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**

**Identifying risks to Luxembourg’s gas supply**

The new EU policy on security of gas supplies has shifted from a national to a regional focus, to ensure coordinated responses to future risks. Luxembourg forms part of two such regional groups, and the JRC has performed scenario analyses to estimate supply risks for Luxembourg from the perspective of both these groups. This helps boost the country’s preparedness, including the provision of alternative solutions, in case of a cut in gas supply.

**A harmonised approach to monitoring land and soil**

The JRC supported Luxembourg in implementing EU land and soil monitoring schemes. The cooperation allowed Luxembourg to participate in an EU-wide system for comparable statistics and harmonised data for the study of challenges, such as, soil degradation, biodiversity and land take due to urbanisation.

**Can resilience be increased to absorb disruptions to global trade flows?**

Global supply chains can be disrupted by factors such as natural disasters, terrorism, and illegal activities. The JRC has therefore partnered with European governments and industry to ensure their security and resilience. Specifically, the JRC’s cooperation with a Luxembourg-based company demonstrated the degree to which resilience can be increased without harming trade flows.
USING OUR LABS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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).

SMART SPECIALISATION
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.

KNOWLEDGE CENTRES AND COMPETENCE CENTRES
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.

JRC SUPPORT FOR STANDARDISATION
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.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND POLICYMAKERS
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.

ACCESS TO OUR DATABASES AND MODELS
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.

COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL PARTNERSHIPS
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.
Cooperation between the JRC and partners from Luxembourg also addresses nuclear safety, radiological data exchange and financial research.

In Luxembourg, the city of Beckerich and the nature reserve 'Naturpark Our' signed up to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, for which the JRC provides scientific support. Specifically, they committed to reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 30 % by 2020 compared to 2005 levels.

The Luxembourgish member of the JRC Board of Governors is Léon Diederich, First Advisor to Government in the Ministry for Higher 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/!Bb93uV
- 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