

A blurred, 3D rendering of the letters 'DFG' in a light blue color, set against a background of blue and white light rays or architectural structures.

# The DFG Review Process

# Contents

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?



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Titel der Präsentation / Name des Referenten (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

3 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

# 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.

Titel der Präsentation / Name des Referenten (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

4 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

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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

### 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**



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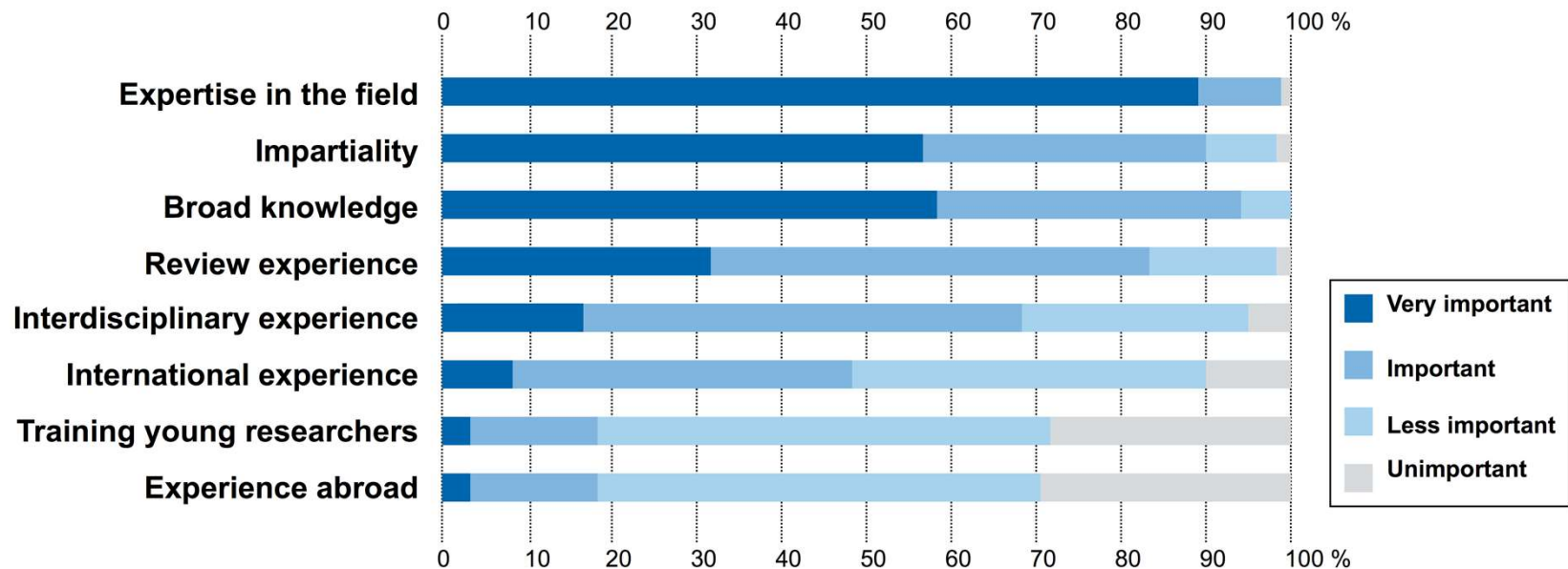
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8 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)



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

## Selection criteria



Source: Peer Review in the DFG –Members of the Review Boards, iFQ Working Paper No. 2, November 2007

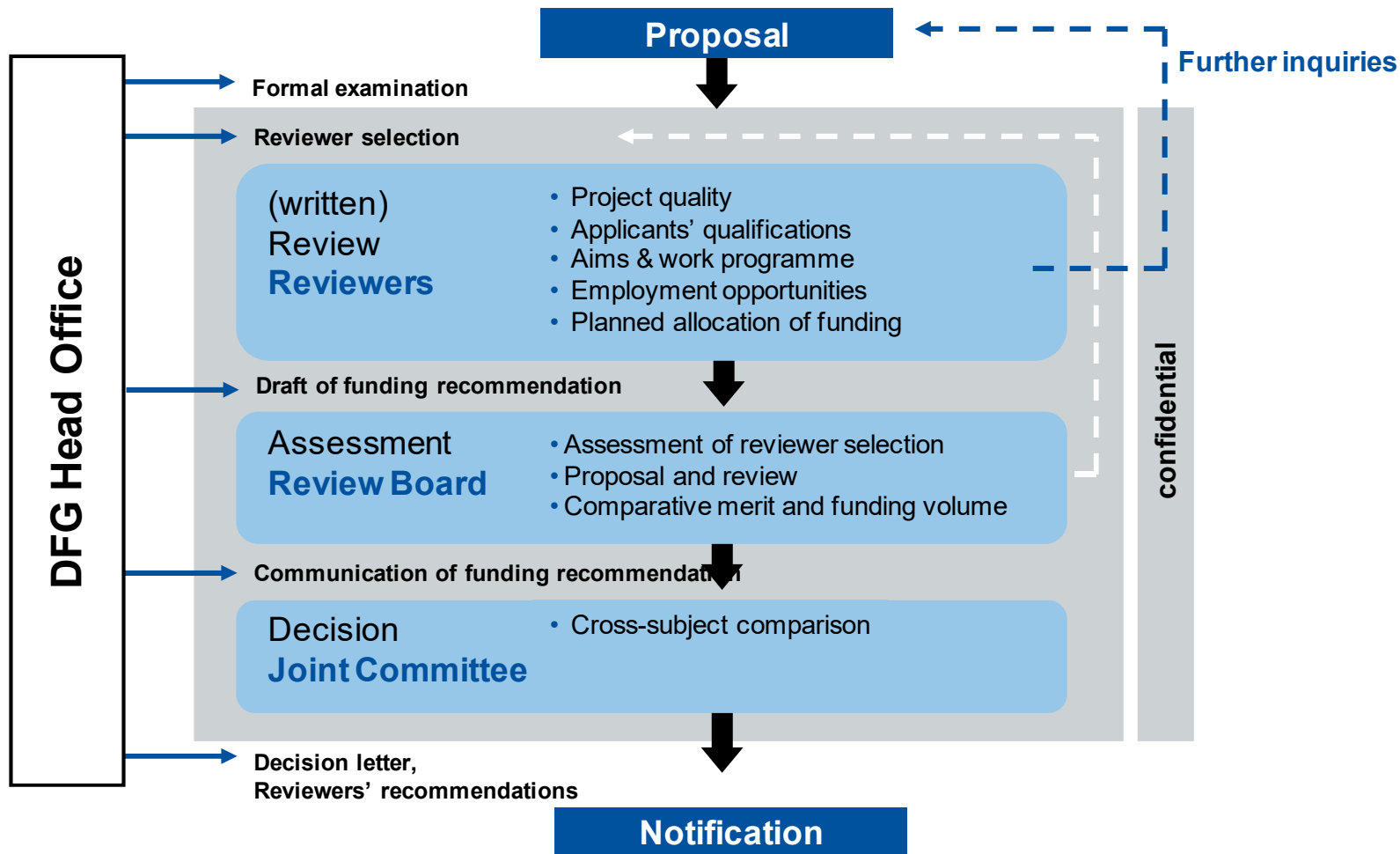
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# How does the decision-making process work?

Individual grants involve reviewers, a review board & the Joint Committee

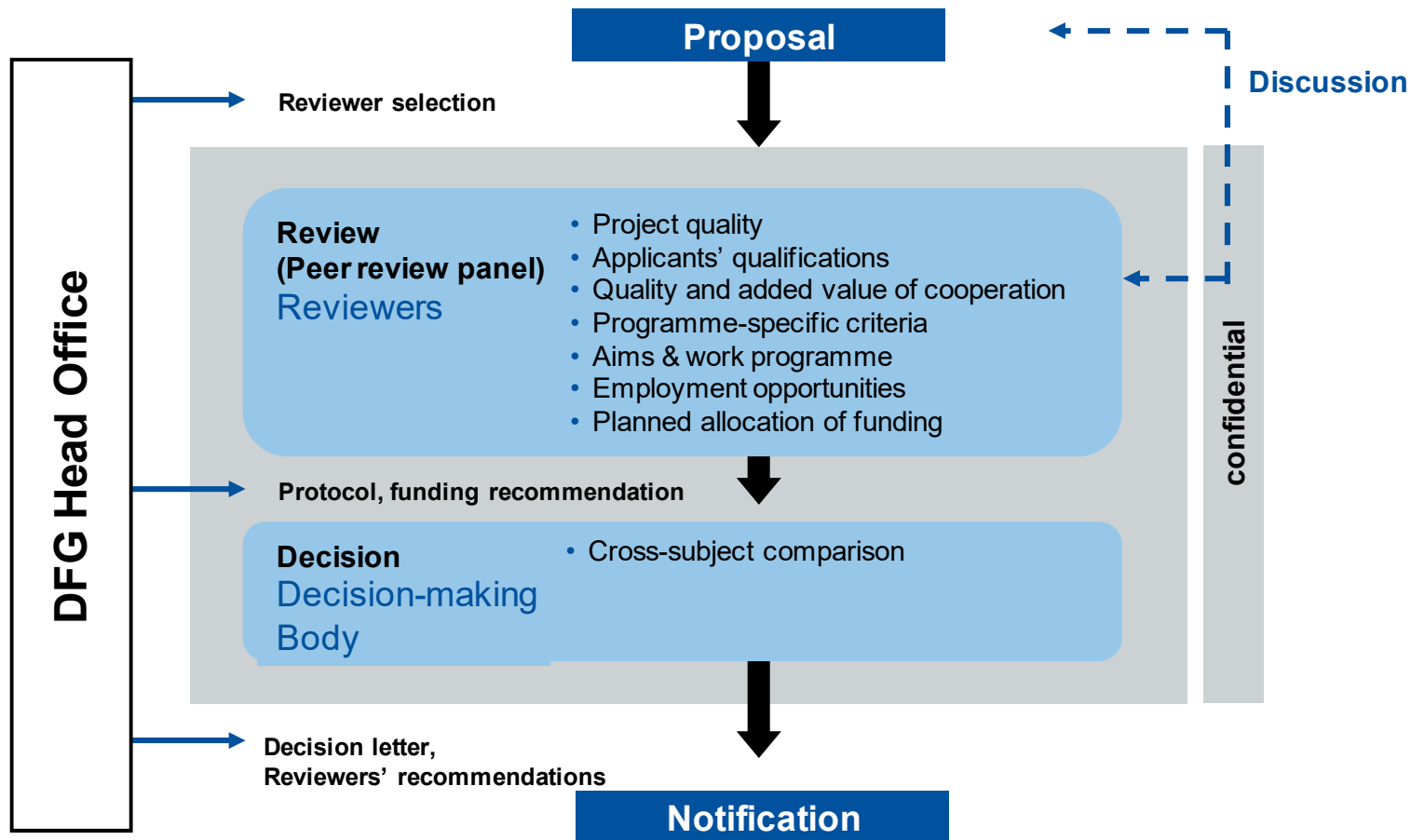


Titel der Präsentation / Name des Referenten (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

11 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

# How does the decision-making process work?

Coordinated programmes involve reviewers & decision-making bodies



Titel der Präsentation / Name des Referenten (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

12 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

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1. Who ensures scientific merit?
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6. How are decision-making bodies formed?

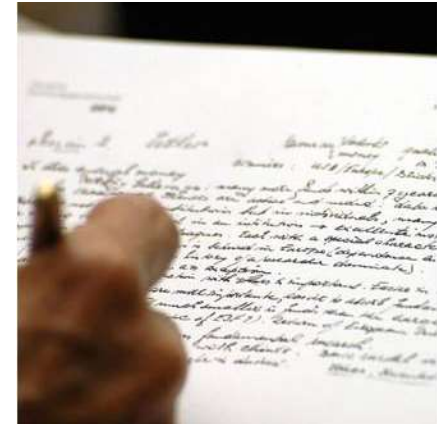


# What are the DFG's selection criteria?

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



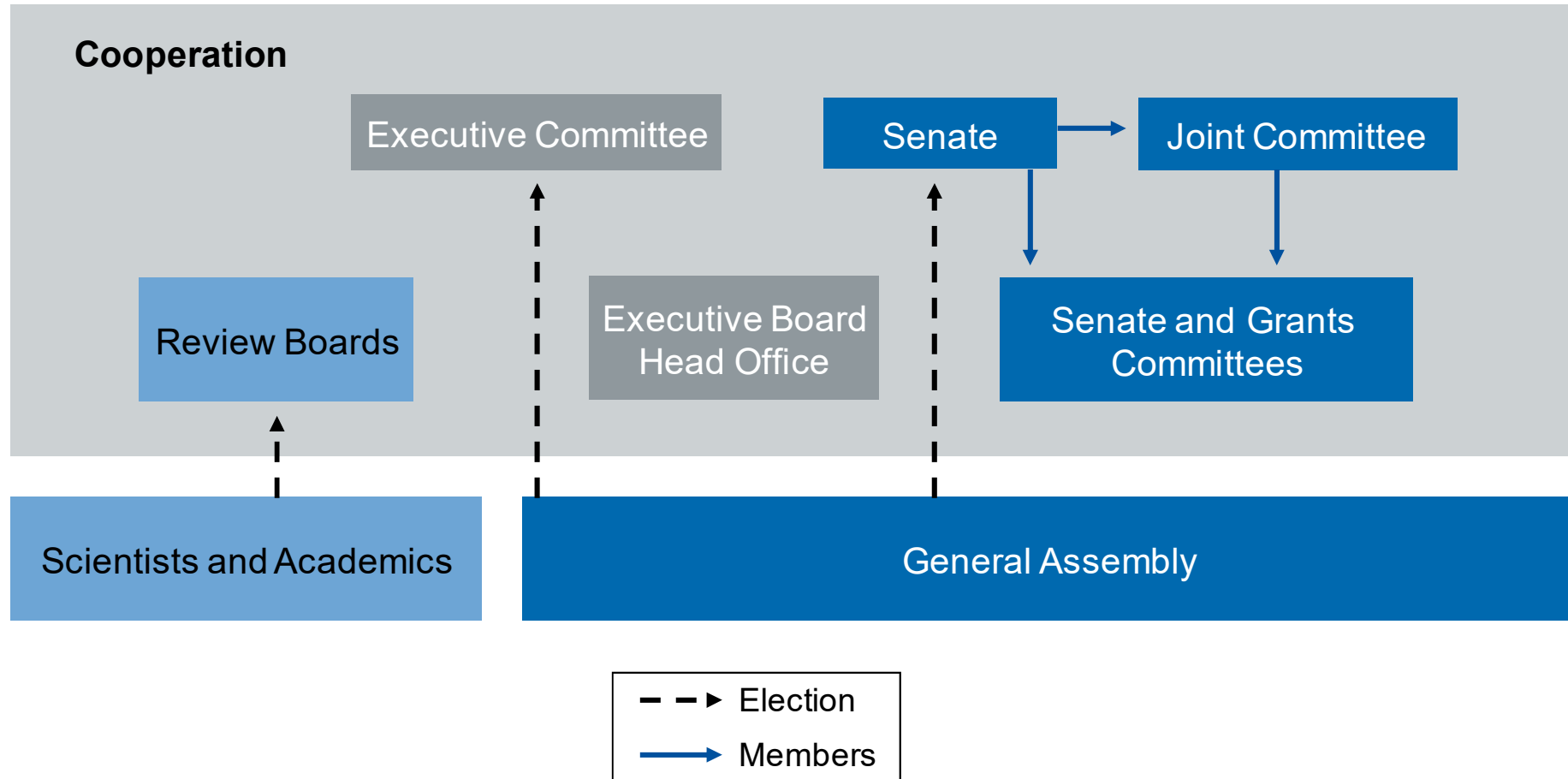
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# How are decision-making bodies formed?

Cooperation between scientific communities and committee members



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16 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)





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**Thank you for your attention!**

**For more information**

- ▶ on the DFG: [www.dfg.de](http://www.dfg.de)
- ▶ on DFG-funded projects: [www.dfg.de/gepris](http://www.dfg.de/gepris)
- ▶ on over 25,000 German research institutes: [www.gerit.org](http://www.gerit.org)

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17 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

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