The DFG Review Process
1. Who ensures scientific merit?
2. Who reviews proposals?
3. How are reviewers selected?
4. How does the decision-making process work?
5. What are the DFG's review criteria?
6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
The DFG Review Process

1. **Who ensures scientific merit?**
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Who ensures scientific merit?
The DFG’s review boards

These review boards

► are elected by scientists and academics from their respective communities

► are involved in panel reviews for coordinated programmes

► monitor the selection of reviewers, make recommendations and comparatively assess all proposals and reviews in the individual grants programme

► ensure that comparable high-quality standards and criteria are applied equally in all DFG programmes

There are 48 DFG review boards with 613 members. Review board members act in an honorary capacity.
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Who reviews proposals for individual grants?
Peer reviewers

Peer reviewers in the individual grants programme

► have **special knowledge of the fields involved** in the proposals

► **are unbiased** and **independent**

► are individually **suitable and experienced**

► are additionally qualified

In 2017, approximately **22,500 written reviews** were received from over **15,000 reviewers**.
Who review proposals for coordinated programmes?

Review panels

► possess the required expertise to cover all fields and subfields involved in the proposals
► include at least one member of a review board
► are able to argue evidentiary
► are independent
The DFG Review Process

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How are reviewers and review panel members selected?
By the DFG’s Head Office

Selection criteria

- Expertise in the field
- Impartiality
- Broad knowledge
- Review experience
- Interdisciplinary experience
- International experience
- Training young researchers
- Experience abroad

The DFG Review Process

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How does the decision-making process work?
Individual grants involve reviewers, a review board & the Joint Committee

1. Proposal
   - Formal examination
   - Review
   - (written) Review
   - Reviewers
     - Project quality
     - Applicants’ qualifications
     - Aims & work programme
     - Employment opportunities
     - Planned allocation of funding
   - Draft of funding recommendation
   - Assessment
     - Review Board
     - Assessment of reviewer selection
     - Proposal and review
     - Comparative merit and funding volume
   - Communication of funding recommendation
   - Decision
     - Joint Committee
     - Cross-subject comparison
   - Decision letter, Reviewers’ recommendations

Further inquiries
How does the decision-making process work?
Coordinated programmes involve reviewers & decision-making bodies

Proposal

Reviewer selection

Review (Peer review panel)

Reviewers

- Project quality
- Applicants’ qualifications
- Quality and added value of cooperation
- Programme-specific criteria
- Aims & work programme
- Employment opportunities
- Planned allocation of funding

Decision-making Body

- Cross-subject comparison

Notification

Protocol, funding recommendation

DFG Head Office

DFG Head Office

Discussion
The DFG Review Process

1. Who ensures scientific merit?
2. Who reviews proposals?
3. How are reviewers selected?
4. How does the decision-making process work?
5. **What are the DFG's review criteria?**
6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
What are the DFG's selection criteria?
DFG reviewers judge proposals according to

► scientific quality of the project
► applicants’ qualifications
► aims and work programme
► employment opportunities
► planned allocation of funding
► quality and added value of cooperation
► programme-specific criteria

in coordinated programmes
The DFG Review Process

1. Who ensures scientific merit?
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6. **How are decision-making bodies formed?**
How are decision-making bodies formed?
Cooperation between scientific communities and committee members

Cooperation

- Executive Committee
- Senate
- Joint Committee
- Senate and Grants Committees
- Executive Board Head Office
- Review Boards
- Scientists and Academics
- General Assembly

- Election
- Members
Thank you for your attention!

For more information
- on the DFG: www.dfg.de
- on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris
- on over 25,000 German research institutes: www.gerit.org