

EARTO Recommendations on EC Proposal for a Horizon Europe Programme with High Impact

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The crucial role of Research, Development, and Innovation (RD&I) activities to support and boost industrial leadership is now at the heart of the renewed European Industrial Policy Strategy with the ultimate goals to benefit society. Europe's future competitiveness and the sustainability of the European social model largely depend on RD&I: two-thirds of economic growth in Europe derives today from RD&I. RD&I investments are the key drivers of the technological developments at the basis of many impactful innovations for society. Today, European Leaders and Policy Makers have the chance to define Europe's Future: delivering on our key societal challenges, boosting job creation and growth in Europe, strengthening our competitiveness for Europe to remain a strong player on the global scale. To achieve such goals, our technological capabilities are the decisive strategic factor: investing in Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) makes the difference. Accordingly, EARTO and its members put forward a key set of recommendations to support the elaboration of what needs to be recognised as one of the key European policy of the future: Horizon Europe Programme (HEU).

EARTO and its members very much welcome the European Commission (EC)'s proposal for Horizon Europe and congratulate the EC services for the extensive work performed to set up such proposal. The EC proposal is in continuity with Horizon 2020 and builds on the successes of the previous Framework Programmes (FPs).

To strengthen the EC proposal, EARTO calls on the European Parliament and the Council to:

- **Scale-up Horizon Europe's overall budget to at least €120bn**, which is the bare minimum amount needed to ensure continuity, build on the successes of Horizon 2020 and scale up previous investments, while at the same time covering new activities such as a mission-oriented approach, the funding of the new Key Enabling Technologies, the creation of new Public Private Partnerships in crucial sectors, or the extra R&I activities in the food and agriculture cluster (i.e. budget cuts in the Common Agriculture Policy).
- **Reinforce excellent cross-border multi-disciplinary collaborative applied RD&I by strengthening the budget share of HEU Pillar II to 60% of the total HEU budget.** The strongest aspect of the EU Framework Programme is its focus on excellence and cross-border multi-disciplinary collaboration across a variety of RD&I actors. It is an indispensable element to build long-term trust-based partnerships between RD&I actors, having impact on job creation and economic growth.
- **Promote European Industries' competitiveness as key objective for HEU, especially in the clusters of Pillar II.** HEU needs to maximise the participation of industries of all sizes to strengthen Europe's RD&I ecosystems and value chains allowing our industries to 1) better absorb and scale up mature technologies into new solutions, products and services, maximising impact for society as well as 2) better face today's challenges in terms of digitalisation, sustainability, etc.
- **Strengthen and secure the role of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) under Pillar II by ring-fencing their budget.** Supporting the development of such technologies at the forefront of RD&I is crucial for Europe to be able to keep on top of the innovation race with third countries and safeguard our economic growth and employment.
- **Support the continuity of public private partnerships, as efficient instruments for excellent industry-led collaborative research in Europe.** If Europe wants to continue building on the previous investments made both by the public and private sector, evolution is needed rather than revolution.
- **Preserve continuity in FPs' rules for participation, while continuing the efforts towards simplification**, with the aim of continuously improving the management and efficiency of the FP.
- **Foster a more balanced approach between Open Science and Intellectual Property (IP)'s policies:** IPs play a key role in innovation and fostering knowledge transfer.
- **Welcome the EIC Pathfinder instrument** as a supporting instrument for European deep-tech start-ups.
- **Welcome the efforts undertaken to foster the synergy of funds between programmes.** In the EC regulation proposal for the ERDF & Cohesion Funds, the provision, which enables Member States to transfer up to 5% of their financial allocations from any of the funds to any other fund under shared management or to any instrument under direct or indirect management (such as HEU), is a key advancement in joint programming and synergy of funds (Article 21).

EARTO remains of course ready to further discuss these recommendations with the European Institutions' representatives. To this extend, EARTO has made a detailed analysis of the HEU Basic Acts as proposed by the European Commission.

For more information please see the following documents:

- [EARTO Analysis of EC Proposal – Regulation establishing Horizon Europe & its Rules for Participation](#)
- [EARTO Analysis of EC Proposal - Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe](#)

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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