

Joint Research Centre

The Joint Research Centre is a Directorate-General of the European Commission. It comprises seven research Institutes located in five EU Member States (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain). Comprising 2,700 staff, DG JRC plays an active role in helping create a safer, cleaner, healthier and more competitive Europe.

The mission of the Joint Research Centre is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of European Union policies. As a service of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the Union. Close to the policy-making process, it serves the common interest of the Member States, while being independent of special interests, whether private or national.

Governance

A Board of Governors, comprising high-level representatives from EU Member States, Candidate and Associated countries, advises on strategy, work programme, budget and high-level appointments. Our customers in other Commission Directorate-Generals are consulted on our annual Work Programme through a High-level Users' Group. The European Parliament and Council are similarly consulted on our participation in the Framework Programmes.

Our resources

DG JRC is allocated an annual budget of €320 million for direct support to EU institutions from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). It earns up to a further 15% from competitive activities.

Expertise, Facilities, Partners

- Multi-disciplinary analytical capabilities and a unique range of highly specialised laboratories, facilities and state-of-the art measurement instruments.
- We collaborate within a network of over 1,500 public and private organisations, including research centres, universities, regulatory bodies, local authorities, associations and industry.
- We are committed to training young scientists, to researcher mobility, and to helping new Member States with the scientific-technical aspects of the EU body of law. DG JRC is firmly integrated into the European Research Area.

Customers

- Our main customers are the Commission's policy Directorate-Generals, although we also perform substantial work for the Member State institutions and authorities, European Parliament and Council, Community and Executive Agencies.

Our FP7 priorities

Prosperity in a knowledge intensive society includes growth, employment, knowledge, and competitiveness. DG JRC will focus on the regulatory context, the development of measurement standards and data harmonisation; and support to key policy areas such as energy, transport, information, chemicals and biotechnologies. Direct support to policy formulation will be provided in the areas of economic, market and fiscal policies.

The sustainable management of resources is a long-standing work priority for DG JRC, particularly in areas of agriculture and environment. The "environment and health" theme is emerging as a new focus of attention while climate change remains a key feature.

Security and freedom is an area of growing concern for the Union. DG JRC will focus on providing technical support on internal security issues where interactions between the European Commission and Member States are expanding. Activities will continue in well established policy areas where many new challenges lay ahead, including the safety of food and feed and response to disasters.

Europe as a world partner involves DG JRC supporting a range of external policies (e.g. international trade/anti-fraud, Community action relevant to stability, non-proliferation and common foreign and security policy; development cooperation policy and humanitarian aid; European neighbourhood policy etc). This global dimension is of critical relevance to future EU policies, touching upon security issues and development cooperation.

The EURATOM programme role for DG JRC entails developing and assembling knowledge, providing crucial scientific/technical data and support for safety/security, reliability, sustainability, and control of nuclear energy; including the assessment of safety and security aspects related to innovative/future systems.

Our added value

- Flexibility in responding to the changing needs associated with the evolution of EU policies for the seven-year duration of the Seventh Framework Programme, 2007 - 2013.
- A focus on issues which are important in terms of socio-economic concerns, which have a clear Community dimension and a strong research and development component.
- Attention to the provision of quality expertise and support to other Commission services, upon the emergence of new issues in crisis situations.
- Reinforcement of competences and facilities in new fields of investigations which are relevant to future policies.
- Increased reliance on networks and partnerships with other institutions and expert groups pursuing similar objectives and interests. DG JRC will also increase its role as technical coordinator of expert networks created in other Directorate-Generals of the European Commission.
- Continued day-to-day support in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of EU rules.

"It goes without saying that nearly every sustainable public policy requires a thorough scientific basis for a careful evaluation of the impact its implementation will bring. EU policy is no exception. This is where the JRC plays a vital role." Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research.

FAST FACTS about DG JRC Institutes

1. The Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES), Ispra, Italy.
 - 430 staff and a 2007 budget of €41.1 million.
 - Further info: <http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
2. The Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC), Ispra, Italy.
 - 420 staff and a 2007 budget of €37.2 million.
 - Further info: <http://ipsc.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
3. The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM), Geel, Belgium.
 - 320 staff and a 2007 budget of €39.9 million.
 - Further info: <http://irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
4. The Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU), Karlsruhe, Germany.
 - 300 staff and a 2007 budget of €39.1 million.
 - Further info: <http://itu.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
5. The Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP), Ispra, Italy.
 - 300 staff and a 2007 budget of €30.2 million.
 - Further info: <http://ihcp.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
6. The Institute for Energy (IE), Petten, The Netherlands.
 - 230 staff and a 2007 budget of €29.2 million.
 - Further info: <http://ie.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
7. The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), Seville, Spain.
 - 170 staff and a 2007 budget of 14.6 million.
 - Further info: <http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Further information

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