



The Heisenberg Programme

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**Your grant.
Your research.
Your career.**

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Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.

Germany's largest independent research funding organisation

3.9 € billion annual budget

DFG members

99 leading universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations, academies

Independent association
under private law



Funding

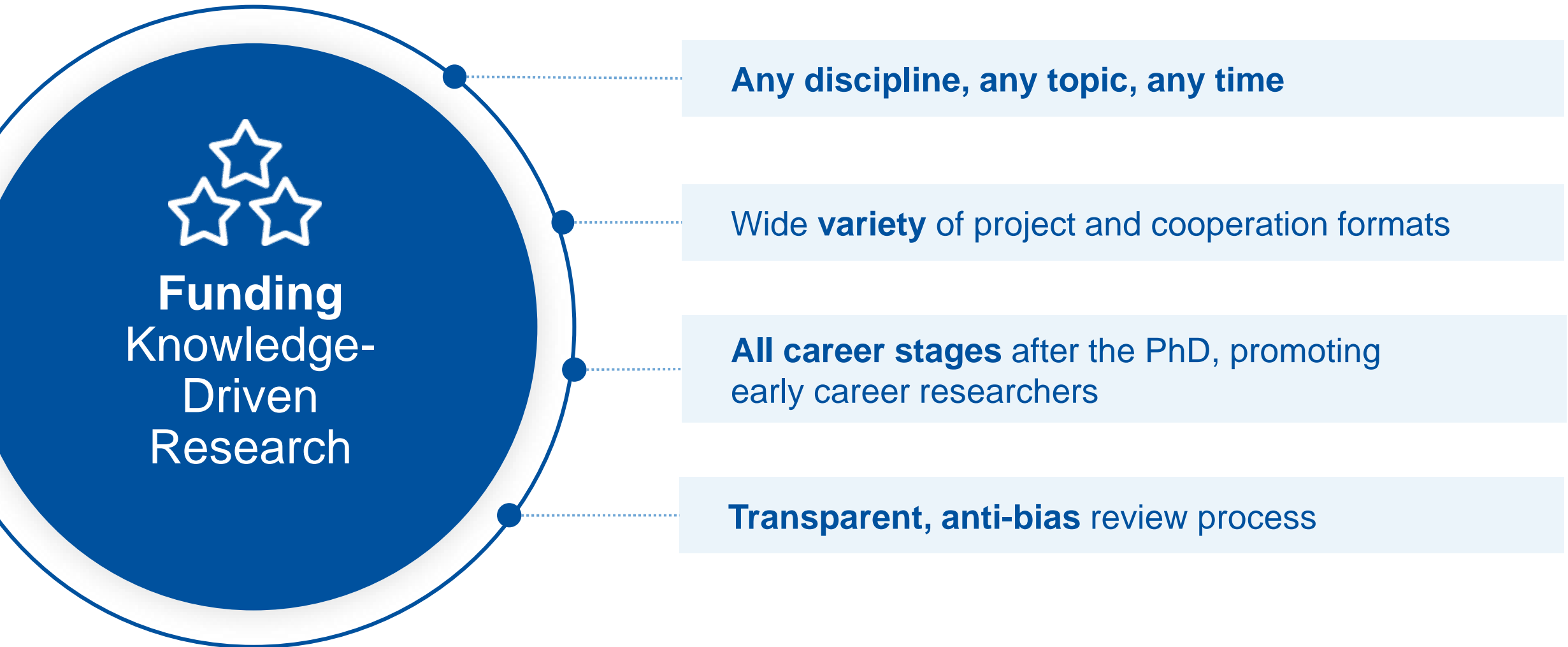
knowledge-driven research

Researchers have the majority

in decision-making committees

DFG's Independence

guarantees academic freedom



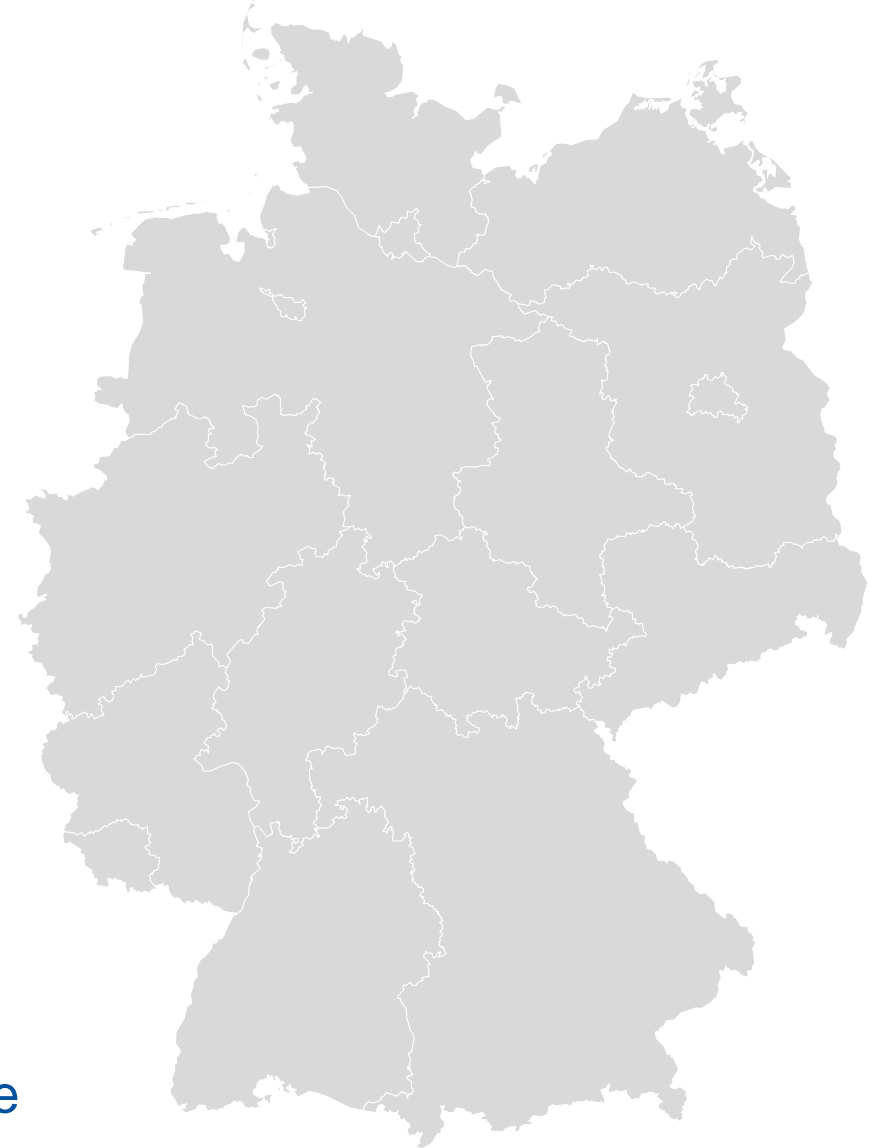
Who is eligible to apply for DFG funding?

Researchers

...who have completed their
scientific training,
i.e. **who hold a doctorate***

...who (would like to) work
in Germany

*earliest date: upon submission to the examination office



DFG Funding 2024



30.500
Individual Projects



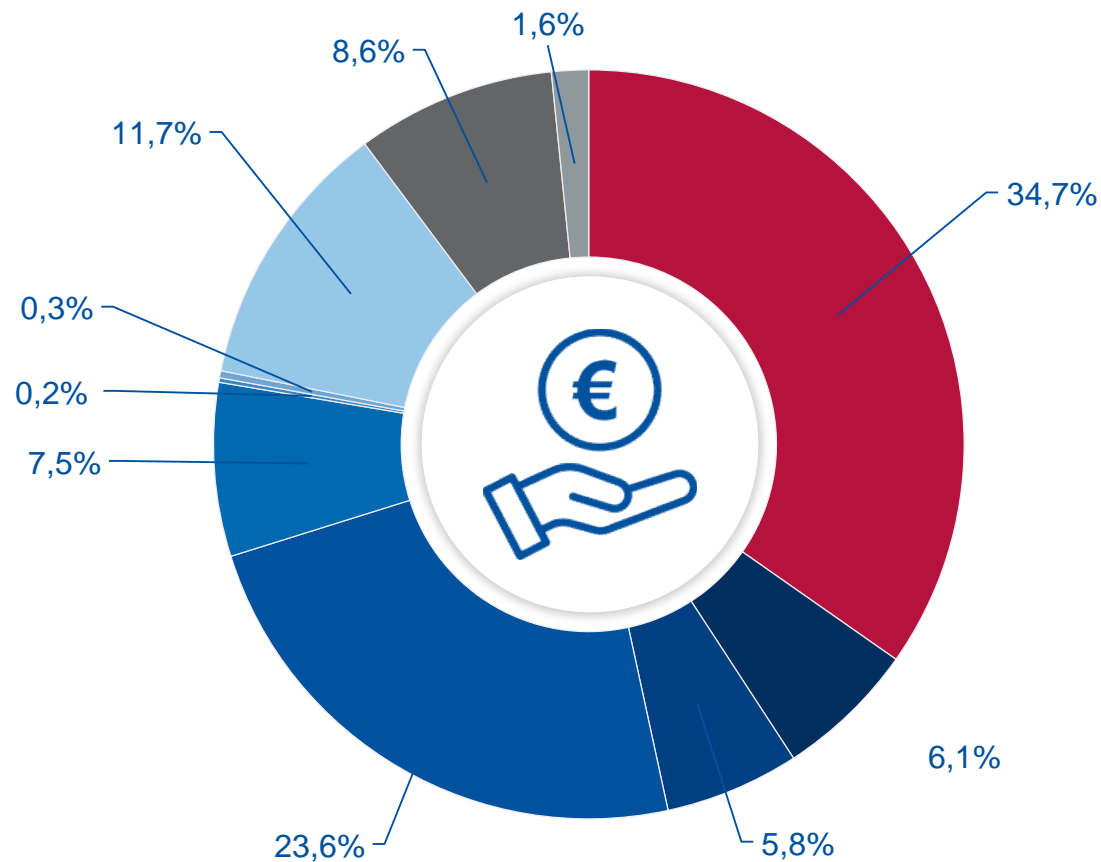
993
Coordinated projects



3,9 Billion €
Budget for research projects

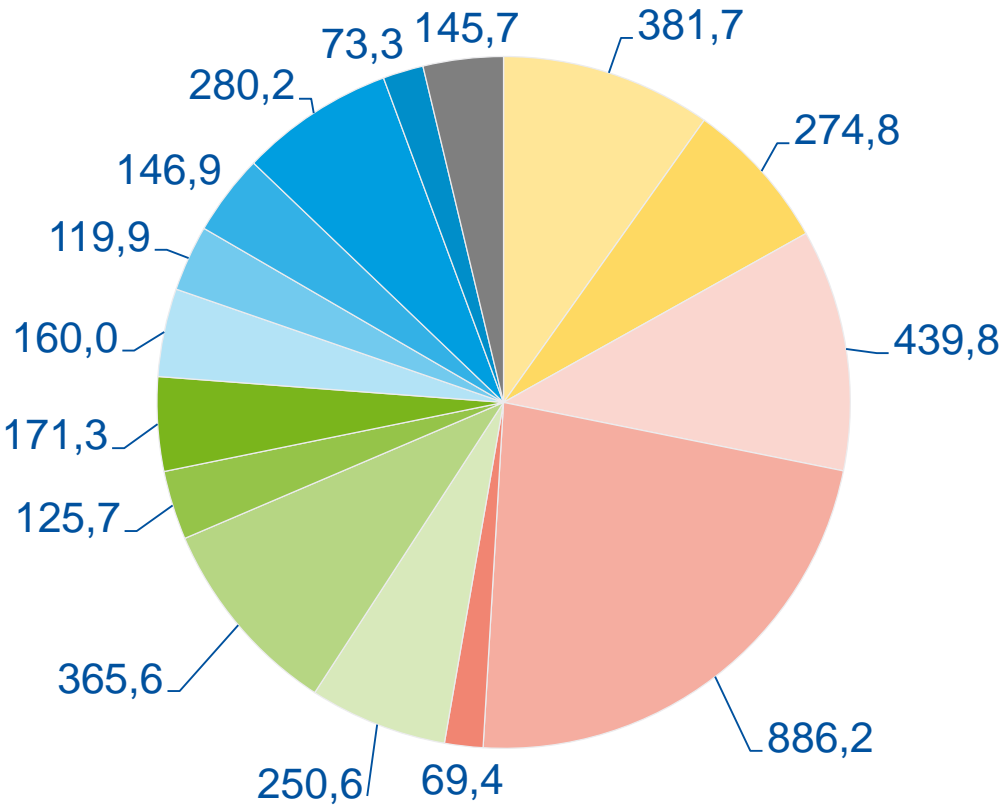
Research funding by programme

for 2024 (in Mio. € und %)



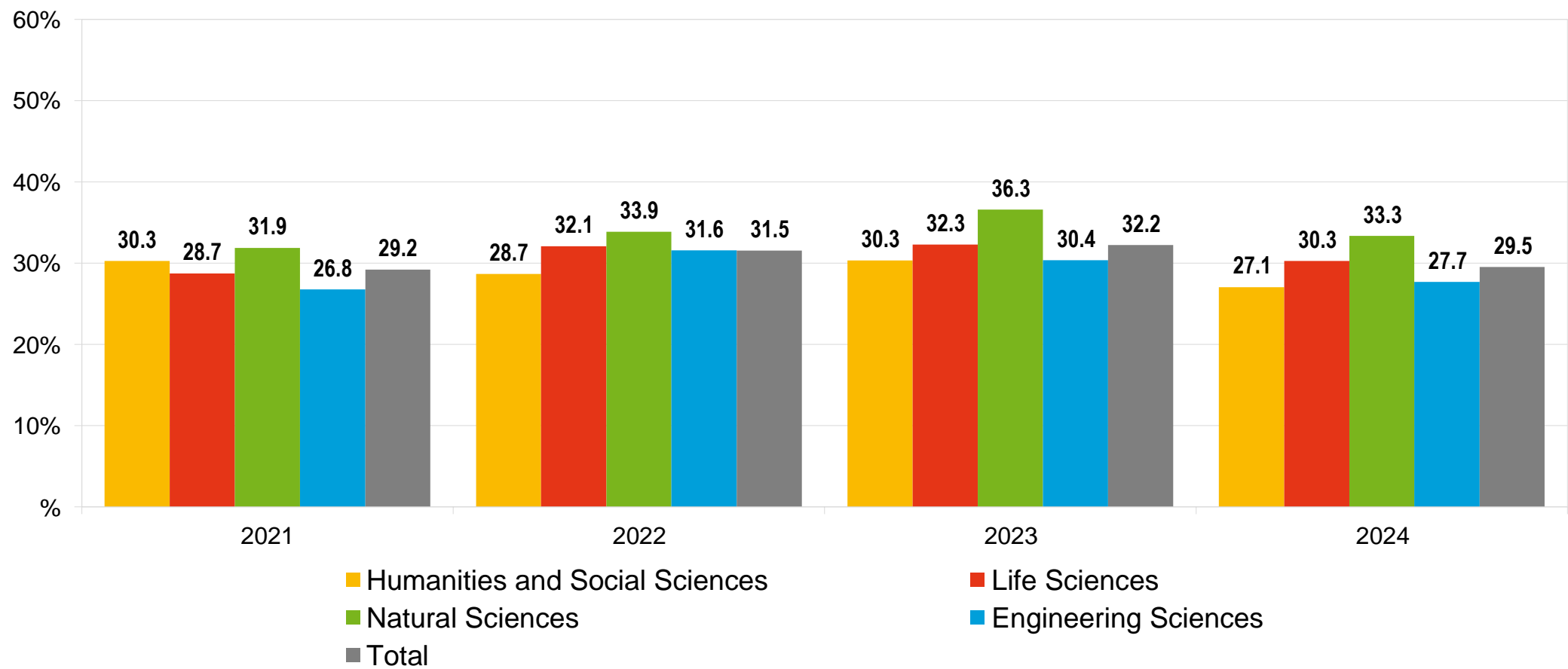
- Individual grants programme: 1352,3 Mio. €
- Research Units: 238,0 Mio. €
- Priority Programmes: 224,2 Mio. €
- Collaborative Research Centres: 917,2 Mio. €
- Research Training Groups: 291,3 Mio. €
- Research Impulses: 7,5 Mio. €
- Research Centres: 12,6 Mio. €
- Exzellenzstrategie: 453,4 Mio. €
- Infrastructure funding: 334,2 Mio. €
- Prizes, other: 60,5 Mio. €

DFG Funding 2024
by Subject Area (in €m)



- Humanities
- Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Biology
- Medicine
- Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Geosciences
- Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Thermal Engineering/Process Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Computer Science, Systems & Electrical Engineering
- Construction Engineering and Architecture
- Interdisciplinary

Funding rates* in the individual grants programmes by scientific discipline
2021 to 2024 (in %)

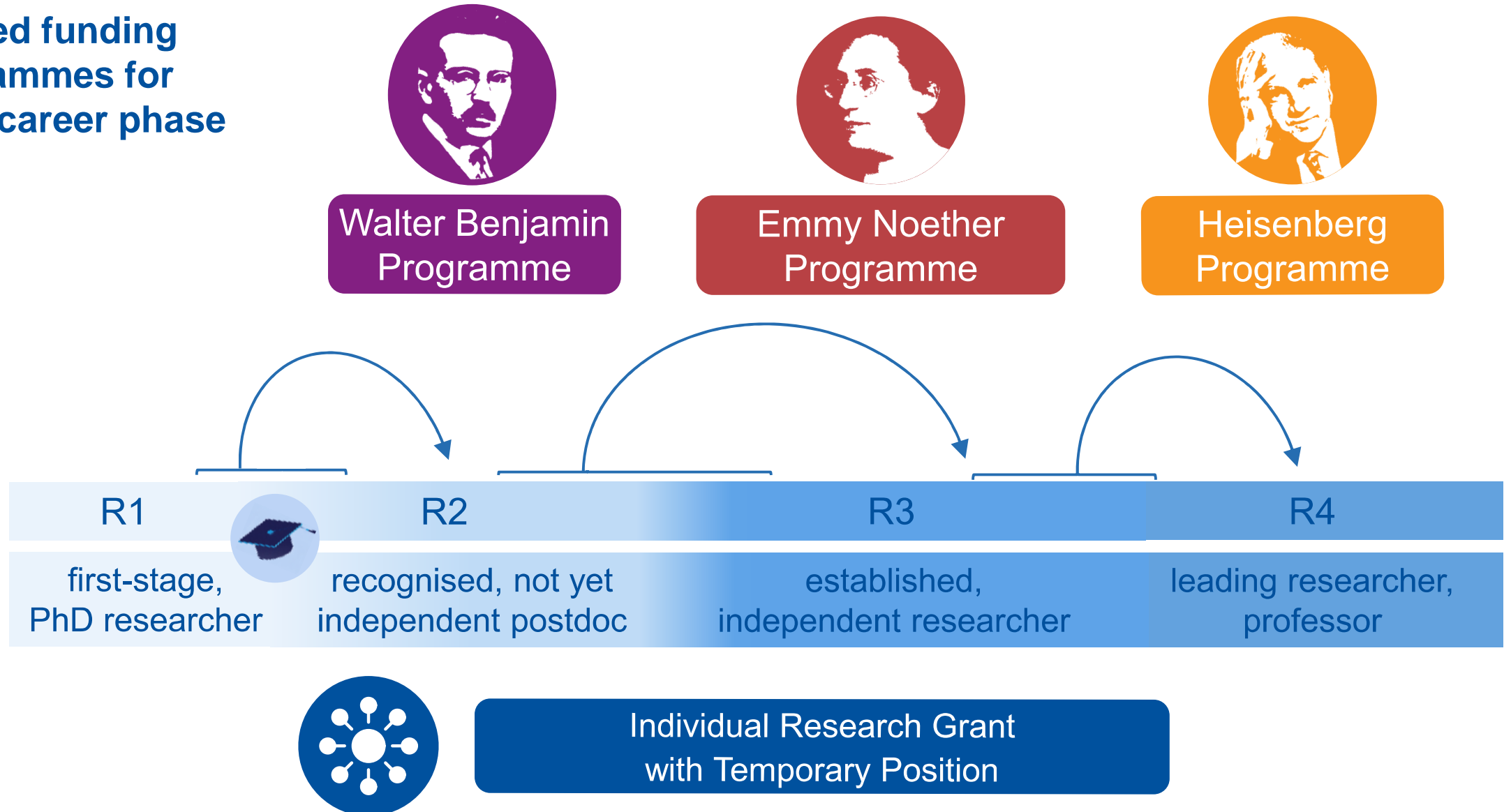


* The funding rate (or success rate) was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.
Source: New individual grants



DFG Funding for Early Career Researchers

Tailored funding programmes for every career phase





Heisenberg Programme

Funding aims

- enable researchers to **prepare for a senior academic role...**
- ...and further enhance their scientific reputation...
- ...while **continuing their research.**



Requirements

- **Outstanding researchers...**
- ... who are **eligible for professorial appointment**

Funding scope

Funding for **up to five years**

At the location of your choice – also possible abroad

Additional flexible funding
€313 (fellowship) or
€1,000 (position/
professorship) per month

Funding options:
**fellowship | position |
professorship**

Can be **combined** with a
research grant proposal





Heisenberg fellowship



Heisenberg professorship



Heisenberg position



Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

+ flexible research funding or a general allowance (fellowship)



Heisenberg fellowship

- Research at an academic institution in Germany or another country
- Fellowship (currently €4.450 per month) + general allowance (€313 per month) + childcare allowance + foreign allowance
- Required documents: A declaration issued by the host institution confirming the position and the core support specific to the project



Heisenberg position

- Position (E 14 Stufe 5 to E 15 Stufe 4) und flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Research at an academic institution in Germany or a German academic institution in another country (e.g. Max Planck Institute in Italy)
- Research stay(s) at foreign academic institutions outside of Germany possible for a maximum of 1/3 of the funding duration (usually 20 months)
- Required documents: Arbeitgebererklärung (DFG form 41.04; only available in German)



Heisenberg professorship

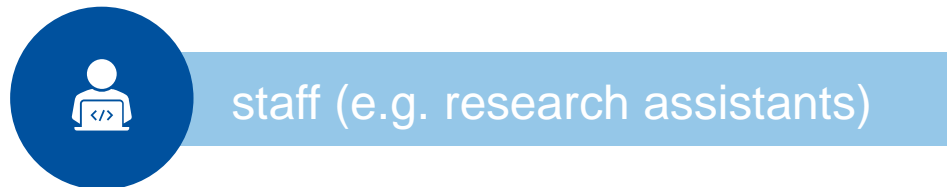
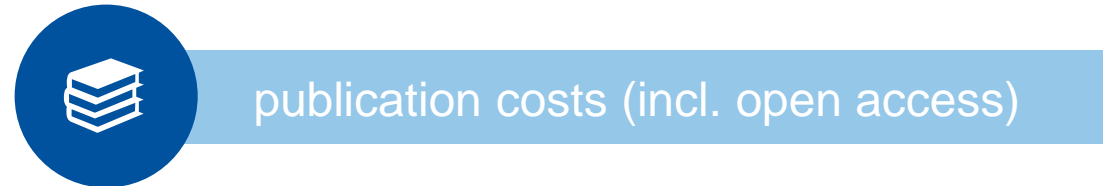
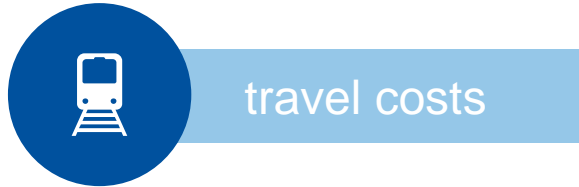
- Temporary professorship (W2 or W3) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- The university provides a binding statement that after the DFG funding period it will transfer the Heisenberg professorship permanently to its own budget (in case of positive DFG and an optional university mid-term evaluation)
- Required documents: proof of appointment (e.g. a declaration issued by the employing institution or a certificate of appointment); declaration regarding the continuation of the professorship; declaration regarding the core support specific to the project



Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

- Funds for temporary substitute (Ä 1 Stufe 2 to Ä 2 Stufe 1) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Substitute staff takes over the patient-care responsibilities for the Heisenberg position holder; Heisenberg position holder may work full-time or part-time (at least 49%) on the Heisenberg project
- Required documents: informal letter from current institution (confirming the existing employment relationship and release from patient care); the academic institution must confirm the specific core support required for the project

Flexible research funding – Examples



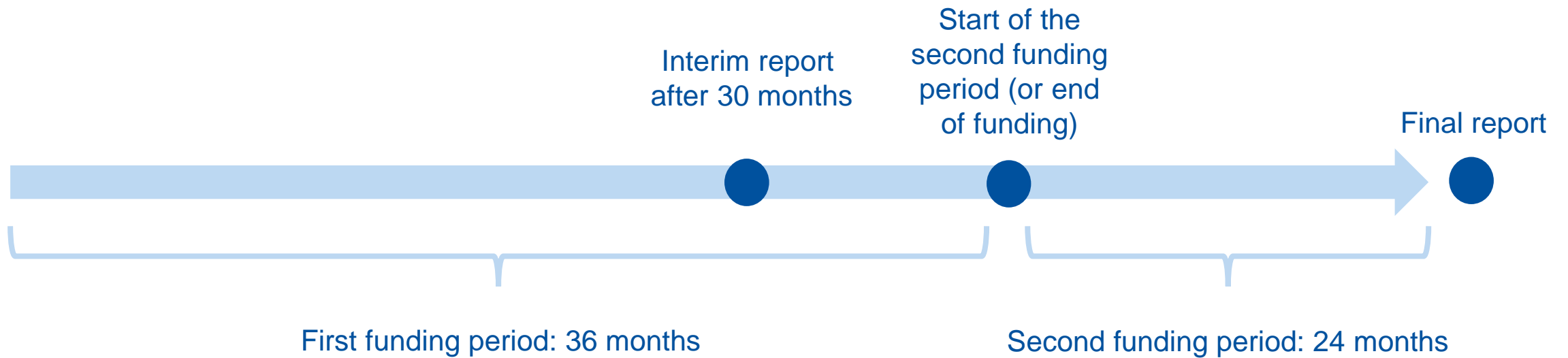
Additional funding for publication costs



Should the appropriate publication of your research findings made within the context of the Heisenberg grant call for a book format with high production costs, you may apply for additional funding of up to €5,000 per year. The request must be justified accordingly.

→ Cannot be used for open access publishing fees!

Total duration: 5 years (60 months)



Emmy Noether Programme
(or other group leaders)

Junior professors
(with positive
evaluations)

Foreign researchers

**Researchers who meet
all the requirements for
appointment to a long-
term professorship**

Completed habilitation

Qualifications equivalent to a
habilitation
(z.B. publication record, list
placement for a professorship
etc.)

(DFG financed-) post doc positions



Not eligible

- Tenure track professors (in Germany)
- Those with positions equivalent to W2/W3 (positions in Germany)



Other permanent positions (e.g. Akademische Rätin or Akademischer Rat) do not impede the eligibility

Permanent professors (e.g. associate professors) from abroad are eligible as long as they have not achieved a full professorship yet

**Guidelines Heisenberg
Programme**
(form 50.03)

**Proposal Preparation
Instructions**
(form 54.02)

Project Description
(form 53.19)



Project description

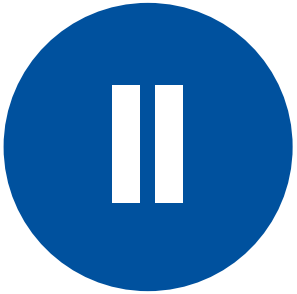
Academic profile

What have you worked on so far?

What qualifies you for a long-term professorship?

Research project(s)

Which projects would you like to work on during the Heisenberg funding period?



Interruptions

- You may pause for a maximum of one year



Part-time

- Reduction possible (up to 50% of a full-time position)
- In cases of illness, childcare or other family care duties

→Important: The DFG must approve your interruption/part-time plans in advance



Extensions

- The Heisenberg funding cannot be extended
- Exception: cost-neutral extension if cases of interruption/part-time



- You may submit your application any time
- In German or English
- Via the DFG's [elan-Portal](#)
- Processing your application takes around 8 months



► Which Heisenberg funding type are you aiming for?



► At which university/research institution would you like to work?

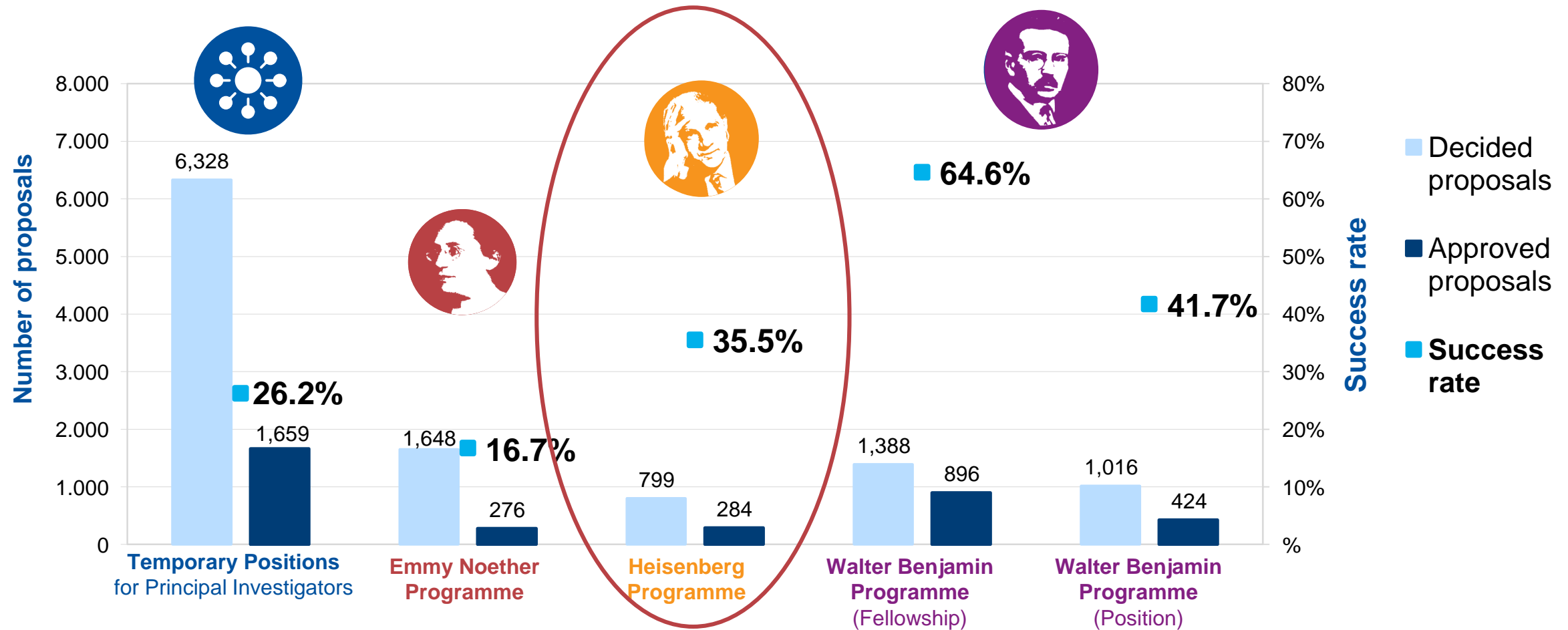


- Submission of your application
- Are you applying for an Individual Research Grant as well?



- Choosing your Heisenberg funding type (max. 6 months after receiving the congratulations letter)
- Starting your grant (max. 12 months after receiving the congratulations letter)

Numbers of Proposals and Success Rates* in Programmes for Early Career Researchers (mean values; 2021 to 2024)



* Base: New proposals.



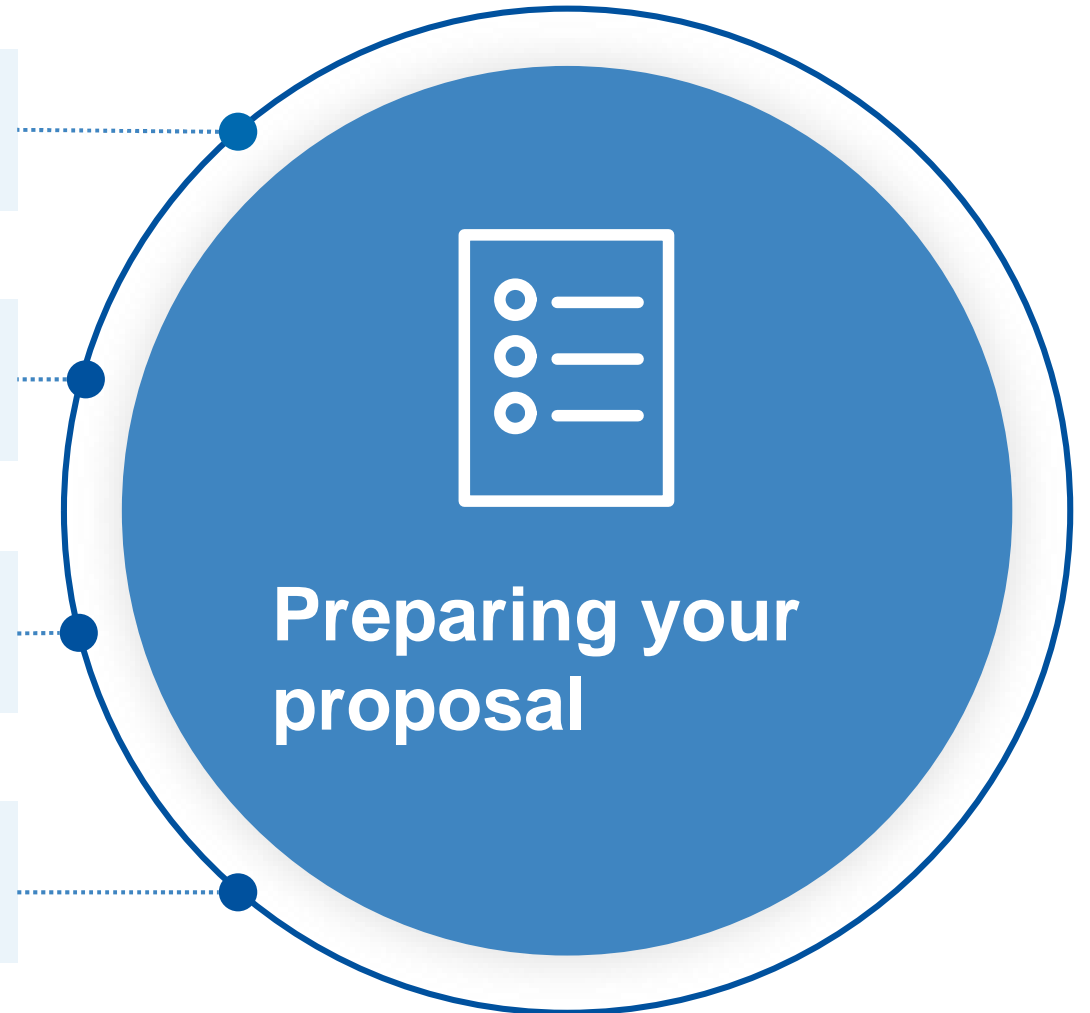
From Submission to Decision

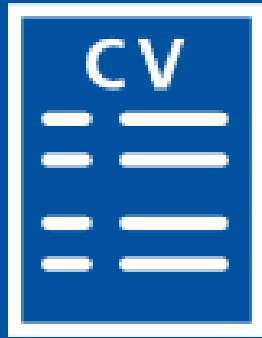
Carefully read and follow the **guidelines and proposal instructions**

Decide on the proposal **language**:
English or German

Necessary information can be found
on the **DFG website**

Questions? Ask for help





Preparing your CV



Follow the [DFG CV Template](#)



Include qualifications, engagement & awards

also: organization of scientific meetings, review activities etc.



Mention time away from research

Relating e.g. to family, illness or dependent care; no details required



List your most important scientific contributions

Comment on your own contribution to a publication / study / database / software

Questions? Ask for help



On Eligibility

procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de

On General Topics

info-researchcareers@dfg.de

On Equity & Diversity

chancengleichheit@dfg.de

With a Subject-Specific Focus

<https://www.dfg.de/en/about-us/head-office/programme-contacts>



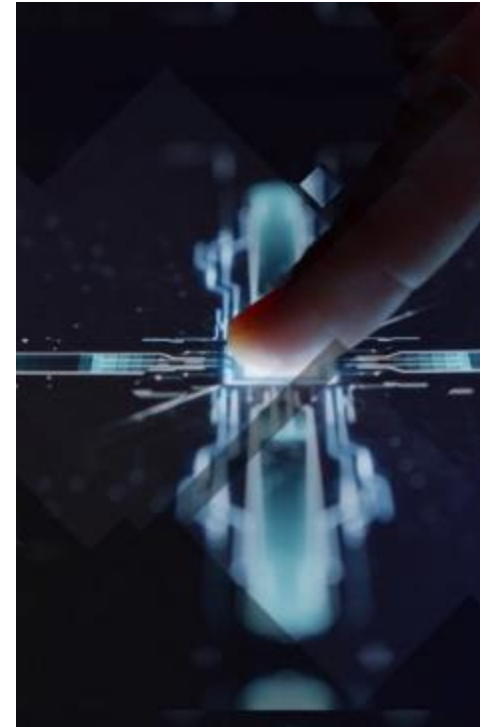
No **upper limits**

Needs to be **realistic and justified** by the project

DFG funds **only supplemental, project-specific needs** (vs. existing resources at your host institution)

Seek **advice** from other grant applicants, recipients, institutions

Average **personnel rates** on DFG website



Before submission



Put yourself in the reviewers shoes

Consult the [“General Guidelines for the Written Review”](#) for reviewers



Seek honest criticism from colleagues



Plan on a feasible timeline

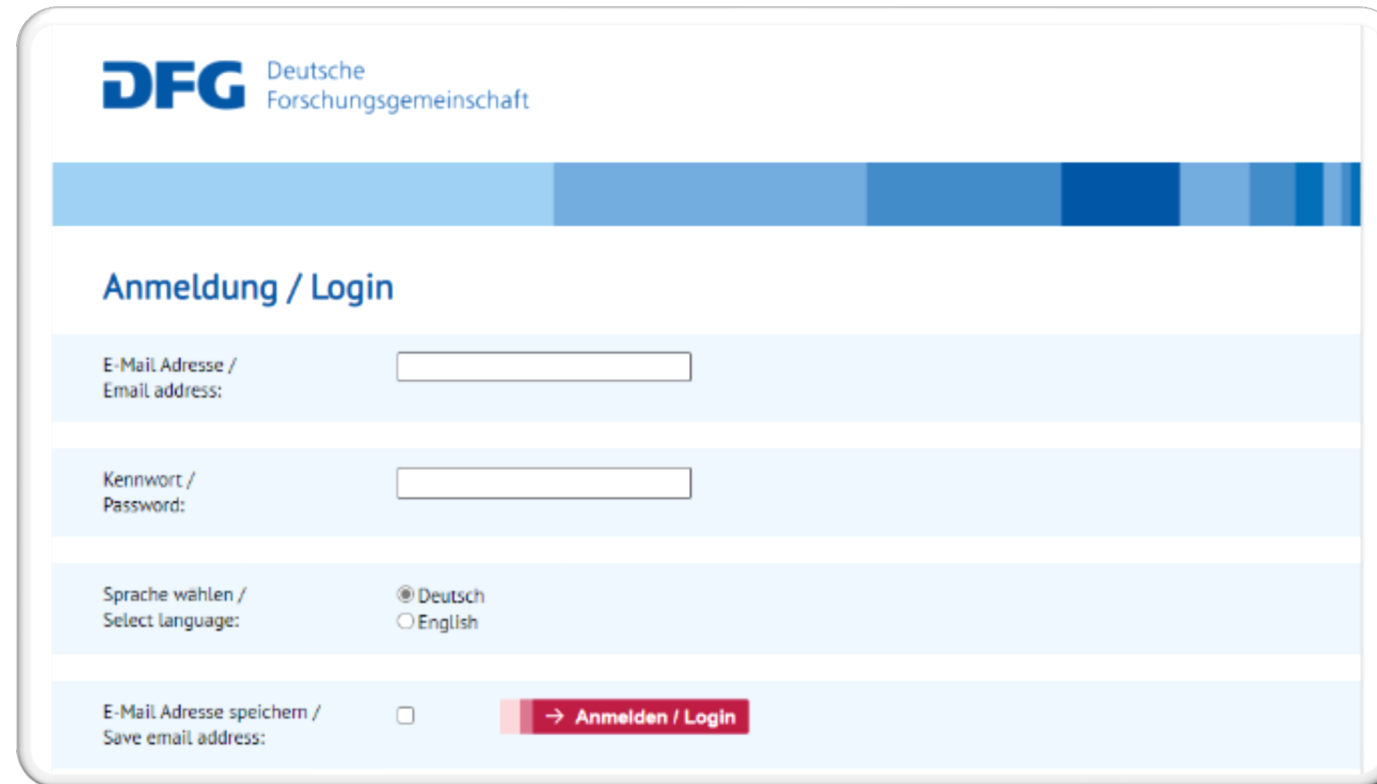
on average, the time to decision is approx. six months



Inform DFG Head Office

in case a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists

Submitting your proposal via *elan*



The screenshot shows the login interface of the DFG elan system. At the top left is the DFG logo (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Below it is a decorative blue bar. The main heading is "Anmeldung / Login". There are three input fields: "E-Mail Adresse / Email address:", "Kennwort / Password:", and "Sprache wählen / Select language:". The language field has two radio buttons: "Deutsch" (selected) and "English". At the bottom left is a checkbox for "E-Mail Adresse speichern / Save email address:". To the right of the checkbox is a red button labeled "→ Anmelden / Login".

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

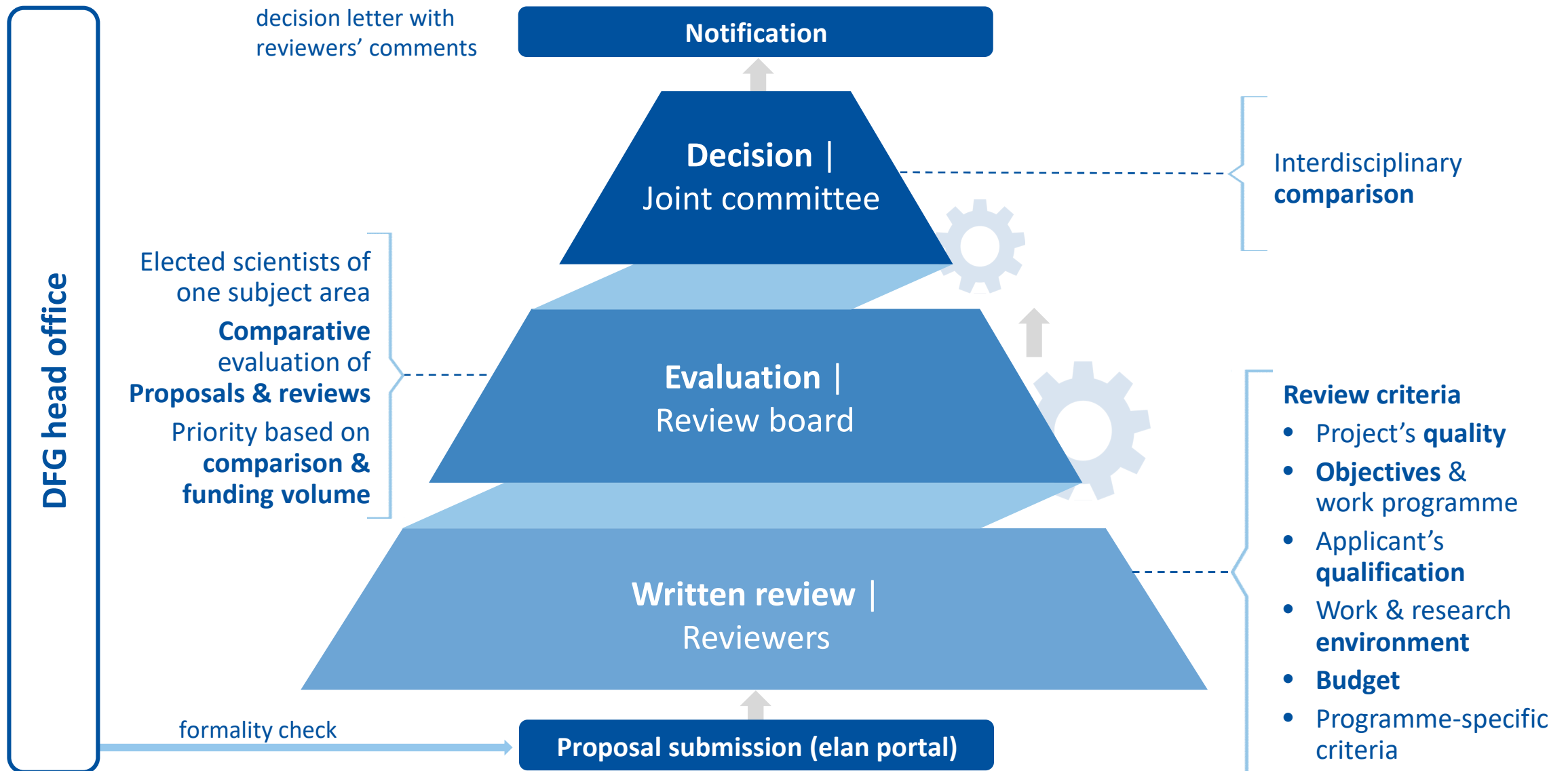
Anmeldung / Login

E-Mail Adresse /
Email address:

Kennwort /
Password:

Sprache wählen /
Select language: ☒ Deutsch
☐ English

E-Mail Adresse speichern /
Save email address: ☐ → Anmelden / Login





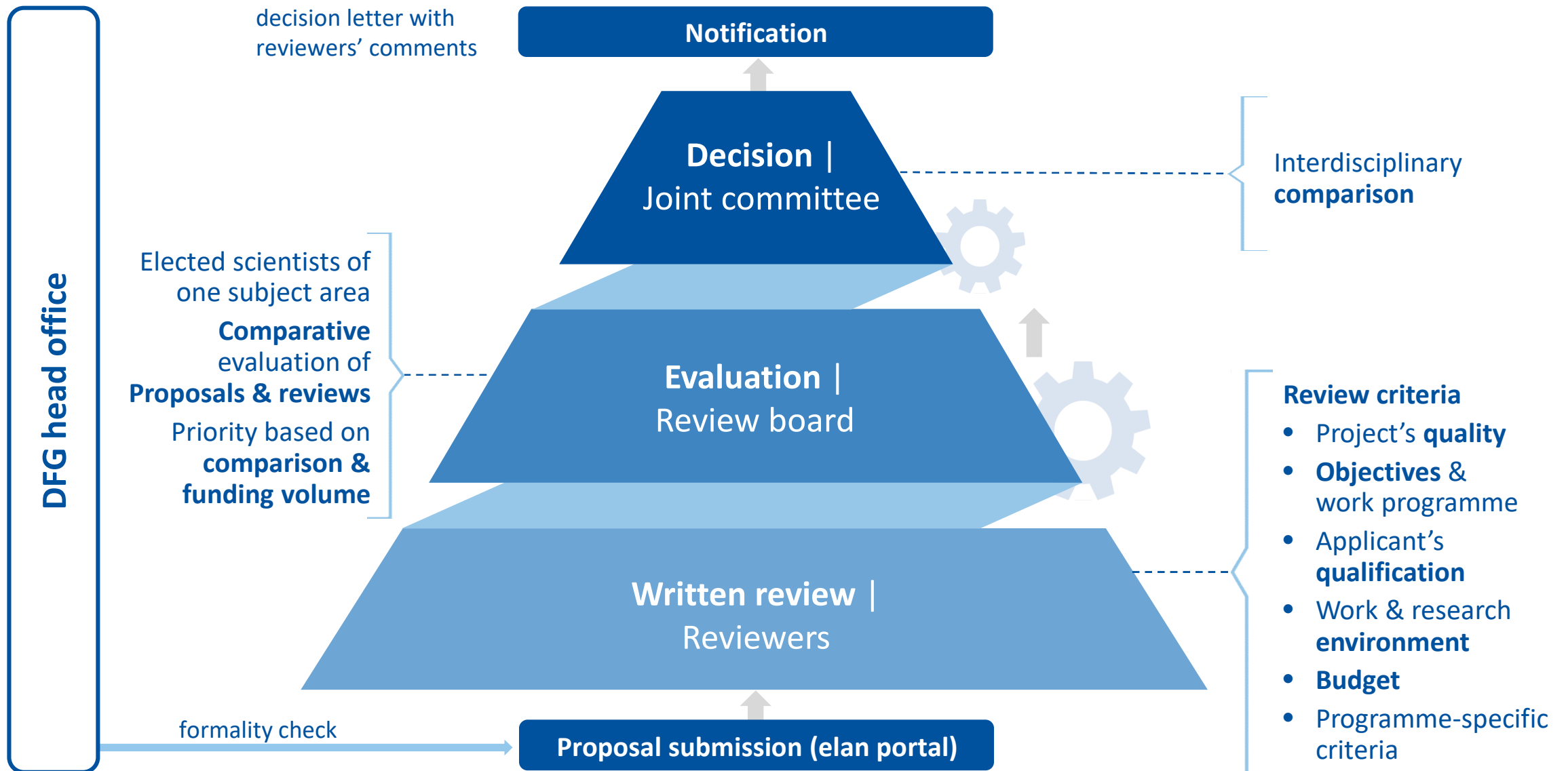
49 Review Boards

Elections every four years
by the community of
~ 150,000 researchers in
Germany

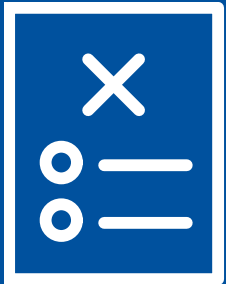


FACHKOLLEGIENWAHL
2027

DFG



**In case your proposal
is not successful...**



Don't be discouraged

Unfortunately, the majority of proposals cannot be funded.



Take the reviewers's comments seriously, but not personally



Consider the reviewers's comments

They might give you some pointers for reworking and resubmitting your proposal



Consult the DFG Head Office

If you need advice or feel treated unfairly

**In case your proposal
is successful...**



Congratulations!

Download the decision letter; project starts with first request for funds (within 12 months after decision)



Contact us at an early stage

For setting the start date, relocation, part time work, etc.



Final report

Due three months after project ends. Obligation to submit a report.



More questions?
info-researchcareers@dfg.de

Orientation for early-career researchers:
www.dfg.de/research_careers

Proposal Submission – 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

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



www.dfg.de



Bluesky | @dfg.de



Instagram | dfg__public



LinkedIn | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
(DFG) – German Research Foundation



Mastodon | @dfg_public



Youtube | @DFGbewegt

Care obligations and DFG funding

→ various possibilities for **family-related part-time work**, periods of absence due to **parental leave** or **caring** for children or other relatives. The same applies for long-term **illness or disability**.

Emmy Noether Programme

Family Allowance

Standard Allowance for Equity and Diversity



All Positions funded through DFG in Germany

Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)



Walter Benjamin Fellowships

Child allowance

Fellowship extension

Reimbursement of childcare costs

Combination of measures

Individual solutions

Possibility to temporarily suspend funding up to 6 months

Cost-neutral extension

Support staff...