

Preparation State-Aids Rules Revision 2021 & EU Strategy on Technology Infrastructures: Legal Definition of Technology Infrastructures

15 October 2020

Text suggested by the EC to Member States via the Horizon European Shadow Programme Committee on Research Infrastructures:

In preparation of the next HE Shadow Programme Committee on Research Infrastructures, DG R&I sent the following text for comments to Member States:

Technology infrastructure' means facilities and resources, such as test beds, pilot lines, demonstrators, testing facilities or living labs, and related services, that are used predominantly by undertakings to develop, test and upscale technology that has been validated in a laboratory environment, including its first industrial deployment prior to mass production; access to these infrastructures is open to several users. (NB: Formulation still subject to discussions)

The discussions about the legal definition are led by RTD.F.1 and COMP.H.2. Further input will be provided by the EC Inter-Service Group on Technology Infrastructures that is about to be created. The ISG TI will be co-chaired by DGs RTD, GROW, and CNECT.

Text suggested by EARTO:

In line with the wording in [EARTO Recommendations](#), the following wordings is suggested to the EC Inter-Service Group on Technology Infrastructures that EARTO believes is more complete:

'Technology infrastructure' means facilities and resources, used either for technology development activities at intermediate TRLs or for testing and demonstration activities at higher TRL or for both activities:

- *Technology development activities at intermediate TRLs, include activities to develop technologies via:
 - *Own internal technology development projects carried out by research performing organisations,*
 - *Collaborative RDI projects between research performing organisations and universities, often together with industry.*
 - *Collaborative RD&I projects partly or fully funded by industry.**
- *Testing and demonstration activities at higher TRL include activities to test, demonstrate and upscale technologies in industrially relevant environment, including the first industrial deployment prior to mass production: test beds, pilot lines, etc.*

Access to these infrastructures is open to a variety of users including:

- *Public organisations such as research performing organisations, universities, and public authorities.*
- *Private users such as private companies including SMEs.*

This allows companies to lower the risk before market introduction and to get ideas and concepts faster to the market, while enhancing research organizations own knowledge and skills, in the Public Interest. Technology infrastructures typically operate in research and innovation ecosystems together with other actors such as universities, companies and public (incl. regional) authorities.