

HORIZON EUROPE CLUSTER 5 REGIONAL INFO DAY

ENHANCING EU-CENTRAL ASIA RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN HORIZON EUROPE

Almaty, 20 May 2025

Networking for Research – German Universities of Applied Sciences and Researchers Worldwide

Dr. Jörn Achterberg

Director for International Cooperation, DFG



DFG – German Research Foundation

**Networking for Research in Central Asia
Initiative for German Universities of Applied Sciences**

Overview

1. General Information about the DFG
2. Funding Opportunities and Activities with Central Asia
3. UDIF-HAW – DFG Initiative for German Universities of Applied Sciences
4. Networking for Research in Central Asia
5. Information Systems and Contacts



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What is the DFG?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

- ▶ Central **self-governing research organisation** in Germany
- ▶ Predecessor founded 1920
- ▶ Annual budget of **€ 3.9 billion** (German federal government (69.3%), German states (29.4%), private sources (1.3%))
- ▶ Politically rather independent
- ▶ About 1,000 employees at the Head Office in Bonn
- ▶ 6 DFG Representations Abroad



What is the DFG?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

The DFG is an association under private law.

The DFG can only act through its governing bodies Executive Board and General Assembly.

► Membership of DFG (99)

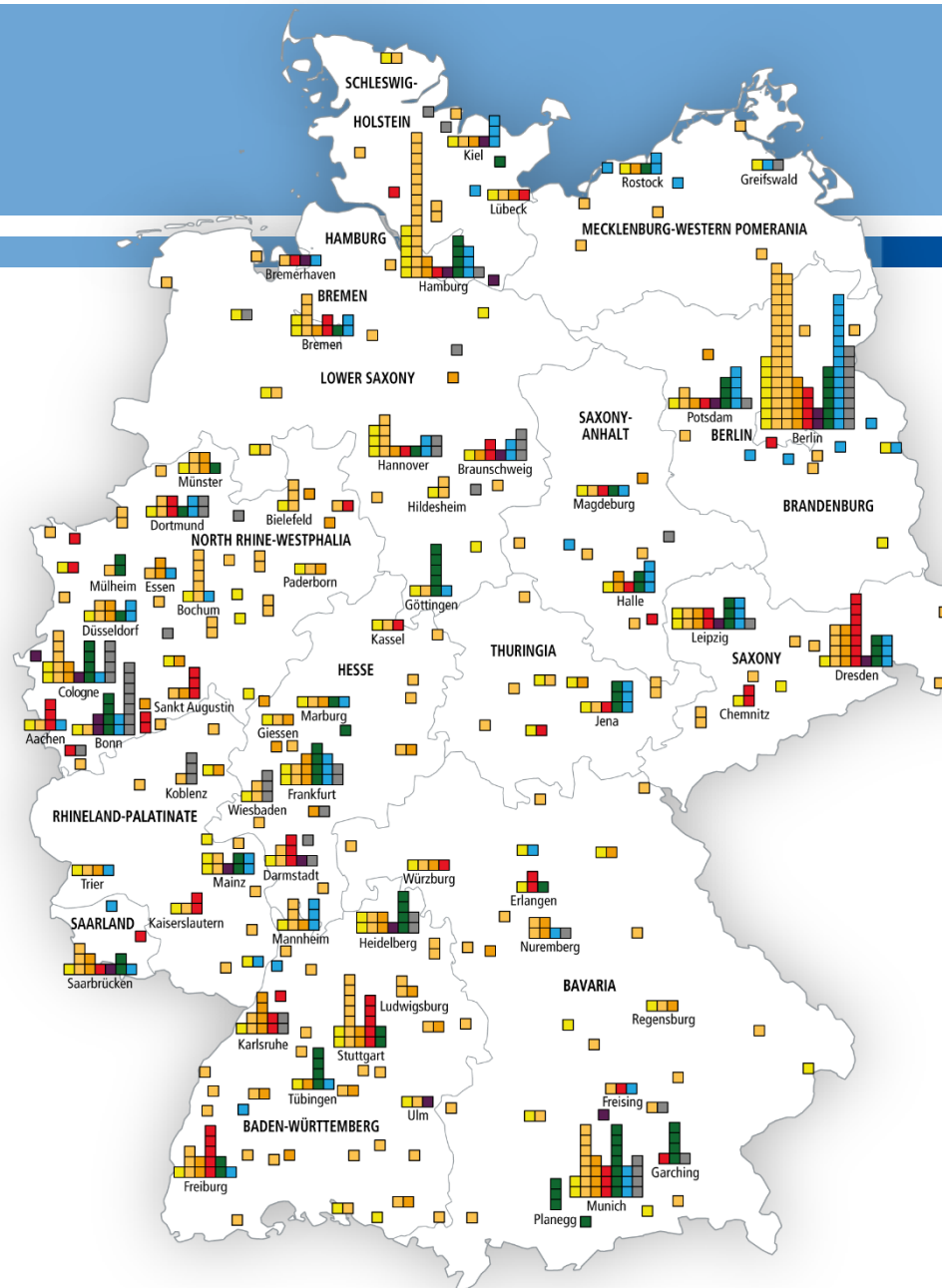
- German universities (73)
- Research organisations (15) (e.g. Max Planck Society, Helmholtz Association, Fraunhofer Society, Leibniz Association)
- Academies of sciences (7)
- Scientific associations (4)



German Research Landscape

Research Institutions in Germany

- ▶ More than 400 HEI
 - 120 Universities
 - 210 Universities of Applied Sciences
 - 50 Universities and Colleges of Theology, Music and Art
- ▶ 76 Institutes of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
- ▶ 18 Centres of Helmholtz Association
- ▶ 84 Institutes of Max Planck Society (MPG)
- ▶ 96 Institutes of Leibniz Association
- ▶ 44 Federal Research Institutes



Type of institution

- Universities
- Universities of applied sciences
- Universities and colleges of theology, music and art
- Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG)
- Helmholtz Association (HGF)
- Max Planck Society (MPG)
- Leibniz Association (WGL)
- Federal research institutes

The German Research Landscape

German Research Performing Agencies

Research Performing Institutions

- ▶ **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG):** application-oriented research
 - (76 institutes, 31.000 staff, 3,4 bn EUR 2023)
- ▶ **Helmholtz Association (HGF):** fundamental sciences with high impact
 - (18 centres, 44.700 staff, 5,96 bn EUR 2022)
- ▶ **Leibniz Association (WGL):** long-term research / service
 - (97 institutes, 21.000 staff, 2,17 bn EUR 2022)
- ▶ **Max Planck Society (MPG):** basic research
 - (84 institutes, 24.600 staff, 2,1 bn EUR 2023)



Research Funding Institutions

► Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

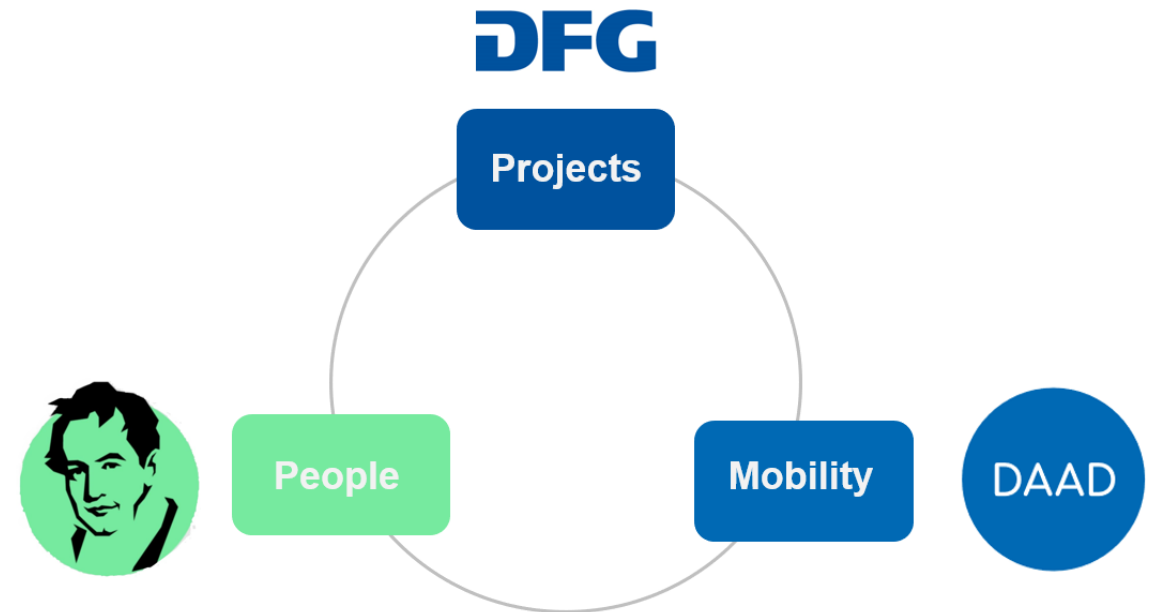
- Funding organisation for researchers /universities
- 3.9 bln € (2023), 1,000 staff

► German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

- International exchange of students and researchers
- 839.3 Mio € (2023), 1,000 staff

► Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH):

- Promotion of academic cooperation between scientists and scholars from abroad and from Germany
- 183 Mio € (2023), 288 staff



What does the DFG do?

Germany's largest research funding organisation

The DFG

- ▶ serves **all branches of science and the humanities** by funding research projects and facilitating cooperation among researchers
- ▶ takes particular care to promote **international cooperation, early career researchers, gender equality and diversity** in science and the humanities
- ▶ **advises parliaments and public authorities** on scientific matters
- ▶ fosters **relations between research and the private sector** and between **scientists and academics at home and abroad**



What and whom does the DFG fund?

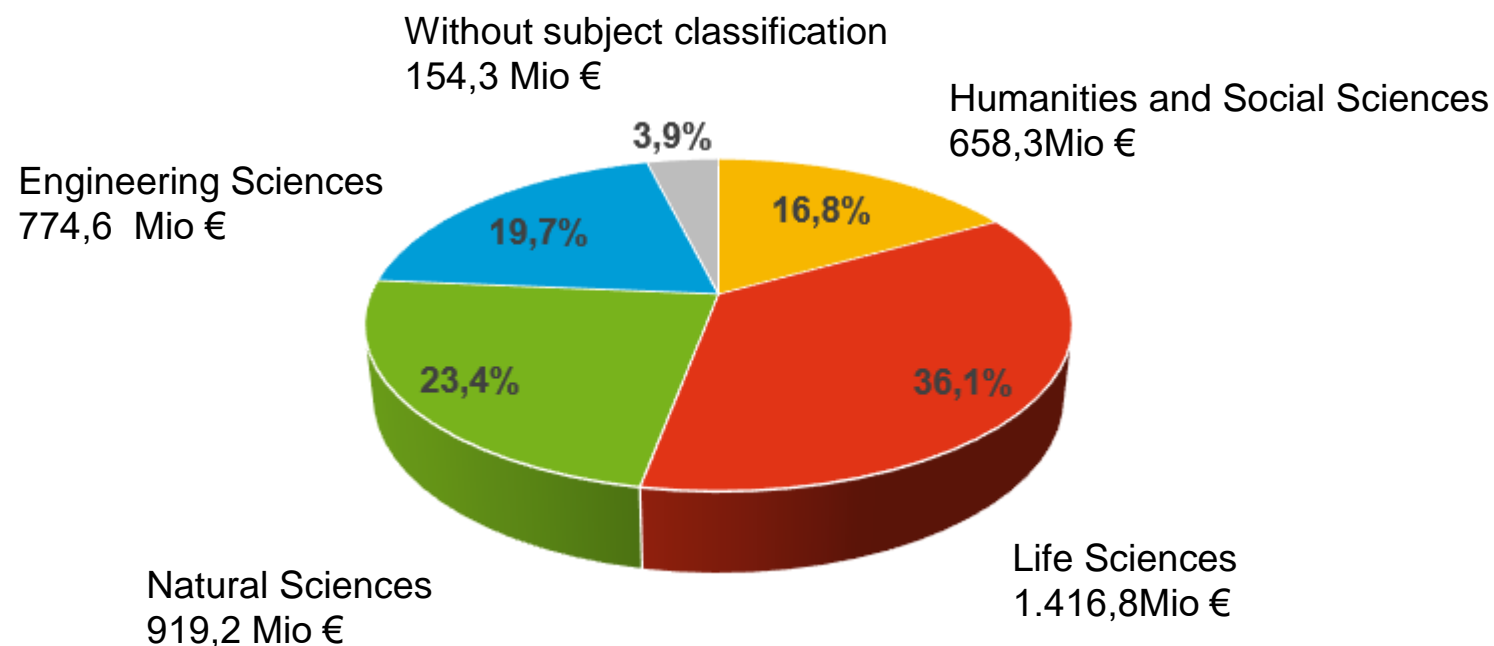
Germany's largest research funding organisation

- ▶ Research projects of all sizes (> 30,000 per year) in all branches of science and the humanities
- ▶ Funding as a bottom-up process and in competition
- ▶ Science-driven research, often basic research
- ▶ Quality-driven rather than impact-driven
- ▶ No thematic nor regional nor political priorities
- ▶ (Projects by) researchers at higher education and research institutions in Germany (with at least a doctorate)
- ▶ All funding lines are **open and suitable for international cooperation**
- ▶ Partners from abroad are usually expected to bring their own funding



DFG in a Nutshell

Amount of research funding* awarded by scientific discipline for 2023 (in €m and %)



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How does the DFG promote international cooperation?

Activities and Instruments

- ▶ All funding lines are **open and suitable for international cooperation**
 - Grants for travel
 - Guest researchers
 - Joint workshops
- ▶ Joint calls with partner organizations
- ▶ Conferences, talks, workshops
- ▶ DFG Representations Abroad
- ▶ Special funding programmes and initiatives (e.g. Networking for Research UDIF-HAW)



Pamir expedition (Tajik ASSR), 1928

How does the DFG promote international cooperation?

Funding Opportunities

► Funding principles for funding bilateral research projects:

- **DFG funds the part of the project based in Germany**
 - Scientists can apply for international funding like travel costs, exchange of researchers in all DFG funding programmes
- **No special funds for funding international projects**
 - Proposals for international collaborations must compete with all other proposals in the same DFG programme
- **Complementary funding**
 - by another funding organisation, the relevant university or non-university research institution, or another source
- **Exception: bilateral projects with development aided countries from DAC-list**
 - DFG funds both parts of the project – in Germany and in the partner country



Copyright: DFG Fotograf Eric Lichtenscheid



[DFG, German Research Foundation -
Initiation of International Collaboration](#)

How does the DFG promote international cooperation?

Funding Opportunities

Initiation of International Collaboration

► Funding

- Funding max. **1 year**
- Application by the German partner
- **Mobility funding** to get to know each other
- One aim could be: prepare a joint project proposal
- DFG-Guidelines 1.813

► Modules

- Workshops in Germany or abroad
- Short individual visits in Germany or abroad
- Visit up to three months



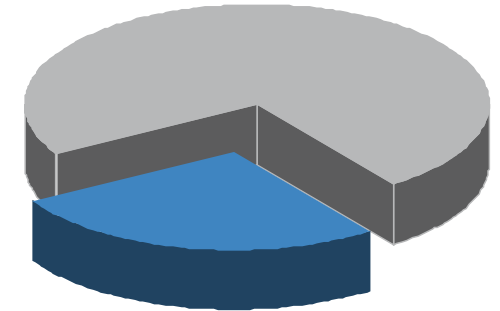
[DFG, German Research Foundation -
Initiation of International Collaboration](#)

How does the DFG promote international cooperation?

Funding Opportunities

Research Grant

- ▶ Research project on a specifically defined topic within a limited time period
- ▶ A research grant can be used to
 - Staff
 - Equipment up to €10,000, software and consumables
 - **Travel**
 - **Visiting researchers**
 - **Mercator Fellows** (associated with the project over the long term)
 - Experimental animals
 - Publication expenses
 - Funding for instrumentation (€50,000 or more)
- ▶ **3 years (6 years)**
- ▶ **No submission deadline**
- ▶ **Information on formalities:** DFG-Form 50.01



Part in total
funding volume:
34.2 % (2022)



[DFG, German Research Foundation - Individual Research Grants](#)

How does the DFG promote international cooperation?

Funding Opportunities

Cooperation with Official Development Assistance (ODA) Recipients

► Funding

- Funding max. **3 years**
- Application by the German partner
- **DFG funds German part and part in the respective country**
- Project partner is from a country that is eligible to receive ODA and is included on the OECD DAC-List (partner has to provide a statement that they are unable to provide local funding)
- DFG transfers fund to German Partner, who transfers part of fund to Cooperation Partner

► Modules

- Funding for **staff** employed by collaborating partners on basis of customary local rates
- **Scientific instrumentation, equipment** to be used by collaboration partner; they become property of collaborating partner's country
- **Consumables and commodities**

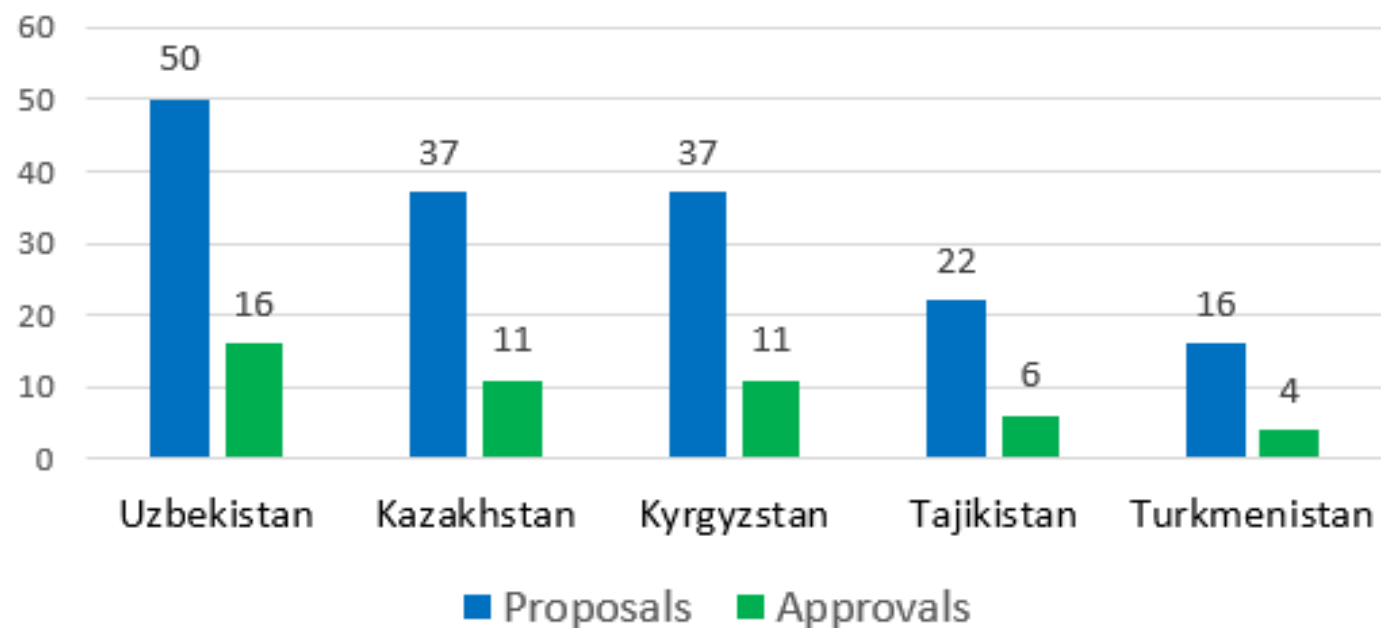
[DFG, German Research Foundation - Cooperation with Developing Countries](#)



Funding Statistics Central Asia

Proposals and Approvals 2020-2024

Proposals and Approvals 2020 – 2024 with country reference*

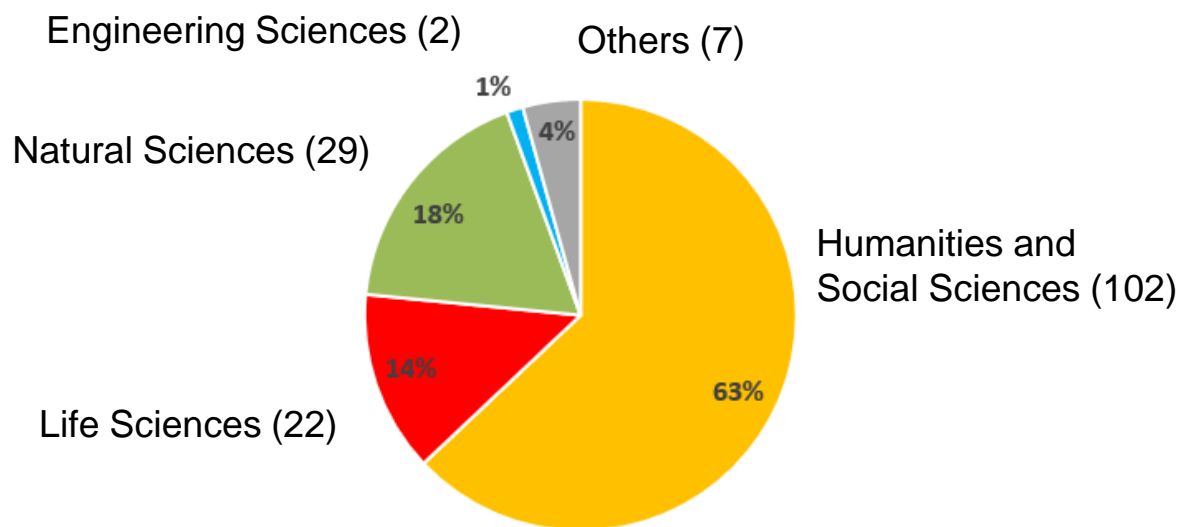


*a project that has a link to several countries is counted for each of the countries involved

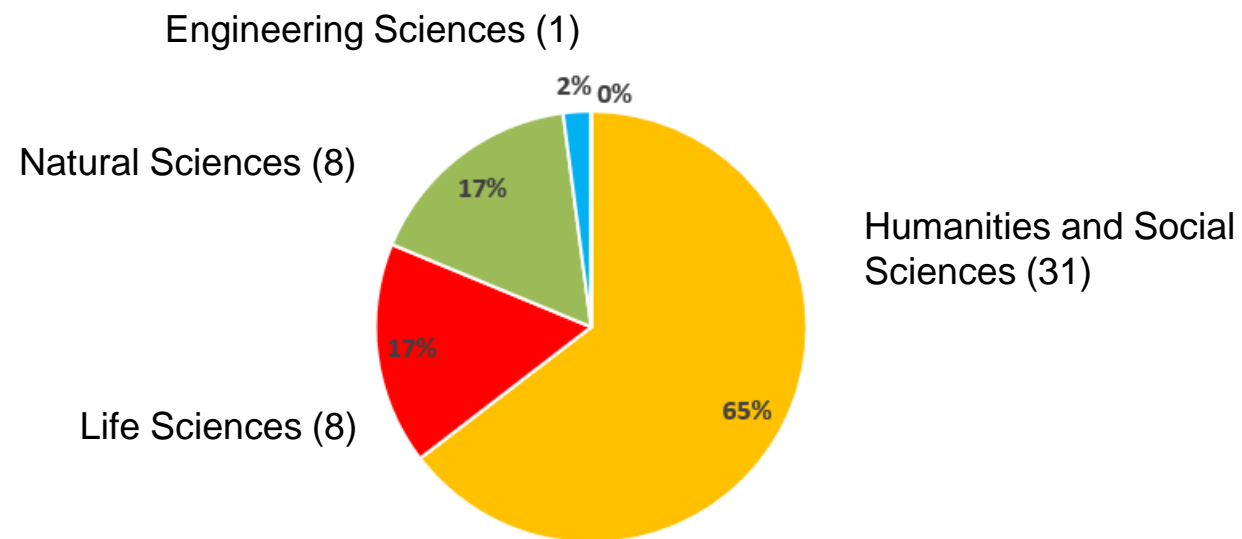
Funding Statistics Central Asia

2020-2024 Proposals and Approvals

2020–2024 (5 years):
162 proposals with reference to 5 CA-countries



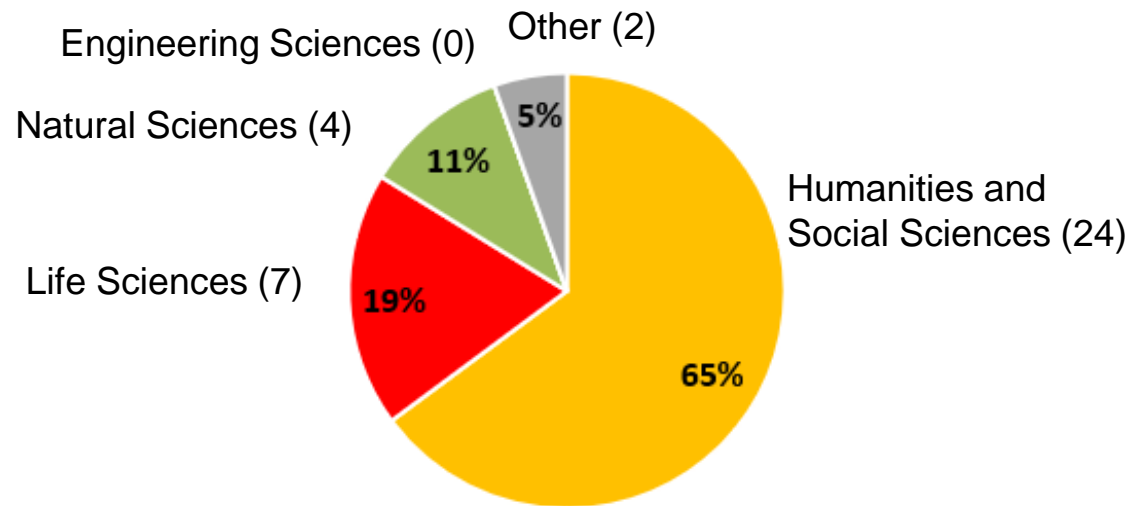
2020–2024 (5 years):
48 approvals with reference to 5 CA-countries



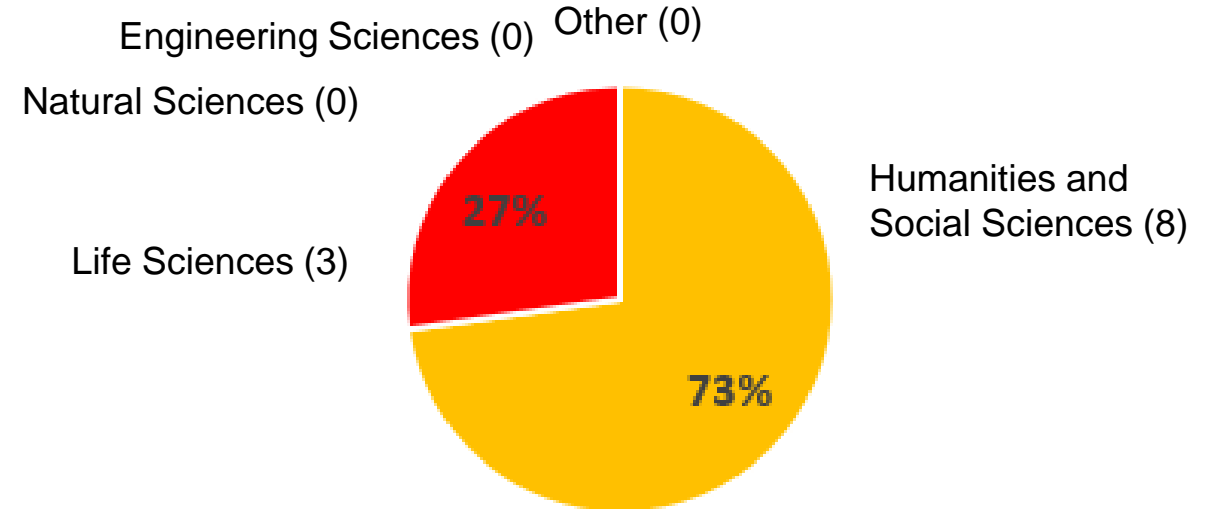
Funding Statistics Kazakhstan

Proposals and Approvals 2020 – 2024

2020 – 2024 (5 years):
37 proposals with reference to Kazakhstan



2020 – 2024 (5 years):
11 approvals with reference to Kazakhstan



Kooperation with Kazakhstan

Best Practice

- ▶ **Bridging Desert and Forest: Initiation of German-Kazakh Collaborations on the Prehistory of Northern Kazakhstan**
 - 2024 – 2025 (12 months)
 - FU Berlin, Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology
 - Margulan Institute of Archaeology of the Committee of Science of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty

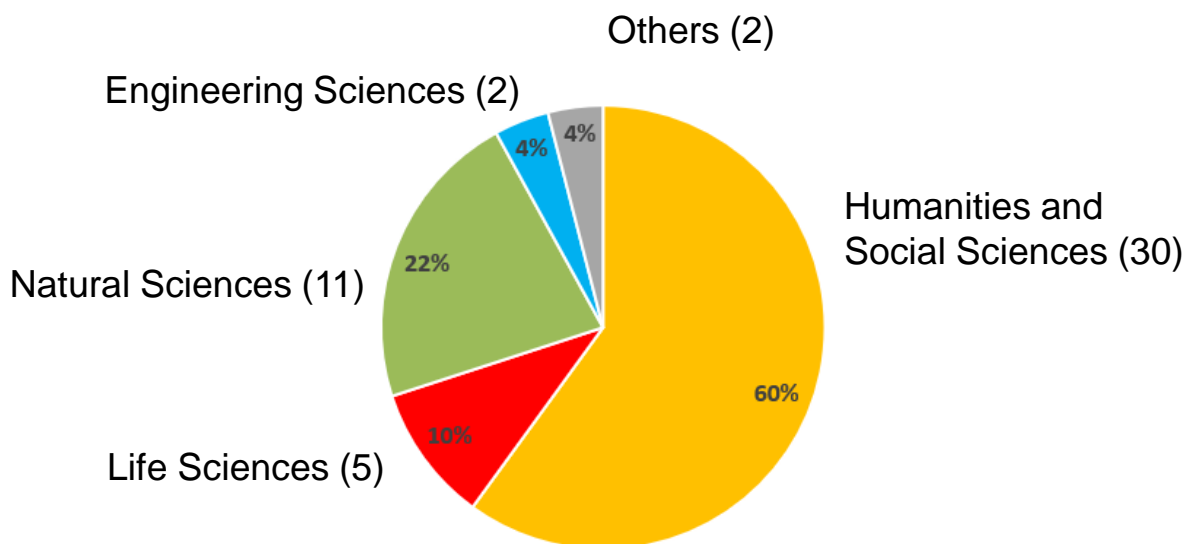
- ▶ **Hunting trips to Kazakhstan: A Criminal and Administrative Classification of Advertising for, Implementation of and Participation in Hunting Trips to Kazakhstan under German and Kazakh law**
 - 2023 – 2024 (12 months)
 - Universität Bremen, Bremen Institute for Criminal Science
 - Kazguu University, Astana

- ▶ **Pastoralists Lost: Pioneer Equine and Ruminant Herders of the Central Asian Steppes and their Role in Early Horse Husbandry**
 - 2023 – 2026 (36 months)
 - University of Kiel, Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology
 - Pavlodar "S. Toraighyrov" State University
 - University of Manchester / University of Exeter / University of Bristol

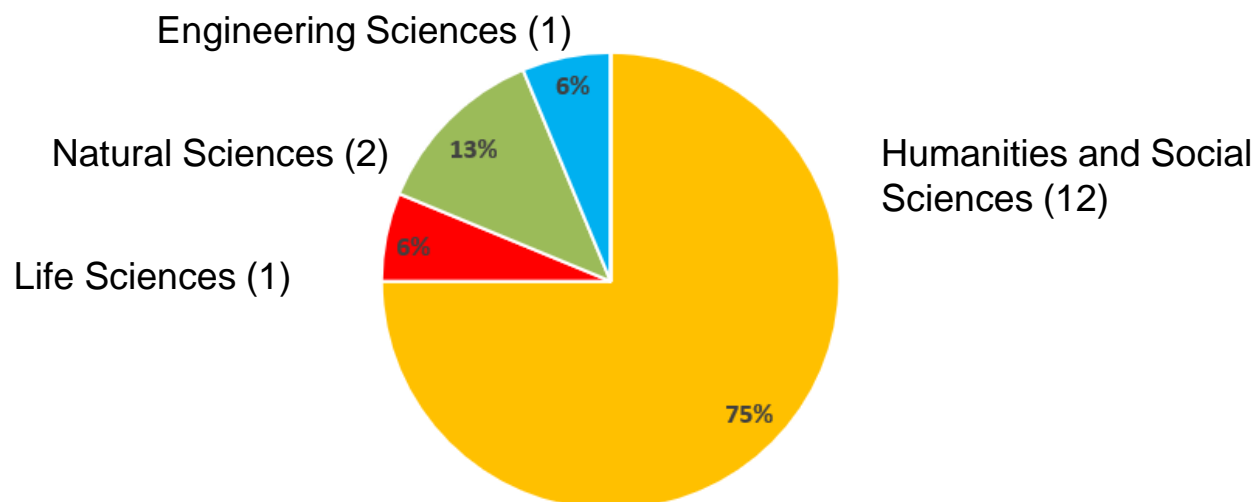
Funding Statistics Uzbekistan

Proposals and Approvals 2020 – 2024

2020 – 2024 (5 years):
50 proposals with reference to Uzbekistan



2020 – 2024 (5 years):
16 approvals with reference to Uzbekistan



Kooperation with Uzbekistan

Best Practice

- ▶ **Sustainability Assessment of Irrigated Agriculture: Rebound Effects in Semi-arid Uzbekistan (RebUz)**
 - 2022-2025 (36 months)
 - ZALF (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape)
 - TIIAME and International Water Management Institute (IWMI-Central Asia)
- ▶ **Interplay of Mechanics, Tribology and Material Science**
 - 2024-2025 (12 months)
 - Technical University Berlin, Institute of Mechanics
 - Samarkand State University / Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan / Tashkent University of Architecture and Civil Engineering
- ▶ **Central Asia as Cinematic Territory: the Power of Culture**
 - 2023-2026 (36 months)
 - University Passau, Faculty of Philosophy
 - Experts from Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- ▶ **The Hydrological Cycle of Central Asia under Climate and Land Use Changes**
 - 2019-2023 (36 months)
 - University of Würzburg
 - KAZ: Sultangazin's Space Research Institute in Kazakhstan
 - UZB: Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service (KRASS)
 - KGZ: Central Asian Institute of Applied Geosciences (CAIAG)

DFG Activities with Central Asia

Recent Examples

2025

- ▶ Stakeholder Meeting DFG Team UDIF and representatives of Central Asian institutions
- ▶ Meeting between **DFG Secretary General Dr. Heide Ahrens** and **Ambassador of Kazakhstan Onzhanov in Berlin**

2024

- ▶ DFG-Delegation in **Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan**
 - **Tashkent:** National U, TSTU, UTAS, UGS, TIAME, IWMI, NAS UZB, Innofund, Ministry of HE, Science and Innovation
 - **Astana:** Nazarbayev U, Eurasian National U, Science Fund
 - **Almaty:** Al Farabi U, AUPET, Satbayev U, KBTU, DKU, NAS KAZ

2023

- ▶ **Almaty:** BMBF Delegation Trips and Kazakh-German Science Days
- ▶ **Tashkent:** Innoweek 2023 and Uzbek-German Science Day
- ▶ **Astana:** BMBF Delegation Trip
- ▶ **Bishkek:** Kyrgyz-German Science Day

2022

- ▶ Meeting between **DFG President Prof. Katja Becker** and **Ambassador Kasimov** in Bonn

2019

- ▶ Participation of **DFG President Prof. Strohschneider** in delegation trip of Federal President Steinmeier to **Uzbekistan**

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2023

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► **Tashkent:** Innoweek 2023 and Uzbek-German Science Day

► **Astana:** BMBF Delegation Trips and representatives of Central Asian institutions

► **Bishkek:** Kyrgyz-German Science Day

2025: Stakeholder Meeting DFG Team UDIF

and representatives of Central Asian institutions

Decision to start a special initiative with Central Asia:

2022

► Talk DFG President Prof. Katja Becker with Uzbek Ambassador Kasimov in Bonn

**Networking for Research –
German Universities of Applied Sciences and Researchers Worldwide (UDIF-HAW)**

2019

► Participation of DFG President Prof. Strohschneider in delegation trip of Federal President Steinmeier to Uzbekistan

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Networking for Research – German UAS and Researchers Worldwide (UDIF-HAW)

Goals of the Initiative

Support the internationalisation of German Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

Bring together potential cooperation partners from universities worldwide with researchers at German UAS



networking for research

DFG organises **topic-specific matchmaking formats** (virtual conferences, workshops, delegation trips)



identify cooperation partners

support the development of joint project ideas

generate funding proposals to the DFG

Networking for Research – German UAS and Researchers Worldwide (UDIF-HAW)

German Universities of Applied Sciences

Mission:

Finding solutions to concrete problems

Particularities:

Application-
oriented

Transdisciplinary and
interdisciplinary research

Regionally
integrated

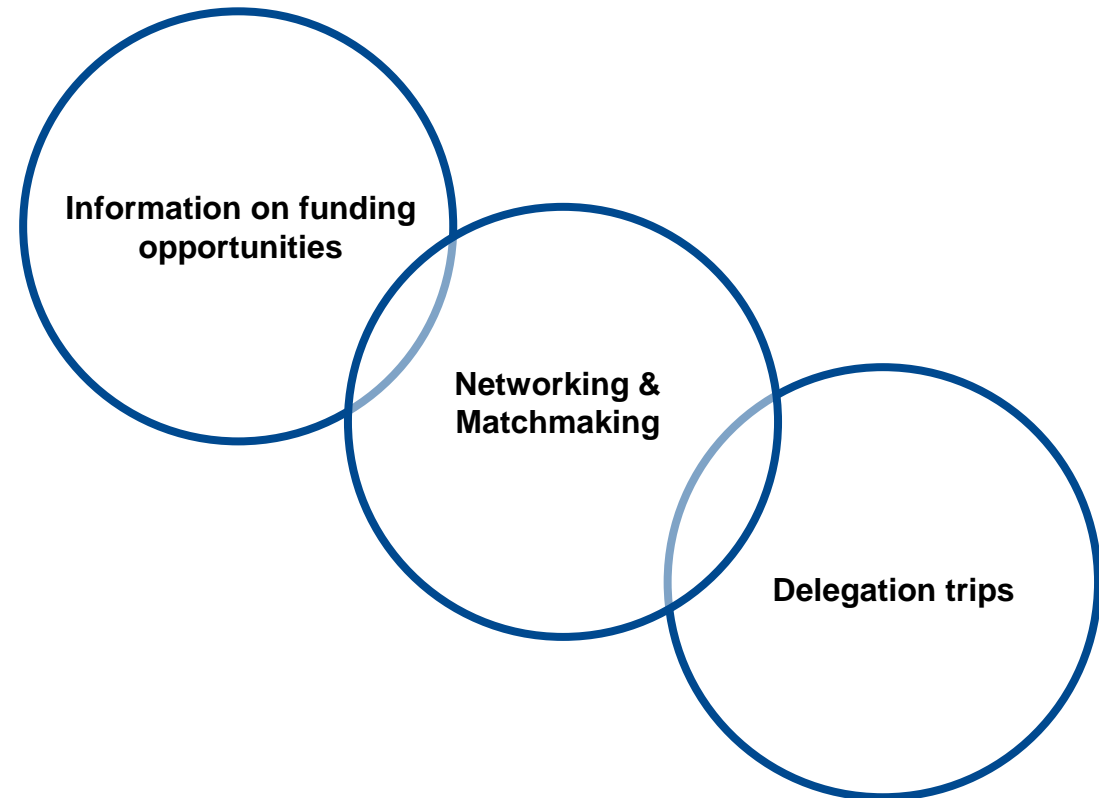
Excellent contacts with small and
medium-sized enterprises

Networking for Research – German UAS and Researchers Worldwide (UDIF-HAW)

Structure of the Initiative

UDIF-HAW Activities

- ▶ Topic and region focussed
- ▶ Together with the stakeholders in the region
- ▶ Three main components:



Networking for Research – German UAS and Researchers Worldwide (UDIF-HAW)

Initiatives conducted 2021 - 2025



DFG initiative Networking for Research in Central Asia

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Networking for Research in Central Asia

Timeline

2024	2025								
12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Survey among German & Central Asian institutions									
		Stakeholder Meeting	Call for Posters						
			Collection of Posters						
			Info Session						
					DFG Visit to Central Asia				
					Networking German UAS and Researchers in Central Asia				
									Delegation Trip (tbc)

Networking for Research in Central Asia

Survey on potential areas to cooperate

Results of the Survey

- Renewable Energy and Resource Management
- Digitalization and Smart Technologies
- Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities
- Climate Change
- Environmental and Agricultural Sciences
- Water Management



Final Research Fields

- Digitalisation and Smart Technologies
- Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities
- Renewable Energy and Resource Management

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									Delegation Trip (tbc)

Networking for Research in Central Asia

Networking German UAS and Researchers from Central Asia

Posterbook

- ▶ **Digital** format
- ▶ Shared exclusively with **poster submitters**
- ▶ Contains **contact information**
- ▶ Offers a **platform** to reach potential collaboration partners



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1. The German Research Landscape
2. Structures and aims of DFG
3. Funding Programmes
4. Review Process
5. International Cooperation
6. DFG activities in Central Asia
- 7. Information Systems and Contacts**



Information Systems and Contacts

The DFG website: www.dfg.de



- Important sources of information of the DFG
- About 2 billion yearly views
- Contact: webredaktion@dfg.de

Information Systems and Contacts

GERiT – German Research Institutions



- Overview of 25,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions
- Search:
 - subject areas
 - geographical criteria
 - structural criteria
- Information in English and German about: disciplines represented at a particular institution, contact details, location maps and links to each institute's own website
- URL: www.gerit.org

Information Systems and Contacts

GEPRIS: German Project Information System



► Overview of all DFG-funded projects

► Catalogue:

- Projects
- People
- Institutions

► URL: <http://gepris.dfg.de>

Information Systems and Contacts

Funding Atlas

- ▶ Presents key figures relating to publicly funded research in Germany
- ▶ Published in November 2024; Comes out every 3 years
- ▶ **English version is expected to come out in Q2/Q3 2025**
- ▶ URL: [DFG, German Research Foundation - Funding Atlas 2024](#)



DFG

DFG

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Thank you for your attention!

Further information

- ▶ www.dfg.de/udif-haw (German)
- ▶ [DFG, German Research Foundation - Networking for Research – German Universities of Applied Sciences and Researchers Worldwide](#) (English)