



DFG

Starting your research career -

**DFG funding programmes and
application procedures**

Topics

- ▶ **What is, what does the DFG?**
- ▶ **DFG funding programmes**
- ▶ **Application and review procedures**

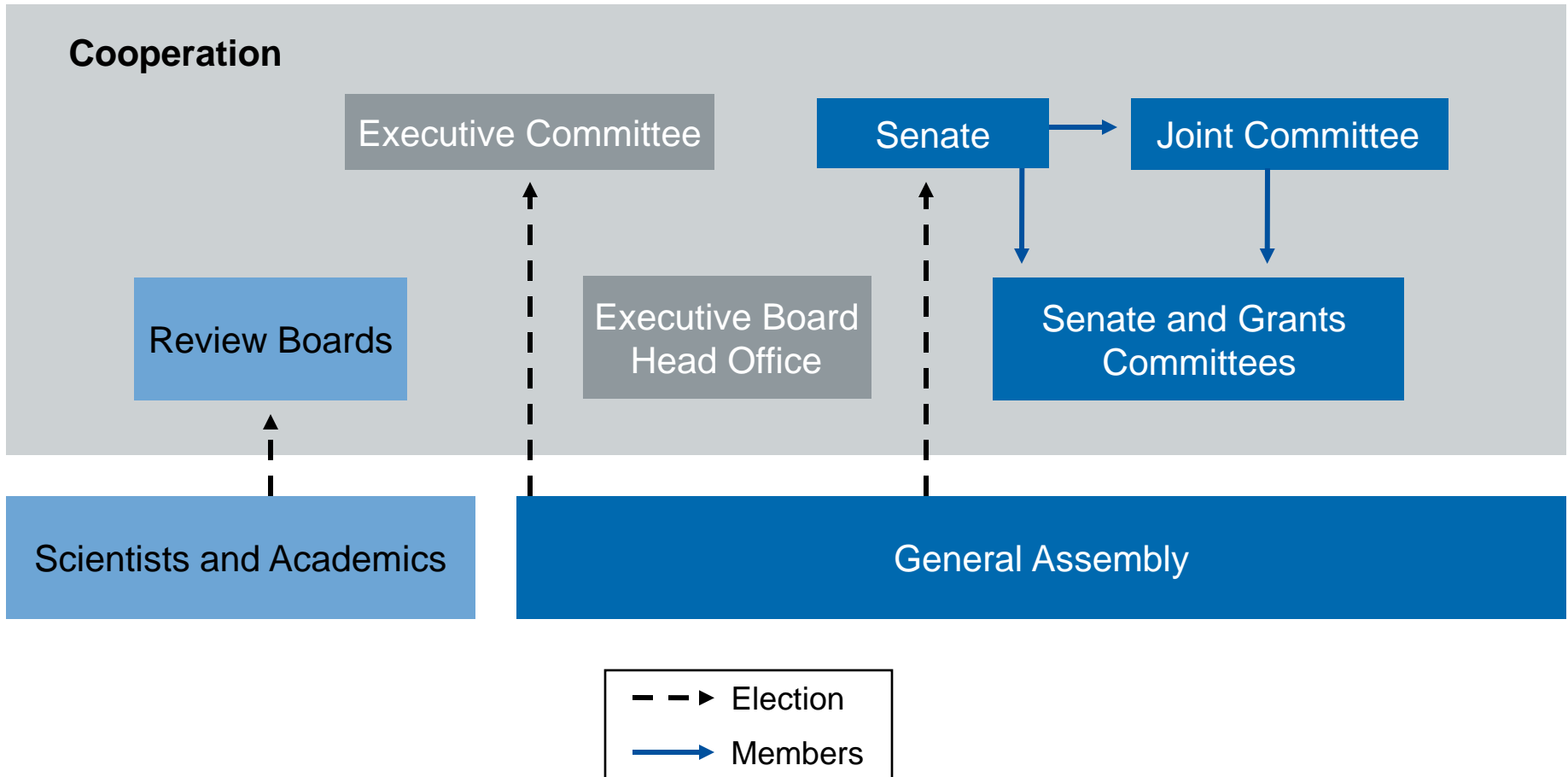


What is the DFG?

- ▶ Germany's **largest research funding organisation**
- ▶ An **independent association** (not a government agency) devoted to the **self-administration of Germany's sciences**
- ▶ DFG members are the **German universities** and the **large research performing organisations**.
- ▶ The DFG's 2012 **budget** totalled **€ 2.5 billion**

How are decision-making bodies formed?

Cooperation between scientific communities and committee members

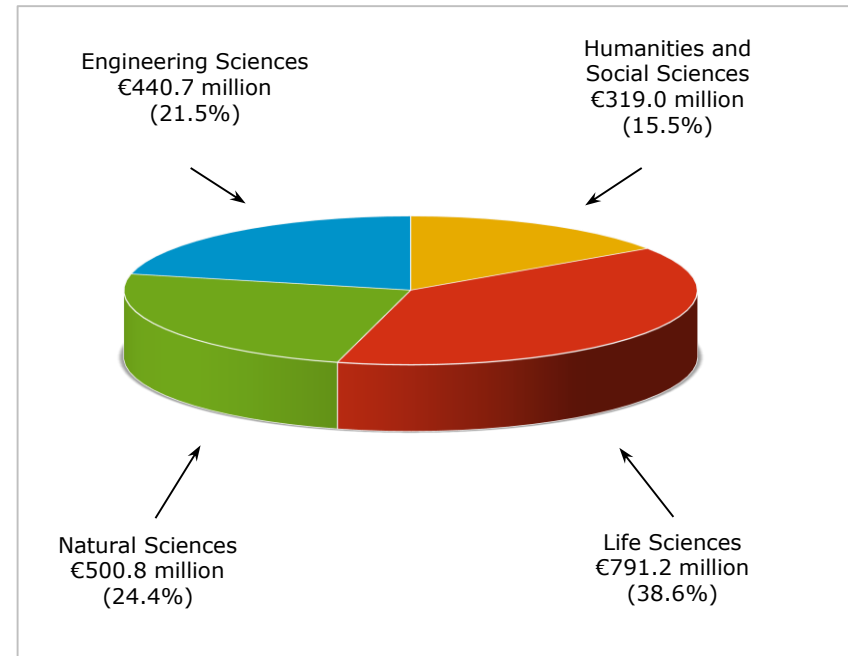


The DFG's mission statement

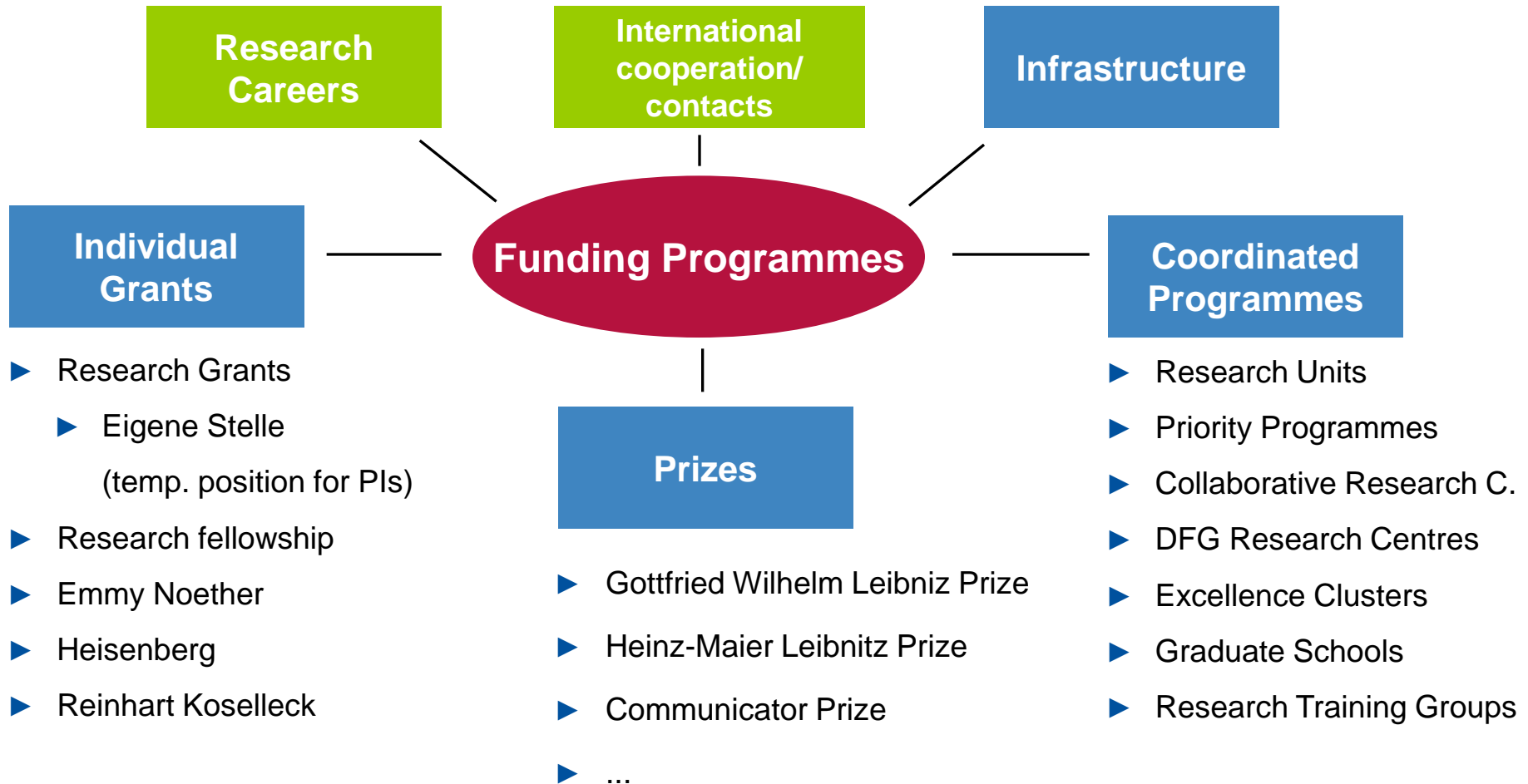
The DFG

- ▶ serves **all branches of science and the humanities**
- ▶ fosters **scientific excellence** through competition
- ▶ supports the **education and advancement of young scientific researchers**
- ▶ supports **international cooperation in research**
- ▶ **advises** political and social decision-makers
- ▶ supports the **transfer of knowledge** between science and industry

Funding in 2012, by scientific discipline

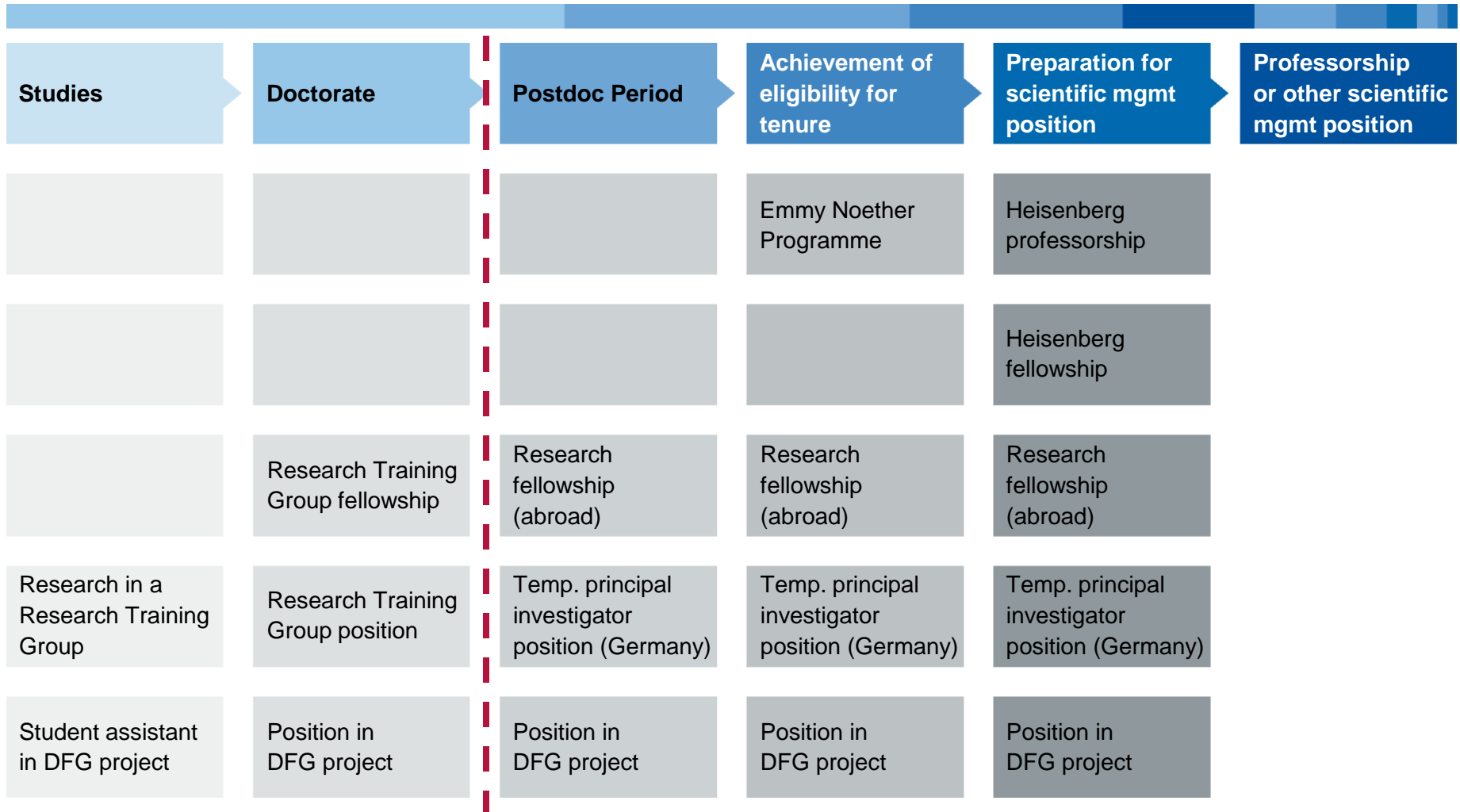


Funding Instruments



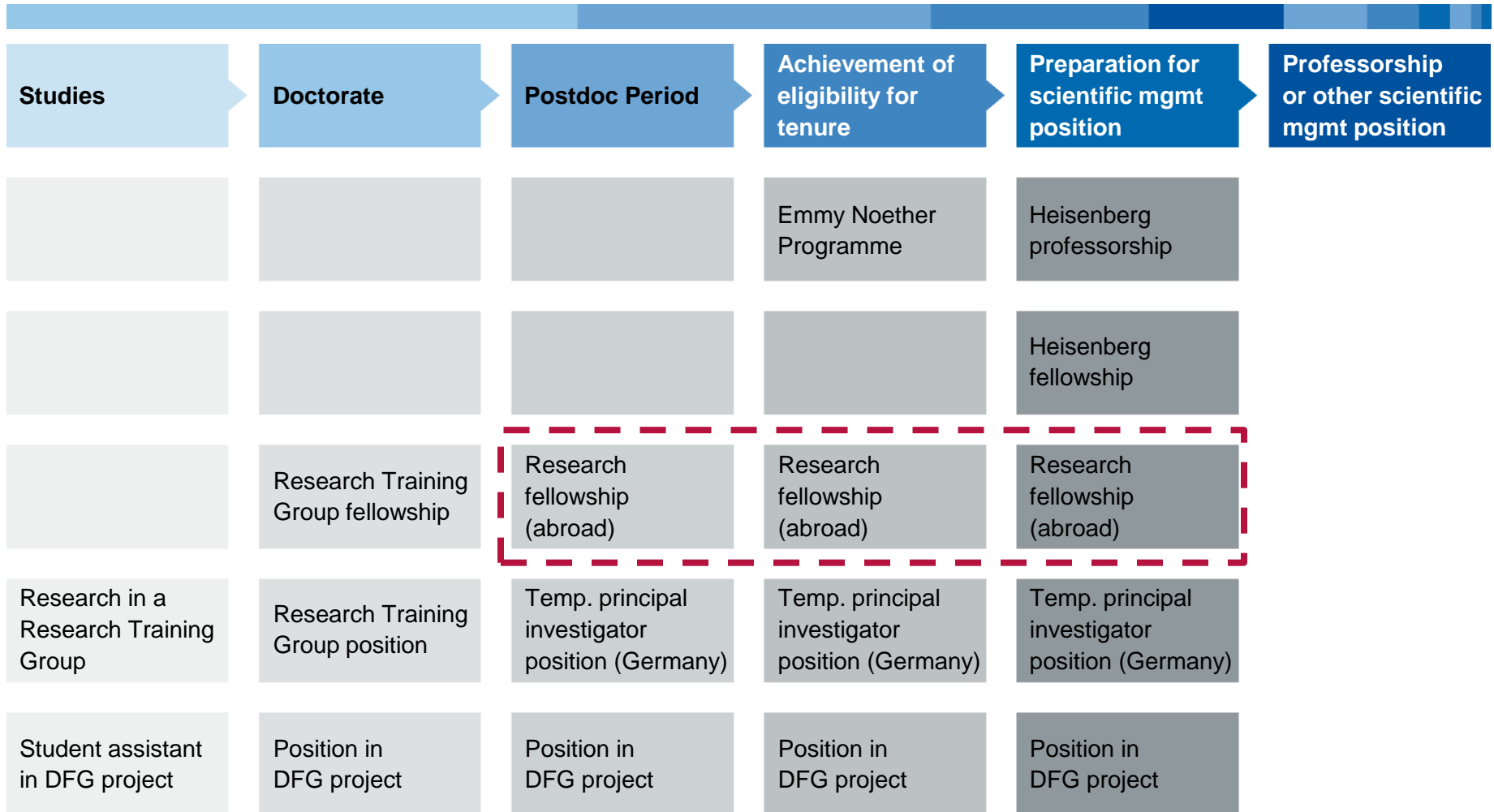
What are the DFG's objectives in funding top young talent?

To offer researchers appropriate funding options at each career stage



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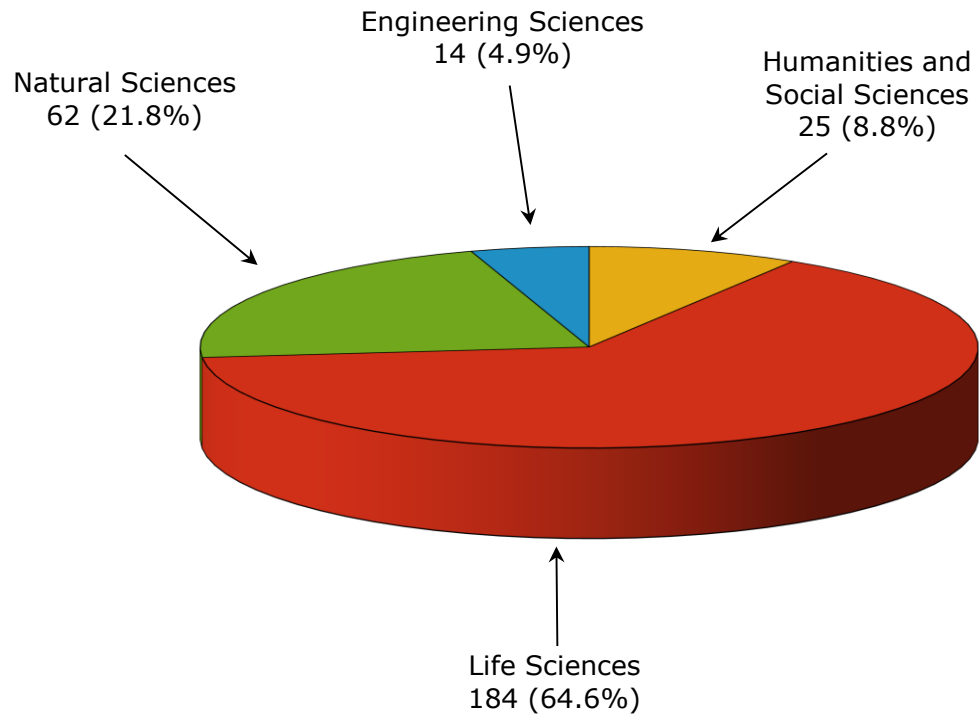


Research Fellowship

➔ **work abroad under the supervision of a qualified researcher**
learn new methods, concentrate on research

- ▶ **Who?** Postdocs (integrated in the German system)
- ▶ **Where?** whole world
- ▶ **How long?** max. 2 years
- ▶ **How much?** basic fellowship, allowances, travel, publ. costs, (return stipend)
- ▶ **Criteria?**
 - scientific vita of the applicant
 - quality of the research project
 - reputation of hosting lab

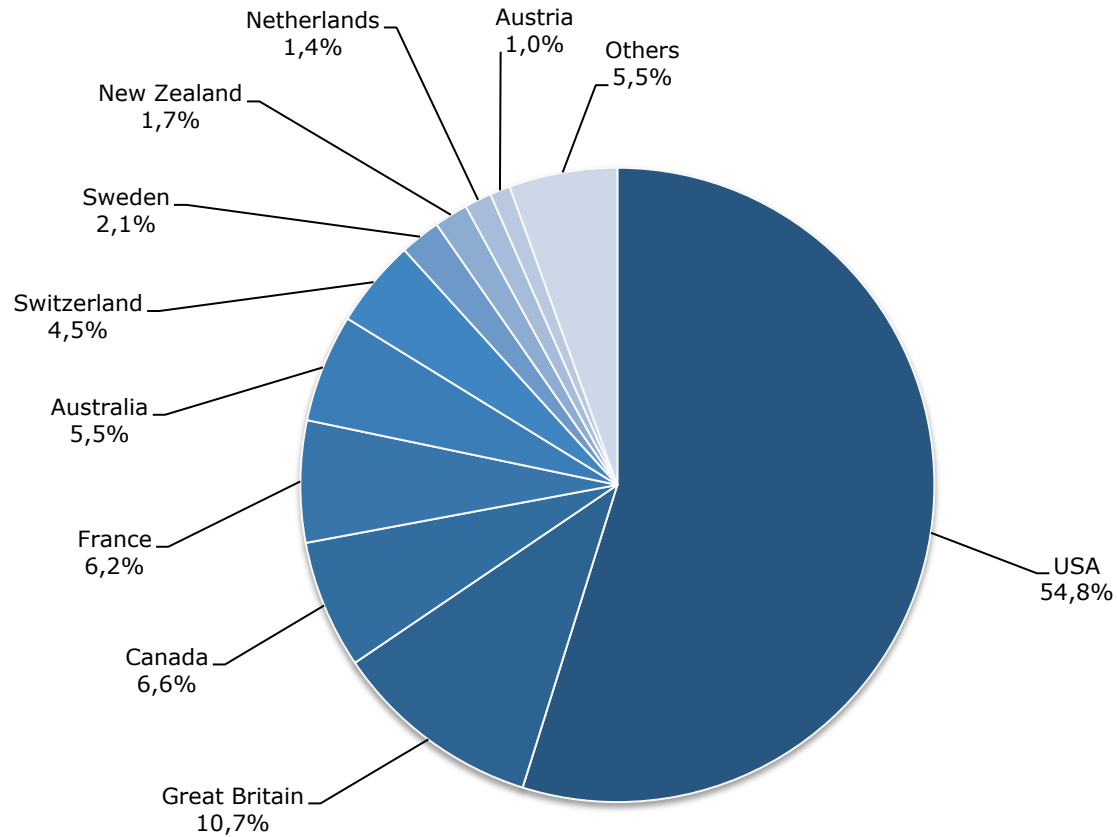
Number of new research fellowships* by scientific discipline 2012



Total number of fellowships: 285

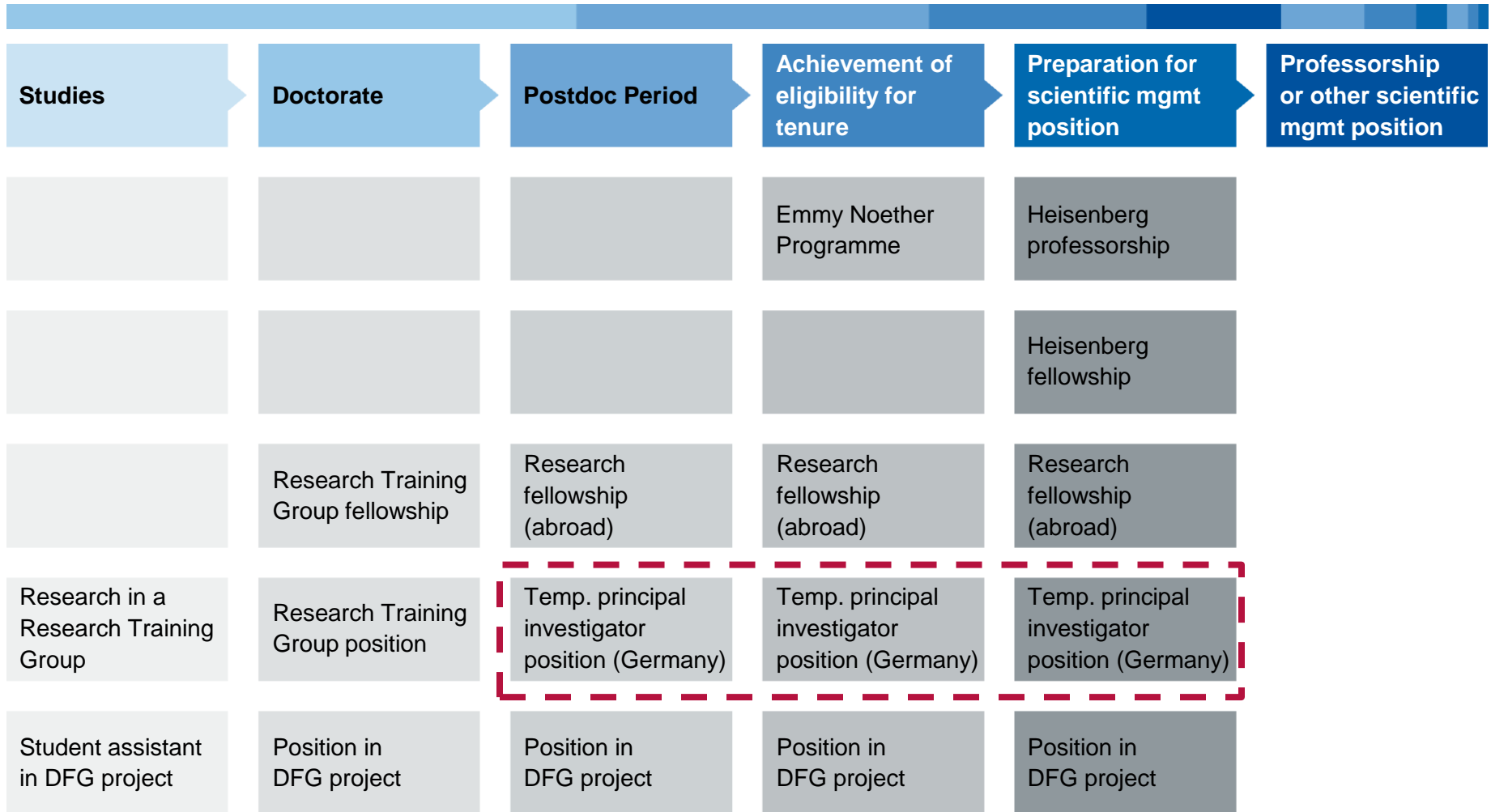
* not including return grants

Destinations of DFG-funded postdoctoral fellows in 2012



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Research Grants Programme

The classical DFG grant

- ▶ the most flexible grant programme
- ▶ no deadlines
- ▶ up to 6 years of funding per project (e.g. 2 x 3)
- ▶ covers personnel, consumables, travel costs, lab equipment, publication costs
- ▶ “DFG-Erstantrag” – First time proposal

Who can apply?

- ▶ **Researchers of all disciplines**
 - who have completed their scientific training (= hold a doctorate) and
 - who want to carry out their own research project at a German research institution

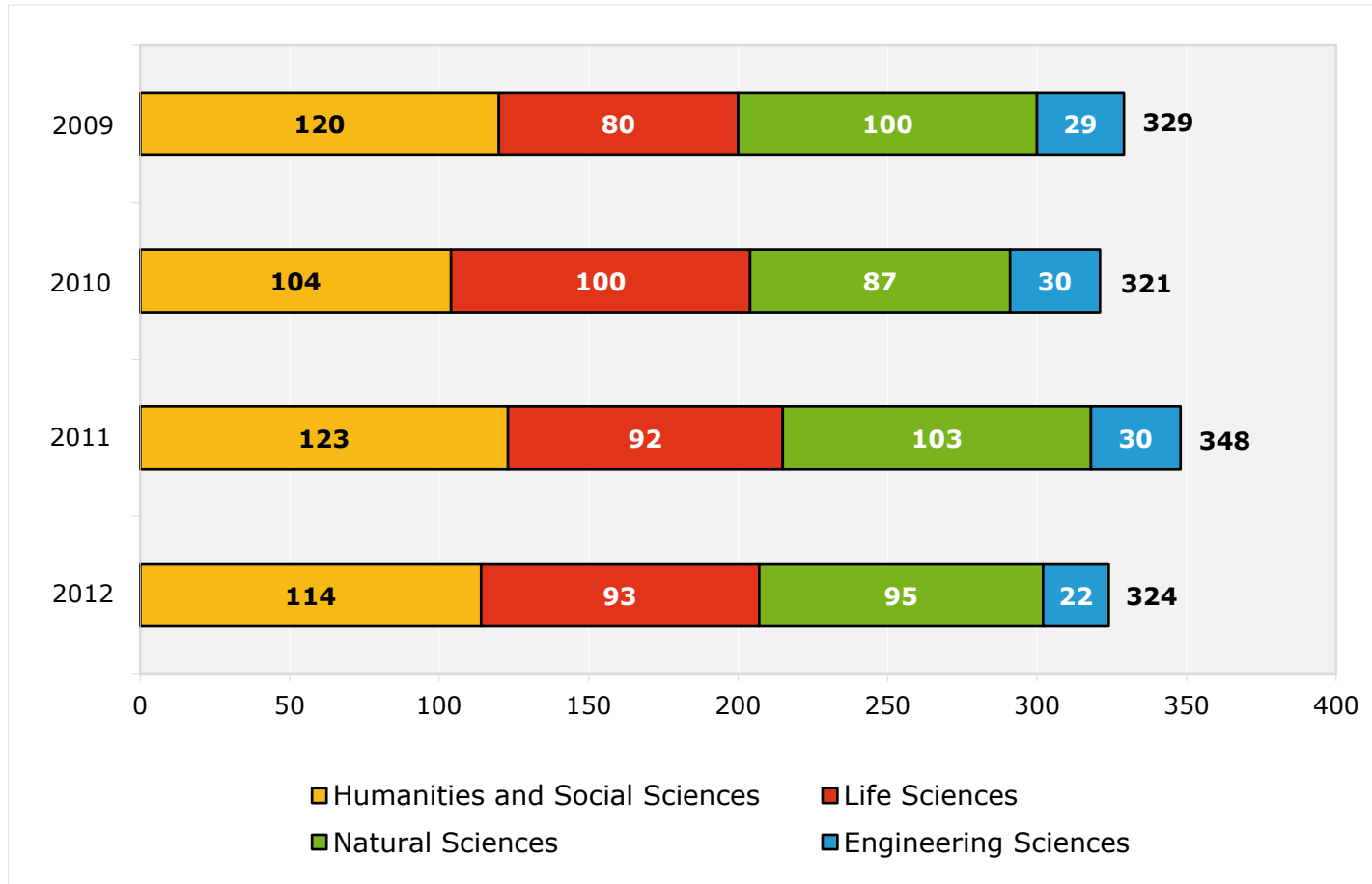
Individual Grants Programme

”Eigene Stelle” – Temporary Position for PIs

→ Select your own research environment

- ▶ **Who?** Postdocs
- ▶ **Where?** At a German research institute
(host becomes employer)
- ▶ **How long?** max. 3 years
- ▶ **How much?**
 - Salaried position (TV-L E13)
 - personnel, consumables, travel costs, lab equipment, publication costs
 - applications from non-university-research institutions require 45% of financial participation from their institution

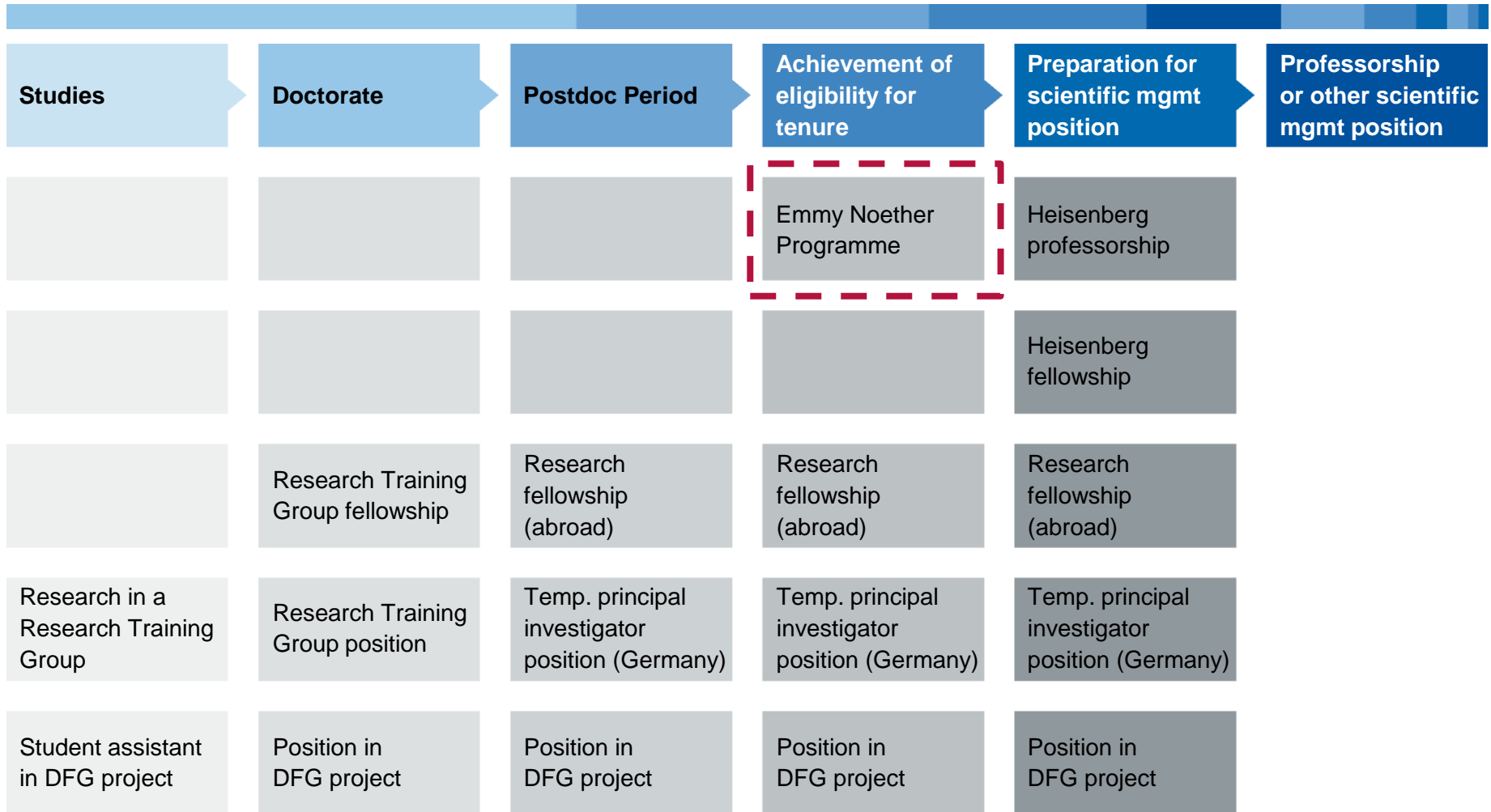
New awards in the temporary positions for principal investigators* scheme by scientific discipline 2009 to 2012



* New proposals

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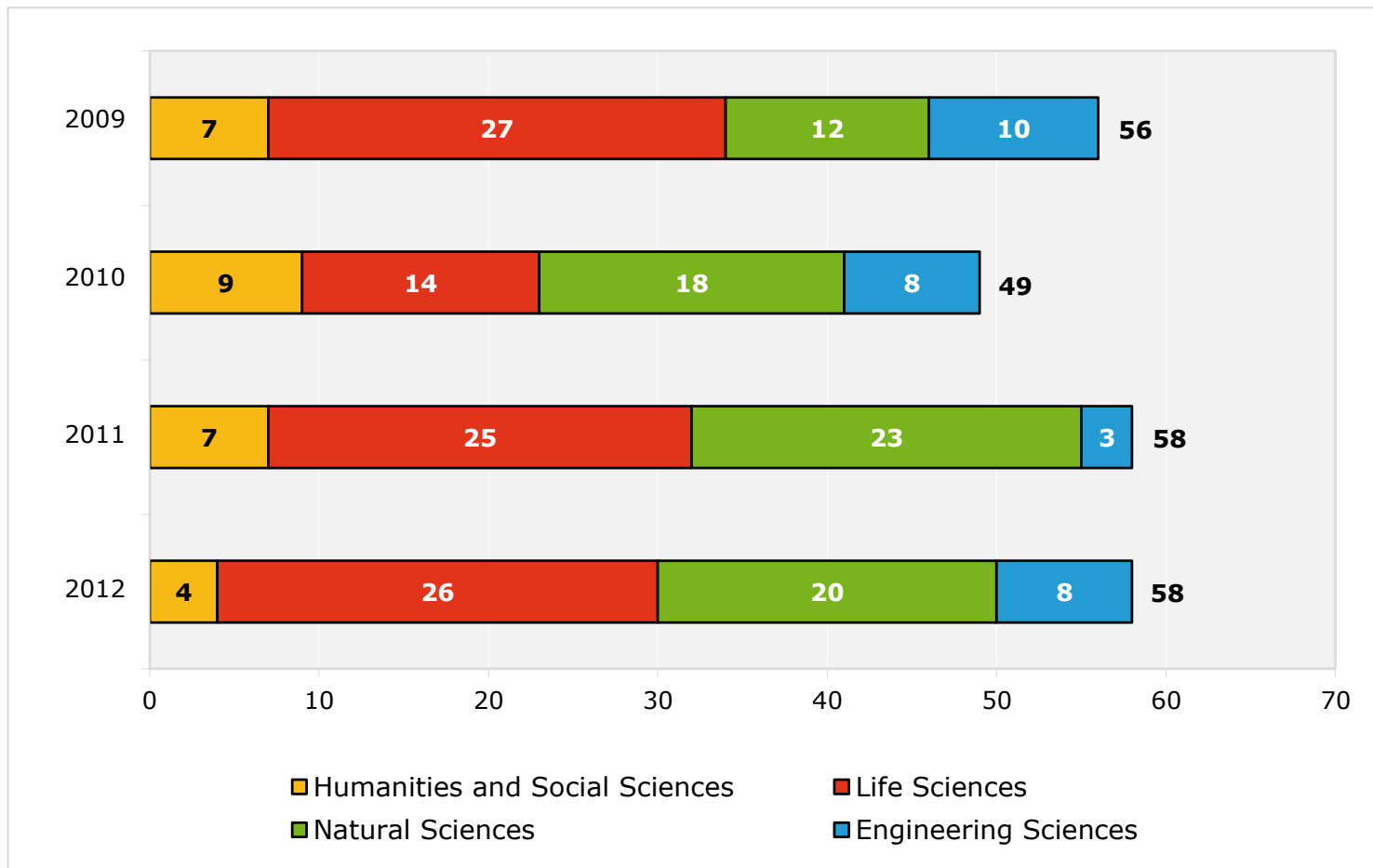
Emmy Noether Programme

Starting an independent research group

- ▶ **Who?**
 - Postdocs (max 4 yrs. after PhD / 6 years after MD)
 - significant international experience
- ▶ **Where?**
 - at a German university or research institute (host becomes employer)
 - option to negotiate with two or more potential host institutions
- ▶ **How long?**
 - 5 years
 - evaluation after 3 years
- ▶ **How much?**
 - own position as research group leader (TV-L E15)
 - additional personnel, consumables, lab equipment, travel costs; publication costs etc.

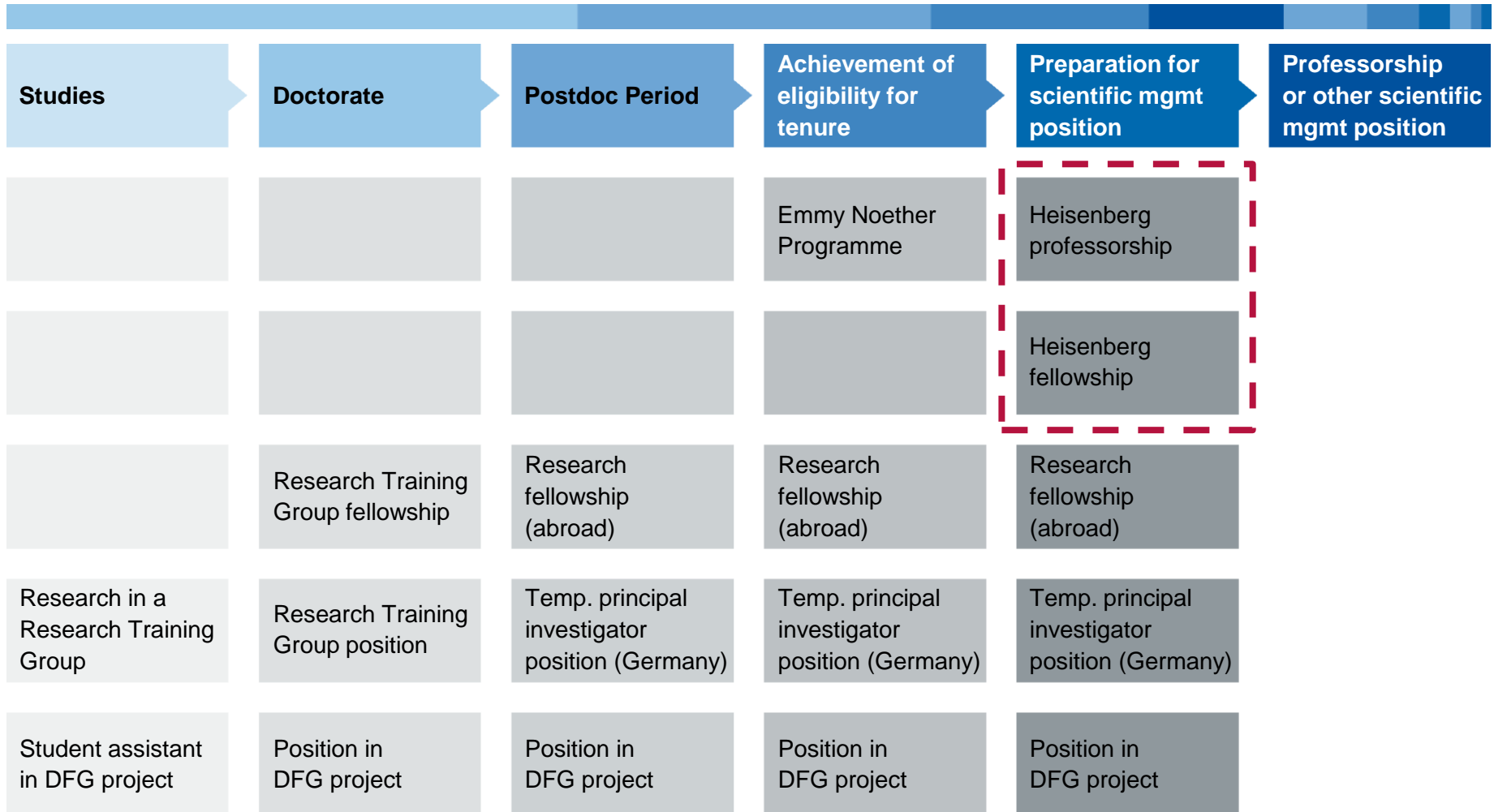


Number of new Emmy Noether independent junior research groups by scientific discipline 2009 to 2012



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Heisenberg Programme

Pursuing ambitious research while preparing for a tenured professorship

The Heisenberg Fellowship

- ▶ **Who?**
 - researchers with scientific standing sufficient for an appointment as a professor
 - excellent quality and originality of ongoing research
- ▶ **Where?** in Germany and abroad
- ▶ **How long?** max. 5 years (3+2)
- ▶ **How much?**
 - stipend
 - travel allowances
 - publication costs
 - day care allowance, health insurance allowance
 - often combined with individual grant proposal



Heisenberg Programme

Pursuing ambitious research while preparing for a tenured professorship

The Heisenberg Professorship

- ▶ **Who?**
 - researchers with scientific standing sufficient for an appointment as a professor
 - excellent quality and originality of ongoing research
- ▶ **Where?**
 - at a German university
 - participation in the host institution's professorial appointment process
- ▶ **How long?** max. 5 years
- ▶ **How much?**
 - equivalent to the salary of an associate or full professor (W2 or W3)
 - host university must create a position and continue funding for the position from its own budget once the DFG's five-year funding period has expired

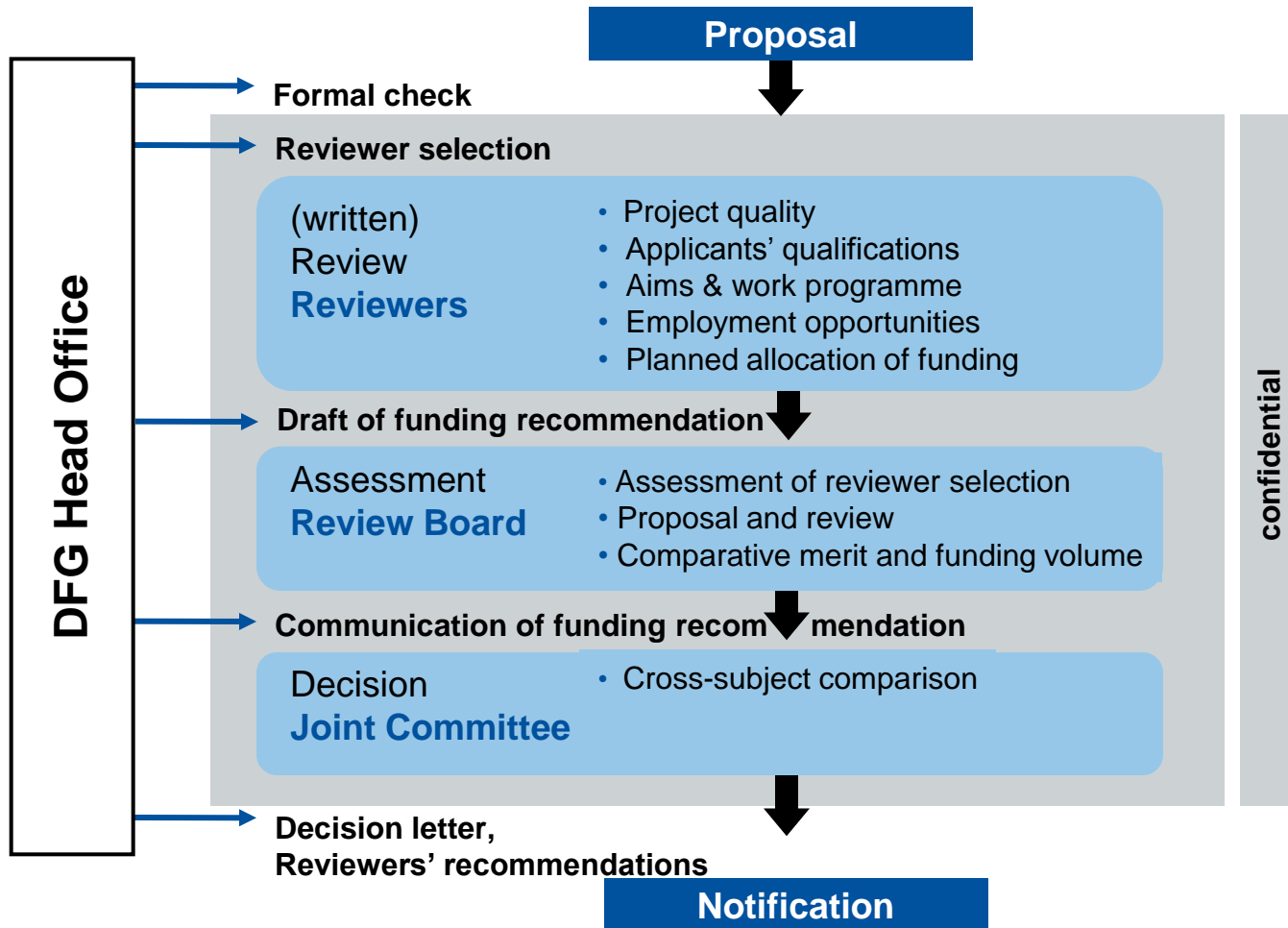
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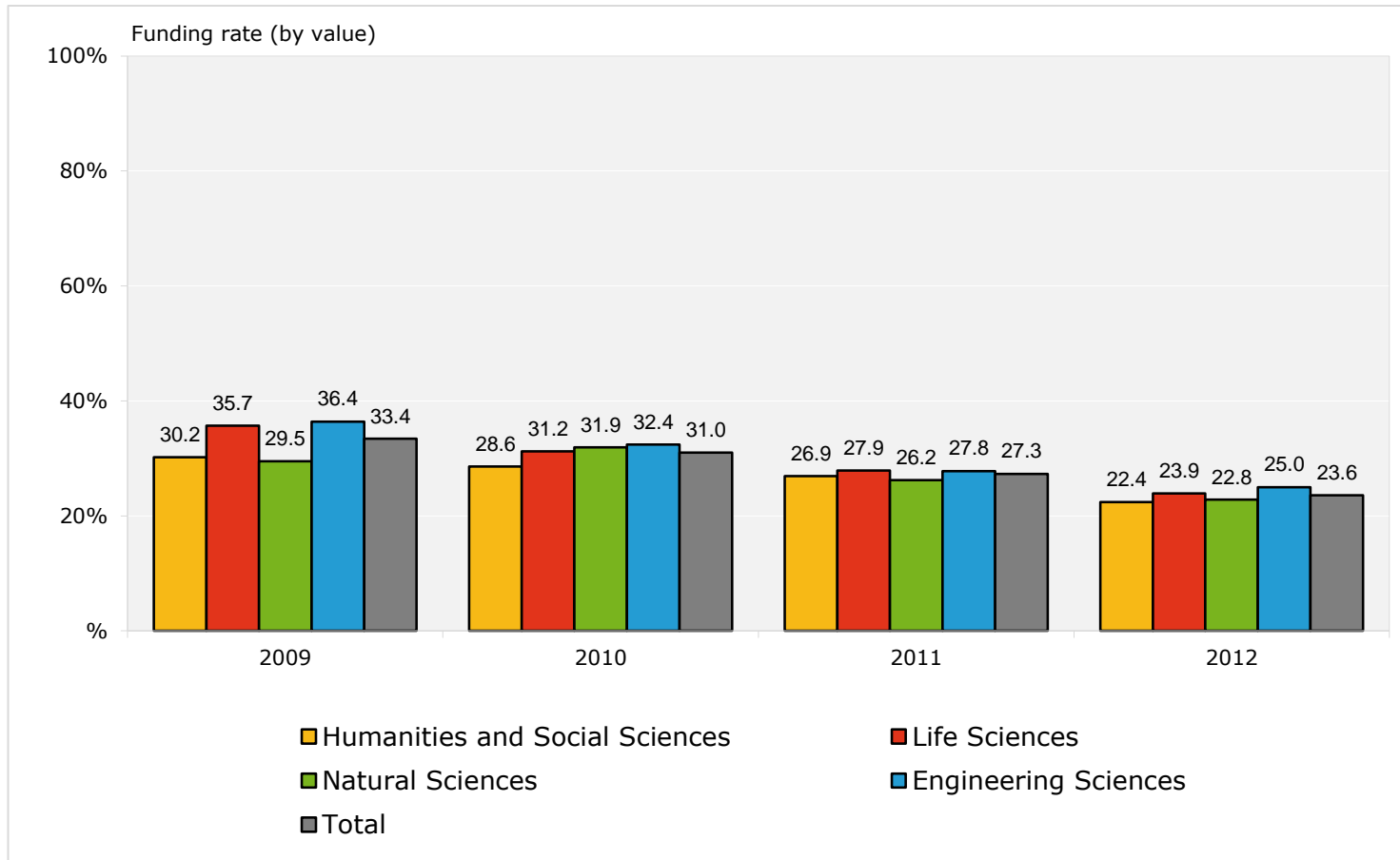


The review process

Individual grants



Funding rate* in the individual grants programme by scientific discipline 2009 to 2012 (in %)



* The funding rate was calculated by dividing the value of funding awarded by the total amount requested.

Who ensures scientific merit?

The DFG's review boards

These review boards

- ▶ are elected by **scientists and academics from their respective communities**
- ▶ monitor the selection of reviewers, make recommendations and **comparatively assess all proposals and reviews in the individual grants programme**
- ▶ are involved in **panel reviews for coordinated programmes**
- ▶ ensure that comparable high-quality standards and criteria are applied equally in **all DFG programmes**

There are **48 DFG review boards** with **606 members**.
Review board members act in an honorary capacity.

DFG Review Board Zoology

- Fachkollegium Zoologie -

	Subject Area	Members
203-01	Systematics and Morphology	Matthias Glaubrecht / Stefan Richter
203-02	Evolution, Anthropology	Judith Korb / Simone Sommer
203-03	Animal Ecology, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research	Katrin Böhning-Gaese / Helmut Hillebrand / Stefan Scheu
203-04	Sensory and Behavioural Biology	Susanne Foitzik / Peter Kappeler
203-05	Biochemistry and Animal Physiology	Thorsten Burmester / Jan-Peter Hildebrandt
203-06	Animal Genetics, Cell and Developmental Biology	Thomas Bosch / Siegfried Roth

- ▶ 13 members
- ▶ >300 single grant applications per year
- ▶ annual budget ca. 14 Mio. Euro p.a.
- ▶ ca. 25% funding rate



DFG

Thank you for your attention

For more information

- ▶ on the DFG: www.dfg.de/en/
- ▶ on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris/
- ▶ on over 17,000 German research institutes: www.dfg.de/research_explorer/

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