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How is the DFG active internationally?

The DFG promotes cross-border cooperation between researchers in all of its funding programmes.

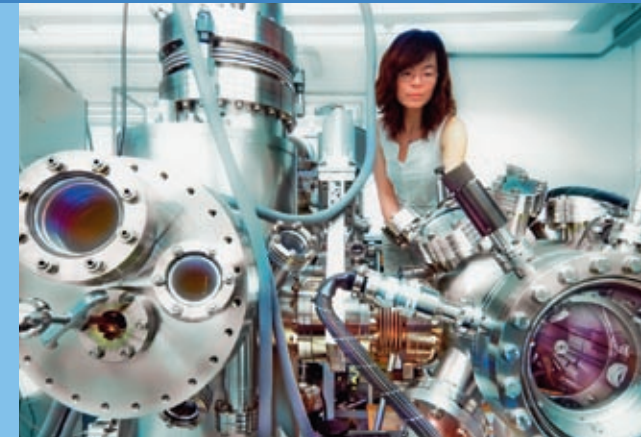
It fosters international collaboration, the mobility of researchers, and the internationalisation of German universities. The DFG is also a member of various international organisations and committees.

With its liaison offices in Washington, New York, Moscow, New Delhi and Tokyo, as well as the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion in Beijing, the DFG has expanded its presence in other research regions around the world in recent years. It thus strengthens collaboration between researchers and their relationships to national funding organisations.

The DFG is especially committed to fostering research networks in Europe. It is active in research policy and research funding to encourage bi- and multilateral collaboration and help shape the European Research Area. The DFG funds the EU Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi) in Brussels and is a member of important European forums.



Dialogue with the public



As an institution that distributes public money to fund research, the DFG uses various channels to provide information on its activities as well as interesting scientific topics and findings. It also takes a stand on important research-policy issues like genetic engineering and stem-cell research.

In its *german research* magazine as well as lectures and exhibitions, the DFG regularly presents the projects it funds. To this end it also participates each year in the Summer of Science and cooperates with public television. In addition, the DFG holds seminars for young researchers to teach them how to work with the media and communicate their activities in a generally accessible way.

Jointly with the Donors' Association for the Promotion of Sciences and Humanities in Germany, the DFG awards the Communicator Prize to researchers for outstanding efforts in conveying scientific findings to the public.

English

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Profile and Mission

What is the DFG?



The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the central self-governing research funding organisation in Germany. It serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects at universities and other research institutions.

The DFG promotes excellence by selecting the best research projects on a competitive basis and actively encourages international research cooperation. It is particularly dedicated to the promotion of young researchers and to gender equality in science and academia. It also advises legislatures and government agencies on scientific matters.

In organisational terms, the DFG is an association under private law. Its members are German universities, research institutions, scientific associations, and the academies of science. The DFG's annual budget of over 2 billion euros is underwritten by Germany's federal (65%) and state governments (34%) as well as the EU and private donors.

How does the DFG promote research?

The DFG's funding portfolio is designed to meet the diverse needs of the research community.

With a broad range of programmes, the DFG supports research projects in all disciplines: the humanities and social sciences, life sciences, as well as the natural and engineering sciences.

The Individual Grants Programme is the centrepiece of DFG research funding. The DFG provides research grants to cover the cost of personnel, equipment, consumables, and travel.

The DFG's Coordinated Programmes promote collaboration and the establishment of structures through national and international cooperation in particularly topical areas of research, as well as by concentrating scientific expertise at single universities. These programmes include Research Units, Priority Programmes, Collaborative Research Centres, DFG Research Centres, and Research Training Groups. In 2008, Reinhart Koselleck Projects were introduced to fund endeavours that are especially risky in a positive sense.

Researchers who hold a doctorate and work at a German university – or at a research institution collaborating with



a university – are eligible to submit funding proposals to the DFG for research projects of their own choice. The DFG uses a transparent, multi-stage peer review process to select the most deserving projects for funding.

Furthermore the DFG, together with the German Science Council, carries out the Excellence Initiative. Its goal is to support top-level research and broadly enhance the quality of Germany as a university and research location, thus making it more competitive internationally. The Excellence Initiative has three lines of funding: graduate schools to promote young researchers, clusters of excellence to promote top-level research, and institutional strategies to promote top-level university research through project funding.

In addition, the DFG awards cash prizes to researchers for exceptional scientific achievements. The most highly endowed of these is the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize, worth 2.5 million euros. It is considered Germany's most renowned research award.

How does the DFG promote young researchers?

Promoting young researchers is one of DFG's most important objectives.

Through flexible individual funding instruments and programmes of excellence, it provides young researchers with the opportunity to conduct research projects in any scientific discipline and to attain scientific independence at an early age.

The DFG has an appropriate funding instrument for every stage of the research career. The funding programmes for young researchers include personal research fellowships, doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships within Research Training Groups, independent junior research groups affiliated to Collaborative Research Centres or Research Units, the Emmy Noether Programme, as well as Heisenberg Fellowships and Professorships.

Researchers can also request funding for their own temporary position as principal investigator in order to conduct a project independently. Moreover, the DFG regularly awards the Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize to recognise young researchers for outstanding achievements.

