



The Heisenberg Programme

Anna Böhme
Anjana Buckow
Nils Föhles
Ina von der Beck



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

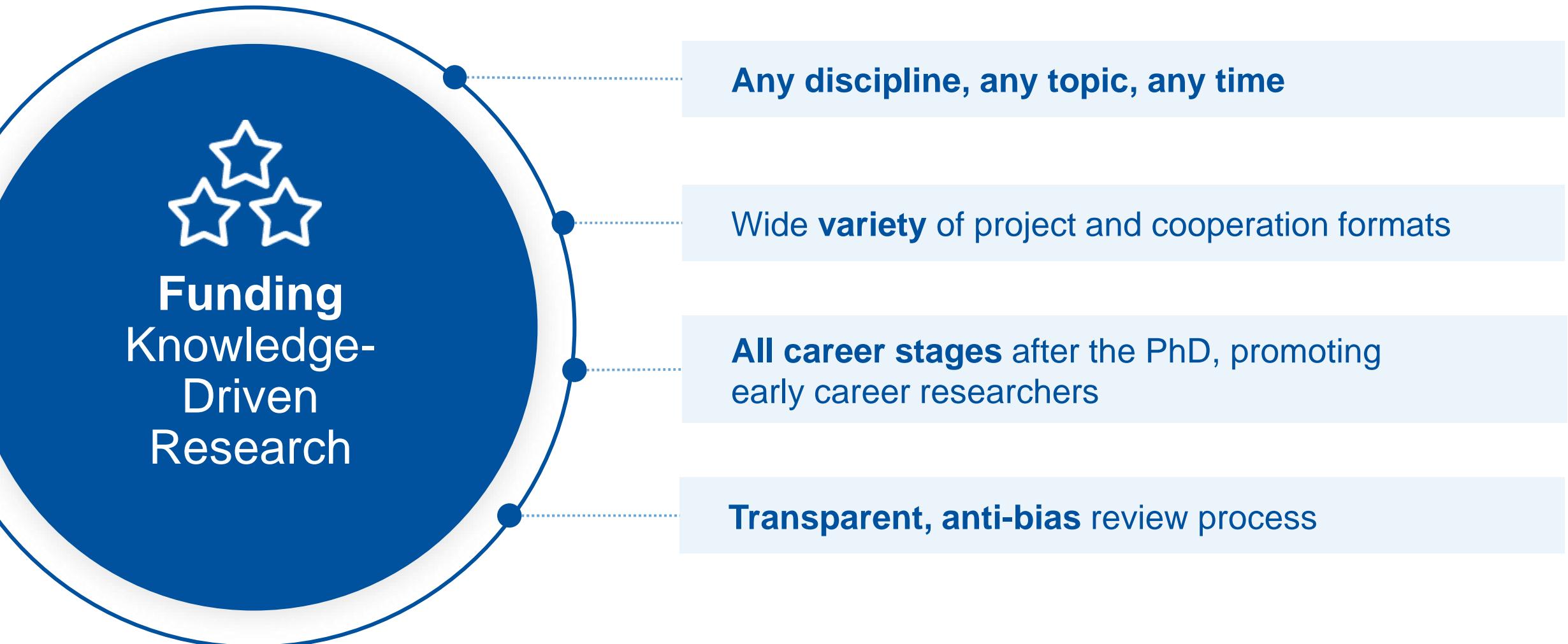
Independent association
under private law



Funding
knowledge-driven
research

**Researchers have
the majority**
in decision-making
committees

DFG's Independence
guarantees academic
freedom



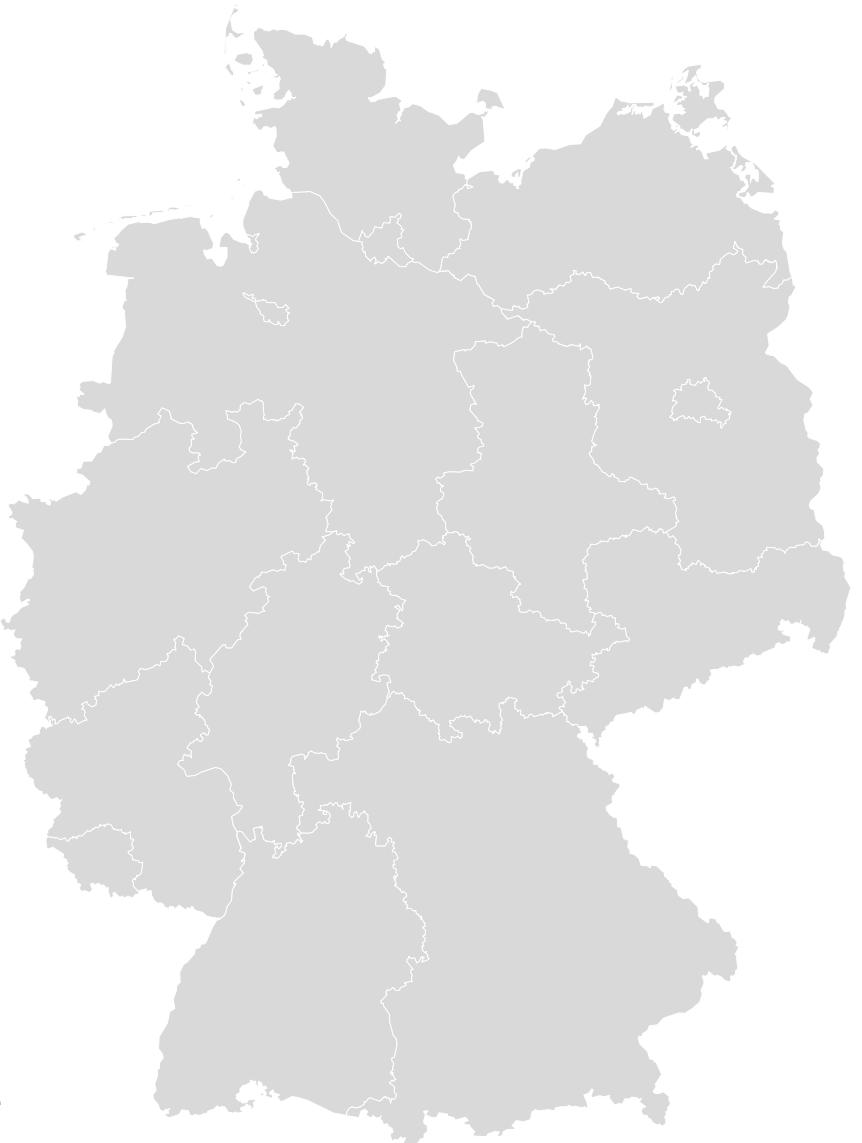
Who is eligible to apply for DFG funding?

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



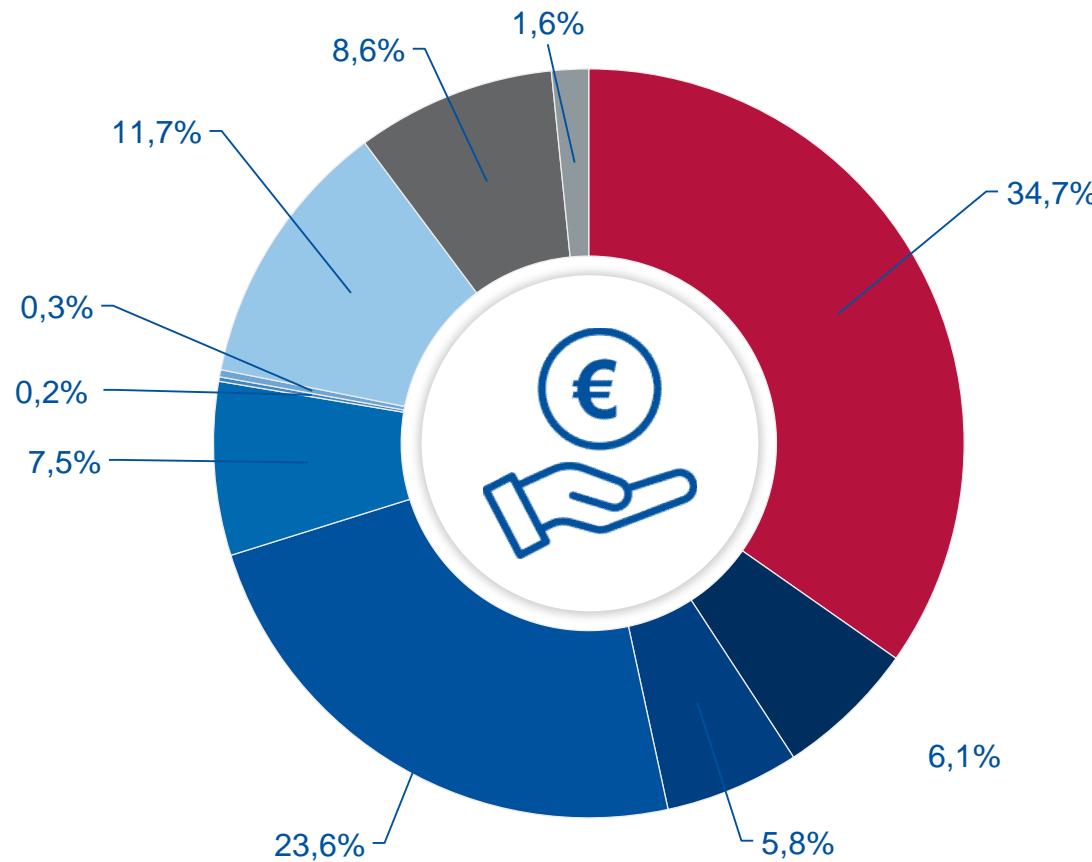
993
Coordinated projects



3,9 Billion €
Budget for research projects

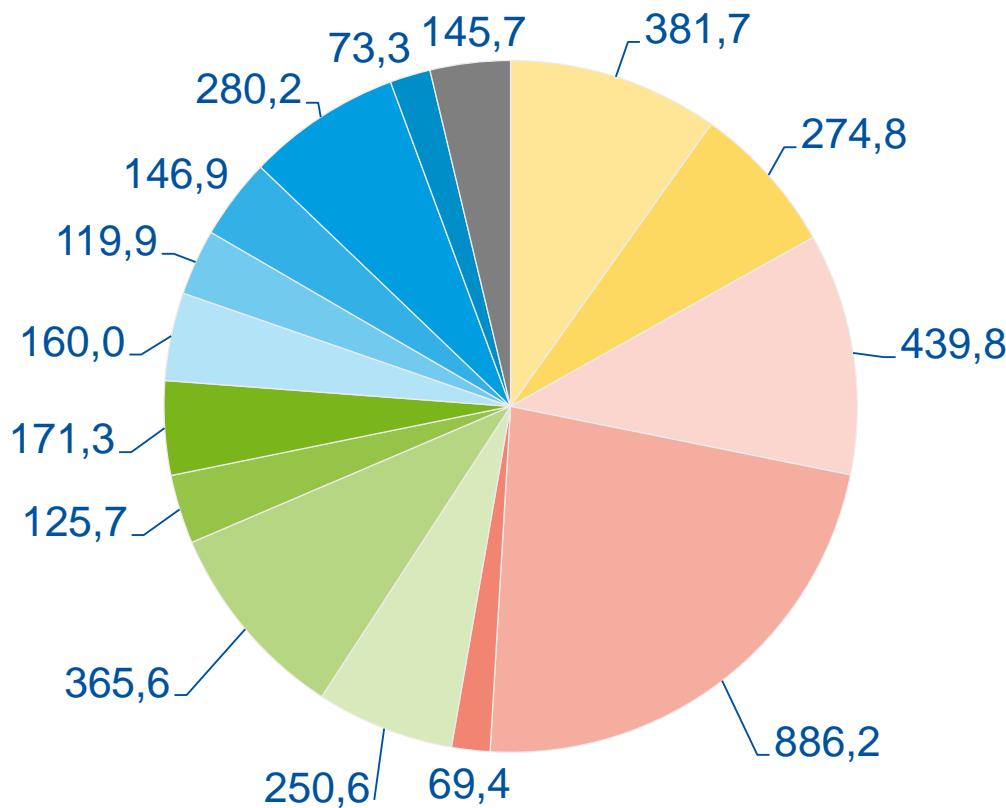
Research funding by programme

for 2024 (in Mio. € und %)



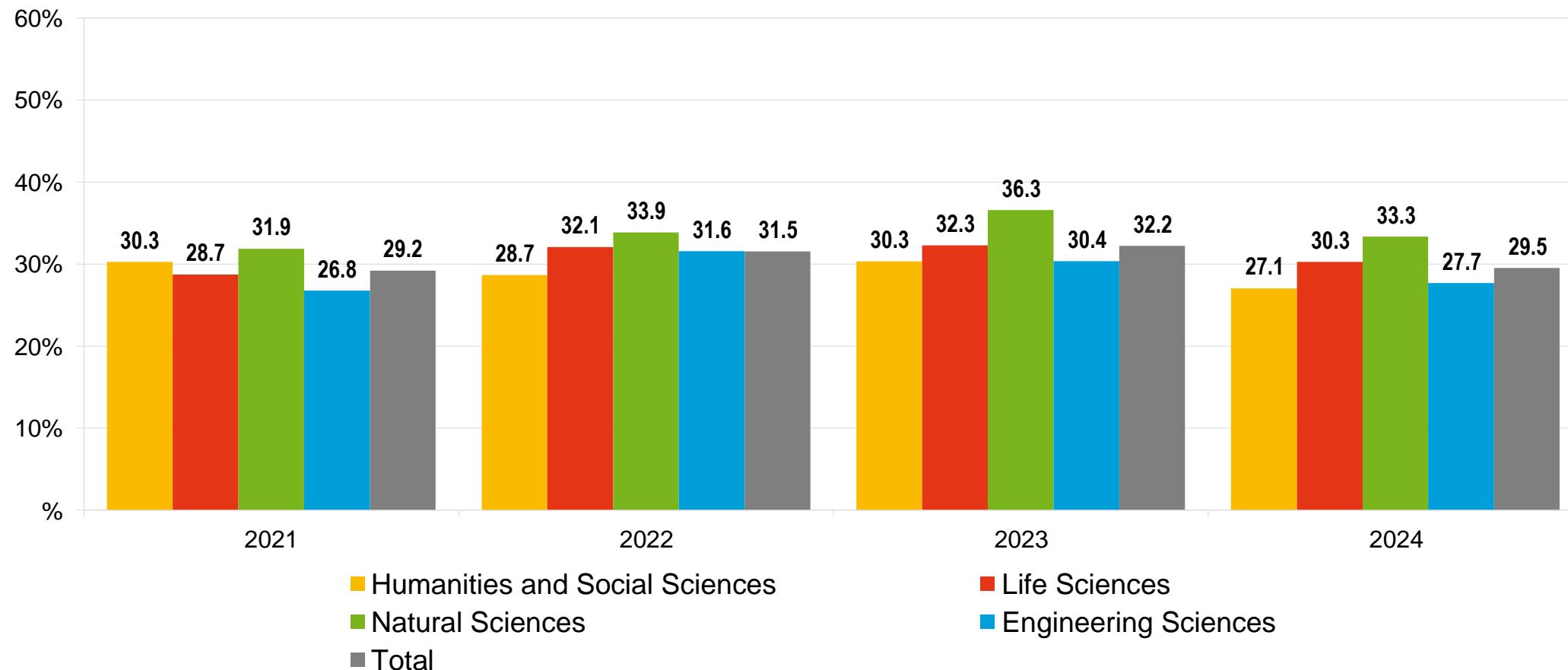
- Individual grants programme: 1352,3 Mio. €
- Research Units: 238,0 Mio. €
- Priority Programmes: 224,2 Mio. €
- Collaborative Research Centres: 917,2 Mio. €
- Research Training Groups: 291,3 Mio. €
- Research Impulses: 7,5 Mio. €
- Research Centres: 12,6 Mio. €
- Excellenzstrategie: 453,4 Mio. €
- 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**



Walter Benjamin
Programme



Emmy Noether
Programme



Heisenberg
Programme

R1



first-stage,
PhD researcher

R2

recognised, not yet
independent postdoc

R3

established,
independent researcher

R4

leading researcher,
professor



Individual Research Grant
with Temporary Position



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

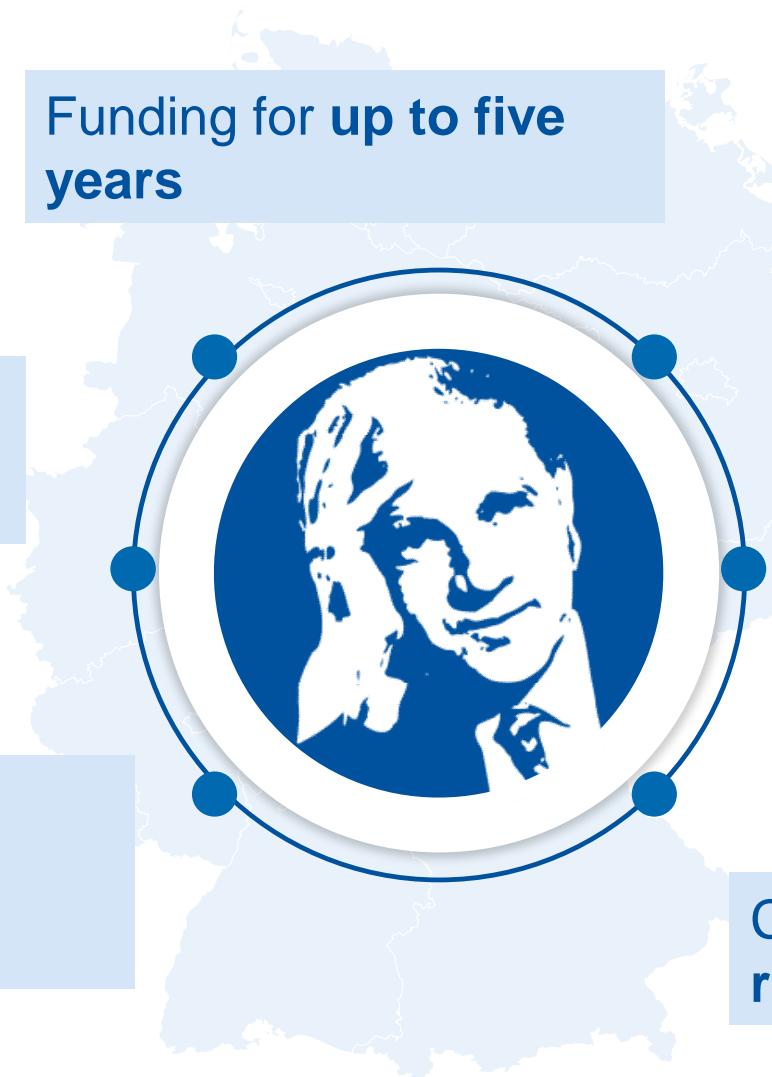
At the location of your choice – also possible abroad

Funding for up to five years

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 position



Heisenberg professorship



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



travel costs



conferences



publication costs (incl. open access)



staff (e.g. research assistants)

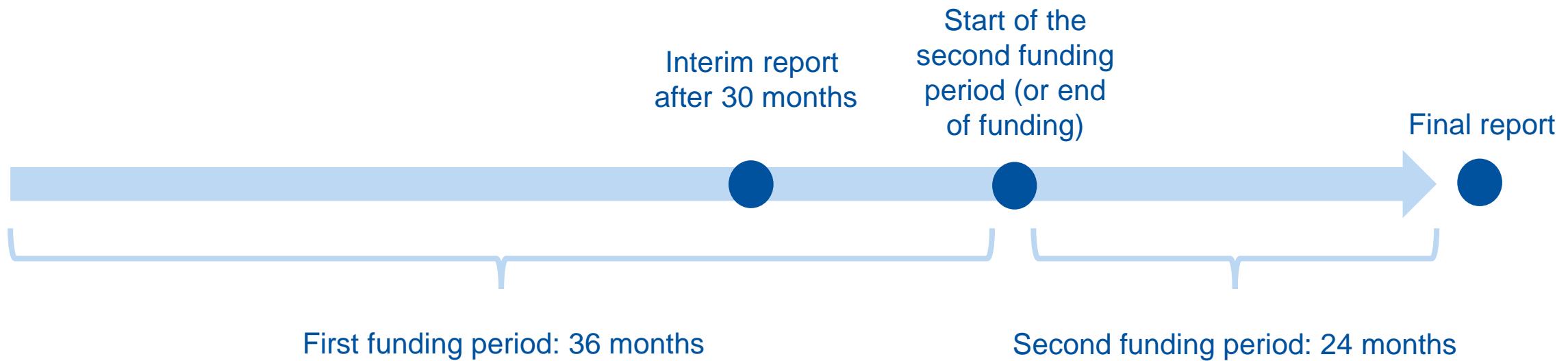
Additional funding for publication costs



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

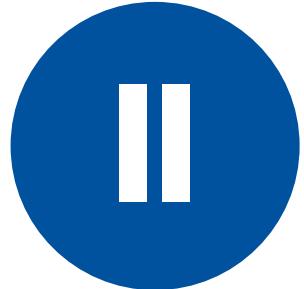
Academic profile

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?

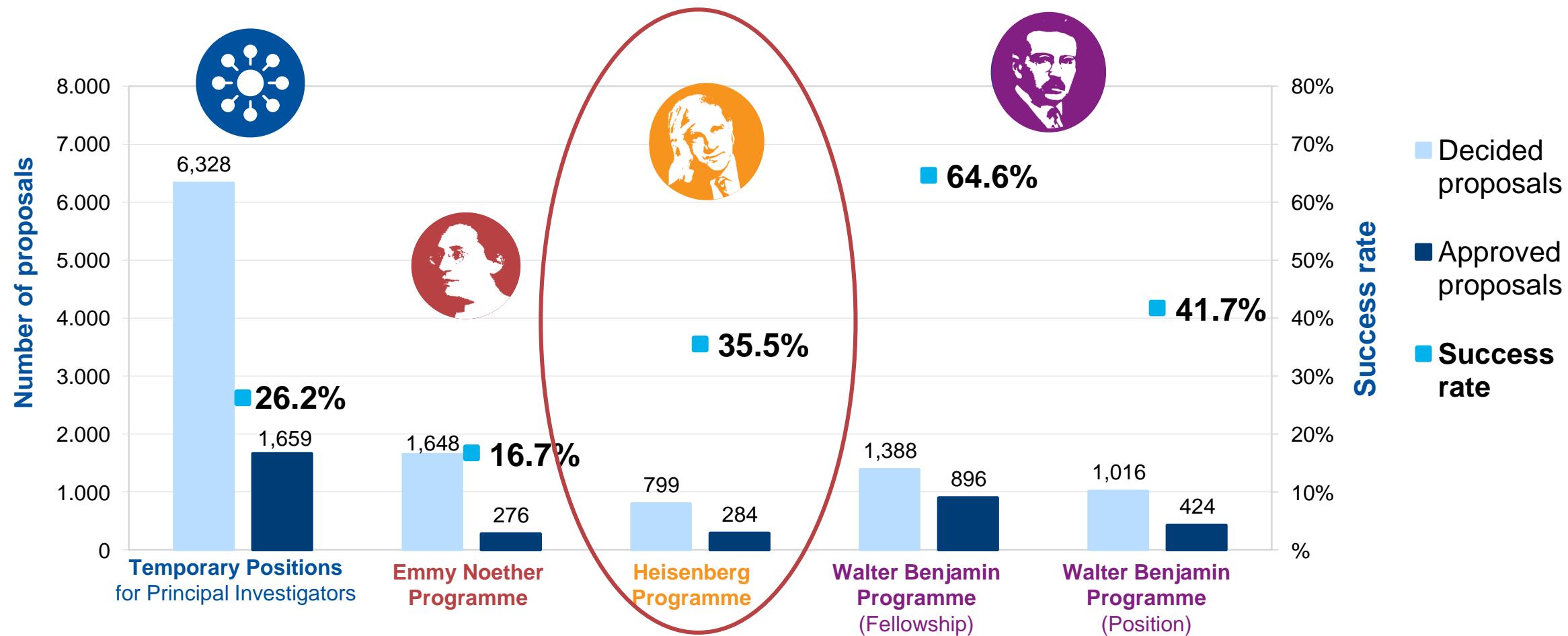


- Submission of your application
- Are you applying for an Individual Research Grant as well?



- 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)





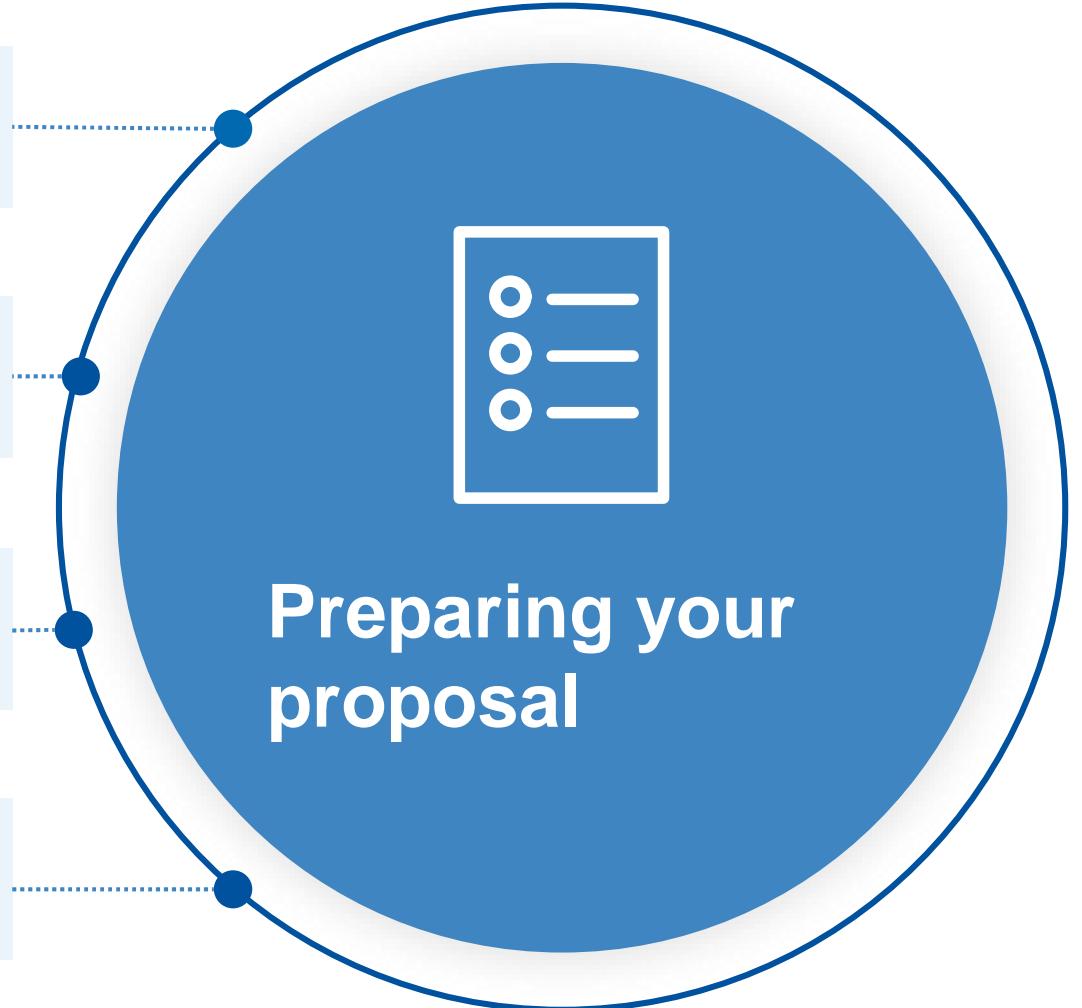
From Submission to Decision

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

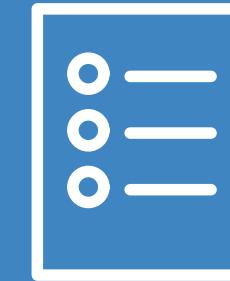
Decide on the proposal **language**:
English or German

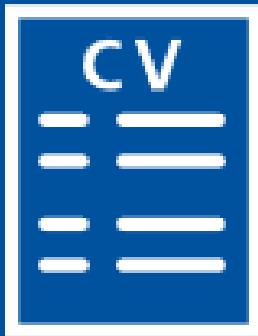
Necessary information can be found
on the **DFG website**

Questions? Ask for help



Preparing your
proposal





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

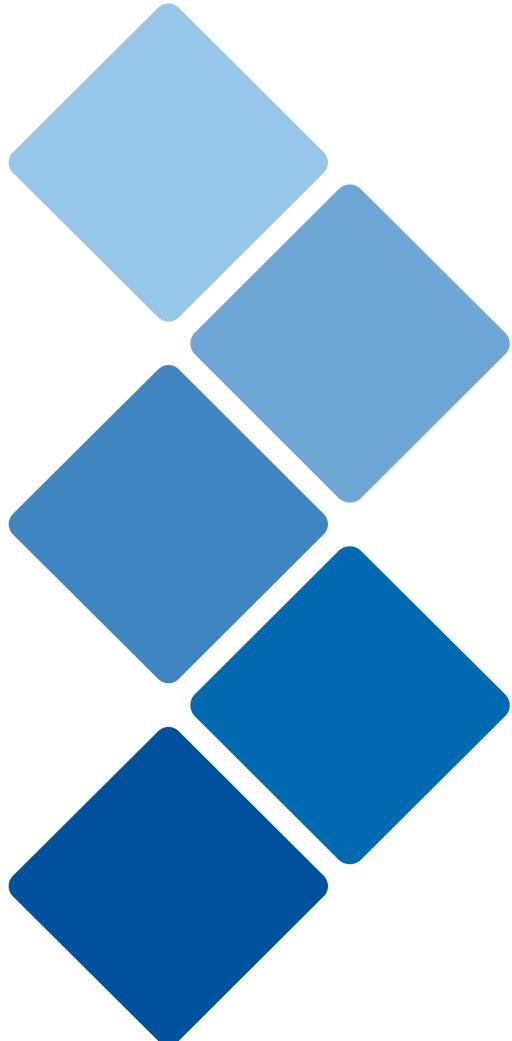
info-researchcareers@dfg.de

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

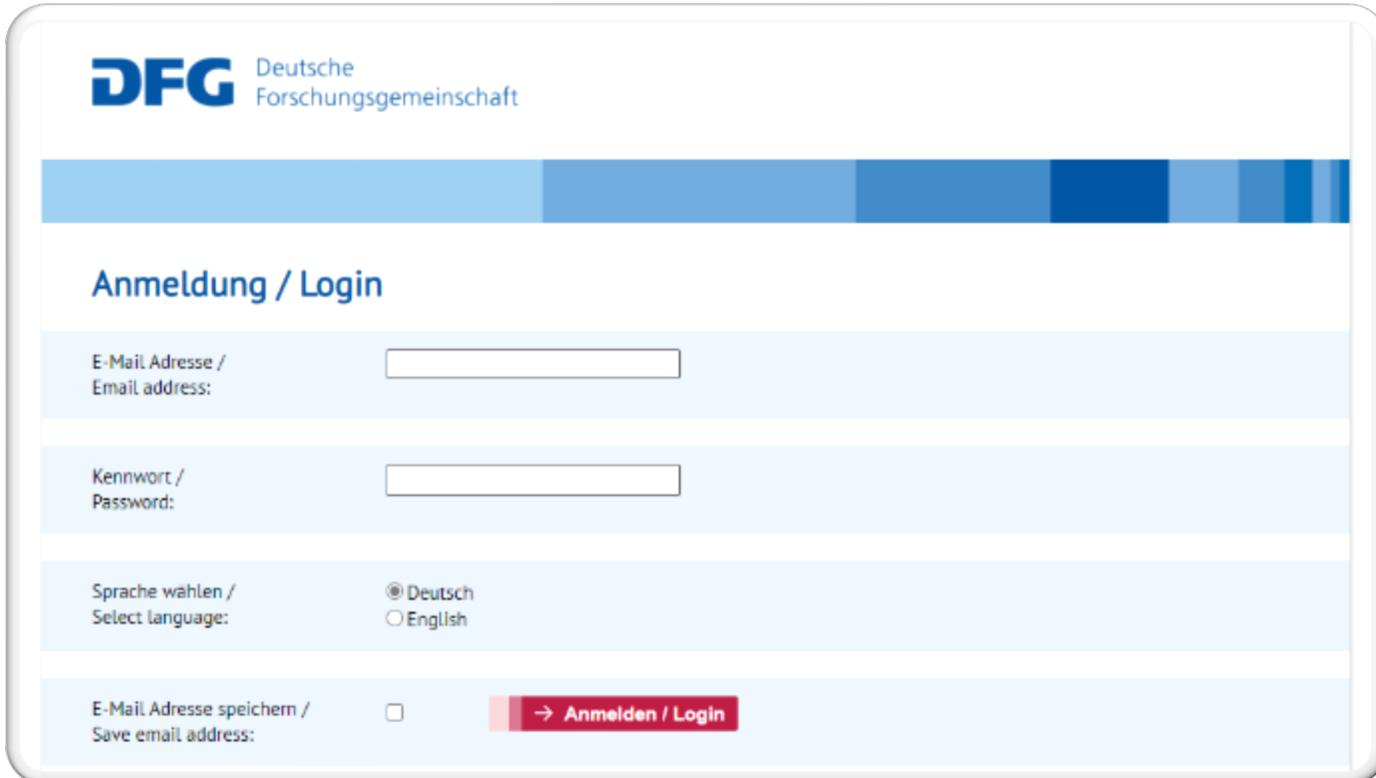
Plan on a feasible timeline

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 DFG elan login page. At the top, the DFG logo and name are displayed. Below the logo, a horizontal bar consists of several colored squares. The main title "Anmeldung / Login" is centered above the form fields. The first field is for "E-Mail Adresse / Email address:" with an input field. The second field is for "Kennwort / Password:" with an input field. The third field is for "Sprache wählen / Select language:" with radio buttons for "Deutsch" (selected) and "English". At the bottom, there is a checkbox for "E-Mail Adresse speichern / Save email address:" and a red "Anmelden / Login" button. A reflection of the page is visible below the main content.

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Anmeldung / Login

E-Mail Adresse /
Email address:

Kennwort /
Password:

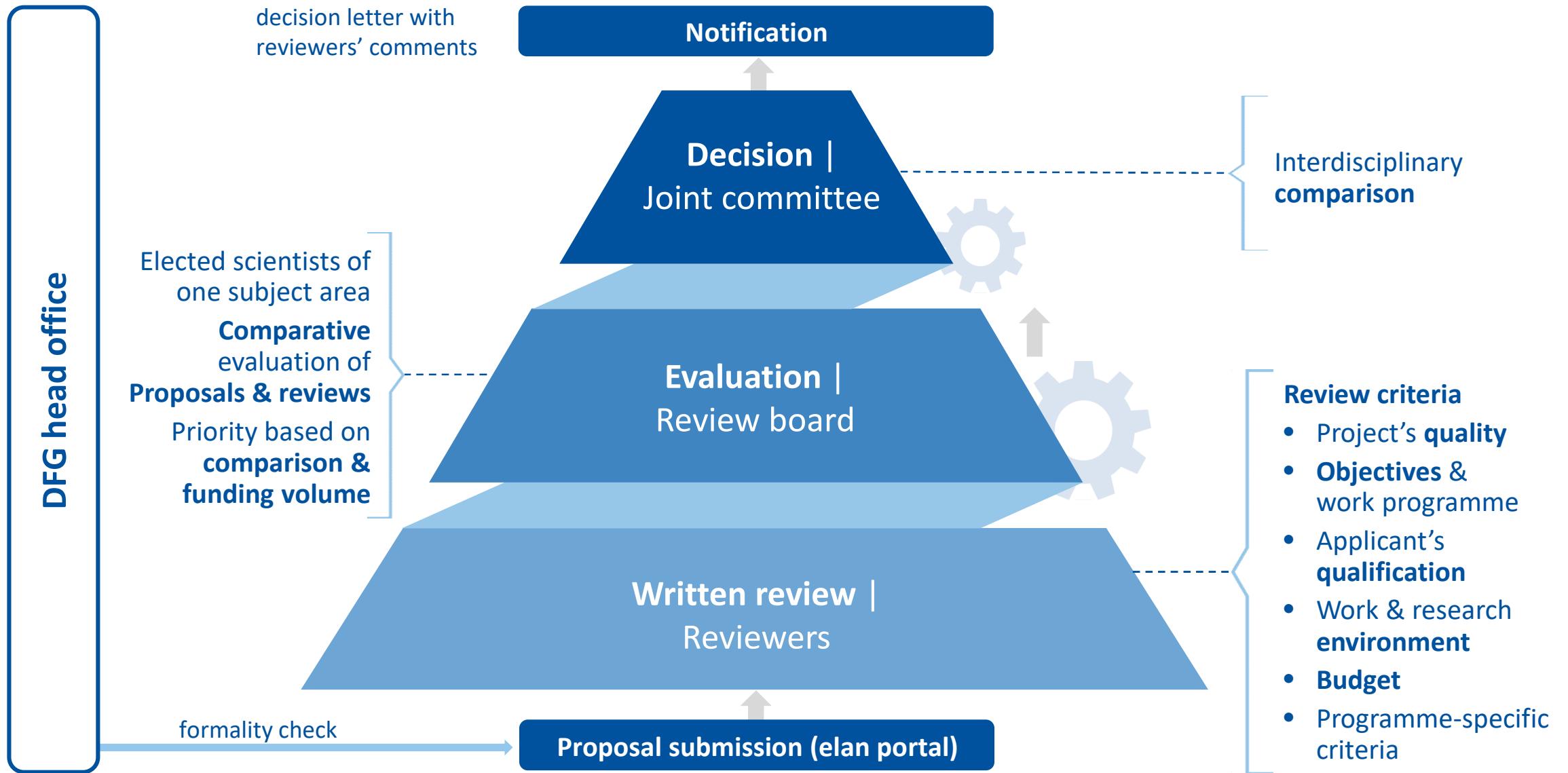
Sprache wählen /
Select language:

Deutsch

English

E-Mail Adresse speichern /
Save email address:

→ Anmelden / Login

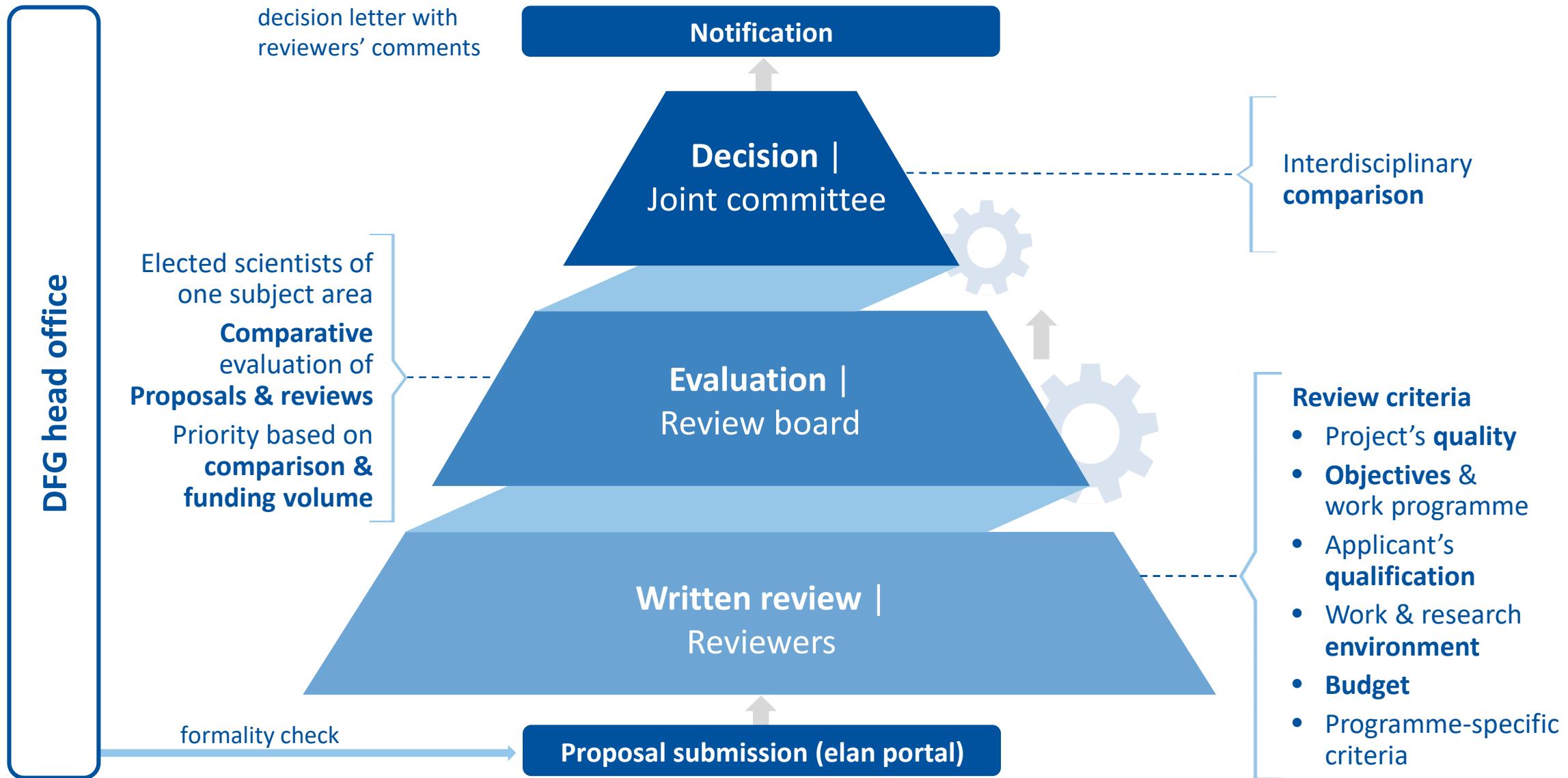




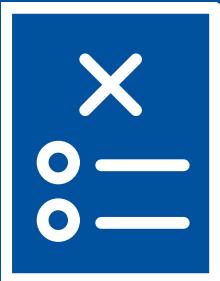
49 Review Boards

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





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.



DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



www.dfg.de

More questions?

info-researchcareers@dfg.de

Orientation for early-career researchers:

[www.dfg.de/research careers](http://www.dfg.de/research_careers)

Proposal Submission – A How-To Guide:

[www.dfg.de/en/research funding/individual grants programmes](http://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



Bluesky | @dfg.de



Mastodon | @dfg_public



Instagram | dfg_public



Youtube | @DFGbewegt



LinkedIn | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
(DFG) – German Research Foundation

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



Walter Benjamin Fellowships

Child allowance

Fellowship extension

Reimbursement of childcare costs

Combination of measures



All Positions funded through DFG in Germany

Bundeselterngeld- und
Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)

Individual solutions

Possibility to temporarily suspend
funding up to 6 months

Cost-neutral extension

Support staff...