

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 and facilitating national and international collaboration among researchers. Its mandate also includes encouraging the advancement and training of early career researchers, promoting gender equality in the German scientific and academic communities, providing scientific policy advice, and fostering relations between the research community and society and the private sector.

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 a current annual budget of €3.2 billion, provided primarily by the German federal government (68 percent) and the states (31 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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Facts and Figures
2017

DFG

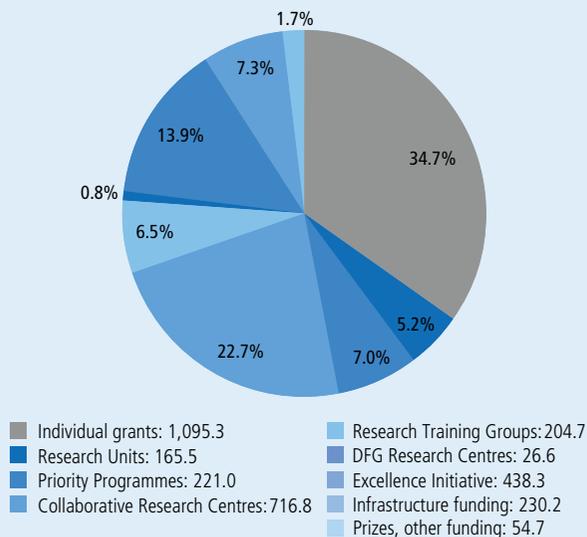
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Programmes

In 2017, the DFG funded almost 32,500 new and ongoing projects with a funding volume of €3.2 billion. The scientific review of proposals is an integral part of the DFG's funding process. Assessments by peer reviewers form the basis for subsequent funding decisions. In the reporting year, approximately 22,500 written reviews were received from nearly 15,000 reviewers, 19 percent of whom were women. Just over a third of all reviewers were based at research institutions outside Germany. In total, about 20,600 funding proposals were decided on in 2017.

More than a third of funding (35 percent) was allocated to the individual grants programmes, which include traditional research grants and early career grant programmes. In its coordinated programmes – Research Centres, Research Units, Priority Programmes, Collaborative Research Centres and Research Training Groups – the DFG funded a total of 840 research collaborations with a sum of €1.3 billion. This equates to a share of 42 percent.

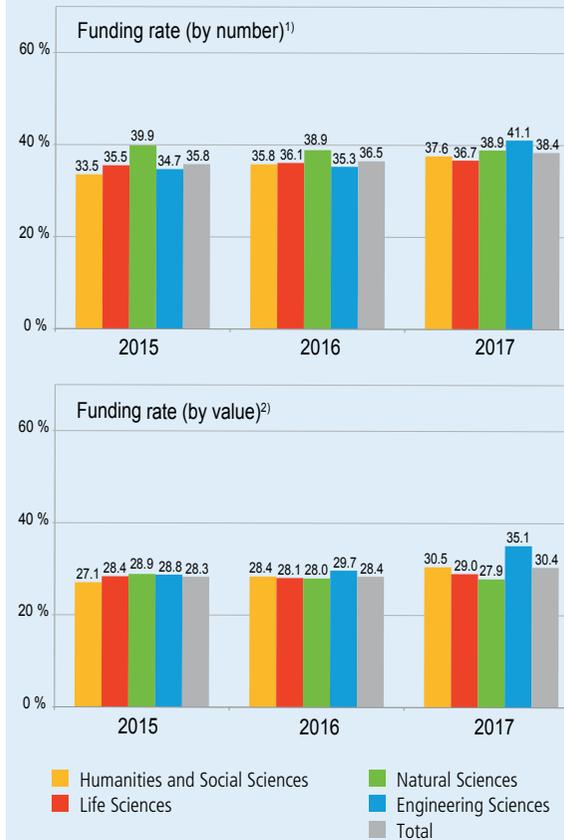
Research funding by programme for 2017
(in €m and %)



Funding Rates in the Individual Grants Programmes

The number of proposals to individual grant programmes has been consistently high over recent years. In the 2017 reporting year, decisions were made on 13,766 proposals in the individual grants programme, marking an increase of 7 percent compared to the previous year. Both the funding success rate and the overall funding rate rose by 2 percentage points to 38.4 and 30.4 percent, respectively.

Funding rates in the individual grants programmes
by scientific discipline 2015 to 2017 (in %)



Based on: New proposals.

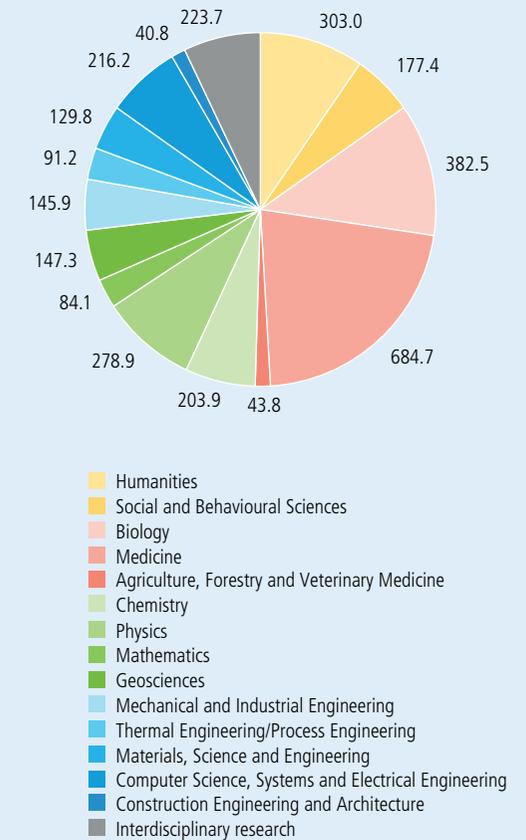
¹⁾ The funding rate was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.

²⁾ The funding success rate was calculated by dividing the value of funding awarded by the total amount requested.

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 2017, the greatest share of funding was allocated to the life sciences, at approximately 35 percent. Among the 14 research areas, almost a quarter of the funding, totalling €685 million in 2017, was awarded in the field of medicine.

Research funding by area 2017 (in €m)



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.