



International Cooperation in DFG Programmes

Dr. Dietrich Halm

Workshop “Collaboration in Science and Technology between Costa Rica and Germany”,

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What is the DFG?

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – *German Research Foundation*

- ▶ Germany's largest research funding organisation for academic research
- ▶ members: universities and non-university research organisations such as MPG, FhG, LG ...
- ▶ has administrative autonomy and works according to the “bottom-up” principle
- ▶ annual budget of ~ € 2,8 billion

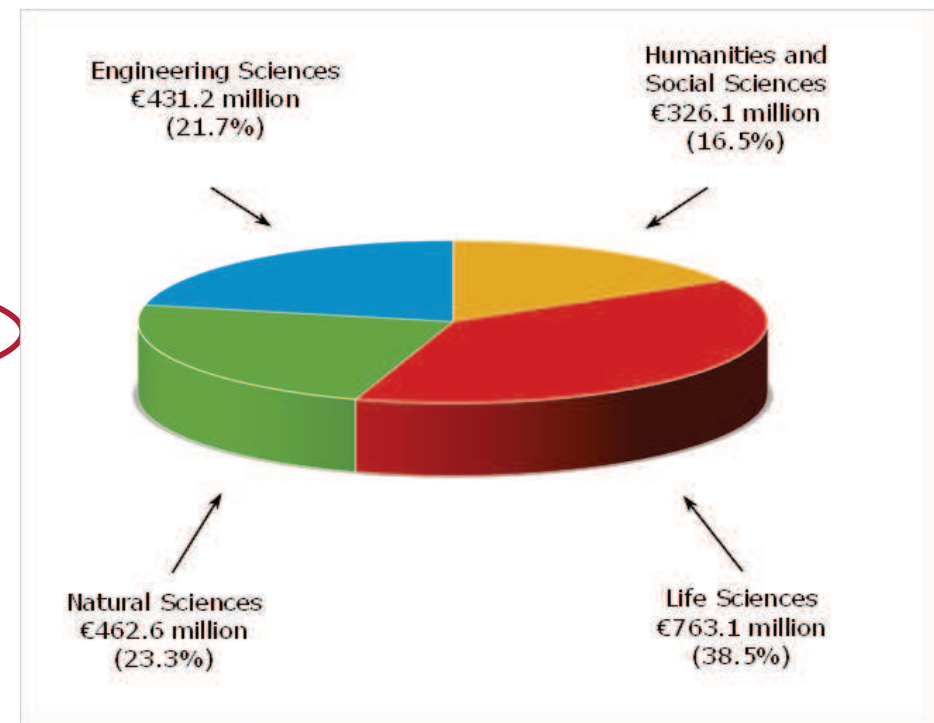


The DFG's mission Statement

The DFG

- ▶ serves **all branches of science and the humanities**
- ▶ fosters **scientific excellence** through competition (peer review)
- ▶ supports **international cooperation in research**
- ▶ supports the **transfer of knowledge** between science and industry
- ▶ **advises** political and social decision-makers

Funding by scientific discipline (2014)



The DFG in the world

Agreements with partner organisations outside Europe



DFG Office Latin America in Sao Paulo, Brazil (since 2011)

- ▶ Latin America's **scientific potential is constantly growing**
- ▶ The **region is becoming increasingly significant** for science
- ▶ **Interest** in cooperation with research partners in this region is **growing considerably among German researchers**
- ▶ This applies particularly to the countries **Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Colombia**, where public scientific systems are very advanced.



Director: Dr. Kathrin Winkler



Liaison Scientists in Latin America

- ▶ The DFG has been cooperating with liaison scientists in Latin America **since 2006**.

Profile:

- ▶ **network** with the research communities, major local research institutions and partner organizations,
- ▶ **provide information** about the DFG's funding activities
- ▶ **support the DFG** in identifying the most outstanding research groups and young researchers
- ▶ act as **contact persons** and representatives for the DFG.
- ▶ **Consolidate contacts** with the partner organisations in their country
- ▶ **Organize regular information events** about the DFG and Germany as a center of research.



DFG Programmes mostly used in cooperation with Latin American countries

- ▶ Grant for the Initiation of international collaboration
 - For workshops and research visits of up to three months
- ▶ Individual research grant
 - For research projects of up to 3 years (+3 y. contin.)
- ▶ Coordinated projects
 - International Research Training Groups
 - Research Units
 - Priority Programmes
 - Collaborative Research Centres



The Individual Research Grant Programme

Scope

- ▶ open to researchers holding a PhD in any discipline working at German research institutions, especially universities
- ▶ applications with two and more partners is possible

Project requirements

- ▶ clearly defined research project of high scientific quality and originality, realized on an internationally competitive level

Funding

- ▶ is based on the individual project needs (typically 2 or 3 years, continuations for 2-3 years possible)



Funded projects with Costa Rica

Research Grant:

Plant Sciences, Ecology

Identifying easily measured functional traits that can characterize the drought susceptibility of tropical trees growing in per-humid to seasonally-dry (semi-humid) climates

► Cooperation partners:

Dr. Bernhard Schuldt, Universität Göttingen,
Pflanzenwissenschaften

*Dr. Dagoberto Arias Aguilar, TEC de Costa Rica, Escuela de
Ingeniería Forestal, Cartago, Costa Rica*

Dr. Henrik Hartmann, Max-Planck-Institut für Biogeochemie, Jena

Dr. Oliver van Straaten, Universität Göttingen, Ökopedologie der
Tropen und Subtropen

*Dr. Nelson Zamora, Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad de Costa
Rica, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica*

Funded projects with Costa Rica

Heisenberg fellowship:

Zoology

Communication and Cognition in Bats

-social learning and vocal imitation in bats, bats as a mammalian model to study proximate and ultimate causes of language evolution in a comparative approach)

► Cooperation partners:

Dr. Mirjam Knörnschild, Freie Universität Berlin, Fachbereich
Biologie, Chemie, Pharmazie, Institut für Biologie

Bernal Rodriguez-Herrera, Escuela de Biología, UCR, Costa Rica

Funded projects with Costa Rica

Priority Programme 1596: Virology, Immunology **Ecology and species barriers in emerging viral diseases** **(emerging bat hepatitis B viruses)**

- Infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) is one of the most important viral infections worldwide with nearly 370 million chronically infected humans, causing more than 600,000 hepatitis B related deaths*
- Novel Hepadnaviridae were detected in Central American and African bats that are closely related to primate and human HBV in genomic domains critically involved in viral entry and infectivity.*
- The exact role of these bat hepadnaviruses in hepadnaviral evolution remains to be determined. Critically, it needs to be analyzed whether these bat viruses may represent a reservoir for primate and/or human infection.*

Funded projects with Costa Rica

...Priority Programme 1596:

Ecology and species barriers in emerging viral diseases (emerging bat hepatitis B viruses)

► Cooperation partners:

Prof. Dr. Jan Felix Drexler University Hospital Bonn, Institute of Virology

Prof Dr. Dieter Glebe, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Fachbereich Medizin

Prof. Dr. Marco Tschapka, Universität Ulm, Fakultät für Naturwissenschaften,
Institut für Experimentelle Ökologie

*Bernal Rodriguez-Herrera, Ph.D., Universidad de Costa Rica, Escuela de
Biología*

Dr. Manoel Do Carmo P Soares, Evandro Chagas Institute (IEC) Section of
Hepatology, Brasil

Rachel Page, Ph.D., Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Balboa, Ancón,
Panama

Dr. João Renato Rebello Pinho, Universidade de São Paulo (USP) Faculdade
de Medicina, Instituto de Medicina Tropical, Laboratório de Gastroenterologia
e Hepatologia Tropical, São Paulo, Brasil

Funded projects with Costa Rica

Initiation, Workshop: Humanities, Literary studies

Forms, Problems and Perspectives of Convivence in the Greater Caribbean and Central America.

(Overcome “traditional” spatial perceptions and come to a vectorized and mobile idea of multirelational and trans-areal dynamics)

► Cooperation partners:

Professor Dr. Ottmar Ette, Universität Potsdam, Institut für Romanistik Professur für französisch-und spanischsprachige Literaturen

Dr. Héctor Pérez Brignoli, Universidad de Costa Rica, Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de América Central, San José, Costa Rica

Funded projects with Costa Rica



**Since 2011, DFG funded seven projects with Costa Rica
with a total sum of 2,4 million Euro**



Thank you for your attention!

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