



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

Preparations for the major event of the EARTO year are complete. The 2007 annual conference takes place in Munich, the capital of Bavaria and home to many leading high-tech companies and to our local hosts, Fraunhofer.

Members who have not yet registered should please do so as quickly as possible. The conference programme and registration facilities are available on the EARTO website.

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The EARTO Working Group Munich, 2nd May

Open to All EARTO Members

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

An important part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing EARTO members' first experiences with FP7 and to providing practical guidance and advice about FP7 issues by a panel of highly experienced Framework Programme experts.

EARTO is inviting all members to offer comments and questions about FP7 for discussion in Munich. Please submit your comments and question in advance in order to help us better prepare the event.

More...

Give Feedback

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance about the [DESCA Model Consortium Agreement](#).

The programme of the Working Group meeting is available on the EARTO website. You can also register via the Internet.

More...

FP7 News and Resources

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

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 recently published the final versions of the work programmes and call fiches.

More ...

Budget for "Collective Research" in 2007

The official documents for the first Call for Proposals for Research for SME Associations ("Collective Research"), which were published on December 22nd, specify a budget of just €10m.

In fact, €58 million will be available for funding projects. The explanation is that because this call uses a lengthy two-stage procedure most of the contracts will be signed after January 1st 2008 and will be funded using an additional €48 million of 2008 money.

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.

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...

Financial Guidelines and IPR Guidelines for FP7

The Commission is still working on Financial Guidelines and IPR Guidelines for FP7 proposers and contractors. It seems unlikely that they will be published before the end of April.

Electronic Proposal Submission System

The Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) went on-line in the second half of March. The roll-out is progressive. It is available first for the calls with the earliest closing dates. To check whether it is open for calls of interest to you, visit the CORDIS website.

More ...

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 DESCAs is now available. *More ...*

There will be a one-day workshop to present and explain the DESCAs Model Consortium Agreement in Brussels on June 22nd. Details will be announced shortly.

New FP7 Funding Model for "CRAFT" and "Collective" EARTO Workshop, Brussels, 23rd May 2007

The FP7 funding regime for the SME specific measures is not the same as in FP6. It is still possible for research performers to be fully remunerated for their services, but it is important to respect certain limits on funding categories.

A further important change relates to IPR. In the past the default regime was that IP rights were accorded to the beneficiary SMEs ("CRAFT") or SME associations ("Collective").

In FP7, the general rule remains that IP will normally go to the SMEs or SME associations, but there is explicit recognition that other arrangements may be made. In particular, the research performers may retain IP rights. The *quid pro quo* is that the price paid by the SMEs or SME associations to the research performers should then reflect the value of any IP rights granted to the latter.

The aim of this workshop is to explore in depth the flexibility permitted by the new arrangements, to consider the advantages for RTOs of taking IP title, and to try to identify standardised models for explaining and marketing the new arrangements to SMEs and SME associations.

Members interested in participating in the workshop are invited to send a short e-mail to hull@earto.org.

FP7 Proposal Writing Workshops Brussels, June 26th-28th

Hyperion Ltd (Sean McCarthy) is organising a three-day FP7 Advisors Course on June 26th - 28th in Brussels. The course covers:

- How to Write a Competitive Proposal for Framework 7
- How to Negotiate, Manage and Administer Framework contracts

More ...

University Technology Licensing Trends in the US and Canada

The Association of US Technology Managers (AUTM) has recently published its latest annual surveys of technology licensing in the United States and Canada.

Highlights include:

- more than US\$42 billion in R&D expenditures at US academic centres.

- 628 new spin-off companies created in 2005, to bring the total to 5,171 since 1980.
- Total research support from all external sources is stable
- The percentage of support from federal versus industrial sources remained constant, with 67 per cent federal funding and 7 per cent industry funding.
- Total US patent applications increased to 15,115 in 2005
- Funding from individual angel investors, Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Program grants and from the licensing institution for start-up companies increased significantly
- 4,932 new licences were signed in 2005.

More ...

Commission Emphasises Structural Fund Spending On R&D and Innovation

The growth of European innovation is intrinsically linked to regional performance, believes European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner.

Recent analyses show that Europe has 29% of the world's leading 2,000 companies, broadly in line with its 30% share of world GDP. The recently published European innovation scoreboard for 2006 shows that the innovation gap between Europe and the US has been consistently decreasing since 2002 and is now roughly half what it was then. Out of the top six world innovation leaders, four are situated in the EU (Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Germany).

Much of this achievement, says the Commissioner, is intrinsically linked to regional performance. She points to regions like Uusima, Stockholm and Hamburg, which are on the top of the Regional European Competitiveness Index ranking 'Interestingly enough, we can see that these are not isolated cases as most of the regions in countries leading in innovation score very well in terms of regional competitiveness.'

Ms Hübner is pleased to see that Member States are making innovation and the Lisbon Goals a 'central tenet' of their cohesion policy. It is estimated that €200 billion of the €350 billion allocated to regional policy is targeted at areas singled out in the Lisbon Strategy as key drivers of growth, competitiveness and jobs.

Of this, some €40 billion - more than 10% of the total - will be invested specifically in innovation and research and development (R&D). The Commission's intention is that this contribution exploits the synergy with other EU policies targeting research and development. In June, the Commission will publish a communication which will provide guidelines on this issue.

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

June 22 nd	DESCA Presentation Workshop	Brussels
May 23 rd	EARTO Workshop on New Funding/IPR Rules for SME-specific projects in FP7	Brussels
May 18 th	Conference on Strategy and Role of Research and Development Organisations in Europe	Warsaw
May 7 th	DESCA Core Group	Helsinki
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
April 25 th	75 th Anniversary of foundation of TNO	Delft
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

