
Science Policy News

The Federal Republic of Germany: The Annual Report for 1988 of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association)

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) serves science in all fields by financing research projects. In many scientific areas, the DFG has taken over the task of strengthening cooperation among scientists and coordinating basic research through public support. The DFG advises public authorities and legislative bodies on scientific matters, furthers relations between the scientific and economic communities and promotes cooperation between German and foreign scientists. Special consideration is given to promoting the work of young scientists.

In 1988, the DFG had DM 1,122.8 million at its disposal, an increase of DM 36 million (3.3%) over 1987. Of this sum, the Federal Government provided DM 680.2 million and the Länder (state governments) DM 435.3 million. DM 4.7 million came from various foundations, DM 2.8 million from the DFG's own income, and DM 0.4 million from accrued funds.

In 1988, the DFG distributed DM 1,040 million in grants among four academic fields: 15.2% for the humanities and social sciences, 34.0% for the biomedical sciences, 27.3% for the natural sciences, and 23.5% for the engineering sciences.

DFG funds are primarily used to finance university research. The *biomedical sciences* were granted a total of DM 353.4 million. 1,632 *individual projects* received DM 172.2 million, 233 projects in 32 *priority programs* DM 32.7 million, 57 *special collaborative programs* DM 125.0 million and one *central research facility* DM 0.2 million.

The DFG runs a number of different programs designed to support young scientists. In 1988, 560 *fellowships* (DM 29.4 million) were awarded for research, training or

habilitation (qualification for faculty position). Fellowships (103 in total) under the *Heisenberg Program* for the support of young scientists by the provision of salaried positions received DM 20.7 million. In 1985, the DFG introduced the *post-doctoral program* with the help of special funds from the Federal Government. From these funds, 239 scholarships (DM 14.5 million) were granted. For those interested in applying for support, these are the five types of program offered by the DFG:

- The *Normal Procedure*: Promotion of research projects as requested by individuals, financed for one or two years, with extension possible.
- The *Priority Programs*: Financing and coordination of the work of several researchers at different locations for one common project, for up to five years.
- The *Research Units*: A small group of scientists working on one project at the same location can be supported for up to five years.
- The *Special Collaborative Programs*: These are long-term research arrangements at universities where scientists from different fields collaborate in a joint research program. These programs must be approved by the Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat).
- The *Central Research Facilities*: Central installations open to all scientists. Sponsorship by third parties is desired.

For further information contact:

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
Kennedyallee 40
Postfach 20 50 04
D-5300 Bonn 2
Federal Republic of Germany

Sweden: Extracts from a Report by the Swedish Medical Research Council for 1988/89 submitted to the Organization of European Medical Research Councils by the Secretary, Prof. Henry Danielsson, Stockholm

The total expenditure on research and development in Sweden is at present just above 3% of the GNP. Industry, of which more than 90% is privately owned, accounts for about two thirds of the total, the remaining one third being financed by the government. Public support is primarily devoted to the support of basic and some applied research, while industrial support is di-

rected at development. In the fiscal year ending 30 June, 1989, total public support of research and development amounted to SEK 12.9 billion (about US-\$ 2 billion). Support of medical research accounted for about 18% of this amount.

The Swedish Medical Research Council controls a little more than 10% of the total public funding of medical

research. About 70% of the total is channeled directly to university medical institutions and teaching. The budget of the Council was SEK 235 million for the fiscal year 1989 and will increase to SEK 250 million for the fiscal year 1990. About two thirds of the funds available to the Council are used for the support of about 700 research projects (technical personnel and expendable supplies), and about 20% for salaries in research positions. The remaining funds are used for a number of different purposes including Swedish participation in the International Agency for Research on Cancer (Lyon, France) and the Fourth Medical and Health Research Program of the European Economic Community.

In 1988 the Council decided to encourage the introduction of new technologies, primarily from immunology and molecular biology, into clinical research. About SEK 5 million were provided as additional grants for this project. A second initiative deals with research on the care of the elderly, which will reach the stage of concrete projects by the end of 1989. A third initiative deals with the possible effects on health of amalgam tooth fillings. Perhaps more so than in any other country, this is a very

hotly debated issue in Sweden. There have been several motions during the present session of parliament to forbid the use of amalgam for filling cavities. Parliament decided to reject these motions but deemed more research necessary, research that should be initiated by the Council.

Problems related to the allocation of resources for the purchase of scientific equipment have been noted by the government, which ten years ago created a special fund within the frame of the research councils for this purpose. At present, the councils dispose of SEK 103 million per year, and the universities in addition receive SEK 140 million for the purchase of equipment. These funds can be used only for specific purposes such as investment in computer hardware, but not for the replacement of outworn or outdated equipment. Including SEK 140 million from the Waalenberg Foundation and SEK 200 million from commercial banks, a total of SEK 600 million has been available each year since 1989, but this sum has not been sufficient to cover the needs. Problems will arise when donations from the banks cease in 1990.