

A blurred, 3D-style logo of the acronym 'DFG' in white, set against a blue background with a bokeh effect of light spots.

Starting Your Research Career -

**DFG funding programmes and
application procedures**

Topics

- ▶ **DFG – its profile and function**
- ▶ **DFG funding programmes**
- ▶ **Application and review procedures**



Topics

- ▶ **DFG – its profile and function**
- ▶ DFG funding programmes
- ▶ Application and review procedures

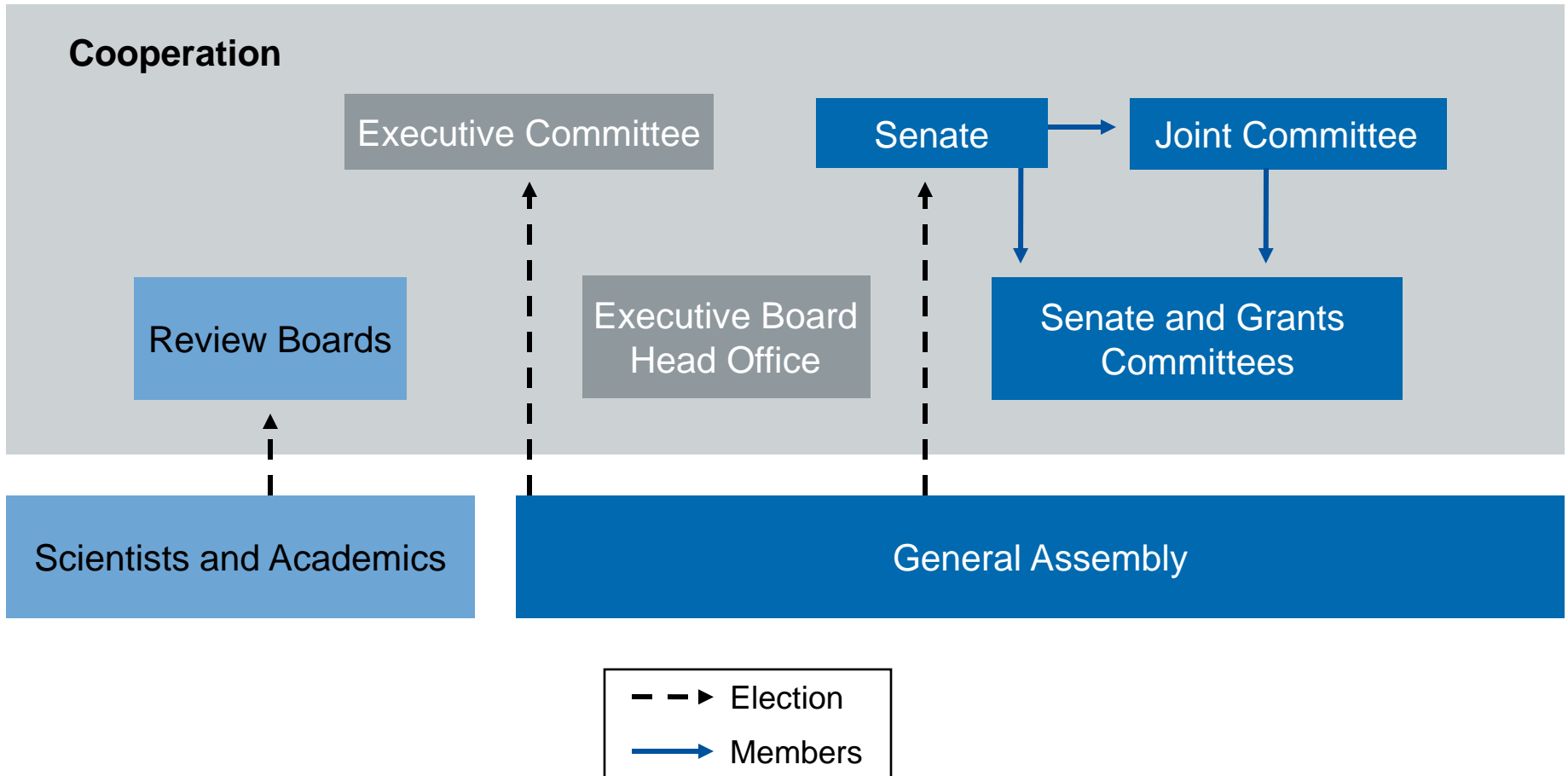


What is DFG?

- ▶ Germany's **largest research funding organisation**
- ▶ An **independent association** (not a government agency) devoted to the **self-administration of Germany's sciences**
- ▶ DFG members are the **German universities** and the **large research performing organisations**.
- ▶ The DFG's 2010 **budget** totalled approx. **€2.3 billion**

How are decision-making bodies formed?

Cooperation between scientific communities and committee members

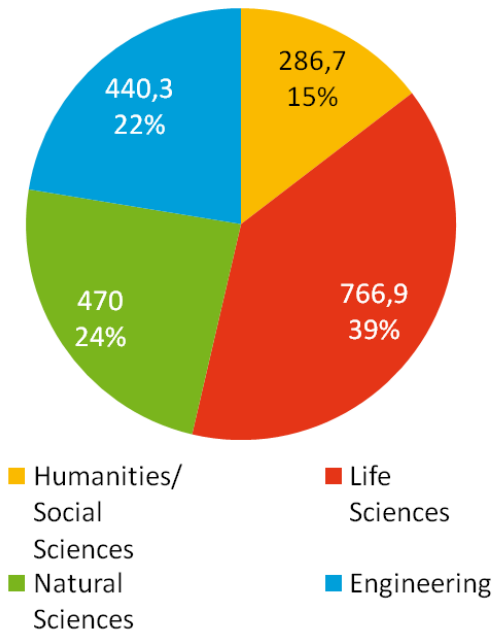


The DFG's mission Statement

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
- ▶ supports the **education and advancement of young scientific researchers**

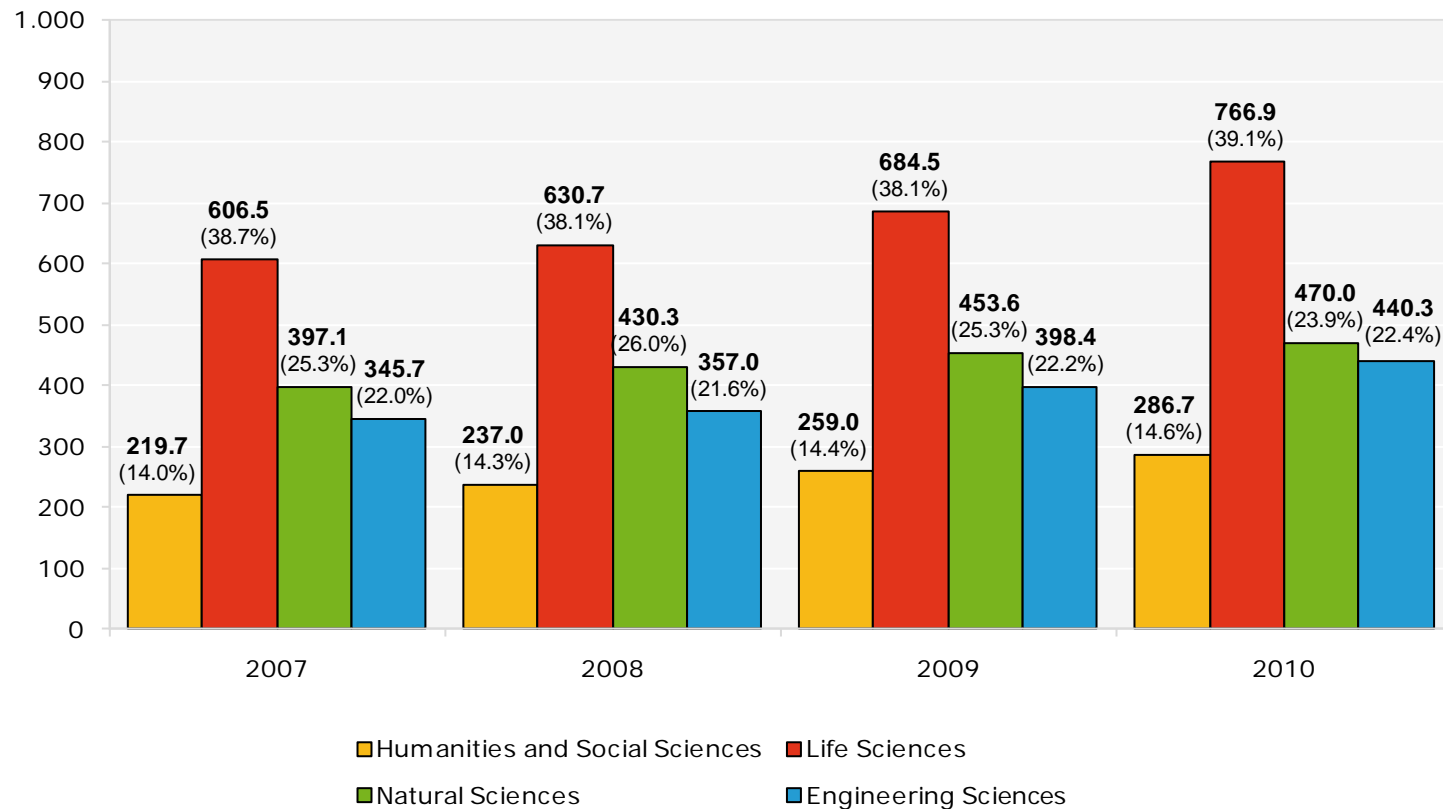
Funding in 2010, by scientific discipline



total = 1,963.9

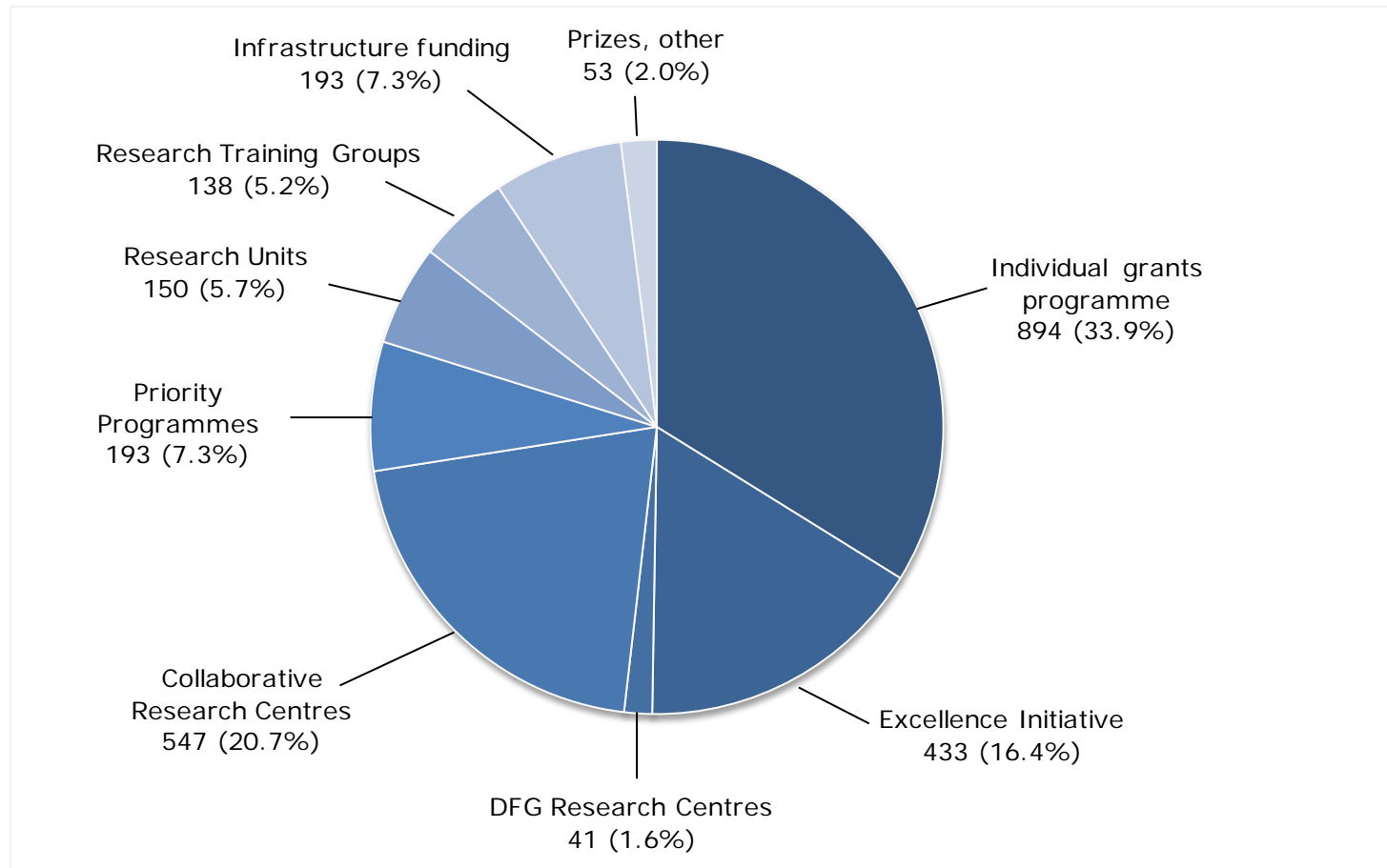
Funding amounts refer to both new and ongoing projects in the individual grants and coordinated programmes that receive funding.

Amount of research funding* awarded by scientific discipline for each calendar year 2007 to 2010 (in €m and %)



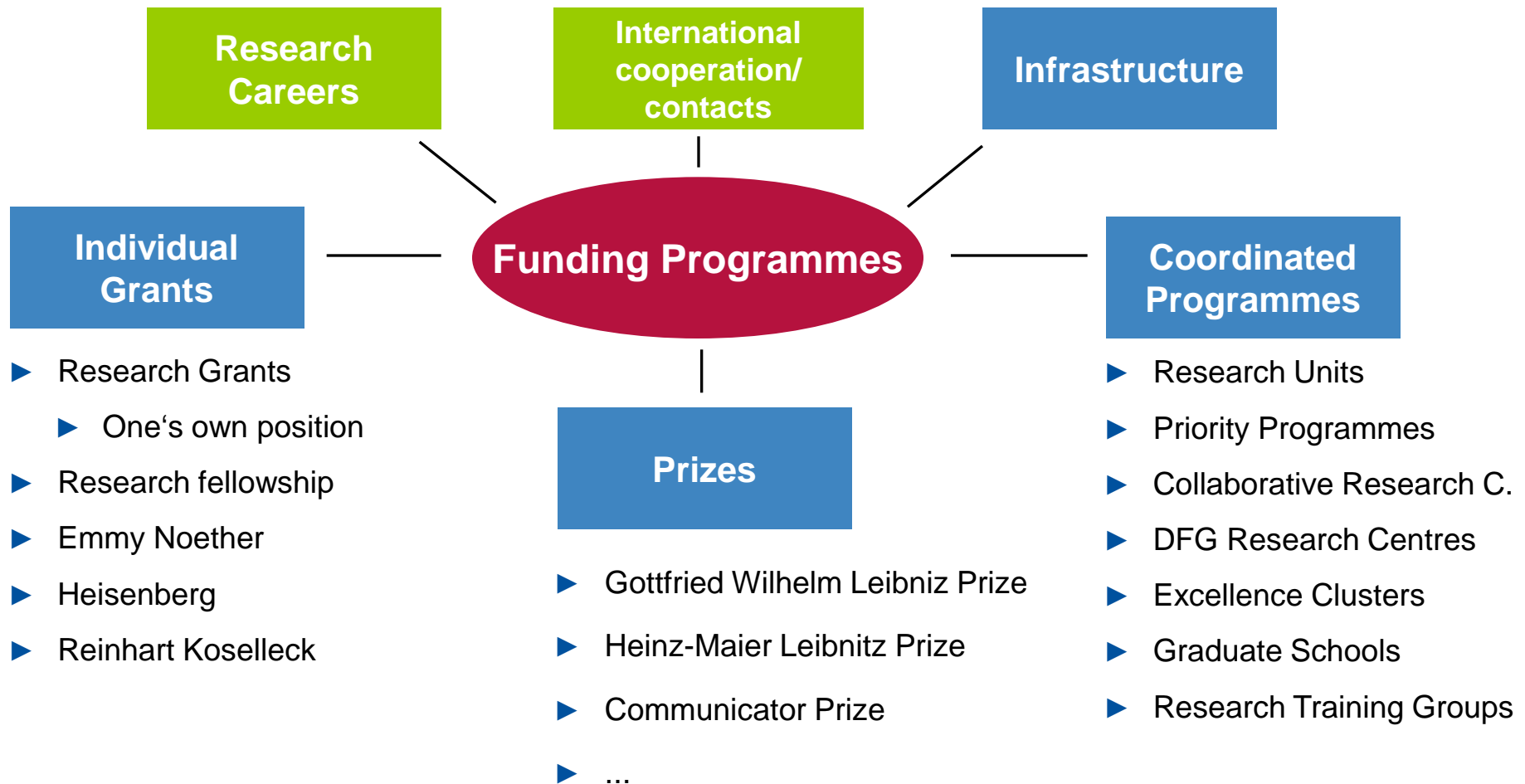
* Funding amounts refer to both new and ongoing projects in the individual grants and coordinated programmes that receive funding in the year shown.

Amount of research funding* awarded by programme for 2010 (in €m and %)

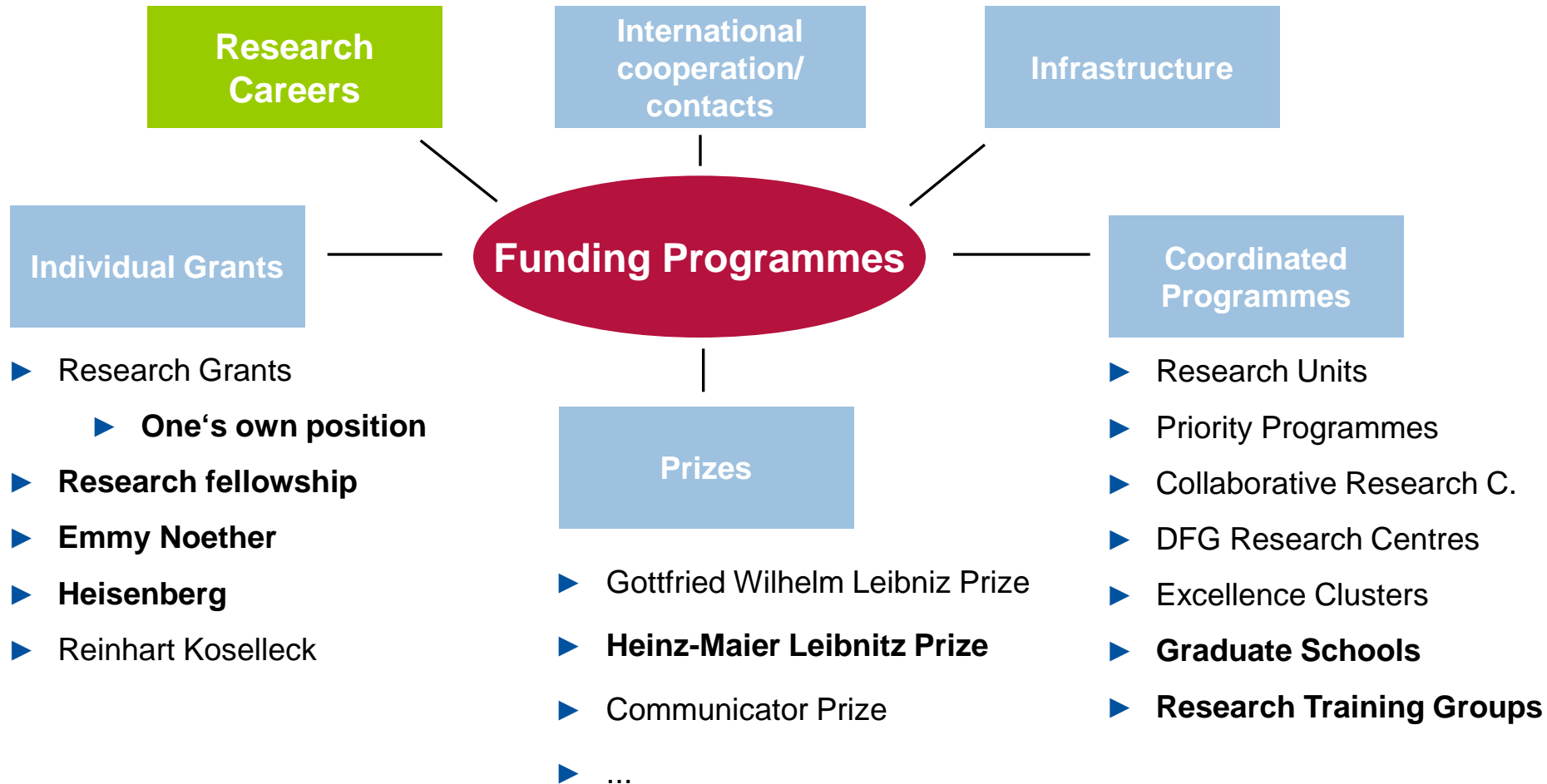


* Funding amounts refer to both new and ongoing projects that receive funding in 2010

Funding Instruments



Funding Instruments



Who can apply?

Researchers of all disciplines

- ▶ who have completed their scientific training (= hold a doctorate) and
- ▶ who want to carry out their own research project at a German research institution
- ▶ **No age limit**



The DFG Funding Chain

Appropriate funding options at each career stage

Studies	Doctorate	Postdoc Period	Achievement of eligibility for tenure	Preparation for scientific mgmt position
			Emmy Noether Programme	Heisenberg professorship
				Heisenberg fellowship
	Research Training Group fellowship	Research fellowship (abroad)	Research fellowship (abroad)	Research fellowship (abroad)
Research in a Research Training Group	Research Training Group position	Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)	Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)	Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)
Student assistant in DFG project	Position in DFG project	Position in DFG project	Position in DFG project	Position in DFG project

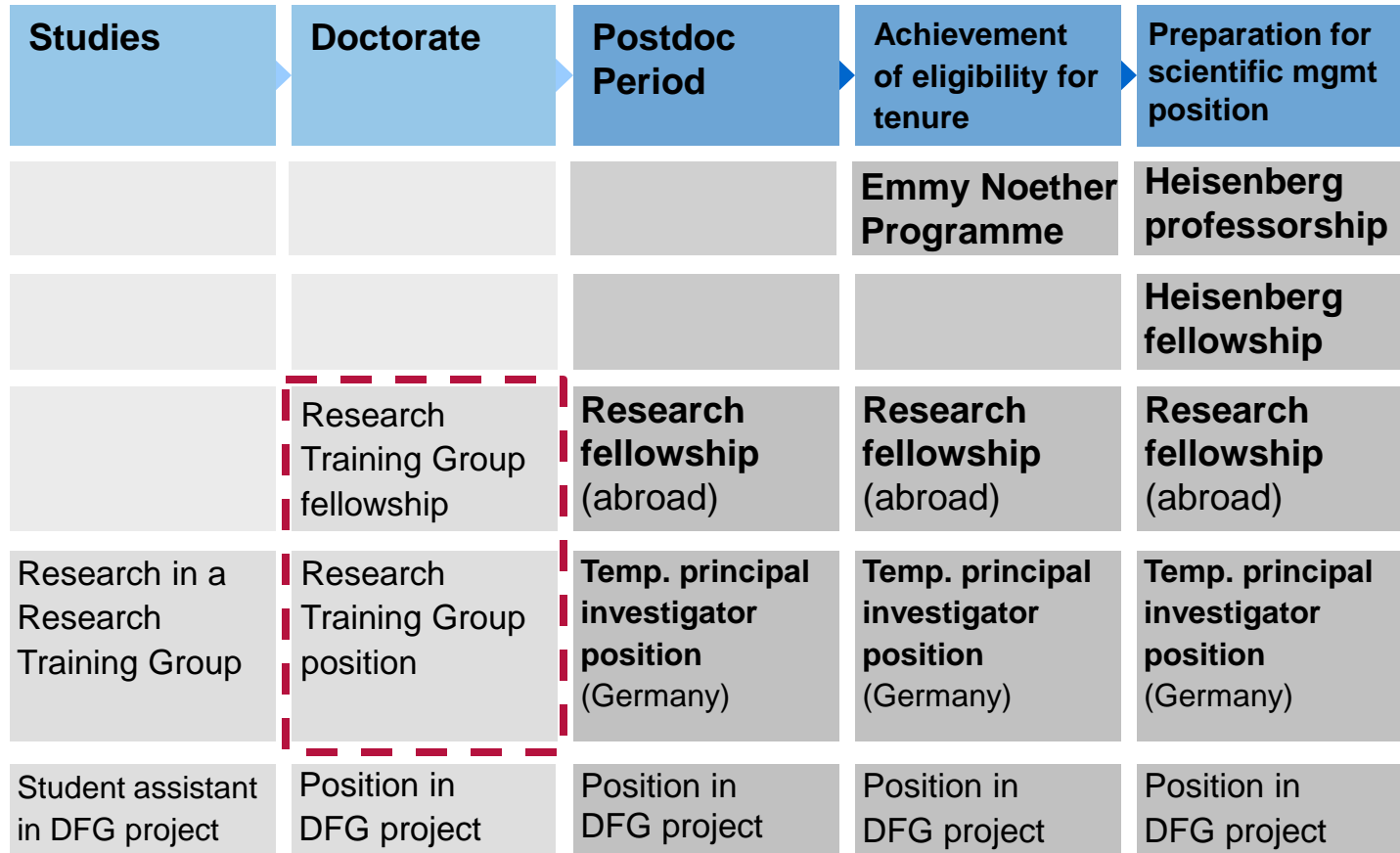
Topics

- ▶ DFG – ist profile and function?
- ▶ **DFG funding programmes**
- ▶ Application and review procedures



The DFG Funding Chain

Appropriate funding options at each career stage



Research Training Groups (RTGs)

Structured PhD training

- ▶ Thematically focussed research (often interdisciplinary)
- ▶ 5-12 faculty; **1-2 Postdocs**,
12-24 doctoral candidates; selected undergrads
- ▶ Established at scientific centres of excellence
- ▶ Tailored study programme
- ▶ Summer schools, conferences, guest lecturers
- ▶ Supervisory team, mentoring programme
- ▶ Large scope for students' initiatives



Research Training Groups (RTGs)

Share your experience as a Postdoc

- ▶ Who? Postdocs
- ▶ Where? At a German university
- ▶ How long? Max. 2 years
- ▶ How much? Fellowship (approx. € 17.000 p.a.) or position (approx. € 40.000 p.a)
Consumables, travel, allowances
- ▶ How to apply? To the RTG
(list of of RTGs: www.dfg.de/gk)



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... several thousand positions
for younger researchers
in DFG funded projects

- ▶ **Individual Grants Programme:** the most flexible funding programme
- ▶ **Research unit:** up to 10 connected research grants with a shared overall goal; groups concentrated at one location or at different locations; vehicle for intensive medium-term cooperation (up to 6 years)
- ▶ **Priority programme:** national call for proposals within an '*emerging field*' of research; ~20-25 projects; groups distributed nationwide, up to 6 years
- ▶ **Collaborative research centre:** 10 to >20 research projects; long-term (up to 12 years) university research centres with the goal of joint interdisciplinary research; usually concentrated at one location
- ▶ **Graduate Schools / Excellence Centers:** Internationally visible and competitive research and training institutions funded by the Excellence Initiative

Scientific Collaborator in a Research Project

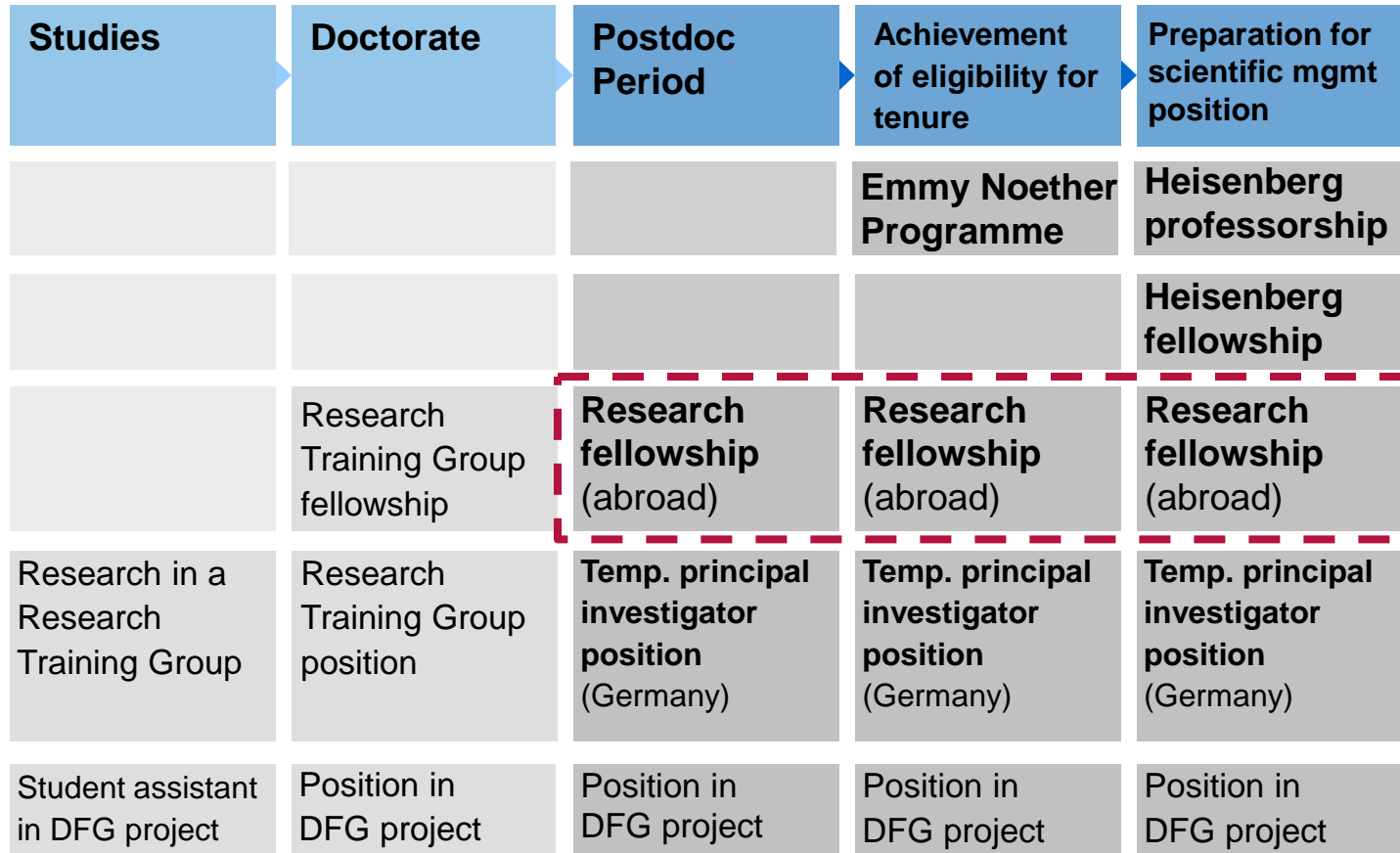
Shared work, shared responsibility

- ▶ Who? PhD students and Postdocs
- ▶ Where? At a German research institute
- ▶ How long? Depends on project duration
- ▶ How much? Salaried position
Share of consumables,
personnel, equipment
- ▶ How to apply? Announcement of positions by PIs



The DFG Funding Chain

Appropriate funding options at each career stage



Research Fellowship

Go abroad, get special methodological training, complete a larger project

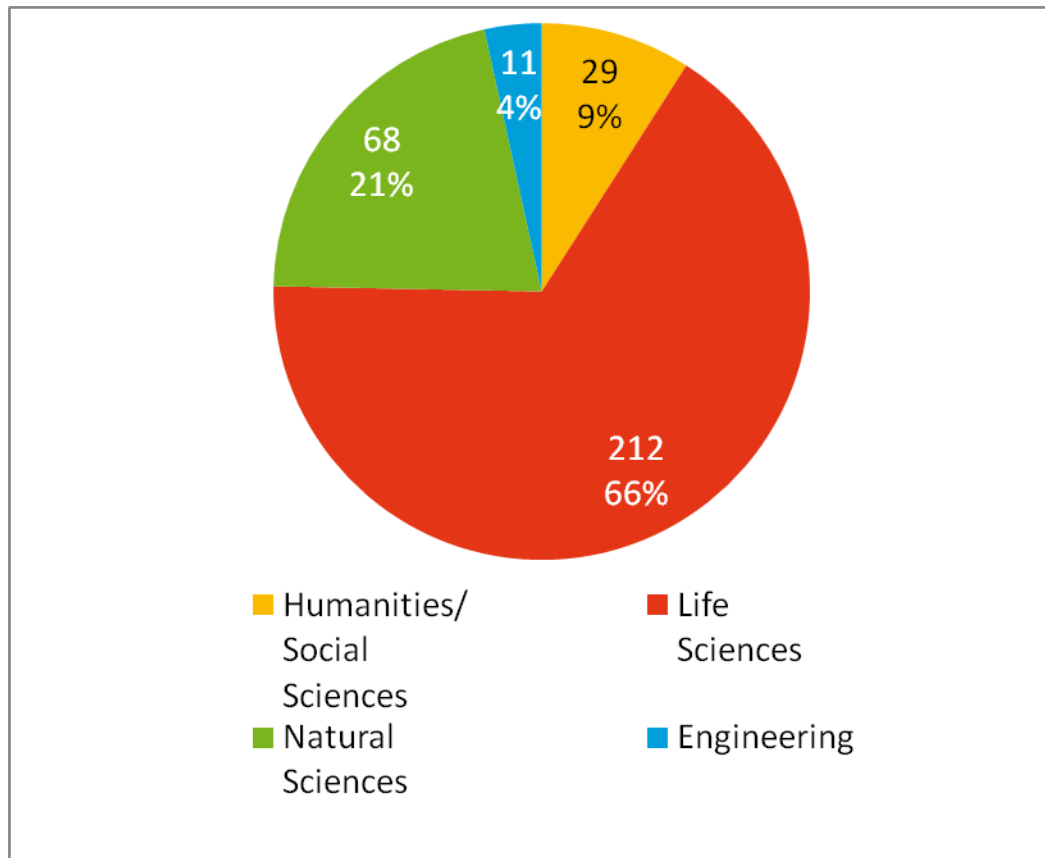


- ▶ To carry out a clearly defined research project at a place of their choice **abroad**
- ▶ To acquaint oneself with new scientific research methods in the context of a research project
- ▶ International researchers are eligible
 - ▶ provided they have been resident in Germany for several years and have completed at least three years of scientific work as a doctoral or postdoctoral researcher in the German research system and
 - ▶ state that they wish to continue to pursue their research in Germany in the future.

Research Fellowship

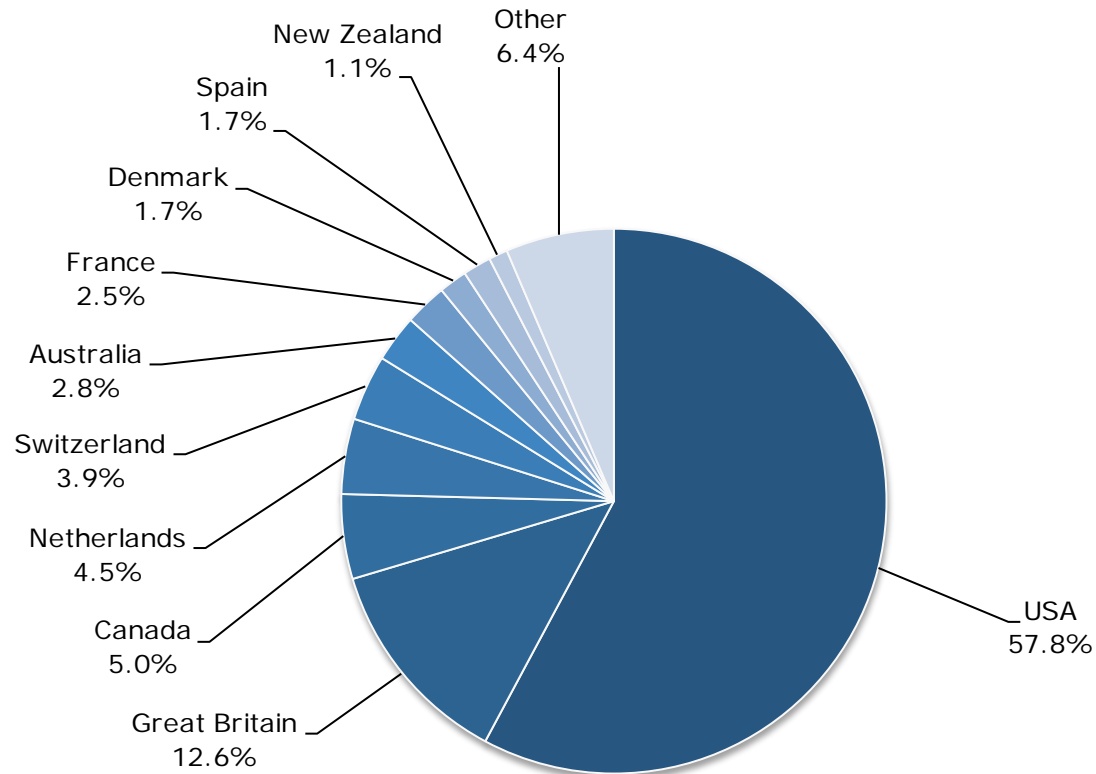
- ▶ **Who?** Postdocs (integrated in the German system)
- ▶ **Where?** Abroad
- ▶ **How long?** max. 2 years
- ▶ **How much?** Basic fellowship (approx. € 17.000 p.a.), Allowances, Travel, Return stipend (up to 6 months)
- ▶ **How to apply?** To the DFG
- ▶ **Criteria?** scientific vita of the applicant
originality of the research project
reputation of hosting lab

Number of research fellowships awarded in 2010, by scientific discipline



Based on: New proposals (not including return grants)

Destinations of DFG-funded postdoctoral fellows in 2010



The DFG Funding Chain

Appropriate funding options at each career stage

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Individual Grants Programme

The classical DFG grant

- ▶ research project at a German research institution
- ▶ the most flexible grant program
- ▶ no age limit, no deadlines
- ▶ up to 6 years of funding per project (e.g. 2 x 3)
- ▶ covers personnel, consumables, travel costs, lab equipment, publication costs

Promotion of young researchers

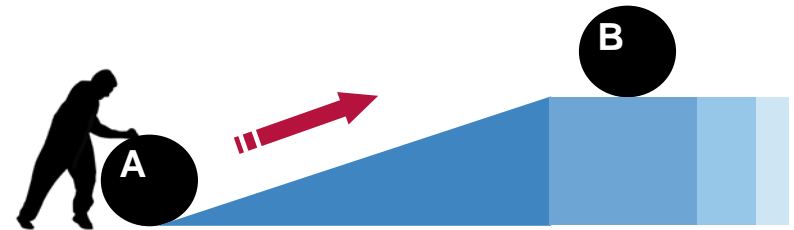
- ▶ DFG-label „Erstantrag“ (first-time application)
- ▶ Temporary Position as a Principal Investigator

Individual Grants Programme

First-time application – “DFG-Erstantrag”

First-time application

- ▶ Specific labeling of first time applications in the individual grants programme
- ▶ Major evaluation criteria:
 - ➔ Quality of the proposed project
 - ➔ Applicant’s qualification in relation to career stage and scientific potential
- ▶ Applicant’s scientific achievements need not necessarily be project-specific

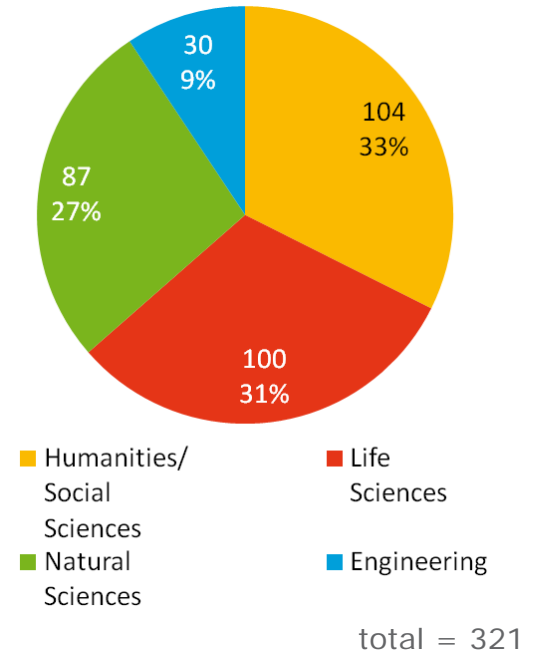


Individual Grants Programme

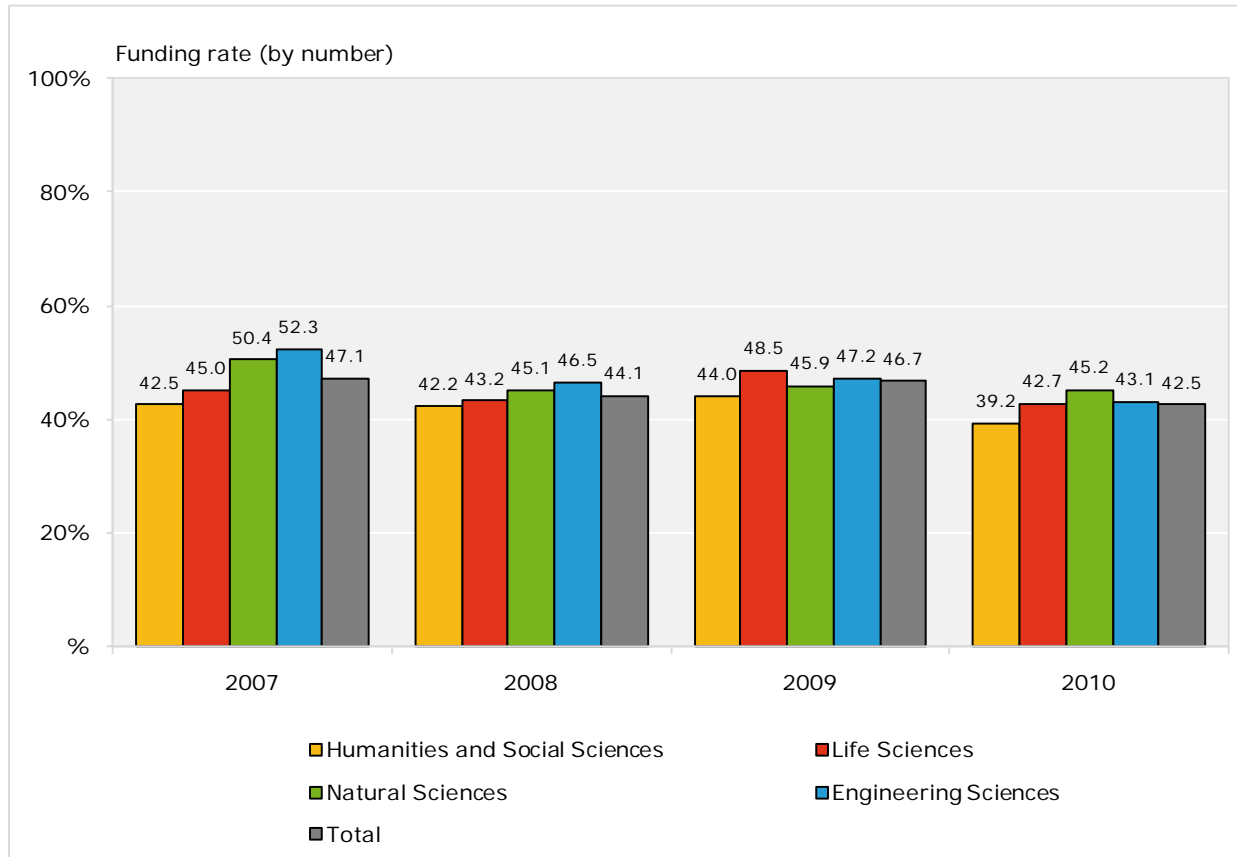
Temporary Position as a Principal Investigator

→ Select your own research environment

- ▶ **Who?** Postdocs
- ▶ **Where?** At a German research institute (host becomes employer)
- ▶ **How long?** max. 3 years
- ▶ **How much?**
 - Salaried position (TV-L E13)
 - personnel, consumables, travel costs, lab equipment, publication costs
 - applications from non-university-research institutions require 45% of financial participation from their institution



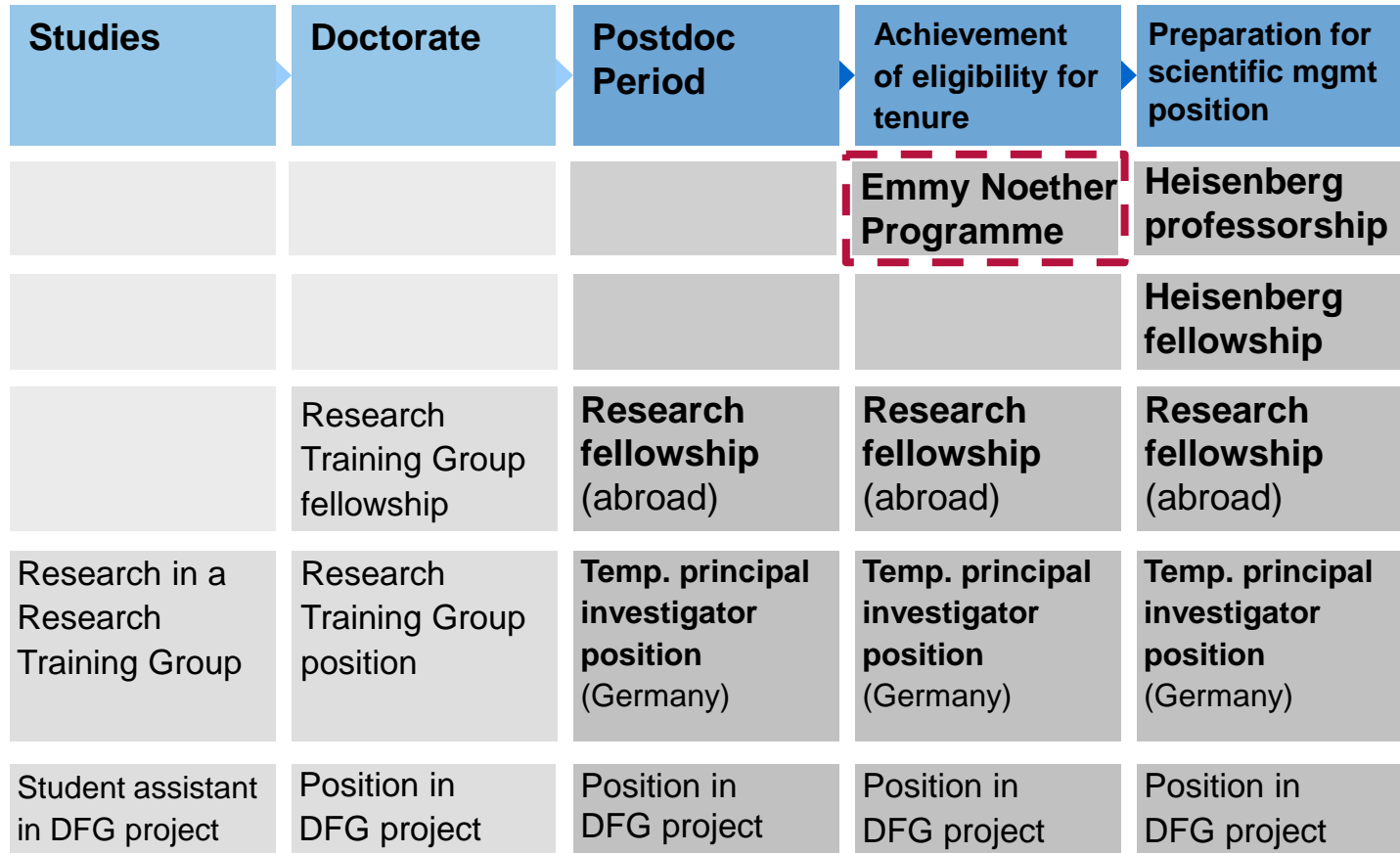
Funding rates* in the individual grants programme by scientific discipline 2007 to 2010 (in %)



* The funding rate (or success rate) was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed. Source: Individual grants (incl. Individual proposals, research fellowships, the Emmy Noether Programme, the Heisenberg Programme and Reinhart Koselleck projects)

The DFG Funding Chain

Appropriate funding options at each career stage



Emmy Noether Programme

Starting an independent research group

- ▶ **Who?**
 - Postdocs (max 4 yrs. after PhD / 6 years after MD)
 - significant international experience
- ▶ **Where?**
 - at a German university or research institute (host becomes employer)
 - option to negotiate with two or more potential host institutions
- ▶ **How long?**
 - 5 years
 - evaluation after 3 years
- ▶ **How much?**
 - own position as research group leader (TV-L E15)
 - additional personnel, consumables, lab equipment, travel costs; publication costs etc.



The DFG Funding Chain

Appropriate funding options at each career stage

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Heisenberg Programme

Pursuing ambitious research while preparing for a tenured professorship

The Heisenberg Fellowship

- ▶ **Who?**
 - researchers with scientific standing sufficient for an appointment as a professor
 - excellent quality and originality of ongoing research
- ▶ **Where?** in Germany and abroad
- ▶ **How long?** max. 5 years (3+2)
- ▶ **How much?**
 - stipend
 - travel allowances
 - publication costs
 - day care allowance, health insurance allowance
 - often combined with individual grant proposal



Heisenberg Programme

Pursuing ambitious research while preparing for a tenured professorship

The Heisenberg Professorship

- ▶ **Who?**
 - researchers with scientific standing sufficient for an appointment as a professor
 - excellent quality and originality of ongoing research
- ▶ **Where?**
 - at a German university
 - participation in the host institution's professorial appointment process
- ▶ **How long?** max. 5 years
- ▶ **How much?**
 - equivalent to the salary of an associate or full professor (W2 or W3)
 - host university must create a position and continue funding for the position from its own budget once the DFG's five-year funding period has expired

Topics

- ▶ What is, what does the DFG?
- ▶ DFG funding programmes
- ▶ **Application and review procedures**



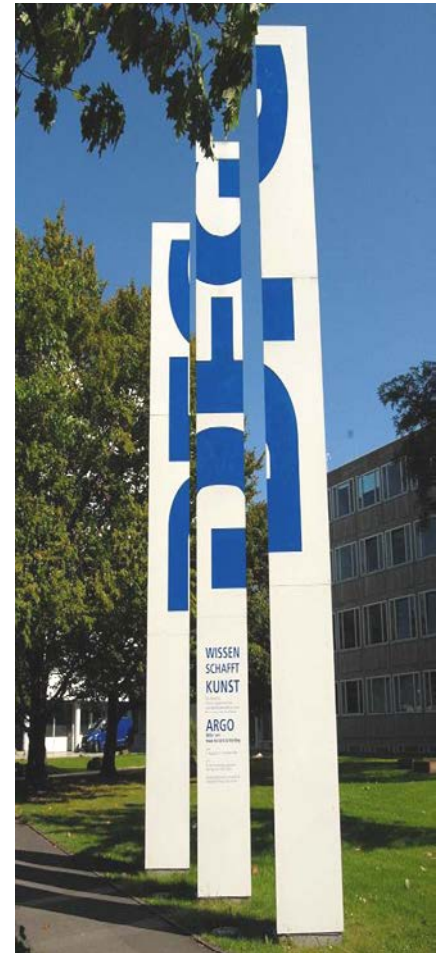
Preparing a grant proposal

- ▶ Prepare and plan your project well
- ▶ Start with smaller projects
- ▶ Read the guidelines carefully
 - All relevant information can be found on **www.dfg.de/en**
 - If you have questions, ask for advice (!)
- ▶ Allow for more time than expected
 - It takes on average 6 months from submission to decision
 - Calculate the time to prepare your proposal generously
- ▶ Consider your proposal from the reviewers' perspective
- ▶ Read the guidelines for reviewers carefully
 - Ask a friend or colleague to read your proposal before submission



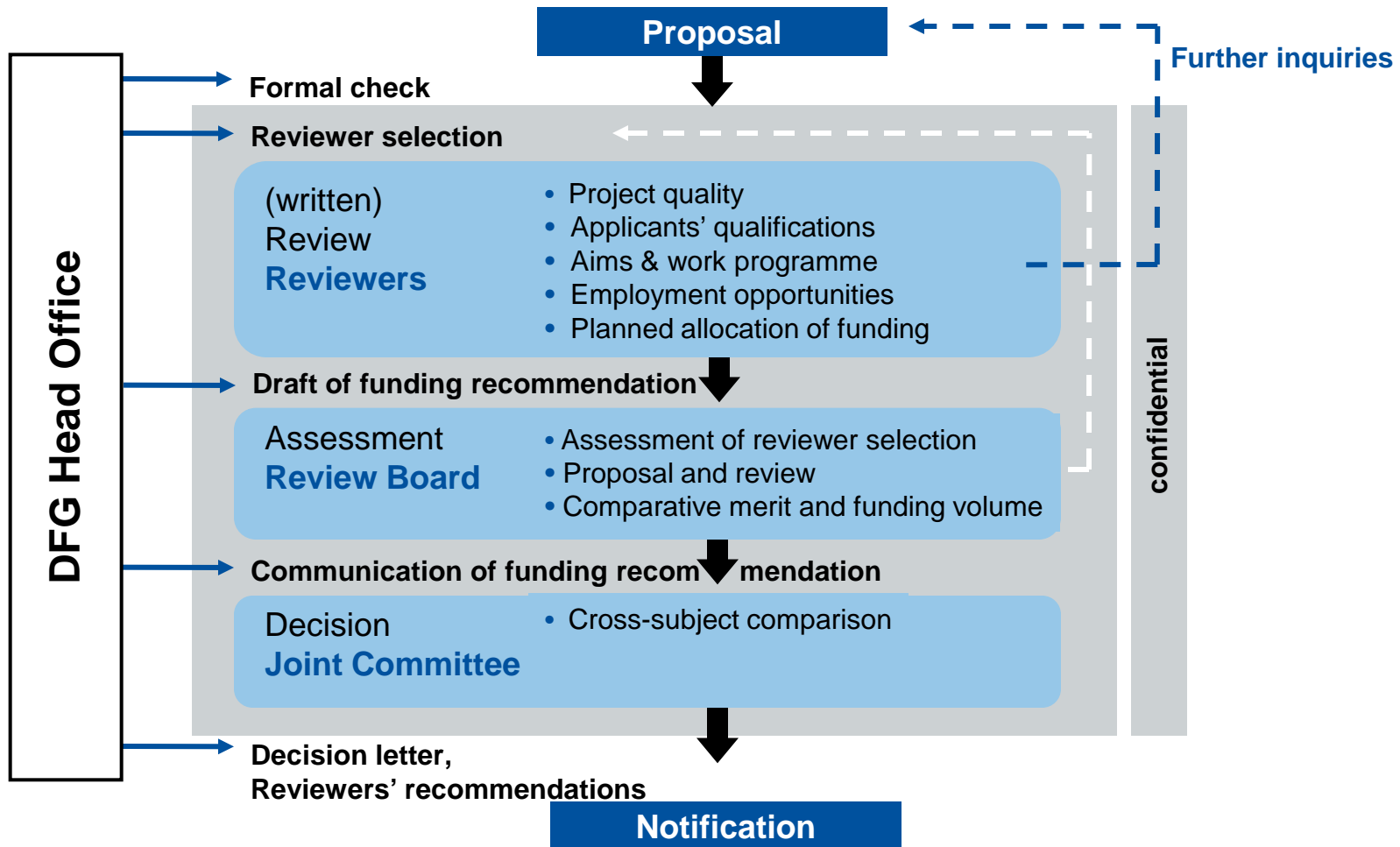
A successful DFG proposal ...

- ▶ is well prepared and refers to preliminary data or existing publications
- ▶ is specific but not lengthy (20 pages max!)
- ▶ is hypothesis driven
- ▶ is not overloaded
- ▶ presents a comprehensible experimental strategy with alternative options
- ▶ marks milestones for the funding period and relates to „bigger“ questions in the field or long-term goals
- ▶ refers in the budget plan to the existing infrastructure
- ▶ provides conclusive justification for requested funds



The review process

Individual grants



If not approved...

- ▶ Don't take reviewers' comments personally!
- ▶ Don't be discouraged!
- ▶ In your grant notification you will find the detailed reasons why your proposal was rejected. Read them carefully, they might give you some pointers for reworking the proposal.
- ▶ Rejected proposals can be resubmitted once they have been adjusted according to the reviewers' comments.



Who ensures scientific merit?

The DFG's review boards

These review boards

- ▶ are elected by **scientists and academics from their respective communities**
- ▶ monitor the selection of reviewers, make recommendations and **comparatively assess all proposals and reviews in the individual grants programme**
- ▶ are involved in **panel reviews for coordinated programmes**
- ▶ ensure that comparable high-quality standards and criteria are applied equally in **all DFG programmes**

There are **48 DFG review boards** with **594 members**.
Review board members act in an honorary capacity.



Fachkollegienwahl 2011

Wissenschaft fachnah gestalten

The Research Careers-Area at www.dfg.de/en

The screenshot shows the DFG website's Research Careers page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'elan', 'Geptris', 'REx', 'DFG Science TV', 'Exin TV', 'Press', 'Contact', 'Sitemap', and 'Deutsch'. The DFG logo and 'Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft' are prominently displayed. Below this is a horizontal menu with 'Research Funding', 'Funded Projects', 'DFG in Profile', and 'DFG MAGAZINE'. A search bar is located below the menu, with the text 'Enter search term' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar is a 'More' section with a link to 'DFG Magazine'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'You are here: Home > Funding > Principles > Research Careers'. The title 'Research Careers' is followed by a paragraph stating that the DFG has identified the education and advancement of young scientists as a priority task. Below this is another paragraph explaining that outstanding science and research need creative people and innovative ideas, and that the DFG's funding programmes place particular emphasis on supporting young researchers. A left sidebar contains a 'Research Funding' section with a list of links: 'Funding Programmes', 'Principles of DFG Funding' (expanded), 'International Cooperation', 'Research Careers' (expanded), 'Student Assistants', 'Doctoral Research Assistants', 'Research Assistants', 'Equal Opportunities', 'Diversity', and 'Knowledge Transfer'. A vertical navigation bar on the right side of the page contains icons for 'A A A' and a search icon.

Adresse http://wwwneu.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_funding/research_careers/index.html

[elan](#) | [Geptris](#) | [REx](#) | [DFG Science TV](#) | [Exin TV](#) | [Press](#) | [Contact](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Deutsch](#)

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Research Funding | **Funded Projects** | DFG in Profile | **DFG MAGAZINE**

Enter search term → Extended Search

Research Funding

- Funding Programmes
- ▾ **Principles of DFG Funding**
 - International Cooperation
 - **Research Careers**
 - Student Assistants
 - Doctoral Research Assistants
 - Research Assistants
 - Equal Opportunities
 - Diversity
 - Knowledge Transfer

You are here: Home > Funding > Principles > Research Careers

Research Careers

The DFG has identified the education and advancement of young scientists and academics as one of its priority tasks.

Outstanding science and research need creative people and innovative ideas. This is why the DFG's funding programmes places particular emphasis on supporting young researchers. Based on academic excellence, flexible funding instruments are tailored to meet the specific needs of young scientists and academics, thereby enabling them to pursue their research careers.

More

The online edition of the DFG Magazine provides additional information on research careers.

→ [DFG Magazine](#)

The Web-Area „My First Proposal“ at www.dfg.de

- ▶ new at www.dfg.de :

web-area „your first proposal“

useful tips and tricks for writing a grant proposal

- ▶ If you have general questions about funding opportunities at DFG:
email to: info-nachwuchs@dfg.de





DFG

Thank you for your attention

For more information

- ▶ on the DFG: www.dfg.de/en/
- ▶ on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris/
- ▶ on over 17,000 German research institutes: www.dfg.de/research_explorer/

