

EARTO Press Release

A Milestone for Europe's Industrial Competitiveness: The New EU Strategy on Research & Technology Infrastructures

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EARTO warmly welcomes the European Commission's newly published [strategy](#) on Research and Technology Infrastructures (RTIs), marking a pivotal moment for Europe's RD&I ecosystem: it recognises the indispensable role of Technology Infrastructures (TIs) in bridging the gap between scientific research and industrial deployment.

"This announcement is a major step forward for Europe: Technology Infrastructures are where technology scaling-up becomes reality. They are strategic assets that empower Europe's industrial renewal and transformation, supporting industries' green and digital transitions, and ultimately creating high-quality jobs," said Jesús Valero, President of EARTO and Managing Director of [TECNALIA](#), in the panel session on "Research and Technology Infrastructures as catalysts for European Startup and Scaleup" at the [European Research & Innovation Days](#).

Why RTIs Matter?

Europe's strength depends on a well-connected and resilient ecosystem of RTIs. These infrastructures unite a wide range of facilities, expertise, and stakeholders - including Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) - across regions and sectors to support the entire RD&I continuum. When effectively integrated, they accelerate the transformation of scientific breakthroughs into industrial products and services, reinforcing EU's global competitiveness.

Within our RD&I ecosystem, Research Infrastructures are primarily focused on advancing scientific knowledge through long-term exploration. Technology Infrastructures, by contrast, are designed to bring technologies closer to market. They offer the critical environments where companies, especially SMEs, can test, validate, and scale up innovations. TIs are not just support structures; they are strategic enablers of Europe's industrial leadership, green and digital transitions, and job creation. **Without a strong and coherent Research & Technology Infrastructures ecosystem, Europe will fall further behind in the global tech race.**

Strategic Investments in Technology Infrastructures in next MFF

The new EC strategy on RTIs marks a turning point in how these infrastructures will be reinforced and coordinated across Europe. It will set out a framework for improving access, fostering collaboration between public and private actors, and enhancing integration across national and regional systems. Crucially, it recognises the unique operational role of RTOs in connecting research with industrial application and scaling-up. Looking ahead, Europe must make a bold and sustained commitment to investing in RTIs.

In this context, we see great advances in the current European Commission's [proposal](#) for the next EU Framework Programme: EARTO very much welcomes the proposal for a new RTIs programme. However, the currently proposed budget of 10.9 billion Euro to cover both type of infrastructures, research and technology ones, is too low. In the recently published [European Investment Bank \(EIB\) study](#) on Technology Infrastructures, the funding needs for Europe only for TIs is already estimated between €13 to €16 billion. Accordingly, EARTO calls on the EU Institutions to increase the budget of the future RTIs programmes to match current needs. Furthermore, effective collaboration and programming between the future TIs programme, the European Competitiveness Fund with its 4 sectorial windows and the Pillar II of Horizon Europe 2.0 should be further orchestrated to ensure a coherent set of investments aiming to create a strong, resilient, and leading-edge techno industrial base.

EARTO stands ready to support the implementation of the new EC strategy on RTIs and calls on EU Institutions to continue join forces in building a coherent, well-funded, and impactful RTIs' ecosystem by mobilising strategic long-term investments in our tech capabilities within the next MFF.

- Read all EARTO papers related to TIs [here](#).

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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