

A blurred, 3D-rendered logo of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in white, set against a blue background with light rays.

DFG within the German Research Funding System and its Bilateral Options

German Research Foundation (DFG)

Carsten Balleier – Berlin – 21 May 2024

Germany – political framework

Implications of federal structure

- ▶ Definition: ‘Germany is a country consisting of 16 countries’
 - “Bund”: central government and its agencies
 - by Germany’s constitution no responsibility for education, i.e. for universities
 - limited responsibility for research
 - 16 “Länder”: states / provinces
 - by definition: responsible for universities [N.B.: very few private universities]
 - limited financial room for research funding
- ▶ Consequence: need to cooperate!

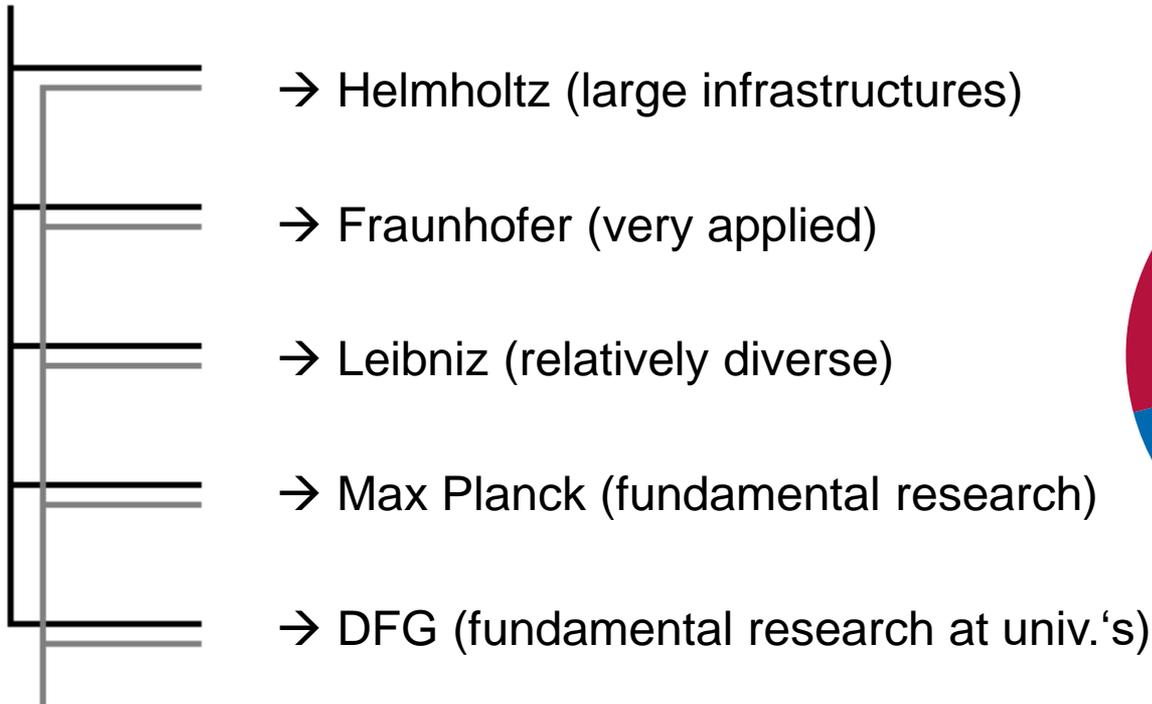


http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Germany_location_map.svg, 2014-11-17

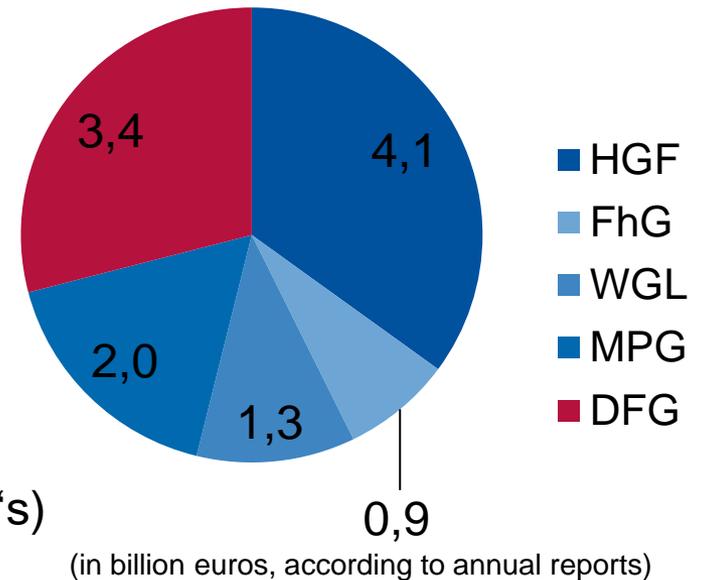
Hierarchy of joint funding – “Bund” vs. “Länder”

co-funded agencies/research organizations in Germany

“Bund” → direct funding through BMBF projects



Base Funding 2021 of German Research Organizations

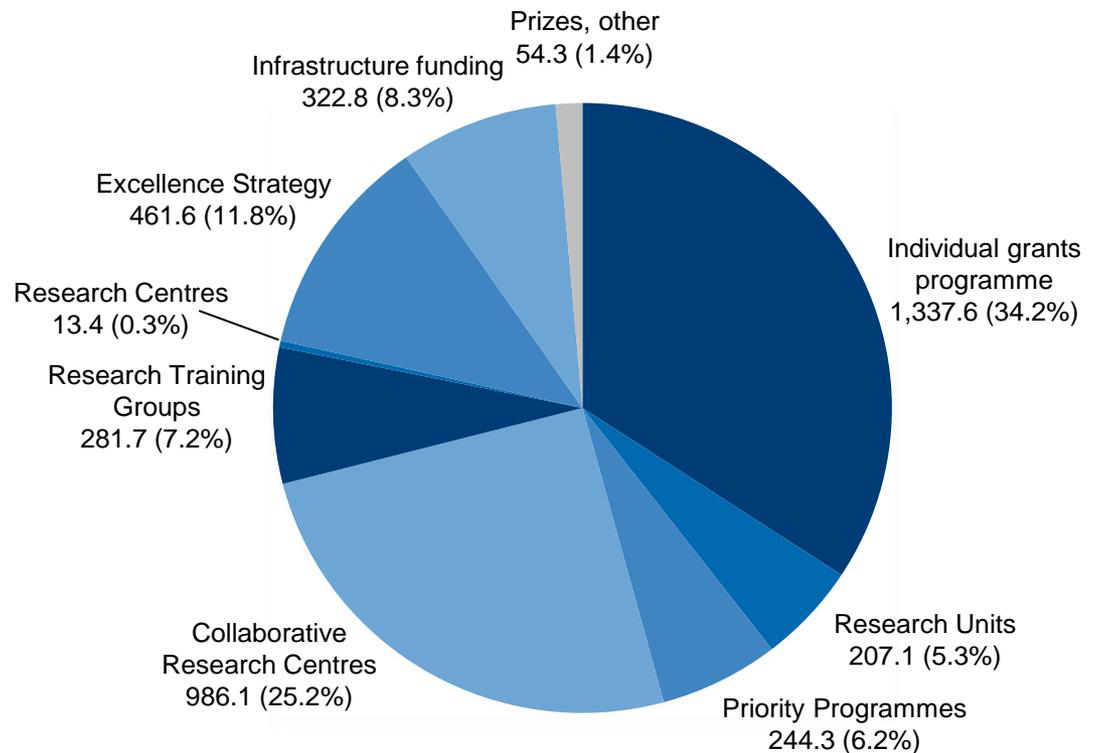


“Länder” → direct (permanent) funding for universities

German Research Foundation (DFG)

mission, principles, numbers (as of 2022)

- ▶ DFG is the self-governing organization for science and research in Germany.
- ▶ It is formally independent from politics.
- ▶ It serves **all** branches of science & humanities.
- ▶ All decisions need to be science-driven.
- ▶ Budget: 3.5 bn euros p.a.
- ▶ Fair success rates, e. g., 30% (individual grants)



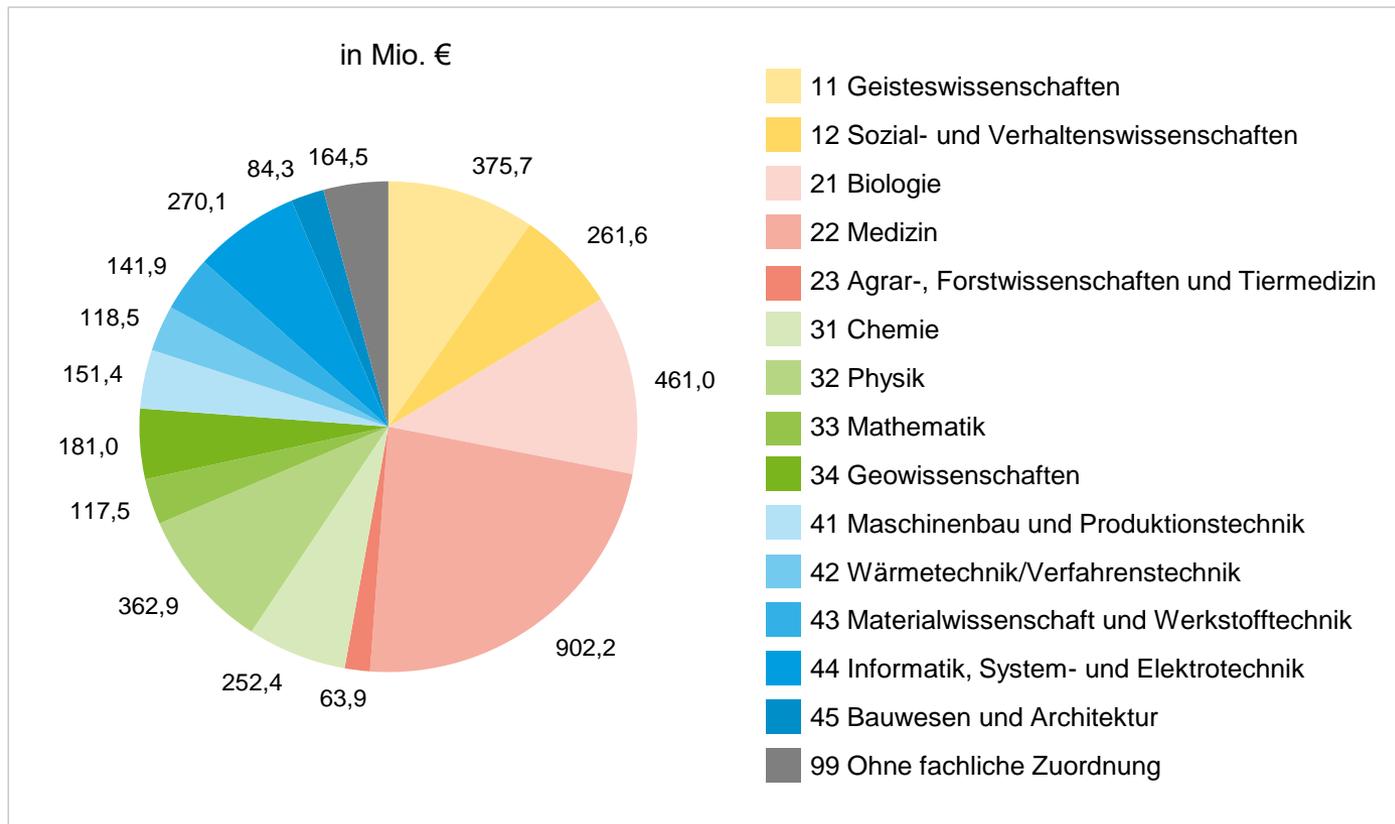
DFG's institutional funding programmes

overview

- ▶ three types of funding:
 - ‚classical‘ project funding
 - this includes bilateral (and multilateral) options for joint projects
 - early career funding
 - includes options for stays outside Germany
 - infrastructure funding
- ▶ in most cases, no thematic requirements and proposals accepted at any time – DFG responds to needs expressed by scientists
- ▶ in any review procedure, at least one disciplinary review board (Fachkollegium) is involved
- ▶ ‚expensive‘ programmes have (collaborative projects, infrastructure funding) have their own interdisciplinary board which decides

Some Numbers

Distribution of the DFG's budget across the fields of research



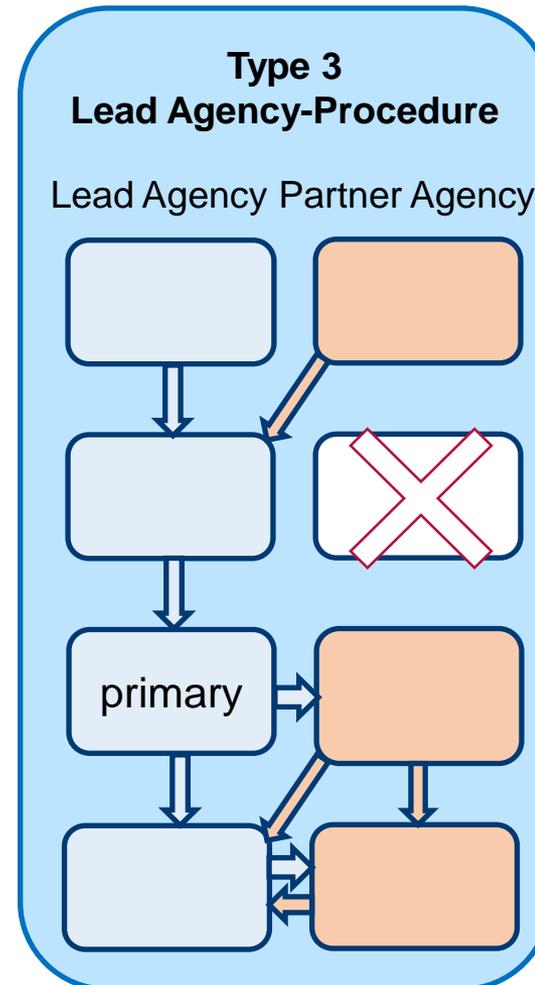
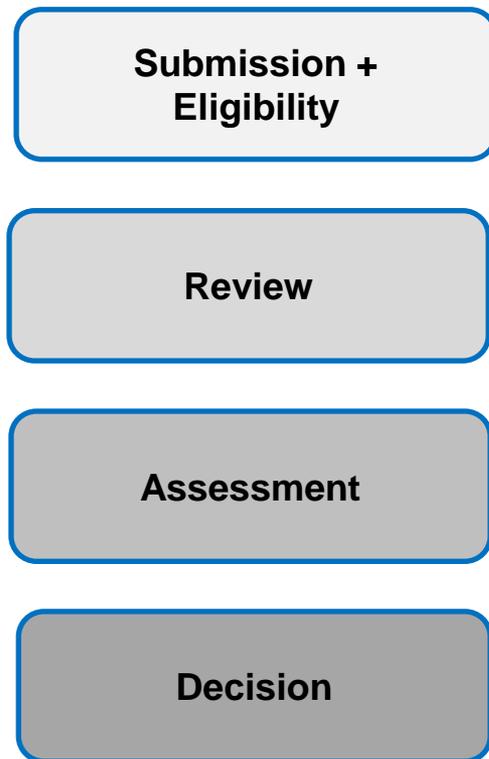
DFG's Approach to International Collaboration in Research Grants

by responding to scientists' needs

- ▶ Proposals for research grants may, to a limited extent, include a funding request for joint with international partners
- ▶ 'True' bi- (or multi-)lateral collaboration needs more than that:
- ▶ A research project may need funds at two research institutions in two different countries
- ▶ For projects in Germany plus one partner country, DFG has established different schemes:
 - weave: bi-/trilateral projects in a lead agency scheme with several European partners
 - bilateral lead agency agreements, e.g. with **ANR in Natural, Life and Engineering Sc.**
 - schemes based on joint review panels, e.g. with ANR in Social Scienc. and Humanities
 - ... and many other schemes with a lower degree of procedural integration

What is a Lead Agency Procedure?

External Reviewing and (Initial) Selection of Projects by a Single Agency





DFG

Many thanks!

Further information

- ▶ myself: carsten.balleier@dfg.de
- ▶ ANR-DFG NLE information: anr-nle@dfg.de
- ▶ DFG: <http://www.dfg.de>
- ▶ funding statistics: <http://www.dfg.de/france/anr-nle>
- ▶ funded projects: <http://www.dfg.de/gepris>