

# Feedback from the WP7 Liaison Group

## May 26, 2023

### General forward

- most of innovation-related activities are now being carried out by regional teams, i.e. Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR), and ETICS in Italy, as they have by far the largest amount of funds available

### Innovation plan(s)

- there are three different activities to be considered when talking about innovation which can produce different types of "innovation plans":
  1. the most important (and urgent) one now is the preparation of one or more documents on innovation, which will be part of the set of documents to be submitted to the ministries for the approval of ET;
    - there is currently no established plan with a schedule, nor a defined list of the documents to be submitted;
    - the ETO will ask the ET-PP WPs to put some effort into preparing such documents;
      - for WP7 this would represent an additional effort w.r.t. the the task originally included in the proposal
  2. then there could be an activity to plan actions for the future
  3. and there can be coordination work to be done to ensure that R&D activities will support innovation

### ETO and its evolution: ETO+, ETO++

- the ETO is already operational and it will be the international entity dealing with all the relevant aspects of the project;
  - it is being implemented on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement and it will have funds available
    - however a very good case should be made for being able to earmark ETO funds for innovation, as there is already a lot of money available for that purpose in the regional teams;
  - the ETO may evolve into an interim legal entity (ETO+) and, will eventually mutate into the ET future (final) legal entity (ETO++)

### ETO and the ET collaboration

- the ET collaboration is now starting a survey to find out who is doing what in terms of R&D activities;
- ET requirements for each system and related R&D objectives will then need to be defined and the progress towards completion carefully monitored
  - for R&D activities related to infrastructure aspects (e.g.: civil engineering, vacuum system, etc.) this will be done by the ETO

- for the rest, it is not clear at the moment: the boundary between the ETO and the collaboration will have to be defined: it would be advisable to have some degree of central coordination by the ETO, but this is something that needs to be discussed and agreed upon;
- it is also felt that the collaboration may not have the means to fully steer the R&D efforts, since, as mentioned above, the regional teams receive their funding in an independent way; the ETO, being backed by governments, should have the funding and the tools to foster a coordinated and prioritized approach for R&D activities;
- in particular, the ETO can play an important role in addressing some related issues, such as ensuring that innovation and sustainability are addressed. 2;

### **Industrial cooperation in R&D and participation in the final tenders**

- another aspect, that needs to be proactively addressed, is the definition of a regulatory framework and related procedures to ensure that companies that get involved in the R&D activities that generate innovation, can participate in tenders in the production phase and that the exploitation of the IP is properly managed
- this is a complex issue, since R&D contracts and production contracts may be issued by different bodies, which are obliged to follow different national, European or autonomous rules.
- however one should at least start planning the necessary actions to address this issue.

### **Innovation in the ETO++ era**

- although R&D activities in the ET community will never cease, as there will always be a push to improve performance for extending the scientific reach, it is unlikely that the lab(s) hosting ET will play a major role in carrying them out;
- most of the R&D after ET is built will most likely be done by the R.I. working on ET, not by the central lab(s) managed by ETO++;
- however, it would surely be more efficient if some coordination were provided by ETO++;
  - even if funding is obtained at national or regional level, there should at least be an exchange of information to avoid duplication of efforts or leaving some areas uncovered;
- coordination would certainly also be beneficial in order to optimize the efforts for the exploitation of the generated innovation.