

# EU DECENTRALISED BODIES & AGENCIES

## A Concise Overview

The decentralised bodies and agencies of the EU handle technical and scientific duties, risk assessments, and project management, aiding in the implementation of EU programs. They equip EU institutions and member countries with expert knowledge in fields such as food, medicine, chemicals, education, justice, security, and fundamental rights. EU bodies are legally distinct and geographically distributed across various European cities, not just Brussels.

These decentralised bodies and agencies are categorised into four groups: **Community Agencies, Common Foreign and Security Agencies, Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters Agencies, and Executive Agencies**, each handling specific technical and managerial aspects of EU policy areas.



### Decentralised agencies:

#### Ordinary' agencies without decision-making or regulatory powers (meaning their analytical input is fed into the Commission):



The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (**Cedefop** - located in Thessaloniki Region, Greece)



The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (**EUROFOUND** - located in County Dublin)



The European Environment Agency (**EEA** - headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark)



The European Training Foundation (**ETF** - located in Torino, Italy)



The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs & Drug Addiction (**EMCDDA** - headquartered in Lisbon, Portugal)



The European Agency for Safety & Health at Work (**EU-OSHA** - based in Bilbao, Spain)



The Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (**CdT** - located in Luxembourg)



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (**FRA** - based in Vienna, Austria)



The European Network and Information Security Agency (**ENISA** - headquartered in Athens, Greece)



The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (commonly referred to as **FRONTEX** - headquartered in Warsaw, Poland)



The European Fisheries Control Agency (**EFCA** - located in Vigo, Spain)



The European Union Agency for the Space Programme (**EUSPA** - headquartered in Prague, Czechia)



The European Institute for Gender Equality (**EIGE** - located in Vilnius, Lithuania)



The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (**BEREC** - based in Riga, Latvia)



The European Union Agency for large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (**eu-LISA** - headquartered in Tallinn, Estonia, whilst its operational centre is in Strasbourg, France)



The European Union Agency for Asylum (**EUAA** - based in Valletta, Malta)



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## Decentralised agencies:

'Pre-decision-making' agencies, or in another word, agencies that provide "risk assessment". These agencies have considerable influence in shaping the European Commission's "risk management" work, which it conducts freely but shaped by the scientific and technical input from these agencies:



The European Medicines Agency (**EMA** - after Brexit, relocated to Amsterdam, Netherlands)



The European Food Safety Authority (**EFSA** - based in Parma, Italy)



The European Maritime Safety Agency (**EMSA** - headquartered in Lisbon, Portugal)



The European Chemicals Agency (**ECHA** - based in Helsinki, Finland)



The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (**ECDC** - based in Stockholm, Sweden)



The European Railway Agency (**ERA** - headquartered in Valenciennes, France)

**Decision-making agencies**, able to adopt legally binding instruments (without requiring the Commission's official decision):



The European Union Intellectual Property Office (**EUIPO** - located in Alicante, Spain)



The Community Plant Variety Office (**CPVO** - based in Angers, France)



The European Aviation Safety Agency (**EASA** - headquartered in Cologne, Germany)



The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (**ACER** - seated in Ljubljana, Slovenia)

The following agencies are responsible for the **management and regulation of financial markets**, and the prevention of systemic risks to prevent another crisis of the Eurozone and financial markets:



The European Banking Authority (**EBA** - headquartered in Paris, France)



The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (**EIOPA** - located in Frankfurt am Main, Germany)



The European Securities and Markets Authority (**ESMA** - located in Paris, France)



The Single Resolution Board (**SRB** - established in Brussels, Belgium)

In a category of its own, we have



The EURATOM Supply Agency (**ESA** - based in Luxembourg)



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## Common Foreign and Security Policy Agencies:

These are responsible for scientific and technical management tasks concerning the EU's external relations and security policy. These agencies are the following:



The European Defense Agency (**EDA**, located in Brussels)



The European Union Institute for Security Studies (**EUISS** - located in Paris, France)



The European Union Satellite Centre (**SatCen** - located near Madrid, Spain)

## Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters Agencies:



The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (also known as the European Police College or **CEPOL** - headquartered in Budapest, Hungary)



The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (**EUROPOL** - based in The Hague, Netherlands)



The European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (**EUROJUST** - located in The Hague, Netherlands)

## Executive Agencies

They deal with the management, most often funding project management, of certain Community programs, such as the 7th Research Framework Program that provides grants for scientific research, or the Lifelong Learning Program that helps students study in other countries. They are located in Brussels, Belgium:



The European Education and Culture Executive Agency: **EACEA**



The European Research Council Executive Agency: **ERCEA**



The European Innovation Council and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Executive Agency: **EISMEA**



The European Health and Digital Executive Agency: **HaDEA**



The European Research Executive Agency: **REA**



The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency: **CINEA**

