



Exploring DFG Coordinated Programmes: Opportunities for Emmy Noether Group Leaders

Emmy Noether-Jahrestreffen 2026

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Research Units | *Forschungsgruppen* including
Clinical Research Units | *Klinische Forschungsgruppen*
Centres for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences
| *Kollegforschungsgruppen*

Priority Programmes | *Schwerpunktprogramme*

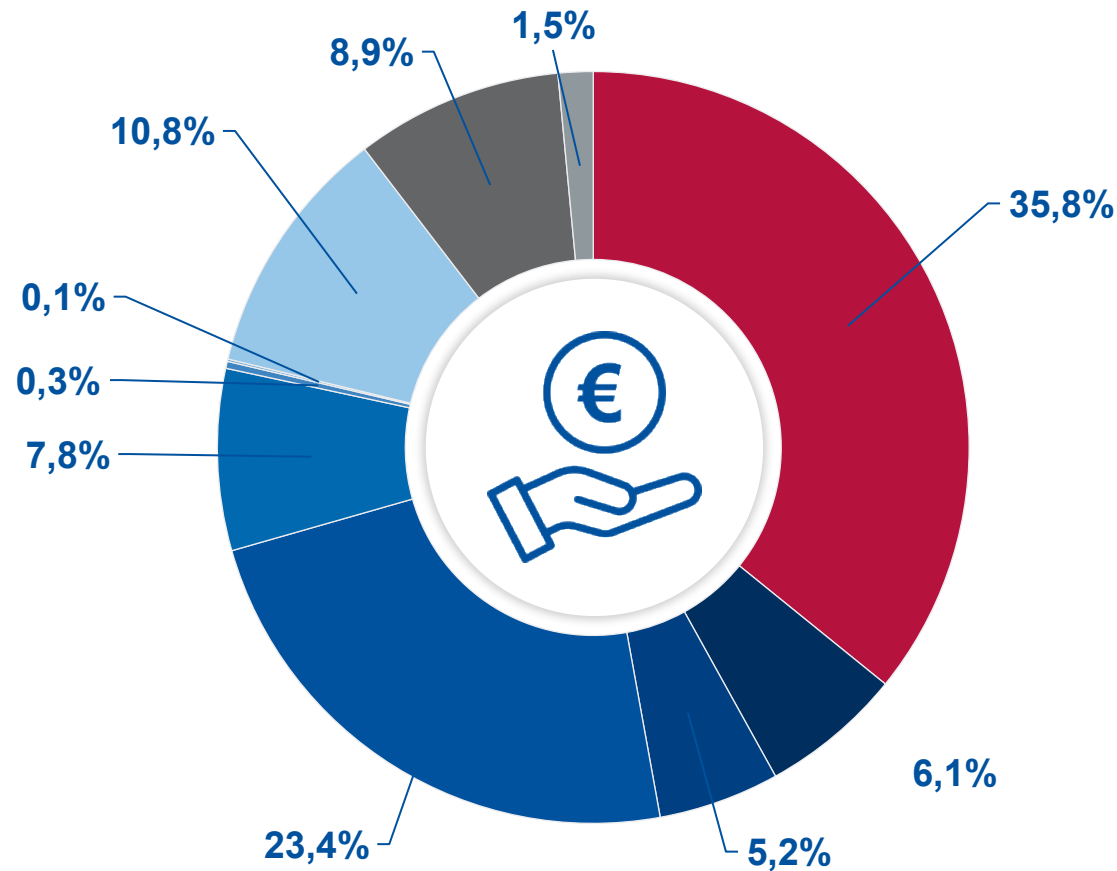
Research Training Groups | *Graduiertenkollegs*

Collaborative Research Centres | *Sonderforschungsbereiche*

Clusters of Excellence | *Exzellenzcluster*

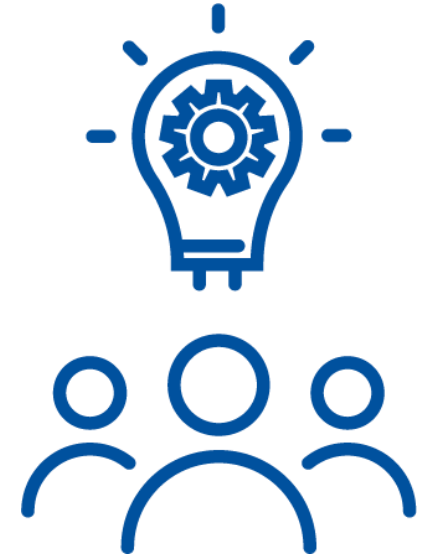
Research funding by programme

for 2025 (in Mio. € und %)

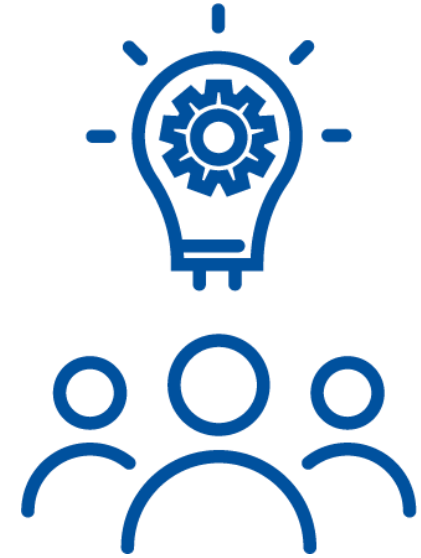


- Individual Grants: 1.373,0 Mio. €
- Research Units: 235,0 Mio. €
- Priority Programmes: 200,9 Mio. €
- Collaborative Research Centers: 897,1 Mio. €
- Research Training Groups: 298,2 Mio. €
- Research Impulses: 12,9 Mio. €
- DFG Research Centers: 5,0 Mio. €
- Excellence Strategy: 413,3 Mio. €
- Infrastructure funds: 342,9 Mio. €
- Prizes, Other: 57,7 Mio. €

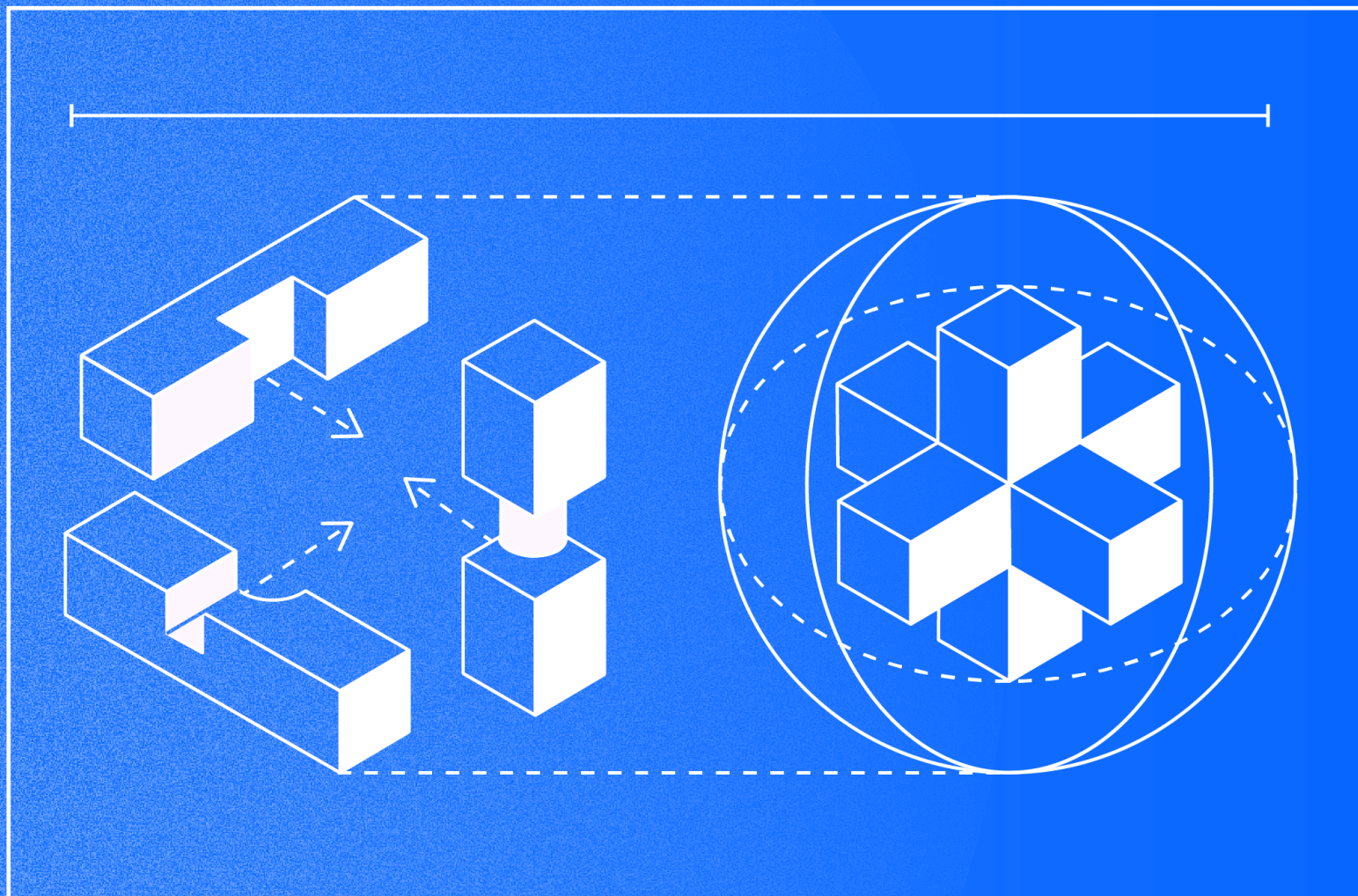
- Clear added value through (interdisciplinary) networking
→ each of the PI's expertise needed
- Strong scientific coherence and a shared research agenda are essential
- Synergies generated through shared concepts, methods, and collaborative activities
- Review based on scientific quality, coherence, and added value of collaboration



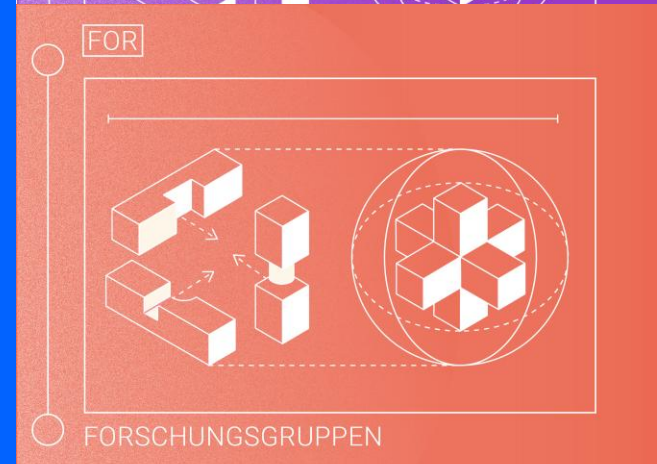
- ✓ Experience with DFG coordinated programmes and collaborative governance
- ✓ Central funds for visiting researchers, public outreach, funding for ECR, equal opportunities measures etc.
- ✓ Opportunity to expand your research profile
- ✓ Opportunity to shape the intellectual agenda of the joint programme
- ✓ Expanding institutional, scientific, interdisciplinary and international networks
- ✓ Increased visibility within the university and research community
- ✓ Opportunity to shape topics for a long-term focus at universities



FOR



FORSCHUNGSGRUPPEN



In a nutshell:

Medium-sized collaborative programme focused on a common research topic



Key features:

- Clear scientific benefit by close and systematic **cooperation** across the sub-projects, fostered by a **coherent research framework**
- Typically up to 9 scientific sub-projects, one coordination project
- Number of PIs depends on thematic focus of sub-projects (typically 9-15)
- PI positions should be secured for most of the project duration
→ anticipated second funding phase of your Emmy Noether grant is accepted
- Based at one **institution** or distributed across multiple institutions
- **Funding periods** 4+4 years
- Two-stage decision-making **process**

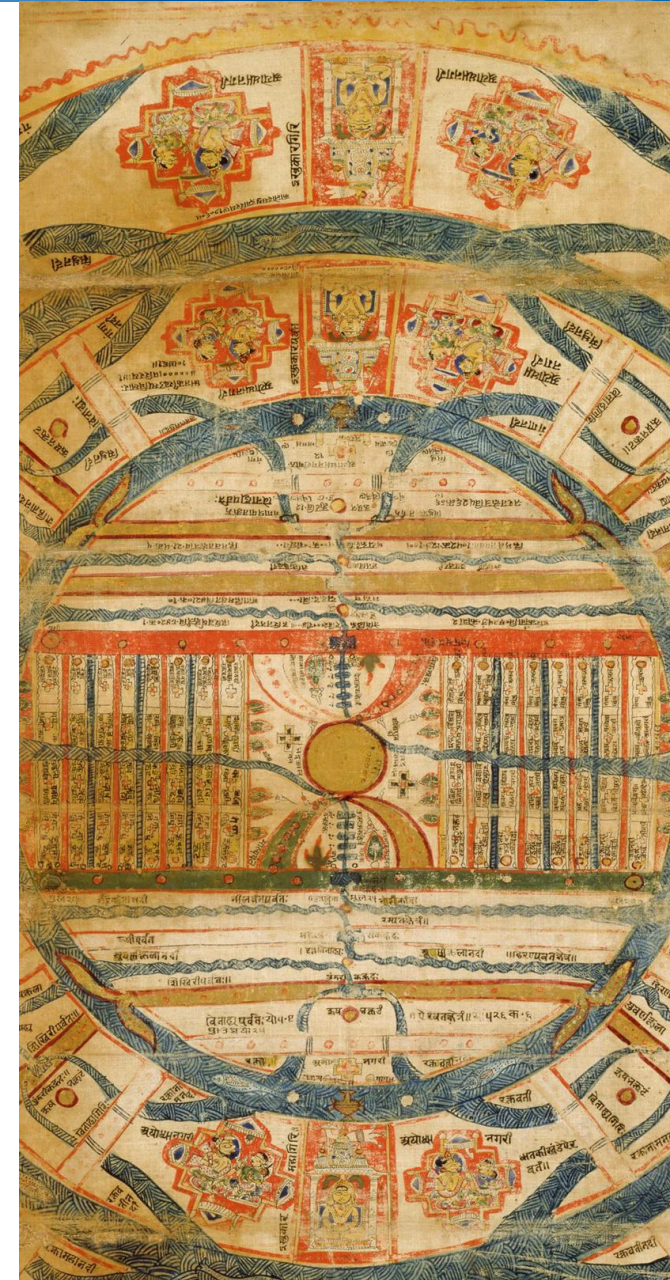
Opportunities for Emmy Noether Group Leaders:

- Participation as PI
- Association of Emmy Noether groups during an ongoing funding period

Centres for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences | *Kollegforschungsgruppen*

How do they differ from a Research Unit?

- Designed specifically for the **humanities and social sciences**
- Focus on creating an intellectual **research environment** rather than a tightly integrated project structure
- **Fellowships** for visiting researchers
- Emphasis on scholarly exchange, discussion, and individual research
- Designed as a **forum**, not as a project-based format



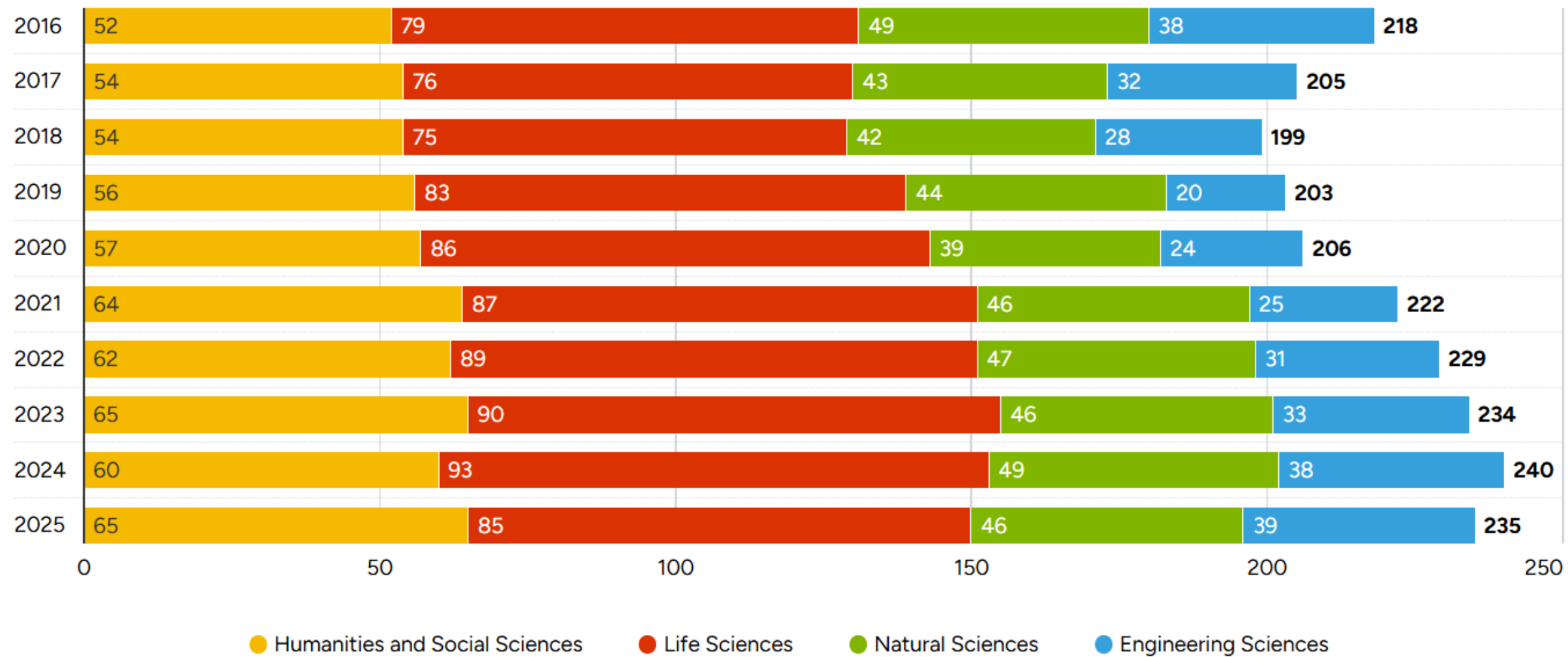
Clinical Research Units | *Klinische Forschungsgruppen* (KFO)

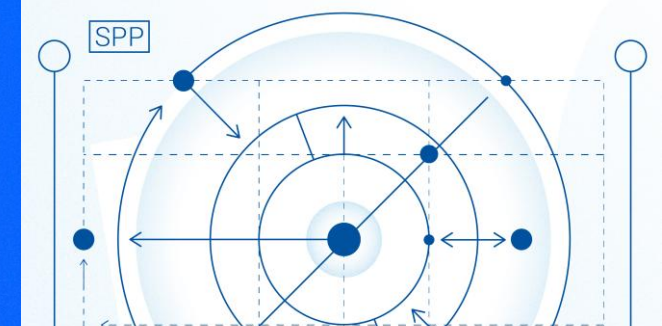
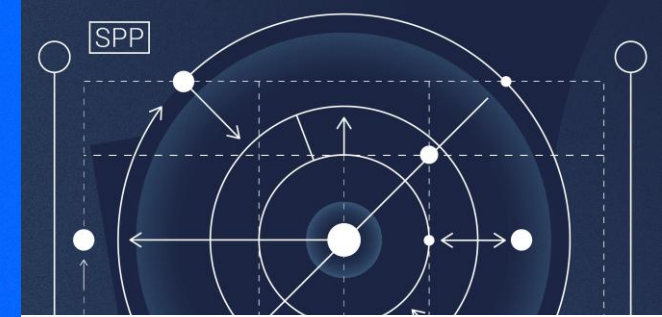
How do they differ from a Research Unit?

- Specifically designed for **clinical and translational medical research** - strong focus on patient-oriented research and clinical relevance
- Close integration of clinicians and basic researcher - particularly attractive for researchers working at the interface of basic and clinical research
- Usually based at **one university medical centre** – creating and strengthening research-oriented structures within clinical institutions
- Often include protected research time for **clinician scientists**
- Spokesperson and research coordinator position



Ongoing Research Units 2016-2025



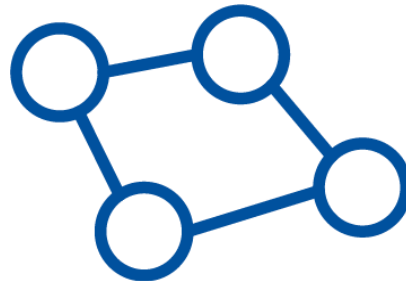


In a nutshell:

A distributed national research network with formative impact

Requirements for a Priority Programme

- **Formative impact: discovering** new areas of research **or rethinking** known areas → momentum to the field
- **Clear added value** through cooperation across different methods and approaches, often across disciplines
- Strong **coordination concept** and suitability of the **programme committee**
- **Synergies** generated through shared concepts, methods, and collaborative activities
- Convincing rationale for why a coordinated programme is needed beyond individual projects

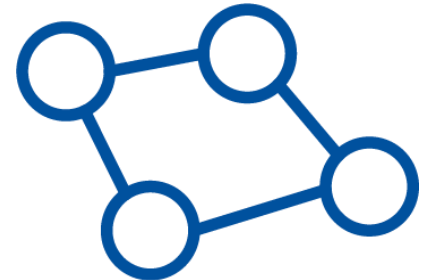


Key features

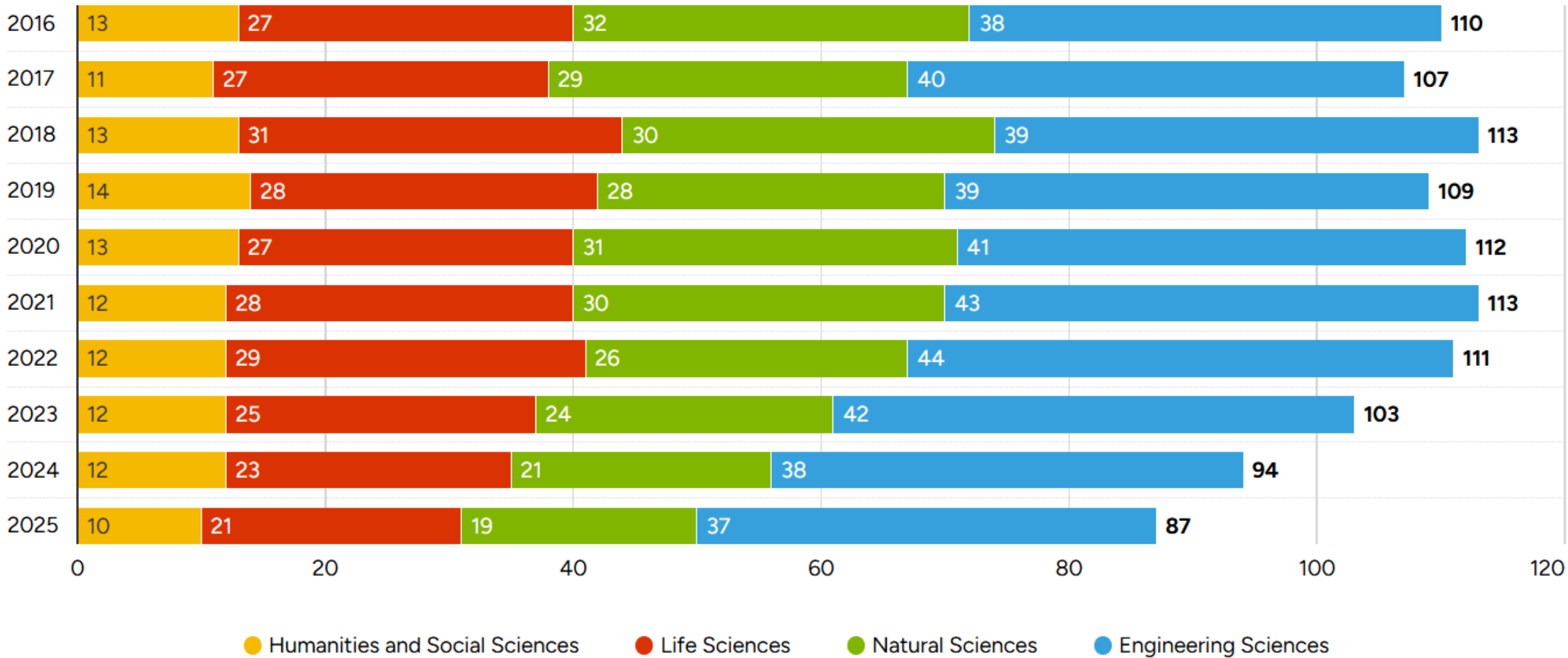
- Funding period **2x3 years**
- Consists of **multiple individual projects** (typically 10-20) funded under a common programme framework in a **nationwide network**
- Two-stage review procedure:
 - 1) Concept proposal (pre-proposal) by a programme committee
 - 2) Once the SPP has been established: **open call** for individual project proposals

Opportunities for Emmy Noether Group Leaders

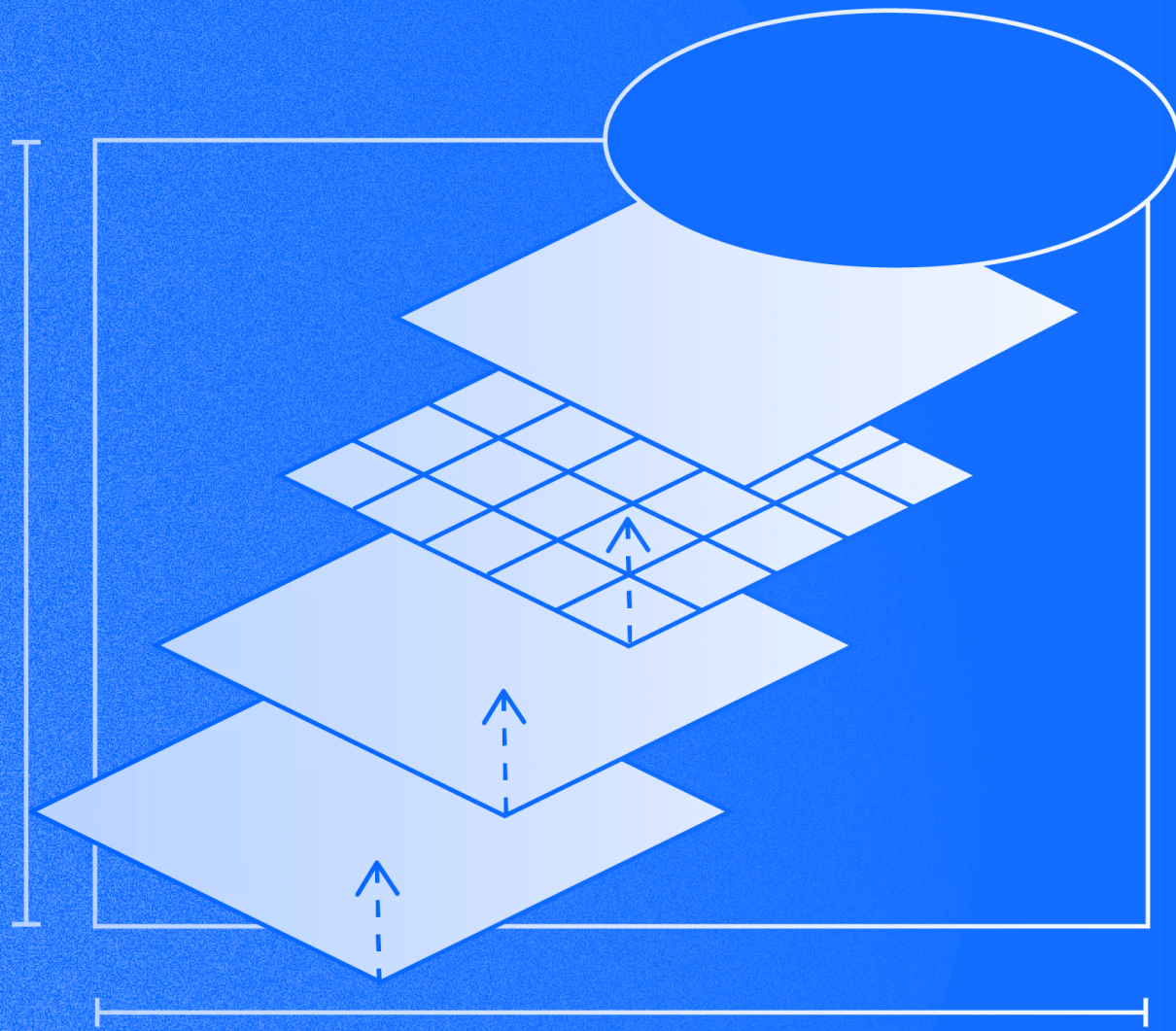
- Participation in the **programme committee**
- Submitting **individual project proposals** in response to the call
- **Association** of Emmy Noether groups during the funding period



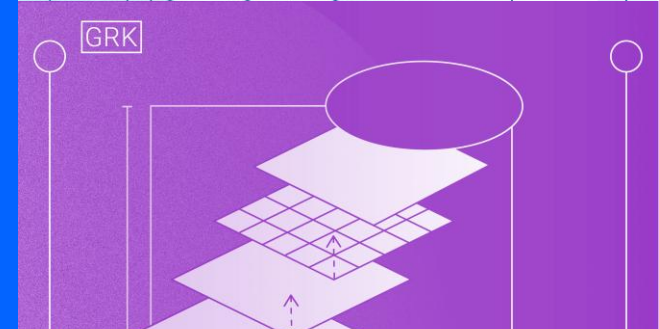
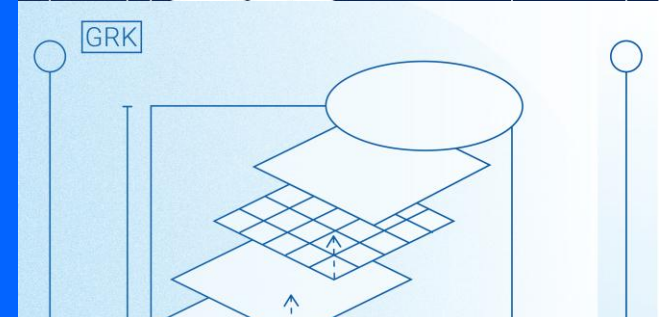
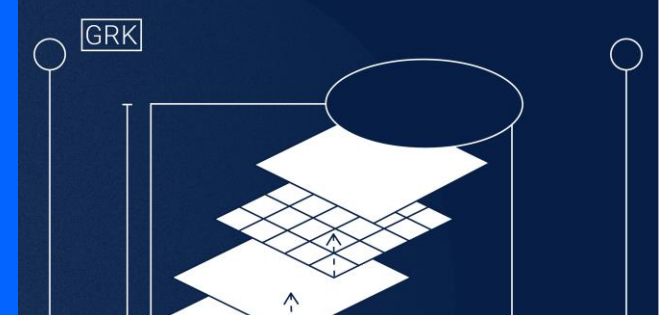
Ongoing Priority Programmes 2016-2025



GRK



GRADUIERTENKOLLEGS



In a nutshell:

Focused, often interdisciplinary research programme with tailored doctoral training

Key features:

- **5-10 PIs** as PhD supervisors
- **Funding periods** 5+4 years
- ~30 **doctoral researchers** over 9 years
- Proposal submitted by one university, can also be based at more universities
- Strong research programme and qualification concept
- two-stage review process: draft proposal with written reviews, full proposal with on-site evaluation



Requirements for Participating Researchers

- Eligibility to supervise doctoral researchers (*Promotionsrecht*)
- A position covering the funding period → tenure track and anticipated second funding phase of your Emmy Noether grant are accepted

Why attractive for Emmy Noether Group?

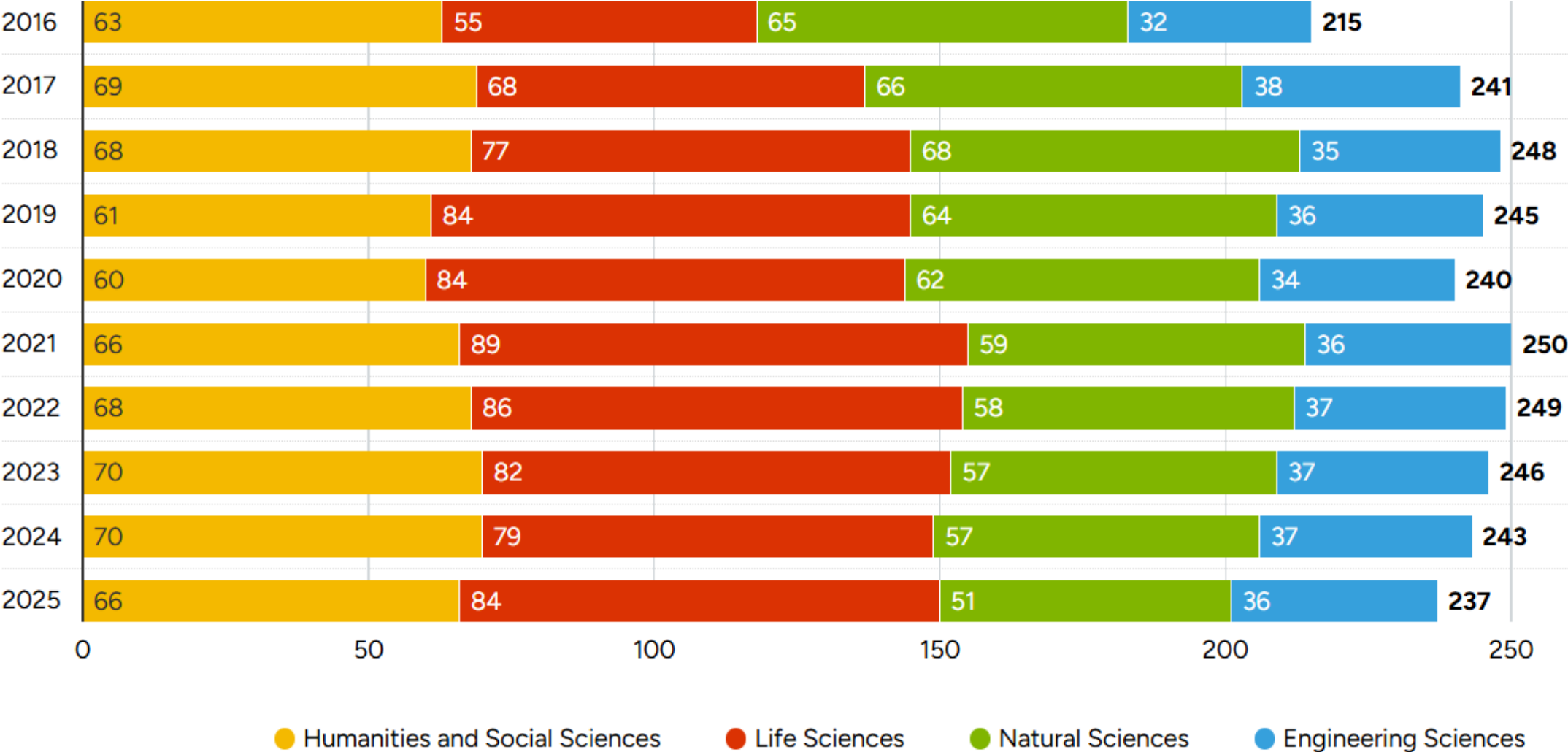
Opportunity to supervise additional doctoral researchers; those from your group can apply to become associated members if they wish

Opportunities for Emmy Noether Group Leaders

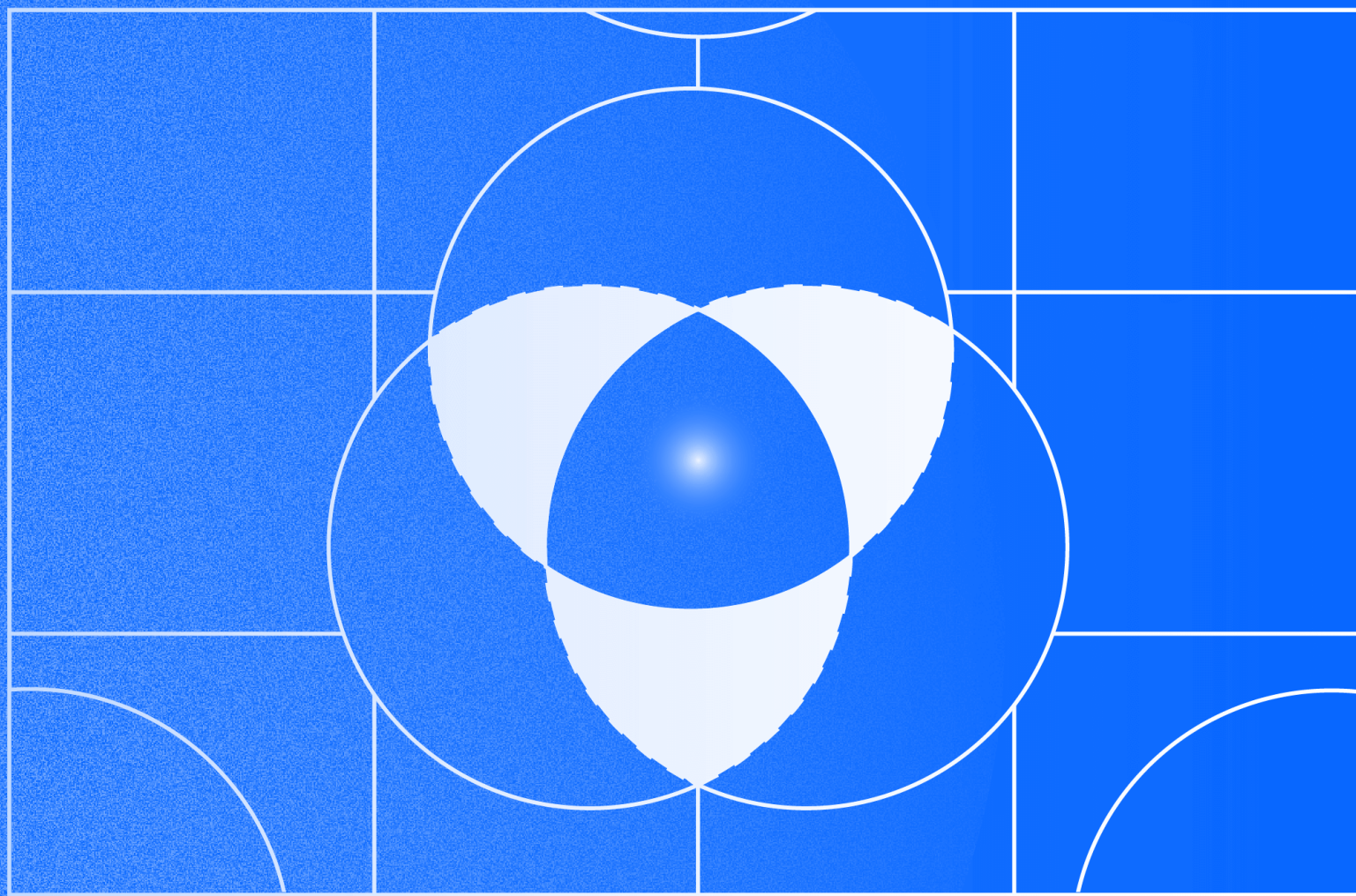
- Participation as a PI → PhD supervisor
- If you join a university during the funding period, you can become a PI. For additional funds, the RTG can submit a supplementary proposal (*Zusatzantrag*)



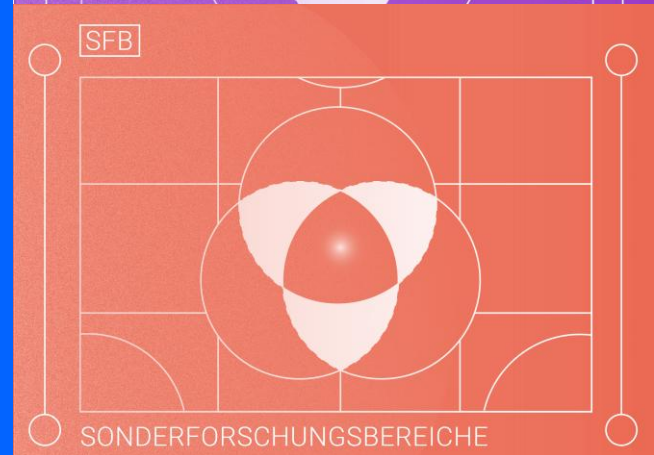
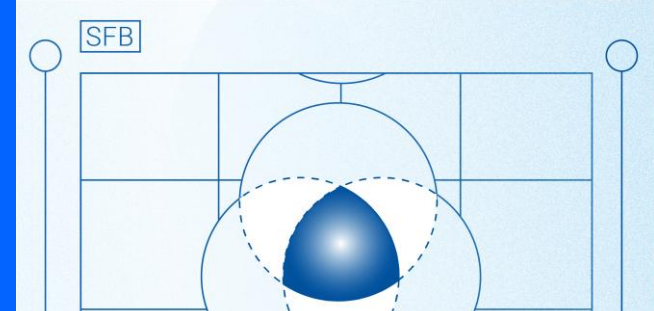
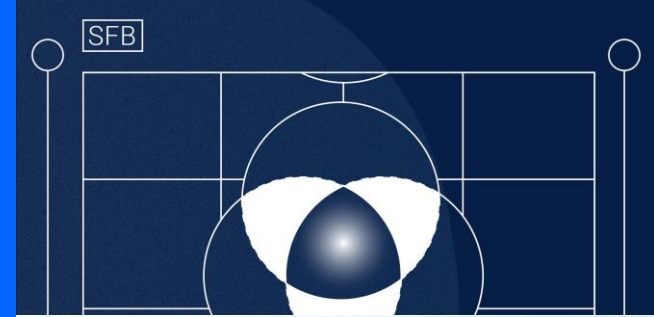
Ongoing Research Training Groups 2016-2025



SFB



SONDERFORSCHUNGSBEREICHE



In a nutshell:

Long-term research structures centred on a common research topic at one or multiple institutions

Key features:

- Two formats: **Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs/SFBs)** and **Transregional Collaborative Research Centres (TRRs)**
- Applications submitted by one or more universities
- Funding period 3x4 years
- Organised into **10-25 subprojects**
- PI positions must be secured for the entire project duration → anticipated second funding phase of your Emmy Noether grant is accepted
- Strong scientific coherence is essential; close collaboration and networking among participants are expected
- typically involve researchers across career stages

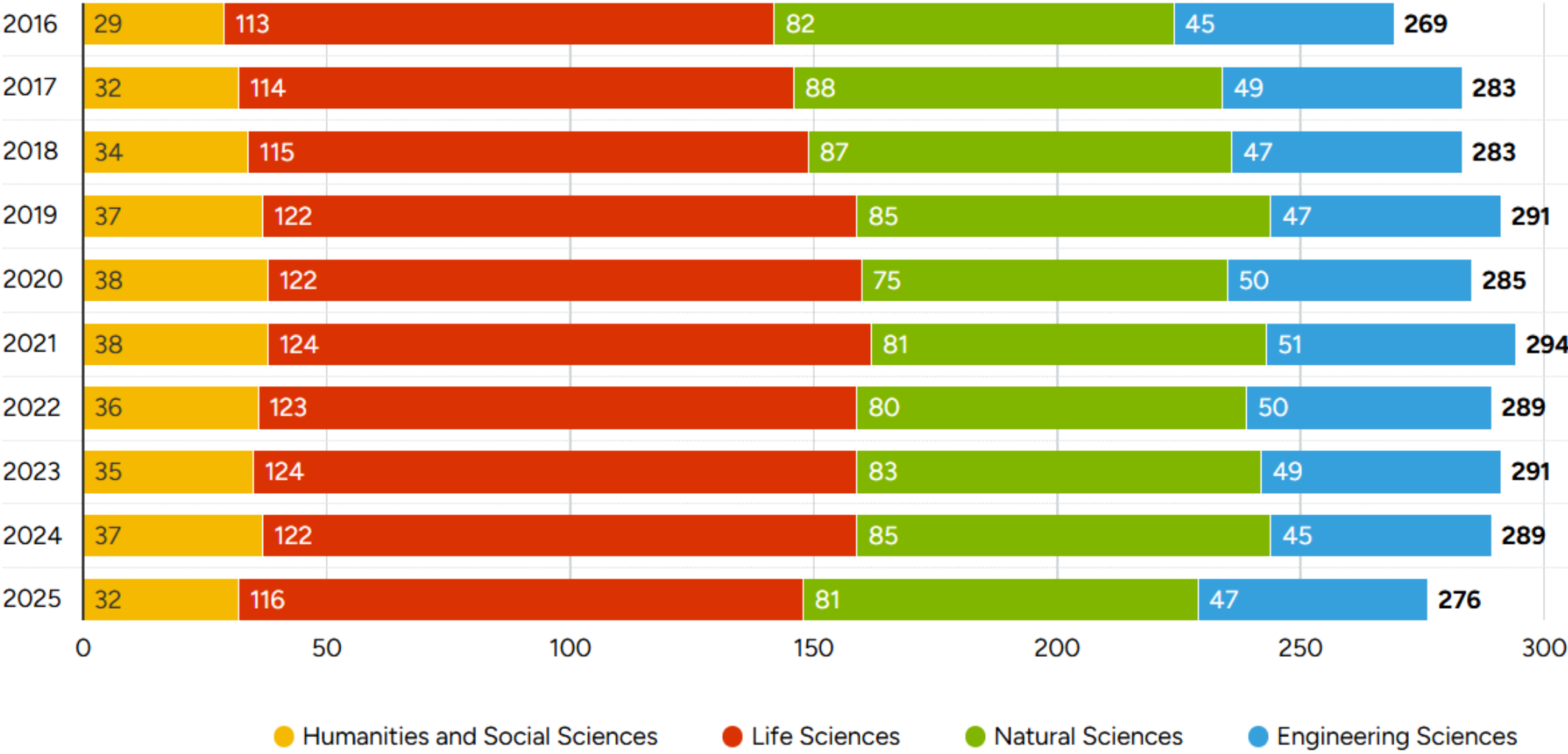


Opportunities for Emmy Noether Group Leaders

- Participation as a **subproject leader** – apply for an additional project
- Association of the Emmy Noether Group - Involvement may also be added during an ongoing CRC through a supplementary proposal (*Nachantrag*)



Ongoing Collaborative Research Centres 2016-2025





CLUSTERS OF EXCELLENCE



**EXCELLENCE
STRATEGY**

of the German federal & state governments

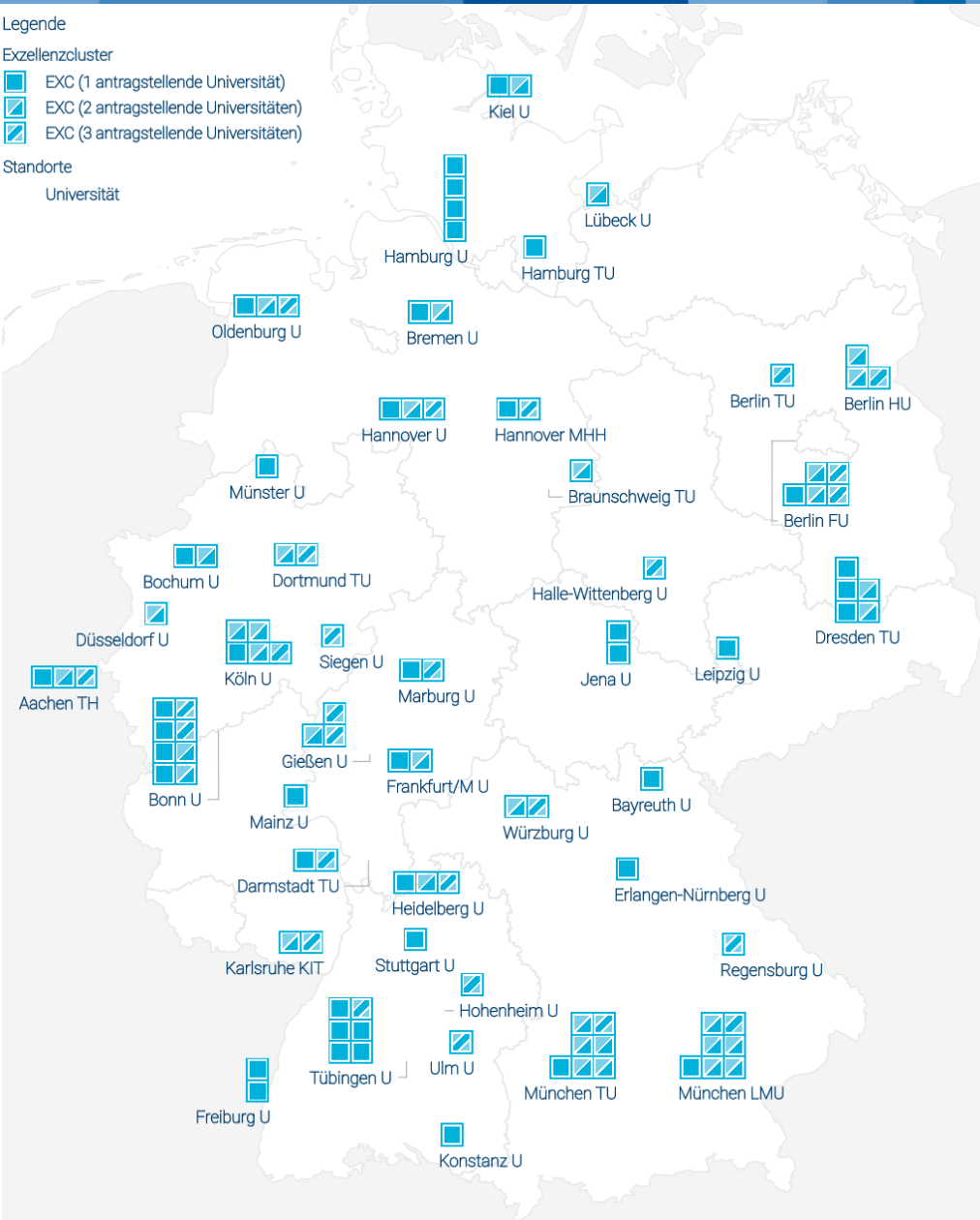
Clusters of Excellence
Funded in the second phase
of the Excellence Strategy

2026-2032

70
Clusters of
Excellence

539
million Euro
yearly

45
renewed Clusters
25
new Clusters



Promotion of cutting-edge research in internationally competitive fields

Strengthening the continued development of research profiles at the universities



Funding large coordinated research projects and entire universities / university consortia

Open to all areas of science and the humanities

In a nutshell:

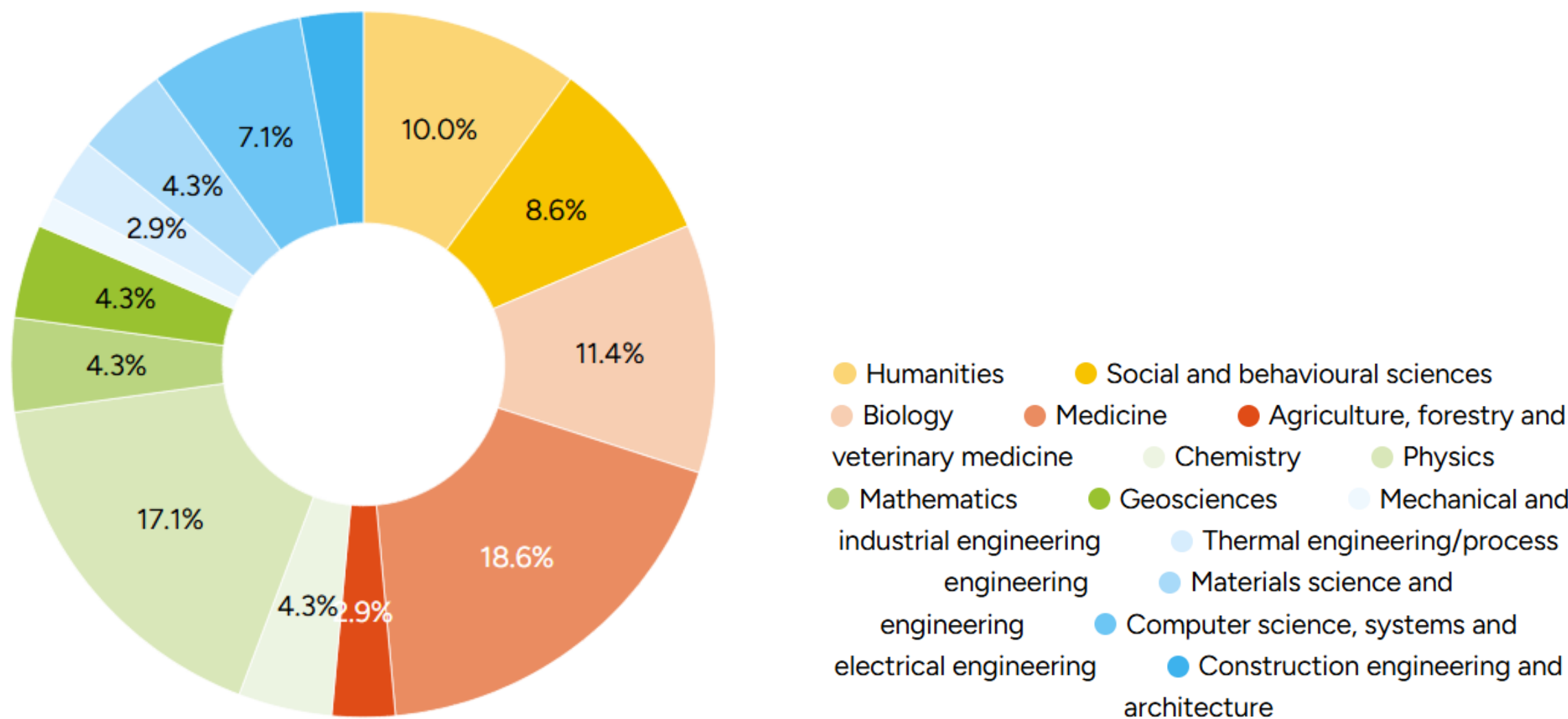
Large-scale collaborative research structures centred around a common research agenda with a strategic importance for the host university/-ies

Key features

- Typically involve numerous researchers across disciplines and career stages
- Up to 2x7 years
- 3-10 Mio. € annual budget
- Two-stage process: draft proposals and full proposals
- May involve several universities and non-university research institutions

Opportunities for Emmy Noether Group Leaders

- Participation as a project leader, principal investigator, or associated researcher, can also be arranged during the funding phase



Clusters of Excellence Phase 2
(70 clusters)

Clusters of Excellence (EXC)

Up to two 7-year funding periods
(3 to 10 Mio. € annual budget pro Cluster)

Two-stage competitive and research-driven decision process (draft proposals and full proposals)

Administered by the **DFG**

Universities of Excellence (EXU)

Funding for 7-year periods upon successful evaluation (UoE: 10 to 15 Mio € annual budget; UCoE 15 to 28 Mio € annual budget)

One-stage proposal process
Prerequisite: ≥ 2 EXC for a university,
 ≥ 3 EXC for a consortium

Administered by the German Science and Humanities Council (**WR**)

Interested in participating?

What interests you most about participating in a collaborative research programme?



Experienced?

What advice would you give Emmy Noether group leaders who are considering becoming involved in a collaborative research programme?



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