



DFG

# German Research Foundation - DFG

TUMS 18. November 2020

Dorothea Fendel

DFG International Affairs

Iran



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)
- ▶ Funding 2019:
  - approx. **€ 3.3 billion** in direct research funding, going to 31,000 new or ongoing projects
- ▶ 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



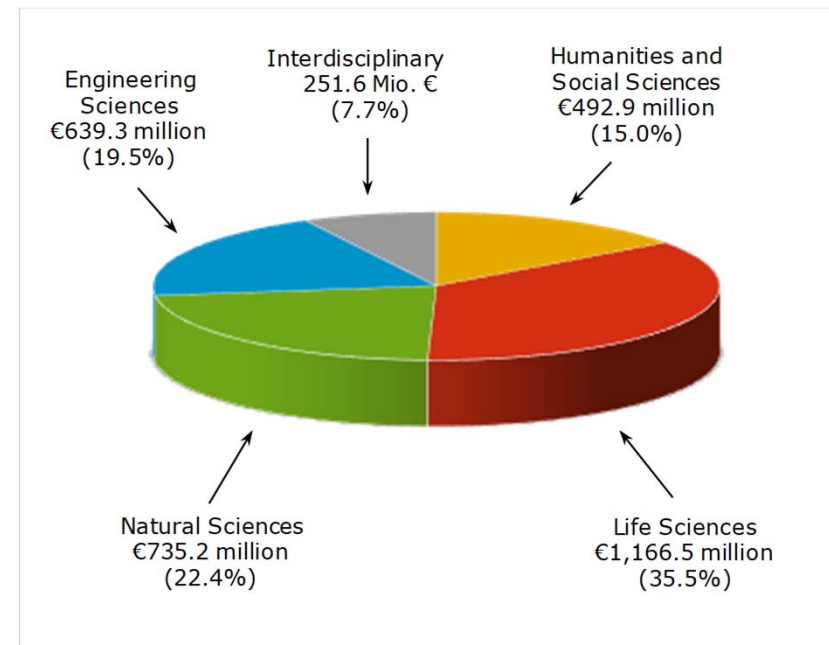
- everything in competition
- everything in peer review

# 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



# Funding Principles

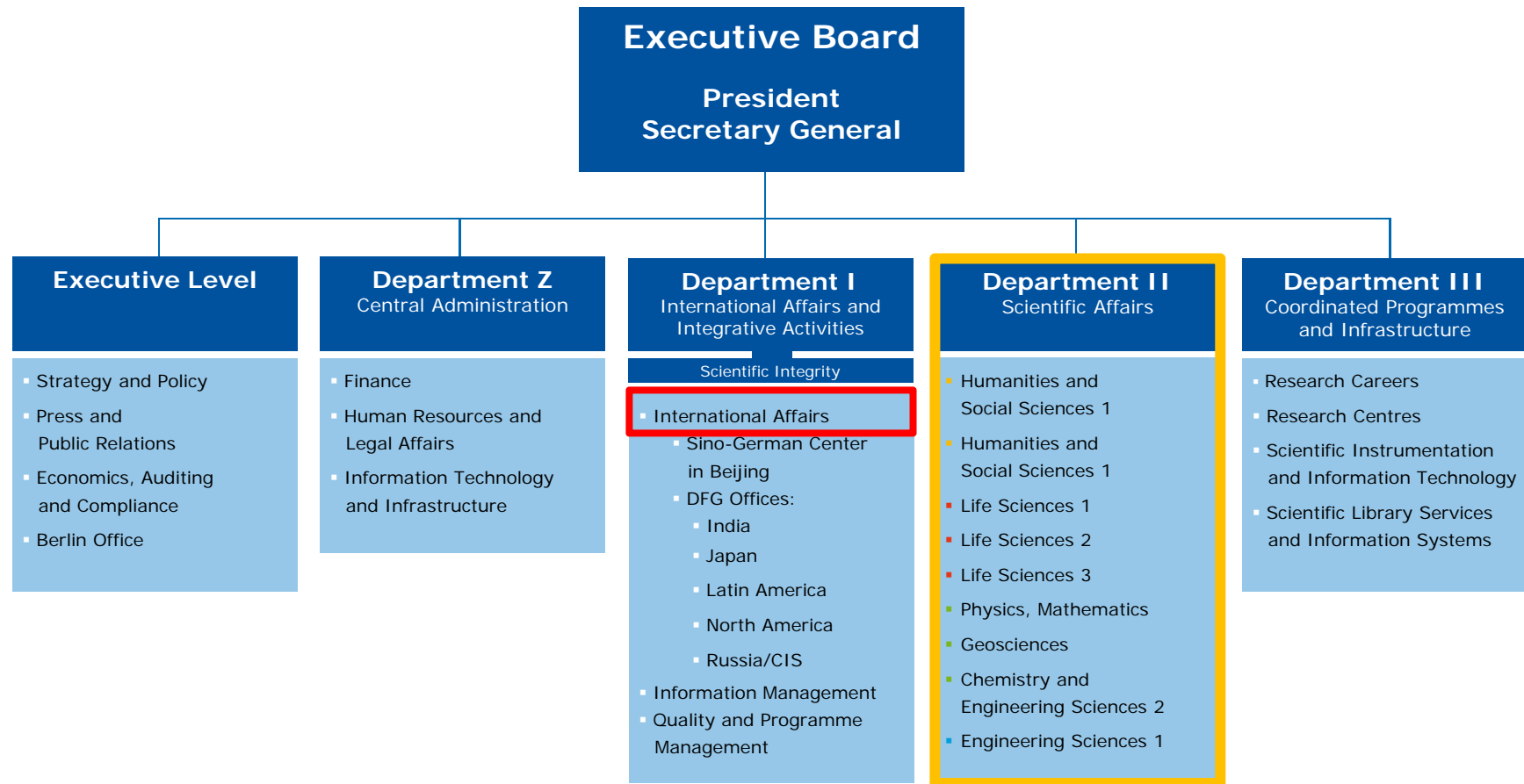
- Open, bottom-up choice of **research topics**
- **Basic research** in any field of science and the humanities
- No **age** restrictions
- Individual **career phases** and family-related career breaks are considered in the review process
- No **deadlines**, (almost) **no calls**\*



\* excl. Priority Programmes, international calls etc.

# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

## Structure and Organization



# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

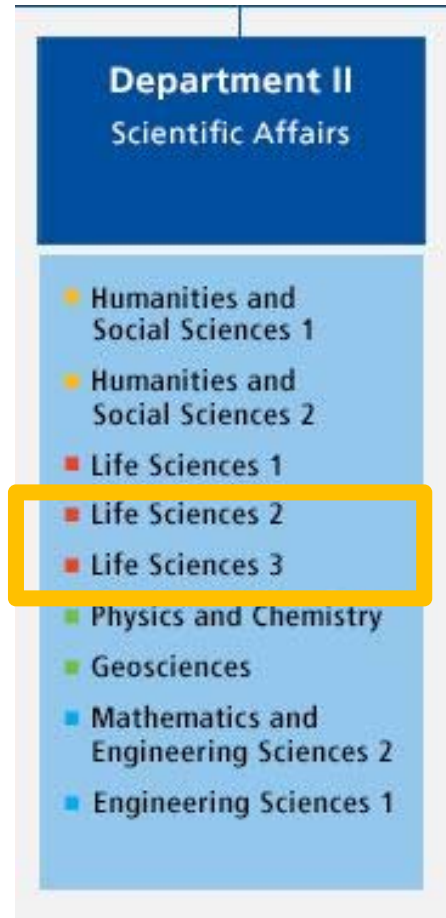
## Structure and Organization





# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

## The German Research Foundation (DFG)



### 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)

## The German Research Foundation (DFG)

[https://www.dfg.de/en/dfg\\_profile/head\\_office/structure/index.jsp?i d=025#content](https://www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office/structure/index.jsp?i d=025#content)

### Life Sciences 2: Microbiology, Immunology, Neurosciences

204-01	Metabolism, Biochemistry and Genetics of Microorganisms
204-02	Microbial Ecology and Applied Microbiology
204-03	Medical Microbiology and Mycology, Hygiene, Molecular Infection Biology
204-04	Virology
204-05	Immunology
204-06	Parasitology and Biology of Tropical Infectious Disease Pathogens
206-01	Developmental Neurobiology
206-02	Molecular Biology and Physiology of Neurons and Glial Cells
206-03	Experimental and Theoretical Network Neuroscience
206-04	Cognitive, Systems and Behavioural Neurobiology
206-05	Experimental Models for the Understanding of Nervous System Diseases
206-06	Molecular and Cellular Neurology and Neuropathology
206-07	Clinical Neurology; Neurosurgery and Neuroradiology
206-08	Human Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience
206-09	Biological Psychiatry
206-10	Clinical Psychiatry, Psychotherapy, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
206-11	Ophthalmology

### Life Sciences 3: Medicine

205-01	<b>Epidemiology and Medical Biometry/Statistics</b>
205-02	Public Health, Health Services Research, Social Medicine
205-03	Human Genetics
205-04	Physiology
205-05	Nutritional Sciences
205-06	Pathology
205-07	Medical Informatics and Medical Bioinformatics
205-09	Pharmacology
205-10	Toxicology, Occupational Medicine, Clinical Chemistry
205-11	Anaesthesiology
205-12	Cardiology, Angiology
205-13	Pneumology, Thoracic Surgery
205-14	Hematology, Oncology
205-15	Gastroenterology
205-16	Nephrology
205-17	Endocrinology, Diabetology, Metabolism
205-18	Rheumatology
205-19	Dermatology
205-20	Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine
205-21	Gynaecology and Obstetrics
205-22	Clinical Immunology and Allergology
205-23	Reproductive Medicine, Urology
205-24	Biogerontology and Geriatric Medicine
205-25	General and Visceral Surgery
205-26	Cardiac and Vascular Surgery
205-27	Orthopaedics, Traumatology, Reconstructive Surgery
205-28	Dentistry, Oral Surgery
205-29	Otolaryngology
205-30	Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, Radiotherapy, Radiobiology
205-31	Clinical Infectiology and Tropical Medicine
205-32	Medical Physics, Biomedical Technology
205-33	Anatomy

# 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



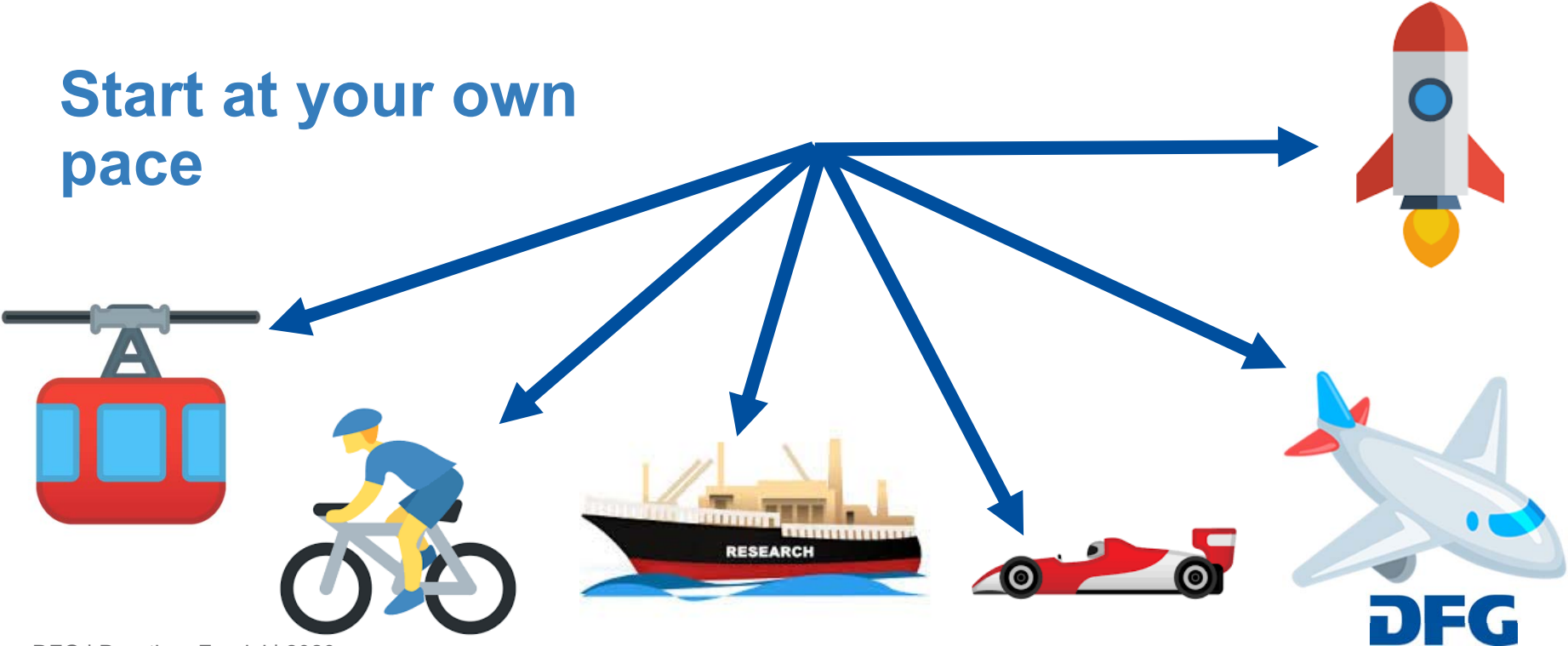
# Waiting for calls



Waiting for calls



Start at your own pace



# 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/ Transregios</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>

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				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

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



# 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?
- ▶ Will DFG **suggest a research partner**?

# 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?
- ▶ Will DFG **suggest a research partner?**
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Researchers themselves decide to start an international 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)

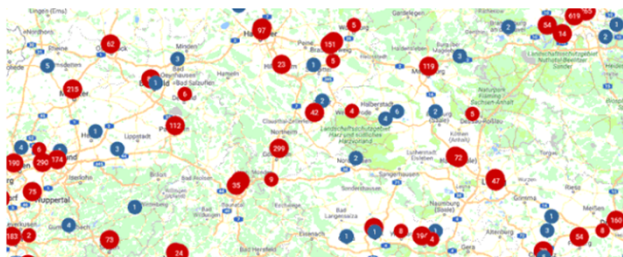


Information portal on German research institutions: [www.gerit.org/en](http://www.gerit.org/en)

- ▶ 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.



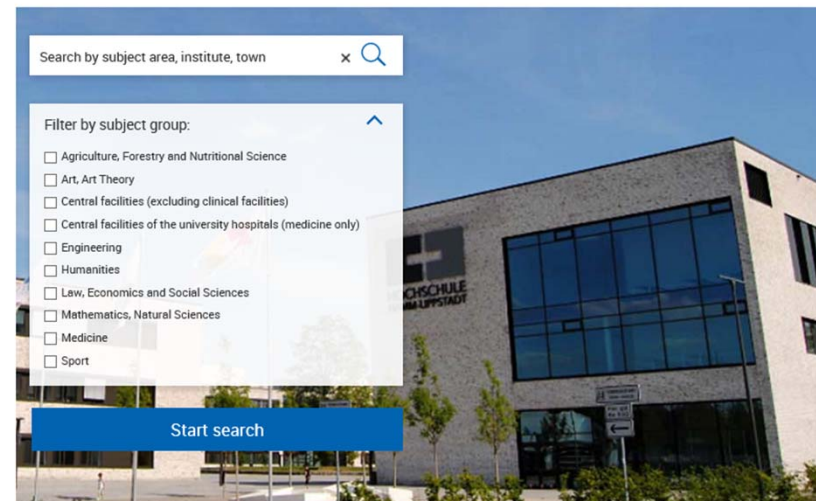
Under Search in the map view of GERiT you will find an overview of the places with research institutions in Germany.

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



## GERiT – German Research Institutions

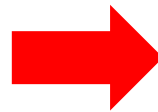
Are you interested in researching or studying in Germany? GERiT – German Research Institutions – provides an overview of 25,000 research institutions in Germany. Here you will find institutional profiles, job vacancies, the doctoral regulations for specific institutions and subject areas, and links to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



# How to find a research partner GERIT



Subject areas	Show all
Humanities (3755)	+
Sport (221)	+
Law, Economics and Social Sciences (7029)	+
Mathematics, Natural Sciences (6405)	+
<b>Human Medicine / Health Sciences (4617)</b>	+
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)	+

Federal state

Town

Type of Facility

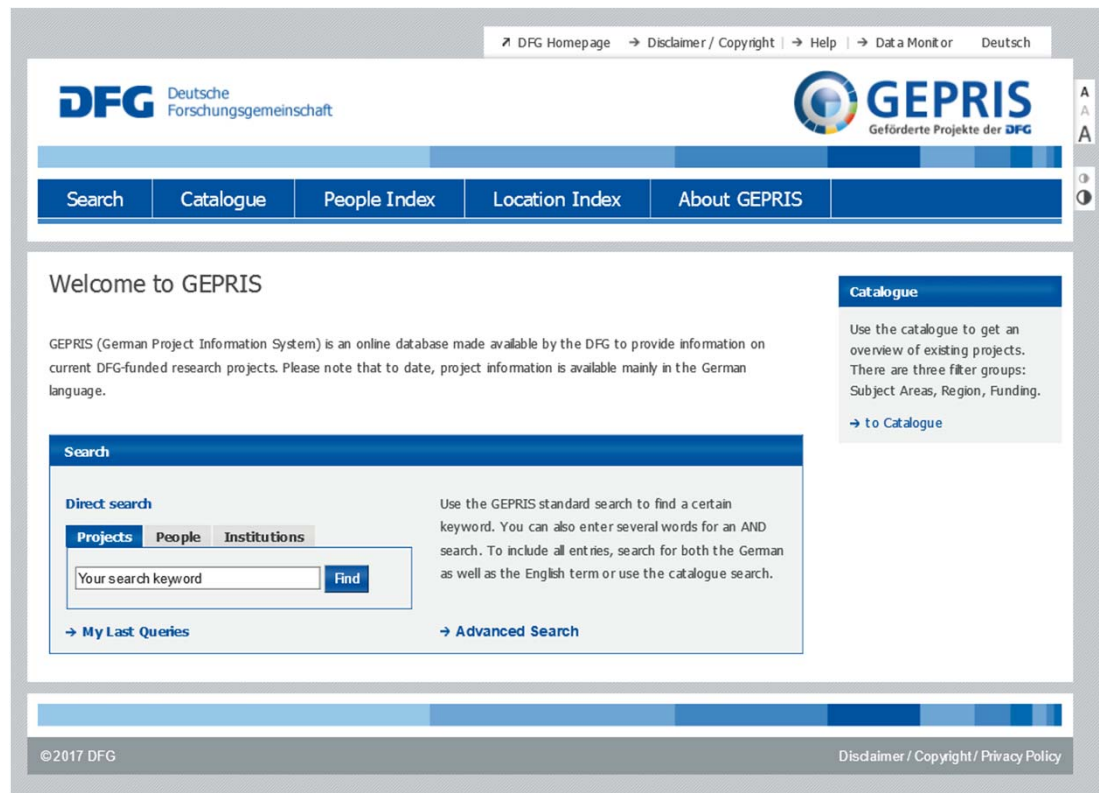
Only institutions that offer a doctoral programme

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

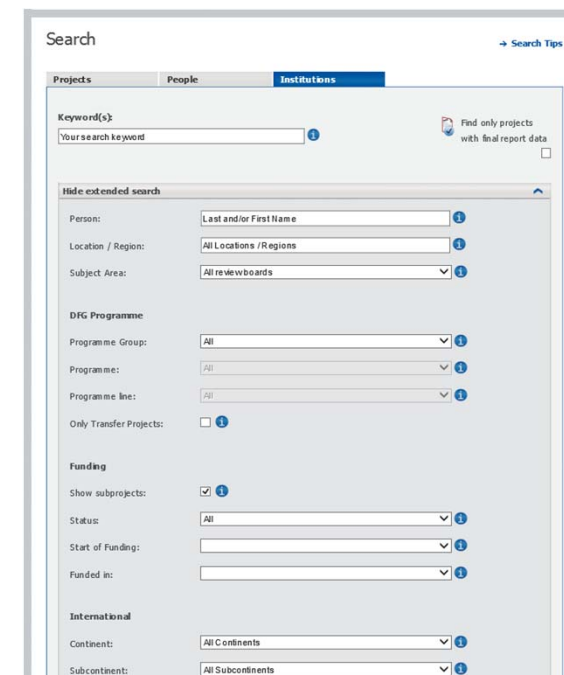
# How to find a research partner GEPRIIS



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



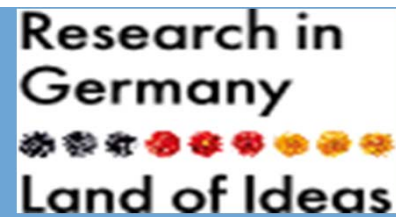
The screenshot shows the GEPRIIS homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "DFG Homepage", "Disclaimer / Copyright", "Help", "Data Monitor", and "Deutsch". Below this is the DFG logo and the GEPRIIS logo. A main navigation bar contains buttons for "Search", "Catalogue", "People Index", "Location Index", and "About GEPRIIS". The main content area is titled "Welcome to GEPRIIS" and includes a brief description of the database. A "Search" section is visible, featuring a "Direct search" box with a "Find" button and a "Catalogue" section with a "to Catalogue" link. The footer contains the copyright notice "© 2017 DFG" and a link to "Disclaimer / Copyright / Privacy Policy".



The screenshot shows the GEPRIIS search interface. It features a "Search" header with a "Search Tips" link. Below the header are tabs for "Projects", "People", and "Institutions". A "Keyword(s)" input field is present, along with a checkbox for "Find only projects with final report data". The "Hide extended search" section is expanded, showing 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 small "i" icon next to it.

# 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?**



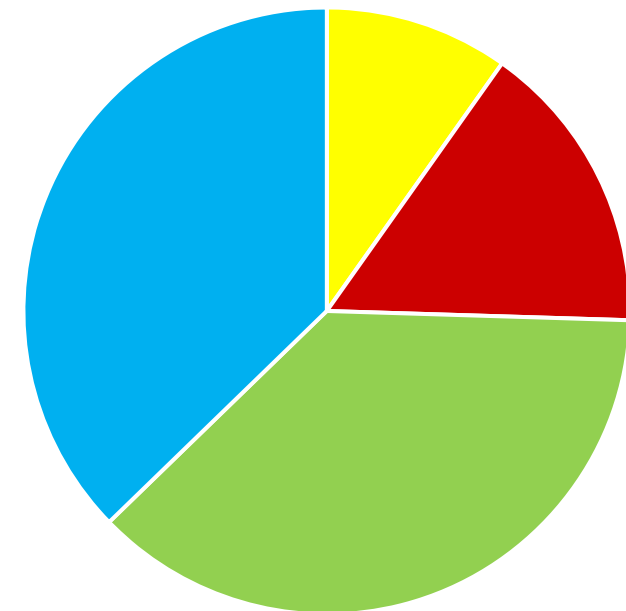
## Is this really working?

- 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 NIMAD funding

## Initiation Grant



Application to and funding by DFG

- Mobility
- Guest researchers
- Workshops

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

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

## Research Grant



# How to start a bilateral project funded by DFG?



Research in  
Germany  
Land of Ideas



▶ Find a potential partner in a German research institution and get in touch



▶ Agree on a project and choose a funding line

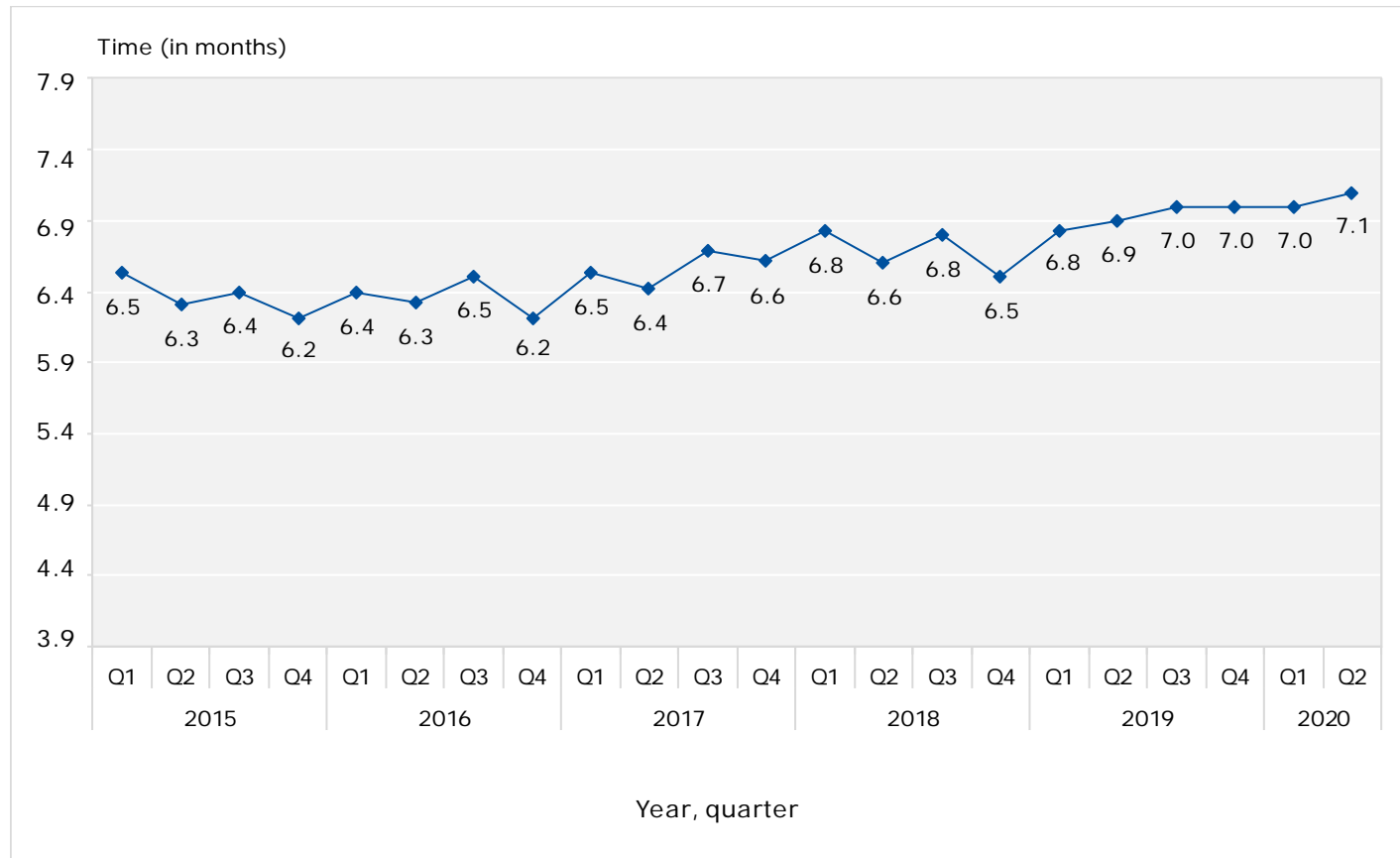
▶ Prepare a proposal and submit it to the funding agency(ies)

**International Affairs  
Iran Team**  
Dr. Jörg Schneider  
Dorothea Fendel



**Scientific Affairs**  
Programme Directors

# Average decision times for proposals\*



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

## 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)

# Links and Resources



- ▶ [FAQ International Funding](#)
- ▶ [Funding Principles and Funding Opportunities with an International Component](#)

**Thank you for your attention!**

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

**...and your suggestions!**

**Dorothea Fendel**

DFG International Affairs

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DFG | Dorothea Fendel | 2020



**DFG**