



EU Agencies
working for you

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INTRODUCTION

A single market, a single currency, borderless travel, internal mobility - just some of the very tangible benefits of the EU that many of us cannot imagine life without today.

The network of specialist EU agencies set up by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to carry out specific legal, technical or scientific tasks is an important component of the EU. They work alongside the main EU institutions and Member States, feeding them evidence-based advice to help shape informed policies and laws at the EU and national level. They add value by promoting the sharing of information and expertise in areas that impact the lives of Europe's 500 million citizens. And all this for only 0.6% of the EU's total annual budget - only €1.6 for every man, woman and child in the EU.

Around the world, respected and well-known agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration in the US, have been created to give expert advice to their national administrations. EU agencies were similarly created to help implement EU policies more efficiently and to respond to particular needs identified by the EU institutions and Member States. They work on a wide range of areas that touch the lives of everyone across the EU (and beyond) on land, at sea, in the air, in sickness and in health. They cover the food we eat, the medicine we take, chemicals, education, quality of working life, the environment, not to mention justice, safety of transport, security and our fundamental rights. This list is not exhaustive, but serves to give you a flavour of some of the many specialist areas they work on.

This brochure provides an overview of the breadth and depth of work carried out by the various specialist EU agencies. It clearly underlines their combined added-value, and how they are working to help make Europe more competitive and a better place to live and work.

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Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators - **ACER**

ACER works towards completing a competitive, sustainable, secure and transparent internal energy market for the benefit of all EU consumers. Its mission is to assist national energy regulatory authorities to perform their duties at EU level and to coordinate their actions whenever necessary.

It cooperates with EU institutions and stakeholders, notably national authorities and European Networks of Transmission System Operators, to deliver instruments for the completion of the single EU energy market. ACER supports the development of a common energy market and network rules. It also contributes to the development of a trans-European energy infrastructure, and monitors EU energy markets and wholesale energy trading.

On top of setting a framework for common rules in Europe's energy markets, ACER highlights issues affecting the everyday lives of EU citizens. For example, in gas and electricity retail markets, ACER has identified persistent barriers in many national markets, which hamper retail competition and consumer choice. This includes low supplier switching rates of around 5% for electricity and gas. In addition, despite the economic downturn, consumer prices for electricity and gas, which are still often regulated, have risen in most Member States in the last few years by 4%.



Established in 2011
 Located in Ljubljana, Slovenia
www.acer.europa.eu

Clean Sky Joint Undertaking - **Clean Sky**

Clean Sky aims to drastically reduce the environmental impact of aviation by developing cutting-edge technologies by 2020. This includes: halving external noise and CO₂ emissions by significantly cutting fuel consumption; an 80% reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions; and ensuring a green product life-cycle from design and manufacturing to maintenance and disposal/recycling.



Clean Sky is a public-private partnership between the European Commission and Europe's aeronautics industry. It brings together aeronautical leaders, SMEs, universities and research organisations to develop and deliver the aircraft technologies of the future. Close to 40% of the beneficiaries of

Clean Sky funding in October 2013 were European SMEs, thereby contributing to growth and jobs in the European research and innovation sector.

Clean Sky has been an unambiguous success story and has led to the launch of the more ambitious Clean Sky 2 Programme with a total budget of nearly €4 billion. It aims to achieve a higher level of technology integration and to raise the maturity of systems incorporating these new technologies. It will be the largest and most ambitious aeronautical research and development programme ever launched in Europe, a clear demonstration of Clean Sky's added value.

Established in 2008
 Located in Brussels, Belgium
www.cleansky.eu

Community Plant Variety Office - CPVO

The CPVO fosters innovation in the creation of plant varieties by its high quality processing of applications for EU plant variety rights at affordable costs. It manages the EU's plant variety rights system. It provides intellectual property rights for breeders of new plant varieties for 25-30 years. It also provides policy guidance and assistance in the exercise of these rights for its stakeholders.



The EU plant variety rights system is the biggest of its kind in the world, with over 50,000 applications processed since 1995. Over 39,000 Community plant variety rights have been granted. In addition, the CPVO is self-financing with no EU funding, as applicants pay for all agency running costs.

Previously, breeders had to submit applications in the relevant language to each EU Member State and pay fees in each country. Thanks to the CPVO, one application in any official EU language gives an intellectual property right valid throughout the 28 Member States. The simplified administrative process and lower overall fees has proven to be very attractive for breeders. The exclusive right enables breeders to collect royalties to reinvest in creating new varieties which benefits growers and the public alike.

Established in 1995
Located in Angers, France
www.cpvo.europa.eu

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work - EU-OSHA

EU-OSHA's mission is to help make Europe's workplaces safer, healthier and more productive.

Every year more than 4,000 workers die due to accidents at work and more than three million workers are victims of a serious accident at work. Meanwhile, 25% of workers declare that work has a mainly negative effect on their health. The costs to workers, businesses and EU Member States are estimated at around 3 % of GDP.

More than ever, occupational safety and health (OSH) is an important and challenging policy area. As new risks and areas of work emerge, demographics change and Europe responds to the economic crisis, the need for good OSH — which protects workers and makes businesses more profitable — is urgent and growing.



Working with governments, employee representatives and businesses small and large, EU-OSHA takes a joined-up approach to promoting OSH across Europe.

Through its Foresight activities it anticipates change and new and emerging risks. Instruments such as its ESENER enterprise survey provide an accurate and comprehensive picture of current OSH risks. At the same time the agency is developing tools for good OSH management, such as OiRA (Online interactive Risk Assessment).

Meanwhile, EU-OSHA's Healthy Workplaces awareness-raising campaigns are now the largest of their kind in the world. And its OSHwiki online encyclopaedia offers a new approach to networking knowledge.

Established in 1994
Located in Bilbao, Spain
www.osha.europa.eu

European Asylum Support Office - EASO

EASO contributes to the coherent implementation of the EU's common European asylum system. It facilitates, coordinates and strengthens practical cooperation among Member States on asylum issues. It offers practical, technical and operational support including evidence-based input for EU policy making and legislation. EASO is a centre of expertise on asylum.



Signing of the Operating Plan with Bulgaria, 17 October 2013

EASO helps improve the quality of the asylum process through harmonised training and information on countries from where asylum seekers originate. Such information is essential for officials during the asylum determination process. In 2013, it trained over 2,100 asylum officials.

It also provides tailor-made assistance, supports capacity building and relocation, and develops quality control tools. It offers emergency support for Member States subject to particular pressures by providing temporary support and assistance to repair or rebuild asylum and reception systems. For example, Greece, Luxembourg, Sweden, Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus received EASO's operational support.

It shares information and data, analyses and assessments at EU level. For example, EASO's early warning and preparedness system regularly provides a regional outlook and analysis of asylum trends and push-pull factors, as well as risk scenarios.

EASO also supports the external dimension of Europe's asylum system, through partnerships with third countries to reach common solutions. This includes capacity building, regional protection programmes, and coordinating Member States' resettlement actions.

Established in 2010
Located in Valletta, Malta
www.easo.europa.eu

European Aviation Safety Agency - EASA

Air transport is one of the safest forms of travel. As air traffic continues to grow, common Europe-wide efforts are needed to keep air transport safe and sustainable. EASA develops such common safety and environmental rules. It monitors the implementation of standards through inspections in Member States. It also provides technical expertise and training to the aviation system. The agency works hand-in-hand with national aviation authorities, which each have their own role to play in EU aviation.

Through EASA, Europe centralises the process of authorising non-EU airlines performing commercial air transport operations into the EU's airspace. This means a single safety authorisation is issued centrally by EASA, replacing the various schemes that EASA Member States have used up to now. EASA only assesses the safety of foreign airlines. Operating permits will continue to be issued by national authorities.

Its contribution to EU aviation safety can be seen in the low level of fatalities: Since 2007 there has not been a year with over one fatal accident involving an aeroplane operated by an EASA Member State.



Established in 2002
Located in Cologne, Germany
www.easa.europa.eu

European Banking Authority - **EBA**

The EBA helps maintain financial stability in the EU by safeguarding the integrity and efficiency of the banking sector. It creates common rules for all EU banks and provides tools for supervisors to consistently monitor banks across the single market.



Through its Single Rule Book, it helps harmonise regulation, promoting a level playing field across the 28 Member States, as well as transparency and stability. It also monitors market developments, in order to identify potential risks.

The EBA also supports the current major restructuring of banks to strengthen their business and has a prominent role in the EU-wide Stress Test exercise: it defines the common methodology for testing the resilience of EU banks in case of financial crisis.

Protecting EU consumers is in its mandate too. The EBA monitors risks arising from financial innovation in key areas for consumers: mortgages, credit, savings products, credit cards and payment services, as well as new emerging issues such as virtual currencies.

By ensuring banks are transparent and better capitalised, the EBA makes it easier for investors to provide finance and ensures that banks focus on their core purpose: providing money to individuals and businesses to invest and grow across the EU.

Established in 2011
Located in London, United Kingdom
www.eba.europa.eu

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - **ECDC**

The ECDC strengthens Europe's defences against infectious diseases. The Centre gathers, analyses and disseminates data on over 50 communicable diseases and conditions. As Europe's public health agency, ECDC puts science in the hands of decision-makers: one of the Centre's most important tasks is to offer scientific advice and guidance to the Member States. ECDC supports the EU's Early Warning and Response System on public health threats 365 days a year, summarising the main findings in its weekly online bulletin.



ECDC also provides extensive training and preparedness activities to Member States and, when called on, offers hands-on technical support to the European Commission and Member States.

An example of an important health EU-wide initiative coordinated by ECDC is European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD). It aims to provide a platform and support for national campaigns about prudent antibiotic use. Since 2008, the number of European countries participating in EAAD has increased from year to year with 45 countries in 2013 organising national EAAD events and campaigns during the week of 18 November.

Established in 2005
Located in Stockholm, Sweden
www.ecdc.europa.eu

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - **Cedefop**

Cedefop's research, analyses and forecasts help the European Commission, Member States and social partners to decide how vocational education and training should respond to the labour market's changing needs. Cedefop's skill forecasts show that between now and 2025 around 90% of job opportunities in the EU will be to replace people who leave their jobs, many of whom will retire in the next decade. Europe's ageing workforce is becoming better qualified, but jobs are becoming more demanding. Cedefop's reports on reforms to training systems show how Member States are tackling these issues, and Cedefop's expertise supports them. For example, Cedefop is helping Member States to work together to promote and improve apprenticeships.



Cedefop designs and helps implement common European tools to make people's skills and qualifications easier to understand across countries. Tools such as the European qualifications framework, and the Europass diploma and certificate supplements, show how university and other diplomas

correspond to qualifications in other countries. Over 40 million Europass CVs have been generated online since 2005, 8.7 million in 2013 alone, as more people use them to make their skills more visible to potential employers.

Established in 1975

Located in Thessaloniki, Greece

www.cedefop.europa.eu

European Chemicals Agency - **ECHA**



ECHA works on the safe use of chemicals. It implements the EU's ground-breaking chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment while supporting innovation and competitiveness. It helps companies comply with the legislation; advances the safe use of chemicals; provides information on chemicals; and addresses chemicals of concern.

Thousands of chemical substances have already been registered, making ECHA's website the biggest regulatory source of information on chemicals in the world.

ECHA maintains a list of substances of very high concern - for example chemicals which cause cancer and can affect human reproduction. As a next step, these substances may require prior authorisation before they can be used and will ultimately be removed from the market. This provides a strong incentive for companies to find safer alternatives for dangerous chemicals, thereby protecting human life and the environment.

Established in 2007

Located in Helsinki, Finland

www.echa.europa.eu

European Defence Agency - EDA

EDA supports its Member States' efforts to enhance their defence capabilities in a collaborative manner. This means running and supporting cooperative European defence projects; supporting research and technology development; and boosting the European defence technological and industrial base.

It publishes statistics from all Member States, as part of its yearly Defence Data. This yields a broad overview of Europe's Defence Market, providing information on defence expenditure, defence investment, spending on operations, maintenance and personnel.

Military operations in Kosovo and Libya highlighted that EU countries lack air-to-air refuelling capabilities. EDA was given responsibility for addressing this shortfall over the short, medium, and long-term. To optimise existing capacity, the EDA, Italy, and the Movement Coordination Centre Europe jointly organised the first collective European air-to-air refuelling clearance trial in September 2013, with a second one to come in 2014. The first European Air-to-Air Refuelling training course took place in Eindhoven in April. In addition, EDA is supporting five countries that are coming together to purchase new multirole aircraft.



Established in 2004
Located in Brussels, Belgium
www.eda.europa.eu

European Environment Agency - EEA

The EEA provides independent, reliable and comparable environmental information on the state and trends of the European environment for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also the general public. It carries this out in close cooperation with national environmental bodies, in its European Environmental Observation and information Network – EIONET.

The EEA's knowledge base covers a wide range of environmental topics, including air quality, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable consumption and production, water, land use, green economy, waste, chemicals, environment and health, and energy.

For example, a recent EEA report found that despite significant improvements in Europe's air quality in recent decades, more than 90% of people in our cities still breathe air containing pollutants in concentrations above WHO guidelines.

The EEA's reporting on the state and trends of the environment feeds into and supports the EU policy process, enabling new proposals to be based on the best available information. Recent examples are the 7th Environment Action Programme and the Clean Air Policy Package which was underpinned throughout by data and assessments provided by the agency.



Established in 1990
Located in Copenhagen, Denmark
www.eea.europa.eu

European Fisheries Control Agency - EFCA

EFCA promotes the highest common standards for the control, inspection and surveillance of fishing under the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. It brokers operational coordination between Member States and the European Commission. It also contributes to coordination and cooperation between national control and inspection activities and gives assistance to the Commission and Member States.



Thanks to the agency, around 9000 inspections were coordinated at the European level in 2013.

The agency's contribution is crucial for a more uniform application of EU rules and to ensure that they are respected and applied effectively. It increases the effectiveness of control by providing training to inspectors and officials in fisheries control across the EU. It has developed the first core curricula courses on inspection. The inspection at sea module of EFCA's handbook and manual has been circulated to Member States and the European Commission. EFCA's data management systems also help improve transparency of and compliance with the requirements of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

Established in 2005
Located in Vigo, Spain
www.efca.europa.eu

European Food Safety Authority - EFSA

EFSA is committed to ensuring food safety in Europe. It provides objective and independent scientific advice, and clear communication on existing and emerging risks to food and feed safety, grounded in the most up-to-date scientific information and knowledge. It provides a sound foundation for European policies and legislation, and supports EU bodies and Member States in taking effective and timely risk management decisions.

EFSA is committed to openness and transparency in all its work. It was created to ensure a high level of consumer protection, and to restore and maintain confidence in the EU food supply following a series of food crises in the late 1990s. EFSA's remit spans the entire food chain from farm to fork. It also considers the possible impact on biodiversity, and it performs environmental risk assessments of genetically modified crops, pesticides, feed additives and plant pests.

EFSA's advice underpins the European food safety system. Thanks to this system, European consumers are among the best protected and informed in the world regarding risks in the food chain. For example, EFSA's important contribution to joint EU measures helped reduce human cases of Salmonella by almost one-half from 2004 to 2009. It provided scientific advice on the impact of setting reduction targets for Salmonella in poultry and analysed the EU's progress in meeting the targets.



Established in 2002
Located in Parma, Italy
www.efsa.europa.eu

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions - Eurofound

Eurofound's role is to provide knowledge in the area of social and work-related policies with a view to contributing to the planning and design of better living and working conditions in Europe.



For example, its 2013 research on young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) estimated the economic loss arising from their disengagement from the labour market to be about €162 billion, or 1.26% of European GDP.

Its research in this area has been widely circulated to key EU and national-level policymakers and cited in a range of EU policy documents, from the initiative of the European Commission on the Youth Guarantee, to the Recommendation approved by the Council and the European Parliament, as well as the Framework of actions on youth employment agreed by the European Social Partners.

Other key highlights of Eurofound's work include its three pan-European surveys on working conditions, quality of life and company practices. Drawing on its network of correspondents across all Member States also allows Eurofound to complement its in-depth original research with timely comparative information from across the EU. This is presented via its online observatories, EurWORK and EMCC (the European Monitoring Centre on Change). Eurofound's tripartite structure underpins all its activities.

Established in 1975
Located in Dublin, Ireland
www.eurofound.europa.eu

European GNSS Agency - GSA

Linking space to user needs

With a new generation of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), which includes EGNOS and Galileo, Europe is opening new doors to industrial and economic growth.

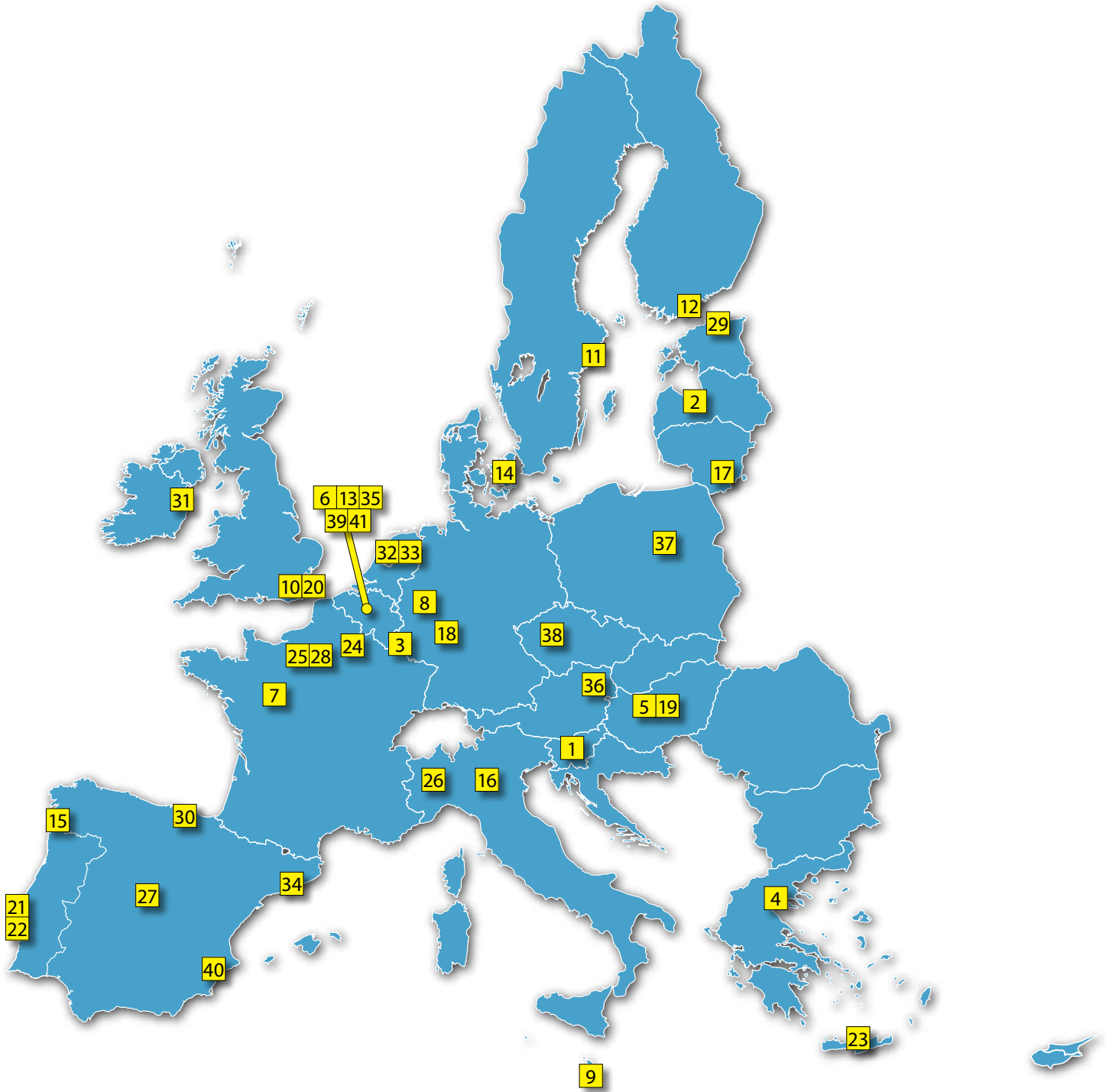
The GSA, a European Union Regulatory Agency, is responsible for:

- Preparing for the successful commercialisation and exploitation of the systems, with a view to smooth functioning, seamless service provision and high market penetration;
- Ensuring the security accreditation of the system and the establishment and operation of the Galileo Security Monitoring Centres;
- Accomplishing other tasks entrusted to it by the European Commission, such as managing EU GNSS Framework Programme Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020), the promotion of satellite navigation applications and services, and ensuring the certification of the systems' components.
- In addition, under delegation from the European Commission, the GSA assumed responsibility for the operations and service provision for the EGNOS Programme in 2014, and will take up these responsibilities for the Galileo Programme from 2017.



Staffed with skilled professionals bringing relevant experience from both the public and private sectors, the GSA is well-positioned to contribute to one of the most important and ambitious projects ever undertaken by the European Union. Backed by its motivation and know-how, the GSA is dedicated to ensuring that Europe's GNSS goals are met and that, as a result, European citizens are able to reap the benefits.

Established in 2004
Located in Prague, Czech Republic
www.gsa.europa.eu



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European Institute for Gender Equality - EIGE

Although equality between women and men has been one of the fundamental principles of the European Union since the very beginning, there is still a clear and demonstrated democratic deficit with regard to women's involvement in EU decision-making. The European Institute for Gender Equality's (EIGE) Gender Equality Index shows that despite strong commitments from the EU bodies and the Member States, the European Union is only half way towards a gender-equal society. In order to support better-informed policy-making EIGE contributes to the promotion of equality between women and men in Europe through delivering high-level expertise to the European Commission, the Member States, the European Parliament and Enlargement countries. For example, EIGE's support to the EU Presidencies in reviewing and developing the UN indicators of the Beijing Platform for Action and its research on gender-based violence.



EIGE was established to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all EU policies and the resulting national policies, and the fight against discrimination based on sex, as well as to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality. Equality between women and men is a fundamental right, common principle and core value of the European Union. Therefore 'Making equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and beyond' is the vision of EIGE. To make this vision a reality, EIGE is to become the knowledge centre and the front-runner in developing reliable evidence, collecting knowledge, sharing useful experiences and expertise on gender equality.

Established in 2010
Located in Vilnius, Lithuania
www.eige.europa.eu

European Institute of Innovation and Technology - EIT

EIT spurs innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe to overcome some of the EU's greatest challenges. It brings together leading higher education institutions, research labs and companies to form dynamic cross-border partnerships called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). These communities develop innovative products and services, start new companies, and train a new generation of entrepreneurs.



To date, three such communities have been set up on climate, information and communication technologies, and energy, bringing together over 480 partners. Through the EIT's unique funding model, every euro invested from the EU budget triggers higher investment from other sources. The €300 million invested by the EIT into its KICs' activities between 2010 and 2013 resulted in 78.5% of funding from external sources.

The EIT's communities are growing into thriving European innovation hubs. Since 2011, they have set up 18 innovation hotspots (Co-location Centres) across Europe, received over 12000 applications to EIT-labelled degree programmes (that is more than 12 applicants per offered seat), incubated more than 440 business ideas, created 75 start-ups, contributed to 164 knowledge transfers and adoptions, and resulted in 61 new products and services.

The EIT makes innovation happen!

Established in 2008
Located in Budapest, Hungary
www.eit.europa.eu

European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority - **EIOPA**



EIOPA's core responsibilities are to support the stability of the financial system, improve transparency of markets and financial products as well as to protect policy holders, pension scheme members and beneficiaries. EIOPA monitors and identifies trends, potential risks and vulnerabilities stemming from the micro-prudential level, across borders and across sectors.

It aims to ensure a high, effective and consistent level

of supervision in the area of insurance and occupational pensions. It seeks greater harmonisation and the coherent application of rules for financial institutions and markets across the EU. It also works to strengthen oversight of cross-border groups and to promote a coordinated EU supervisory response to potential financial risks. In view of the increased importance of global standards, EIOPA represents the European insurance supervisors, by bringing forward a European voice, in particular in its engagement with the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).

EIOPA is an independent advisory body to the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. The Authority is also part of the European System of Financial Supervision consisting of three European Supervisory Authorities and the European Systemic Risk Board.

Established in 2011
Located in Frankfurt, Germany
<https://eiopa.europa.eu>

European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy - **F4E**

F4E is the EU's organisation responsible for providing Europe's contribution to ITER, the world's largest scientific partnership that aims to demonstrate fusion as a viable and sustainable energy source.

ITER brings together seven parties that represent 80% of the global GDP and 50% of the world's population- Europe, Russia, Japan, China, India, South Korea and the United States. Europe, as the host for ITER, contributes up to 50% of the cost.

F4E also supports fusion research through the Broader Approach Agreement, a fusion energy partnership signed with Japan, that will last for 10 years.

Ultimately, F4E will contribute towards the construction of demonstration fusion reactors.

A large volume of contracts will be awarded by F4E to manufacture ITER components and enhance fusion technologies. In order to increase Europe's competitiveness and stimulate growth and jobs, F4E has developed an industrial policy to help European industry, SMEs and fusion laboratories to get involved and unleash their potential.



Established in 2007
Located in Barcelona, Spain
www.fusionforenergy.europa.eu

European Maritime Safety Agency - EMSA



EMSA works to ensure safer and more secure shipping through technical assistance to EU bodies and Member States when developing and implementing EU legislation.

It offers operational support via its satellite-based oil spill and vessel detection service, a vessel traffic monitoring and information system, and the EU LRIT data centre which tracks EU-flagged ships by satellite. Users have full 24/7 support through EMSA's Maritime Support Services. It has also set up a network of over 15 standby oil spill recovery vessels plus associated equipment and resources to cover all European waters. These are ready to assist at short notice following major pollution incidents from ships or oil and gas installations. This ensures Europe can respond to large-scale pollution incidents, despite differences in national resources.

Experience dealing with various safety and security concerns has given EMSA extensive knowledge about many of the issues which arise and the practical realities of addressing these issues. Frequent interaction with maritime administrations, classification societies and industry representatives is a valuable asset. In one year alone, EMSA organised 74 visits and inspections, 35 training courses for 861 people, and 50 workshops for nearly 1250 participants.

Established in 2002
Located in Lisbon, Portugal
www.emsa.europa.eu

European Medicines Agency - EMA

Working together with national medicines agencies and the European Commission, EMA has a unique role for key public health challenges such as AIDS, cancer, disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases, and diabetes. It



(c) Shutterstock

also contributes significantly to the development of medicines for children, rare diseases, advanced therapies, and herbal and veterinary medicines.

EMA fosters scientific excellence in the evaluation and supervision of medicines for human and animal use. It does this by bringing together expertise

from national medicines agencies, hospitals and academia. Increasingly patients and healthcare professionals are included in the agency's work.

The agency dealt with over 1 million adverse drug reports from healthcare professionals and patients in 2013. It also recommended 81 medicines for authorisation in 2013, of which 16 were for cancer treatments. Other important recommendations included new medicines for AIDS, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, hepatitis C and smallpox. New veterinary medicines included recommendations for vaccines against foot-and-mouth diseases and the West Nile virus.

EMA also cooperates closely with other EU agencies on a range of scientific matters. In addition, together with the Commission, it maintains operational links with international partners on medicine-related issues.

Established in 1995
Located in London, United Kingdom
www.ema.europa.eu

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction - **EMCDDA**

The EMCDDA is the central source and confirmed authority on drug-related issues in Europe. For over 20 years, it has been collecting, analysing and disseminating scientifically sound information on drugs and drug addiction, and their consequences, providing its audiences with an evidence-based picture of Europe's drug phenomenon.

Information of this kind is vital to help Europe understand and respond to its drug problems. Today, the agency offers policy makers the data they need for drawing up robust drug laws and strategies. It also helps professionals and practitioners pinpoint best practice and new areas of research.

One of the agency's key tasks is to detect new drugs appearing in Europe that could pose risks to citizens. In cooperation with EU bodies and Member States, it carries out early-warning and risk-assessment activities that may pave the way for legal controls. To date, the EMCDDA and its partners have detected over 350 uncontrolled substances appearing for the first time in Europe. Over 80 new drugs were detected in 2013 alone.



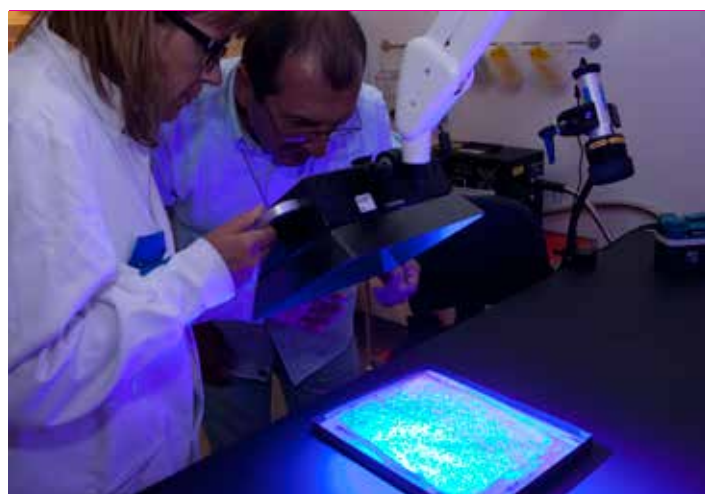
(c) iStock

The EMCDDA has also facilitated the creation of national drug monitoring centres across Europe, which play a vital role in collecting and interpreting data. This Europe-wide information network (Reitox) contributes to the agency's core business of reporting consistent and harmonised information on drugs needed for sound policy making.

Established in 1993
Located in Lisbon, Portugal
www.emcdda.europa.eu

European Police College - **CEPOL**

CEPOL provides training and learning opportunities to senior police officers on issues vital to the security of the EU and its citizens. Training is organised according to the priorities identified by the Council of the European Union. Training covers issues ranging from leadership to law enforcement techniques and from EU cooperation to economic crime. Activities are designed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practice, and to help develop a common European law enforcement culture.



Police officers and police professionals can choose between attending a residential course, seminar or conference, or learning through online resources, including online seminars and modules. The European police exchange programme, which enables bilateral exchanges and group study visits, is open to police officers, commanders, trainers and researchers. CEPOL also provides tools for trainers, including common curricula on European police cooperation tools and on pan-European crime threats that can be incorporated into national training curricula.

All participants are granted access to CEPOL's electronic network, which provides further resources to prolong and deepen the learning experience. In 2013, CEPOL carried out 103 activities, reaching over 8,200 participants.

Established in 2005 (2001)
Located in Budapest, Hungary.
www.cepola.europa.eu

European Police Office - **EUROPOL**



Europol experts support and coordinate international law enforcement operations across a wide range of crime areas. Europol's operational support activities have led to the disruption of many criminal and terrorist networks, the arrest of thousands of dangerous criminals, the recovery of millions of euros in criminal proceeds, and the rescue of hundreds of victims, including children trafficked for sexual exploitation.

As no crime is as borderless as cybercrime, the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) was therefore established at Europol to be the focal point in the EU's fight against cybercrime.

Europol supports EU Member States and institutions in building operational and analytical capacity for investigations. It also cooperates with international partners in the pursuit of an EU free from cybercrime. EC3 activities cover combating crimes from malware, hacking, phishing, intrusion, manipulation, identity theft and payment fraud, and the grooming and online sexual exploitation of children.

Established in 1999

Located in The Hague, The Netherlands

www.europol.europa.eu

European Railway Agency - **ERA**

ERA's mission is "making the railway system work better for society" through improved technical interoperability and a common approach to safety on the EU railway system. It contributes to the creation of a 'Single EU Railway Area'.

Under this general objective, ERA is focussing its tasks in the horizon 2020 on implementing 4 operational activities:

1. A harmonised Safety Framework
2. Removing technical barriers
3. A single European Train Control and Communication System
4. A simplified access for customers.



ERA prepares new and updated legislative acts in working groups with stakeholders, for adoption by the European Commission, and gives other technical support to the European Commission. Additionally, the Agency's work increasingly disseminates and facilitates the developed framework in the railway system and monitors the progress towards the desired outcome.

Established in 2004

Located in Valenciennes, France

www.era.europa.eu

European Securities and Markets Authority - **ESMA**

ESMA is Europe's securities market watchdog. It enhances the protection of investors and reinforces stable and well-functioning financial markets in the EU.

It achieves this: by building a single rulebook for EU financial markets and ensuring its consistent application and supervision across EU Member States; supervising key EU-wide financial entities, such as credit rating agencies and trade repositories; contributing to financial stability and working on investor protection.

Sound and effective regulation of securities markets is crucial for maintaining confidence amongst their users, which ultimately contributes to the growth, integrity and efficiency of the EU's financial markets and economy.

The Authority's mandate applies to a broad range of activities including securities trading, financial disclosure, corporate finance, the governance and sale of investment funds, credit rating agencies and trade repositories.

Established in 2011
Located in Paris, France
www.esma.europa.eu/



European Training Foundation - **ETF**

The ETF works with countries around the EU to improve their vocational education and training, because knowledge and skills are the means to a more prosperous and fulfilling life for all. Its vision is to make vocational education and training a driver for lifelong learning and sustainable development, with a special focus on competitiveness and social cohesion.



In today's world, education and training are crucial to tackling many political, social and economic challenges. This concerns not only EU Member States, but also the neighbouring countries. By building partnerships between the EU and its neighbours, the ETF contributes to advancing sustainable economic growth and social inclusion.

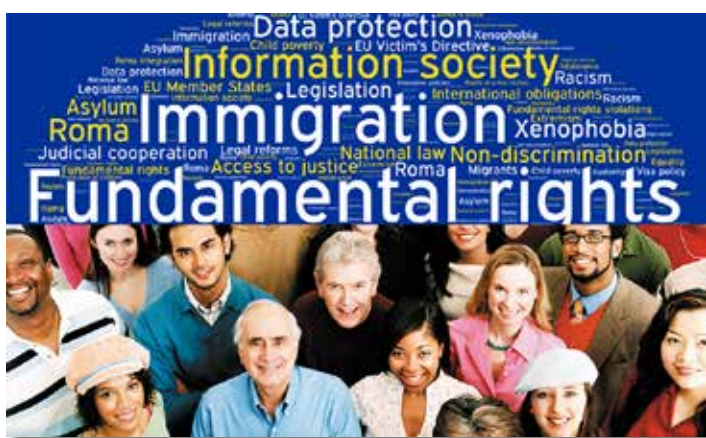
It works with countries to give citizens useful skills for growth, employment and active citizenship, as well as knowledge and lifelong learning opportunities. It also supports institutions in partner countries to manage human capital development themselves. It encourages networking and the sharing of information, experience and good practice –between the EU and partner countries, and among partner countries.

The ETF works with 30 partner countries in the EU neighbourhood, home to nearly 600 million people. Since 1994, the ETF has contributed to human capital development in 43 neighbouring countries. Thirteen of these have successfully joined the EU since 2004.

Established in 1994
Located in Turin, Italy
www.etf.europa.eu

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights - FRA

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees everyone in the EU their fundamental rights. In practice many are deprived of these rights. FRA provides evidence-based advice to EU institutions and Member States so they can make fundamental rights a reality for everyone. FRA does this through its large-scale surveys, and comparative legal and social research and by working with fundamental rights actors EU-wide.



Hate crime and discrimination often remain 'invisible' due to widespread underreporting of incidents, as FRA research consistently reveals. FRA surveys on violence against women, minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people and antisemitism point to the need to urgently address underreporting through awareness raising, victim support and training – e.g. only 22% of the most serious LGBT hate crime incidents were brought to the police's attention.

FRA has shown anyone can be a victim. It is well placed to give a voice to majority and hard-to-reach populations – such as ethnic minorities, children and people with disabilities on issues such as data protection violations, access to justice and hate crime. For example, FRA research on hate crime has directly fed into Council Conclusions. It is also working closely with Member States to assist them help end hate crime and the fear people feel of simply being themselves.

Established in 2007
 Located in Vienna, Austria
www.fra.europa.eu

EU Agency for large-scale IT systems (for Home Affairs) - eu-LISA

eu-LISA ensures the uninterrupted, efficient and effective operation of large-scale IT systems that ensure security, rights and free movement within the EU. It provides technical and operational expertise to ensure that everyone from EU citizens to third country nationals are free to live, work and travel in a manner they have come to know and hold dear. It manages the operation of the SIS II system for sharing information on criminal matters to ensure the coordinated investigation of crimes that do not respect national borders, the Visa Information System (VIS) for fair and secure management of visa application and border entry processes, and the Eurodac system for the monitoring of asylum applications from those who may need protection under EU values and norms.

By the end of 2013, SIS II had handled over 50 million alerts. The VIS had registered over 4 million visa applications in its first two years while Eurodac dealt with over 300,000 transactions related to asylum seekers in 2013.



Recently, eu-LISA has doubled the VIS' capacity and search capability allowing it to process up to 120 000 transactions/hour and it is rolling out a completely new system in terms of infrastructure, software and search. It has also improved technical controls that ensure security of personal data and respect for the rules.

Established in 2012
 Located in Tallinn, Estonia
www.eulisa.europa.eu

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security - **ENISA**

ENISA is the EU's cyber security agency. Network and information security is crucial for the daily life of business, governments and citizens alike, as well as for the economy of Europe. Thus, ENISA is focussed on the preparedness and prevention efforts needed to protect computer systems against unauthorized access, attacks or failure.

The agency prevents, responds, maps, analyses, advises and communicates about cyber security and cyber risks. It is the only body which delivers these services; there is no equivalent private sector organisation which provides this neutral, expert cyber security recommendations at EU level. Moreover, it establishes solid network and information security standards to support the EU business case for cyber security.

ENISA also regularly produces its annual ENISA Threat Landscape report, showing global trends and tendencies in an aggregated analyses of over 250 reports from all over the world. It reveals how different attack methods are being used. Based on this report, operators and stakeholders can react and instantly take precautionary measures to better protect their networks.

It also conducts the bi-annual "Cyber Europe" exercise (2010, 2012, 2014) involving governments, industry actors; in all hundreds of "players", preparing for cyber-attacks cooperation across the borders."



Established in 2004

Located in Heraklion (headquarters) and an office in Athens, Greece

www.enisa.europa.eu

EU Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders - **Frontex**

Each year over 700 million passengers are estimated to cross Europe's external borders. One of the biggest challenges, therefore, is detecting illegal activities without creating unnecessary delays for other travellers. As there are no internal border controls between Schengen countries, external border controls are even more important, as Schengen members rely on the quality of border checks and surveillance carried out by other Member States.



Frontex assists EU Member States, and countries within the Schengen passport-free travel area, manage their external borders and brings greater consistency and harmonisation to EU border control. It facilitates cooperation between border authorities by providing technical support and expertise where and when it is needed. It also promotes solidarity among Member States by coordinating assistance to those facing disproportionate pressures at their external borders.

Frontex does this through risk analysis - analysing trends in unauthorised border crossings and other cross-border crime; running joint operations - coordinating the deployment of specialists and technical equipment to border areas in need; rapid response - coordinating the short-term deployment of European Border Guard Teams at the request of Member States; research and development - linking border control authorities with research and industry; training - developing harmonised curricula and training standards; joint returns - coordinating joint repatriation flights of third country nationals between member countries; and via information sharing - enabling swift and reliable data exchange between border authorities.

Established in 2004

Located in Warsaw, Poland

www.frontex.europa.eu

European Union Institute for Security Studies - **EUISS**



The EUISS is the EU's agency that analyses foreign, security and defence policy issues. It aims to foster a common security culture for the EU, to support the elaboration and projection of EU foreign policy, and enrich the strategic debate inside and outside Europe. The EUISS is now an integral part of the new structures that underpin the further development of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy.

The Institute's core mission is to provide analyses and fora for discussion that can be of use and relevance to the formulation of EU policy. In carrying out that mission, it also acts as an interface between European experts and decision makers at all levels.

The Institute's flagship publication is its series of Chaillot Papers, which are based on focused, in-depth research. The Institute also publishes a Yearbook (YES), Reports, and shorter Briefs and Alerts on the topics and regions at the core of its work.

Established in 2002
 Located in Paris, France
www.iss.europa.eu/

European Union Satellite Centre - **EU SatCen**

The EU SatCen supports EU foreign and security policy decision making by providing geospatial intelligence products and services, primarily through the analysis of data from Earth observation satellites. It provides early warning of potential crises to decision makers in order to enable timely, diplomatic, economic and humanitarian measures, including generic planning for intervention.

It responds to requests from different users such as the European External Action Service, Member States, the European Commission, as well as third countries and international organisations such as the United Nations.



For example, the Council of the EU asked the SatCen to start monitoring the crisis in Syria in 2013 to support UN missions to Syria, such as its Supervision Mission, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) - UN Joint Mission and the UN Disengagement Observer Force. The products were for example related to border crossing points, refugee camps, shipping activity, evacuations, damage assessment and the inspection and verification of the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria.

Established in 2002
 Located in Madrid, Spain
www.satcen.europa.eu

European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit - Eurojust

Eurojust helps fight serious cross-border crime affecting the EU. It coordinates investigations and prosecutions in the 28 Member States, and improves cooperation between national authorities. It also prevents and resolves conflicts of jurisdiction between Member States, and can offer support beyond the EU's borders based on its cooperation agreements with non-EU countries.



In 2013, Eurojust assisted 1,576 cases involving terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and human trafficking, fraud, corruption, cybercrime (including images of child sexual abuse), criminal offences affecting the EU's financial interests, organised and environmental crime.

Eurojust organises coordination meetings, where judicial and police authorities can build mutual trust while exchanging information, identifying and solving legal and practical difficulties arising from the 30 different legal systems in the EU. In 2013, 206 such meetings were held. It also sets up coordination centres, where arrests, house searches, seizures and other measures can be coordinated in real time on an agreed common action day. Another important coordination tool is the joint investigation team (JIT). Eurojust supports the setting up and functioning of these teams, e.g. identifying suitable cases, drafting agreements and operational action plans, developing best practice, and can also provide funding. Eurojust supported 102 JITs in 2013, of which 34 were funded.

Established in 2002
Located in The Hague, The Netherlands
www.eurojust.europa.eu

Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking - FCH JU

The FCH JU is a unique public-private partnership between the European Commission, and Europe's fuel cell and hydrogen industry and research communities. It aims to accelerate the market introduction of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies. Fuel cells, as an efficient conversion technology, and hydrogen, as a clean energy carrier capable of being generated from renewable energy sources, have significant potential. They can help fight carbon dioxide emissions, reduce Europe's dependence on fossil fuels, and create growth and jobs in Europe.



The FCH JU has built a real, strong, reliable and committed platform in Europe for fuel cells and hydrogen research and development. Industry, research, and local, national and European officials can all act to harness the technology to address major socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Under the EU's 7th Framework Programme for research, the FCH JU supported 155 projects involving over 530 beneficiaries. About 60% of the financial support goes to European industry; 26% for SMEs. It is also a "hub" of leading major Fuel Cells and Hydrogen players across the innovation chain, supporting the deployment of over 260 hydrogen cars, 74 hydrogen buses, 20 hydrogen refuelling stations, 400 hydrogen-powered materials handling vehicles and 1000 residential micro-combined heat and power units throughout Europe.

Established in 2008
Located in Brussels, Belgium
www.fch-ju.eu

Innovative Medicines Initiative - IMI

IMI is working to improve health by speeding up the development of, and patient access to, new treatments, especially in areas of unmet need. It works by forging collaborations between the key players in healthcare research: universities, the pharmaceutical and other industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), patient organisations, and medicines regulators.

This approach has proven highly successful, and IMI projects are delivering exciting results that are helping to advance the development of new treatments in diverse areas such as: the generation of a line of human pancreatic beta cells (the cells which go wrong in diabetes) – a world first; a simple computer test that predicts if a potential drug will be harmful to the heart; the discovery that certain brain changes associated with autism may be reversible; a revolutionary ultrasound device capable of identifying patients at imminent risk of a heart attack or stroke (now the subject of a patent application); a pan-European clinical network to test novel antibiotics; new tools to assess the benefits and risks of medicines; courses to train the next generation of experts in medicines development.



A public-private partnership between the EU and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, IMI has a €3.3 billion budget for the period 2014-2024.

Established in 2008
 Located in Brussels, Belgium
www.imi.europa.eu

Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market – Trade Marks and Design - OHIM



OHIM provides intellectual property protection for the industries, companies and individuals which create jobs and provide economic growth - one third of all jobs in the EU are supported by intellectual property intensive industries. Those same industries are responsible for 90% of all EU exports and 39% of the EU's GDP.

OHIM's work supports and strengthens the internal market, and helps protect business ideas and innovation in the EU. It grants two important EU-wide intellectual property rights – the Community Trade Mark and the Registered Community Design.

Intellectual property protection within the EU is in huge demand: OHIM has received around 1.2 million trademark applications from nearly every single country and territory in the world since it began to accept applications registrations in 1996. It also has received around 800,000 design filings in just over a decade.

OHIM is building free, online, global databases of millions of trademarks and designs from all over the world, within the European Trademark and Design Network, making trademark and design information available to users. It is working with EU national office partners and users associations to build a strong, modern IP environment in Europe.

Since 2012, OHIM has hosted the EU Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights

Established in 1994
 Located in Alicante, Spain
www.oami.europa.eu

Office of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications - **BEREC Office**

The BEREC Office provides professional and administrative support to the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), the European body representing the 28 national regulatory authorities in the electronic communications field.

BEREC advises the European Commission and assists the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, on issues related to the application of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications. BEREC seeks to ensure fair competition and consistency of regulation in the single market for electronic communications, for the benefit of European consumers.

In particular, BEREC provides opinions on emerging challenges including the promotion of broadband, net neutrality and converging markets, roaming, and plays an active role in public discussions on these issues.

Furthermore, it provides advice on market definitions, analysis and remedies, on the definition of transnational markets, and on cross-border disputes and numbering issues.



The BEREC Office performs its tasks under the guidance of BEREC.

Established in 2010
Located in Riga, Latvia
www.berec.europa.eu

SESAR Joint Undertaking - **SESAR-JU**

As the technological pillar of the European Commission's Single European Sky policy, the objective of the SESAR programme is to modernise Europe's aging Air Traffic Management (ATM) system to ensure a seamless aviation value chain. The programme is managed by the SESAR JU, a public-private partnership, which pools the knowledge and resources of Europe's entire ATM community.



SESAR will now work with a budget of 1.5 billion EUR until 2024, €500 million of which will be provided by the European Union. The rest is to be contributed equally by Eurocontrol and industry. A further €85 million is earmarked for exploratory research activities, particularly designed to attract universities, public institutions, SMEs and industry.

To date, the programme has brought together over 3000 experts to develop solutions to address fragmentation of Europe's ATM system through Research and Development. SESAR has also produced a comprehensive and coordinated research roadmap (the European ATM Master Plan) and is delivering tangible solutions, with readiness for deployment, to meet the business needs of the ATM industry.

Notable programme achievements have been:

- The world's first flight in four dimensions (3D + time) to enhance end-to-end trajectory information exchange
- Remote tower services to provide accessibility to Europe's regions and boost regional economies
- An extensive toolkit to increase safety on airport runways
- Free routing to reduce flight and fuel emissions.

Established in 2007
Located in Brussels, Belgium
www.sesarju.eu/

Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union - CdT

Bringing the EU closer to European citizens – that is the ultimate goal of all EU translation services. The Translation Centre contributes to this by providing translations to the over 40 decentralised EU-agencies scattered across Europe. Experience shows that a single specialised Centre is a practical, cost-effective solution to meet the translation needs of all these bodies, which operate in the most diverse fields.

Set up in Luxembourg in 1995, the Translation Centre today employs approximately 200 people, slightly more than half of whom are translators.

In 2013, the Centre translated 804 986 pages. Laid end to end, this number of pages would stretch from Luxembourg to Brussels!

A project to merge all EU terminology resources was launched by the Centre in 1999 and subsequently developed in cooperation with all the language services of the EU. The result was IATE, which is today the biggest terminology database in the world, with over 8.7 million terms across all 24 official EU languages. IATE is managed by the Translation Centre and updated regularly by all EU language services. The website (<http://iate.europa.eu>), open to the public, receives over 250 000 queries per day from all over the world.



Established in 1994
Located in Luxembourg, Luxembourg
www.cdt.europa.eu

What is the EU Open Data Portal?

The EU Open Data Portal provides a single point of access to a growing range of data held by the EU institutions, agencies and other bodies. By providing free and easy access to data, the portal aims to unleash its economic potential, to help foster the transparency and the accountability of the institutions and other bodies of the EU, as well as to promote social engagement.

Why is the EU Open Data Portal important?

In line with the EU open data strategy and Directive 2013/37/EU, amending Directive 2003/98/EC, on the reuse of public sector information produced across the 28 EU Member States (the PSI directive), the main objectives of the portal are to:

▶ **create new knowledge**, by linking data from various sources;

▶ **boost economic activity and job growth**, by promoting the innovative use of data for creating applications, new products and services;

Target audiences include IT developers, businesses, academia, researchers, statisticians, data aggregators, etc...

▶ **foster openness and transparency** of the EU organisations, informing citizens about policies, public spending and outcomes;

▶ **enhance evidence-based decision-making and civic participation**. Public authorities can base their policy decision on empirical data. And data is open to public analysis and debate.

Target audiences include citizens, journalists, lobbyists, public administrations, NGOs, librarians, students, etc...



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