



DFG Prospects: The Emmy Noether Programme

Information presented on the following slides is valid on 28th April, 2025.
Please check www.dfg.de/en for updates and current regulations.

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Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | The Emmy Noether Programme

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources

The DFG – About Us

<https://www.dfg.de/en/dfg-profile/about-the-dfg/what-is-the-dfg>

- ▶ The DFG is the largest **independent** and self-governing research **funding organisation** in Germany.
- ▶ It is an **association** under German private law.
- ▶ It serves **all branches** of science and the humanities by **funding research projects**.



The DFG – Our Mission

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/about_the_dfg/what_is_the_dfg

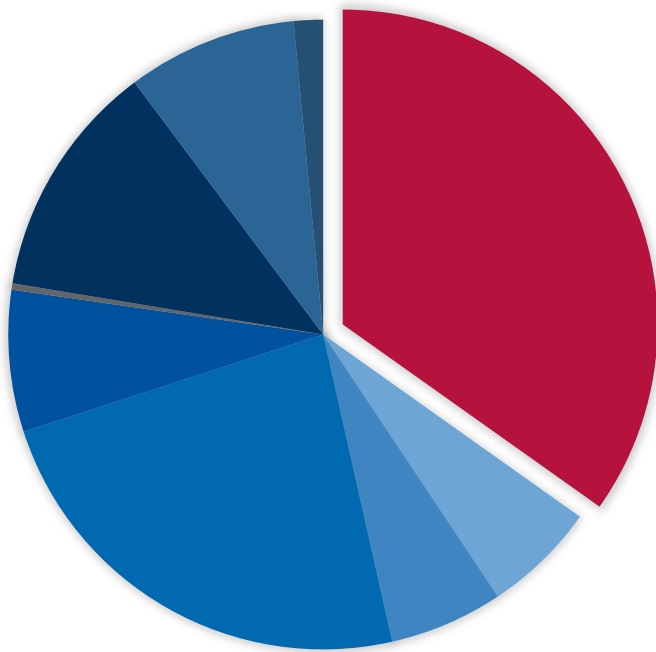


The DFG

- ▶ funds research projects in the area of **knowledge-driven** research,
- ▶ maintains **dialogue** with society, politics and business, advises state institutions,
- ▶ supports the **transfer of knowledge**.

It takes particular care to promote

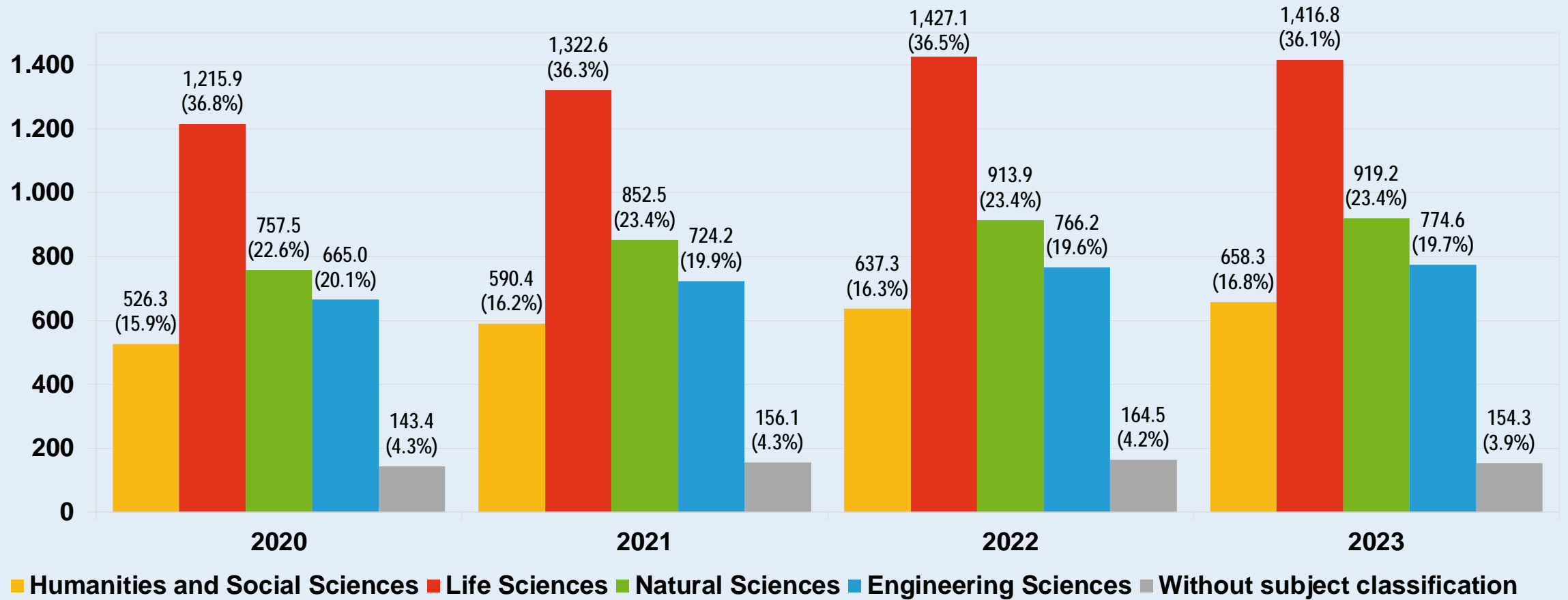
- ▶ international **cooperation**,
- ▶ **early career researchers**,
- ▶ **gender equality and diversity** in science and the humanities.



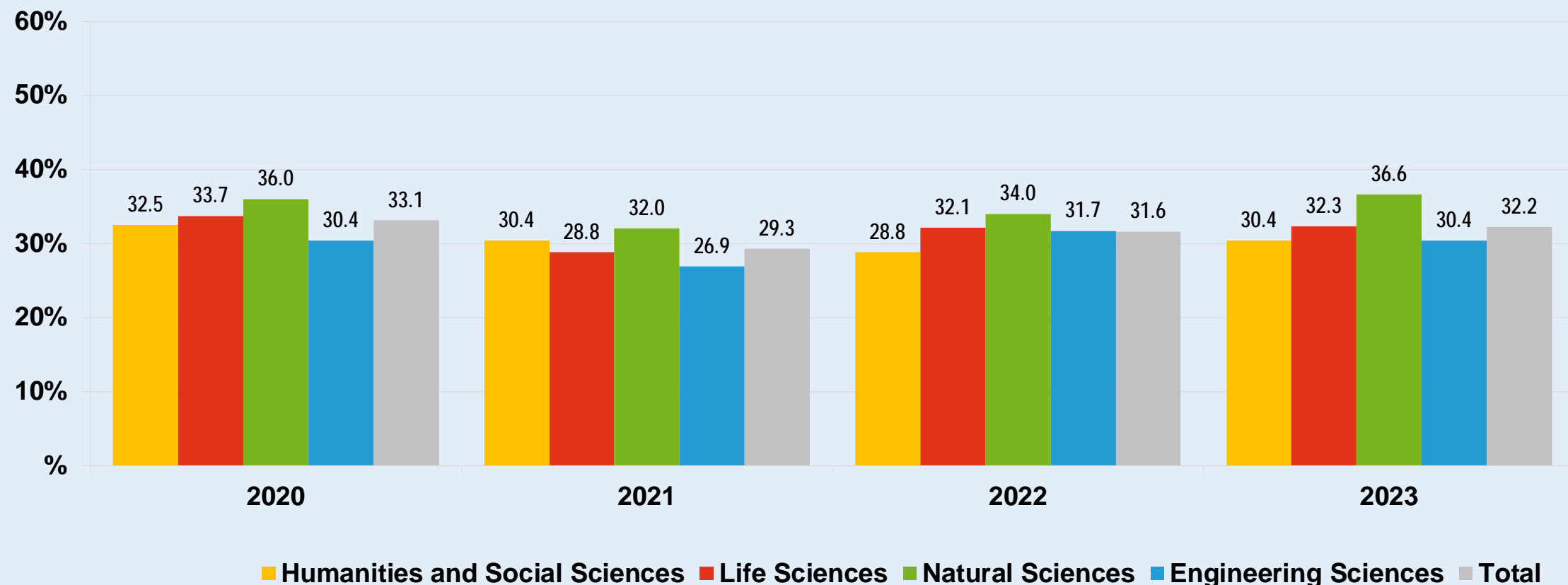
In **2023**,

- ▶ the DFG funded around **31,400** running projects with a budget that totalled almost **€ 4 billion**
- ▶ the DFG came to **approx. 24.000 funding decisions** based on peer-reviews by **15.300 reviewers**
- ▶ **Approx. € 1.3 billion** of the budget were spent for **13.325 individual grants projects**

Amount of Research Funding Awarded by Scientific Discipline 2020 to 2023 (in €m and %)



Funding Rates* in the Individual Grants Programme by Scientific Discipline 2020 to 2023 (in %)



* The funding rate (or success rate) was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.

Source: New Individual grants



Researchers

- ▶ who have completed their scientific training, i.e. who hold a **doctorate** and
- ▶ who (would like to) work in **Germany**.

Funding Principles

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers/career_support
<https://youtu.be/yNdFVV3jAll>



- ▶ Open, bottom-up choice of **research topics**
- ▶ **Basic research** in any field of science and the humanities
- ▶ No **age** restrictions
- ▶ **Unbiased review** based on scientific criteria
- ▶ Individual **career phases** and family-related career breaks are considered in the review process
- ▶ **10 Principles** of Effective Career Support in Academia
- ▶ No **deadlines***

excl. Priority Programmes, international / topic specific calls

Topics

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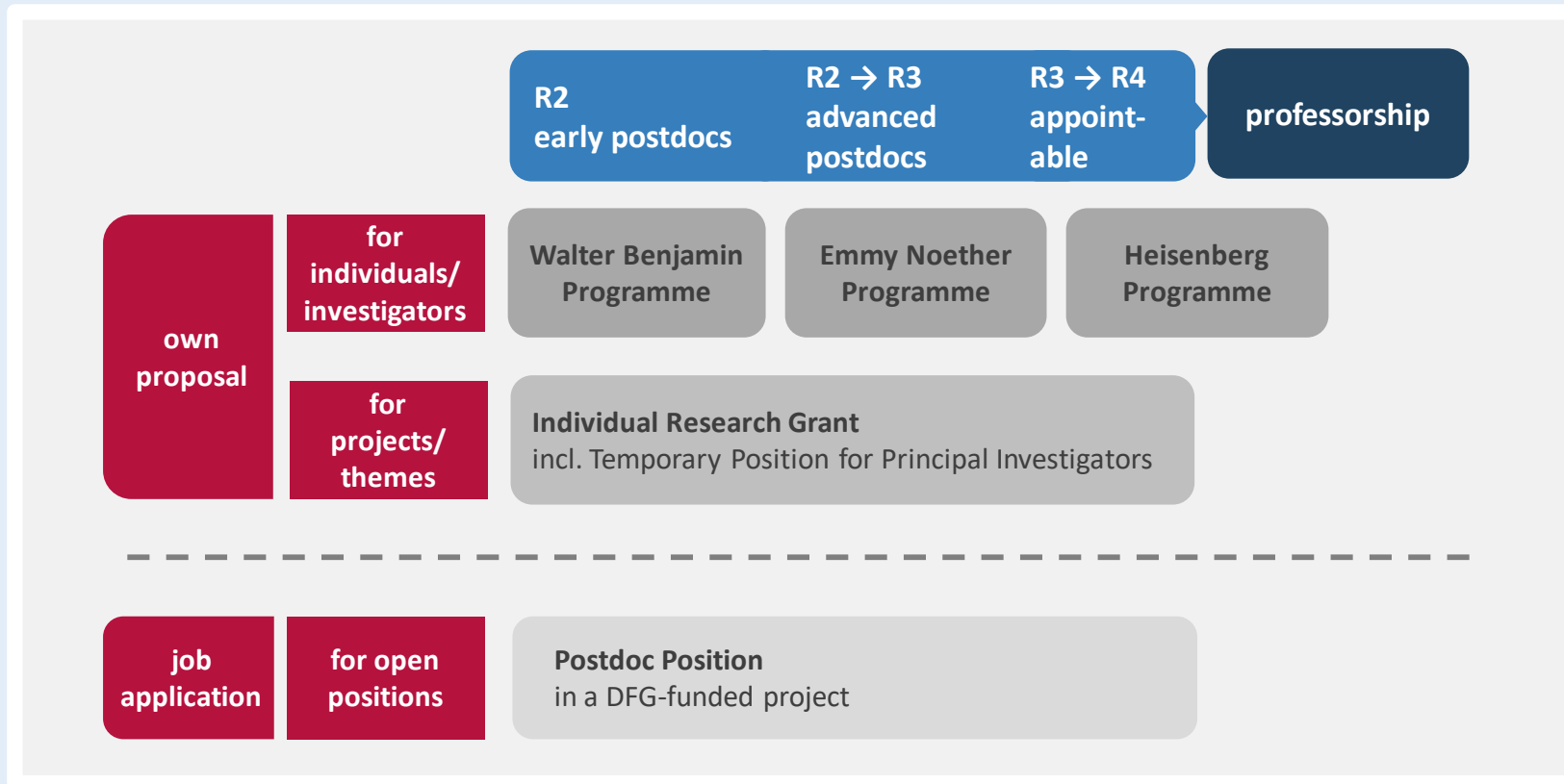
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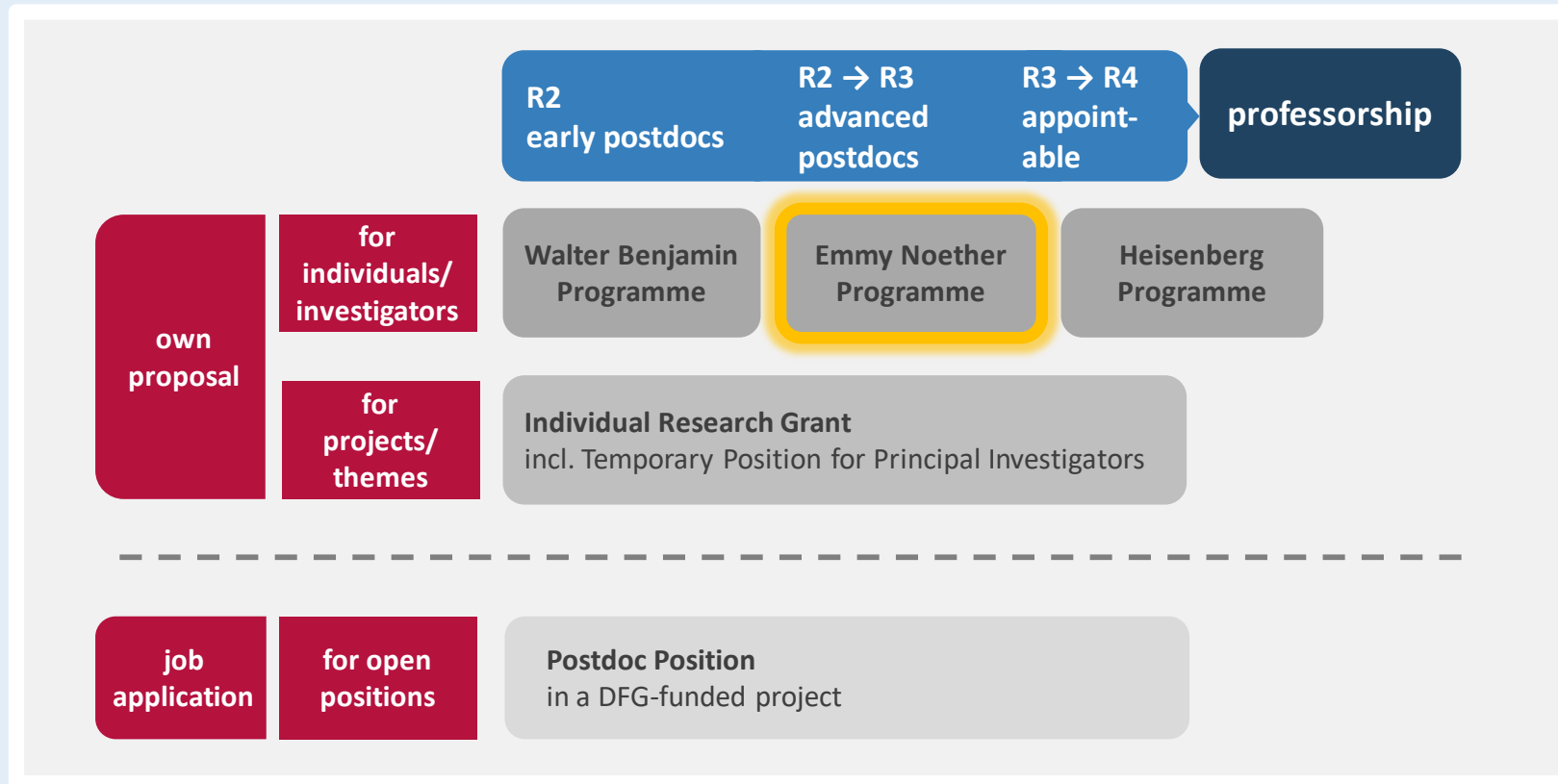
DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_emmy_noether
<https://youtu.be/rMw8FHwKcTs>
New: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkBdq9jwQbM>



DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
https://www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en





- ▶ Path to early **academic independence**
- ▶ **Qualification** for a university teaching career
- ▶ **Eligibility for professorial appointment** by leading one's own **independent junior research group**



Requirements:

- ▶ For **outstanding** postdoctoral researchers with **2-4 years** of postdoctoral experience
- ▶ Excellent research project
- ▶ Substantial **international** research experience:
 - ▶ Longer or several shorter research stays abroad
 - ▶ international research cooperation
 - ▶ international working environment



Four-year submission deadline (medicine: up to 6 years):

- ▶ Individual timing of your doctorate:
 - ▶ Date on your diploma or date of the oral defense
 - ▶ Extension for parents



- ▶ Funding for **six years**
- ▶ **Funding** includes
 - **own position:** E15 TVöD/TV-L
(or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)
 - **project funds**
 - **family allowance** possible
- ▶ Generous funding and your excellence → your status at the host institution should be commensurate



- ▶ Your host institution **in Germany** becomes your employer
- ▶ **more than one potential host institution** in your proposal
 - Specific reasons for each potential host
- ▶ In general: Scientific independence → new scientific environment
- ▶ Returning to **Alma Mater**: good scientific reasons!



- ▶ **Start:** 6 months after approval
- ▶ Group leader position: **100% full-time**
 - Part-time possible due to childcare
- ▶ **Permanent Professorship** during the funding: only group funding
- ▶ **Leaving the german research system:** funding will come to an end

Annual Emmy Noether Meetings

<https://youtu.be/rMw8FHwKcTs>

www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/emmy_noether/jahrestreffen/2024



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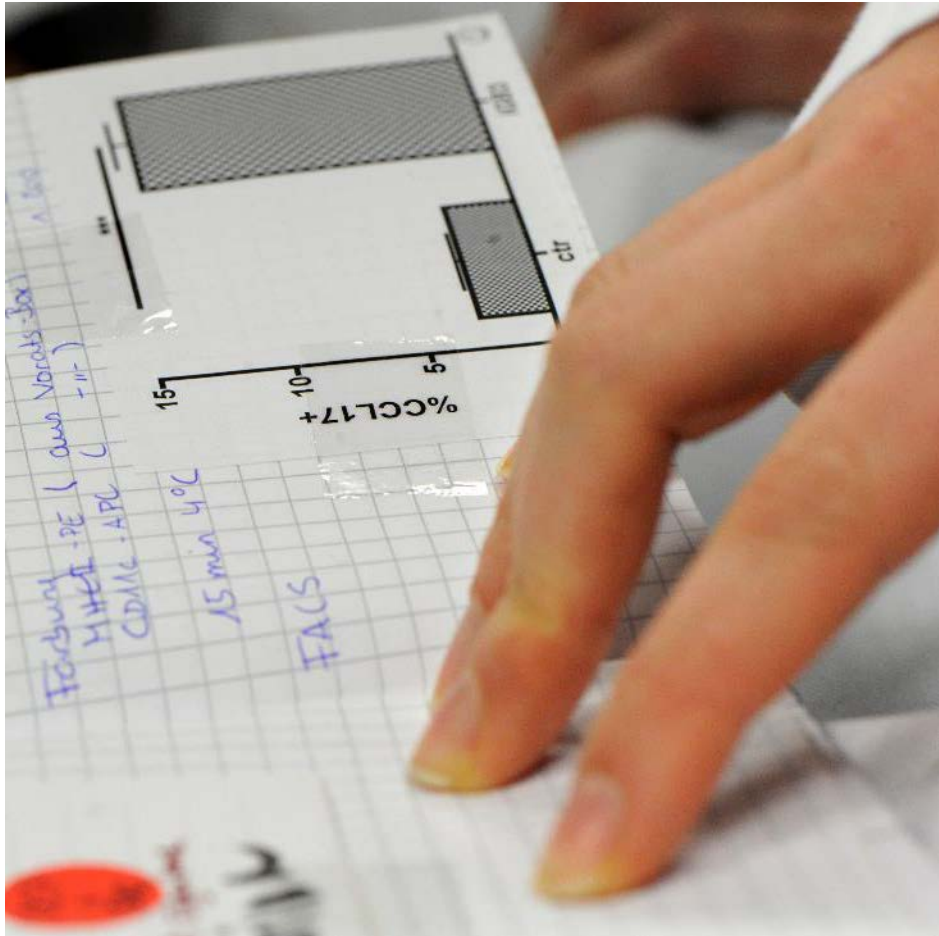
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Preparing Your Proposal

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information
<https://www.dfg.de/en/news/news-topics/announcements-proposals/2025/ifr-25-27>



- ▶ Carefully read and follow the guidelines and proposal instructions
- ▶ Decide on the proposal language: English or German
- ▶ Necessary information can be found on the DFG website
- ▶ Questions? Ask for support

DFG Contacts



For questions on **eligibility**:
procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de

For **general questions**:
info-researchcareers@dfg.de

For questions about the **Call on Methods in AI**:
ai-initiative@dfg.de

All DFG contacts:
<https://www.dfg.de/en/dfg-profile/head-office>

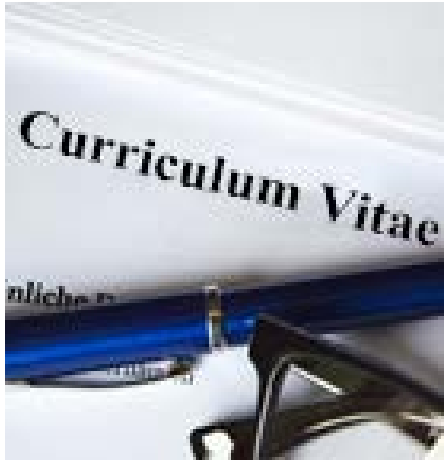
Proposal Contents

- ▶ What is the knowledge gap you would like to fill?
- ▶ Why are the expected results novel and relevant?
- ▶ What's your concrete, realistic and feasible plan to answer your research questions?
- ▶ Who is going to do what? Why?
- ▶ How are you going to manage setbacks / what's your plan b?
- ▶ Why are you the right person to successfully run this project?



Preparing Your CV

www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan/53_200_en_elan.rtf
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



- ▶ Follow the [DFG CV template](#)
 - Include prizes, fellowships and awards
 - Mention time away from research relating e.g. to family, illness or dependent care; no details required
- ▶ List up to ten of your most important publications

- ▶ No upper limits
- ▶ Needs to be realistic and justified by the project
- ▶ Supplemental, project-specific needs vs. existing resources at the higher education institution
- ▶ Seek advice from other grant applicants, recipients, institutions
- ▶ List of average personnel rates on DFG website

Preparing Your Proposal

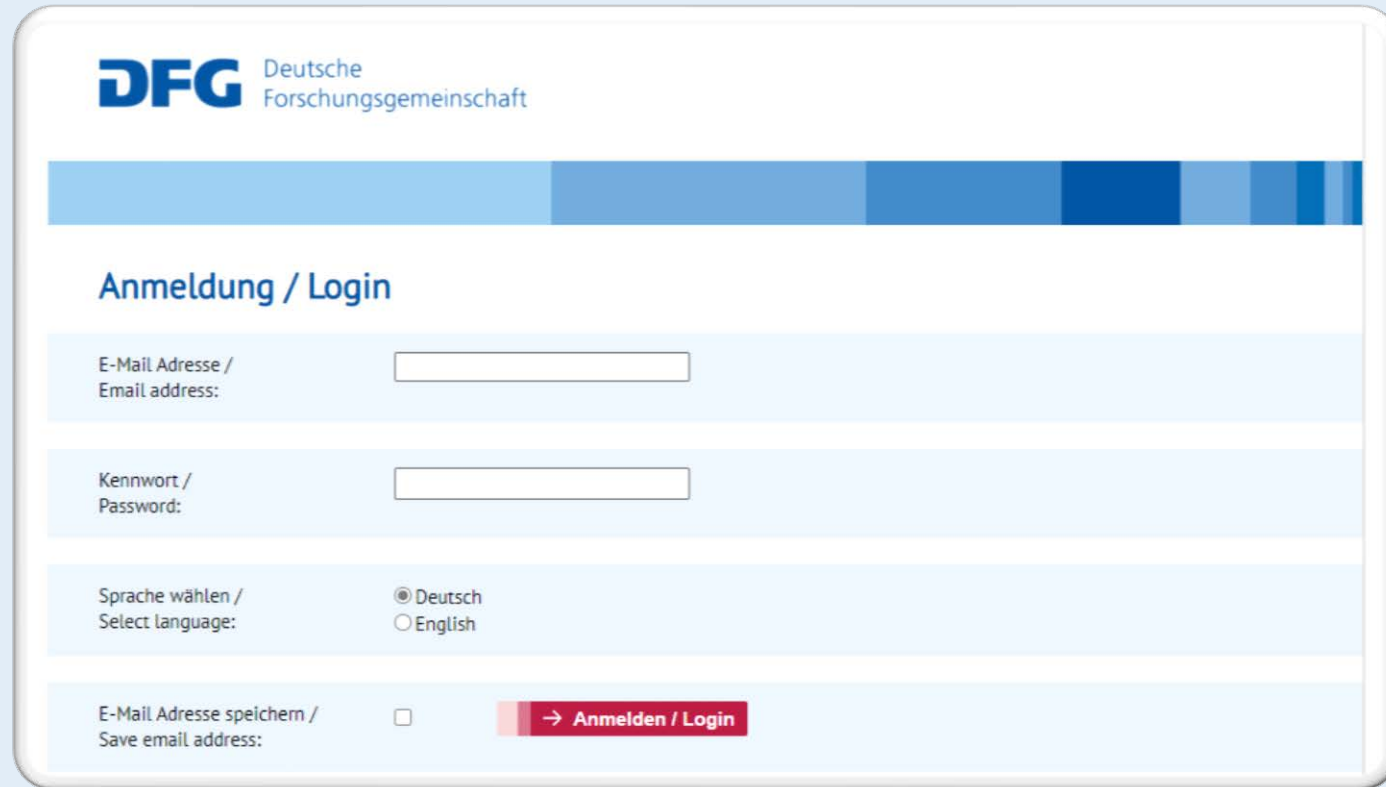
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



- ▶ Put yourself in the reviewers' shoes
 - ▶ Consult the ["General Guidelines for the Written Review"](#) for reviewers
 - ▶ Find answers in the [FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ▶ Seek honest criticism from colleagues
- ▶ Plan on a feasible timeline: on average, the time to decision is approx. eight months
- ▶ Inform DFG Head Office in case a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists

Submitting Your Proposal via *elan*

<https://elan.dfg.de/my.policy>
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



The screenshot shows the login interface of the DFG elan system. At the top left is the DFG logo with the text 'Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft'. Below this is a decorative blue bar. The main heading is 'Anmeldung / Login'. There are four input fields: 'E-Mail Adresse / Email address:', 'Kennwort / Password:', 'Sprache wählen / Select language:' (with radio buttons for 'Deutsch' and 'English'), and 'E-Mail Adresse speichern / Save email address:' (with a checkbox). A red button labeled '→ Anmelden / Login' is positioned to the right of the checkbox. The entire form is set against a light blue background with a subtle reflection effect below it.

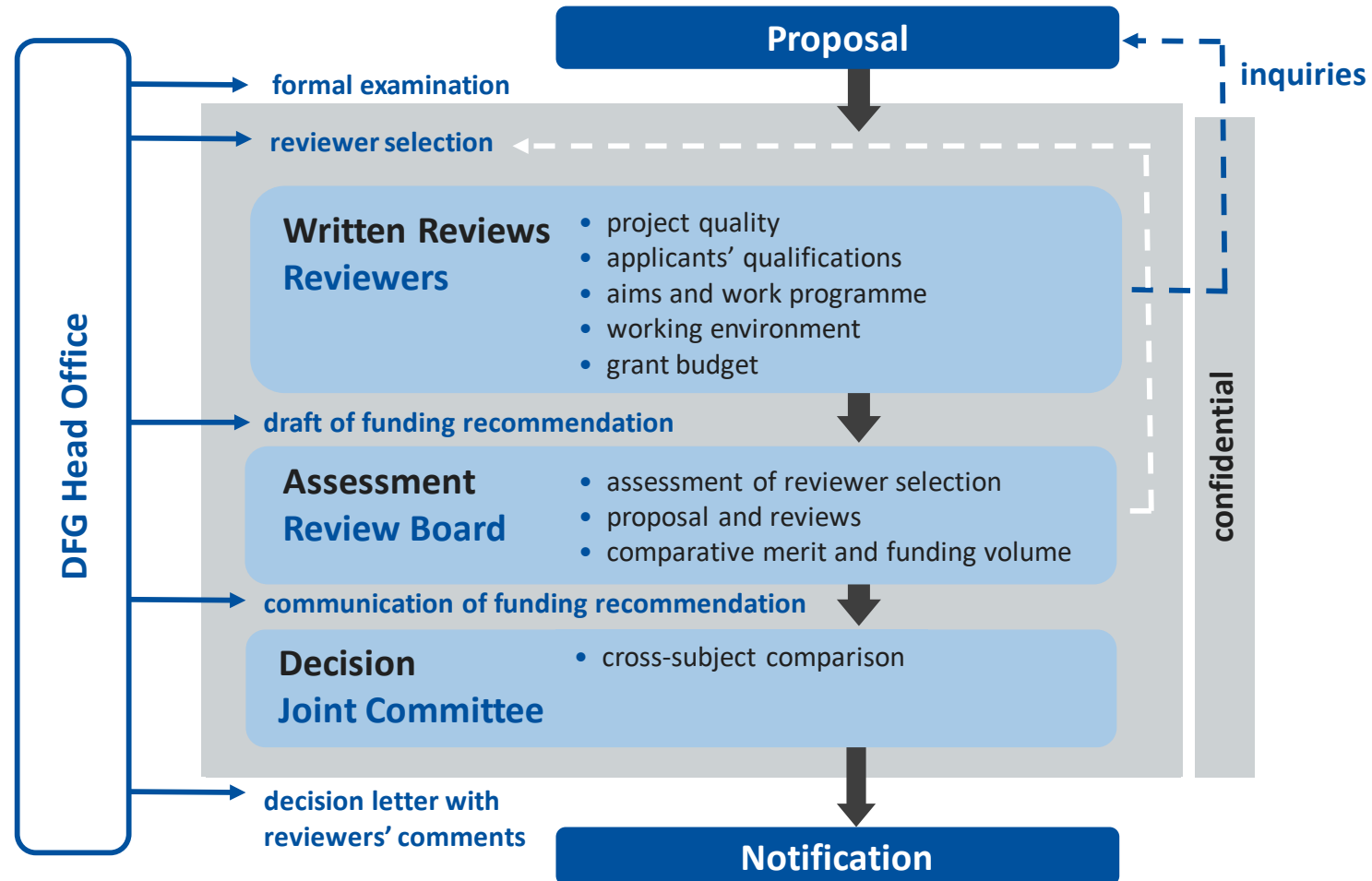
Review Boards (*Fachkollegien*)

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/statutory_bodies/review_boards

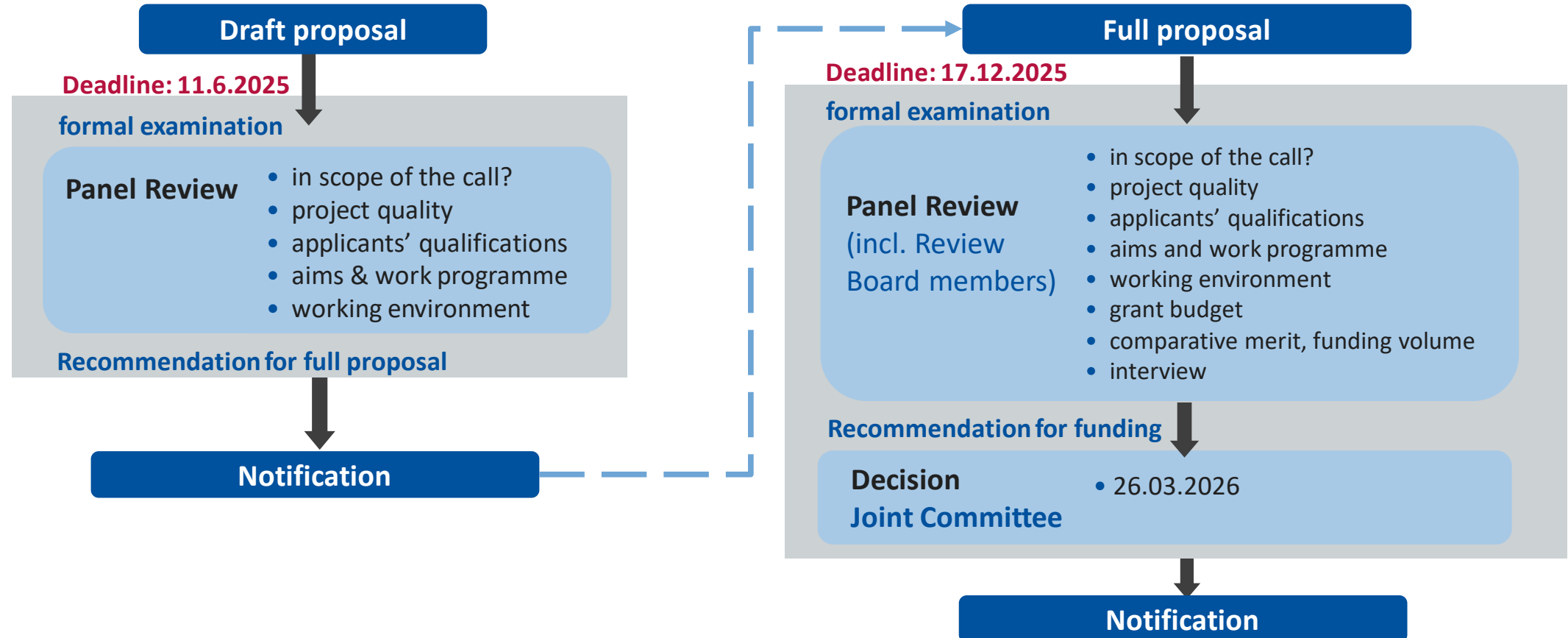


Review Process

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/arriving_decision



Emmy Noether Call „Methods in Artificial Intelligence“



In Case Your Proposal Is not Successful...

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/approval_rejection



- ▶ Don't be discouraged
- ▶ Take the reviewers' comments seriously but not personally
- ▶ Consult the DFG Head Office if you need advice or feel that you have been treated unfairly
- ▶ Consider the reviewer's comments – they might give you some pointers for reworking your proposal

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Links and Resources



- ▶ The Emmy Noether Programme: www.dfg.de/en/emmy-noether
- ▶ The Emmy Noether Call on Methods in AI: <https://www.dfg.de/en/news/news-topics/announcements-proposals/2025/ifr-25-27>
- ▶ Orientation for early-career researchers: www.dfg.de/research_careers
- ▶ Individual Grants Programmes – A How-To Guide: www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes
- ▶ GEPRIS – database with all DFG-funded projects: gepris.dfg.de/en
- ▶ Profiles of 25,000 German research institutes: www.gerit.org
- ▶ General questions about research careers: info-researchcareers@dfg.de
- ▶ Questions on eligibility: procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de
- ▶ Contacts: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office

