AERTO´s HR Network meeting in
6 June 2014
VTT, Helsinki / Espoo
Kadija Taffah
EARTO - European Association of Research and Technology Organisations

- **RTOs**: Research Providers, Non-profit & Independent
- **Association**: Voice of RTOs in Europe since 1999
- **Vision**: Technology for a Better World
- **Moto**: Impact Delivered!

350+ EARTO members

- 100,000+ Number of companies, predominantly SMEs, supported by the RTO sector every year
- 1/3 RTOs account for about one-third of EU Framework Programme spending
- 23 billion Yearly turnover of the European RTO sector
- €40 billion RTOs' total economic impact. This rises to over €100 billion when taking longer term spillover effects into account
Our Vision & Mission

Impact Delivered: Technology for a Better World!

Mission:
1. Promote & defend the interests of RTOs in Europe
2. Reinforce RTOs profile & position as key players in the minds of EU decision-makers
3. Ensure that European R&I programmes are best attuned to RTOs interests
Our Members: Research and Technology Organisations

- 350 Large & Small RTOs and National Associations of RTOs in 23 countries
- Working across the whole innovation chain
- Over 150,000 researchers, engineers and technicians
- Annual turnover of EUR23 billion
- Basic & applied research, knowledge transfer, technological consultancy, training, etc.
EARTO Services

- **Central point of contact:** EARTO Secretariat based in Brussels
- **Targeted information** on the development of future EU Research & Innovation funding programmes and procedures
- **A platform for discussion** and exchange of best practices for RTOs
- **A strong network** with the relevant European Institutions and stakeholders
- **Support and/or initiate common positions on key EU dossiers**
- **Additional public exposure of its members**
Overview Current Working Groups

**Strategic WGs:**
1. WG Financial Experts
2. WG Legal Experts
3. WG Structural Funds
4. WG Working with SMEs

Temporary WG TRLs Scale Reading: work finalised!
Temporary WG RTOs Positioning in EU

**Exchange of best practices/TOOLS:**
6. WG Communication
7. WG Horizon 2020
8. WG HR

Yellow = no activity at this stage
Next challenges for WGs:

- Fix the Chair & Secretary for all WGs so we keep momentum with active core groups: may need time to fix WG interest before finding someone for some of the WG.

- Efforts spent should keep having outputs: keep being output oriented over time & ask outputs according to EARTO strategy fixed by Board & Steering Committee.
Last meeting: 12 March - information session with EC/Unit Audits on LRI Scheme (35 participants/16 EARTO members interested by LRI scheme)

Last meeting: in Vienna on 8 May

WG Core Group compiled questions sent in advance to EC by core group using inputs from all WG members

Key topic is LRI Scheme: definition LRI, ex-ante assessment procedure

Next Steps:
- Sharing information on status/results of LRI applications
- Option: 2nd information session with EC/Unit Audits on LRI Scheme in Q3/2014 sharing financial issues after first proposals
 WG Legal Experts

- Last meeting: 13 January 2014
- WG Core Group:
  - Matti Karhunen VTT (Chair)
  - Secretaries: TNO fixing interest, FhG no answer yet

- 3 EC consultations linked to State Aid answered in February:
  - EC Consultation on GBER
  - EC Consultation on RDI Framework
  - Answer to EC Consultation on State Aid to promote Projects of Common European Interest
  - Final Outcomes pending

- Possible topics of interest:
  - EC Model Consortium Agreement being developed by DLA Piper
  - DG RTD Study: State Aid for R&D&I in EU’s competitors countries
WG Structural Funds

• 1st Meeting: 20 March 2014
• Last meeting: 15 May 2014

• WG Core Group: Tecnalia is the chair and co-chair is TWI

• Key Topics:
  ➢ Synergies SF & Horizon 2020
  ➢ Smart Specialization Strategies
  ➢ Challenges & practicalities on setting up projects under SF

• Next Steps:
  ➢ Send feedback on EC Guide for Synergies SF & H2020
  ➢ Look into issue: combining SF & H2020 as a selection criterion for H2020 proposals
  ➢ Continue collaboration with ERRIN (regions network)
WG Working with SMEs

- Last meeting: 20 March 2014
- Next meeting: 17 June 2014
- WG Core Group not yet fixed, asked for interest
- Key topics:
  - Get best access to EU Instruments for SME
  - Exchange information on RTOs policy for working with SMEs & provide best practices to EC
- Next Steps:
  - Continue to exchange information & experiences on 1st calls SME instrument in H2020
  - Check additional EU programmes: EUROSTAR2
  - Continue discussions with subgroup SME policy with EC Unit SME (Steve Rogers)
Intensive work in last 2 months: flexible & output oriented expert group setting very efficient

Work Finalised: Paper published!

Next Steps:
- Presentation of paper at EARTO Conference
- Widely circulated, good feedback so far!
WG on Horizon 2020

- Last meeting: 4 February 2014
- Next meeting: 19 June 2014

- WG managed by Secretariat

- Topics:
  - Get best access to H2020 funding
  - Exchange information on EU developments & discuss with EC (3 officials attended Feb meeting, 3 invited for June)

- Next Steps:
  - Collect feedback & experiences in 1st calls: see what can be transferred to EC (offer to make joint event with IGLO)
  - Comments on participant portal: WG experts invited by EC to give direct feedback
WG Communication

• Last meeting: 8 May 2014
• Next meeting: 16 October 2014

• WG Chairwoman: Esther van Zeggeren TNO

• Topics:
  • Supporting EARTO with Communication efforts & strategy, including sharing contents with EARTO Offices
  • Exchange information on Communication tools

• Next Steps:
  • Support preparation of October events (Annual Conference, Innovation Prize) & making Impact Delivered brochure and Members Guide
WG Human Resources

- To be launched & enlarged on basis of AERTOs Human Resources Directors who will meet on 6 June 2014
- Next AERTOs meeting: 4-6 June 2014
- Possible new WG meeting: 16 October
- Topics:
  - Exchange of best practices researchers career development.
  - Follow-up AERTOs mentoring programme test & see for wider implementation
  - Link up to ERA HR related issues: mobility of researchers, carriers development, gender, EU pension scheme for researchers, etc.
- Next Steps:
  - Researcher’s mobility: concept note about the three pillars of EU-mobility support
  - Mentoring Programme: Results presentation and programme evaluation
New Activity - Network of EARTO Members’ EU Brussels Offices

Launched end March 2014:

- 7 EARTO members located in Brussels: ACCIO, CEA, ECN, EURAC, Fraunhofer, TNO, RISE
- Informal one-hour lunch at EARTO Offices
- Chaired by EARTO Secretariat/Talita to exchange latest information/news
- Target group: RTOs Brussels Staff
- 2nd meeting 22 May
EARTO WGs Connected

Approach taken so far to make connection with other actors on:

- Working dossiers & issues we have
- Surveillance on policy dossiers for the future
- Using our events to show a “Connected EARTO”

What we did:
1. **Directly** Secretariat: Some use in ERA SHO platform here
2. **Via the WGs making connection with EC & other EU networks**

### WG Connections

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WG RTOs Positioning

“BE YOURSELF
EVERYONE ELSE IS ALREADY TAKEN.”
OSCAR WILDE
Horizon 2020 – Timeline

2013/2014/2015

- Launch of 1st calls H2020
- Elections EP + EC
- End evaluation of 1st calls
- New Commission President + Commissioners
  New MEPs + assistants
- Ex-post evaluation of FP7
- Reshuffle of DGs according to elections

11 Dec 2013
May 2014
summer 2014
Nov/Dec 2014
2015

H2020 Interim evaluation process starts: organise feedback on H2020 (good/bad) + have EARTO own views ready to be pushed in early 2016

2016/2023: H2020 Interim & Ex-Post Evaluation Process

- EARTO pre-review interim report
- EC Expert Panel appointed (check for RTOs)
- EC Expert Panel publishes Interim Evaluation of H2020 – European Parliament can react
- EP rapporteur appointed
- EP publishes its response
- Horizon 2020 ex-post evaluation

1st trimester 2016
spring 2016
Nov/Dec 2016
Dec 2016
June 2017
2023

Expert Panel to launch consultation of H2020 beneficiaries
EARTO to send contribution to EP/set up meetings
EARTO members should be consulted
**EARTO Events – Timeline**

**2014**
- 4 Feb: WG H2020
- 8-9 May: Vienna - Annual Conf: RTOs vs Industry, inputs for EU industrial /R&I policy
- End March/April: Luxembourg

**2015**
- EARTO strategy discussion: Preparing inputs mid-term review + Annual Conf with EIRMA
- End March/April: Netherlands? Dutch EU Presidency

**2016**
- EARTO internal discussion: + Annual Conf: key messages for mid-term review
- Afternoon event: Topic TBD/network with new EC & MEPs + Dinner Innovation Prize + WG meeting on 16 Oct? Oct - Brussels

**2015-2016**
- 15-16 Oct: Brussels - Afternoon event: Topic TBD + Dinner Innovation Prize showcasing RTOs + WG meeting?
ERA Priorities:

- More effective national research systems
- Optimal transnational cooperation and competition
- An open labour market for researchers
- Gender equality and mainstreaming in research
- Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge including via digital ERA
EARTO following ERA Doer’s Network

1. **SHOs Stakeholders Platform**: Innovation Convention with 2 EARTO speakers
2. **Doer’s network on Open Access**: no action, discussion with EC done on pilot DG CONNECT
3. **Doer’s network on Research Infrastructures**: Waiting for new draft, so far comments taken on board
4. **Doer’s network on Monitoring**: ERA survey filled, trying to have RTOs as one category under RPOs heading where we are mixed with Universities
   1. Discussion on week 21 May on survey results & reading of results to have on chapter on RTOs
5. **Doer’s network on Communication**: 1 newsletter
6. **Doer’s network on Gender Issues**: No action on our side
EARTO Annual Conference, 
Vienna, May 8-9, 2014 
„How Can RTOs Support the Re-industrialisation in Europe?”

- 185 participants
- Keynotes by Mr Johannes Hahn, the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Mr Robert-Jan Smits, the Director General for Research & Innovation
- Parallel/practical sessions on: Energy & Processing in manufacturing, Microelectronics, Green Technologies, Globalization R&D, Funding Innovation
Other Meetings in Vienna

• **Morning Day 1 - meetings in parallel:**
  1. Board: selection of topics
  2. WG Financial Experts
  3. WG Communication

• **Morning Day 2 General Assembly Meeting:**
  - Report on WGs & getting feedback on Secretariat Work Plan 2014
  - Annual Report 2013
EARTO Innovation Prize 2014

• 18 applications received from 10 different members
• EARTO Innovation Prize Task Force Members:
  – de Haan TNO, Andreasson SP, Saarvaranta VTT, Neugebauer
    Fraunhofer, Langseth SINTEF, Jäger ACR
  – Pre-selection on 2nd of April : 5 innovations shortlisted
• External Jury 25th April
  ➢ Allyson Reed, Leopold Demiddeleer, Richard
    Hudson, Christopher Hull, Clara de la Torre,
    Hans-Jörg Bullinger, Jan-Eric Sundgren
• Ceremony on 15 October @BELvue 18:15
• Link it to other EARTO meetings:
  ➢ 15/10 EXB @BIP from 10:00-14:30
  ➢ 15/10 Policy Event @BIP from 15:30-18:15
  ➢ 16/10 WGs meetings (place to be confirmed) from 9:00-14:30
• Coupled to Innovation Prize to attract more members:
  – +150 registered
  – Just before, other side of the street

• Agenda/Topic to be discussed
ERATO Services to HR WG

The EARTO secretariat can serve in the following ways:

- Organize info-days or “info-sessions” with European Commission officials on policy topics of interest to you, such as mobility, pension schemes, etc...

- Attract more members to enhance collaboration and exchange of valuable experience

- Advertise the achievements the group

- Follow where RTOs stand in the ERA priorities (gender, career development, etc...)
Questions

- How do you see evolution of this WG?
- What would you expect from EARTO?
Thank you for your attention!

EARTO Group on LinkedIn: “Horizon 2020 – News and Views”

EARTO Twitter account: @EARTOBruussels