Who are we?

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is a department of the European Commission. Our mission is to support EU policies with scientific evidence throughout the entire policy process. We are independent of national, commercial or stakeholder interests.

Our 2,800 staff are based in Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. In addition to performing our own research, we make sense of collective scientific knowledge from multiple sources for smarter EU policies. Capacity building is one of our key roles. We often work in partnerships with universities, government offices, agencies and stakeholders.
Most of our scientific work is undertaken in direct support to EU policies. We add value by providing knowledge or services that others are less well placed to provide. And we strive for excellence in all our activities.

In carrying out our work, integrity is a core value: in our approach to science, in the way we treat people, and in avoiding conflicts of interest. We strive always to deliver on our commitments, to promote an open exchange of knowledge and to foster innovation.

Our scientific work covers a wide range of EU policy domains: energy and transport; sustainability and climate; migration; economic questions; education and employment; food, nutrition and health; digital transformation; and innovation. We endeavour to address new societal challenges as they emerge.

**JRC priorities**

**Examples of cooperation**

**Protecting citizens from radioactive material**

In our partnership with the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy, mobile equipment to find hidden radioactive material was tested for law enforcement purposes. This enabled state-of-the-art protection of citizens and public property.

**Making cities greener**

In a pilot project with Frankfurt, a concept for funding climate mitigation was developed. JRC’s foresight tool, ‘Scenario Exploration System’, allowed local stakeholders to decide how to make their city greener. Building on Frankfurt’s case, other European cities can create their own locally-tailored climate initiatives.

**Opportunities and challenges for coal regions in transition**

The JRC is helping German coal regions transition towards greener energy production. Specifically, the JRC analysed the impact of the Paris Agreement on the coal mining sector, in a report entitled “EU coal regions: opportunities and challenges ahead”. Concrete actions are proposed in order to keep jobs and economic activities in these regions, for example by the re-use of retired coal infrastructure and re-deployment of personnel to new activities.
Since 2017 the JRC has opened up 12 of its physical research infrastructures to academia, research organisations and industry (including small and medium enterprises). Scientists will have the opportunity to work in JRC laboratories dedicated to nuclear safety and security, chemistry, life sciences, physical sciences, ICT, and ‘foresight’ (the branch of scientific research that explores how the future will look).

The JRC hosts the Smart Specialisation Platform, which helps European countries and regions identify which research and innovation areas to invest in. The Platform takes into account a country or region’s existing strengths and upcoming challenges. We have provided science-based advice for policymakers, businesses and research institutions. And we have developed more than one hundred Smart Specialisation Strategies for various European regions and Member States, e.g. for the agri-food and energy sectors. The Platform has helped foster many partnerships both within the EU and beyond.

The JRC hosts several Commission Knowledge Centres and Competence Centres. These Centres bring together experts, stakeholders and knowledge from both within and outside the European Commission. Knowledge Centres are built around topics, while Competence Centres focus on analytical tools. Together, they inform policymakers, stakeholders and the general public about the latest scientific findings that are relevant for policy. They provide contextualised evidence, reviews, data analysis and data visualisation.

Standardisation and harmonisation promote innovation and competitiveness. They also build consumer trust and are essential for the European single market. For these reasons, more than 70 % of the JRC’s projects involve work on standardisation and harmonisation. The JRC also participates in more than 160 technical committees linked to standardisation organisations. The JRC also plays a key role in the development of reference materials. The JRC carries out research to lay the scientific foundations before a standard is adopted, for example, by developing analytical methods.

The JRC regularly organises or facilitates events known as ‘Science meets Regions’ and ‘Science meets Parliaments’. At these events, scientists and policymakers are brought together to learn about each other’s challenges, tackle issues specific to a given region or country, build relationships and promote a culture of evidence-based policymaking.

In line with our values of openness and transparency, we grant access to the JRC’s services, databases and tools, including more than 100 models.

In 2017, the JRC launched the Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships programme to work with universities to better understand what type of research is needed at different phases in the policy process. It places a special emphasis on the science-policy interface, including communication.
Did you know?

- The JRC’s Karlsruhe site leads JRC activities on Nuclear Safety and Security.
- As a graduate student in Bavaria or Baden-Wuerttemberg you can apply for the “Danubius Award” to win a job-shadowing stay at the JRC.
- The JRC regularly invites winners of Jugend forscht to visit JRC, to get to know us and our role as a potential employer.
- An exhibition at the Naturkundemuseum in Berlin features JRC examples showing how quickly humans consume non-renewable resources, with a virtual version available too.
- Several “Science meets Parliaments” events have been co-organised by the JRC in Germany to strengthen the role of science in policy-making.
- The German member of the JRC Board of Governors is Susanne Burger, Director General for European and International Cooperation, Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

If you want to know more...

- SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER
- VISIT OUR WEB-SITE!
  https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en
- EXPLORE OUR SCIENCE HUB AT
- SEE WHICH MODELS AND DATABASES WE HAVE
- LOOK AT OUR LATEST ANNUAL REPORT
  https://europa.eu/lBB93uV
- READ OUR STRATEGY
- COME WORK WITH US
- MEET US AT AN EVENT!
  https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/events

Your National Contact Points

- YOU CAN ALWAYS GET MORE INFORMATION FROM YOUR JRC NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS
  Find out who they are and how to reach them: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/working-with-us/jrc-national-contact-points