

# DG Information Society and Media at a Glance.

***What are the resources of this DG? How does it work together with the rest of the Commission and the other European institutions? How does it achieve its mission to contribute to the EU's "Lisbon Goal" of becoming the world's most dynamic knowledge-based economy by 2010?***

## **Human resources**

With a total staff of around 1,110 persons, DG Information Society and Media is, by Commission standards, one of the larger DGs. It has two main physical locations: Brussels and Luxembourg (140 persons).

Staff costs are covered from both the Commission's traditional operating budget (~340 staff) and from the research budget (~770 staff). Around 310 are external staff (e.g., seconded national experts and IT experts), paid from both budgets.

## **Budgetary resources**

The 2005 Community budget for the Information Society and Media reflects the DG's administration of the Information Society Technologies (IST) research activities – the largest thematic activity within the EU's Sixth Research Framework Programme:

Administration	195.5 M€
IST Research project funding	1,040 M€
eEurope, incl. associated programmes	97.220 M€
Media and Audiovisual	88.170 M€
Electronic Communication Regulation	2.950 M€

## **Relations with other DGs**

By its very nature, the Information Society cuts across traditional boundaries, so although DG

Information Society and Media brings together research, regulation and stimulation activities, its work will necessarily touch the activities and policies of many other DGs.

## **Regulatory Issues**

DG Competition is closely involved in many aspects of implementing the electronic communications regulatory framework, as well as the competition-related aspects of Internet and international regulatory questions, like names and addresses on the Internet.

## **Research Issues**

DG Research has the overall lead for research activities within the Commission. Contacts are therefore intense on a wide range of policy and implementation issues, like:

- overall research policy and the preparation of the EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Development;
- the implementation of research into nano-technology, which is carried out in complementary ways in both IST and research activities administered by DG Research.

### **Mission statement**

The Information Society and Media Directorate General supports the development and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for the benefit of all citizens. Our role is to:

- Support innovation and competitiveness in Europe through excellence in ICT research and development.
- Define and implement a regulatory environment that enables rapid development of services based on information, communication and audio-visual technologies, so fostering competition that supports investment, growth and jobs
- Encourage the widespread availability and accessibility of ICT-based services, especially those that have the greatest impact on the quality of life of the citizens.
- Foster the growth of content industries drawing on Europe's cultural diversity
- Represent the European Commission in international dialogue and negotiations in these fields, and promote international cooperation in ICT research and development.



## Other DGs

A non-exhaustive selection of interests and issues shared with other DGs includes:

- **DG Education and Culture:** eLearning and culture, eContent and Safer Internet, cultural diversity – UNESCO Convention;
- **DG Competition:** electronic communications, support for European audiovisual industry, the role of public broadcasting;
- **DG Enterprise:** Intellectual Property Rights, radio spectrum policy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) standardization, business dialogue with third countries, eGovernment, eSafety, security research;
- **DG Environment:** disaster management, environmental information systems and monitoring; public safety communications, transport and environment ;
- **Europe Aid Co-operation Office:** international cooperation programmes at regional and national levels, humanitarian de-mining, international cooperation on research infrastructures;
- **Eurostat:** eEurope benchmarking;
- **DG External Relations:** regulatory dialogue with partner countries, World Summit on the Information Society, EC participation in international organisations such as UN, OECD, World Bank and Council of Europe;
- **DG Health and Consumer Protection:** distance selling, TV-advertising, spam, consumer protection related to electronic communications, eHealth and electro-magnetic fields;
- **DG Internal Market:** Intellectual Property Rights, privacy and data protection, eMoney and mobile payments;
- **DG Justice and Home Affairs:** data retention, ePrivacy directive, cyber-crime, biometrics;
- **DG Regional Policy:** use of Structural Funds for broadband roll-out and building of ICT research capacity;
- **DG Transport:** Intelligent Transport Systems, eSafety, eTen and sustainable development.
- **Joint Research Centre:** Security research and biometrics.

Finally, the DG works with the **Secretariat General**, which handles all official procedures. These range from complaints and infringements of EU rules to strategic programming and financial perspectives.

## Relations with other EU Institutions

Most of the DG's legislative files are adopted by **the Council** and **the European Parliament** under the co-decision procedure.

The Council formations involved are **Telecoms, Transport and Energy, Competitiveness and Education, Youth and Culture** (matters concerning audiovisual and media). Other policy areas are treated in other Councils, like **Health** for health issues.

Council conclusions can also contribute to the achievement of policy objectives by means of the "open method of coordination" among Member States, which has – for example – spurred them to put in place national broadband strategies and promote the use of eGovernment applications.

The relevant **European Parliament Committees** are:

- **Industry, Research and Energy:** telecommunications, information society and research issues;
- **Culture and Education:** Audiovisual policy and the Media programmes
- **Internal Market and Consumer Protection:** financial services, public health;
- **Legal Affairs:** Intellectual Property Rights;
- **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs:** the processing of personal data, cyber-crime, safer internet use;
- **Budget.**

## Further Information

- **Europe's Information Society: Thematic Portal**  
[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/)
- **Information Society and Media Directorate-General:**  
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