
Science Policy News

Editorial Note

Starting with this issue, EXPERIENTIA introduces a new service aimed particularly at the younger generation of scientists – those early in their postdoctoral career and eager to expand their scientific horizons by spending some time in research institutions of other countries. The establishment of the European Common Market at the end of 1992 will greatly facilitate mobility and exchange of scientists, and offer opportunities not available today. We believe that information describing the way scientific research is funded in different countries, giving exact figures on budgets and expenditures and providing addresses for contact and further information, will prove to be a helpful service to our readers. Science Policy News will be published irregularly, as information from the research funding institutions all over the world is received.

We begin this month with information on the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland.

Science Policy News

Federal Republic of Germany

The Annual Report for 1987 of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association)

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) serves science in all fields by financing research projects. In many scientific areas, the DFG has taken over the task of strengthening cooperation among scientists and coordinating basic research through public support. The DFG advises public authorities and legislative bodies on scientific matters, furthers relations between the scientific and economic communities and promotes cooperation between German and foreign scientists. Special consideration is given to promoting the work of young scientists.

In 1987, the DFG had DM 1087 million at its disposal. Of this sum, DM 644.6 million were provided by the Federal Government; DM 420.5 million by the Länder (state governments); DM 4.8 million from various foundations; DM 2.8 million from the DFG's own income; and DM 14.3 million came from unspent funds accrued from earlier budgets.

The grants were distributed among four academic fields: 14% for the humanities and social sciences; 35.4% for the biomedical sciences; 28% for the natural sciences; and 22.6% for the engineering sciences.

The DFG funds were primarily used to finance university research and individual and team projects falling under the following programs:

- 1) DM 443.4 million were granted for *Individual Projects* (the most common form of grant). Any scientist with a university degree may submit a grant request.

Under this category, 4651 research candidates received grants; 1319 applications were rejected. Moreover, 4160 travel grants were awarded to young scientists (DM 8.4 million). 519 fellowships (DM 26.7 million) helped young scientists in their training, research and 'Habilitation' (qualification for a faculty position). DM 7.6 million were used to finance scientific publications.

- 2) *Priority Programs* received DM 205.2 million in funds. These programs facilitate cooperation among research teams from several different universities and other institutions who are working on a joint project (generally directed by a coordinator). 1711 research projects as part of 123 Priority Programs received aid. 299 applications were rejected.
- 3) *Thirty Research Units* (groups of scientists working jointly on a special project at a single location) received DM 22.8 million in grants.
- 4) *Special Collaborative Programs* are designed to support long-term research activities expected to carry on for a period of 12–15 years. Last year, 160 programs received DM 324.8 million.
- 5) The *Heisenberg Program* was created by the governments of the Federal Republic and the Länder in 1977 with view to backing promising work of the new generation of young scientists. Management of the program was assigned to the DFG. It provides salaried positions for highly qualified young scientists. DM 15.6 million were granted to this program for 67 fellowships.

- 6) The *Postdoctoral Program* granted 115 scholarships to young scientists totalling DM 10.4 million.
- 7) The *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Program* awards prizes for excellence in science. Twelve researchers and research groups received a total of DM 14.6 million under this program last year.

The promotion of international scientific relations is an important goal of the DFG. DM 47.4 million were spent on international relations, general promotion of scientific research, and library operations. The DFG represents

German science in all major international science organizations and maintains bilateral agreements with an increasing number of countries.

Further information can be obtained from:

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
Kennedyallee 40
Postfach 20 50 04
D-5300 Bonn 2
Federal Republic of Germany

Switzerland

The Annual Report for 1987 of the Swiss National Science Foundation

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), founded in 1952, is entrusted by the Swiss Confederation with the promotion and funding of scientific and technological research of the highest quality. The Confederation provides the funds. The SNSF is governed by the *Council of the Foundation*, consisting of representatives from the Confederation, the Cantons, the universities, and various scientific and cultural bodies and institutions. The *Research Council*, composed of representatives of the main scientific disciplines, assesses the applications on scientific criteria and allocates research and publication grants as well as fellowships for advanced researchers. It also prepares cost estimates, the distribution plan, the annual budget and the annual report for the Council of the Foundation. The *Research Commissions* of each university award fellowships to post-graduates, provide information on the laboratory facilities which would be available to grant recipients, and foster the flow of information among universities, scientific organizations and the SNSF.

In 1987, the SNSF had at its disposal SFr. 240.6 million, of which SFr. 205.5 million were provided by the Swiss Confederation, and SFr. 35.1 million came from unused grants, repayments, donations, a legacy, and capital interests. Grants are allocated in 3 divisions:

Division I, Humanities and Social Sciences;
Division II, Physical Sciences and Engineering; and
Division III, Biology and Medicine (Sect. IIIA, Biology and Experimental Medicine; Section IIIB, Clinical Social and Preventive Medicine).

Division I received SFr. 41.8 million (19.9%), Division II SFr. 87.7 million (41.7%), and Division III SFr. 80.7 million (38.4%).

Grants

Research grants: These are grants to well-qualified researchers or research groups, enabling on exactly defined

project to be carried out within a definite time limit (1–3 years). These grants are used by the applicant to pay his scientific and technical co-workers and to buy specially needed research equipment. Fully 75% of the available SNSF funds is allocated in the form of such grants. Because a large number of young scientists are integrated into these projects, these grants also serve for training purposes.

In 1987, 1021 applications requesting SFr. 258.5 million were examined. 820 grants were awarded, of which 205 were awarded for the full amount requested. From these grants, 2600 co-workers, of whom 75% were under 35, were paid. Of the total SFr. 159.6 million allocated for research grants, SFr. 26 million went to Division I (182 approved grants), SFr. 66.9 million to Division II (272 approved grants), and SFr. 66.7 million to Division III (366 approved grants).

Publication grants: The SNSF received 81 requests for contributions to the cost of scientific publication. 71 requests were granted (SFr. 2.1 million, of which 90% went to supporting books or articles in the humanities and social sciences).

Personal grants (Research Fellowships): These grants were created to help discourage the emigration of experienced scientists from, or to encourage their return to, Switzerland. These long-term grants are given on condition that the recipients devote themselves first and foremost to research. In 1987, 19 personal grants (SFr. 311 million) were awarded. A personal grant is given for a maximum of 6 years.

Fellowship programs: The SNSF allocated SFr. 16.6 million in 1987 for fellowships. This money is usually used to pay for further education abroad in some particular field of research. The applicants must not be older than 35 at the beginning of the fellowship. 295 postgraduate studies (SFr. 9.7 million) and 82 advanced fellowships (SFr. 6.9 million) were granted.