



DFG

Participation in collaborative projects | Coordinated programmes | ExStra

Possibilities for Emmy Noether group leaders

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- 2 | Advantages and opportunities of participating in collaborative projects
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1 | Key features of collaborative research projects

- ▶ Collaboration of several researchers with a common topic
- ▶ Cooperation (interdisciplinary)
- ▶ Outstanding in international comparison
- ▶ Programme-specific purposes:
 - Medium-term, **close collaboration** (FOR)
 - Give clear **impetus** to the advancement of science and the humanities through coordinated multi-location funding for **important new topics** (SPP)
 - **qualify doctoral researchers** within the framework of a focused research programme and a structured training and supervision strategy (RTG, GRK)
 - Enable **research topic-oriented structural development** and institutional priority area development at one or several universities (SFB, SFB/Transregio, EXC)
- ▶ Funding: staff and direct project costs

1 | Key features of collaborative research projects

Funding criteria for individual projects versus collaborative projects

- ▶ Quality of the project
- ▶ Objectives and work programme
- ▶ Applicant's qualification
- ▶ Work and research environment

Additional for collaborative projects

- ▶ Quality and added value of the cooperation
- ▶ Group composition
- ▶ Equal opportunity and diversity measures
- ▶ Support of early career researchers
- ▶ *Programme specific criteria...*



2 | Advantages of participating in collaborative projects

- ▶ National and international networking and visibility
- ▶ Interdisciplinary environment and excellent infrastructure
- ▶ Central funding for e.g.
 - Seminars, colloquia, joint activities such as retreats,
 - Guest researchers, Mercator Fellows
 - Equipment, consumables
 - Public relations, science communication
 - Equal opportunity measures
 - Module Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians
- ▶ Opportunity to further develop your scientific profile with a new topic

2 | Opportunities of participating in collaborative projects

With the proposal submission

- ▶ As a project leader / participating researcher
- ▶ In the program committee of Priority Programmes

During the collaborative project's runtime

- ▶ FOR/SPP: Emmy Noether groups can be associated (no supplemental proposal)
- ▶ SFB/GRK: supplemental proposal (consultation with the head office)
- ▶ EXC/FZT: more flexible, (no sub-project-structure and thereby no limitation to the duration of a funding period)

3 | DFG coordinated programmes

Overview

www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/programmes/coordinated-programmes

Coordinated programmes

- ▶ Research Units (FOR), clinical research units (KFO), Centres for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (Kolleg-FOR)
- ▶ Priority programmes (SPP)
- ▶ Research Training Groups (RTG or GRK)
- ▶ Collaborative Research Centres (SFB and SFB/Transregio)
- ▶ Clusters of Excellence (EXC)
- ▶ Research Impulses (FIP)
- ▶ DFG Research Centres (FZT)

3 | DFG Research Units (Forschungsgruppen, FOR)

Close collaboration on a common research topic

www.dfg.de/for/en

Purpose

- ▶ Close cooperation of a team of outstanding researchers with a common research goal that goes beyond the possibilities of individual funding

Features and scope

- ▶ Medium size: single-digit number of individual projects (and PIs)
- ▶ Localized or distributed
- ▶ Funding duration: 2 x 4 years



3 | DFG Research Units (Forschungsgruppen, FOR)

Close collaboration on a common research topic

www.dfg.de/for/en

Two-stage application process

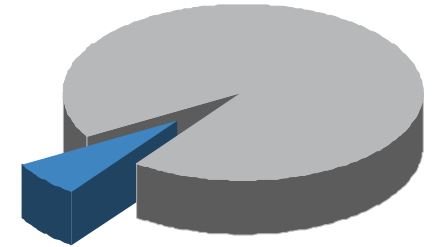
- ▶ Draft proposals are evaluated by the review board on a comparative basis
- ▶ Full proposals reviewed on site and decided in the joint committee

Eligibility

- ▶ DFG's basic rules on eligibility apply; possibility to include sub-projects abroad
- ▶ Spokesperson: highly qualified, management skills, experience in leading projects

Special forms

- ▶ Clinical research units (KFO)
- ▶ Centres for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences



5,8% Share of total approval volume 2023

3 | Clinical research units (Klinische Forschungsgruppen, KFO)

www.dfg.de/kfo/en

Programme-specific purpose

- ▶ Creation and strengthening of research and training structures in university hospitals
- ▶ Building the scientific profile of the medical faculties
- ▶ Intensifying cooperation between clinical and basic science researchers



Special features

- ▶ Only possible at one specific location
- ▶ Research professorship (co-financing and budget commitment by university required)

Special features

- ▶ Only in the humanities and social sciences
- ▶ Broad topic provides a framework for the integration of individual research ideas
- ▶ Collective, no individual sub-projects
- ▶ Fellow programme, research professorship
- ▶ At one specific location

3 | Priority Programmes (Schwerpunktprogramm, SPP)

A topic-oriented funding program with an open call for proposals

www.dfg.de/spp/en

Purpose

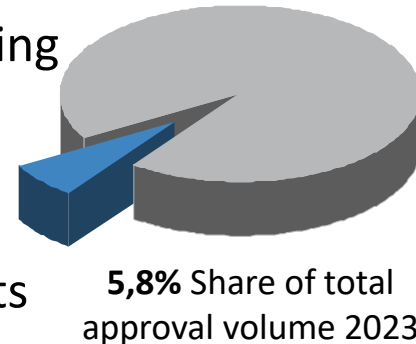
- ▶ Handling of topics that are expected to have a formative impact
- ▶ Impact can be achieved both by discovering new areas of research and also by rethinking known areas

Features and scope

- ▶ Funding period: generally 2 x 3 years; per period around 10 -14 distributed sub-projects

Requirements for a priority programme

- ▶ Promotes collaboration between disciplines and locations (networking)
- ▶ Synergy: Concepts and tools for organising collaboration
- ▶ Concepts for promoting early career researchers, equal opportunities and diversity
- ▶ Qualification of the coordinator



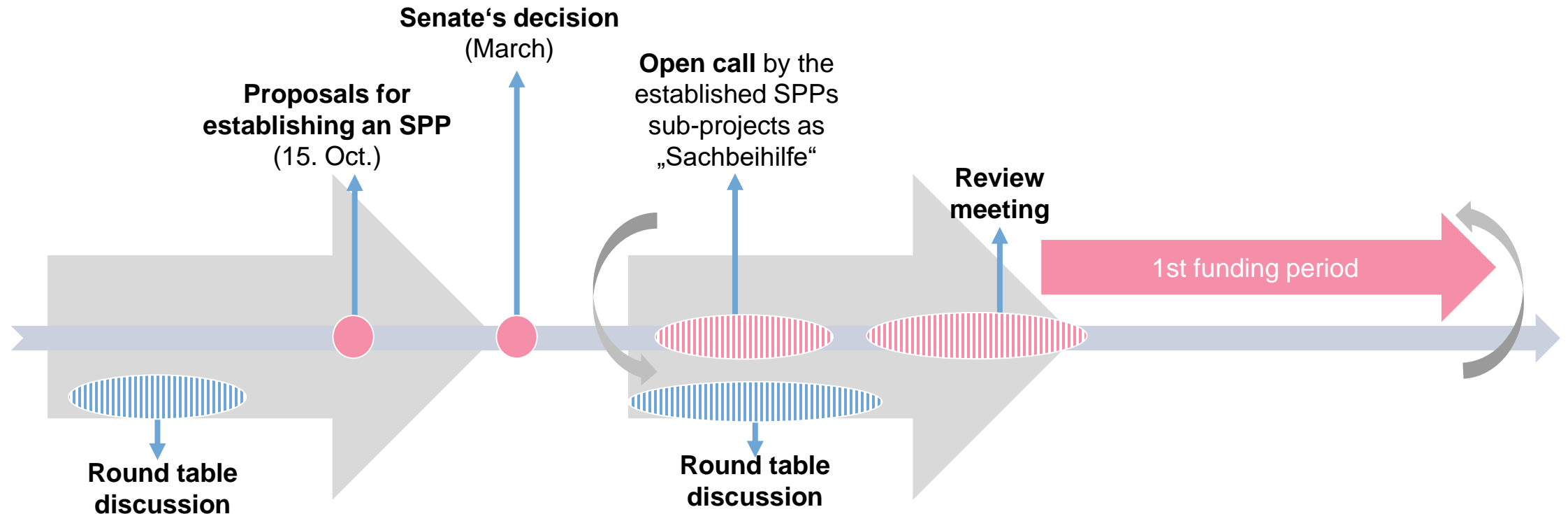
3 | Priority Programmes (Schwerpunktprogramm, SPP)

A topic-oriented funding program with an open call for proposals

www.dfg.de/spp/en

Two-stage application process

1st stage: Establishment by coordinator; 2nd stage: Open call by established SPP



3 | Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkolleg, GRK)

Promoting early career researchers

www.dfg.de/gk/en

Purpose

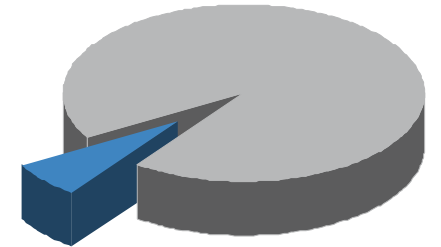
- ▶ Qualification of doctoral researchers within a thematically focused research programme and a tailored supervision/training strategy

Features and scope

- ▶ Ca. 10 PIs at one location (participation of ECR is expected!)
- ▶ Funding duration: 5+4 years
- ▶ No sub-projects, management structure depends on the GRK
- ▶ Funding for 24-45 doctoral researchers (e.g. 3 x 10) + central budget (highly flexible), ca. 1-2 Mio Euros/year

Eligibility

- ▶ PI: contract duration for at least one cohort, right to supervise PhD researchers
- ▶ Spokesperson: full professor, highly qualified, management skills, supervision experience



7,3% Share of total approval volume 2023

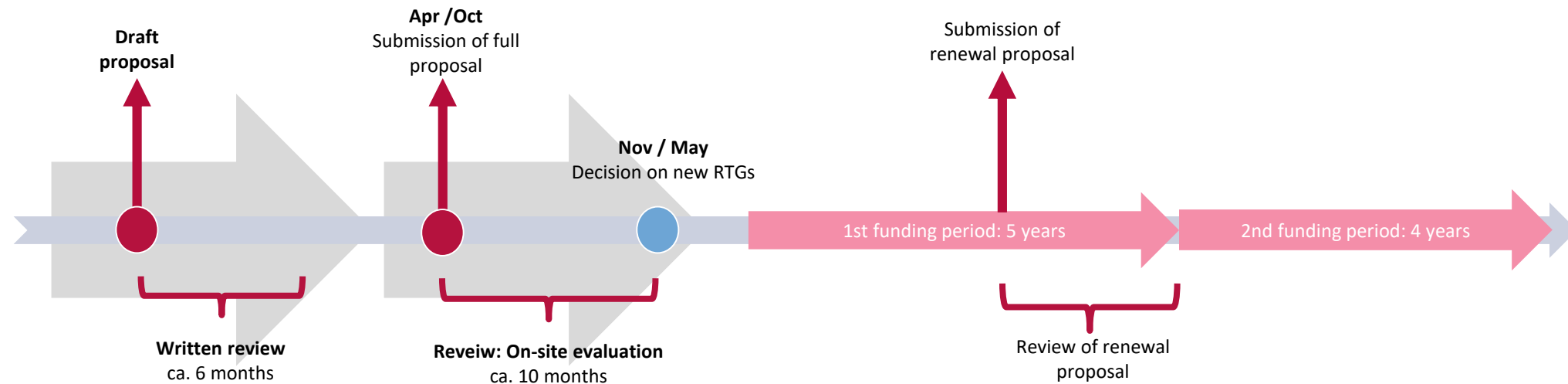
3 | Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkolleg, GRK)

Promoting early career researchers

www.dfg.de/gk/en

Two-stage review process

- ▶ draft proposal + full proposal (+ renewal for a second funding period)
- ▶ Application by usually one university



Special form: International Research Training Group

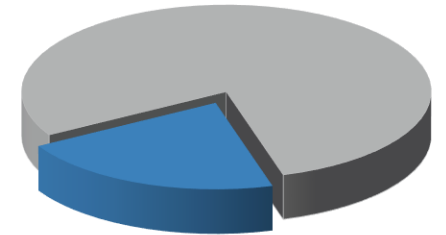
- ▶ Close collaboration of one German university and one abroad (RTG funding only for German part)

3 | Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereiche, SFB)

Features and scope

www.dfg.de/sfb/en

- ▶ Research centres running up to **12 years** (3 x 4 years)
- ▶ Free choice of hot topics by scientists (**bottom up** approach)
- ▶ Overarching, **long-term** research question and **interdisciplinary** scope
- ▶ In addition, CRCs aim at **strengthening the research profile of the universities**
- ▶ SFB with one main university site or SFB/Transregio with 2-3 universities
- ▶ Participation from other universities and non-university institutions possible
- ▶ **Application by universities (two phases: (1) online consultation phase, (2) on site evaluation)**
- ▶ **Coherence:** close cooperation between the projects and PIs necessary (**added value**)
- ▶ Organized in subprojects: approx. 15 to 25 scientific subprojects; service projects and structural projects (Integrated research school, data management, public outreach)



23,5% Share of total approval volume 2023

3 | Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereiche, SFB)

www.dfg.de/sfb/en

Funding by the DFG encompasses:

- ▶ Research **staff** and non-research staff (PhD, postdocs, technicians, data steward, coordination, student assistants)
- ▶ **Direct project costs** (consumables, small equipment, clean room costs, instrumentation)

- ▶ **Central administrative project:** highly flexible management of funds
 - Funding of travel costs, visiting scientists, retreats, workshops, coordination
 - **Lump sums** for purchase of new equipment, for start-up grants, for public outreach, for data management, equal opportunities
- ▶ **Prerequisite:** applicant universities provide adequate **basic funding**
 - own position paid by basic funding of university, alternatively funding from other sources like Heisenberg Programme, **Emmy Noether Programme**, ERC, EXC

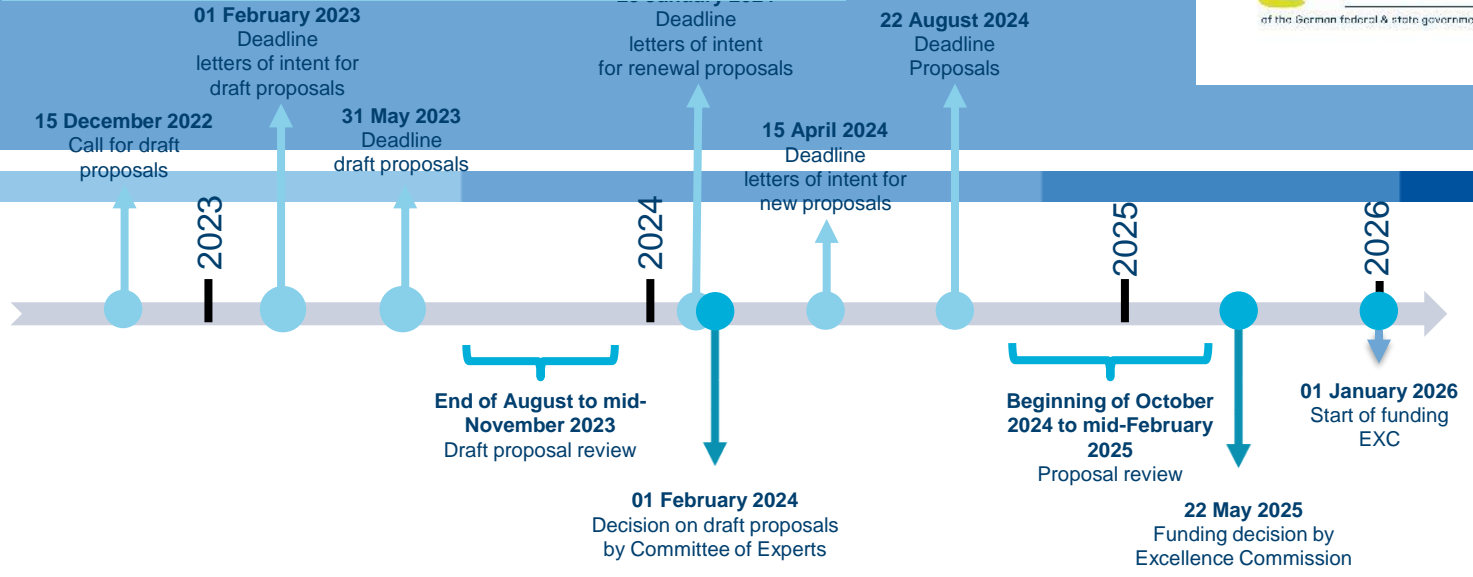
3 | Excellence Strategy of the German federal & state governments

www.dfg.de/excellence_strategy

- ▶ Excellence strategy, first funding period (2019 bis 2025)
 - € 533 million per year for 2 funding lines – Clusters of Excellence (EXC) and Universities of Excellence (evaluated by the WR)
 - **Currently 57 EXC funded** and 11 Universities of Excellence
 - [DFG, German Research Foundation - Excellence Strategy](#)

- ▶ **Excellence strategy, second funding period (2026 bis 2032)**
 - € 687 million per year for 2 funding lines
 - Up to 70 Clusters of Excellence and up to 15 Universities of Excellence
 - [exstra-zeitplan-2-wettbewerbsphase-en-data.pdf \(dfg.de\)](#)
 - [DFG, German Research Foundation - Programme Information – Clusters of Excellence \(EXC\) and Universities of Excellence \(EXU\)](#)

Clusters of Excellence funding line



Universities of Excellence funding line

Legend

- = Clusters of Excellence (EXC) funding line
- = New proposals – Universities of Excellence (EXU) funding line
- = Evaluation – Universities of Excellence (EXU) funding line



3 | Clusters of Excellence (Exzellenzcluster, EXC)

Features and scope

www.dfg.de/excellence_strategy

- ▶ Project-based funding of **internationally competitive research** fields in universities and university consortium
- ▶ Promotion of scientific excellence, **strengthening of universities** (applicants)
- ▶ Long-term collaborations with a common overarching research question
- ▶ Free choice of topic, usually **interdisciplinary** in design
- ▶ Funding period of **seven years** (+ a further 7 years)
- ▶ Scope of funding: 3-10 million € per year
- ▶ Cooperation possible with e.g. other universities, non-university institutions, private industry and other areas of society
- ▶ Funding covers personnel, direct project costs and instrumentation
- ▶ Funds often used for **additional professorships** and **heads of independent junior research groups** (less funding of subprojects as in SFB): So watch out for advertisements or contact the EXC on own initiative (**May 2025**)

3 | Research Impulses (Forschungsimpulse, FIP)

Thematically open, knowledge-driven collaborative research at UAS

Contact: fip@dfg.de

Purpose

- ▶ develop the potential of a research-strong **university of applied sciences** (UAS, HAW/FH)
- ▶ support the **profile development** of UAS, improve conditions for knowledge-driven research in the long term

Features and scope

- ▶ Established by a **university of applied sciences** (UAS, HAW/FH)
- ▶ Funding duration: **5 + 3 years**, volume: max. **1 Mio. € / year** (can be used flexibly)

Two-stage application process

- ▶ Five rounds of calls for proposals (**third call for proposals Q4/2024**)

Requirements for participating as a lead researcher

- ▶ own position from the UAS's core budget for the respective funding period; alternatively funding from other sources possible in exceptional cases (e.g. Heisenberg Programme, Emmy Noether Programme, ERC)

4 | Practical aspects and tips

Change of institution

In Research Units, Priority Programmes & Collaborative Research Center

- ▶ Possibility to take the sub-project with you if you move to another institution in Germany
 - Approval by DFG required

In Research Training Groups

- ▶ Possibility to remain in the RTG as a PI (e.g. through supervision), but funds remain at the establishing university
 - Approval by DFG required

Change to an institution abroad: individual decision (contact DFG head office in advance)

4 | Practical aspects and tips

Contract duration

Requirements concerning your contract duration

- ▶ FOR/SPP: own position secured for most of the duration of the project/funding period
- ▶ GRK: own position secured for at least one PhD cohort (better: for one funding period)
- ▶ SFB: own position secured for the funding period (4 years); CRC can negotiate with university to extend funding
- ▶ **Prospect of a second funding period of the ENP or Tenure Track is sufficient**

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit

Weitere Informationen

- ▶ zur DFG: <http://www.dfg.de>
- ▶ zum Förderatlas: <http://www.dfg.de/foerderatlas>
- ▶ zu allen geförderten Projekten: <http://www.dfg.de/gepris>
- ▶ zu den deutschen Forschungseinrichtungen: <http://research-explorer.de>