

EARTO Press Release

EC MFF Proposal: Opening Negotiations with An Increased RD&I Budget

3 May 2018

EARTO has taken note of the European Commission proposal for a Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2021-2027 that has been published yesterday. This was eagerly awaited, as the MFF sets up the budget for the next RD&I Framework Programme (Horizon Europe). The MFF proposal sets up a €97.6 billion budget for Horizon Europe to continue to “*promote research excellence and strengthen the focus on innovation*” and an additional €2.4 billion for Euratom which was also counted separately from Horizon 2020 budget. This is a 27% increase compared to the €77 billion of Horizon 2020 in current prices. However, if assuming an inflation of 2% per year, the €97.6 billion figure falls to €86.6 billion in 2018 prices, this would mean a 12% increase. The €97.6 billion budget figure also refers to “commitments”, when actual payments figures are generally lower. Difficult today to make proper comparison with available figures.

As already stated, EARTO is strongly supporting a significant increased budget for Research & Innovation under the next MFF. As mentioned in the EC MFF proposal, “*Europe’s future prosperity depends on the investment decisions we take today*”. The [OECD](#) and an [EC Report](#) showed that investing in RD&I makes the difference: enhancing productivity, boosting industrial competitiveness, solving societal challenges, maximising impact on citizens’ everyday lives. Now Member States and the European Parliament must take action and truly invest in RD&I as key priority for Europe’s future. We can only urge the [European Parliament](#) to stand strong on its €120 billion figure and the Member States to be more ambitious towards spending 3% of EU GDP in RD&I during the coming negotiation period.

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 with public missions to support society. To do so, they closely cooperate with industries, large and small, as well as a wide array of public actors.

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 20 countries. EARTO members represent 150.000 highly-skilled researchers and engineers managing a wide range of innovation infrastructures.

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