

THE EUROPEAN UNION

by

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R&D Expenditures 1997 140.4 billion \$US purchasing power parities
R&D/GDP 1997 1.83%

	<u>R&D Performed 1996</u>	<u>R&D Funded 1996</u>
Industry	62.4%	52.8%
Government	15.8%	38.3%
Higher Education	21.0%	

World Share of Publications 1996 34.0%
Share of Co-authorship with
Canada 1991-1996 33%

1. Overview of Science and Technology in the European Union

The European Union's research and technological development (RTD) policy is anchored in the Treaty on European Union, which has been agreed by the European Parliament and the governments of the EU Member States, and subsequently ratified by the respective national parliaments. Its main objectives are strengthening the scientific and technological bases of EU industry, encouraging it to become more competitive at the international level, and contributing to other EU policies (health, environment, consumer protection, economic and social cohesion, etc.). Far from seeking to replace national initiatives and powers, the principal role of EU action is to extend, complement and enhance the research activities of the Member States.

Although the Community began providing support for research activities in the late fifties, mainly in the nuclear sector, the big breakthrough came in the 1980s with the establishment of the first generation of multi annual Framework Programmes and the elevation of research and development to the status of a "Community Policy" in the Single European Act. Since 1984, Community RTD activities have been strategically planned and coordinated within multi annual Framework Programmes, the purpose of which is to set out the priority areas to be covered during the life of the programme. Between 1990 and 1996, more than 200,000 cooperative links were established between enterprises, universities and research centres, and 90% of these links are transnational and involve multiple actors belonging to different sectors of activity.

Framework Programmes are instruments which reflect the scientific and technological priorities of their particular time, as well as the prevailing economic and political circumstances. The **Fifth Framework Programme (FP5)** sets out the priorities for the European Union RTD activities for the period 1998-2002. Like its predecessor, FP5 has two distinct parts: the European Community (EC) framework programme covering research, technological development and demonstration activities; and the **Euratom Framework Programme** covering research and training activities in the nuclear sector. The budget for FP5 is 13,700 million euro and that for