Science & Policy:

What's on the EU's agenda?

July 2016

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JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

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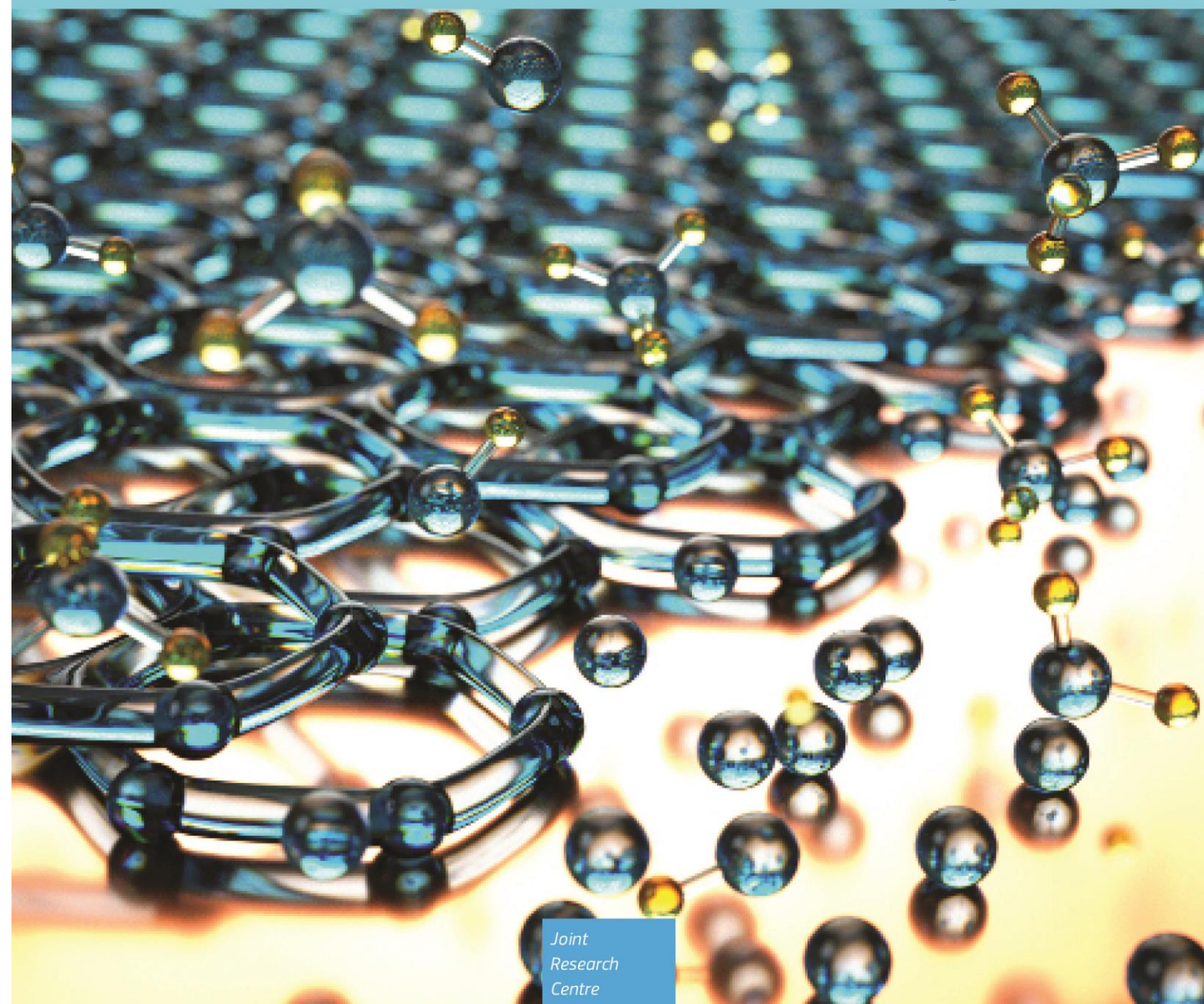
SCIENCE & POLICY: WHAT'S ON THE EU'S AGENDA?

1 July 2016

The DG JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 49

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
30 June-1 July	[Visit of the College to Bratislava](#)	*The College travels to Bratislava to meet with the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU*
[All meetings of the College of Commissioners](#)		

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
11-12 July	[Informal meeting of environment ministers](#)	Luxembourg
12 July	[Economic and Financial Affairs Council](#)	Brussels
12 July	[Event of the Slovak Presidency of the Council- Convergence of insolvency frameworks within the European Union-the way forward](#)	Brussels
12-13 July	[Informal meeting of Energy Ministers](#)	Bratislava, Slovakia
13-15 July	[Informal meeting of Employment, Social Policy and Health ministers](#)	Bratislava, Slovakia
18 July	[Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#)	Brussels
18 July	[Foreign Affairs Council](#)	Brussels
18-19 July	[Informal meeting of Competitiveness Ministers](#)	Bratislava, Slovakia
24-25 July	[Informal meeting of the General Affairs Council](#)	Bratislava, Slovakia
[All meetings of the Council](#)		

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Venue/Location
4-7 July	EP plenary session	*Among Others: Emission limits for non-road mobile machinery; social and environmental standards, human rights and corporate responsibility; a forward-looking and innovative future strategy for trade and investment; the fight against trafficking in human beings in the EU's external relations; review of the Dutch Presidency Council and Commission statements; conclusions of the European Council meeting of 28 and 29 June 2016-European Council and Commission statements; recent developments in Poland and their impact on fundamental rights as laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; decision adopted on the Common European Asylum System reform (second package); European Border and Coast Guard; statements by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on foreign affairs issues; high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union; synergies between structural funds and Horizon 2020 Commission statement; 71st session of the UN General Assembly; programme of activities of the Slovak Presidency-Council and Commission statements; preparation of the Commission Work Programme 2017-Commission statement; Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Votes on European Maritime Safety Agency, Community Fisheries Control Agency, EU-Azerbaijan Framework Agreement, Motions for resolutions concerning debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and Japan's decision to resume whaling in the 2015-2016 season;*	Strasbourg

Committee Meetings

Date	Event	Subjects	Venue/Location
4 July	Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in	*Among others: Presentation of the study on 'Legal obligations relating to emission measurements in the EU automotive sector',*	Strasbourg

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	the Automotive Sector	*Hearing of Mr Jos Dings, Executive Director, Transport and Environment*	
4 July	Committee on Fisheries	*Agenda not yet available*	Strasbourg
4 July	Committee on Budgetary Control	*Agenda not yet available*	Strasbourg
4 July	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy	*Among others: Establishing an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements and non-binding instruments between Member States and third countries in the field of energy and repealing Decision No 994/2012/EU; cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market;*	Strasbourg
4 July	Committee on Constitutional Affairs	*Among others: Exchange of views with Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights;*	Strasbourg
7 July	Committee on Foreign Affairs	*Agenda not yet available*	Strasbourg
11 July	Committee on Development	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
11 July	Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
11-12 July	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
11-12 July	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
11-12 July	Committee on Transport and Tourism	*Among others: Common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency; EU strategy for liquefied natural gas and gas storage; presentation by the Slovak Minister for Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Mr Roman Brecely of Slovak*	Brussels

		Presidency priorities; new opportunities for small transport businesses, including collaborative business models; exchange of views on "Investing in jobs and growth – maximising the contribution of European Structural and Investment Funds: an evaluation of the report under Article 16(3) of the CPR; Tourism Task Force – Access to EU funding for investment in tourism – exchange of views;	
11-12 July	[Committee on Legal Affairs](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
11-12 July	[Committee on Fisheries](#)	*Among others: exchange of views with a representative of the Commission on fishery agreements with third countries and on ongoing negotiations; exchange of views with Gabriela Matečná, Slovak Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development and President of the Slovak Presidency on the priorities of the Slovak Presidency.*	Brussels
11-12 July	[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
11-12 July	[Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality](#)	*Among others: How can the CAP improve job creation in rural areas? The need for an EU strategy to end and prevent the Gender Pension Gap; creating Labour Market Conditions Favourable for Work-Life Balance;*	Brussels
13 July	[Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
13-14 July	[Committee on Employment and Social Affairs](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
13-14 July	[Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection](#)	*Among others: Presentation by the Commission: European standardisation policy, including ICT priority standards plan; presentation of the Council Presidency's programme by Deputy Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini and Economy Minister Peter Žiga; presentation by the Commission of the approach to online platforms;*	Brussels
13-14 July	[Committee on Regional Development](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels

Date	Event		Venue/Location
13-14 July	[Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
13-14 July	[Committee on Culture and Education](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
13-14 July	[Committee on Petitions](#)	*Agenda not yet available*	Brussels
[All European Parliament Committee meetings](#)			

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1 July	[Communicating investment at EU, national, regional and local level](#)	Brussels
4 July	[9th COTER Commission Meeting](#)	Brussels
4 July	[The 11th European Urban and Regional Planning Awards 2015-2016](#)	Brussels
5 July	[Lunchtime briefing – Facilitating investments through efficient public procurement systems](#)	Brussels
5 July	[Second meeting of the Ukraine Task Force](#)	Brussels
8 July	[On the Road to Bratislava](#)	Bratislava, Slovakia
8-9 July	[Invest and connect: 7th European Summit of Regions and Cities](#)	Bratislava, Slovakia
13 July	[Lunchtime briefing: Research on the role of subnational parliaments in the EU](#)	Brussels
10-13 October	[European Week of Regions and Cities](#)	Brussels
[Further events of the Committee of the Regions](#)		

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1 July	European day of Social Economy Enterprises	Brussels
4-5 July	15th Regional seminar of EU-ACP Economic and social interest groups	Nairobi, Kenya
6-7 July	EU-Africa Network of economic and social stakeholders	Nairobi, Kenya
7 July	Next steps for a sustainable European future – Reforming Europe, implementing SDGs	Brussels
7 July	Promoting innovative and high growth firms – The role of research intensive clusters	Santiago de Compostela, Spain
	Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee	

1.6 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
8-9 July	NATO Summit	Warsaw, Poland
12-13 July	EU-China Business Summit	Beijing, China
15-16 July	Asia-Europe Meeting	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
4-5 July	How to build Smart Energy Regions	JRC, Technology Region Karlsruhe	Karlsruhe, Germany
4-8 July	The Ninth Summer School on Sensitivity Analysis of Model Output (SAMO 2016)	JRC, University of Naples Federico II	Capri, Italy
5 July	EUFRAT Program Advisory Committee meeting	JRC	Geel, Belgium
14 July	S2E National Event – Bulgaria: "The Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Research and Innovation Funding: Stairway to Excellence	JRC, Bulgarian National Authorities	Sofia, Bulgaria
19-29 July	ESA/JRC international summer school on Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)	JRC, ESA	Ispra, Italy
30 August-2 September	EU-AU-IIASA Evidence and Policy Event	JRC, EU, AU, IIASA	Ispra, Italy
28-30 September	Changing Patterns of Territorial Policy: Smart Specialisation and Innovation in Europe	JRC	Seville, Spain
Further upcoming DG JRC events Further upcoming events in the EU Newsroom Calendar			

2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
5-6 July	Market conditions for the space industry workshop	EC	Brussels, Belgium
6-8 July	Workshop – Socioeconomic impact assessment of chemicals management	EC	Helsinki, Finland

2.3 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
3-7 July	Visit of the Director-General Vladimir Šucha	JRC, Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Beijing, China
3-8 July	42nd International Conference on Coordination Chemistry– ICCC 2016	ICCC	Brest, France
4-9 July	Bridging ICTs and the Environment. Geospatial Technologies and Remote Sensing for Monitoring SDGs.	CEU, UNOOSA	Budapest, Hungary
4-8 July	Geospatial Technologies and Remote Sensing for Monitoring SDGs 2016	Central European University (CEU), UNOOSA	Budapest, Hungary
4-8 July	24th International Input-Output Conference & 6th Edition of the International School of I-O Analysis	International Input-Output Conference	Seoul, South Korea
7-8 July	EUFRAT Program Advisory Committee meeting and 6th Digital Earth Summit	International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)	Beijing, China
11-15 July	Bridging ICTs and the Environment. Innovations in Disaster Risk Reduction	CEU, UNDP	Budapest, Hungary
17-26 July	Modeling Experimentation Validation Summer School	Oak Ridge National Laboratory	Oak Ridge, USA
18-22 July	Africa Water Week	African Ministers' Council on Water AMCOW	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

23-27 July	Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2016	EuroScience	Manchester, United Kingdom
24-31 July	The International Youth Nuclear Congress (IYNC) Conference	IYNC	Hangzhou, China
31 July-2 August	Annual Meeting of the American Agricultural Association (AAEA)	AAEA	Boston, USA
31 July-4 August	68th AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo	American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC)	Philadelphia, USA
9-14 August	Fab 12 Shenzen- Fabricating the Future	FABLAB UE	Shenzen, China
17 August-2 September	European Forum Alpbach	European Forum Alpbach Foundation	Alpbach, Austria
28 August-1 September	6th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDCR Davos 2016	IDRC	Davos, Switzerland
29 August-1 September	EcoSummit 2016- Ecological Sustainability: Engineering Change	ELSEVIER	Montpellier, France
6-9 September	The 1st Latin America and the Caribbean Open Science Forum- CILAC	CILAC	Montevideo, Uruguay
19-21 September	OECD Blue Sky 3 2016 – Informing science and innovation policies: Towards the next generation of data and indicators	OECD	Ghent, Belgium
28 September	White House Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM)	ASM	Brussels, Belgium
7-9 October	Arctic Circle Assembly	Arctic Circle	Reykjavik, Iceland
12-14 October	CESAER General Assembly and Seminar 2016	CESAER	Vienna, Austria
17-19 October	2016 EU-US Frontiers of Engineering Symposium	Euro CASE	Helsinki, Finland
17-20 October	UN Habitat III– UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development	UN HABITAT	Quito, Ecuador
27-28 October	Sustainable Growth Summit	Norwegian Centres of Expertise Seafood Innovation Cluster	Bergen, Norway
7-18 November	UNFCCC COP 22	UNFCC	Marrakesh, Morocco
14 November	Euro-CASE Annual Conference 2016: Big Data– Smarter Products, Better Societies	Euro-CASE, ATV, Technical University of Denmark (DTU)	Lyngby, Denmark

28-30 November	Budapest 2016 Water Forum	Government of Hungary	Budapest, Hungary
7-13 January 2017	16th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering	WCEE and Chilean Association of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering-ACHISINA	Santiago, Chile
22-24 February 2017	World Ocean Summit	The Economist	Bali, Indonesia

3. DG JRC News

2015	**DG JRC Annual Report**
2015	**Overview of the scientific process of the EU Agencies network for scientific advice (EU-ANSA)**
June	**DG JRC Newsletter June 2016**
Open	**The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest**

June Highlights

6-9 June	**24th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition**
	The EUBCE was the event in which the members of the bioenergy community could get a broad picture of the situation and trends emerging in today's market. The Conference provided a high-level scientific programme and parallel events which attracted participants from a wide-ranging background: researchers, engineers, technologists, standards organisations, financial institutions, policy makers and decision makers. This event was supported by European and international organizations. The Technical Programme was coordinated by the JRC. The JRC was also present at the exhibition.

6-9 June	**European Code of Conduct Awards ceremony**

The annual Datacentres Code of Conduct Awards was delivered at the Datacloud Europe 2016 Congress and Exhibition in Monaco. The European Code of Conduct Awards were created in response to the increasing energy consumption in data centres and the need to reduce the related environmental, economic and energy supply security impacts. The aim was to inform and stimulate data centre operators and owners to reduce their energy consumption in a cost effective way. The JRC was also present at the exhibition.

14 June	**IP Exchange and Finance: a contribution to innovation**

Many Intellectual Property platforms have been created with various degrees of success but no widely recognised institution exists that can help owners wanting to sell or license their Intellectual Property or support buyers in identifying IP that they may be interested in purchasing. This state of affairs perpetuates a situation in the Intellectual Property market in which costs are high and deals are made only following extensive negotiation (often on the basis of non-transparent price structures). This creates a challenging environment for corporates that can only sell Intellectual Property assets slowly and at high costs, for universities that struggle to commercialise their discoveries, for high-tech start-ups that have to recur to risky forms of financing or give away equity too quickly and for investors that find it hard to understand and valuate intangible assets that can, today, make up a significant portion of a company's value. The proposed workshop considered the challenges and opportunities presented by Intellectual Property trading and Intellectual Property based finance. It hosted a variety of keynote speakers with experience in patent, copyright and IP markets in general; it brought together a number of representatives of Intellectual Property trading and finance initiatives and was concluded with an analysis of possibilities for EU action. The objective was to better understand the domain of Intellectual Property exchange and finance in Europe. Possible options for action at the EU level were discussed.

14-16 June	**Google Earth Engine User Summit 2016**

The Google Earth Engine (GEE) User Summit 2016 brought together researchers and educators in GIS and remote sensing technologies that have been using Google Earth Engine, or were interested in learning how to use Google Earth Engine for planetary-scale cloud-based geospatial analysis. The summit included:
(i) three days of training on Google Earth Engine (GEE) to learn new tools for mapping and monitoring forest deforestation and degradation, and profile the scripts developed in Roadless with the support of the GEE team and
(ii) Plenary presentations of the new applications from other people working with the same tools and/or on similar topics.

15 June	**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**

How do young people see themselves as agents of change? Selected for their diverse expertise and leadership qualities, the Young Leaders will engage you to improve and challenge their visions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. During the European Development Days (EDD) 2016, the EU Policy Lab organised a session "Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030" and showcased the Young Leaders' grassroots and wide-ranging experience, and explored opportunities and challenges emerging from major future trends. In their pursuit to find creative, fresh and innovative solutions, a systems approach was used to explore cross-cutting issues within the themes of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The Young Leaders worked in four parallel interactive groups, shaped their proposals into novel key messages designed to engage today's development community. The event was facilitated by Xavier Troussard, Head of Unit, Foresight and Behavioural Insight, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, the EU Policy Lab, and the EDD2016 Young Leaders

16 June	**Smart Specialisation in Energy: How are Europe's regions implementing their priorities?**

Energy is indeed the most popular priority selected in smart specialisation strategies across Europe, with over 2/3 of all EU regions choosing at least one energy-related priority. From the perspective of Cohesion Policy, effective

uptake of funds related to innovation in energy will be a crucial element of this pillar, as well as the actual implementation of the smart specialisation strategies. The purpose of this event was to showcase specific advancements of Smart Specialisation in the area of energy. Panellists and participants were kindly invited to discuss the following topics: •What are the main challenges for regions, when regions are passing from design to implementation of S3 energy priorities •How collaborative frameworks are supporting a better implementation of S3 energy priorities. Target group: stakeholders and practitioners of Smart Specialisation Strategies having included energy-related priorities at national and regional level.

20 June	**Knowledge Centre for Migration and Demography Launch**

On the timely occasion of World Refugee Day, this event brought together policy makers, analysts and researchers from the European Commission, other EU institutions, European and international organisations, think tanks and academia to launch the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography. The event underlined scope and aims of the Knowledge Centre to provide tangible, internally validated responses to these needs: on the one hand centralising, putting in context and making comparable the relevant knowledge while on the other distilling, qualifying and tailoring it to serve the different EU policies with the most appropriate information. In doing this, the knowledge centre contributes to identify existing knowledge gaps and areas requiring more focused research and studies.

21 June	**STS Contro-Corrente Seminar: DataBust, Dissecting Big Data Practices and Imaginaries**

Across both public and private domains, Big Data continues to generate great interest. Glorified by some and demonized by others, modern data analytics have been touted as a "revolution that will transform how we live, work, and think" (Mayer-Schönberger and Cukier 2013). But how exactly do Big Data processes participate in shaping society and "making up people" (Hacking 1999)? This presentation argued that in order to understand Big Data and its societal consequences, a combination of ethical and epistemological analysis is needed as certain ethical implications – e.g., related to issues of anonymity and privacy – can only be properly assessed if the underlying epistemic practices – e.g., new ways of re-identification and de-anonymization – are recognized and taken into account. An appreciation of the epistemic properties of Big Data methodologies as novel and potentially problematic forms of computational knowledge production thus represents a first key concern. In addition, the presentation considered the significance of Big Data for public policy in a twofold manner: First, it examines the increased emphasis on predictive analytics as a rationale and justification for political action and decision making; second, it identifies new requirements and challenges in the governance of Big Data, addressing issues such as the general complexity and speed of development (a), the profound lack of technical skills and competencies for improved regulation (b), as well as insufficient access to data in both the government sector and academia (c). The presentation concluded with some considerations on how a responsible governance of Big Data may deal with these challenges; a subsequent discussion part dealt with "political imaginaries" (Ezrahi 2015) of Big Data in recent EC communications, press releases, and speeches.

21-24 June	**32nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference (EUPVSEC)**

EU PVSEC is one of the premiere PV conferences globally, attracting over 1000 papers and about 3000 participants each year. This year's event was held in Munich (Germany) from the 21st to the 24th of June. The European Commission established the first of these conferences in 1981 (held at Stresa, Italy). Since 1996 the JRC supports the Conference by providing the scientific programme coordination.

22 June	**S2E National Event – Romania: "The Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Research and Innovation Funding: Stairway to Excellence**

The ROMANIA National Event is co-organised by JRC's S3 Platform – S2E project and the Romanian Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research

28 June	**Virtual Currencies: combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payments**
The JRC organised in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs and EUROPOL, a workshop about Virtual Currencies in the context of fight against fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payments. This workshop aimed at providing a scientific support to the forthcoming revision of the 2001 Council Decision on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment. With the involvement of stakeholders from academia, industry and EU law enforcement, the objective of the workshop was to analyse, following a threat driven approach, the emerging cases of fraud and counterfeiting related to Virtual Currencies and to evaluate their possible inclusion in the revision of the 2001 decision in order to enable an effective and solid prosecution of such new type of criminal activities.	