

## **EARTO Press Release on EARTO-EPO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

10 June 2026

**The European Patent Office (EPO) and EARTO have agreed on a new framework for co-operation through the signature of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed in Brussels on the margins of the EARTO Annual Conference.**

This new MoU demonstrates the [EPO](#) and [EARTO](#)'s shared commitment to:

- Considering the value and importance of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in general, and patents in particular (industrial property), for the development of the economy and the promotion of innovation,
- Recognising the essential role played by knowledge and technology transfer and IP commercialisation in supporting innovation,
- Noting the importance of co-operation and the exchange of information related to outreach, awareness and educational programmes in the areas of patents and IPRs, knowledge and technology transfer, as well as IP commercialisation.

This MoU establishes a structured EPO–EARTO dialogue to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations. RTOs have a vital role to play in boosting Europe’s competitiveness: this new collaboration aims at supporting them in unlocking their full potential using data, analysis, and training capabilities available at the EPO.

Speaking at the EARTO Annual Conference today, EPO Chief Patent Research and Policy Officer Gilles Requena highlighted how patent intelligence can help Europe’s research and technology organisations turn scientific and technological strengths into market-ready innovation. He emphasised the important role of RTOs and technology transfer in bringing research results closer to industry and society and underlined how the EPO Observatory on Patents and Technology is working to make this role more visible. Through the Observatory, the EPO provides insights and tools that help researchers, policymakers, start-ups and innovation intermediaries better understand technology trends and the role of patents in innovation.

- **Learn more about the EPO Observatory on Patents and Technology [here](#).**
- **See the latest work of the EPO on public research organisations [here](#):** the latest study from the European Patent Office (EPO) Observatory on Patents and Technology shows that patent applications from public research organisations almost doubled over the last two decades.

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### **EARTO - European Association of Research and Technology Organisations**

*Founded in 1999, EARTO promotes RTOs and represents their interest in Europe. EARTO network counts over 350 RTOs in more than 32 countries. EARTO members represent 228,000 highly-skilled researchers and engineers managing a wide range of innovation infrastructures.*

### **RTOs - Research and Technology Organisations**

*From the lab to your everyday life. RTOs innovate to improve your health and well-being, your safety and security, your mobility and connectivity. RTOs’ technologies cover all scientific fields. Their work ranges from basic research to new products and services’ development. RTOs are non-profit organisations whose core mission is to produce, combine and bridge various types of knowledge, skills and infrastructures to deliver a range of research and development activities in collaboration with public and industrial partners of all sizes. These activities aim to result in technological and social innovations and system solutions that contribute to and mutually reinforce their economic, societal and policy impacts.*

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