phthalates in baby toys; work on behaviour and dispersal patterns of pollutants in air and water; testing and validating electronic identification and tracing systems for livestock; and improving the security of e-commerce. Located in five sites, the 8 JRC institutes are:

- The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM)
- The Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU)
- The Institute for Systems, Informatics and Safety (ISIS)
- The Environment Institute (EI)
- The Space Applications Institute (SAI)
- The Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP)
- The Institute for Advanced Materials (IAM)
- The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)

The **Information Society Directorate-General** ("INFSO") is responsible for preparing, implementing, managing and evaluating RTD programmes concerning the Information Society, and encouraging interfaces between RTD support policy and regulatory policies regarding the Information Society. The FP5 Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme is a single and integrated programme that reflects the convergence of information processing, communications and media technologies. Its strategic objective is to realise the benefits of the Information Society for Europe both by accelerating its emergence and by ensuring that the needs of individuals and enterprises are met. It is managed by the European Commission, with the assistance of the IST Committee consisting of representatives of each Member and Associated State. The Commission and the IST Committee are supported in their work by an IST Advisory Group of some 25 members. The IST Programme contains four inter-related Key Actions (KA), which define the research priorities: KA1: Systems and services for the citizen, such as health, services for elderly and disabled, administrations, environment and transport; KA2: New methods of work and electronic commerce, to enable both individuals and organisations to innovate and be more effective and efficient in their work and businesses; KA3: Multimedia content and tools, to enable Europe to realise the potential of its creativity and culture, with electronic publishing, digital heritage and cultural content, education and training, human language technologies and information access, filtering and handling; and, KA4: Essential technologies and infrastructures, to further the development and accelerate the take-up in Europe of mobile and personal communications, leading-edge microelectronics, simulation and visualisation technologies, novel multi-sensory interfaces and broadband photonic networks. In order to ensure that the programme remains open to new research ideas for tomorrow, the four key actions are balanced with a future and emerging technologies (FET) action, with a visionary and exploratory perspective. Finally, the Géant project launched in 2000 aims to build a world-class Gbit/s network to interconnect existing national research and education networks, meet requirements of virtual institutes and laboratories, and support GRID projects in accordance with the objectives of the eEurope 2002 and eScience strategies. Each year the Information