Mashhad, 12. September 2018

Dorothea Fendel
The German Research Foundation (DFG)
In short

Who we are:

► Central public funding organization for basic research in Germany

► A **self-governing body** of science and research

► **Member organization** (universities, academies, research organizations)

► The budget in 2017:

  approx. **€ 3 billion** in direct research funding

► provided primarily by the federal government and the 16 German Länder
The German Research Foundation (DFG) …and how we work

- DFG acts and funds **bottom up**
- **no thematic priorities** (rare exceptions)
- **no calls, no deadlines** (rare exceptions)
- no regional priorities
- **no political priorities**
- no political influence
- Funding only if institution agrees on ethical standards

- everything in competition
- everything in peer review
The German Research Foundation (DFG)
Structure and Organization

Executive Board
President
Secretary General

Executive Level
- Strategy and Policy
- Press and Public Relations
- Economics, Auditing and Compliance
- Berlin Office

Department Z
Central Administration
- Finance
- Human Resources and Legal Affairs
- Information Technology and Infrastructure

Department I
International Affairs and Integrative Activities
- International Affairs
  - Sino-German Center in Beijing
  - DFG Offices:
    - India
    - Japan
    - Latin America
    - North America
    - Russia/CIS
- Information Management
- Quality and Programme Management

Department II
Scientific Affairs
- Humanities and Social Sciences 1
- Humanities and Social Sciences 1
- Life Sciences 1
- Life Sciences 2
- Life Sciences 3
- Physics, Mathematics
- Geosciences
- Chemistry and Engineering Sciences 2
- Engineering Sciences 1

Department III
Coordinated Programmes and Infrastructure
- Research Careers
- Research Centres
- Scientific Instrumentation and Information Technology
- Scientific Library Services and Information Systems

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Eligibility for DFG Funding

Researchers

- who have completed their scientific training (doctorate)
- from all disciplines
- of any age
- Working (!) in German research institutions
The German Research Foundation (DFG)

DFG's funding criteria

DFG reviewers evaluate proposals based on

► projects’ scientific merit
► applicants’ qualifications
► goals and work program
► proposed use of funding
► quality and added value of the cooperation

► everything in competition
► everything in peer review
The German Research Foundation
Funding per Field in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Million €</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>15,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>1.052,5</td>
<td>34,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>664,8</td>
<td>21,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Sciences</td>
<td>584,5</td>
<td>19,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>263,1</td>
<td>8,7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The German Research Foundation (DFG)
Funding Portfolio

Promoting Young Researchers

Initiation of international Collaboration

Infrastructure

Individual Grants Program

- Research Grants
- Emmy Noether-Program
- Heisenberg-Program
- Reinhard Koselleck-Projects

Funding Programs

Coordinated Programs

- Research Units
- Priority Programs
- Collaborative Research Centres
- Clusters of Excellence
- International Research Training Groups

Prizes

- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz-Prize
- Heinz Maier-Leibnitz-Prize
- Communicator Award
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Coordinated Programs

Research Units
Priority Programs
Collaborative Research Centres
Clusters of Excellence
International Research Training Groups
All DFG funding programs generally allow the integration of international components.

DFG support for projects with international partners is generally based on the principle of mutual responsibility. Researchers working in Germany apply to the DFG, while their partners abroad apply for funding at their respective partner organizations.

► Funding for the Initiation of International Collaboration

► Research Grants
Initiation of International Collaboration

- Mobility funding to get to know each other
- establish mutual trust and understanding
- and to prepare a joint project proposal

Modules
- Workshops in Germany or abroad
- Short individual visits in Germany or abroad
- Visits up to three months in Germany or abroad
Funding of International Cooperation
Initiation of International Collaboration

Funding can include
- Travel costs and daily allowance for travelling to e.g. Iran
- Travel costs and daily allowance for guests in Germany
- Travel costs and daily allowance for needed specialist(s) from third country

Funding is available for a maximum of 1 year

Application by the German partner university

- Very lean and easy proposal
- Partner in Germany can cover all costs for international partners
Research Grant

Purpose
To carry out a thematically defined research project within a specific time frame

Duration
Project-specific (usually three years)
Funding of International Cooperations
Research Grant

Funding for…

- **Staff**: PhD-students, post-docs; non-permanent staff
- funding for **direct project costs**
- **Mobility**: Travel allowances
- Consumables, scientific instrumentation
- other items such as **publications**, trial-related expenses, PR activities
Does it work?
We make it work!

DFG Cooperation with Iranian Funding Agencies

- INSF 2016
- ICHTO 2017
- NIMAD 2018

January 2016: Prof. Zargham–Prof. Allgöwer, signing INSF-DFG MoU
Proposal submitted to DFG (both partners) → Decision about Review and Funding Procedure at DFG → Funding by both DFG and INSF

Funding by DFG
- Initiation Funding
- Research Grant
Does it work?
DFG funded German-Iranian Projects since 2015

German-Iranian Projects since 2015

- 21 Initiation of International Collaboration
- 7 Research Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Initiation</th>
<th>Research Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Sciences</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21 7
Does it work?
Initiation Funding and Research Grants*

- Performance and Stability Improvement of Contra-Rotating Fans
- From water to land: the ontogeny of Persian mudskippers*
- Response of coastal and pelagic marine ecosystems to environmental stressors in the Persian Gulf
- Relationship between slow oscillation slope and memory consolidation during sleep – impact of weak electric stimulation
- The pre-modern dialect of Shiraz in the poetry of Shams, son of Nasir, from Shiraz (d. 1362 C. E.): text edition, grammar, and dialectology *
- Towards sustainable smart regions in Iran via decentralized usage of renewable energy.
- Philosophy of Education between Philosophy and Pedagogy in a German-Iranian Context
- Hybrid systems for optics, electronics and photonics

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How to find a research Partner
How to find a research partner

- Research Explorer
- GEPRIS
Interactive map of the German research landscape:  www.research-explorer.de
How to find a research partner

GEPRIS

Online database on current DFG-funded projects: www.gepris.dfg.de
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The German Research Foundation (DFG)
Structure and Organization

General Assembly (members!)
- establishes directives
- approves annual report and account
- approbates the Executive Committee

Senate
(36+3 scientists)

Executive Committee
Ex. Board & 8 Vice-Presidents

Joint Committee
(39 Senate & 32 Governmental representatives)

Executive Board
President    Secretary General
Head Office

Reviewers
- assess funding proposals

49 Review Boards (elected!)

All eligible scientists and academics

elect, select, appoint
cooperate
ensure quality
Research Training Groups

► aims (mainly) at the doctoral phase

► builds on an innovative and focused research programme as framework for excellent thesis projects

► enhances and expands doctoral researchers’ competencies by a structured qualification programme

► installs transparent and structured supervision - instead of mere “apprenticeship”

► encourages interdisciplinarity

► promotes and supports international cooperation
International Research Training Groups: symmetric international collaboration in Research Training!

Set-Up:

- **bilateral programme** - two sites
- **5-10 PIs and 10-15 doctoral students** on each side
- Added value through complementarity of expertise and resources
- Systematic cooperation on **three levels**
  - Research - Qualification Programme - Supervision
- Reciprocal **research stays** of PhD students (~6-12 months)
- **Complementary funding** required