

# International Cooperation in DFG programmes: participation and perspectives

## Perspectives of German-Brazilian Co-operation in Research

Dr. Dietrich Halm, Dr. José Carlos de Araújo  
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft  
Bonn / Germany

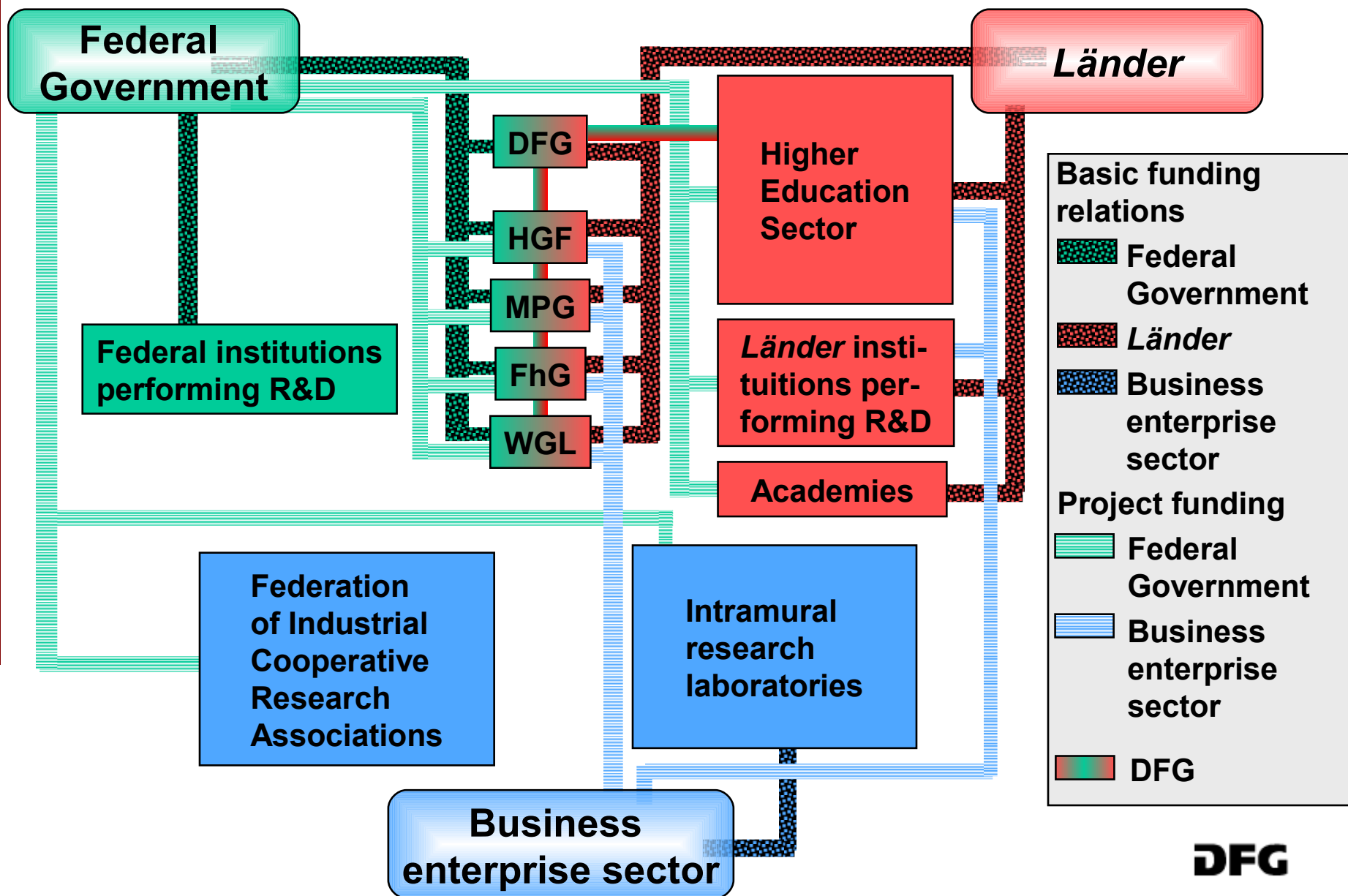


## ...Who We Are and What We Do

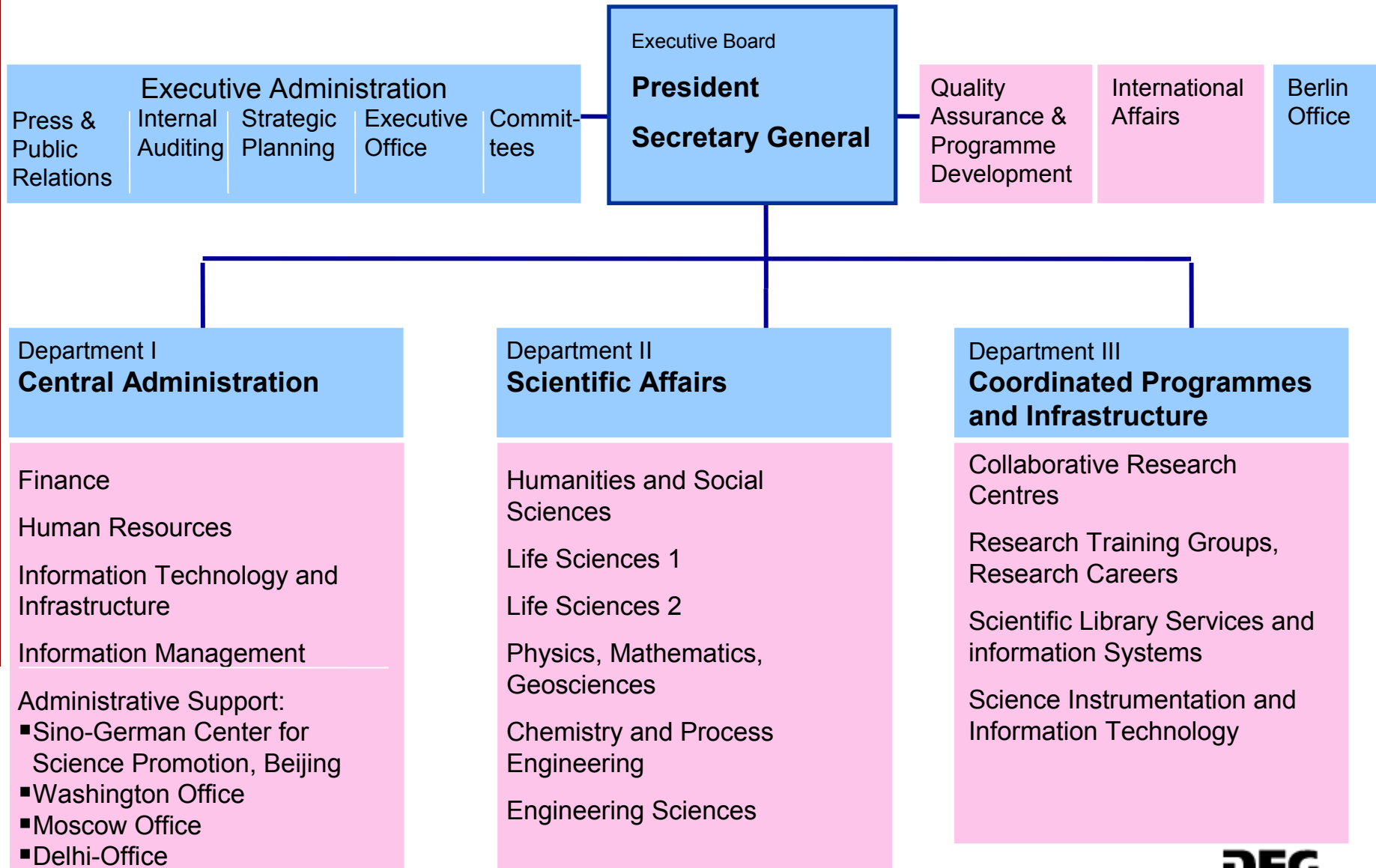


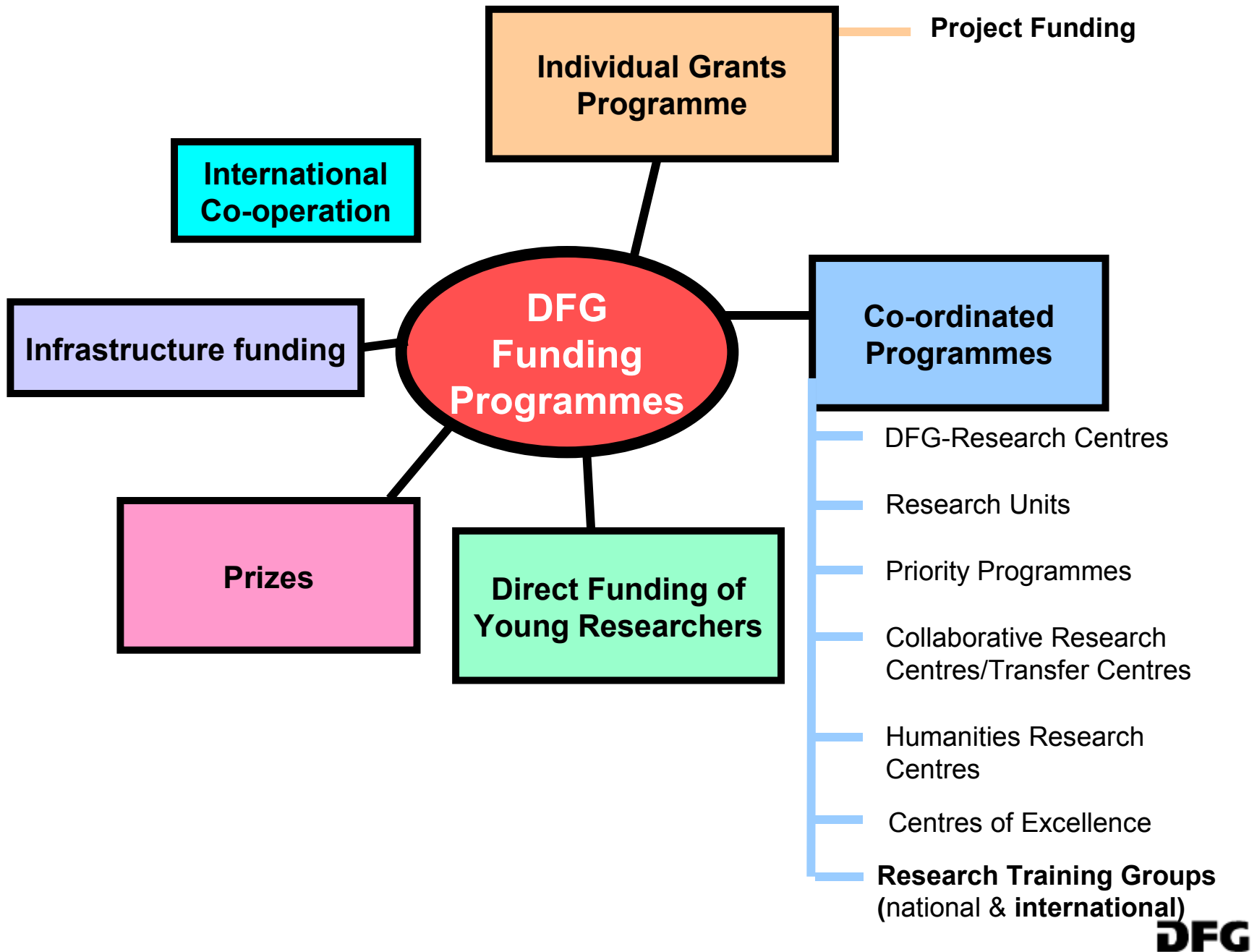
- central public funding organization for academic research in Germany
- promoting academic excellence on a competitive basis
- serving science and the arts in all fields
- advisory activities in politics
- special focus on supporting junior academics
- promoting international research co-operation
- fostering links between science and industry

# Structures of German Research Funding



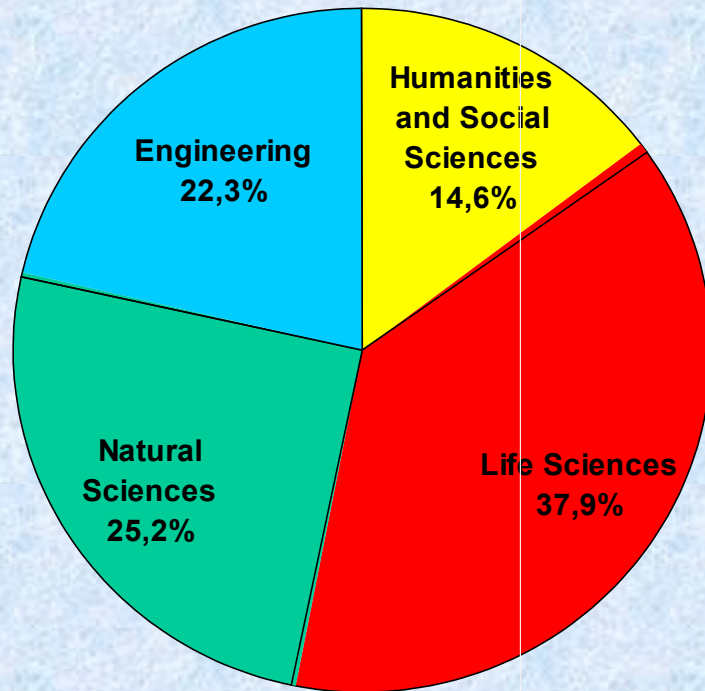
# DFG: Organisation





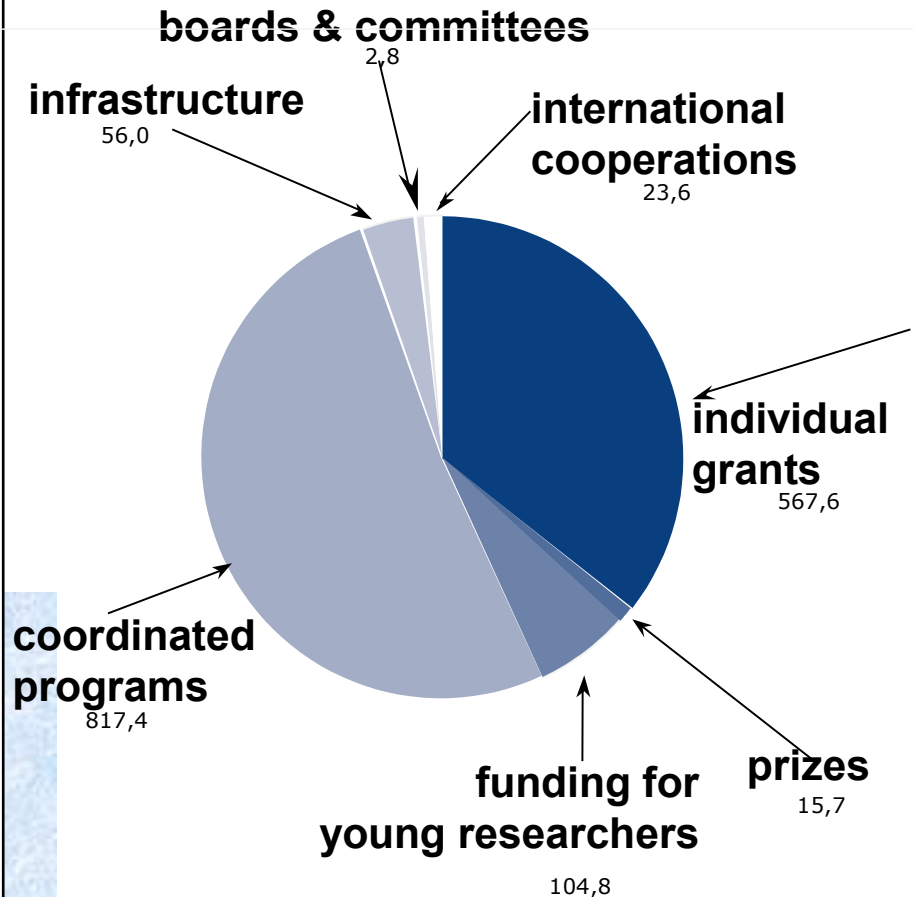
# The DFG: Scientific Fields and Funding Instruments

**Scientific Fields 2006 (in %)\***



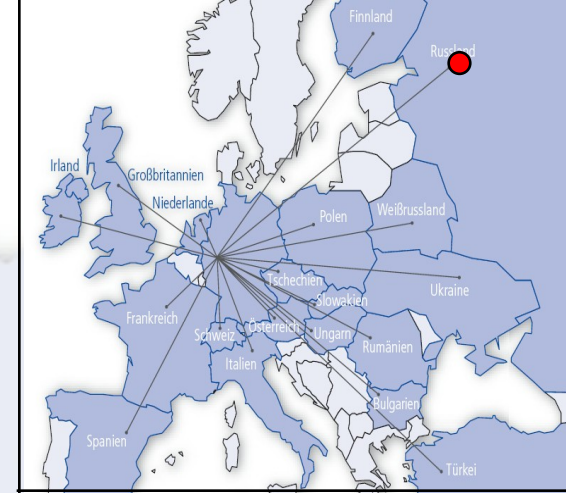
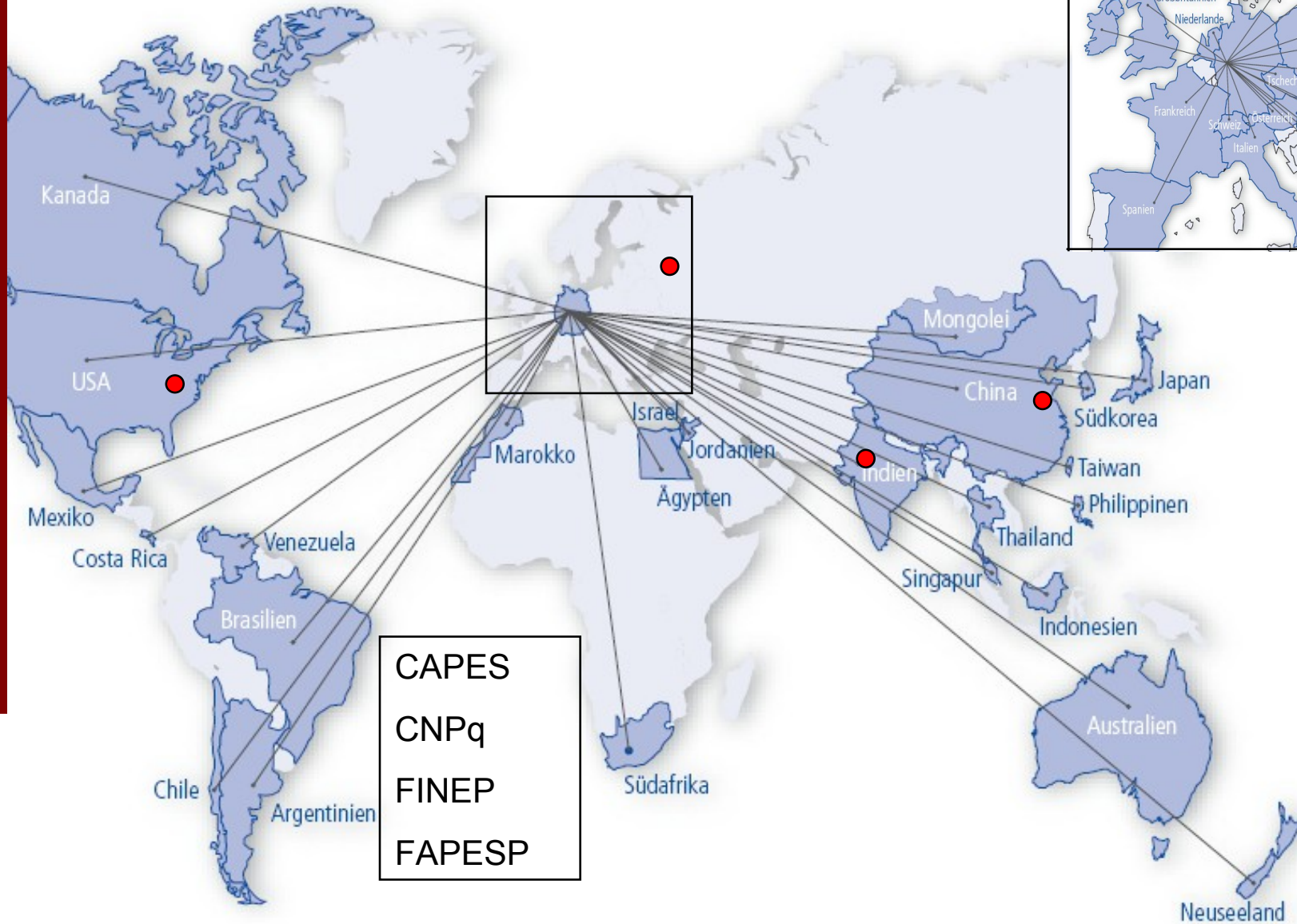
\* Data: individual grants, funding for young researchers & coordinated programs (including humanities research centres)

**Funding Instruments 2005 (in Mio €)**



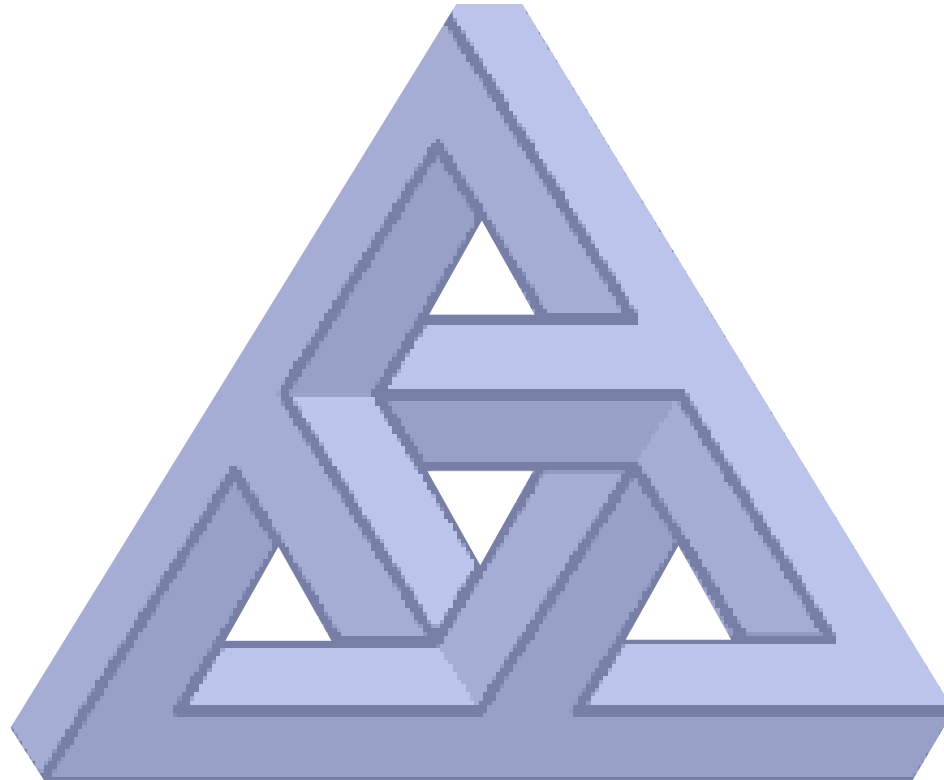
**overall funding: 1,587.9 Mio €**

# International Agreements / Contracts



# Our strategic goals

Internationality



Promotion of  
Young Researchers

Interdisci-  
plinary



# How to intensify the cooperation?

## *Academic Representatives in Brazil:*

*Dr. José Carlos de Araújo*

Prof. Adjunto

Universidade Federal do Ceará

Departamento de Engenharia Agrícola

Centro de Ciências Agrárias

Campus do Pici, Bloco 804

60451-070 Fortaleza – CE Brasil

*Dr. Helmut Galle*

Prof. Adjunto

Universidade de São Paulo

Fac. de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas

Dep. de Letras Modernas

Av. Prof. Luciano Gualberto, 403

CEP: 05508-900 São Paulo - SP

Brasil

## 1) Preparatory trips and Cooperation stays (max. 3 months)

- enable researchers to build up or intensify cooperation

### Both instruments:

Application to be submitted parallel  
(German partner to DFG, Brazilian  
partner to CAPES or CNPq)



## 2) Bilateral Symposia / Seminars

- enable (groups of) researchers to build up or intensify cooperation (-networks)
- can be held in either country



# The Individual Grants

## ■ Scope

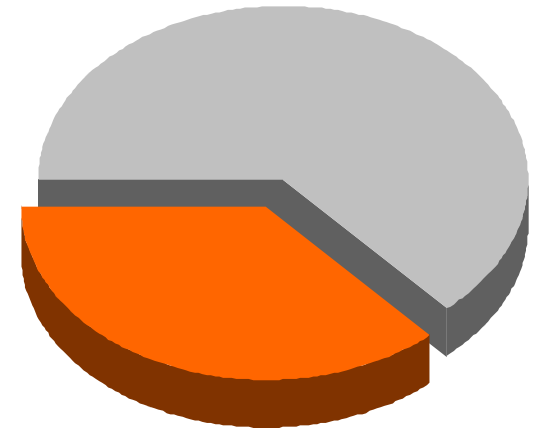
- to carry out a well defined individual research project within a limited time period
- open to researchers (holding a PhD) from all disciplines working at German research institutions, especially universities
- Applications with two and more partners also possible

## ■ Project requirements

- clearly defined research project of high scientific quality and originality, carried out at an internationally competitive level

## ■ Funding

- is based on the individual project needs (typically 2 or 3 years, continuations possible)



proportion relative to DFG's  
overall volume of approvals:  
**36,6% (2005)**

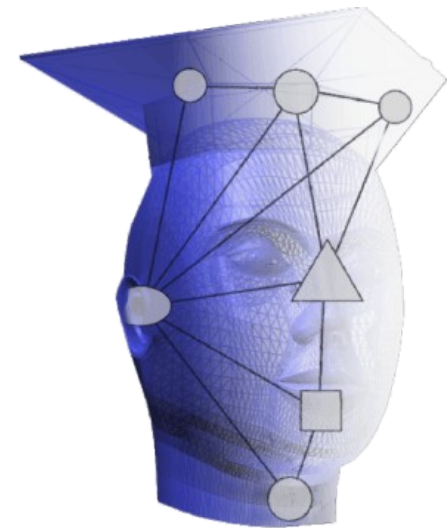
- Co-funding for the Brazilian partner to be secured from other sources (CAPES, CNPq, FINEP)
- Application to be submitted in parallel (German partner to DFG, Brazilian partner to CAPES, CNPq, FINEP)

## DFG-funded projects in Brazil (2001 – 2007)

Period	Number of projects	Financial volume (€)
Research Projects	56	~4,500,000
Conferences, visits	293	~1,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>~6,000,000</b>

## **DFG Research Training Groups (RTG, *Graduiertenkollegs*)**

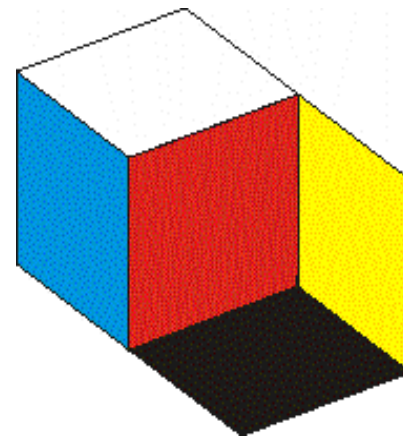
- Small group of cooperating researchers (in science or the humanities)
- working at centres of excellence to promote doctoral students
- within a thematically focussed, innovative research program, often interdisciplinary
- 10-20 doctoral students, 1-2 post-docs, and talented undergraduates
- tailor-made study programme:  
workshops and seminars for specialised and transferable skills
- mobility period at universities abroad
- joint supervision and mentoring
- Large scope for students initiative
- Three-year stipends for doctoral students,  
open internationally



# International Research Training Groups

Launched by the DFG in 1997

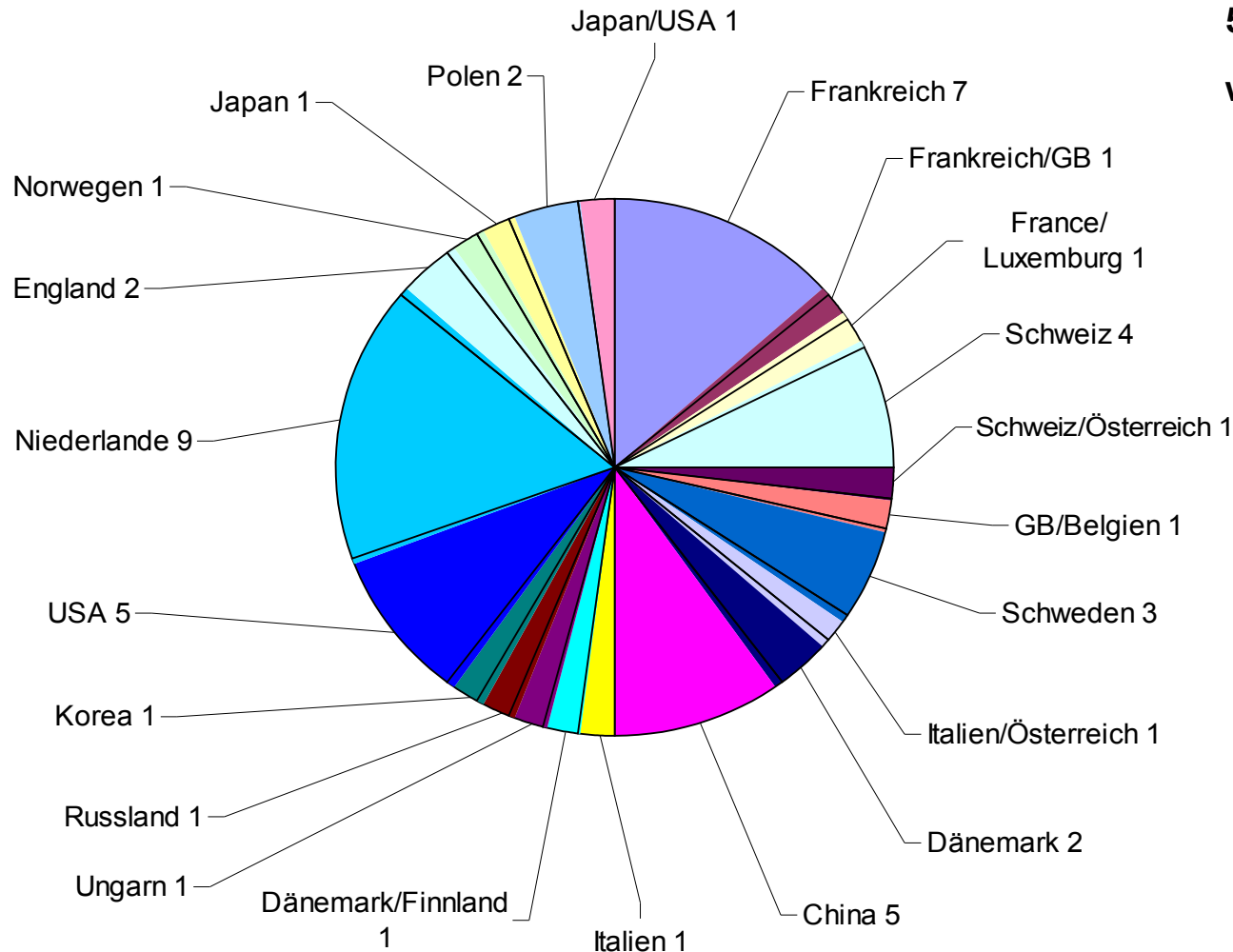
- Cooperation of a German group of researchers and a group abroad in research and research training
- to promote doctoral students on an international level
- Integrate complementary expertise at centres of excellence
- Research programme and study programme on both sites, designed jointly
- Systematic coordination of research projects and research training
- 6-12 month mobility period at partner university
- regular meetings of both groups
- joint supervision
- joint degree



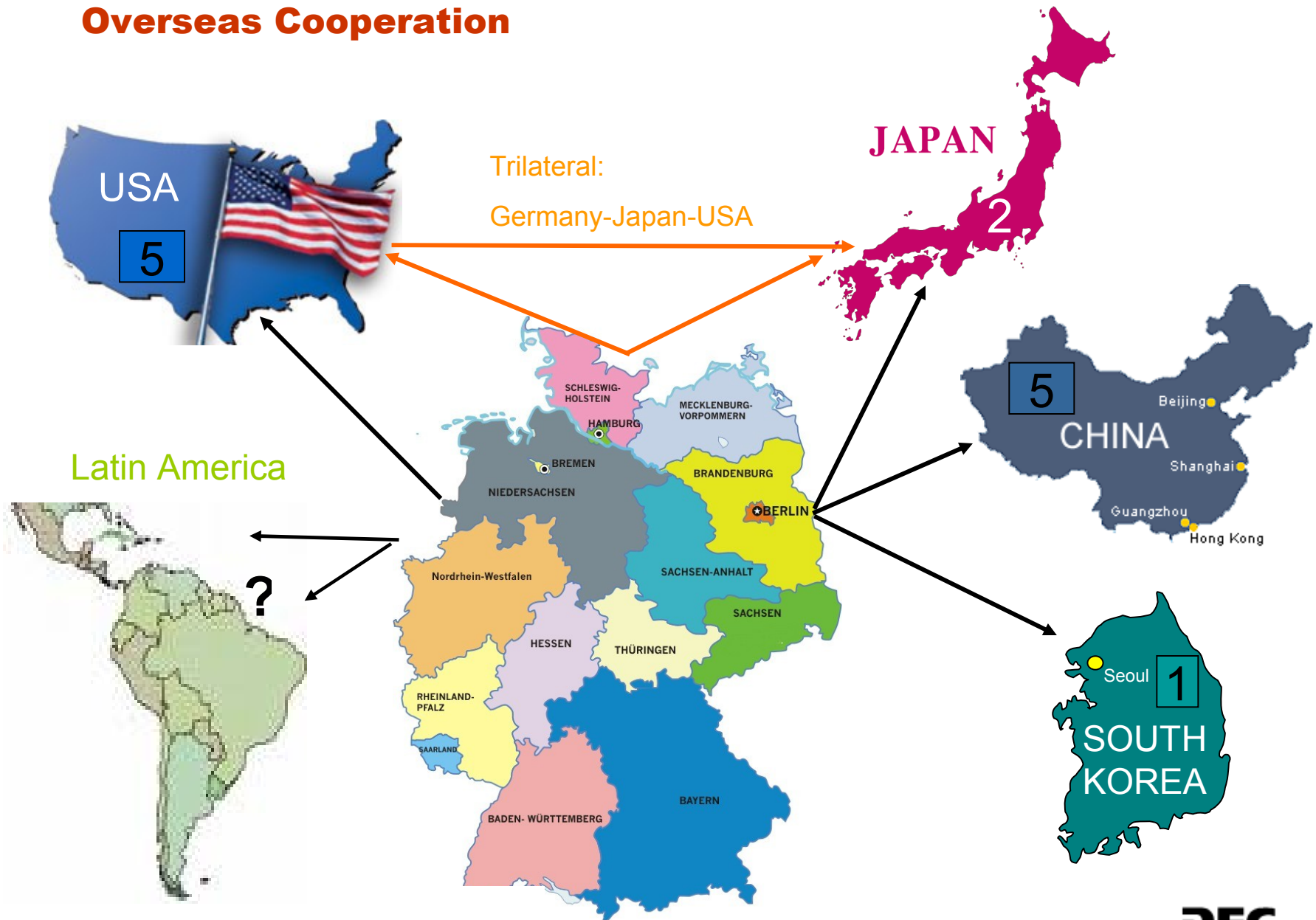
# International Research Training Groups

## Countries of Cooperation Partners

**52 international RTG  
with 19 countries**



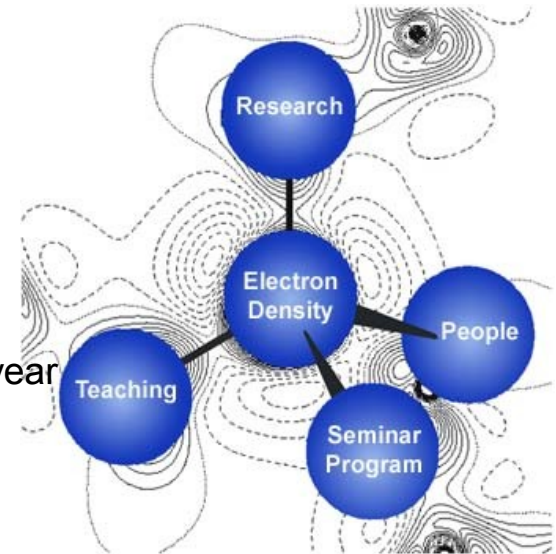
# International Research Training Groups Overseas Cooperation





# International Research Training Groups Procedure

- Start with preparatory workshops
- Draft proposal and full proposal should be written jointly by both partners
- Submitted by a German university and a partner institution abroad, university or non-university research institutions
- DFG-funding for German share
- Complementary national funding for partner's share
- Selected on a competitive peer-review basis
- 2-step procedure:  
draft proposal and invited full proposals twice a year



# Funds for International Research Training Groups

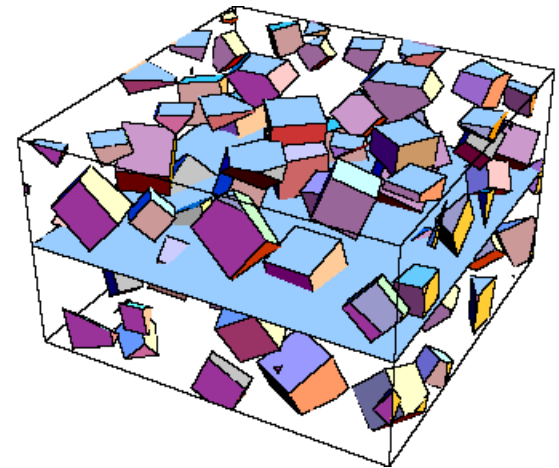
## DFG funds

- .... for bilateral workshops to prepare an IRTG
- Stipends for PhD students, post-docs, and undergraduate students
- Means for research materials, travel funds for students and researchers
- ... for workshops, summer schools, excursions, soft skill seminars
- ... for invitation of visiting researchers
- ... for sabbaticals
- ... for coordination/management costs

## Partner organisation

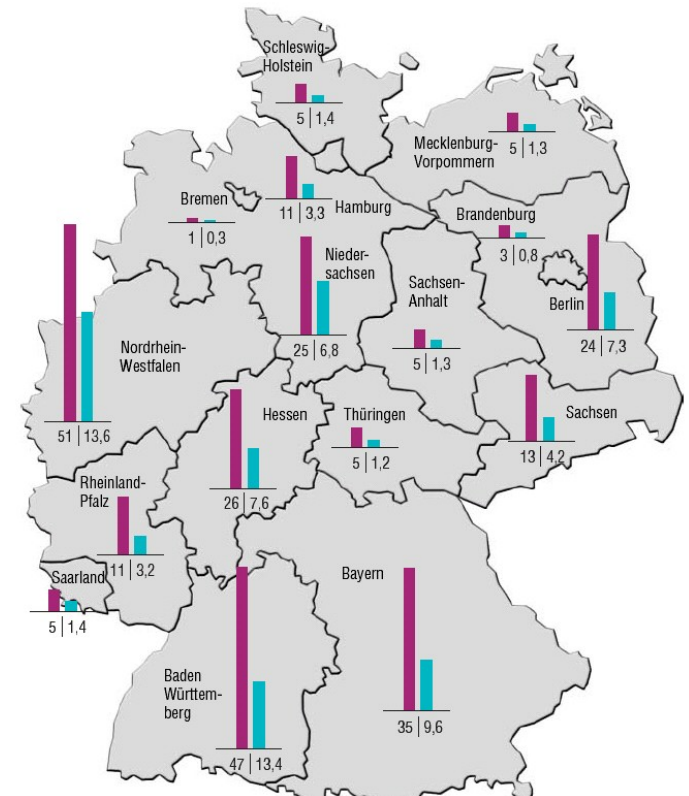
- Complementary funds for PhD projects and exchange of PhD students and faculty

Funding period: 2 x 4.5 years, ~ 500.000 € p.a



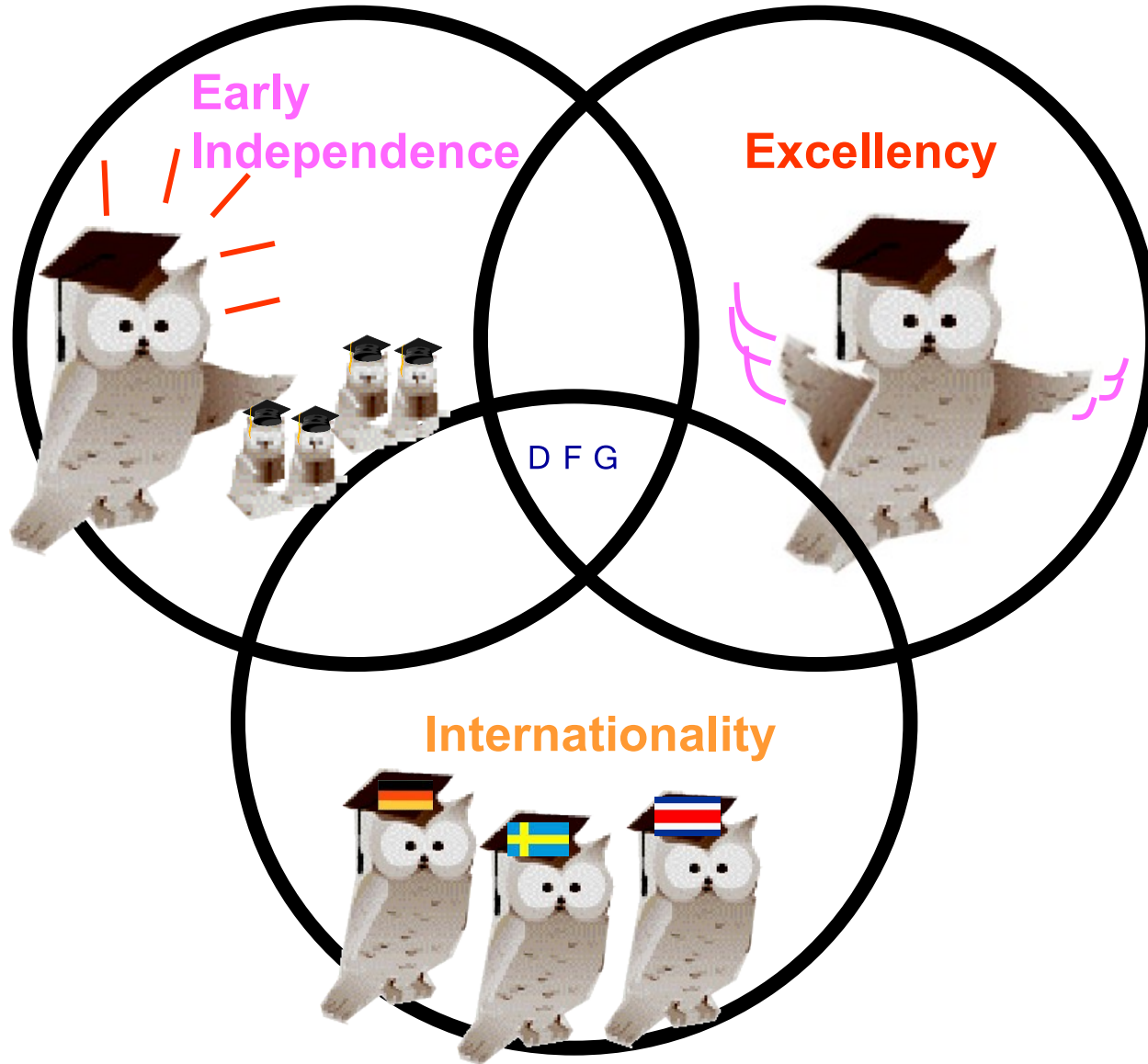
# Facts and Figures

- 290 RTGs, thereof 52 International RTGs  
29% Social Sc. & Humanities, 30% Life Sc., 29% Sciences, 12% Compu. Sc & Engineering
- 6.300 doctoral students currently funded,  
40% female, 28% foreign doctoral students,  
4000 researchers to supervise,  
3 applicants for every fellowship
- about 6% of Germans doctoral students complete their doctorate in RTGs  
by the average age of 30, within 4 years  
generally satisfied with the supervision
- more than 50% are still active in research
- Programme budget 82 Mio € p.a.  
(6% of DFG's total budget)



~ 100 new proposals  
Success rate: ~ 30%

# A Focus on Promoting Young Researchers



A love of learning starts early ...



... and with the DFG it lasts a lifetime.



**DFG**

Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

# Thank you for your attention!

*Dr. Dietrich Halm*  
Programme Officer  
International Co-operation  
Latin-America

*Dr. José Carlos de Araújo*  
Academic Representative of DFG in Brazil  
Universidade Federal do Ceará

Kennedyallee 40  
53175 Bonn  
Germany

dietrich.halm@dfg.de  
jcaraujo@ufc.br

[www.dfg-br.com](http://www.dfg-br.com)



**DFG**



# Germany's Excellence Initiative



# Germany's Excellence Initiative

## Idea:

- Strengthen Germany's universities
- Make them internationally more visible and attractive
  - ⇒ better faculty, better students, better research

## Process:

- Input: 1.900 millions € for 5 years (plus an option for 5 more) – fresh money!
- Programme with 3 lines of funding
- 2 competition rounds (October 2006 and 2007)

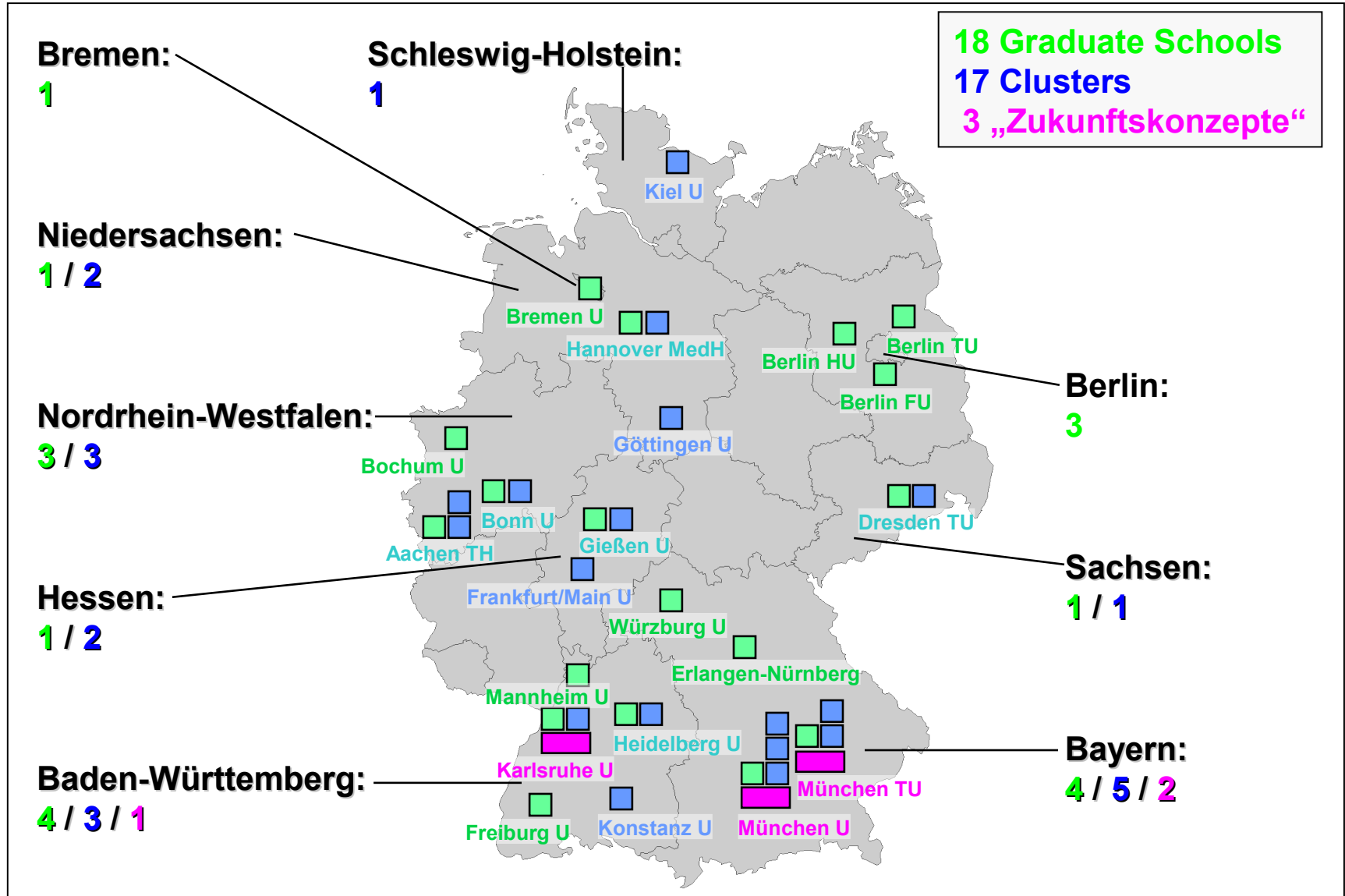


# Germany's Excellence Initiative

## Programme with three lines of funding

- **Clusters of Excellence**  
*centres of excellence in research;*  
*~ 30 clusters; funding ~ 6.5 Mio. € p.a.*
- **Graduate Schools**  
*highest-level research training;*  
*~ 40 graduate schools; funding ~ 1 Mio. € p.a.*
- **“Zukunftskonzepte” - Institutional strategies to promote top-level research**  
*< 10 universities; funding ~ 21 Mio. € p.a.*

# Results of the First Round (Oct. 2006)

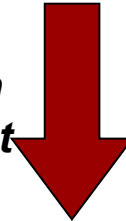


# Selection Procedure (Phase 2)

**123 Clusters of Excellence  
(pre-proposals)**

**118 Graduate Schools  
(pre-proposals)**

- **27 Panels** *(Now!)*
- **Interdisciplinary Joint Commission**
- **feed in from Phase 1 “approved but not funded”**



**First Selection Stage**

*Jan. 2007*

**35 - 40 Clusters of Excellence  
(full proposals)**

**35 - 40 Graduate Schools  
(full proposals)**

*April 2007*

- *app. 20 Panels (→ June/July 07)*
- *Interdisciplinary Joint Commission*
- *Grants Committee*



**Second Selection Stage**

*Oct. 2007*

**app. 15 Clusters of Excellence**

**app. 20 Graduate Schools**

# Mission

## Self-government of science and the humanities

- the DFG as a non-governmental organisation
- science-driven funding
- peer review

## Promoting scientific excellence in a competitive setting

- quality: funding decisions based on the highest standards
- rewarding scientists and scholars demonstrating excellence

# Funding Programs

	<i>Type</i>	<i>Typical number of projects</i>	<i>typical duration (years)</i>	<i>Number (cost in Mio. € p.a.)</i>
<b><i>Local</i></b>	Individual Grant	1	3-6	4832 (460)
	Research Unit	5-10	6	175 ( 90)
	Collaborative Research Centre	10-20	12	272 (380)
	DFG Research Centre		12	6 ( 30)
	Research Training Group	20 graduate students	9	257 ( 80)
<b><i>Distributed</i></b>	Priority Program	20-30	6	134 (150)

# International Research Training Groups

## Advantages

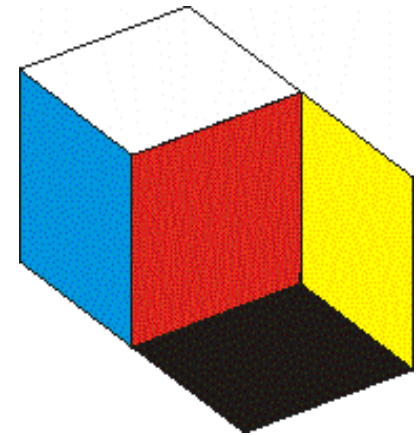
- cooperation in international framework
- broader theoretical and methodological training
- new research environment through exchange
- free and easy access to partners labs
- joint use of facilities
- additional social and intercultural competence
- high value for career perspective
- mutual training and supervision
- higher innovation potential due to compatibility of joint research and integration of PhDs



# International Research Training Groups

Launched by the DFG in 1997

- Collaboration of researchers from different countries
- Promotion of PhD students through international - mostly bilateral cooperation in research and research training
- Integrate complementary expertise at centres of excellence
- Joint research programme and study programme
- Systematic coordination of bilateral research projects and the research training
- 6-12 month mobility period at partner university, joint supervision
- joint degree



# The Triad of Internationality





# Selection Procedure

- **1<sup>st</sup> phase: September 05 - October 06: completed**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> phase: September 06 - October 07: in process**