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Worldwide commitment

In all of its funding programmes, the DFG promotes cross-border cooperation between researchers.

The DFG is committed to creating the best possible conditions for international research cooperation and ensuring high standards in research.

All DFG funding programmes enable the involvement of researchers in any country. There are funding instruments aimed specifically at developing these collaborative ventures and networks. In addition, the DFG concludes agreements with international partner organisations to enable joint funding of research projects. The DFG attaches particular importance to its involvement in shaping the European Research Area. This is especially reflected in the active role the DFG plays in organisations such as the Global Research Council (GRC) and Science Europe.

With offices in New Delhi, New York, São Paulo, Tokyo and Washington DC, as well as the Sino-German Center in Beijing, the DFG also strengthens international collaboration directly on site. In order to support German research institutions in their applications for EU funding, it finances the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi) in Brussels.



The DFG as part of society



The DFG provides information on the subject matter and findings of the research it funds and, as the voice of science and the humanities, it takes a stand on scientific matters in political and social discourse.

It supports politics, administration, industry and society by providing scientific analyses and recommendations for action so as to promote sound framework conditions for science and the humanities in Germany and facilitate the incorporation of scientific findings when addressing socially relevant issues. In its policy advice, it is supported in key areas by Senate Commissions set up specifically for this purpose.

The DFG promotes dialogue between science and the humanities and society through its press and public relations work, through initiatives and event series of its own, as well as through its participation in the Science Year. It regularly publishes the Funding Atlas, providing a summary of key facts and figures on publicly funded research in Germany.

As a publicly funded research funding organisation, the DFG is accountable through its annual report. It also publishes a monitoring report once a year in which it reports on the implementation of the objectives under the Pact for Research and Innovation.

English



Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
In profile

What is the DFG?



The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is Germany's largest research funding organisation and central self-governing body of the research community in Germany. It supports research projects in all scientific disciplines at higher education institutions and other research institutions.

To this end, the DFG develops procedures for reviewing and evaluating funding proposals that ensure the best projects are selected. As members of the DFG's statutory bodies elected by the scientific community, researchers themselves determine how funding is allocated as well as being involved in other decision-making processes.

The DFG helps shape the overall conditions and standards of research, maintains dialogue with society, policymakers and industry, and supports the transfer of research findings to practical application. Particular attention is paid to fostering international cooperation, academic careers, equal opportunities and diversity in science and the humanities.

The DFG is organised as an association under private law. Its members are universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations and academies of science and the humanities. In order to carry out its tasks, the DFG has an annual budget of about €3.6 billion at its disposal, most of which it receives from Germany's federal and state governments.

Customised funding

Eligible researchers, groups or institutions can submit funding proposals to the DFG at any time and on any topic.

The DFG's funding instruments cover all academic disciplines, project formats, forms of cooperation, process phases and career stages. The allocation of funds is decided on by means of a transparent, multi-stage review process.

Individual grants form the core of DFG research funding. Through coordinated programmes such as Priority Programmes, Research Units, Collaborative Research Centres and Research Training Groups, the DFG promotes nationwide and international cooperation as well as the formation of structures in particularly topical fields of work, clustering scientific potential at a university location.

The DFG awards prizes for exceptional scientific achievements. Its Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize is one of the most highly endowed research awards in the world. Together with the German Science and Humanities Council, the DFG carries out the Excellence Strategy by the German federal and state governments.



By means of strategic funding initiatives, the DFG is able to develop and support specific research fields or respond to acute research needs and suggestions regarding the expansion of collaborative ventures. In addition, it promotes the transfer of knowledge from the research it funds and finances science communication.

The DFG also funds research infrastructures, scientific instrumentation and information technologies as well as scientific library services and information systems, and it contributes to the scientific organisation of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI).

As a contribution to a modern research culture, the DFG develops appropriate framework conditions along with the relevant scientific, ethical and legal standards, establishing these within the research system through its funding activities. It is committed to freedom of research, equal opportunities, diversity and equity as well as sound regulatory conditions for research and seeks to harness the opportunities offered by the digital turn.

Effective career support

The DFG offers suitable funding for every phase of a research career, with a special emphasis on researchers in early career phases.

Through its individual funding and structured programmes, the DFG provides young researchers with the opportunity to conduct research projects in any scientific discipline and to attain scientific independence at an early stage.

DFG Research Training Groups enable structured doctoral studies. The Walter Benjamin, Emmy Noether and Heisenberg Programmes aim to promote academic careers and provide direct funding for postdocs. In addition, they can participate in one of the numerous DFG-funded projects or networks, or else acquire a temporary position for a principal investigator. The Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize is awarded by the DFG to outstanding researchers at an early stage of their career.

Through its principles of effective career support, the DFG also establishes how the situation of researchers is to be structured in early phases of their career.

