



German Research Foundation - DFG

Infosession Edinburgh

24 January 2023

Dorothea Fendel, International Affairs



Pictures: Micheal Sondermann, Bundesstadt Bonn



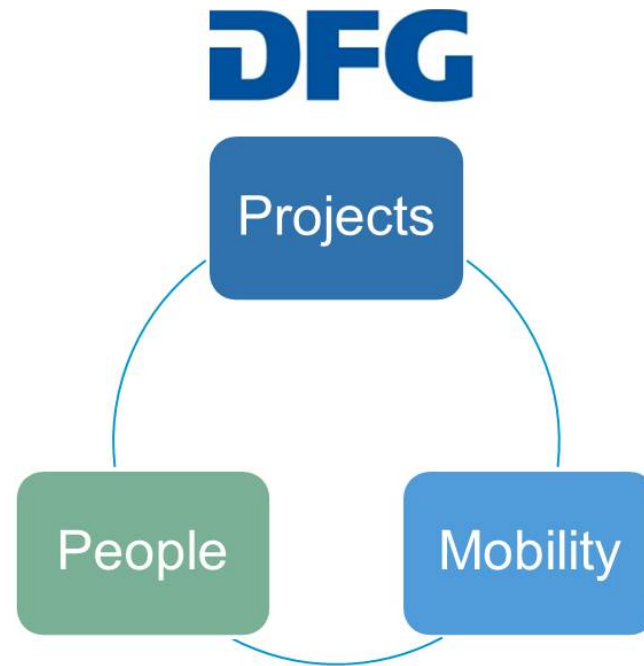
Bonn

German Research Foundation
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
(DFG)

International Affairs
Dorothea Fendel

German Funding Agencies and their division of tasks

Funding research(ers)



DFG – German Research Foundation

....in short...

Who we are:

- Central public funding organization for basic research in Germany
- A **self-governing body** of science and research
- A **Member organization** (universities, academies, research organizations) **≠ ministry, state institution**

Funding 2020:

approx. **€3.3 billion** in direct research funding,
going to 31,100 new or ongoing projects

provided primarily by the federal government **and** the 16 German Länder



[Link:](#)
[DFG Facts & Figures](#)
[2020](#)

DFG – German Research Foundation

Funding and Funding Principles

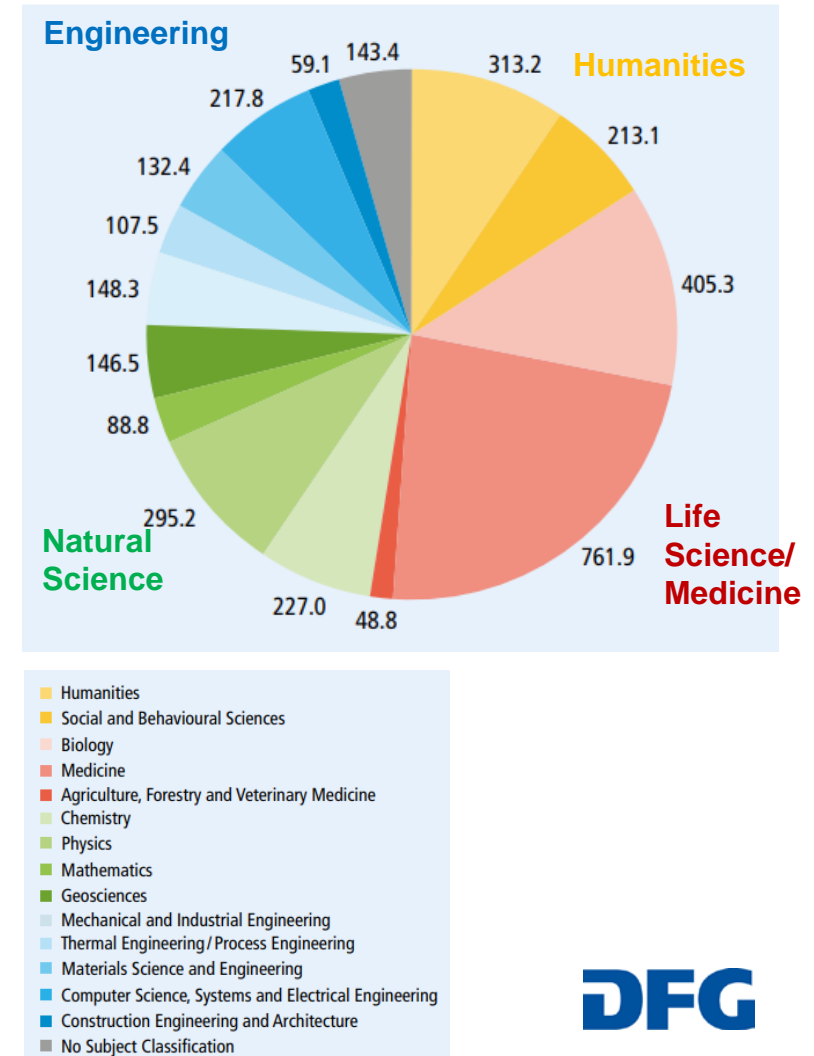
- ▶ Open, bottom-up choice of **research topics**
- ▶ **Basic research** in any field of science and the humanities
- ▶ No **age** restrictions
- ▶ Individual **career phases** and family-related career breaks are considered in the review process
- ▶ no regional priorities
- ▶ No **deadlines**, (almost) **no calls***
- ▶ **No fixed budget** for international cooperation

* excl. Priority Programmes, international calls etc.

DFG | Dorothea Fendel | 2023

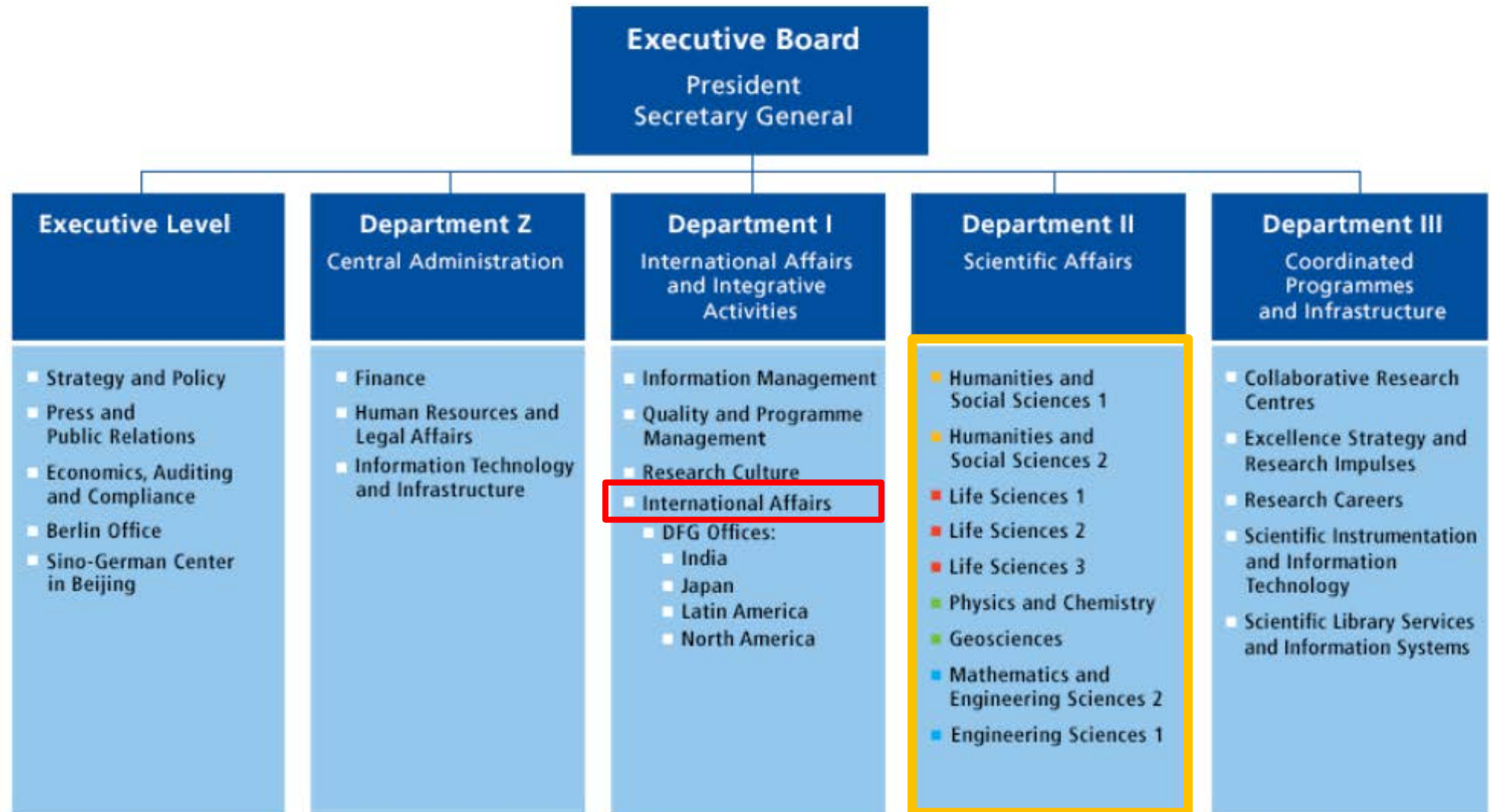
- everything in competition
- everything in peer review

Research funding by area 2020 (in €m)



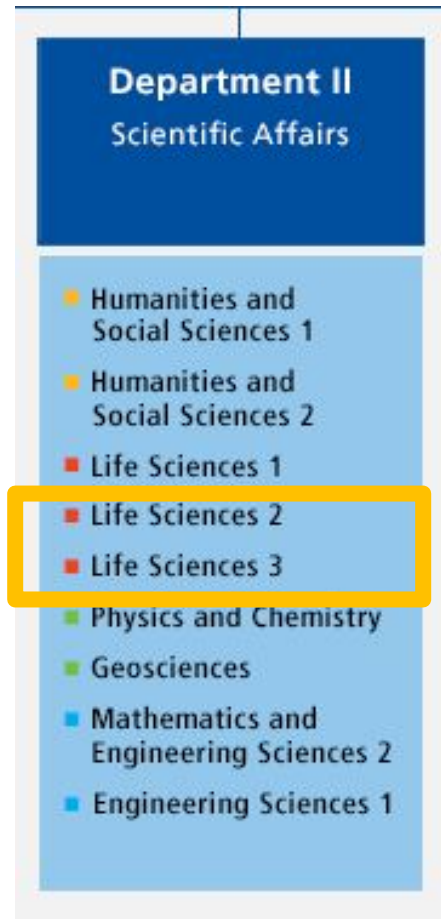
DFG – German Research Foundation

Structure and Organization



DFG – German Research Foundation

Structure and Organization



Structure of the DFG Head Office

As of: November 17, 2020

Structure **Organisational Chart**

- ▶ DFG Executive Board
- ▶ Central Administration
- ▶ International Affairs and Integrative Activities
- ▼ **Scientific Affairs**
 - Humanities and Social Sciences 1: Humanities and Cultural Studies
 - Humanities and Social Sciences 2: Social and Behavioural Sciences
 - Life Sciences 1: Molecular and Organismic Biology**
 - Life Sciences 2: Microbiology, Immunology, Neurosciences**
 - Life Sciences 3: Medicine**
 - Physics and Chemistry
 - Geosciences
 - Mathematics and Engineering Sciences 2
 - Engineering Sciences 1
- ▶ Coordinated Programmes and Infrastructure

The German Research Foundation (DFG)

Structure and Organization

International Affairs

Regional Teams (Bonn)

- Europe
- North America
- Latin America
- Asia/Pacific
- Africa/Middle East
- Research Marketing

DFG Offices Abroad

Department I International Affairs and Integrative Activities

- Information Management
- Quality and Programme Management
- Research Culture
- International Affairs
 - DFG Offices:
 - India
 - Japan
 - Latin America
 - North America

Department II Scientific Affairs

- Humanities and Social Sciences 1
- Humanities and Social Sciences 2
- Life Sciences 1
- Life Sciences 2
- Life Sciences 3
- Physics and Chemistry
- Geosciences
- Mathematics and Engineering Sciences 2
- Engineering Sciences 1

Scientific Affairs

Programme Directors

The German Research Foundation (DFG)

Who can apply?

Eligibility for DFG Funding

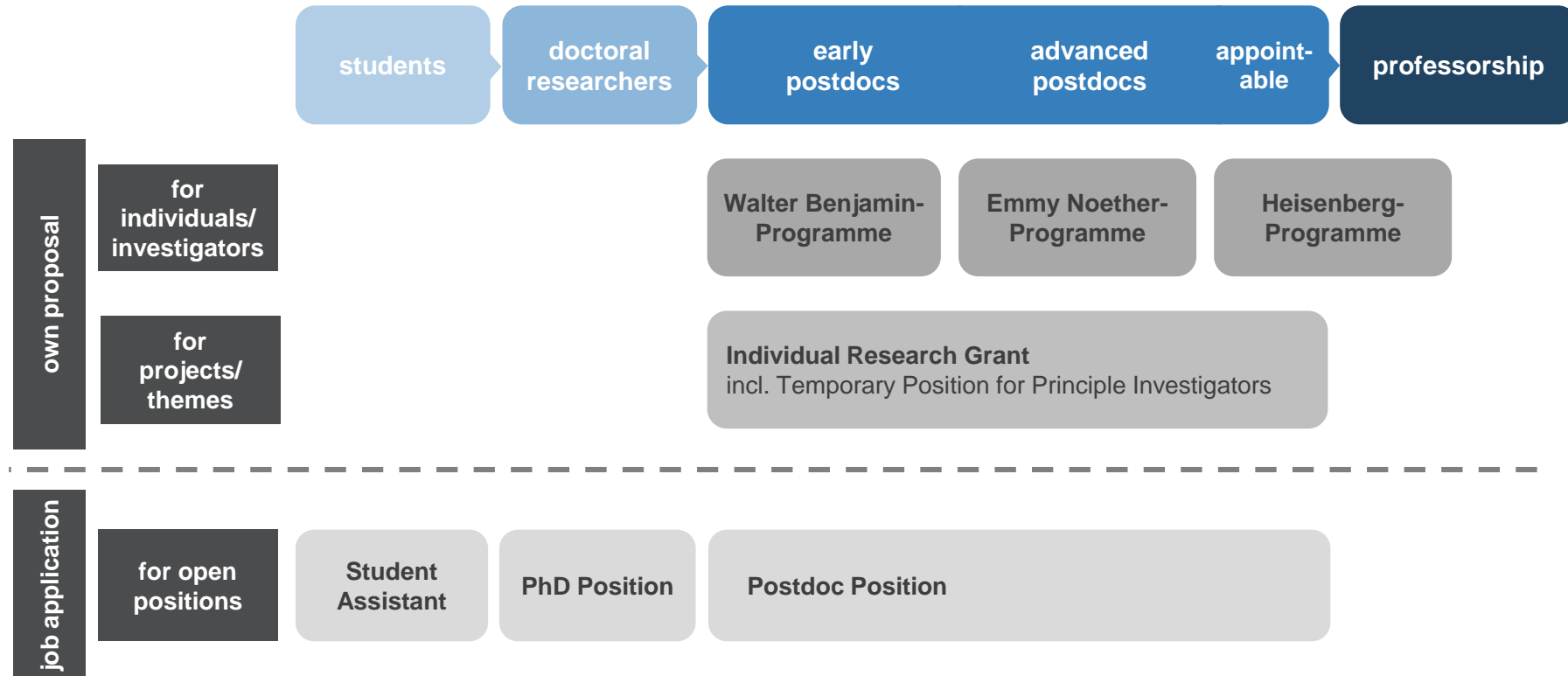
Researchers

- who have completed their scientific training
(**doctorate**)
- from all disciplines
- of any age
- Working (!) in German research institutions



The German Research Foundation (DFG)

Funding Opportunities



No calls...

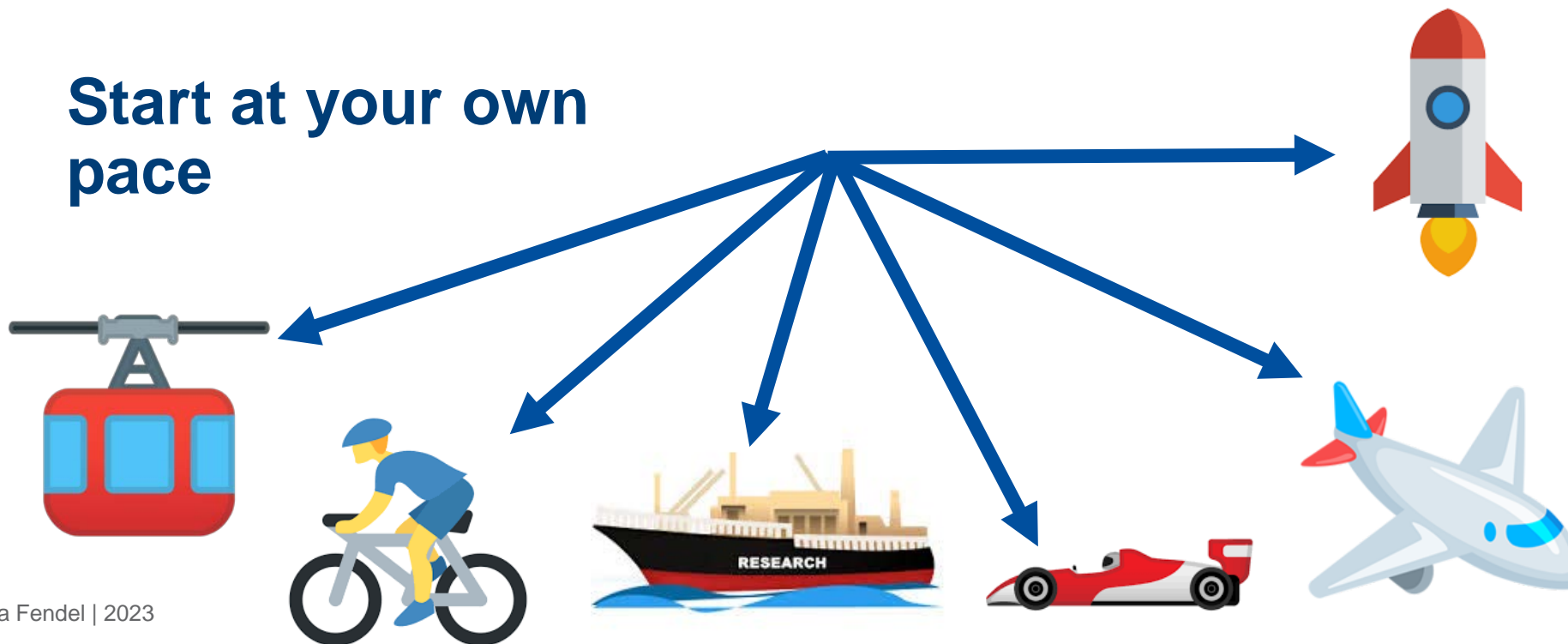
Waiting for calls



Waiting for calls



Start at your own
pace



Funding of International Cooperation

- ▶ All DFG funding programs generally allow the integration of **international components**
- ▶ Calls: are important, but not always necessary
- ▶ DFG holds agreements for Standing Open Procedures with many funding organizations worldwide

DFG support for projects with international partners is generally based on the principle of **mutual responsibility**.

Researchers working in Germany apply to the DFG, while their partners abroad apply for funding at their respective partner organizations.



[DFG Funding in an International Context](#)

[DFG Funding Portfolio](#)

(Selected) DFG funding lines

**German PI(s)
and
international
partner(s)**

**Initiation of
International Collaboration**

Scientific Networks

Individual Research Grant



**Position in
Germany –
early career
opportunities**



Funding of International Cooperation

Initiation of International Collaboration

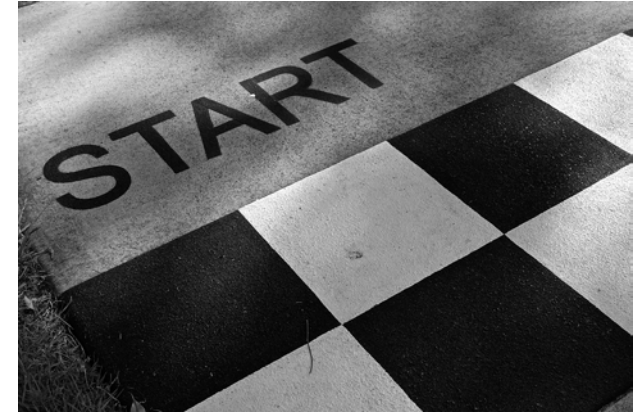
Initiation of International Collaboration

- **Mobility funding** to get to know each other
- establish mutual trust and understanding
- and to **prepare a joint project proposal**

Modules

- **Workshops** in Germany or abroad
- **Short individual visits** in Germany or abroad
- **Visits up to three months** in Germany or abroad

<https://pixabay.com/de/start-bereit-wettbewerbs-strecke-1414148/>



Funding is available for a **maximum of 1 year**

Application by the **German partner university**

dfg.de/international_collaboration

Funding of International Cooperation

Scientific Networks



https://pixabay.com/de/photos/spielesteine-netzwerk-vernetzt-1237497/

Scientific Networks

Purpose

To promote multi-year scientific exchange and cooperation on a topic area across locations

Duration

Up to three years

Bilateral cooperation

The network can consist of **10-20 researchers** from Germany and abroad; including researchers from several institutions

Funding can include

- **Maintenance costs** for work meetings
- **Mobility:** Travel costs for network members or thematically relevant guests
- **Publication costs**, support for coordinations

- Mid-term network of researchers
- Impetus for the further development of research methods

www.dfg.de/scientific_networks

Funding of International Cooperation

Individual Research Grant / Sachbeihilfe

Individual Research Grant

Purpose

To carry out a thematically defined research project within a specific time frame

Duration

Project-specific (usually three years)

Bilateral cooperation is possible

Details can depend on the region and partner organization

www.dfg.de/research_grants

Funding can include

- **Staff:** PhD-students, post-docs; non-permanent staff
- funding for **direct project costs**
- **Mobility:** Travel allowances
- Consumables, scientific instrumentation
- other items such as **publications**, trial-related expenses, PR activities

<https://pixabay.com/de/ziel-erfolg-dartscheibe-dart-1955257/>



- For mid-term joint research projects, one partner at each side
- Both partners apply for funding at their respective national funding agency

Funding of International Cooperation

(International) Research Training Groups, IRTG

Purpose

qualification of doctoral researchers within the framework of a focused research programme and a structured training strategy –interdisciplinary approaches welcome!

Duration

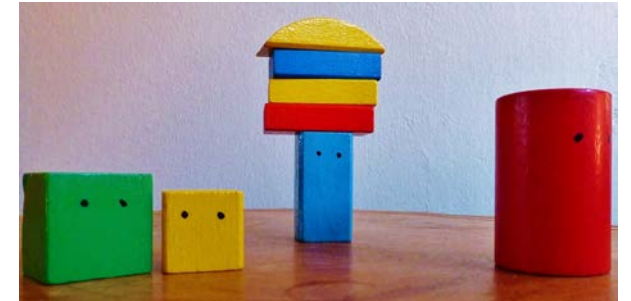
up to 9 years

Requirements

High scientific quality and originality of the research project at an international level

Funding

- Posts for doctoral researchers and postdocs.
- Grants for doctoral researchers
- Funds for visiting researchers, research students, travel, workshops, small equipment, consumables, coordination, etc



<http://www.dfg.de/gk/en>

DFG Funding

Early Career: Werner Heisenberg, Walter Benjamin, Emmy Noether



www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en



www.dfg.de/walter_benjamin.de/en



www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en

- Fellowships/positions for early career researchers
- Providing stable ground for postdoc projects, leaderships positions and mobility
- Qualification for permanent positions

DFG und UKRI



DFG and UK



- Annual AHRC-DFG-Call (bilateral projects in Arts and Humanities)
- Currently working on MoUs with UKRI and the Research Councils
- **But:**

Please get in touch!

(with or without an announcement by the funding agencies!)



How to find a research partner in Germany?

➤ GERiT



➤ GEPRIS



➤ Research in Germany



How to find a research partner

GERiT (formerly Research Explorer)

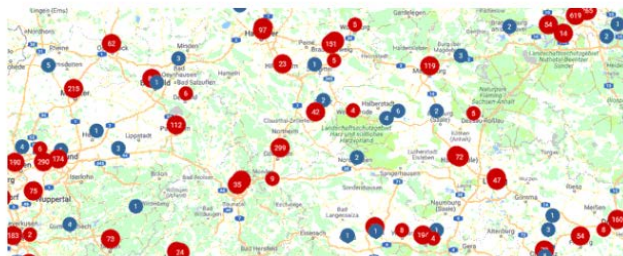


Information portal on German research institutions:
www.gerit.org/en

- ▶ Aimed at students and researchers in Germany and abroad
- ▶ Searchable by geographic location, subject and other structural criteria

The German research landscape

Germany has an extensive and varied research landscape, with different research organisations focusing on different specialist areas. Below you will see a list of online resources where you can find information about the research landscape in Germany.



Under Search in the map view of GERiT you will find an overview of the places with research institutions in Germany.

- [The German research landscape >](#)
- [Job vacancies for researchers >](#)

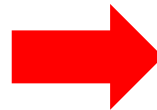


How to find a research partner

GERIT



Subject areas	show all
Humanities (3755)	+
Sport (221)	+
Law, Economics and Social Sciences (7029)	+
Mathematics, Natural Sciences (6405)	+
Human Medicine / Health Sciences (4617)	+
Agriculture, Forestry and Nutritional Science, Veterinary Medicine (1166)	+
Engineering (6340)	+
Art, Art Theory (742)	+
Central Facilities (excl. Clinical Facilities) (958)	+
Central Facilities of the University Hospitals (Medicine Only) (33)	+



Human Medicine / Health Sciences (4617)	—
Human Medicine (General) (194)	+
Health Sciences (General) (233)	+
Pre-Clinical Medical Studies (incl. Dentistry) (626)	+
Clinical Theoretical Medicine (incl. Dentistry) (1397)	+
Clinical-Practical Medicine (excl. Dentistry) (2197)	+
Dentistry (Clinical-Practical) (178)	+

<https://gerit.org/en/>

Federal state	▼
Town	▼
Type of Facility	▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only institutions that offer a doctoral programme

How to find a research partner GEPRIS



Online database on DFG-funded
projects: www.gepris.dfg.de

www.gepris.dfg.de/en/

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

GEPRIS Geförderte Projekte der DFG

Search Catalogue People Index Location Index About GEPRIS

Welcome to GEPRIS

GEPRIS (German Project Information System) is an online database made available by the DFG to provide information on current DFG-funded research projects. Please note that to date, project information is available mainly in the German language.

Search

Direct search

Projects People Institutions

Your search keyword **Find**

→ My Last Queries → Advanced Search

Use the GEPRIS standard search to find a certain keyword. You can also enter several words for an AND search. To include all entries, search for both the German as well as the English term or use the catalogue search.

Catalogue

Use the catalogue to get an overview of existing projects. There are three filter groups: Subject Areas, Region, Funding.

→ to Catalogue

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Search Search Tips

Projects People Institutions

Keyword(s):
Your search keyword

Find only projects with final report data

Hide extended search

Person: Last and/or first name

Location / Region: All Locations / Regions

Subject Area: All review boards

DFG Programme:

Programme Group: All

Programme: All

Programme line: All

Only Transfer Projects: ☐

Funding:

Show subprojects: ☒

Status: All

Start of Funding:

Funded in:

International:

Continent: All Continents

Subcontinent: All Subcontinents

How to find a research partner GEPRIS



- ▶ DFG funded projects – past and present
- ▶ Project summary
- ▶ Info on PI: Institution, former DFG projects

Project Details

[→ Back](#)

Projekt

Controlling crystallization of responsive microgel particles via cyclic stimuli

Applicants

→ Professor Dr. Hartmut Löwen; → Professor Dr. Nicolas Vogel

Subject Area

Thermodynamics and Kinetics as well as Properties of Phases and Microstructure of Materials

Preparatory and Physical Chemistry of Polymers

Statistical Physics, Soft Matter, Biological Physics, Nonlinear Dynamics

Term

from 2018 to 2023

Project identifier

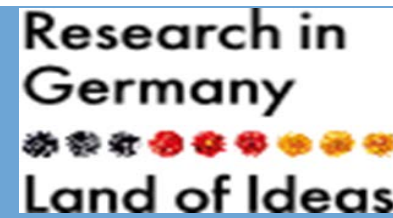
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - Project number 389865760

Project Description

Self-assembled, crystalline materials offer a wealth of applications in different areas of nanotechnology, including photonics and plasmonics, phononics, and electronics. However, the fundamental optical, acoustic and electronic properties of a structured material are highly sensitive to imperfections and crystallographic defects, which can consequently limit the performance of the material. Here we seek to explore a new and pragmatic non-equilibrium route towards the creation of defect-free crystals, which relies on the periodic application of an external stimulus. We focus on colloidal systems composed of microgel particles that can swell or shrink in response to a light pulse or change in temperature, thus allowing us to dynamically control the effective density and particle interactions. By exposing the material to an external stimulus in a cyclic manner, such that the particles undergo a breathing motion of periodic swelling and collapsing, the particles may overcome local rearrangement barriers and consequently anneal the grain boundaries and other defects in the lattice structure. Under the right conditions, we hypothesize that this cyclic breathing protocol will allow us to drive the material toward its thermodynamic ground state of a perfect crystal. We will explore this new crystallization route using a complementary approach involving experiments

How to find a research partner

Research in Germany



*Includes
information
for PhD
candidates!*



Information on Germany, **funding opportunities for research**
and the **German research landscape**

[Research-in-germany.org/](http://www.research-in-germany.org/)

Information by field:

<http://www.research-in-germany.org/en/infoservice/publications.html>

Thank you for your attention!

...and your questions...

...and your suggestions!

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DFG International Affairs

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