



How the DFG Works

Heisenberg
Vernetzungstreffen 2025

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1. The Concept of Knowledge-Driven Research Funding



**RWTH AACHEN
UNIVERSITY**
Niedersächsische Akademie
der Wissenschaften
zu Göttingen

**CARL VON OSSIETZKY
UNIVERSITÄT
OLDENBURG**

AiF



**Rheinisch-Westfälische
Technische Hochschule
Aachen**

RUB

1 President

9 Vice Presidents

39 Senators

649 Review Board Members

16,400 Reviewers

**Germany's largest
independent research
funding organisation**
3.9 € billion annual budget

DFG members

99 leading universities,
non-university research
institutions, scientific
associations, academies

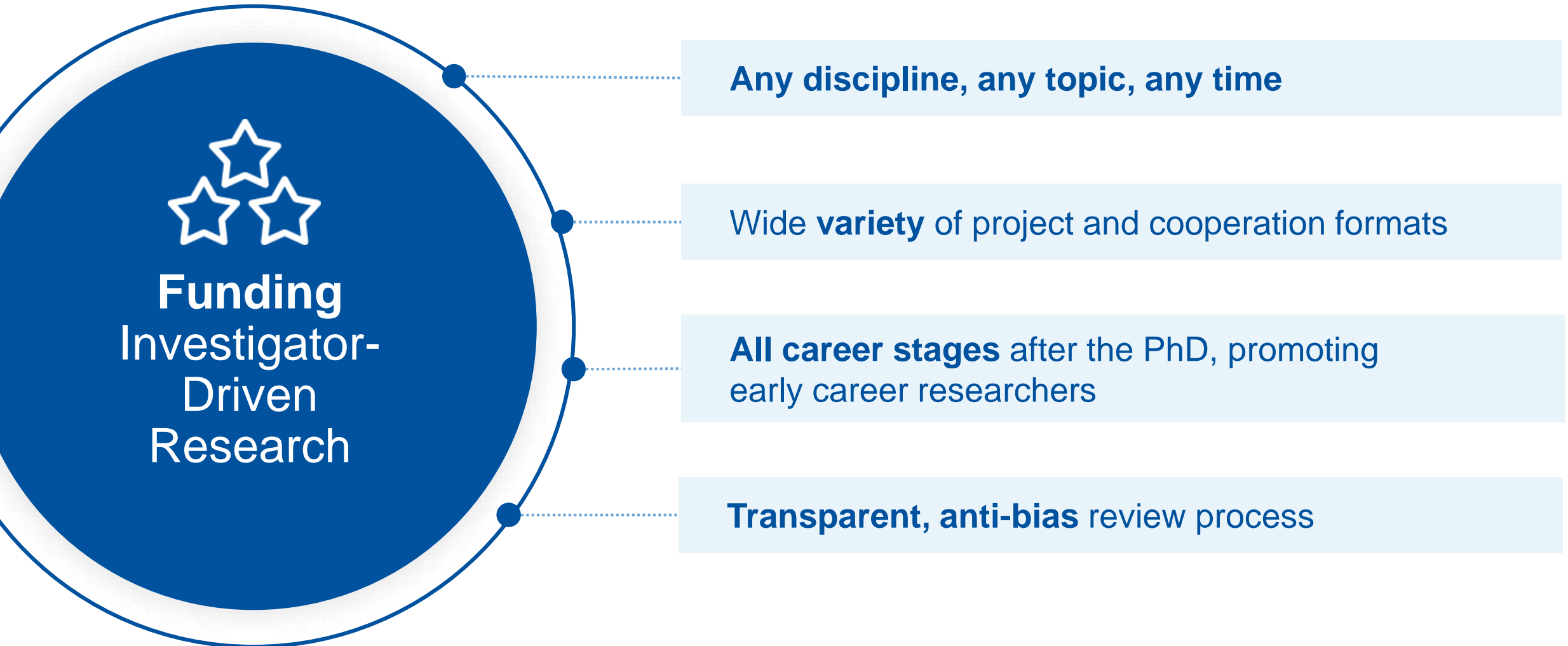
Independent association
under private law



Funding
knowledge-driven
research

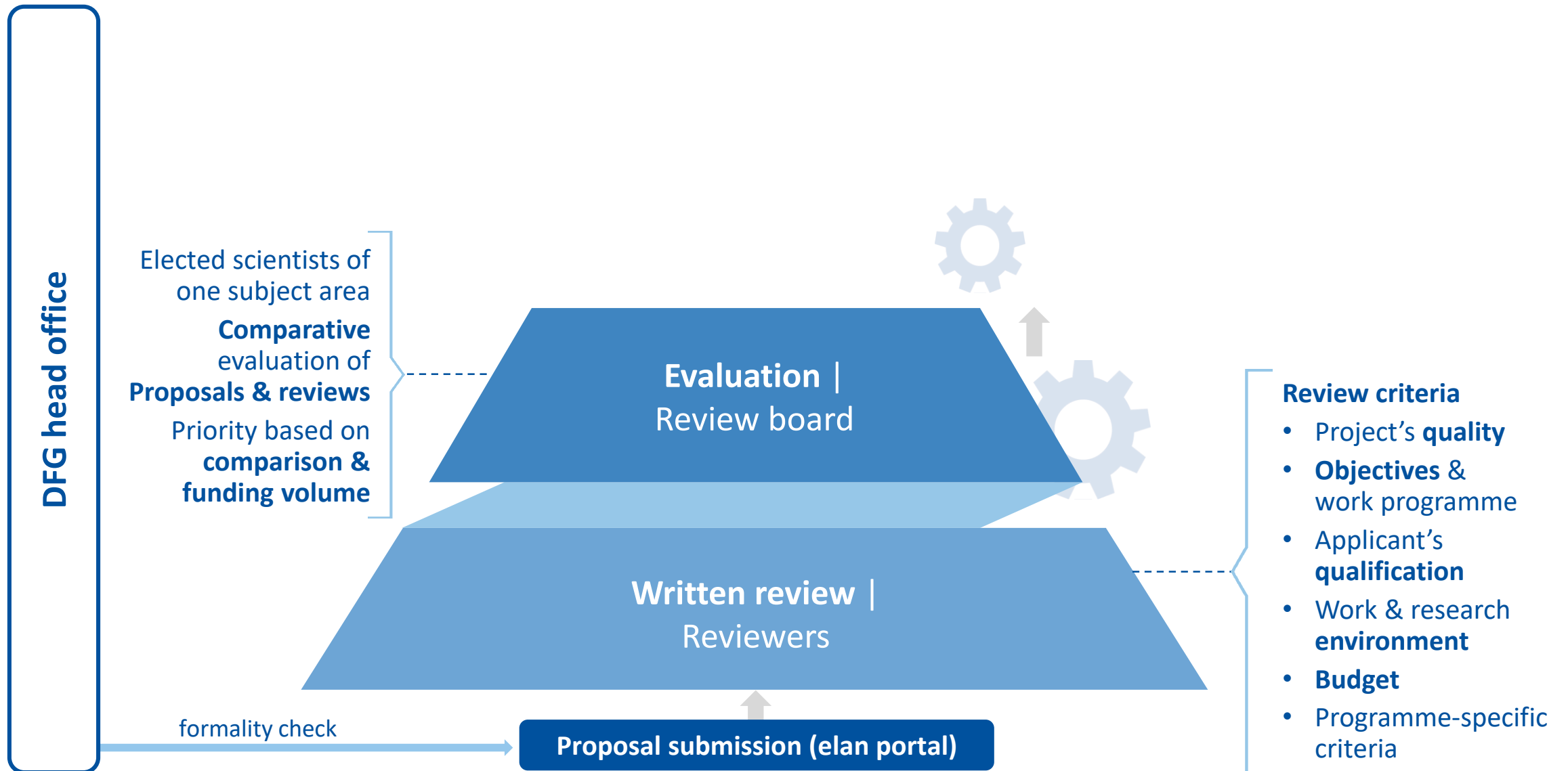
**Researchers have
the majority**
in decision-making
committees

DFG's Independence
guarantees academic
freedom





2. From Submission to Decision: Tracing the Evaluation Process





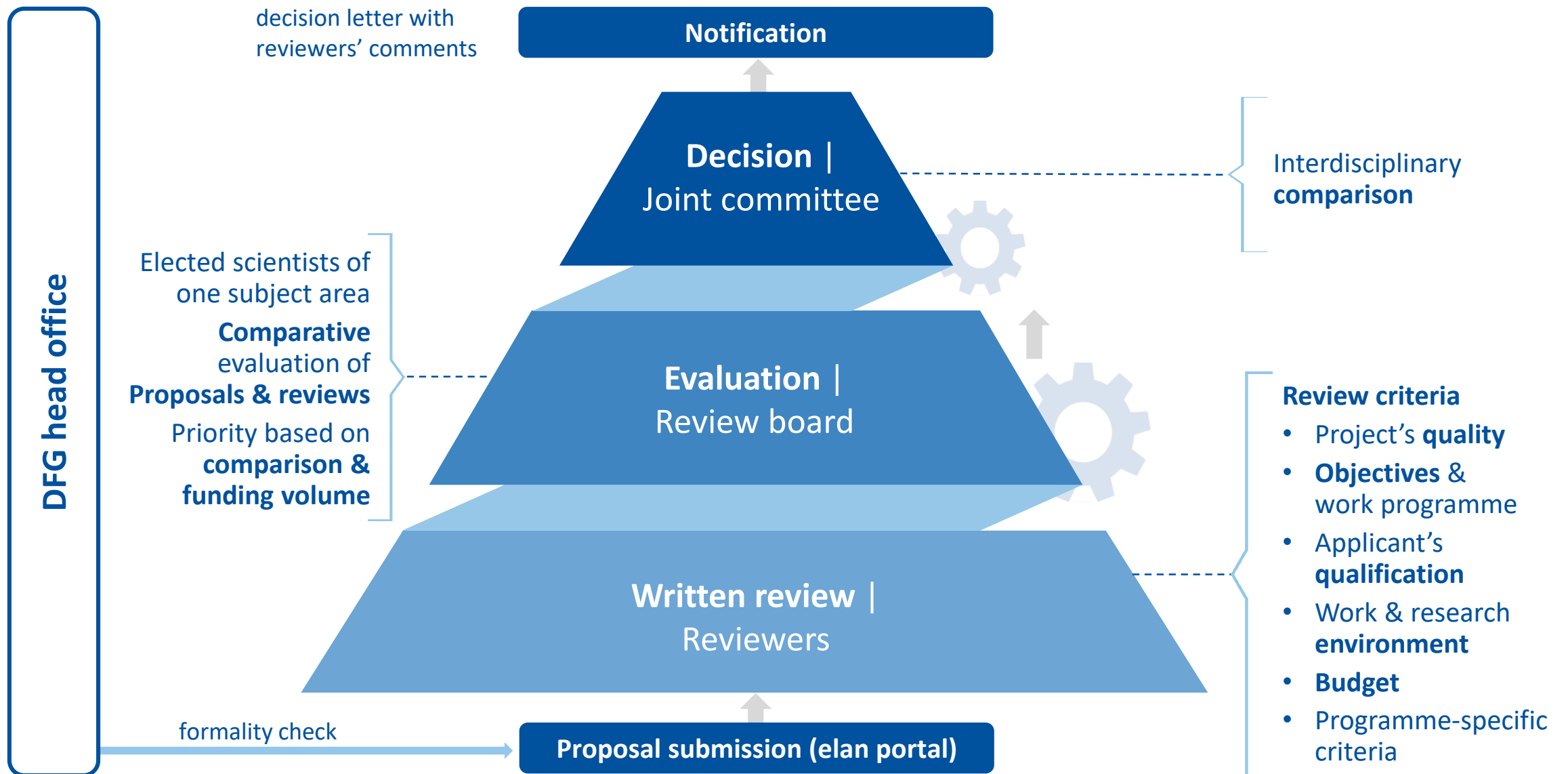
Review Boards

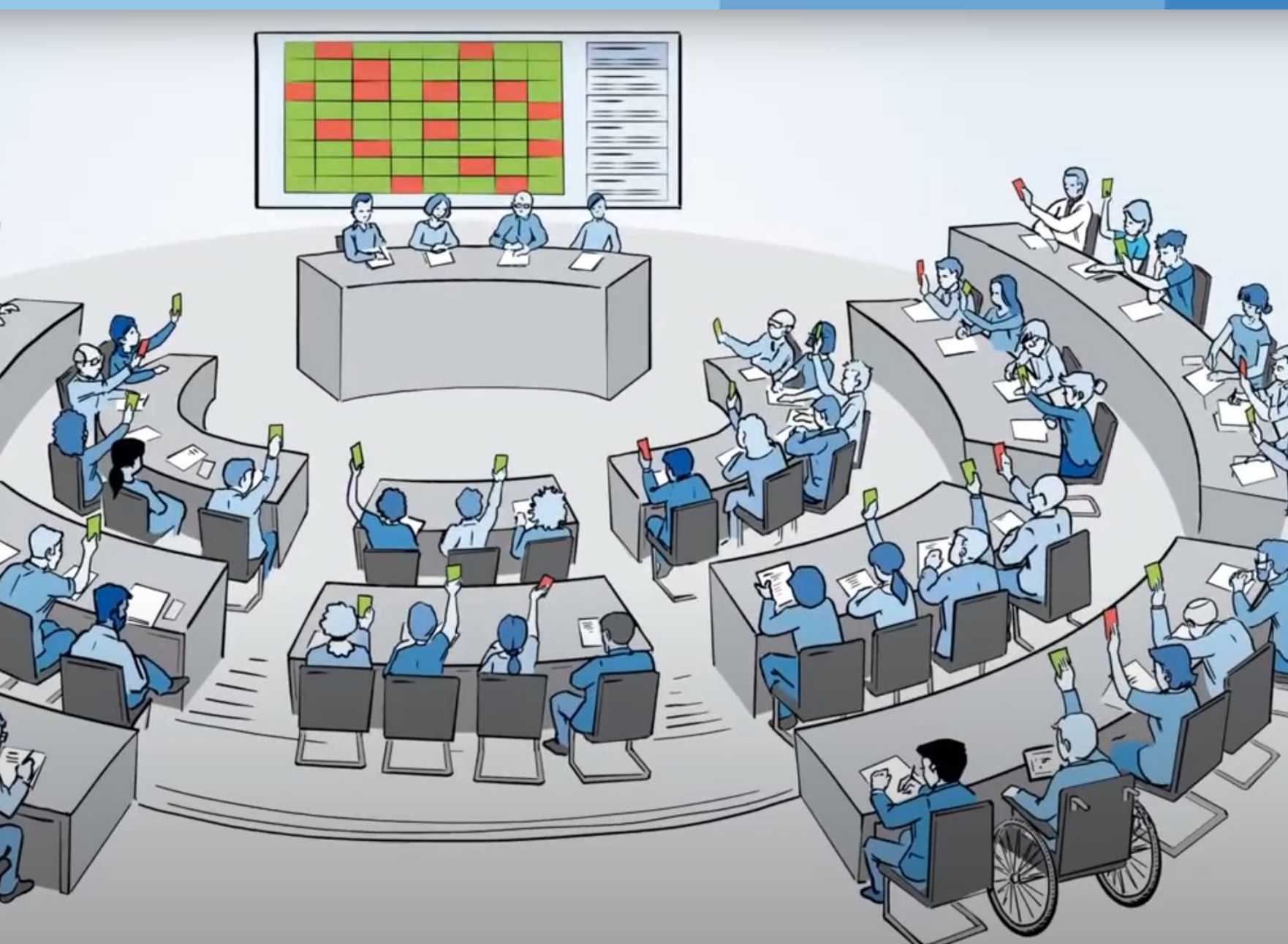
Elections every four years
by the community of
~ 150,000 researchers in
Germany



FACHKOLLEGIENWAHL
2027

DFG





Joint Committee

- 39 DFG Senators = researchers
- 1 representative of the federal government with 16 votes
- 16 representatives of the state governments



Gottfried Wilhelm
Leibniz-Preis



**EXCELLENCE
STRATEGY**

of the German federal & state governments



**Walter
Benjamin-
Programm**



**Heisenberg-
Programm**

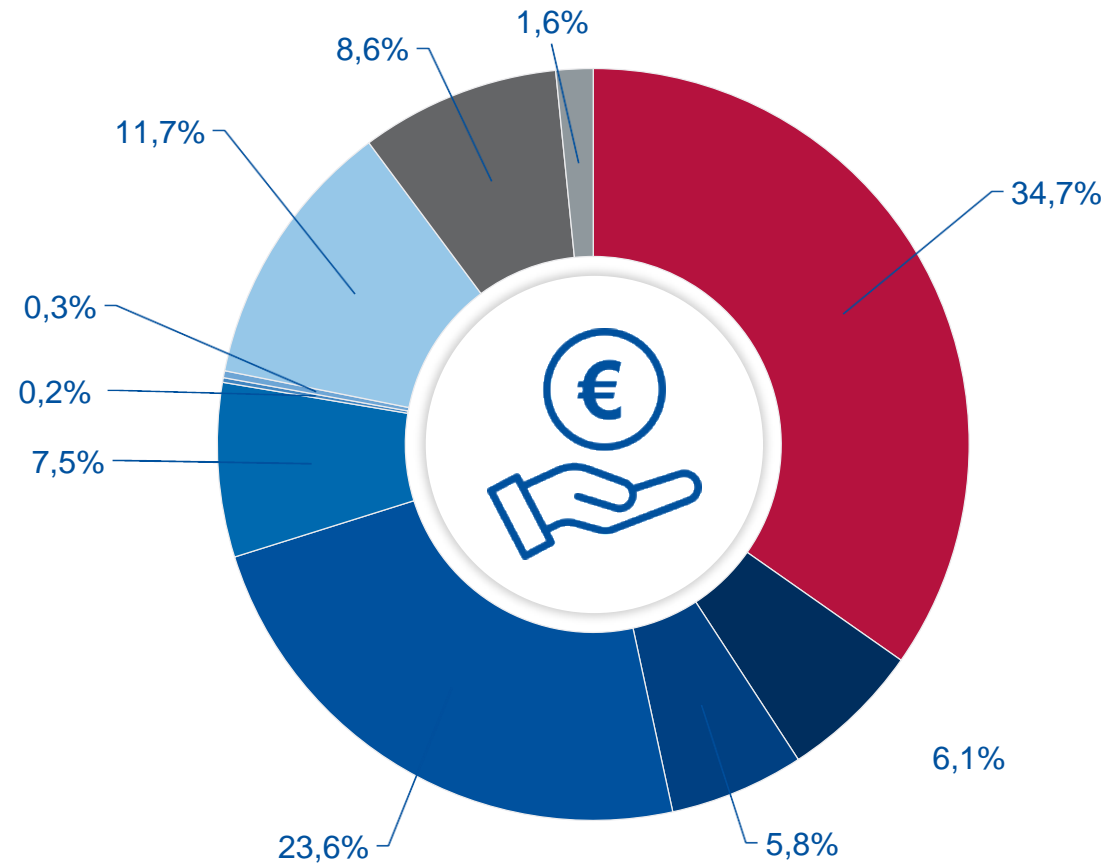
**Emmy
Noether-
Programm**



3. The DFG Funding Portfolio

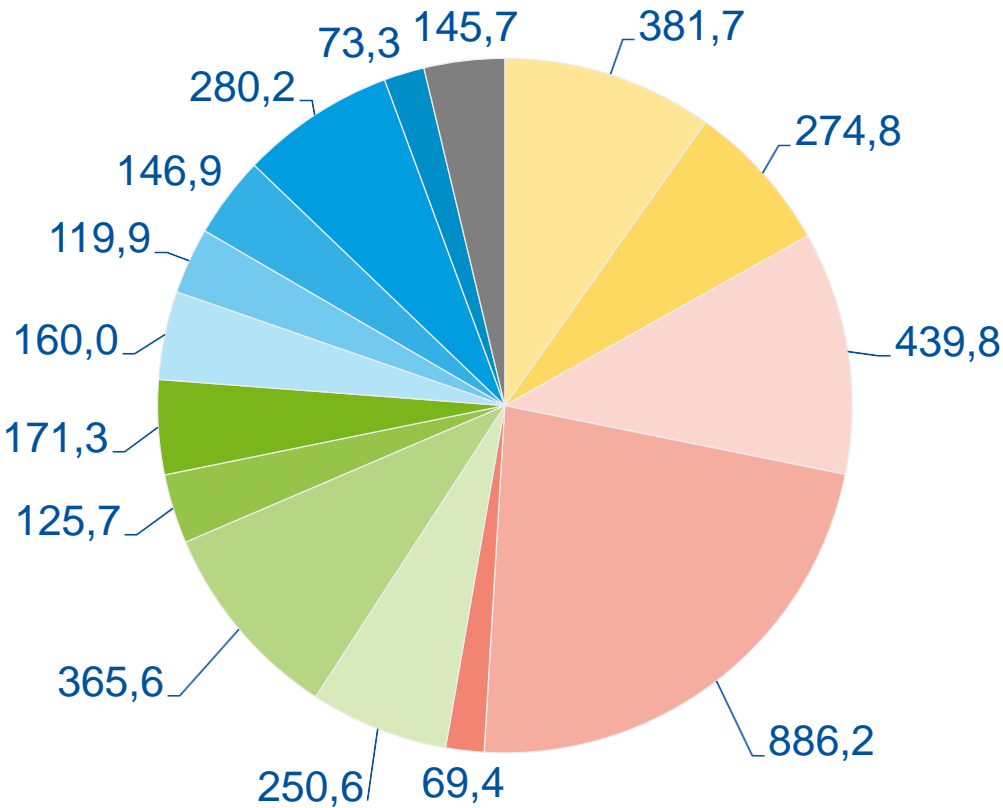
Research funding by programme

for 2024 (in Mio. € und %)



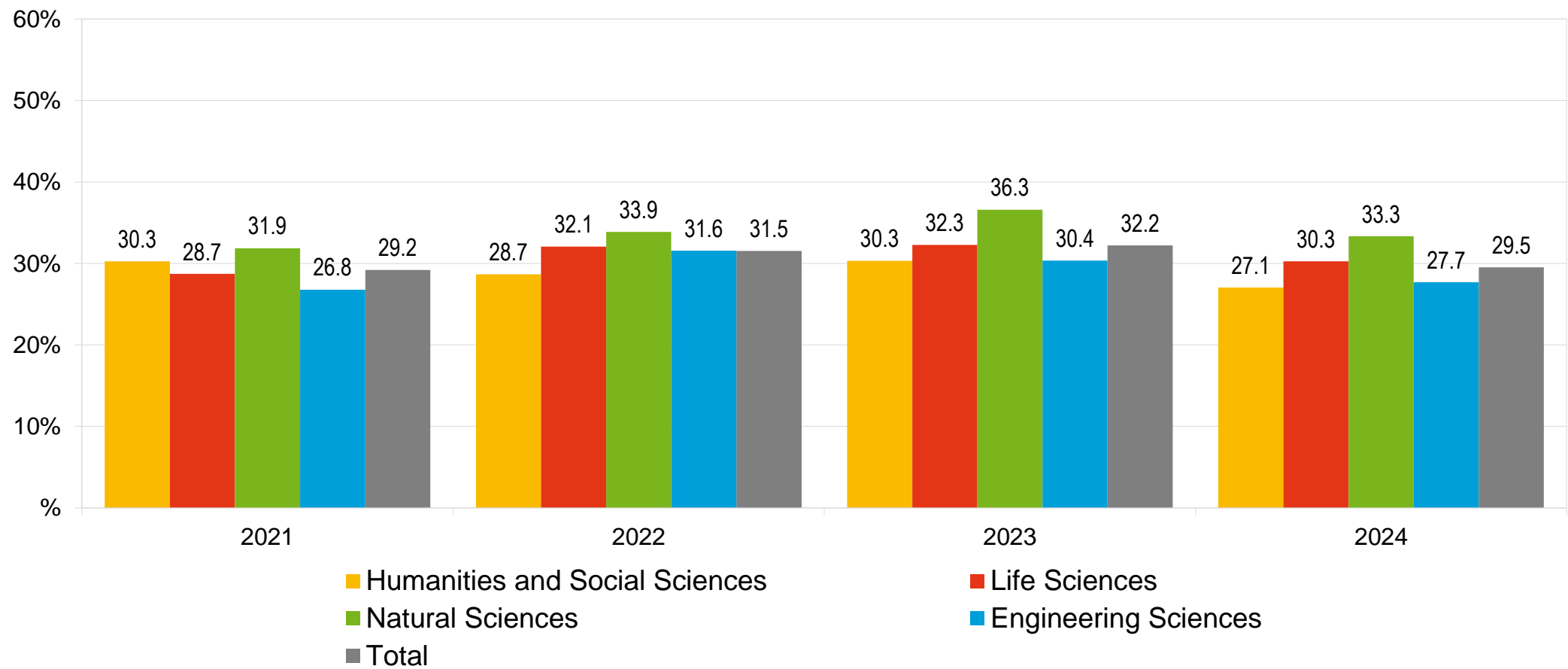
- Individual grants programme: 1352,3 Mio. €
- Research Units: 238,0 Mio. €
- Priority Programmes: 224,2 Mio. €
- Collaborative Research Centres: 917,2 Mio. €
- Research Training Groups: 291,3 Mio. €
- Research Impulses: 7,5 Mio. €
- Research Centres: 12,6 Mio. €
- Exzellenzstrategie: 453,4 Mio. €
- Infrastructure funding: 334,2 Mio. €
- Prizes, other: 60,5 Mio. €

DFG Funding
by Subject Area (in €m)






- Humanities
- Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Biology
- Medicine
- Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Geosciences
- Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Thermal Engineering/Process Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Computer Science, Systems & Electrical Engineering
- Construction Engineering and Architecture
- Interdisciplinary

Funding rates* in the individual grants programmes by scientific discipline 2021 to 2024 (in %)



* The funding rate (or success rate) was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.
Source: New Individual grants

	 Proposal submitted by Individuals				 Proposal submitted by Institutions			 Scientific Prizes
Funding Focus	Investigators	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Investigators
Funding Instruments	Walter Benjamin Programme	Individual Research Grants (SBH)	Centres for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences	New Instrumentation for Research	Collaborative Research Centres (SFB)	(International) Research Training Groups (GRK)	Major Research Instrumentation	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize
	Emmy Noether Programme	Reinhart Koselleck Projects	Scientific Networks	Specialised Information Services		DFG Research Centres	State Major Instrumentation	Heinz Maier-Leibniz Prize
	Heisenberg Programme	Initiation of International Collaboration	Workshops for Early Career Investigators	Information Infrastructures for Research Data		Clusters of Excellence	Major Instrumentation Initiatives	Communicator Award
			Research Units (FOR)	Infrastructures for Scholarly Publishing			Core Facilities	Copernicus Award
		Clinical Research Units (KFO)	Project Academies	eResearch Technologies		Research Impulses	Open Access Publication Funding	Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience
		Clinical Trials	International Scientific Events	Digitisation and Indexing			National Research Data Infrastructure	Bernd Rendel Prize in Geoscience
		Projects in Priority Programmes (SPP)		Coordinating Roles and Responsibilities				Ursula M. Händel Animal Welfare Prize
				Research Software Infrastructures				Von Kaven Award



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DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



www.dfg.de



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