

EARTO Expands its Cooperation with JRC

23 June 2015



Today, Maria Khorsand, President of the [European Association of Research and Technology Organisations \(EARTO\)](#), and Vladimír Šucha, Director General of the [Joint Research Centre](#), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Brussels.

Building on existing co-operation between the JRC and EARTO, the Memorandum aims to establish the overall framework for a continuous, proactive and structured partnership in areas of mutual interest including, but not limited to, science advice to policy, smart specialisation, technology transfer, standardisation, management of research infrastructure and data collection.

This agreement will contribute not only to a more structured dialogue and mutual exchange of information, but also to better use of synergies for the benefit of European research as well as co-organisation of joint events and activities, including within the [European Forum for Science and Industry](#).

The JRC and EARTO have already been cooperating successfully. Both sides work together within the [European Technology Transfer Offices circle](#) (TTO circle), which was [launched](#) by the JRC in 2011 to strengthen Europe's ability to create innovative products and services for the market. EARTO also collaborates with the JRC's [S3 Platform](#), which assists EU countries and regions to develop, implement and review their Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation. Within the latter, EARTO contributes to the discussion on the role that Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) can play in supporting the implementation of these strategies in European regions.

Notes to Editors

For further information, please contact Muriel Attané, Secretary General, EARTO, +32 (0)2 502 86 98

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 the European trade association of the 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. [EARTO Corporate Video](#)