



DFG

# German Research Foundation - DFG

Amirkabir U of T Workshop

26. August 2020 | 5. Shahrivar 1399

Dorothea Fendel



DFG

- **DFG** – who we are and how we work
- DFG funding for **international cooperation**
- How to **find a research partner** in Germany



# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

## In short

### Who we are:

- ▶ Central public funding organization for basic research in Germany
- ▶ A **self-governing body** of science and research
- ▶ **Member organization** (universities, academies, research organizations)
- ▶ The budget in 2018:
  - approx. **€ 3.4 billion** in direct research funding
- ▶ provided primarily by the federal government and the 16 German Länder



# The German Research Foundation (DFG) Funding Principles

- no regional priorities
- no political priorities
- no political influence
- Funding only if institution agrees  
on ethical standards



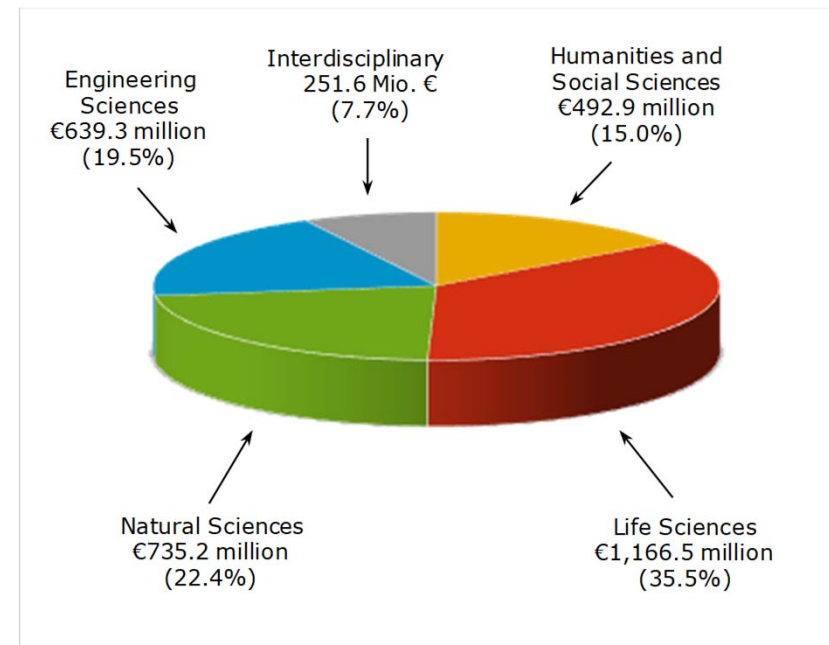
- everything in competition
- everything in peer review

# DFG's mission statement

## The DFG

- serves **all branches of science and the humanities**
- fosters **scientific excellence** through competition
- supports **international cooperation in research**
- **advises** political and social decision-makers
- supports the **transfer of knowledge** between science and industry

## Funding in 2019, by scientific discipline



Titel der Präsentation / Name des Referenten (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

5 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

# 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 **deadlines**, (almost) **no calls**\*



\* excl. Priority Programmes, international calls etc.

# Waiting for calls

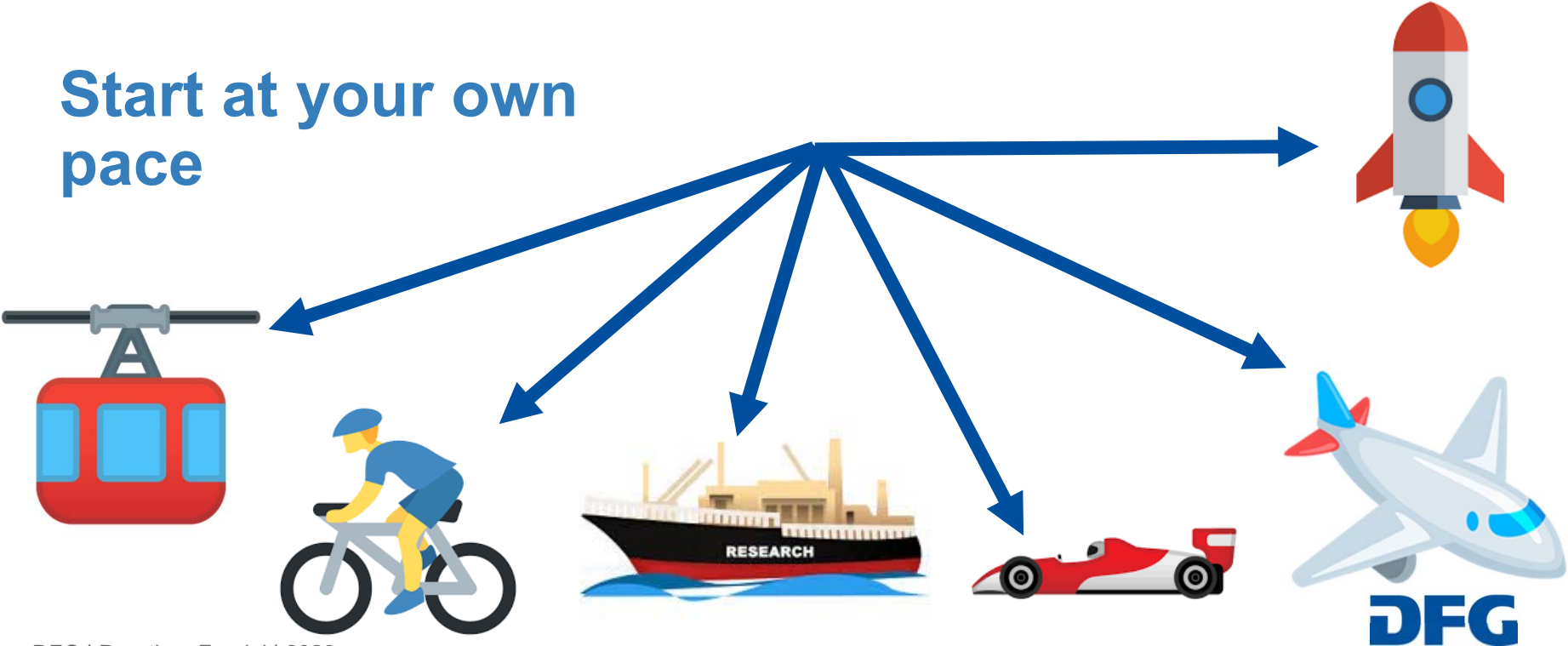




Waiting for calls



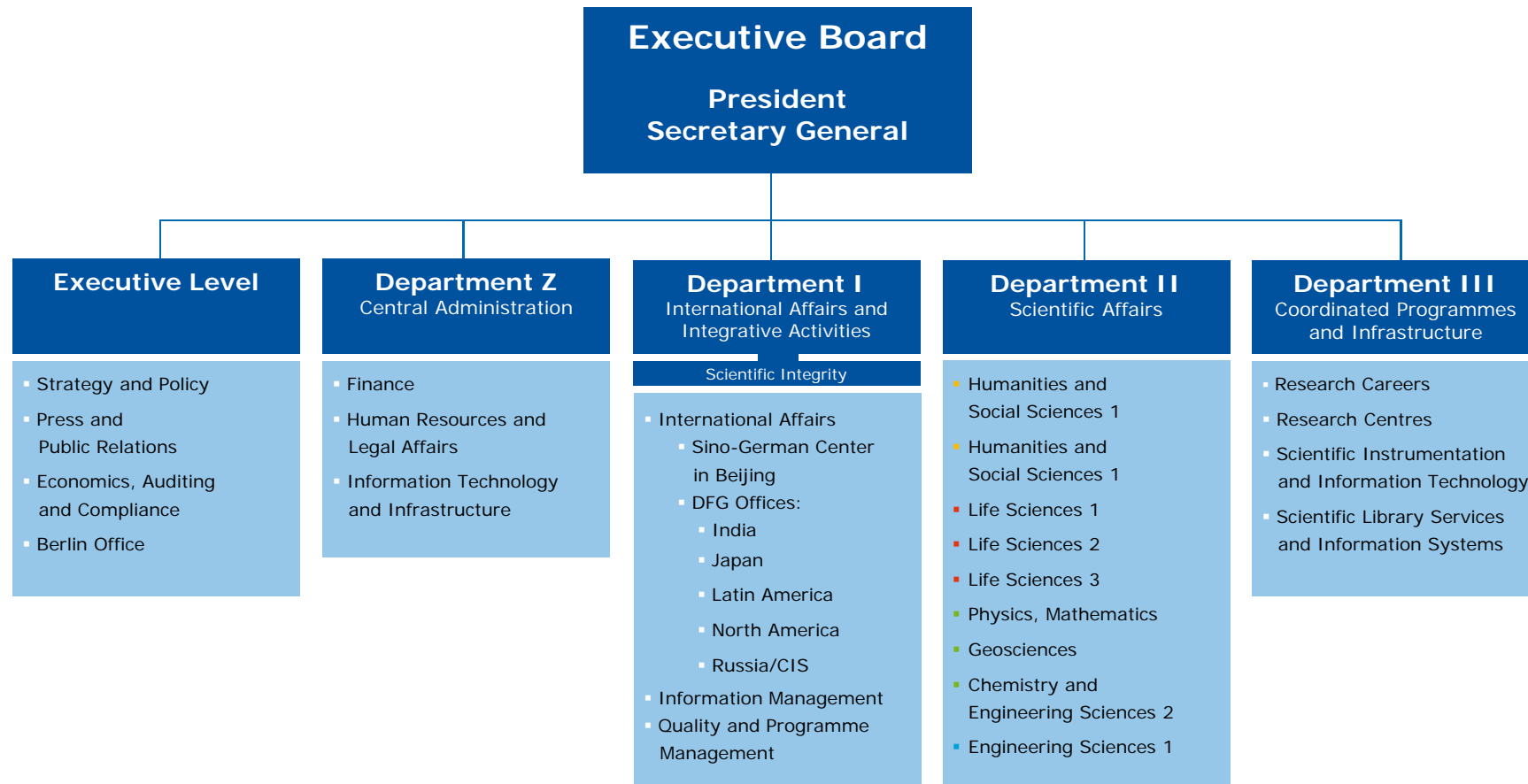
Start at your own pace





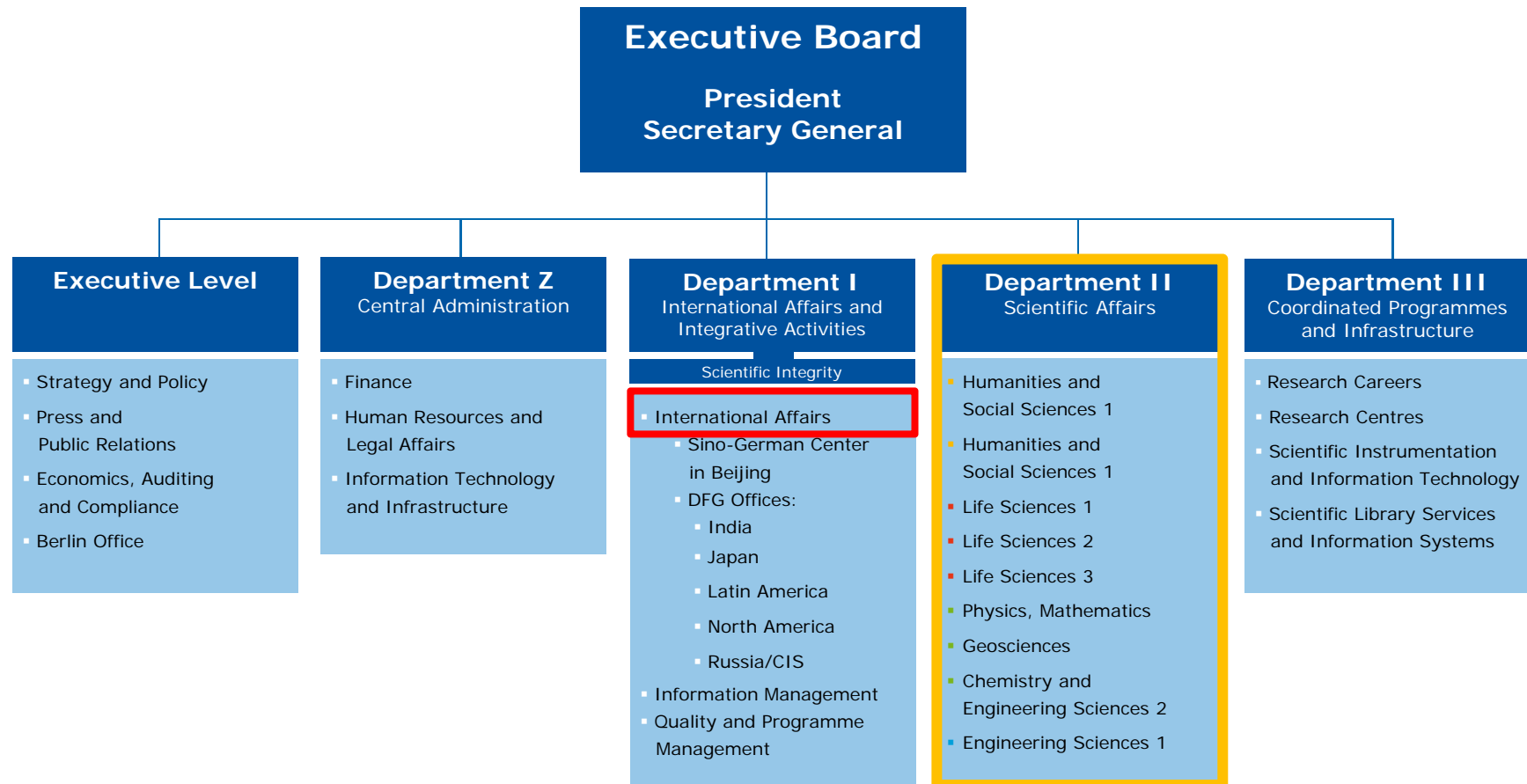
# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

## Structure and Organization



# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

## Structure and Organization



# 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)

## DFG's funding criteria

### DFG reviewers evaluate proposals based on

- ▶ projects' scientific merit
- ▶ applicants' qualifications
- ▶ goals and work program
- ▶ proposed use of funding
- ▶ If international partners involved:  
quality and added value of the cooperation



# The German Research Foundation (DFG) Funding Portfolio

Applicant	Individuals				Institutions			Prizes		
Funding Focus	Investigators	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Individuals		
Funding Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Walter Benjamin Programme</li> <li>› Research Fellowships</li> <li>› Emmy Noether Programme</li> <li>› Heisenberg Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Individual Research Grants</li> <li>› Reinhart Koselleck Projects</li> <li>› Package Proposals</li> <li>› Research Units</li> <li>› Clinical Research Units</li> <li>› Clinical Trials</li> <li>› Projects in Priority Programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Centres for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences</li> <li>› Scientific Networks</li> <li>› Workshops for Early Career Investigators</li> <li>› Project Academies</li> <li>› International Scientific Events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› New Instrumentation for Research</li> <li>› Specialised Information Services</li> <li>› Infrastructure for Electronic Publications and Digital Scholarly Communication</li> <li>› Information Infrastructures for Research Data</li> <li>› e-Research Technologies</li> <li>› Indexing and Digitisation</li> <li>› Licences for Digital Content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Collaborative Research Centres/ Transregions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› (International) Research Training Groups</li> <li>› DFG Research Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Core Facilities</li> <li>› Major Instrumentation Initiatives</li> <li>› Major Research Instrumentation</li> <li>› Open Access Publishing</li> <li>› Acquisition of Complete Collections and Literary Remains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Clusters of Excellence</li> <li>› Excellence Initiative (2005 – 2019)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› National Research Data Infrastructure</li> <li>› State Major Instrumentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize</li> <li>› Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize</li> <li>› Communicator Award</li> <li>› Copernicus Award</li> <li>› Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize</li> <li>› Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience</li> <li>› Bernd Rendel Prize in Geoscience</li> <li>› Ursula M. Händel Animal Welfare Prize</li> <li>› von Kaven Award</li> </ul>

# The German Research Foundation (DFG) Funding Portfolio

Applicant	Individuals				Institutions			Prizes
Funding Focus	Investigators	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Individuals
Funding Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Walter Benjamin Programme</li> <li>› Research Fellowships</li> <li>› Emmy Noether Programme</li> <li>› Heisenberg Programme</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://www.dfg.de">www.dfg.de</a></p> <p>→ <b>Research Funding</b></p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Facilities or instrumentation</li> <li>› Research instrumentation</li> <li>› Open Access Publishing</li> <li>› Acquisition of complete collections and rare Remains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize</li> <li>› Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize</li> <li>› Communicator Award</li> <li>› Copernicus Award</li> <li>› Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize</li> <li>› Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience</li> <li>› Bernd Rendel Prize in Geoscience</li> <li>› Ursula M. Händel Animal Welfare Prize</li> <li>› von Kaven Award</li> </ul>	
				Content		Initiative (2005 – 2019)	› State Major Instrumentation	

# Funding of International Cooperation

All DFG funding programs generally allow the integration of **international components**



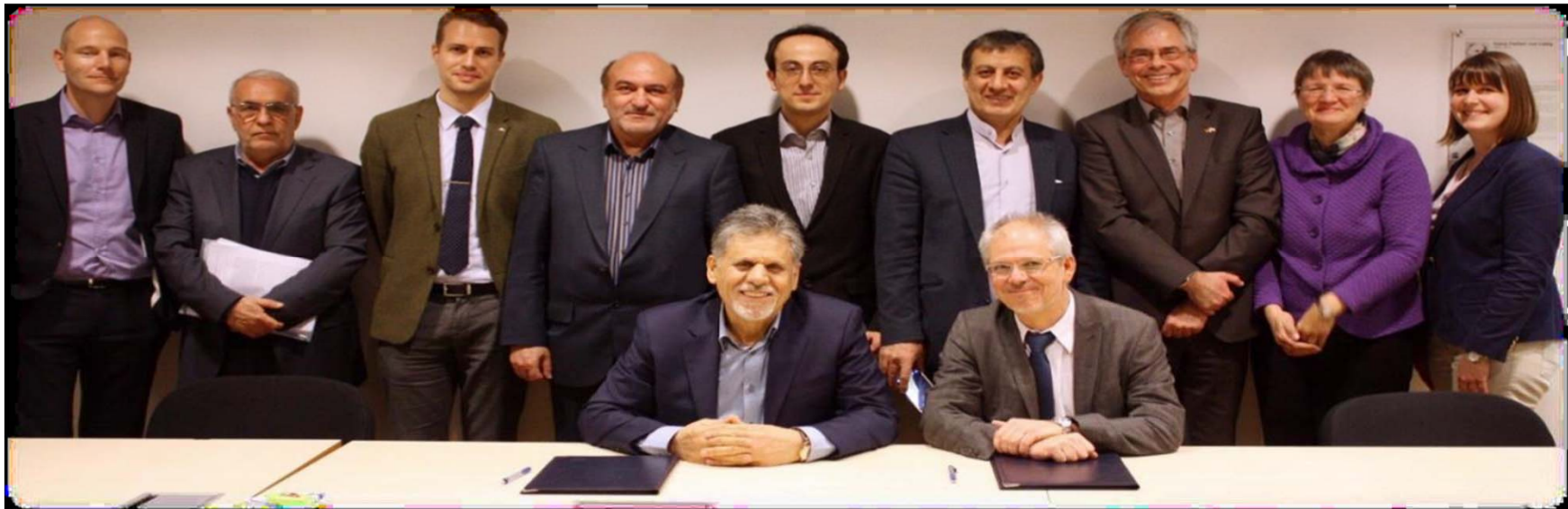
DFG support for projects with international partners is generally based on the principle of **mutual responsibility**. Researchers working in Germany apply to the DFG, while their partners abroad apply for funding at their respective partner organizations.



# Funding of International Cooperations

## DFG Cooperation with Iranian Funding Agencies

- INSF 2016 | صندوق حمایت از پژوهشگران کشور
- ICHTO (MCTH) 2017 | سازمان میراث فرهنگی، صنایع دستی و گردشگری ایران
- NIMAD 2018 | موسسه ملی توسعه تحقیقات علوم پزشکی ایران



January 2016: Prof. Zargham–Prof. Allgöwer, signing INSF-DFG MoU

# 3 useful DFG funding lines

## ➤ Initiation of International Collaboration



## ➤ Individual Research Grant



## ➤ Scientific Networks



# 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



# Funding of International Cooperation

## Initiation of International Collaboration



### Funding can include

- Travel costs and daily allowance for travelling to the partner country
- Travel costs and daily allowance for guests in Germany
- Travel costs and daily allowance for needed specialist(s) from third country

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

Application by the **German partner university**

- Very lean and easy proposal
- Partner in Germany can in some cases cover costs for international partners

# Funding of International Cooperation Research Grant

## 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



- 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 Research Grant



## 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

# Funding of International Cooperation Scientific Networks

## 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



<https://pixabay.com/de/photos/spielsteine-netzwerk-vernetzt-1237497/>



# Funding of International Cooperation Scientific Networks



## 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
- Can be a greenhouse to develop joint projects or keep in touch on a topic

# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

## Important Questions...

- ▶ When will a **call for my field** be launched and when is the deadline?
- ▶ When will a **call for cooperations with my country** be launched?
- ▶ How much is the **DFG budget** for my field or my region?
- ▶ How about **applied projects, commercialization**, etc?
- ▶ **How can I apply** for DFG funds from outside Germany?

# The German Research Foundation (DFG) ... and Answers

- ▶ When will a **call for my field** be launched and when is the deadline?
- ▶ When will a **call for cooperations with my country** be launched?
- ▶ How much is the **DFG budget** for my field or my region?
- ▶ How about **applied projects, commercialization, etc?**
- ▶ **How can I apply** for DFG funds from outside Germany?
- ▶ DFG accepts proposals **from every field at any time**
- ▶ All programs are **open to international cooperations**
- ▶ There is **no specific international budget**
- ▶ DFG funds **basic research.**
- ▶ **Your German partner** submits the proposal for your joint project.

# How to find a research partner in Germany

## Databases

### ➤ GERiT



### ➤ GEPRIS



### ➤ Research in Germany



# How to find a research partner GERiT (formerly Research Explorer)

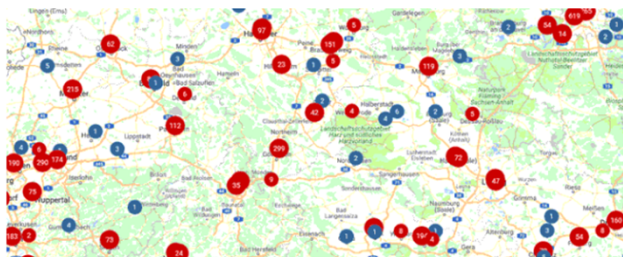


Information portal on German research institutions: [www.gerit.org/en](http://www.gerit.org/en)

- ▶ 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.



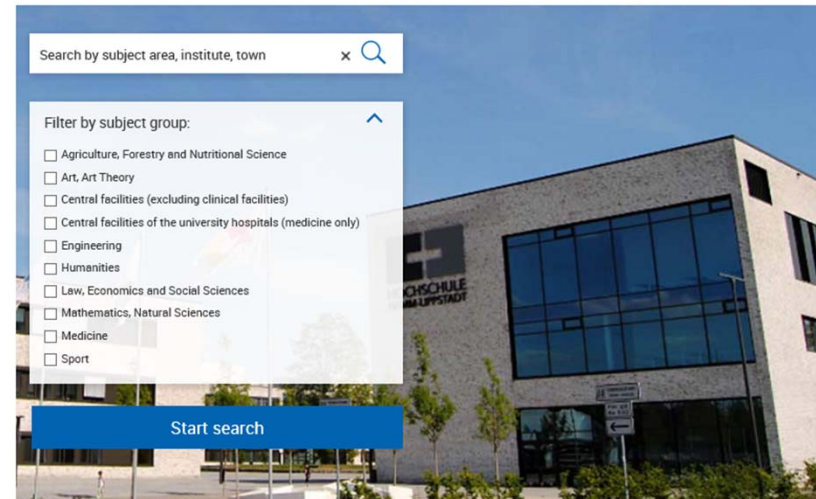
Under Search in the map view of GERiT you will find an overview of the places with research institutions in Germany.

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



## GERiT – German Research Institutions

Are you interested in researching or studying in Germany? GERiT – German Research Institutions – provides an overview of 25,000 research institutions in Germany. Here you will find institutional profiles, job vacancies, the doctoral regulations for specific institutions and subject areas, and links to DFG-funded projects.



# How to find a research partner GERIT



Subject areas [Show all](#)

- Agriculture, Forestry and Nutritional Science (1119) +
- Art, Art Theory (723) +
- Central facilities (excluding clinical facilities) (787) +
- Central facilities of the universities (excluding medicine) (428) +
- Engineering (5864) +**
- Humanities (3632) +
- Law, Economics and Social Sciences (6716) +
- Mathematics, Natural Sciences (5952) +
- Medicine (4375) +
- Sport (218) +

Federal state

Town

Type of Facility

Only institutions that offer a doctoral programme



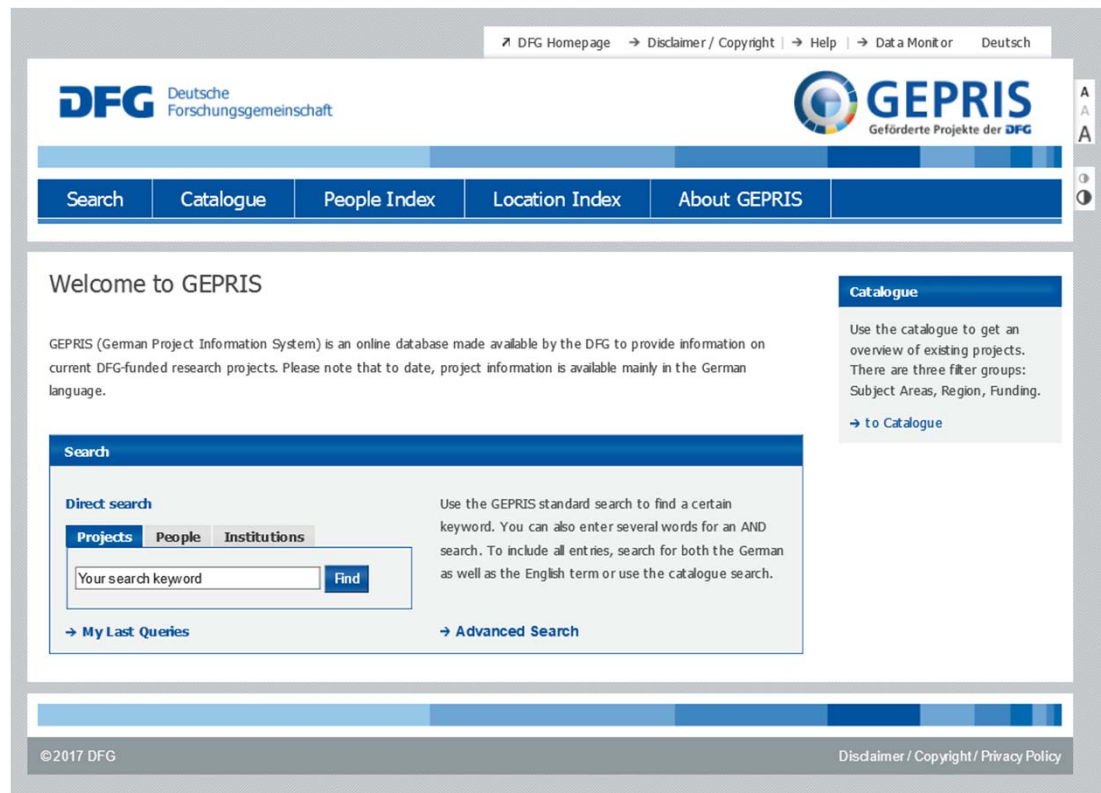
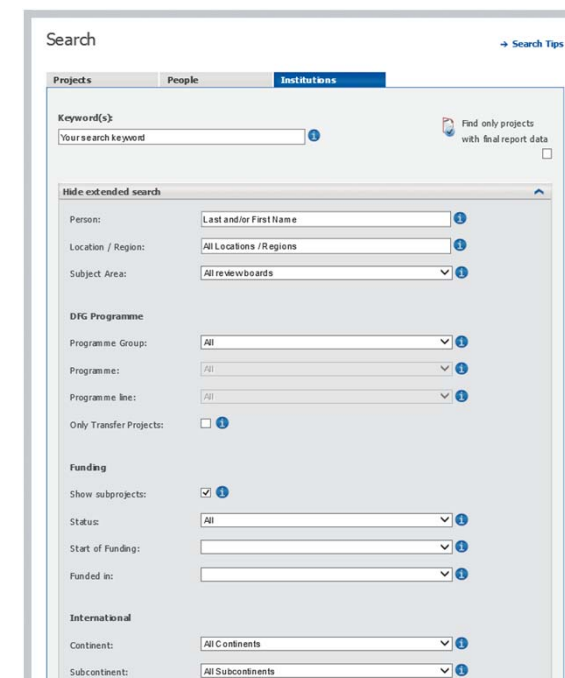
**Engineering (5864) -**

- Architecture (457) +
- Civil Engineering (578) +
- Computer Science (1408) +
- Electrical Engineering (928) +
- Engineering in general (357) +
- Industrial Engineering with engineering focus (15) +
- Materials Science and Materials Engineering (279) +
- Mechanical Engineering / Process Engineering (1624) +
- Mining, Metallurgy (49) +
- Spatial Planning (239) +
- Surveying (83) +
- Transport Engineering, Nautical Science (265) +

# How to find a research partner GEPRIIS



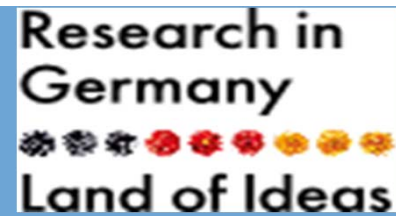
Online database on current DFG-funded projects: [www.gepris.dfg.de](http://www.gepris.dfg.de)

A screenshot of the GEPRIIS homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" and "GEPRIIS Geförderte Projekte der DFG". Below this is a menu with "Search", "Catalogue", "People Index", "Location Index", and "About GEPRIIS". The main content area is titled "Welcome to GEPRIIS" and contains a paragraph explaining the database. A "Search" box is prominently displayed, featuring a "Direct search" section with a "Your search keyword" input field and a "Find" button. To the right of the search box, there is a "Catalogue" section with a brief description and a link to "to Catalogue". The footer includes "© 2017 DFG" and "Disclaimer / Copyright / Privacy Policy".A screenshot of the GEPRIIS search interface. The page is titled "Search" and has a "Search Tips" link. It features a "Keyword(s)" input field and a checkbox for "Find only projects with final report data". Below this is a "Hide extended search" section with various filters: "Person" (Last and/or First Name), "Location / Region" (All Locations / Regions), "Subject Area" (All reviewboards), "DFG Programme" (Programme Group, Programme, Programme line), "Only Transfer Projects" (checkbox), "Funding" (Show subprojects, Status, Start of Funding, Funded in), and "International" (Continent, Subcontinent). Each filter has a dropdown menu and a help icon.



# How to find a research partner

## Research in Germany



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

*Includes information for  
PhD candidates!*



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

Information by field:

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

# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

**Is this really working?**

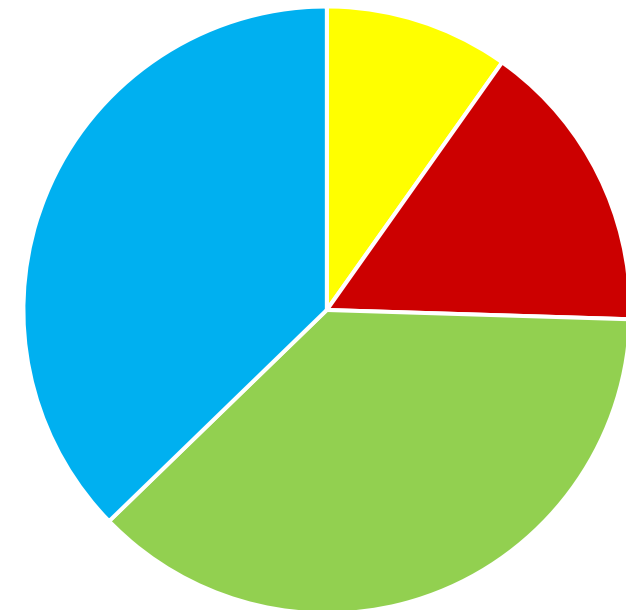
## Is this really working?

- Response of coastal and pelagic marine ecosystems to environmental stressors in the Persian Gulf
  - Identification of evolutionary conserved genetic factors involved in the regulation of beneficial plant-fungal symbioses
- From water to land: the ontogeny of Persian mudskippers\*
- The pre-modern dialect of Shiraz in the poetry of Shams, son of Nasir, from Shiraz (d. 1362 C. E.): text edition, grammar, and dialectology \*
- Towards sustainable smart regions in Iran via decentralized usage of renewable energy.
- Philosophy of Education between Philosophy and Pedagogy in a German-Iranian Context
- Hybrid systems for optics, electronics and photonics
  - Computational analysis of the mechanical properties of Ta-Cu nanocomposite dental implants

## DFG-funded German-Iranian collaborations since 2015 (selection)

# DFG funded German-Iranian cooperation projects 2015-2020 (August)

	Initiation Grant	Research Grant	Total
<b>Humanities</b>	2	3	<b>5</b>
<b>Life Sciences</b>	6	2	<b>8</b>
<b>Natural Sciences</b>	17	2	<b>19</b>
<b>Engineering Sciences</b>	17	2	<b>19</b>
	42	9	<b>51</b>



- Humanities
- Life Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Engineering Sciences

# DFG and INSF funding

## Initiation Grant



Application to and funding by DFG

- Mobility
- Guest researchers
- Workshops

Application to and funding by DFG and INSF (or **NIMAD**)

- Proposals to be submitted simultaneously
- Coordinated review processes
- Coordinated funding

## Research Grant



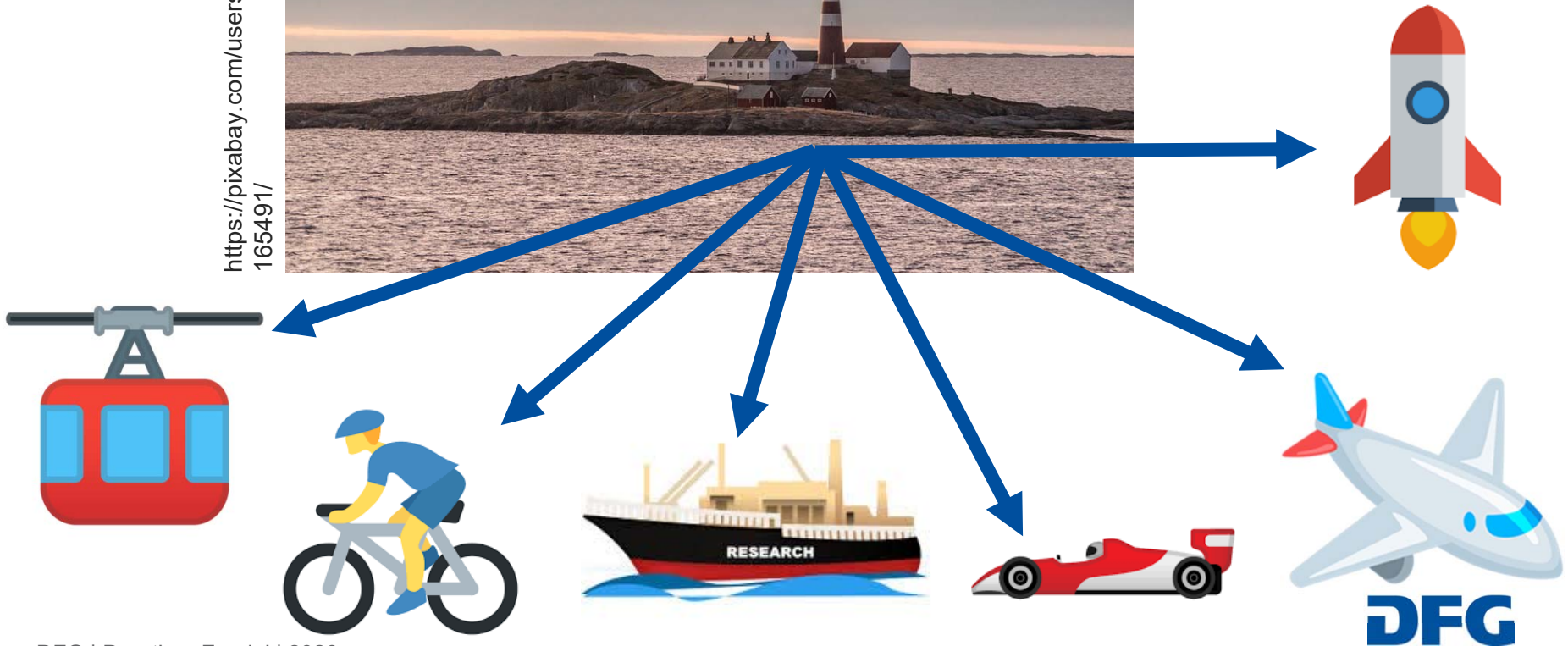


<https://pixabay.com/users/mariamichelle-165491/>

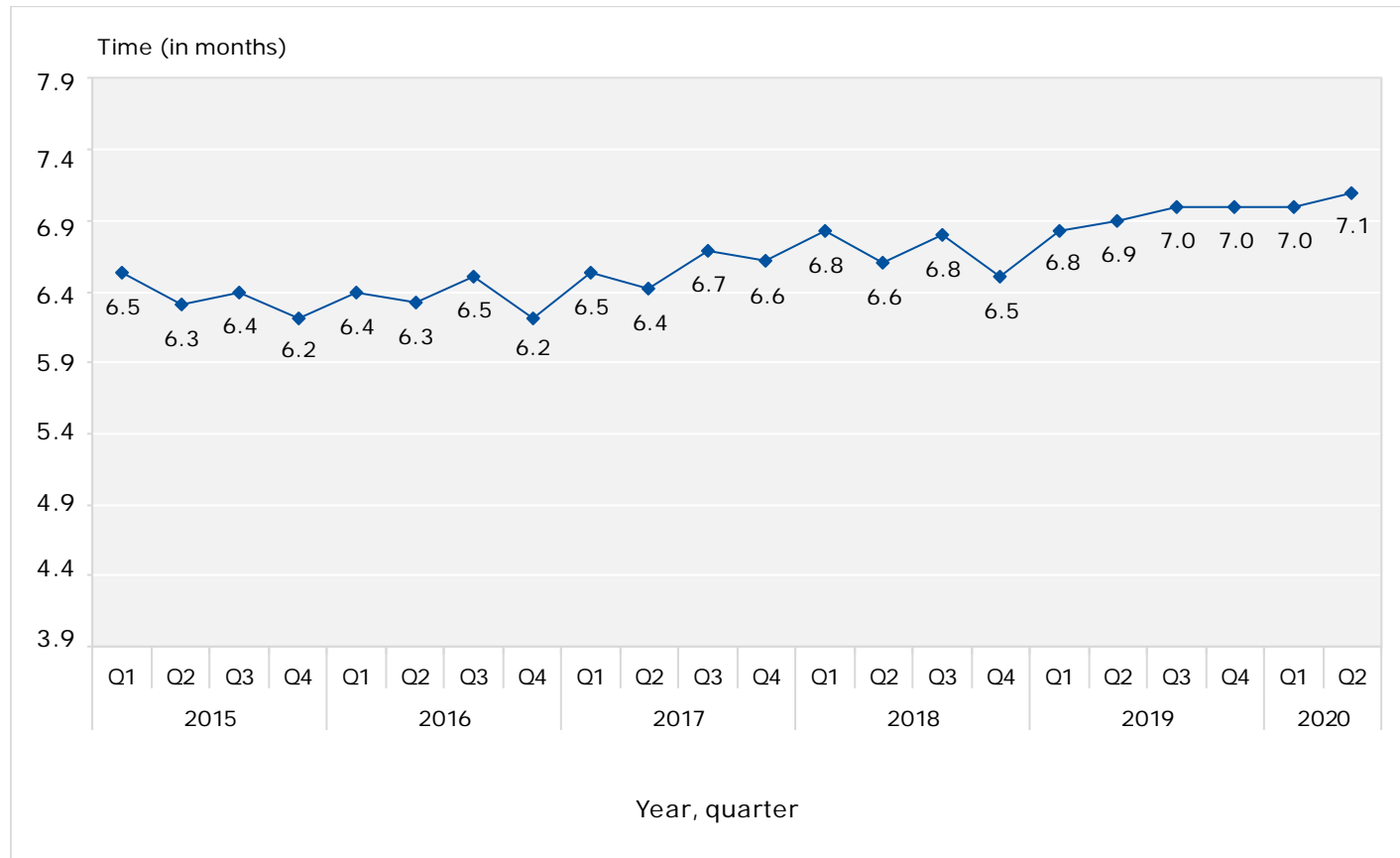




<https://pixabay.com/users/mariamichelle-165491/>



# Average decision times for proposals\*



\* Based on: Individual Grants Programme, Priority Programmes and Research Units. Without international calls for proposals.



**Thank you for your attention!**

**...and your questions...**

**...and your suggestions!**

**Dorothea Fendel**

DFG International Affairs

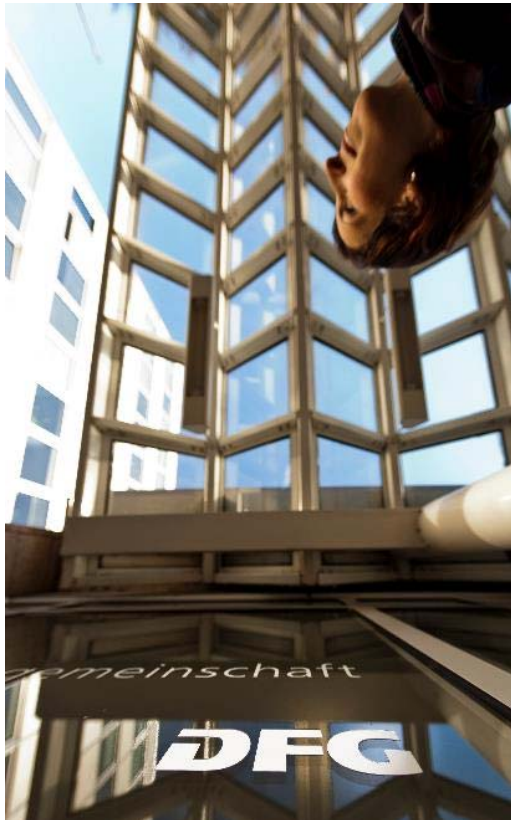
[dorothea.fendel@dfg.de](mailto:dorothea.fendel@dfg.de)

DFG | Dorothea Fendel | 2020



**DFG**

## Links and Resources



- ▶ DFG funding programmes at a glance:  
[www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/programmes](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes)
- ▶ Advice for early-career researchers:  
[www.dfg.de/research\\_careers](http://www.dfg.de/research_careers)
- ▶ DFG facts and figures: [www.dfg.de/facts-figures](http://www.dfg.de/facts-figures)
- ▶ GEPRIS – database with all DFG-funded projects:  
[www.gepris.dfg.de/en](http://www.gepris.dfg.de/en)
- ▶ GERiT – German research institutions:  
[www.gerit.org/en](http://www.gerit.org/en)
- ▶ General questions about research careers:  
[info-nachwuchs@dfg.de](mailto:info-nachwuchs@dfg.de) (English mails welcome)
- ▶ Contacts: [www.dfg.de/en/dfg\\_profile/head\\_office](http://www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office)