



# DFG within the German Research Funding System and its Bilateral Options

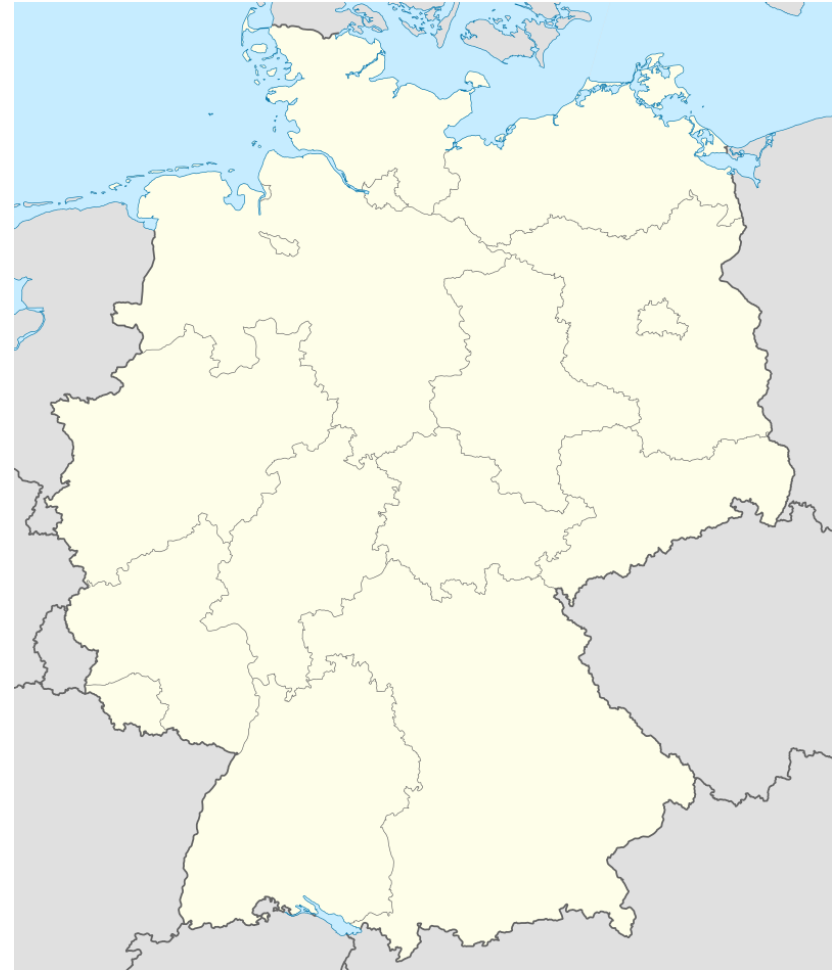
German Research Foundation (DFG)

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!

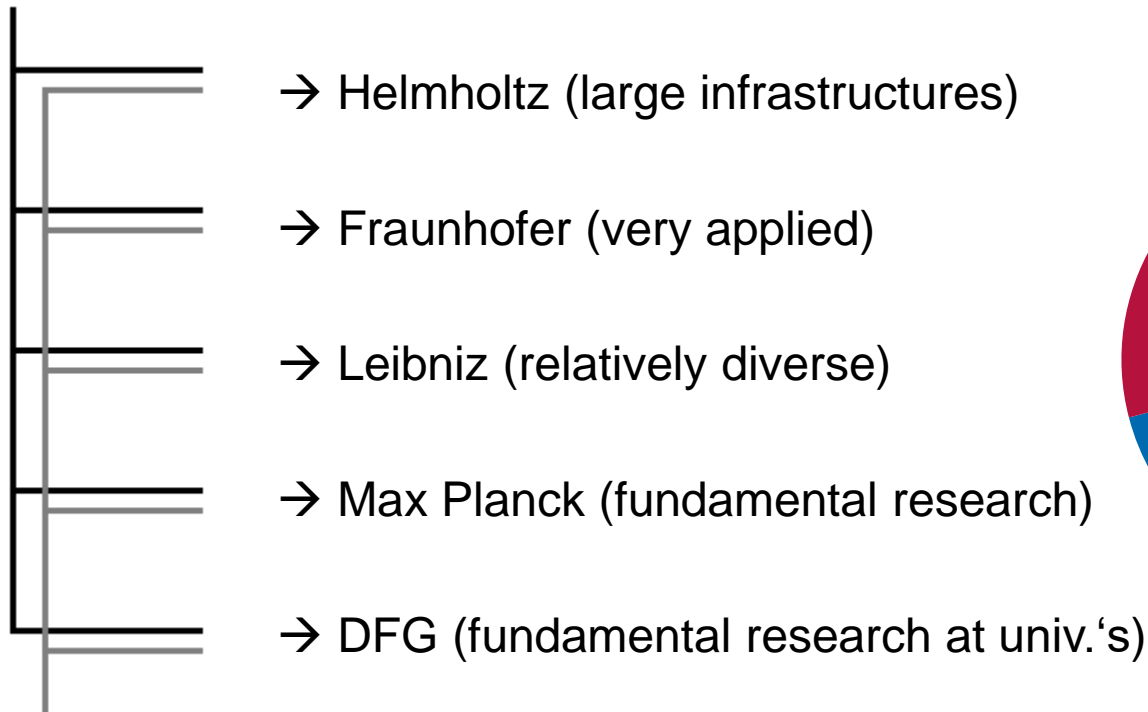


[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Germany\\_location\\_map.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Germany_location_map.svg), 2014-11-17

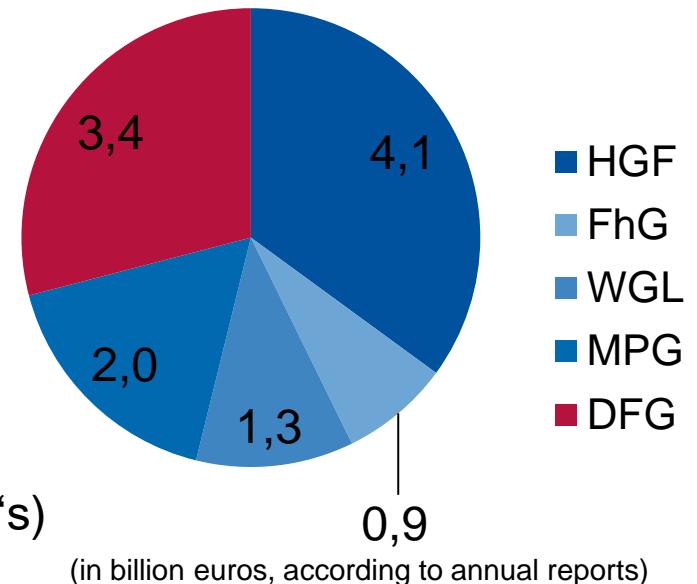
# Hierarchy of joint funding – “Bund” vs. “Länder”

## co-funded agencies/research organizations in Germany

“Bund” → direct funding through BMBF projects



**Base Funding 2021  
of German Research  
Organizations**

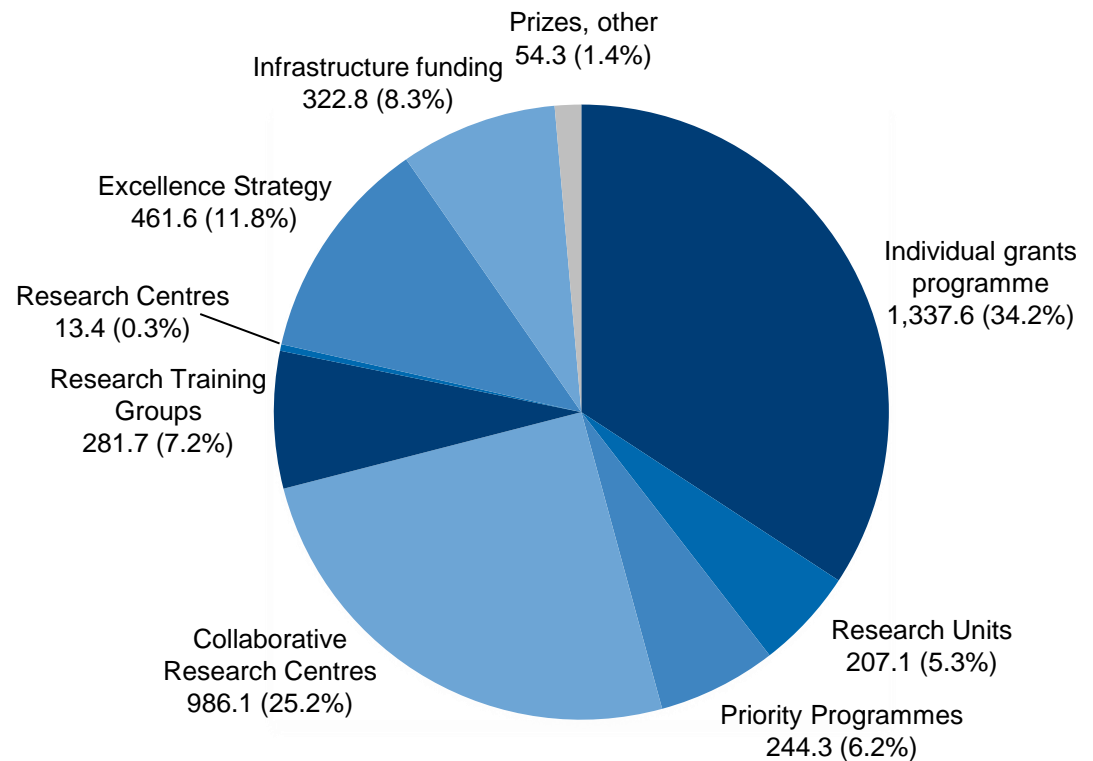


“Länder” → direct (permanent) funding for universities

# 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)



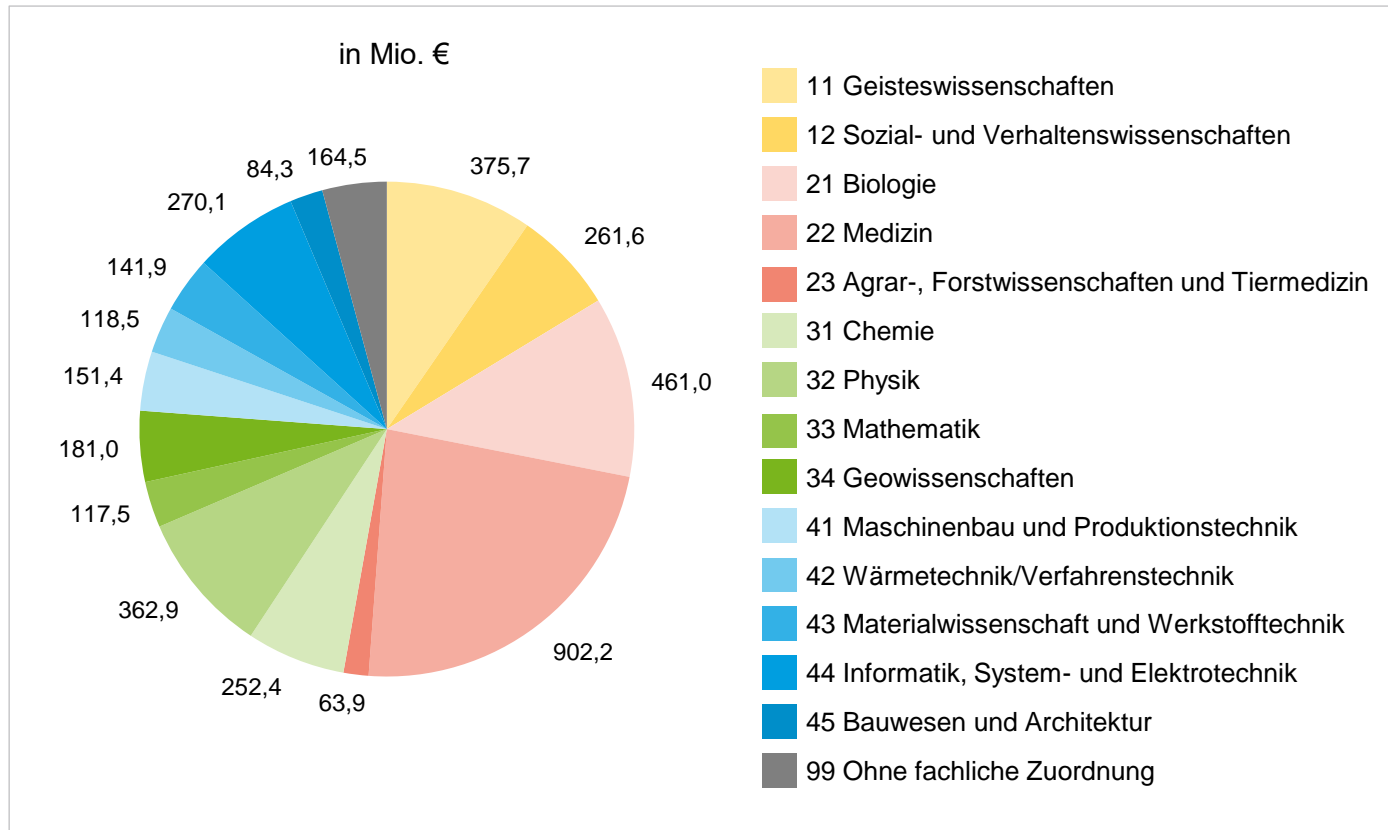
# DFG's institutional funding programmes

## 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



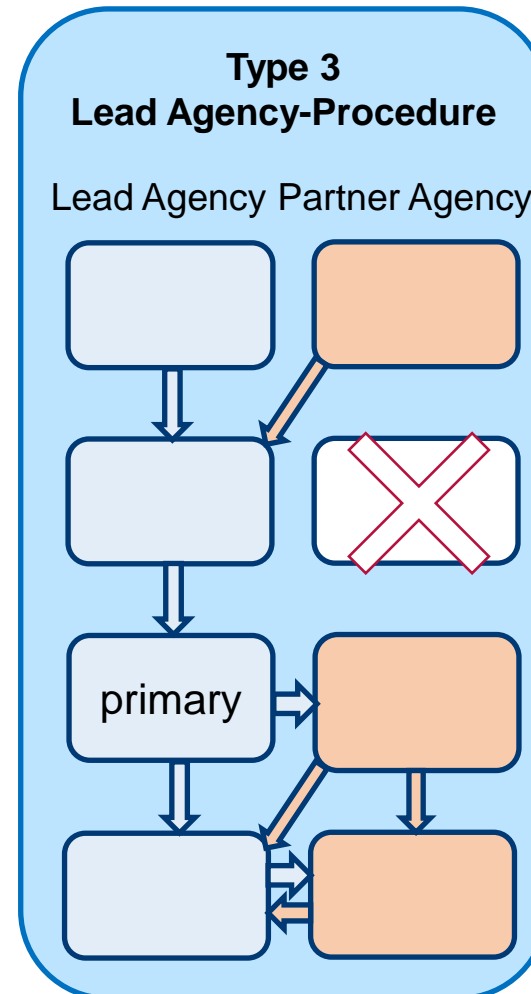
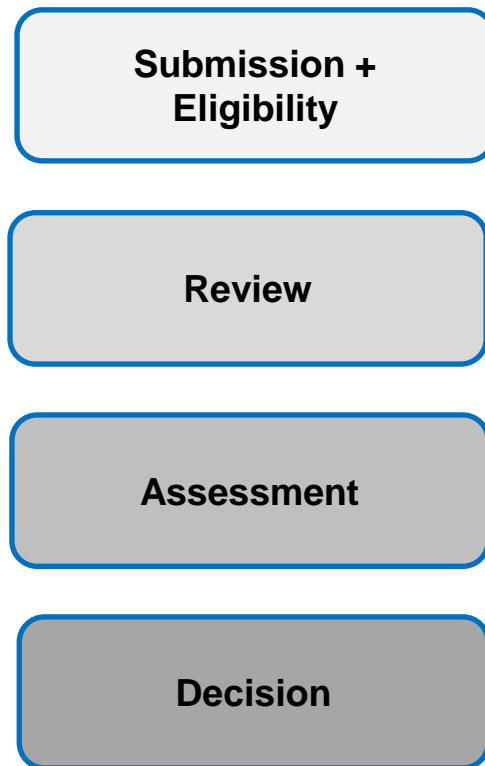
# DFG's Approach to International Collaboration in Research Grants

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







# Many thanks!

## Further information

- ▶ myself: [carsten.balleier@dfg.de](mailto:carsten.balleier@dfg.de)
- ▶ ANR-DFG NLE information: [anr-nle@dfg.de](mailto: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>