

About the DFG



The **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation)** is the central, independent research funding organisation in Germany. It serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects at universities and other research institutions.

The DFG promotes excellence by selecting the best research projects on a competitive basis and facilitating national and international collaboration among researchers. Its mandate also includes encouraging the advancement and training of early career researchers, promoting gender equality in the German scientific and academic communities, providing scientific policy advice, and fostering relations between the research community and society and the private sector.

The DFG is an association under private law. Its member organisations include research universities, non-university research institutions, such as the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer, the Helmholtz Association and the Leibniz Association, the academies of sciences and humanities, and a number of scientific associations. The DFG has a current annual budget of €3.3 billion, provided primarily by the German federal government (69 percent) and the states (30 percent), but also including EU funds and private donations.

Online Information Resources

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

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Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

Facts and Figures
2020

DFG

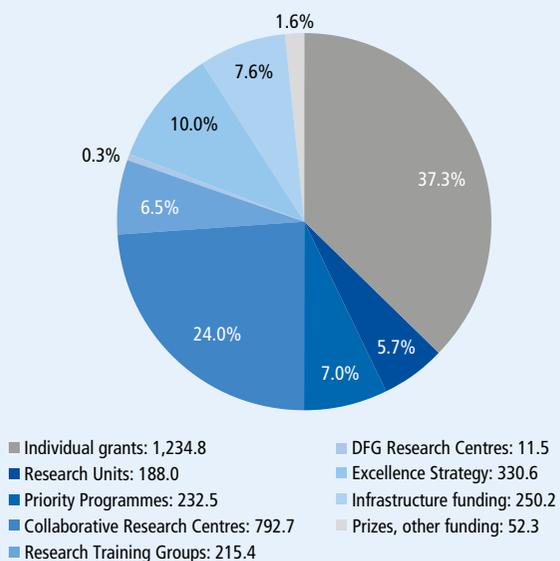
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Programmes

In 2020, the DFG funded more than 31,100 new and ongoing projects with a funding volume of €3.3 billion. 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 the reporting year, approximately 24,700 written reviews were received from nearly 16,800 reviewers, 22 percent of whom were women. Over a third of all reviewers were based at research institutions outside Germany. In total, about 21,850 funding proposals were decided on in 2020.

More than a third of funding (37 percent) was allocated to the individual grants programmes, which include traditional research grants and early career grant programmes. In its coordinated programmes – Research Centres, Research Units, Priority Programmes, Collaborative Research Centres and Research Training Groups – the DFG funded a total of 844 research collaborations with a sum of € 1.4 billion. This equates to a share of 44 percent.

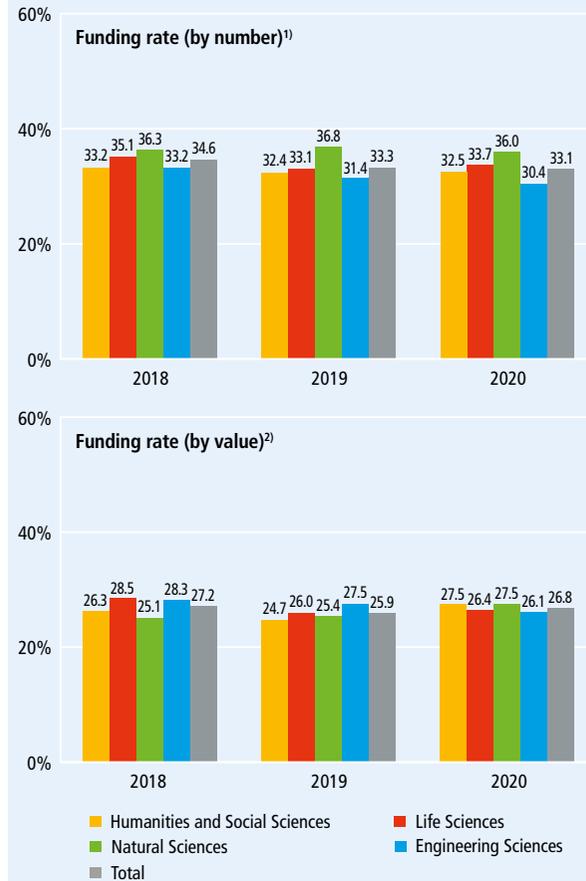
Research funding by programme for 2020 (in € m and %)



Funding Rates in the Individual Grants Programmes

The number of proposals to individual grant programmes has risen over the past three years. In the 2020 reporting year, decisions were made on approximately 14,700 proposals in individual grants programmes, and a total of 17,375 projects with a funding volume of over € 1.2 billion were funded during that time period. The funding rate for new proposals in individual grants programmes was 33.1 percent. Thus, nearly every third proposal was successful.

Funding rates in the individual grants programmes by scientific discipline 2018 to 2020 (in %)



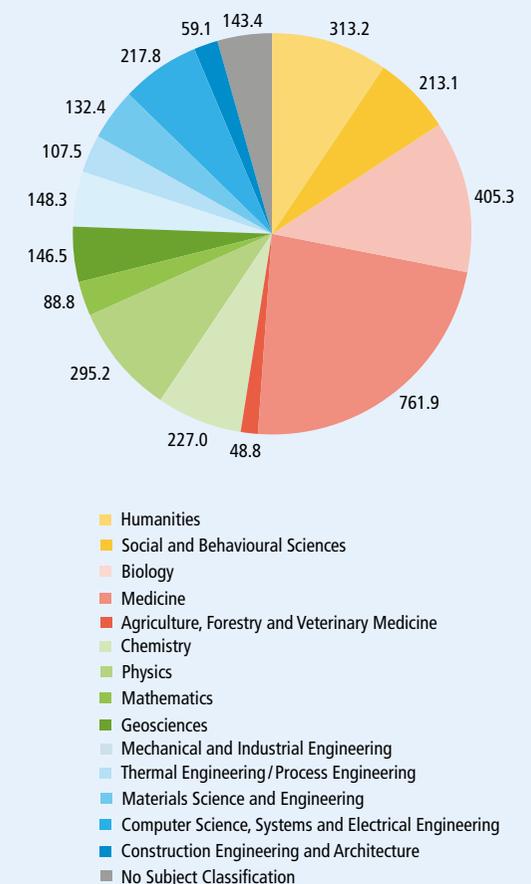
¹⁾ The funding rate was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.

²⁾ The funding success rate was calculated by dividing the value of funding awarded by the total amount requested.

Research Areas

The DFG is open to all branches of science and the humanities. The distribution of DFG funding among the scientific disciplines has been stable over the years. In 2020, the greatest share of funding was allocated to the life sciences, at approximately 37 percent. Among the 14 research areas, almost a quarter of the funding, totalling € 761.9 million in 2020, was awarded in the field of medicine.

Research funding by area 2020 (in € m)



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