

Independent experts find the European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) well-managed and integrated – a successful public-public partnership

EURAMET, the Association of National Metrology Institutes (NMI) in Europe, welcomes the publication of a European Commission report assessing the achievements of the European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP). The Programme aims to integrate metrology research to target society's grand challenges such as energy, industry, environment and health.

The new report highlights the importance of measurement to our daily lives and the urgent need for a programme like the EMRP to pool together metrology research excellence from the four corners of Europe. It concludes that the EMRP has successfully changed the way that metrology research is conducted to better meet the needs of EU citizens.

Since the Programme began in 2009, EURAMET has worked towards increasingly integrating the national funding for metrology research in 22 countries, awarding funding of over 200 M€ to 60 joint research projects, engaging over 1000 NMI researchers across Europe. In addition, some 80 extra individual researchers have been recruited from the wider scientific community introducing specific excellence.

Each project in the EMRP addresses an area where improved measurements can have as large an impact as possible on European society. These impacts range from the creation of initial measurement standards for emerging technologies on the cusp of realisation, such as quantum communications, to the provision of new tools for more traditional industries like scrap metal trading, to help them increase safety and efficiency. In the energy sector, projects work towards improving the control of electricity grids but will also provide customers with the information they need to make confident purchasing decisions on energy efficient lighting products. Environmental impacts will come from improved confidence in climate models, brought about by increased confidence in the data that feeds into them, and the provision of practical measurements will help safely decommission Europe's ageing nuclear power stations. Patients will benefit from impacts in healthcare from the study of the biomolecular origin of disease, while hospital workers will benefit from accurate measurements to protect those that work with MRI scanners.

These are just some examples of key areas that EMRP projects are set up to address and many more will be funded and managed over the course of the Programme.

The Commission's report states that the EMRP has performed well in most of its initial objectives in what concerns nearly 85% of its total financial resources to date. The expert panel expect the remaining areas of capacity building, interaction with the wider scientific community and mobility of researchers to make further progress during the remaining years of the programme.

A press release from the European Commission states:

"The Commission shares the expert panel view, that the EMRP is a well managed and progressively more and more integrated European programme. It has transformed a specialised and fragmented community into a successful public-public partnership confirming the advantages of the European Research Area."

Duncan Jarvis, EURAMET's EMRP Programme Manager, said:

"We welcome the findings of the European Commission's report on the interim evaluation of the EMRP and would like to thank the independent expert panel, chaired by Ms. Pia Locatelli, for their hard work. Since 2009, the EMRP has been addressing the fundamental requirements of metrology research in Europe. We

are proud of the achievements so far but we would like to take this opportunity to recognise that further progress is still required before it meets all of its stated objectives. With the continuing support of the Commission and of the European scientific community, we strongly believe that these goals will be achieved.”

Leslie Pendrill, the EURAMET Chairperson adds:

“EURAMET is proud that the EMRP has already achieved a level of integration which is amongst the highest of any research coordination instrument of any kind in the European Research Area, whereby on average 50 % of each national programme is now European rather than purely national. EURAMET as an association of the national metrology institutes of 38 countries across Europe looks forward to continue to strengthen the metrology capabilities of all our members, ultimately not only for our own benefit but to meet the Grand Challenges with better quality-assured measurements.

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About EURAMET e.V.:

The European Association of National Metrology Institutes (EURAMET) is a Regional Metrology Organisation (RMO) of Europe. It coordinates the cooperation of National Metrology Institutes (NMI) of Europe in fields like research in metrology, traceability of measurements to the SI units, international recognition of national measurement standards and related Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMC) of its members. Through Knowledge Transfer and cooperation among its members EURAMET facilitates the development of the national metrology infrastructures.

EURAMET is responsible for the elaboration and execution of the European Metrology Research Programme, known as the EMRP, which is designed to encourage collaboration between European National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) and partners in industry or academia. The programme funds joint research projects in specific fields of metrology with 60 projects selected for funding so far and many more expected over the coming years.