of the Framework Programme, which are about funding applied R&D projects with a specific practical application in mind, the ERC is about funding first-class researchers on the sole criterion of their scientific excellence (as judged through peer review).

A further novel feature of the ERC funding mechanism is that no criterion of "European impact", so familiar from the Framework Programme, will be applied: successfully competing with projects from anywhere in Europe - even projects with only partners from the same country - will be considered to be evidence enough of European impact.

The first round of ERC grants this year - about €300 million - is aimed at young scientists. A second round of grants, to begin next year, will be for senior scientists - but then, only for high-risk projects.

[More ...](#)

Innovation Gap with the US Narrowing ...

For the fourth consecutive year, the innovation gap between the US and the EU has decreased.

The Nordic countries and Switzerland continue to be the innovation leaders worldwide, while

many of the new Member States are steadily catching up with the EU average.

These are some of the main findings of the European Innovation Scoreboard 2006. The report presents a comparative analysis of the innovation performance of European countries, the US and Japan.

[More ...](#)

... But Investment in R&D in Europe Stagnating

Investment in research and development (R&D) in Europe would appear to be stagnant, according to preliminary figures from Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

Although growing by 1.5% since 2001, R&D expenditure in the EU27 in 2005 stood at 1.84% of GDP - the same as in 2004. The unchanged figure also begs the question whether the EU can remain competitive against other economies such as the US and Japan, where R&D accounted for 2.68% and 3.18% of GDP respectively in 2005. Emerging economies are also catching up; China reported spending 1.34% of its GDP on R&D in 2005.

In 2005, the top R&D performers in the EU remained Sweden and Finland, spending 3.86% and 3.48% of their GDP on R&D respectively.

[More...](#)

YEAR Network Launched

YEAR - Young European Associated Researchers - was founded on 18 February 2007 in Udine, Italy.

[More...](#)



YEAR Members at the Signing Ceremony

YEAR's activities focus on building new contacts among young European researchers and developing personal competence through researcher exchange, information exchange between institutes, excursions, training, and conferences.

The first large-scale YEAR project is CREATE, a four-year programme of training courses in different parts of Europe. CREATE is part of the Marie Curie programme and the first event will be held in May in Italy and will focus on managing creativity in international projects.

[More...](#)

The founding members of YEAR are VTT (Finland), TNO (Holland), SINTEF (Norway), VITO (Belgium), JOANNEUM RESEARCH (Austria) and EIDON (Italy).

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 on Spin-offs	Munich
May 2 nd	EARTO Working Group	Munich
March 29 th	DESCA Model Consortium Agreement: Consultation Group	Brussels
March 28 th	DG Research SME Advisory Group	Brussels
March 25 th -26 th	EUROTECH Special Interest Group	Ivalo
March 14 th	DG Research Workshop on FP7 SME Measures	Brussels
March 7 th	EARTO Working Group on RTO Development Strategies	Brussels
March 6 th	DESCA Consortium Agreement Consultation Group	Brussels