

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.

Contact

Online Statistical Information

DFG Facts and Figures

► www.dfg.de/facts-figures

DFG Annual Report

► www.dfg.de/annual_report

DFG Funding Atlas

► www.dfg.de/fundingatlas

DFG German Project Information System (GEPRIS)

► gepris.dfg.de/en

GERiT – German Research Institutions

► www.gerit.org/en

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Facts and Figures
2018

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Programmes

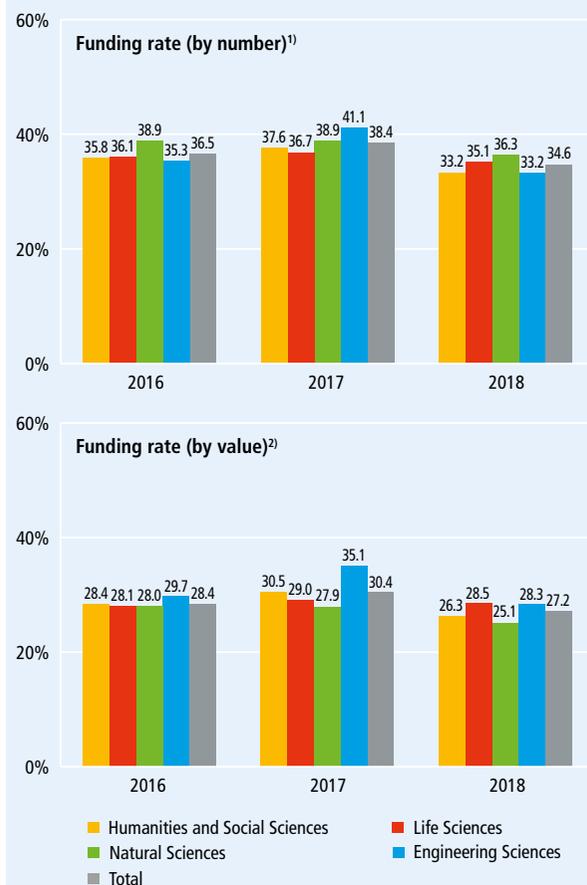
In 2018, the DFG funded almost 33,200 new and ongoing projects with a funding volume of €3.4 billion. The scientific review of proposals is an integral part of the DFG's funding process. Assessments by peer reviewers form the basis for subsequent funding decisions. In the reporting year, approximately 22,500 written reviews were received from nearly 15,300 reviewers, 20 percent of whom were women. Just over a third of all reviewers were based at research institutions outside Germany. In total, about 20,200 funding proposals were decided on in 2018.

More than a third of funding (35 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 847 research collaborations with a sum of €1.4 billion. This equates to a share of 41 percent.

Funding Rates in the Individual Grants Programmes

The number of proposals to individual grant programmes has been consistently high over recent years. In the 2018 reporting year, decisions were made on 13,247 proposals in individual grants programmes, and a total of 17,100 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 34.7 percent. Approximately every third proposal was successful.

Funding rates in the individual grants programmes by scientific discipline 2016 to 2018 (in %)



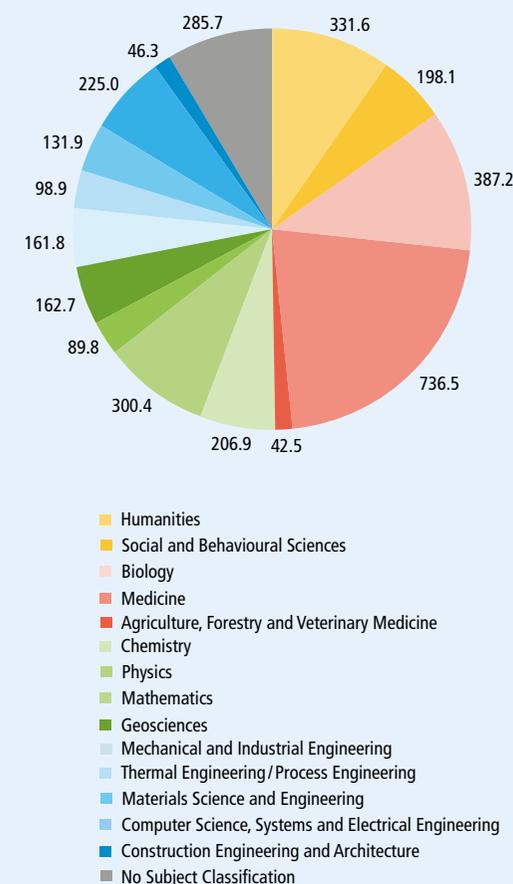
¹⁾ The funding rate was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.

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 2018, the greatest share of funding was allocated to the life sciences, at approximately 34 percent. Among the 14 research areas, almost a quarter of the funding, totalling €736.5 million in 2018, was awarded in the field of medicine.

Research funding by area 2018 (in €m)



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.

Research funding by programme for 2018 (in €m and %)

