MALTA
and its collaboration with
the European Commission’s
science and knowledge service

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**

**Food advertising in the fight against childhood obesity**

A JRC study contributed to the roll-out of the 2017 Maltese EU Presidency’s initiative against childhood obesity. Amongst other things, the JRC study addressed the implications of unregulated food advertising, targeting children. As a result of the initiative, concrete actions to limit such advertising were agreed at the level of EU Member States.

**Assessing risks of natural hazards for energy and transport infrastructures**

The JRC has assessed risks for Maltese energy and transportation infrastructures, in case of natural hazards. The results from this study served as a basis for the Maltese government to propose risk reduction options. Also, a JRC mapping tool for identifying potential risks formed the basis for training of multiple Maltese industrial sectors to enhance their in-house capacity to identify and assess risks linked to natural hazards.
Working together?

**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).

https://europa.eu/!Mx93Uf

**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.

https://europa.eu/!NQ77mM

**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.

https://europa.eu/!DF34qN

**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.

https://europa.eu/!qT77BB

**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.

https://europa.eu/!hF73cp

**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.

https://europa.eu/!nV43gg

**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.

http://europa.eu/!Tu68Ft
The cooperation between JRC and Maltese partners focuses on prevention, preparedness and response to disasters; nuclear emergencies; radiological data and monitoring; and young children and digital technology.

During the Maltese presidency of the Council of the EU in 2017, Malta and the JRC launched the Young Scientist Award. The initiative allowed five young Maltese scientists to have a job shadowing experience at the JRC research site in Ispra, Italy.

20 Maltese citizens took active part in an initiative of the JRC EU Policy Lab and the University of Malta in 2018. The aim was to bring citizens’ perspectives to the debate on the current and future role of government across Europe.

The Maltese member of the JRC Board of Governors is Emmanuel Sinagra, of the University of Malta.

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Did you know?

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