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Excellence Initiative

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AIMS OF THE EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

The programme Excellence Initiative was launched on the 18th July 2005 and ended on 31st October 2017. The Excellence Initiative intended to strengthen Germany as a location of excellent research, to enhance its international competitiveness, and to increase the visibility of top-level universities and research areas.

The Excellence Initiative was administered by the DFG and the WR. It comprised three funding lines:

- 1 – Graduate Schools to promote young researchers,
- 2 – Clusters of Excellence to promote top-level research,
- 3 – Institutional Strategies to institutionally strengthen universities as a whole.

The WR was in charge of the third funding line, while the DFG was responsible for the first and the second funding line. In total, € 4.6 bn of funding through all three funding lines were approved, € 1.9 bn for the first programme phase (2006-2012), € 2.7 bn for the second programme phase (2012-2017). 25 % of the funding is given by the state where that particular university is located, 75 % is provided by the Federal Government.

MONITORING

On the basis of the agreement between the Federal Government and State Governments, the Wissenschaftsrat (WR, German Council of Science and Humanities) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) were commissioned to plan and conduct the decision-making process for the allocation of funds, to assist the funded institutions and to evaluate the implementation of the funded measures. The WR accompanied the implementation of the Institutional Strategies. The monitoring included:

- _ to advise the funded institutions (currently 11 universities),
- _ to analyse documents and reports,
- _ to organize mid-term visits at the universities,
- _ public relations, reporting, conferences and workshops.

Concerning the first programme phase the WR and the DFG already submitted a report on the Excellence Initiative to the Gemeinsame Wissenschaftskonferenz (GWK, Joint Science Conference) on 30th November 2008. The report contains first results of the first programme phase.

- ➔ Report on the Excellence Initiative
- ➔ Press Release by the Joint Science Conference

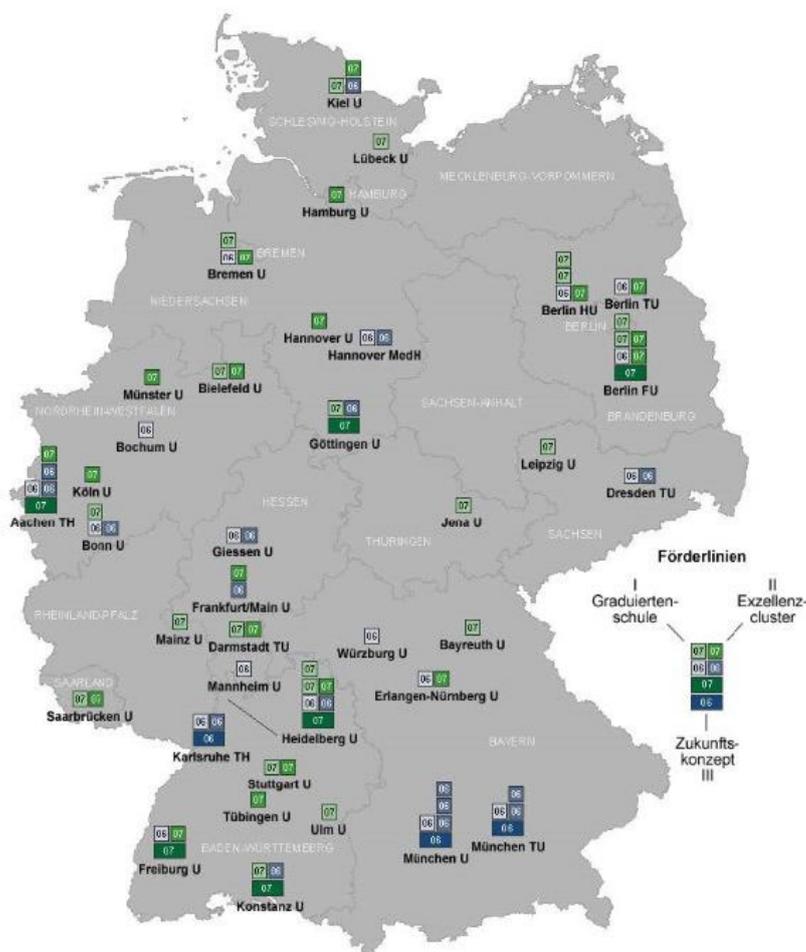
FUNDING DECISIONS

First Programme Phase

The first programme phase of the Excellence Initiative included the period from November 2006 to October 2012 and consisted of a multi-level proposal and appraisal procedure which was divided into two calls (2005-2006 and 2006-2007).

Overview of the funding decisions of all three funding lines from the first programme phase:

Funding decisions in the Excellence Initiative from 2006 and 2007 | Map of Germany



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RWTH 2020: Meeting Global Challenges - The Integrated Interdisciplinary University of Technology (Aachen)

Freie Universität Berlin: Veritas - Iustitia - Libertas. The International Network University

University of Freiburg: Windows for Research

Göttingen University: Tradition - Innovation - Autonomy

Heidelberg University: Realising the Potential of a Comprehensive University

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology: Foundation of KIT

University of Konstanz: Modell Konstanz - Towards a Culture of Creativity

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München: LMUexcellent

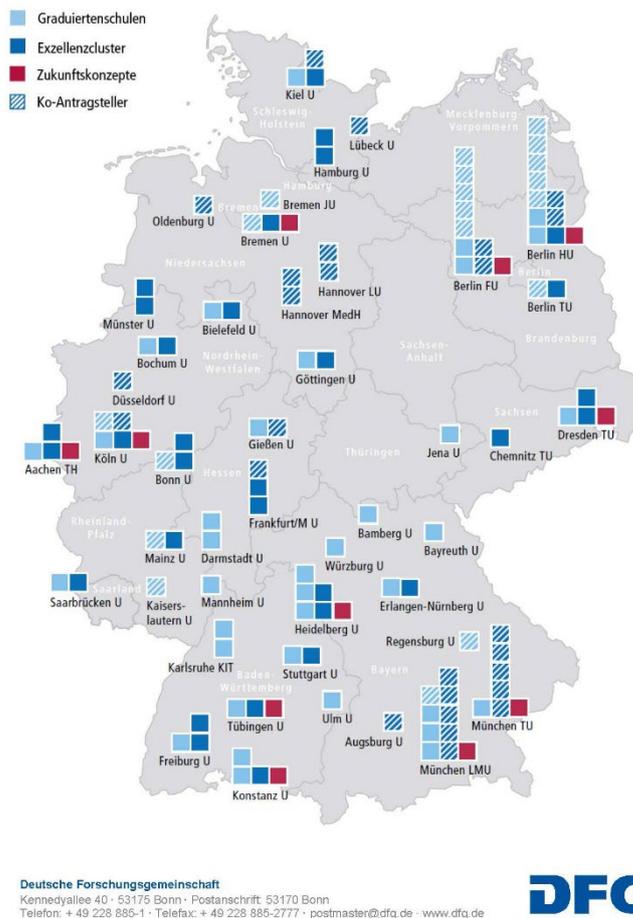
Technical University of Munich (TUM): The Entrepreneurial University

List of Graduate Schools and Clusters of Excellence being funded in the 2nd programme phase

List of Graduate Schools and Clusters of Excellence being funded (DFG-Website)

Second Programme Phase (2012–2017)

Overview of the results of the Excellence Initiative in all three funding lines (2nd programme phase)



On 13th October 2006, on 19th October 2007 and on 15th June 2012 the Grant Committee of the Excellence Initiative decided to fund 85 proposals (first programme phase) and 99 initial and renewal proposals in the second programme phase of the Excellence Initiative (2012-2017).

The proposal and appraisal procedure for the second programme phase began in 2010.

On 15th June 2012 the Grant Committee of the Excellence Initiative decided to fund 99 initial and renewal proposals at 44 universities. Altogether 45 Graduate Schools, 43 Clusters of

Excellence and 11 Institutional Strategies have been funded since 1st November 2012. For the second programme phase of the Excellence Initiative a total of € 2.7 bn have been approved until 2017.

RWTH 2020: Meeting Global Challenges - The Integrated Interdisciplinary University of Technology (Aachen)

Freie Universität Berlin: Veritas - Iustitia - Libertas. The International Network University
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin: Educating Enquiring Minds. Individuality – Openness – Guidance

University of Bremen: Ambitious and Agile

Technische Universität Dresden: The Synergetic University

Heidelberg University: Realising the Potential of a Comprehensive University

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University of Cologne: Meeting the Challenge of Change and Complexity.
Strategies for Future Excellence in Research and Education

University of Konstanz: Modell Konstanz – Towards a Culture of Creativity

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München: LMUexcellent

Technische Universität München: The Entrepreneurial University

University of Tübingen: Research – Relevance – Responsibility

List of Graduate Schools and Clusters of Excellence being funded in the 2nd programme phase

List of Graduate Schools and List of Clusters being funded

- _ Distribution of the authorized projects in the first and second funding line, according to universities with and without Institutional Strategies and according to subject groups (German version only)
- _ Results of the meeting of the Authorising Committee from 15th June 2012

HISTORY AND DOCUMENTS

First Programme Phase (2006–2012)

Statements and Reports of the Wissenschaftsrat (WR, German Council of Science and Humanities) from the 1st Programme Phase

On 18th July 2005 the Federal Government and State Governments agreed to start the Excellence Initiative which included the financial support for Graduate Schools, Clusters of Excellence and Institutional Strategies at German universities. The implementation of the programme was divided into two calls for proposals during the first programme phase with one year in between.

- _ German Research Foundation and German Council of Science and Humanities appreciate the Excellence Agreement (German version only)
- _ Preparations for the Excellence Initiative are on the way – WR appoints a Strategic Commission (2005, German version only)
- _ German Council of Science and Humanities is impressed by the draft proposals for the Institutional Strategies (German version only)

First Call for Proposals – Funding decisions from 13th October 2006:

- _ Statement by the Chairman of the Wissenschaftsrat 2006, Professor Dr. Peter Strohschneider (German version only)

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- _ Joint press release 2006 of the German Research Foundation and German Council of Science and Humanities (German version only)

Second Call for Proposals - Funding decisions from 19th October 2007:

- _ Statement of the Chairman of the German Council of Science and Humanities, Professor Dr Peter Strohschneider (German version only)
- _ Funding Decisions | Gemeinsame Presseerklärung von DFG und Wissenschaftsrat 2007 (German version only)
- _ Speech of Professor Dr Peter Strohschneider (German version only)
- _ Report on the Excellence Initiative (German version only)

Second Programme Phase (2012–2017)

In June 2009 the Federal Government and State Governments decided to continue the Excellence Initiative until 2017 with an overall funding of € 2.7 bn. The period from November 2012 to October 2017 was defined as the second programme phase.

Basis for the arrangement of the second programme phase and the funding decisions is the agreement of the Federal and State Governments for the Excellence Initiative:

- _ Exzellenzvereinbarung II (German version only)
- _ Presentation with general information on the Excellence Initiative

Statements and Reports of the Wissenschaftsrat (WR, German Council of Science and Humanities) from the 2nd Programme Phase

- _ Joint Press Release of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and the WR: First Decisions in the Second Phase of the Excellence Initiative by the German Federal and State Governments (2011)
- _ Statement by the Chairman of the WR, Professor Dr Wolfgang Marquardt (2012) (German version only)
- _ Joint Press Release of the DFG and the WR: Decisions on the Second Programme Phase of the Excellence Initiative (2012) (German version only)
- _ In June 2015 the WR and the DFG have submitted the report of the Joint Commission about the programme of the Excellence Initiative to the Gemeinsame Wissenschaftskonferenz (GWK, Joint Science Conference, German version only).