



EARTO Annual Report 2025

EARTO Policy Milestones 2025

Preparing the Next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034

Positioning EARTO Priorities for the next MFF:

- EARTO keeps positioning [RTOs as key RD&I actors](#), fostering favourable framework conditions, strengthening international collaboration, and ensuring access to EU funding via the work of its Executive Board, Steering Committee and Policy WGs and its regular event.
- EARTO actively contributed to the European Commission (EC)'s work on the next MFF by:
 - [advocating for securing EU investments in applied RD&I](#), after the EC's publications on EU RD&I and industrial policies: the Communication on the Competitiveness Compass and the proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034;
 - [providing recommendations on the EC's proposals for the next MFF](#), delivering comprehensive analyses that encompassed proposed amendments to the [EC Horizon Europe regulation's proposal and its specific programme](#), along with the newly announced [European Competitiveness Fund](#).

Engagement with EU Institutions:

- EARTO co-organised a [Joint European Parliament - EARTO Event on the Future of EU Investments in Critical Technologies with MEP Christian Ehler](#), gathering high-level attendees from EU Institutions, RD&I community and Industry, and held several meetings with key MEPs in view of FP10 and MFF negotiations.
- EARTO [responded to many EU public consultations](#), including on the upcoming MFF, FP10, Innovation Act, ERA Act and other key EU dossiers.
- EARTO held high-level meetings with EC Commissioners and their Cabinets as well as with various DGs Management and Services.
- EARTO actively participated in and organised [numerous Council Presidencies and policy events with high-level EU Officials](#), as well as a dedicated set of webinars on the future of EU RD&I policies under the next MFF.

Key Policy Outputs:

- EARTO published a [Joint statement with key EU RD&I stakeholders: A stronger Europe through research & innovation](#).
- EARTO was actively involved in the MFF discussions and [published several key papers and analysis](#) and participated in several key events structuring the development of the future EU Budget.
- EARTO [reacted to President von der Leyen's Speech on Future EU RD&I Investments](#) at the European Parliament Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA).

EARTO Policy Milestones 2025

Inputs to EU Policies & Programmes

EARTO continued to strongly advocate for the central role of collaborative research and RTOs in the Framework Programme for Research & Innovation, which should remain a cornerstone of Europe's innovation and industrial policy. Here, we would like to highlight few key dossiers:

Technology Infrastructures: EARTO strongly and consistently advocated for a dedicated European strategy on Technology Infrastructures (TIs), underlining the need for robust and sustained public investment. These efforts directly contributed to the launch of the European Commission's Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures (RTIs) during the R&I Days 2025 with EARTO President, as well as to the organisation of the EU Danish Presidency on TIs. The last years efforts led to the creation of a dedicated pillar for RTIs within FP10 EC Proposal, a major EARTO achievement.

EU Startups & Scaleups Strategy: EARTO emphasised the indispensable contribution of RTOs to advancing EU technological development, strengthening industrial capacity, and fostering innovation ecosystems for industry, start-ups, and scale-ups, through the launch of a dedicated RTOs' Success Stories section on its website and a targeted webinar series highlighting RTOs' impact across Europe. EARTO responded to the EC consultations on its Startups & Scaleups Strategy and established a dedicated Task Force regrouping its members' ventures to support the work of the EC DG R&I in this area. 3 EARTO experts have been appointed members in the new composition of the EIC Board.

Other EU initiatives: EARTO also actively contributed to other key EC initiatives launched in 2025, notably by responding to public consultations, including those on the European Research Area (ERA) Act, the European Innovation Act, the European Quantum Act and the revision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

EARTO Strategic Collaborations



EARTO continued its key strategic collaboration with key EU Stakeholders, notably through:

- Continued its effective collaboration [with the Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#), including via its [joint JRC-EARTO Task Force on Technology Foresight](#) and its participation in the [Technology Transfer Offices \(TTO\) Circle Board](#).
- Continued its effective collaboration [with the OECD](#), having its members provide various inputs to many of the OECD projects related to science & innovation.
- Launching a new collaboration with the [European Patent Office \(EPO\)](#), with support for the EPO's [new publication](#) on RPOs' role in patenting in Europe.
- Participation in the [European Research Area \(ERA\) Forum](#), where EARTO promoted Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) as key RD&I actors, including all relevant activities for RTOs, such as the [co-sponsorship of ERA Action 16 on "Accelerating R&I investments for Europe's industrial transformation and competitive sustainability"](#), and the organisation of a visit to imec's cleanroom for representatives of the EC and Member States.
- The establishment of a new [Task Force on Quantum Technologies](#), in support of the EC DG CONNECT for the development of an EU Strategy for Quantum Technology.
- Active engagement in the EU debate on Research Security, including the [co-organisation of the 1st EU Flagship Conference on Research Security](#).

EARTO also strengthened its cooperation with key stakeholders, continuing to work closely with major European RD&I and industrial organisations to jointly promote EU RD&I investment and collaborative RD&I. This included, notably:

- Regular meetings of its RTOs-Industry Informal Group to discuss MFF & FP10 developments with the support of BusinessEurope, DIGITALEUROPE and Orgalim.
- Joint session with ORGALIM at the EU Industry Days 2025.
- A joint statement "A Stronger Europe through Research & Innovation" with CESAER, ERT, EUA, LERU, Science Europe, & The Guild.

EARTO International Members

RTOs International Network - RIN

EARTO supported **RTOs international collaboration through high-level discussions with its 10 International Members (RIN):**

- **RIN CEOs' dinner hosted by AIST** on 5 October 2025 in parallel with the STS Forum in Kyoto, Japan
- Organised participation of its International Members in the various efforts/projects done in collaboration with the OECD
- Published the key highlights from the RIN RIN benchmarking report 2022-2024 on "[The role of RTOs in developing and fostering market & societal uptake and scale-up of critical technologies](#)"
- Welcomed a new international member: [NSTDA \(Thailand\)](#)



EARTO Network in figures



6 Working Groups: 4 Policy WGs & 2 Technology WGs
3 Task Forces active this year
Combining over 800 experts' capabilities together



Members covering now 32 countries, with 96% of Members actively involved in our Working Groups & Task Forces



Active & High-level EARTO management: Board & Steering Committee
Members comprising RTOs CEOs who combined met 8 times in 2025

EARTO Efforts in figures



20 publications

including recommendations for the next EU Budget/MFF (2028-2034)



EARTO active in 8 EU High-level Groups:

1. **DG GROW EU Industrial Forum**
2. **EISMEA I3 Expert Group**
3. **DG REGIO Dialogue with CPR partners**
4. **DG R&I Expert Group on Technology Infrastructures**
5. **European Innovation Council (EIC) Board**
6. **DG R&I Group of Chief Scientific Advisors**
7. **Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)**
8. **DG CNECT Strategic Advisory Board for the Quantum Technology Flagship**



EARTO Annual Events: Conference hosted by REDIT, October Event & Innovation Awards

EARTO Additional Events:

1. **EARTO Session at JRC-OECD CONCORDI Conference**
2. **Joint EARTO-ORGALIM Session during the EU Industry Days 2025**
3. **EARTO Participation/support to 2 EU Presidencies Events on Technology Infrastructures**
4. **EARTO Session at EU Research Security Conference**
5. **EARTO Workshop on the use of AI in RTOs**
6. **7 Webinars on RTOs' success stories, as well as on key EU developments with External Speakers**

EARTO Communication in figures



- **Held 50+ high-level meetings with EU Institutions & National Representatives and more than 30 meetings with key EU SHOs**
- **Attended 90+ external events**
- **Participated as a speaker in 25+ external events: Panels, Roundtables, Workshops, and Conferences**



X & LinkedIn EARTO accounts with around 16,000 followers and 13,000 members



240+ internal news shared on key dossiers to Board, WGs & TFs

EARTO New Members 2025

EARTO welcomed 5 new members in 2025:

1. AIRTO (United Kingdom)
2. Catapult Network (United Kingdom)
3. CRM Group (Belgium)
4. CTCV (Portugal)
5. SPRI (Spain)



EARTO Innovation Awards 2025

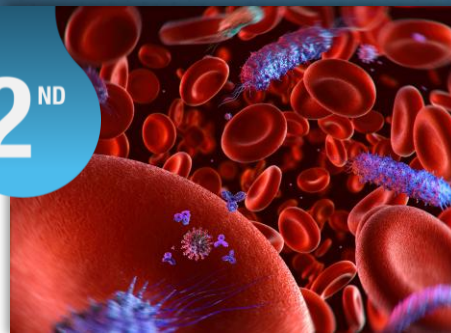
1ST



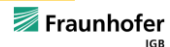
Dragonfly®



2ND



**Next-Gen Pathogen
Diagnostics**



Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering
and Biotechnology IGB

3RD



NEStore



1ST



Cryogenic CMOS



2ND



**High Fire Resistance
Board Ł-WIT**



Łukasiewicz
Wielkopolski
Instytut
Techniczny

3RD

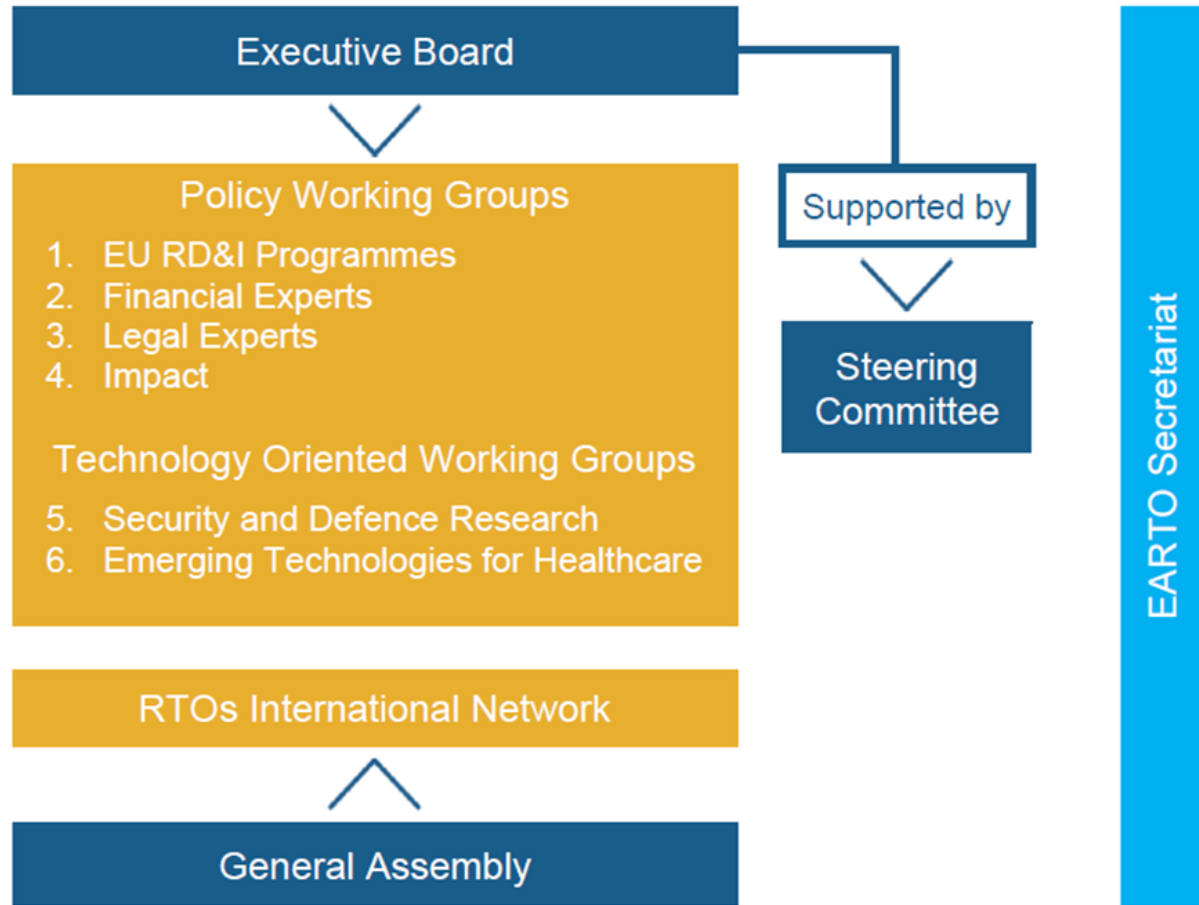


KEPsoft



EARTO Structure

EARTO Organisation



Executive Board Elections in 2025

- **New President Elected: Mr Jesús Valero, CEO, TECNALIA**
- **New VP Elected: Ms Malin Frenning, CEO, RISE**
- **New Treasurer Elected: Ms Brigitte Bach, Managing Director, AIT**

Task Forces active in 2025

- **Joint TF on Technology Foresight with JRC**
- **NEW TF on Quantum**
- **NEW TF on Startups & Scaleups**
- **Closing of TF on Corporate Sustainability**
- **Closing of TF on RIN Benchmarking**

EARTO Board 2025 (Voted at EARTO General Assembly 2025)



Jesús Valero*, President

Managing Director, TECNALIA, ES



Malin Frenning*, Vice President

CEO, RISE, SE



Brigitte Bach*, Treasurer

Managing Director – Spokesperson
of the Management Board, AIT, AT



Mathias Rauch*

General Representative of the
European Research Area,
Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, DE



Sigitas Rimkevičius

Director, LEI, LT



Olivier Guillon

CEO, LIST, LU



Rafał Łukasik

Director of Research & Innovation
Department, Łukasiewicz Research
Network, PL



Camilla Stoltenberg

CEO, NORCE, NO



Juan Farré

President & CEO, DTI, DK



Aureo Díaz-Carrasco

Executive Director, FEDIT, ES



Katherine Bennett

CEO, HVM Catapult, UK



John Rodrigues

Director, INOV, PT



Tjark Tjin-A-Tsoi*

CEO, TNO, NL



Bertrand Bouchet

Managing Director for European
Affairs, CEA, FR



Marco Alvisi

General Manager, CETMA, IT



Alexandre Pauchard

CEO, CSEM, CH



Tasos Kounoudes

CEO, SignalGeneriX, CY



William Scanlon

CEO, Tyndall, IE



Kalle Härkki

President and CEO, VTT, FI



Inge Neven

CEO, VITO, BE



Leon Cizelj

Director, Jozef Stefan Institute, SI

* Steering Committee members

EARTO WGs' Work in 2025

Working Group	Work developed
<u>WG EU RD&I Programmes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 WG meetings, in addition to numerous meetings with EC representatives • A set of webinars on the future of EU RD&I Policies in the next MFF, with high-level EU speakers • 13 papers published on RD&I-related policies, including analyses on EC's proposals on ECF and Horizon Europe
<u>WG Financial Experts</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 WG meetings, in addition to various Core Team meetings • 4 papers published analysing the financial aspects of the FPs' implementation • New Chair and Core Team Members
<u>WG Legal Experts</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 WG meetings, in addition to various meetings of the Core Team to discuss key issues • 6 papers published analysing the legal aspects of the FPs' implementation
<u>WG Impact Experts</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration with the OECD and continuous work on RTOs' data • Development of an EARTO Members' Data Platform in collaboration with ITI and EURECAT with 2 key features included: Benchmarking possibilities between RTOs & Data collection for national and regional associations
<u>Technology WG Security & Defence Research</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 WG meetings held • Organisation of the SMIG conference (500+ participants) • 5 papers were given as inputs to several civil security and defence-related topics
<u>Technology WG Healthcare</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 WG meetings, in addition to various Core Team meetings • Focus on Health R&I related topics within Horizon Europe, preparing FP10

EARTO Task Forces in 2025

Running Task Forces in 2025:

- 1. TF RIN Benchmarking:** Published key highlights from the RIN benchmarking report 2022-2024 on “The role of RTOs in developing and fostering market & societal uptake and scale-up of critical technologies”
- 2. Joint TF on Foresight with JRC:** Workshop organised including the participation of non-EARTO foresight experts to enlarge the exchange of best practices on Technology Foresight
- 3. NEW TF on Quantum:**
 - Launched to support the EC DG CONNECT in developing a technology roadmap on Quantum Technology
 - 2 workshops organized with EC DG CONNECT to exchange feedback with the EC on the Quantum Strategy towards the preparation of the EU Quantum Act
 - 1 event organized in the frame of the European Quantum Technologies Conference (EQTC) 2025
- 4. NEW TF on Startups & Scaleups:**
 - Launched to support the EC DG RTD Task Force on Startups and Scaleups in developing the EU Innovation Act
 - 1st TF meeting organised in 2025 with the EC DG RTD, EC DG JRC and EPO

Interested in EARTO Membership?

EARTO Services to its Members

- **Central point of contact:** EARTO Secretariat based in Brussels
- **Targeted information** on the development of future EU Research & Innovation funding programmes and procedures
- **A platform for discussion** and exchange of best practices for RTOs
- **A strong network** with the relevant European Institutions and Stakeholders
- Support and/or initiate **common positions** on key EU dossiers
- **Additional public exposure** of its members

EARTO Membership Categories

Interested in more information? Please contact [EARTO Secretariat](#).

Our Membership Categories follow our statutes:

- **Category 1 – Full European Members**
 - 1.1. Individual Full European Members
 - 1.2. Association Full European Members
- **Category 2 – International Members (Corresponding)**
 - 2.1. Individual International Members
 - 2.2. Association International Members
- **Category 3 – Associated Members**

For more details on those categories, please see our [website](#).



Contact details

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