Russian-German perspectives of cooperation in Centers of Scientific Excellence

Collaborative Research Centres (CRC)
Sonderforschungsbereiche (SFB)
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German Research Foundation and its international Research Funding Programmes

1. Structure and aims of DFG

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Who we are and what we are doing

- founded in 1920
- annual budget in 2010: €2,3 billion
- 750 employees at the Head Office in Bonn
- 7 representation offices abroad

- central, self-governing research funding organisation that promotes research at universities
- serving all fields of science and research and supporting scientific excellence in competition
- peer review system
- bottom up approach
The legal status of the DFG is that of a private association. DFG can only act through its governing bodies, in particular through its Executive Board and General Assembly.

**Membership of DFG (96)**
- German Universities (69)
- Research organisations (16) (Max Planck Society, Helmholtz Association, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Leibniz Association)
- Academies of Sciences (8), scientific associations (3)
What are the DFG’s aims?
The DFG’s scientific aims are

► **Excellence through Competition**
make research funding open to all disciplines in accordance with scientific standards of quality

► **Promoting Young Researchers**
ensure the best possible support for outstanding scientists and young researchers

► **International Collaboration**
keep Germany future-oriented and internationally competitive as a scientific location
What is the DFG?
Responsibility for all research areas

Funding 2010
(Total € 2,3 billion)

Engineering Sciences
€ 506 m
(22%)

Humanities and Social Sciences
€ 345 m
(15%)

Natural Sciences
€ 552 m
(24%)

Life Sciences
€ 897 m
(39%)
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Funding Programmes of DFG
(amount of research funding awarded in 2010)

**Infrastructure Support**
€193.0 m
- Scientific Library Services and Information Systems
- Scientific Instrumentation - Information Technology

**Coordinated Programmes**
€1,502.1 m
- Clinical Research Units
- Collaborative Research Centres
- Humanities Research Centres
- Priority Programmes
- DFG Research Centres
- Research Training Groups
- Research Units

**Individual Grants Programme**
€894.4 m
- Clinical Trials
- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme
- Individual Grants Programme
- NIH-DFG Research Career Transition Awards Program
- Reinhart Koselleck Projects
- Research Fellowships
- Scientific Networks
- Temporary Positions for PI

**Prizes and other**
€52.8 m
- Communicator Award
- Copernicus Award
- Ursula M. Händel Prize
- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Programme
- Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize
- Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience
- Bernd Rendel Prize
- Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize
- von Kaven Awards
DFG - Individual Grants Programme
(funding for a period of up to six year)

Individual Grants / Research Grants

► Research project on a specifically defined topic within a limited time period

► A research grant can be used to
  ● staff
  ● scientific instrumentation
  ● consumables
  ● travel and publications

► No submission deadline

► Funding decision: General Assembly of DFG

► Information on formalities: DFG-Form 1.02 and DFG-Scientific Affairs

Part in total funding volume: 27.9% (2010)
What are the DFG’s objectives in funding top young talent?

To offer researchers appropriate funding options at each career stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studies</th>
<th>Doctorate</th>
<th>Postdoc Period</th>
<th>Achievement of eligibility for tenure</th>
<th>Preparation for scientific mgmt position</th>
<th>Professorship or other scientific mgmt position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research in a Research Training Group</td>
<td>Research Training Group fellowship</td>
<td>Research fellowship (abroad)</td>
<td>Emmy Noether Programme</td>
<td>Heisenberg professorship</td>
<td>Heisenberg professorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research in a Research Training Group position</td>
<td>Research Training Group position</td>
<td>Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)</td>
<td>Heisenberg fellowship</td>
<td>Heisenberg fellowship</td>
<td>Heisenberg fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student assistant in DFG project</td>
<td>Position in DFG project</td>
<td>Position in DFG project</td>
<td>Temp. principal investigator position (Germany)</td>
<td>Temporary principal investigator position (Germany)</td>
<td>Temporary principal investigator position (Germany)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Jörn Achterberg, DFG Russia/CIS
Higher School of Economics, Moscow, 15.05.2012
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DFG abroad

- Representations
- Overseas Offices
- Sino-German Centre
- Liaison Scientists
- Research Facility

Cities:
- Beijing
- Washington
- Moscow
- Delhi
- New York
- Tokyo
- Sao Paulo
- Fortaleza
- Brussel
- KoWi
- Poland
- Hyderabad
- Valdivia

Dr. Jörn Achterberg, DFG Russia/CIS
Higher School of Economics, Moscow, 15.05.2012
How does the DFG promote international cooperation?

Special Instruments

► Funding of the Initiation and Enhancement of Bilateral Cooperation
► Postdoctoral Fellowships
► Joint Calls with Partner Organisations
► International Research Training Groups
► International Scientific Events
► Mercator Programme for Visiting Professorships

You can apply for international funding like travel costs, exchange of researchers in all DFG-Funding Programmes.
How can you start the cooperation?

► Find a cooperation partner

► Define the joint research programme

► Define the volume and source of funding in Russia: RAS, RFFI, RGNF, universities, own funds

► Prepare and submit the proposal:
  German partner - to DFG
  Russian partner - to the funding organization in Russia
Our partners

► Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFFI)  
(Agreement from 1994)

► Russian Foundation for Humanities (RGNF)  
(Agreement – from 2005)

► Russian Academy of Sciences (RAN)  
(Agreement from 1970)
DFG-Research Training Groups
Promoting young graduates in research – Funding duration 9 years:

- Grants and fellowships for doctoral researchers and postdocs
- Research students
- Consumables and travel costs for scholars
- Travel costs for professors (International Research Training Groups)
- Workshops and excursions
- Funds for visiting researchers
- Funds for soft skill-courses
- Coordination
German-Russian Research Training Groups

«Enzymes and Multienzyme Complexes Acting on Nucleic Acids» (since 2006)
► Justus-Liebig-University Gießen (Prof. Dr. Peter Friedhoff)
► Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) (Prof. Dr. Tatyana Oretskaya)
► University Marburg
Period of funding: 108 months

«Regulation and Evolution of Cellular Systems» (since 2009)
► Technical University Munich (Prof. Dr. Dmitri Frishman)
► Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) (Dr. Michail Gelfand)
Period of funding: 54 months
Statistics 2010

- 200 funding programmes
- 17,000 new proposals
- 30-40% were approved for funding
- 32,000 programs running (7,500 new) including 15,000 individual grants (3,800 new)
- 12,400 experts were involved in review process, including 2,700 foreign experts

Russia

- Joint calls with partner organizations (RAN, RFFI, RGNF)
- 300 cooperations with participation of Russian scientists (individual research grants, workshops, conferences etc.)
Over 350 running projects in 35 locations in Russia (2010)

- Barnaul
- Chelyabinsk
- Irkutsk
- Izhevsk
- Gornoaltaysk
- Kazan'
- Kuban'
- Kursk
- Moscow
- Nizhniy Novgorod
- Novosibirsk
- Omsk
- Penza
- Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy
- Rostov-na-Donu
- Sankt-Peterburg
- Samara
- Saratov
- Smolensk
- Stavropol'
- Tambov
- Tyumen'
- Tomsk
- Tula
- Tver'
- Ufa
- Ulyanovsk
- Vladimir
- Vladivostok
- Vologda
- Volgograd
- Voronezh
- Yakutsk
- Yaroslavl'
- Yekaterinburg
The programme “Collaborative Research Centres” (CRC)

general characteristics

- programme established in 1968

- funds temporary centres of excellence

- only universities can apply

- Goals:
  - fund top research
  - strengthen universities’ profiles and structures
    (including: support for young researchers and gender equality)
CRC funding statistics

- **Budget for all centres:** ~ € 450 million in 2010 (~ 1/5 of DFG-budget)

- **Number of currently funded centres:** ~ 250 (> 700 funded since 1968)

- **Average annual budget per centre:** about € 1.8 million

- **Type of funding:** salaries, scientific instrumentation, consumables, travel, publication allowance, colloquia, visiting researchers, …

- **Overhead:** additional 20% of the direct project expenses (since 2007)

- **Core support:** Basic funding by universities required
CRC
distribution of scientific disciplines

Dr. Jörn Achterberg, DFG Russia/CIS
St. Petersburg, 17.12.20
Moscow, Leopoldina-RAN-Workshop, 05.12.2011
CRC

**typical features**

- A typical CRC consists of 12 – 25 “single projects”
- Typically 15 – 30 project leaders (“principal investigators”) involved
- Funding typically between 1 - 3 Mio EUR per year
- Maximum duration: 12 years (3 x 4 years)
- Main focus on basic research
- All single projects are projects on their own but cooperate and contribute to a common scientific aim
- University supports the centre
CRC programme types

CRC (general type)

- Focused on one university (“location principle”)
- Participation of neighbouring universities, local non-university research institutions possible

Transregional CRC (since 1999)

- Intensive transregional network
- Up to three locations
- “Structural impact” for each participating university required

“International CRC”

- Intensive network with one or more single projects abroad (and funded from abroad)
- For German part: same requirements as for a Transregional CRC
CRC
Evaluation criteria

1st dimension: single projects

► interesting topic?
► previous work? / publications?
► experience of PI?
► work schedule? methods?
► possible outcome?
► fits to CRC?
► Adequacy of requested funding?
► …

2nd dimension: CRC on the whole

► Actual and relevant topic? For 12 years?
► Scientific quality? International visibility?
► Coherence? Synergy? Added value?
► Structural impact?
  Commitment of university? Young researchers? Gender?
CRC Review and decision process

- Initiative of Researchers
  - Draft proposal
  - Consultation with peer researchers
    - Recommendation of peer researchers
    - Recommendation of DFG’s “Senate Committee for CRC”

- University
  - Full proposal
    - on-site evaluation (Peer review)
    - vote of reviewers
    - Decision on funding by DFG’s “Grants Committee for CRC”

6 – 10 months; 50% drop-out

at least 6 months; 20% drop-out
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Aims of the DFG Office Russia/CIS

► Be a point of contact for Russian and German researchers and research institutions
► Intensify institutional cooperation
► Advise on opportunities for DFG-funding
► Identify new cooperation potential (humanities, social sciences)
► Prepare and hold joint scientific events
► Promote young researchers
► Analyse and evaluate science policy in Russia and CIS-countries
► Integrate the regional scientific centers in Russia into international cooperation
Contact:

Dr Jörn Achterberg
Director DFG Office Russia/CIS

1st Kazachy Per 5/2
119017 Moscow RUSSIA
Tel. +7 (495) 956 -2690
Fax +7 (495) 956 -2706
E-Mail: Joern.Achterberg@dfg.de

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Thank you for your attention

Further information

► about DFG: www.dfg.de
► about all funded projects: http://gepris.dfg.de
► about ca. 17.000 German Research Institutions: http://research-explorer.dfg.de