

DFG Facts and Figures – Additional statistics and studies

► www.dfg.de/facts-figures

DFG Annual Report – Activities and results

► www.dfg.de/annual_report

DFG Funding Atlas – Key indicators for publicly funded research in Germany

► www.dfg.de/fundingatlas

GEPRIS – Information system on DFG-funded projects

► gepris.dfg.de/en

GEPRIS Historisch – Research funding between 1920 and 1945 (in German only)

► www.gepris-historisch.dfg.de

GERiT – German Research Institutions

► www.gerit.org/en

The DFG

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the central, independent research funding organisation in Germany. It promotes the advancement of science and the humanities by funding research projects, research centres and networks, and facilitating cooperation among researchers. In organisational terms, the DFG is an association under private law with 97 member organisations.

Over 30,000 Projects Funded in 2020

In 2020, the DFG funded more than 31,100 new and ongoing projects with a funding volume of €3.3 billion.

Individual grants programmes enable researchers to conduct projects with clearly defined topics and durations and offer support to early career researchers. These programmes accounted for 37 percent of the DFG's total funding in 2020. A total of 17,375 new and ongoing projects were funded during the reporting period.

In the coordinated programmes, which promote cooperation and structural innovation by encouraging national and international collaboration, 87 research collaborations were approved with a funding volume of €854.0 million. In 2020, a total of 844 research collaborations, encompassing approximately 11,900 individual projects, were supported.

Scientific Review

The scientific review of proposals is an integral part of the DFG's funding process. Assessments by peer reviewers form the basis for subsequent funding decisions. In 2020, approximately 24,700 written reviews were received from nearly 16,800 reviewers. Compared to the previous year, the proportion of female reviewers remained steady, accounting for just under 22 percent in 2020. More than a third of all reviewers are based at research institutions outside Germany.

Current Projects by Programme 2020				
	Number		Funding ¹⁾	
	Programmes	Projects	in € millions	% of total
Individual Grants Programmes		17,375	1,234.8	37.3
Research Grants		15,381	1,061.4	32.1
Research Fellowships		733	18.6	0.6
Walter Benjamin Programme		172	3.0	0.1
Emmy Noether Programme		389	90.6	2.7
Heisenberg Programme		368	28.9	0.9
Reinhard Koselleck Projects		57	12.2	0.4
Clinical Trials		58	17.7	0.5
Other ²⁾		217	2.4	0.1
Coordinated Programmes	844	11,906	1,440.2	43.5
DFG Research Centres ³⁾	1	1	11.5	0.3
Collaborative Research Centres	285	5,766	792.7	24.0
Priority Programmes	112	3,524	232.5	7.0
Research Units	206	2,375	188.0	5.7
Research Training Groups ³⁾	240	240	215.4	6.5
Excellence Strategy by the German Federal and State Governments³⁾	78	78	330.6	10.0
Infrastructure Funding	9	991	250.2	7.6
Research Instrumentation Infrastructure		356	139.9	4.2
Central Research Facilities		2	38.6	1.2
Scientific Library Services and Information Systems		624	68.8	2.1
National Research Data Infrastructure ³⁾	9	9	2.9	0.1
Prizes, Other Funding		798	52.3	1.6
Prizes		104	29.9	0.9
International Scientific Contacts		672	17.2	0.5
Committees and Commissions		22	5.2	0.2
Total	931	31,148	3,308.1	

¹⁾ These figures refer to funds approved for 2020 including programme allowances for indirect project costs. Differences within the table and in relation to other tables and diagrams are due to rounding.

²⁾ Including, among others, publication allowances, individual instrumentation grants, scientific networks, workshops for early career investigators and project academies.

³⁾ The number of projects corresponds to the number of collaborations.

Current Projects in Programmes to Promote Careers in Research and Academia 2020					
	Humanities and Social Sciences	Life Sciences	Natural Sciences	Engineering Sciences	Total
Research Fellowships ¹⁾	66	412	147	24	649
Walter Benjamin Programme ¹⁾	17	98	46	10	171
Emmy Noether Programme	64	151	143	31	389
Heisenberg Programme	107	142	99	20	368
Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators	803	502	550	186	2,041

¹⁾ Not including return grants.

Research Funding Volumes ¹⁾ by Area (in € millions)			
	2018	2019	2020
Humanities and Social Sciences	529.7	492.9	526.3
Humanities	331.6	293.4	313.2
Social and Behavioural Sciences	198.1	199.5	213.1
Life Sciences	1,166.3	1,166.5	1,215.9
Biology	387.2	394.2	405.3
Medicine	736.5	725.4	761.9
Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine	42.5	46.9	48.8
Natural Sciences	759.9	735.2	757.5
Chemistry	206.9	211.6	227.0
Physics	300.4	286.5	295.2
Mathematics	89.8	86.5	88.8
Geosciences	162.7	150.5	146.5
Engineering Sciences	663.8	639.3	665.0
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering	161.8	146.7	148.3
Thermal Engineering / Process Engineering	98.9	98.8	107.5
Materials Science and Engineering	131.9	122.8	132.4
Computer Science, Systems and Electrical Engineering	225.0	219.4	217.8
Construction Engineering and Architecture	46.3	51.5	59.1
No Subject Classification	285.7	251.6	143.4
Total	3,405.3	3,285.5	3,308.1

¹⁾ Based on: All DFG programmes, including programme allowances for indirect project costs. Differences within the table and in relation to other tables and diagrams are due to rounding.

Participation of Women in New Proposals Decided Upon in the Individual Grants Programmes (as a percentage of the total number of new proposals)			
	2018	2019	2020
Humanities and Social Sciences	36.7	38.0	36.1
Life Sciences	30.1	31.3	30.5
Natural Sciences	18.0	17.5	18.1
Engineering Sciences	12.0	14.1	11.5
Total	24.9	26.4	25.0