Program. An enhanced role for the JRC exists in supporting EU policy making, by providing specific research and services, and by contributing to the development and operation of an EU scientific reference system for policy decisions. The reorganized JRC has seven institutes located in five sites:

- The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM)
- The Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU)
- The Institute for Energy (IE)
- The Institute for the Protection and the Security of the Citizen (IPSC)
- The Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES)
- The Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP)
- The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)

In further preparation for FP6, the JRC has adopted three areas of scientific focus: 1) food, chemical products and health, 2) environment and sustainability, and 3) nuclear safety and safeguards. These are underpinned by three horizontal competences: 1) technical foresight, 2) reference material and measurements, and 3) public security and anti-fraud.

The **Information Society Directorate-General (DG-InfoSoc)** is responsible for the Framework Program elements that form the Information Society Technologies (IST) Program (see website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information_society/index_en.html). Information processing, communications and media technologies converge within the IST Program, which is managed with the assistance of the IST Committee, which includes representatives of each Member and Associated State. Further support comes from an IST Advisory Group of some 25 members.

Under FP6, IST moves from a single, integrated program (one of FP5's thematic priorities) to a more complex entity. It is one of seven FP6 thematic priorities, and is influenced by various non-thematic FP6 elements. The FP5 focus on applications shifts to an FP6 focus on basic and essential technologies, and thus to longer term and more essential research.

Géant and GRID are two key IST initiatives. 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 DG-InfoSoc hosts a major IST event to discuss the challenges ahead, stimulate networking and showcase IST research results. IST 2002 will be in Copenhagen in November.

Two special Canada-Europe initiatives have developed in the IST area. The first is the health telematics initiative, under which EU and Canada representatives will collaborate over a 3-year period on topics of mutual interest (http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/eucan/about.htm). The general objectives are to promote EU-Canada collaboration in the evaluation of health telematics systems and services and maintain a multicultural, multilingual approach in health systems. The initiative is co-funded by the European Commission, Health Canada, Industry Canada and CANARIE Inc.

The second is the recently launched ISTEC (IST-Europe-Canada) project, to foster networking for R&D cooperation between European and Canadian organisations, including smaller companies, universities and research centres in key areas of Information Society Technology. It focuses on three sectors, and key technological fields where both Canada and Europe have strengths. A series of workshops and seminars involving Canadian and European actors are planned for the areas of: e-Learning; Culture and e-Content; e-Work and e-Commerce.