
Science Policy News

The German Federal Republic: Annual Report for 1990 of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG; German Research Association)

The DFG serves science in all fields by financing research projects. In many scientific areas, the DFG has the task of strengthening cooperation among researchers and coordinating basic research with the help of state funds. Special attention is paid to promoting young scientists. In 1990, the DFG had DM 1210 million at its disposal. Of this sum, the Federal Government provided DM 738 million and the Länder (states) DM 474 million, DM 4.8 million came from foundations and 3.3 million from the DFG's own resources. The following categories of support are now available:

- *Individual Grants Program*: Research projects requested by individual researchers. These projects are financed for one to two years, with extension possible.
 - *Priority Programs*: Coordination of the work of several researchers at different locations on one topic or research project, for a period of up to five years.
 - *Research Units*: A small group of scientists working on one subject in the same institution, supported for a maximum of five years.
 - *Central Research Facilities*: Central installations of research open to all. Sponsorship by third parties desired.
 - *Collaborative Research Centers*: Long-term research institutions of universities where scientists of various disciplines cooperate in the framework of a research program concerning interrelating fields.
 - *Graduate Colleges*: Instituted at universities for the promotion of young scientists at pre-doctoral level.
- Of the DM 1178 million granted in 1990, the humanities and social sciences received 14.8%, the biomedical sciences 34.9%, the natural sciences 25.1% and the engineering sciences 25.2%. Of the total sum granted, 75.7% went to personnel costs and fellowships, and 24.3% to material costs and travel expenses.

Distribution of grants by categories:

- *Individual Grants Program*: 4806 research projects were supported with a total of DM 557 million. 983 applications were rejected.

- *Travel Grants*: 4294 applications were accepted, and DM 8.8 million assigned.
- 629 Young scientists were awarded *fellowships for research, training or habilitation* with the sum of DM 35.5 million.
- The *printing of scientific publications* was assisted by grants totalling DM 5.6 million.
- *Priority Programs*: 1616 research projects were financed within 112 Priority Programs with DM 210.4 million. 229 applications were rejected.
- *Research Units*: 53 such units were granted DM 25.0 million.
- *Central Research Facilities*: 6 Facilities received DM 16.5 million.
- *Collaborative Research Centers*: 170 Centers received DM 368.0 million.
- 56 *Graduate Colleges* were provided with DM 55.6 million for a period of three years.
- In the *Heisenberg Program* for the promotion of young scientists 84 fellowships (including prolongations) were granted DM 18.8 million.
- Within the *Post-Doctoral Program* supported by special funds from the Federal Government 255 scholarships (DM 15.4 million) were granted.
- Seven young scientists were granted DM 2.6 million under the *Gerhard-Hess Program*, financed by the 'Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft'.

Those interested in applying to these programs should contact:

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