



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community Research

Research Executive Agency



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Unit T1: Implementation of outsourcing
DG RTD



Agencies

- **Traditional agencies**

- Created through regulation of Council alone or Council and Parliament
- Diverse activities:
 - Adopt binding rules (e.g. Office for the harmonisation of the internal market)
 - Provide assistance (e.g. European Food Safety Authority)
 - Networking (e.g. European Network and Information Security Agency)

- **Executive agencies**

- Created by Commission decision (after consultation of the regulatory committee for executive agencies, and information to the parliament) in line with a Council regulation (EC) 58/2003
- Standard activities:
 - Implement programmes of the Commission
 - Operational tasks only – no policy role
 - Lifetime of the programme concerned only (renewable if the programme is renewed)

- **Other devolved bodies (Joint undertakings)**

- Regulations of Council / Council & Parliament
- JTIs; ITER; Article 169; EIT



Agencies and Joint Undertakings in FP7

- **Research Executive Agency** (EC/2008/46 of 14 December 2007)
- **European Research Council Executive Agency** (EC/2008/37 of 14 December 2007)
- **JTIs**
 - **IMI - Innovative Medicines Initiative**
 - **Clean Sky**
 - **ARTEMIS – Advanced Research and Technology for Embedded Intelligence and Systems**
 - **ENIAC – Nanoelectronics**
 - **FCH – Fuel cells and Hydrogen**
- **Article 169 initiatives**
 - **AAL – Ambient Assisted Living**
 - **EUROSTARS – Research Performing SMEs**
 - **EMRP – European Metrology Research Programme**
 - **BONUS – Baltic Sea Research Programme**
- **Joint undertaking under the EURATOM treaty**
 - **ITER – Fusion for Energy**
- **EIT is part of Education and Culture Directorate General – EAC**



The reasons for creating executive agencies

- **Constant staff numbers in the financial perspective 2007 to 2013**
- **Explosion in FP budget after 2010**
- **New areas to manage within FP7**
- **Professionalise programme management**
- **Staffing stability**



Overview of the Research Executive Agency (REA)

- **Located in Brussels**
- **Total budget managed: € 6.5 billion**
- **2008 – 2017**
 - Lifetime of FP7 (to 2013), then a run down to 2017 of projects under management
 - Reviewed every three years
 - Potential to extend after FP7



REA – Tasks (1)

The REA will directly implement these parts of FP7:

- **People programme**
 - Marie-Curie Actions (€ 4 billion)
- **Cooperation programme**
 - Security and Space themes (DG ENTR, € 1.4 billion)
- **Capacities programme**
 - Research for the benefit of SMEs (€ 1 billion)



REA – Tasks (2)

The REA will provide “horizontal” services across the three specific programmes Cooperation, People, Capacities

- **Run the evaluation facility in Covent Garden, Place Rogier (“COVE”)**
- **Provide a central service for managing external expert evaluators**
- **Provide services for the URF (unique registration facility) and legal and financial viability service**
- **Run the central FP7 enquiry service**



Transfer of tasks

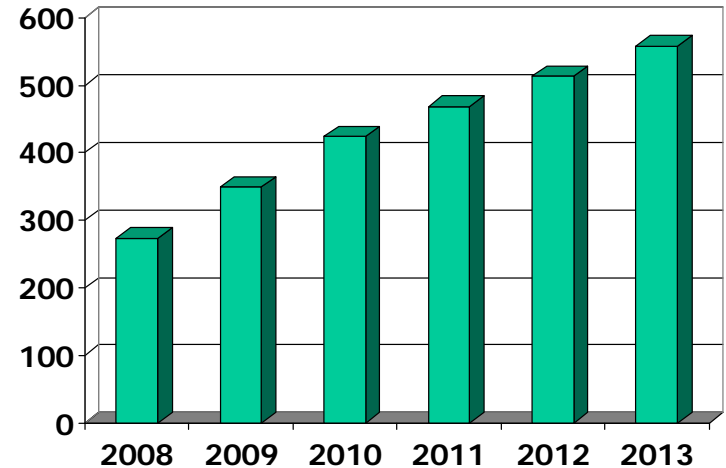
- **All policy remains within the Commission**
- **Legacy (FP6) contract management will also remain within the Commission (REA mandate only covers FP7)**
- **DG RTD/T & DG ENTR/H and the REA exist side-by-side during initial phase**
- **From 15 June 2009 the agencies will take over full implementation of new calls and projects**



Staffing of the REA

- **Maximum 558 staff by 2013**

- 274 in 2008
- 349 in 2009
- 424 in 2010
- 468 in 2011
- 513 in 2012
- 558 in 2013



- **Staff profile: 75% contractual agents; 25% temporary agents; maximum of 27 seconded from the Commission**



Current status

- **Very rapid expansion phase**
- **242 staff on 1 June 2009**
- **Settling into new building (in Place Rogier)**
- **Staff working alongside RTD/ENTR teams**
- **Autonomy planned for 15 June 2009**



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Photo: C. Pouret. Architects: ART & BUILD / MONTOIS PARTNERS



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Transfer of activities

- **Conditions for Autonomy**
 - steering committee, director, accounting officer and staff to manage the administrative and operational appropriations;
 - the parent DGs must ascertain that the agency has its own internal control, accounts and administrative procedures;
 - administrative budget must have been adopted and it must have its own bank account.
- **Training and interaction RTD/ENTR and REA**
- **Physical handover of files**
- **Transfer of administrative budget and operational budget lines (ABAC)**
- **Formal documentation for handover**
 - Readiness of Agency
 - Agreement of the DGs
 - Agreement of the Steering Committee
 - Handover file for tasks to be managed by agency
 - Memorandum of understanding
- **Amendment letters to ongoing contracts (≈3000)**



Interface with the community

- **Part of the FP7 identity**
 - Autonomous not independent
 - The logo for REA (Research Executive Agency), consisting of the letters 'R', 'E', and 'A' in a stylized, bold font.
 - Separate legal entity, owned by the Commission
 - Part of the Commission's systems: publishing of WPs; submission of proposals; publicity of projects
 - Uses Europa and Cordis web systems
 - Should be seamless to the research communities and others
- **Evaluation systems and the Unique Registration Facility**
 - Only manages the three specific programmes (Cooperation; Capacities; People)
 - Other parts of FP7/non-FP7 programmes managed by RTD
 - Should be seamless to the research communities and other users



Interface with the community

- **Efficiency gains in management**
 - Confirmed by a recent Court of Auditors' report on agencies
 - Shorter times to grant
 - Faster response to questions
- **Should be main observation of the research communities**



Future prospects

- **All agencies and joint undertakings linked to the Framework Programme – budget to 2013**
 - Allowance for the running down of activities until 2017
 - Except ITER – 35 years
- **However,**
 - If successful, potential to renew
 - If successful, potential to expand
- **Political decision**
 - Council and Parliament



Websites

- **Research Executive Agency (REA)**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/rea/>

- **Community Agencies**

<http://europa.eu/agencies/>

- **FP7**

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm