

EDRIN highly welcomes the scope and the focus of the Action Plan on Synergies

The Action Plan on Synergies is very much welcomed by EDRIN. The combination of a more capability-driven approach combined with an “over the horizon perspective” is of vital importance for the success of security, defence, and space programs. The ability and willingness to create a more holistic, thus new ecosystem among three existing programs and their linkage with the EU Green Deal and Shaping Europe’s digital future initiatives, has the potential to boost the direct success of all these programs. At the same time, other areas of research and industrial activities can be sparked by the success of the “Three Point Belt plan”.

The vision of the EDRIN members covers three areas, namely:

- Actions aimed at the exchange of knowledge and technology and creating synergies across the three areas mentioned in the Three Point Belt plan, defence, security and space. Participation of Start-ups and SMEs is a vital element for maximising and synergies.
- Actions aimed at establishing new consultation forums and / or institutions.
- Actions proposed by the Commission that are directly related to national policies and priorities.

EDRIN's position and engagement to achieve these actions :

Creating synergy and cooperation with Start-ups and SMEs

EDRIN welcomes the Commission’s initiative to stimulate synergies across Security and Space programs. Drawing direct links to and pull relevant expertise from all civilian technology areas is one of EDRIN’s major strengths and priorities.

EDRIN endorses the importance of the involvement of start-ups and SMEs in EU programs. This group of entrepreneurs makes an important contribution to the economy and contributes with innovative solutions to a society that continues to develop. However, their strategic focus tends to be on a rather national, often even regional level. Thus, helping them to get access to EU programs is to unlock a big potential to opening up the European market for these players. Associating start-ups, SMEs and RTOs is a great key for this unlocking. All EDRIN members have extensive experience with European programs and the transfer of research results into development programs.

Furthermore, RTOs have (test) facilities and instruments that start-ups and SMEs lack. Collaboration with RTOs provides access to those facilities by start-ups and SMEs without high investment costs. EDRIN could function as a bridging platform to support the design and roll-out of various networking activities among start-ups, SMEs and RTOs in the foreseen time frame. The use of existing facilities could be combined with (regional) innovation incubators. EDRIN members often already have a relationship with national innovation incubators and offer to support the Commission in setting up a European network of innovation incubators, where possible with directly related to other (regional) cooperative structures.

Establishing new consultation forums and / or institutions

Deeply involved in supporting European industry strategic autonomy, EDRIN members highly welcome the ideas of roadmaps addressing critical technologies. At the national level, EDRIN members, together with industries and governmental agencies are already involved in programs to identify critical technologies and actions to overcome gaps and retain a certain level of autonomy. An Observatory for Critical Technologies and the European Innovation Council could have an important role if it is able to integrate already existing technology roadmaps, or tools such as those developed by such organizations as EDA, ESA or JRC. EDRIN members offer their experiences and methodologies to identify critical technologies, follow their development over the years and prioritization and impartial roadmap development.

Actions directly related to national policies and priorities.

With its strong ties in the Defence sector EDRIN acknowledges the added value of instruments like the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and a Capability Driven Approach (CDA). Like in the Defence sector, a direct involvement of national security authorities is needed to setup the framework for research and development topics. With its experience and instruments EDRIN offers to support prioritisation of research and development actions with a framework agreed by the EU members in similar way as done with support of the EDA in CARDS and CDP.