

About the DFG



The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the central, independent 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. Its mandate also includes encouraging the advancement of early career researchers, promoting gender equality in the German scientific and academic communities, providing scientific policy advice, and fostering relations with the private sector and between researchers at home and abroad.

The DFG is an association under private law. Its member organisations include research universities, non-university research institutions, such as the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer, the Helmholtz Association and the Leibniz Association, the academies of sciences and humanities, and a number of scientific associations. The DFG has an annual budget of €3.1 billion, provided primarily by the German federal government (67 percent) and the states (33 percent), but also including EU funds and private donations.

Contact

Online Statistical Information

DFG Facts and Figures

► www.dfg.de/facts-figures

DFG Annual Report

► www.dfg.de/annual_report

DFG Funding Atlas

► www.dfg.de/fundingatlas

DFG German Project Information System (GEPRIS)

► gepris.dfg.de/en

Research Explorer – The German Research Directory

► www.dfg.de/en/rex

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Programmes

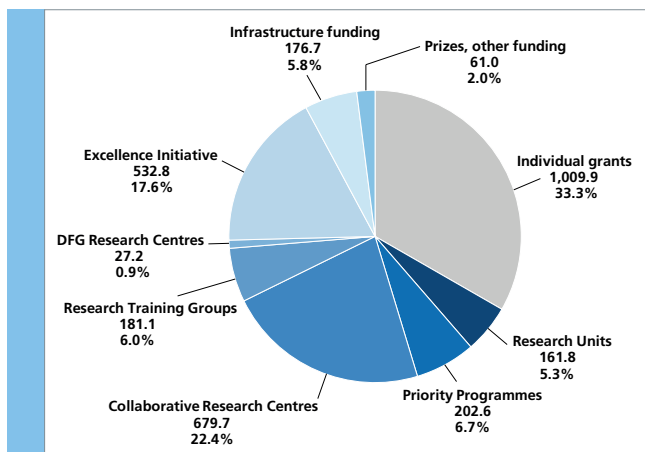
In 2016, the DFG funded over 31,000 new and ongoing projects with a funding volume of over €3.0 billion. More than 33 percent of this funding was allocated to the individual grants programmes. In addition to the traditional research grants to finance personnel, equipment, consumables and travel, this funding also includes early career grant programmes – such as the Emmy Noether Programme and research fellowships.

With its coordinated programmes – Research Centres, Research Units, Priority Programmes, Collaborative Research Centres and Research Training Groups – the DFG supports the formation and development of national and international research cooperation as well as the establishment and development of local structures. In 2016, a total of 816 research collaborations were funded with a sum of €1.25 billion. This equates to a share of 41 percent.

Together with the Excellence Initiative, infrastructure funding, international programme funding, as well as the scientific prizes awarded by the DFG, the funding volume was approximately €190 million higher than in 2015.

Research funding by programme for 2016¹⁾ (in €m and %)

¹⁾ Including programme allowances for indirect project costs. Differences within the table and in relation to other tables and diagrams are due to rounding.

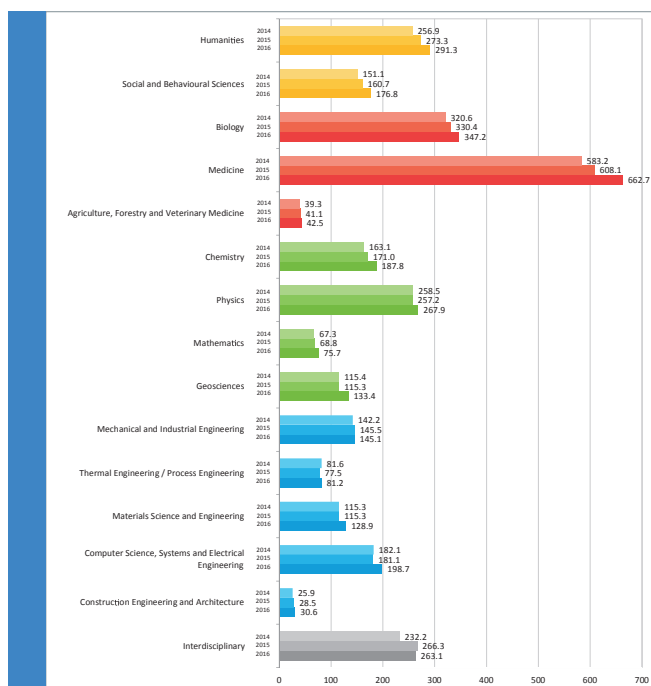


Research Areas

The DFG is open to all branches of science and the humanities. The distribution of DFG funding among the scientific disciplines has been stable over the years. In 2016, the greatest share of funding was allocated to the life sciences, at just under 35 percent. Among the 14 research areas, almost a quarter of the funding, totalling €663 million, was awarded in the field of medicine. This was followed by the fields of biology, humanities and physics.

Research funding¹⁾ by area for each calendar year 2014 to 2016 (in €m)

¹⁾ Based on: All DFG programmes, including programme allowances for indirect project costs. Differences within the table and in relation to other tables and diagrams are due to rounding.



Funding Rates in the Individual Grants Programmes

The number of proposals to individual grant programmes has been consistently high over recent years. In the 2016 reporting year, decisions were made on 12,825 proposals in the individual grants programme. The 2016 funding success rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 28.4 percent. The overall funding rate also increased slightly, going from 35.8 percent in 2015 to 36.5 percent in 2016.

Funding rates in the individual grants programme¹⁾ by scientific discipline 2014 to 2016 (in %)

- ¹⁾ Based on: New proposals.
- ²⁾ The funding rate was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.
- ³⁾ The funding success rate was calculated by dividing the value of funding awarded by the total amount requested.

