

## Press Release

### EARTO Members Welcome the G20's Call to Put Innovation at the Heart of Global Growth Strategy

Brussels, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

EARTO members welcome the adoption of the [G20 2016 Innovation Action Plan](#), announced at the last G20 Summit on 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in China, and the recognition by G20 leaders of the need to “*further advance innovation and assist member countries to create innovative ecosystems*” to foster innovation-driven growth.

In their [communiqué](#), the G20 leaders highlight that “*in the long run, innovation is a key driver of growth for both individual countries and the global economy as a whole*” and commit to pursue pro-innovation strategies, policies and measures supporting investment in science, technology and innovation.

While the global economy remains stuck in a low-growth trap with a productivity slowdown and a strong pressure on public budgets, it is crucial to remember that investment in research, technology and innovation is essential to enable sustainable recovery worldwide. The OECD has also advocated in numerous [reports](#) for countries to step up their investment in long-term R&I to develop disruptive technologies able to reshape the industry sector and tackle global challenges.

EARTO Secretary General Muriel Attané said: “*Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) are key drivers of innovation-driven growth, taking an essential role in innovative ecosystems where they perform excellent collaborative applied research with public and private actors. To implement the G20 innovation goals, Europe needs to further capitalise on the resources and great potential that RTOs represent and improve its innovation policy to boost both public and private R&I investments. The proposal of R&I Commissioner Moedas to set up a European Innovation Council aims to address this challenge at EU level and should be further supported.*”

European R&I programmes have already shown strong added value and support to competitiveness and jobs creation, as outlined in the FP7 ex-post evaluation [report](#), “*each euro spent by the European Commission on FP7 generated approximately 11 euros of estimated direct and indirect economic effects through innovation, new technologies and products*”. Investments in R&I are often considered as long term only, however, the [EARTO economic footprint study](#) estimated that in 2014 alone for every €1 invested in an RTO, €3,8 returns back to governments (this also includes investments via Horizon 2020 grants). These figures clearly demonstrate that the EU and European Member States need to strengthen investments in high impact R&I in order to support growth.

EARTO members would like to offer full and continuous support to the implementation of the G20 innovation strategy and similar strategies at EU level and will continue to work with the European Commission, European Parliament, Member States, OECD and other involved stakeholders to strengthen Europe's R&I ecosystems and collaborations, much needed to foster growth and jobs.

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#### Notes to Editors

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[Research and Technology Organisations \(RTOs\)](#) have a distinct mission and a key role in the knowledge and innovation economy: they produce, integrate and transfer science and technology to help resolve the grand challenges of society and support Europe's industrial competitiveness. RTOs occupy nodal positions within innovation eco-systems, bringing together key players across the whole innovation chain, from fundamental to technological research, from product and process development to prototyping and demonstration, and on to full-scale implementation in the public and private sectors.

[EARTO](#) is an international association of Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), a non-profit organisation founded in 1999. EARTO groups over 350 RTOs with a combined staff of 150,000, an annual turnover of €23 billion, special equipment and facilities to a value of many € billions and more than 100,000 customers from the public and private sectors annually. Watch the [EARTO Corporate Video](#)