

## **RTOs International Network (RIN) Joint Statement - RTOs as decisive vehicles to drive international collaboration on RD&I –**

10 March 2021

Sixteen leading Research & Technology Organisations (RTOs) globally, namely [A\\*STAR - Agency for Science Technology and Research](#) (Singapore), [AIST - National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology](#) (Japan), [CSIRO - Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation](#) (Australia), [CEA](#) (France), [DTI – Danish Technological Institute](#) (Denmark), [Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft](#) (Germany), [IPT](#) (Brazil), [ITRI - Industrial Technology Research Institute](#) (Taiwan), [NRC - National Research Council](#) (Canada), [NSTDA - National Science and Technology Development Agency](#) (Thailand), [NST - National Research Council of Science and Technology](#) (South Korea), [RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB](#) (Sweden), [SINTEF](#) (Norway), [TECNALIA](#) (Spain), [TNO](#) (The Netherlands), [VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland](#) (Finland) supported by [EARTO](#), note the importance of strengthening international collaboration on research, development and innovation (RD&I) in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current situation worldwide has shown the significant role of RD&I and the utmost importance of RTOs to combat this new health crisis and alleviate its socio-economic impact. RTOs have put in place initiatives and programmes to support collaborative research and share best practices. As key RD&I actors, RTOs around the globe have been and will continue to work on initiatives to address the pandemic such as: supporting healthcare capabilities, upgrading national manufacturing capabilities of strategic importance, quality testing and distributing key medical supplies and equipment and supporting the pharmaceutical development of testing and diagnosis, new treatments, and vaccines. An important enabler is the RTOs' role in helping to define challenges, facilitate cooperation and mobilize national RD&I ecosystems to develop solutions, working also with international partners and leveraging international collaboration platforms (e.g. EUREKA and Horizon Europe). These actions are vital for all governments in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting national recovery plans and policy measures.

Networks such as RIN facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices worldwide. It is clearer now that international collaboration amplifies RTOs' efforts to support their respective economies and societies through and out of this crisis. While the pandemic has impacted international RD&I collaboration with restrictions and reprioritization of resources, RTOs' work continues and remains resilient through the ongoing maintenance of international collaborative efforts. The RTOs International Network (RIN)'s members, as leading RTOs with shared pandemic experiences, are moving towards enhanced collaboration on RD&I topics that address significant challenges for the future global recovery (health, digitalisation, green transition, etc.). Supported by their advanced digital tools and data analysis capabilities and building on previous pandemics' works (SARS or COVID-19), RIN members are working with their partners to collectively prepare for future crises.

While the global technological race accelerates, the world needs to explore and develop new ways of international collaboration, improving the conditions of conducting RD&I and ensuring the right balance between countries' autonomy and the necessity of continuing and accelerating joint efforts to co-create knowledge and technology. By leveraging industrial RD&I investments, strengthening industrial, academic, and governmental involvement through multilateral collaboration, and assisting local SMEs and start-ups to engage in international supply chains, RTOs are catalysts of collaborative research worldwide which will underpin economic recovery and growth as well as efforts to tackle societal challenges. RIN members will continue to move forward together to support economic recovery, and contribute to the future of RD&I.

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**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.*

**RIN – RTOs International Network:** *Founded in 2019, administrated by EARTO, RIN regroups the largest RTOs worldwide.*