



DFG

# German Research Foundation - DFG

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Dorothea Fendel

DFG International Affairs

Iran

- 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) **≠ ministry, state institution**
- 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**
- Funding only if institution agrees on ethical standards

- everything in competition
- everything in peer review

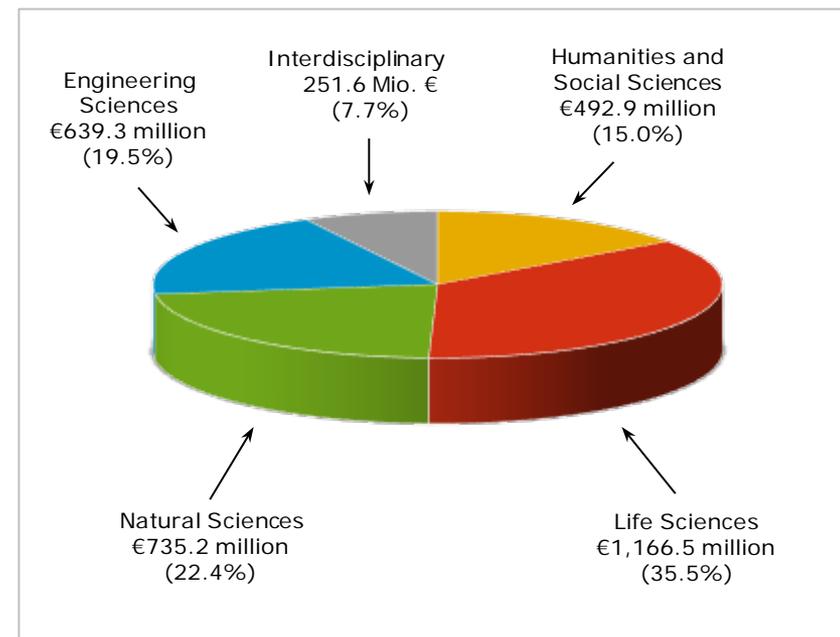


# DFG's mission statement

## 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

### Executive Board

President  
Secretary General



# The German Research Foundation (DFG)

## Structure and Organization

### Department I International Affairs and Integrative Activities

#### International Affairs Iran Team

Dr. Jörg Schneider  
Dorothea Fendel

- International Affairs
  - Sino-German Center in Beijing
  - DFG Offices:
    - India
    - Japan
    - Latin America
    - North America
    - Russia/CIS
  - Information Management
  - Quality and Programme Management

### Department II Scientific Affairs

#### Scientific Affairs

Programme Directors

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

# 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



- **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) 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> <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)		

[www.dfg.de](http://www.dfg.de)  
 → **Research Funding**

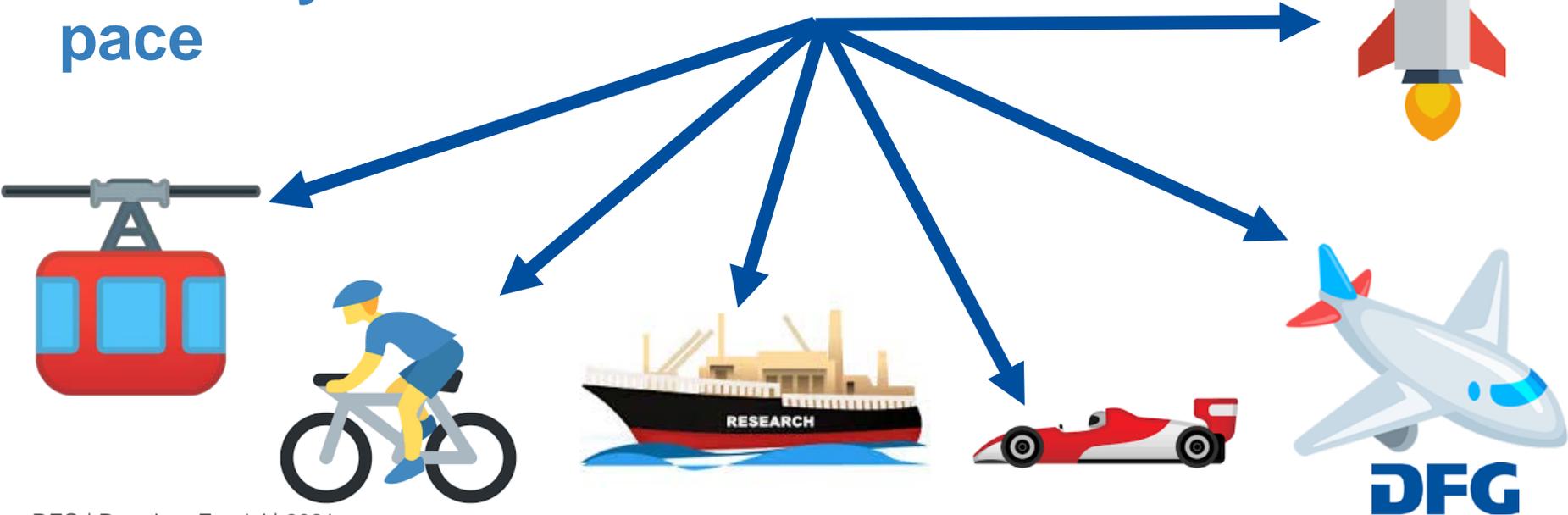
# Waiting for calls



Waiting for calls



Start at your own pace



# Funding of International Cooperation

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



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.

# 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 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



The Office of President  
Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology  
**Iran National Science Foundation**



مؤسسه ملی توسعه تحقیقات علوم پزشکی  
جمهوری اسلامی ایران

**NIMAD**  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
MEDICAL RESEARCH  
DEVELOPMENT



Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Ministry of Cultural Heritage,  
Tourism and Handicrafts (MCTH)**

## 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



# 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.

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



# How to find a research partner in Germany

## Databases

### ➤ GERiT



### ➤ GEPRIS



### ➤ Research in Germany



# How to find a research partner GERiT

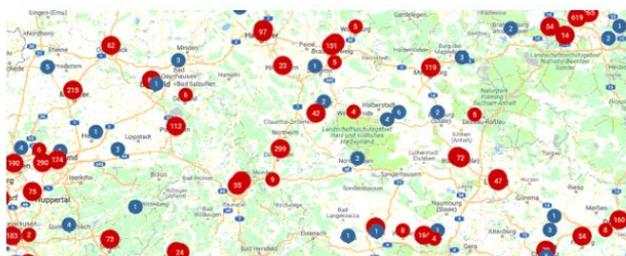


Information portal on German research institutions: [www.gerit.org/en](http://www.gerit.org/en)

- ▶ 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.



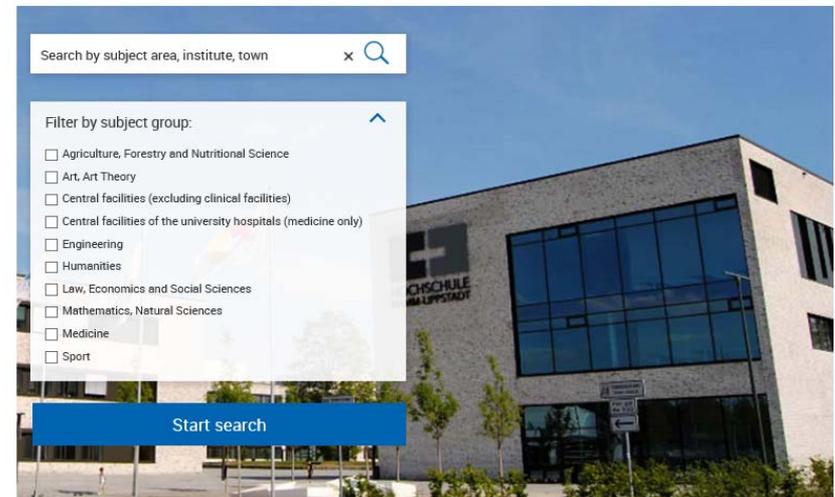
Under Search in the map view of GERiT you will find an overview of the places with research institutions in Germany.

- [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 (medicine only) (10) +
- 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) +

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)

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

**GEPRIIS**  
Geförderte Projekte der DFG

Search Catalogue People Index Location Index About GEPRIIS

## Welcome to GEPRIIS

GEPRIIS (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.

### Catalogue

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

→ to Catalogue

### Search

**Direct search**

Projects People Institutions

Your search keyword

→ My Last Queries → Advanced Search

Use the GEPRIIS 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.

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## Search

Projects People Institutions

Keyword(s):  
Your search keyword

**Hide extended search**

Person: Last and/or First Name

Location / Region: All Locations / Regions

Subject Area: All reviewboards

DFG Programme:

Programme Group: All

Programme: All

Programme line: All

Only Transfer Projects:

Funding

Show subprojects:

Status: All

Start of Funding:

Funded in:

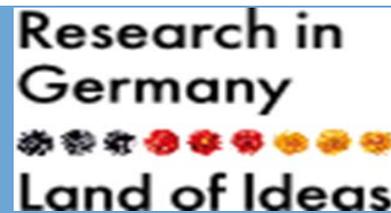
International

Continent: All Continents

Subcontinent: All Subcontinents

# How to find a research partner

## 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>

## Is this really working?

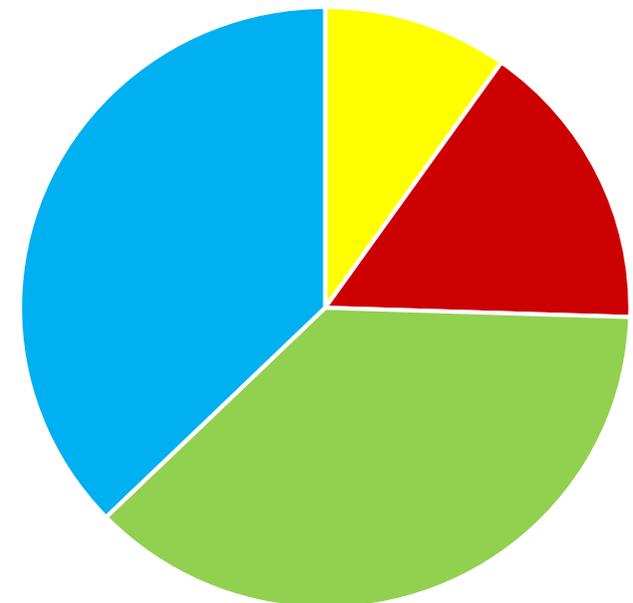
## Is this really working?

- 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
- Philosophy of Education between Philosophy and Pedagogy in a German-Iranian Context
- 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.
- 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	3	<b>19</b>
	42	10	<b>52</b>



- Humanities
- Life Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Engineering Sciences

# How to start a bilateral project funded by DFG?



► 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

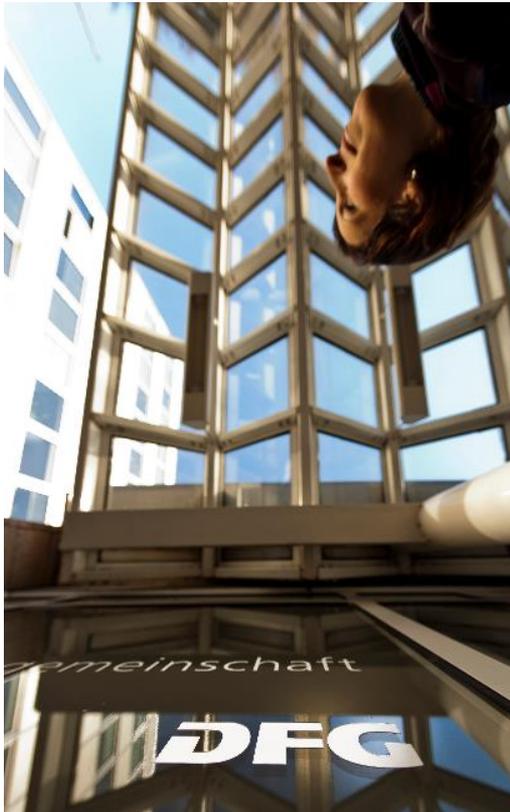


Scientific Affairs

Programme Directors

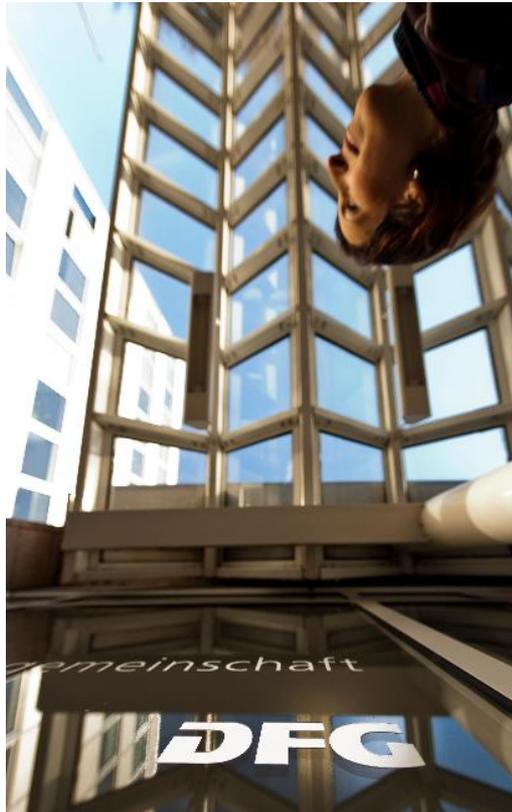


# Links and Resources



- ▶ 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

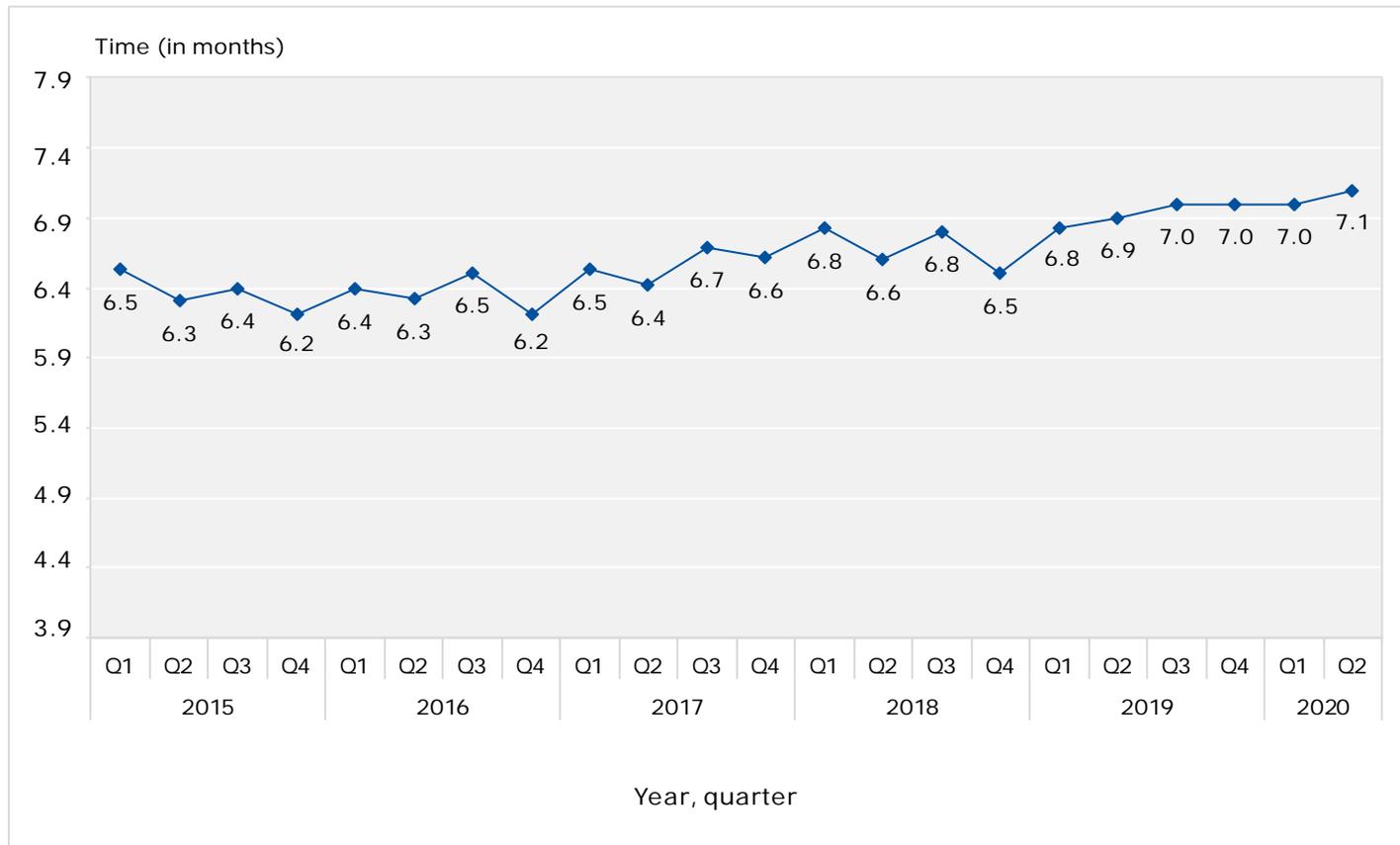
[dorothea.fendel@dfg.de](mailto:dorothea.fendel@dfg.de)

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**DFG**

# Average decision times for proposals\*



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