DG Information Society and Media at a Glance

What are the resources of this DG? How does it work together with the rest of the Commission and the other European institutions? How does it achieve its mission to contribute to the EU's "Lisbon Goal" of becoming the world's most dynamic knowledge-based economy by 2010?

Human resources

With a total staff of around 1,110 persons, DG Information Society and Media is, by Commission standards, one of the larger DGs. It has two main physical locations: Brussels and Luxembourg (140 persons).

Staff costs are covered from both the Commission's traditional operating budget (~340 staff) and from the research budget (~770 staff). Around 310 are external staff (e.g., seconded national experts and IT experts), paid from both budgets.

Budgetary resources

The 2005 Community budget for the Information Society and Media reflects the DG's administration of the Information Society Technologies (IST) research activities – the largest thematic activity within the EU's Sixth Research Framework Programme:

Administration	195.5 M€
IST Research project funding	1,040 M€
eEurope, incl. associated programmes	97.220 M€
Media and Audiovisual	88.170 M€
Electronic Communication Regulation	2.950 M€

Relations with other DGs

By its very nature, the Information Society cuts across traditional boundaries, so although DG Information Society and Media brings together research, regulation and stimulation activities, its work will necessarily touch the activities and policies of many other DGs.

Regulatory Issues

DG Competition is closely involved in many aspects of implementing the electronic communications regulatory framework, as well as the competition-related aspects of Internet and international regulatory questions, like names and addresses on the Internet.

Research Issues

DG Research has the overall lead for research activities within the Commission. Contacts are therefore intense on a wide range of policy and implementation issues, like:

- overall research policy and the preparation of the EUs 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development;

- the implementation of research into nanotechnology, which is carried out in complementary ways in both IST and research activities administered by DG Research.

DG Information Society and Media – main activities

- **Stimulating Research as a key for future innovation and competitiveness:** the DG manages the EU's Information Society Technologies (IST) research activities – at €3,6bn for 2002-2006, the largest 'thematic priority' of the EU's Sixth Research Framework Programme;

- **eEurope initiative:** eEurope does not make new funds available, but works by helping Member States to learn from each other and by providing a policy framework to focus existing programmes and accelerate legislative development. It also provides the overall policy umbrella for a series of initiatives and programmes. When it ends in 2005, the new strategic framework, i2010, will continue to promote a competitive and inclusive digital economy, emphasising ICTs as a driver of growth and jobs.

- **Regulatory Policy:** 1. Audiovisual policy (content rules for audiovisual services) and 2. The regulatory framework for Electronic Communications (promotes competition, reinforces the single market and safeguards consumer rights).

- **MEDIA,** EU programmes designed to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector, to increase international circulation of European audiovisual works and to preserve and enhance European cultural diversity.

Other DGs

A non-exhaustive selection of interests and issues shared with other DGs includes:

- **DG Education and Culture**: eLearning and culture, eContent and Safer Internet, cultural diversity – UNESCO Convention;

- **DG Competition**: electronic communications, support for European audiovisual industry, the role of public broadcasting;

- **DG Enterprise**: Intellectual Property Rights, radio spectrum policy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) standardi-zation, business dialogue with third countries, eGovernment, eSafety, security research;

- **DG Environment**: disaster management, environmental information systems and moni-toring; public safety communications, transport and environment ;

- **Europe Aid Co-operation Office**: international cooperation programmes at regional and national levels, humanitarian de-mining, international cooperation on research infra-structures;

- **Eurostat**: eEurope benchmarking;

- **DG External Relations**: regulatory dialogue with partner countries, World Summit on the Information Society, EC participation in international organisations such as UN, OECD, World Bank and Council of Europe;

- **DG Health and Consumer Protection**: dis-tance selling, TV-advertising, spam, consumer protection related to electronic communications, eHealth and electro-magnetic fields;

- **DG Internal Market**: Intellectual Property Rights, privacy and data protection, eMoney and mobile payments;

- **DG Justice and Home Affairs**: data retention, ePrivacy directive, cyber-crime, biometrics;

- **DG Regional Policy:** use of Structural Funds for broadband roll-out and building of ICT research capacity;

- **DG Transport**: Intelligent Transport Systems, eSafety, eTen and sustainable development.

- **Joint Research Centre**: Security research and biometrics.

Finally, the DG works with the **Secretariat General,** which handles all official procedures. These range from complaints and infringements of EU rules to strategic programming and financial perspectives.

Relations with other EU Institutions

Most of the DG's legislative files are adopted by **the Council** and **the European Parliament** under the co-decision procedure.

The Council formations involved are **Telecoms, Transport and Energy**, **Competitiveness** and **Education, Youth and Culture** (matters concerning audiovisual and media). Other policy areas are treated in other Councils, like **Health** for health issues.

Council conclusions can also contribute to the achievement of policy objectives by means of the "open method of coordination" among Member States, which has – for example – spurred them to put in place national broadband strategies and promote the use of eGovernment applications.

The relevant **European Parliament Committees** are:

- **Industry, Research and Energy**: telecommunications, information society and research issues;

- **Culture and Education**: Audiovisual policy and the Media programmes

- **Internal Market and Consumer Protection:** financial services, public health;

- **Legal Affairs**: Intellectual Property Rights;

- **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**: the processing of personal data, cyber-crime, safer internet use;

- **Budget**.

Further Information
- **Europe's Information Society: Thematic Portal**
  http://europa.eu.int/information_society/
- **Information Society and Media Directorate-General:**
  Av. de Beaulieu 24, 1160 Brussels
  infso-desk@cec.eu.int
  http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information_society/index_en.htm

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