



Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

# **Promoting Young Researchers in Cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe**

**CNCSIS7**  
**Bucharest, 13 May 2005**

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**Programme Director**  
**International Cooperation**  
**Central and Eastern Europe; CIS**

# The Mandate

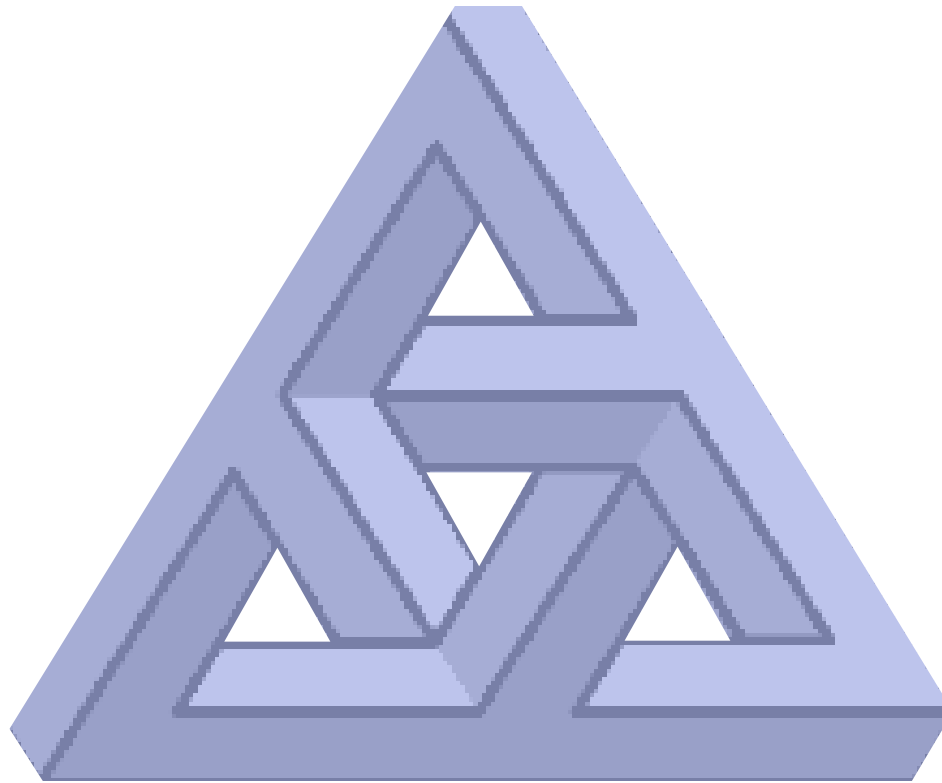


- **Central self-governing organisation in Germany**
  - **Serving all fields of science and research**
  - **Supporting scientific excellence in competition**
  - **Bottom-up funding policy**
  - **Peer review**
- **Promoting international cooperation**
- **Promoting young researchers**
- **Advising parliaments and governments on scientific matters**

# Our goals

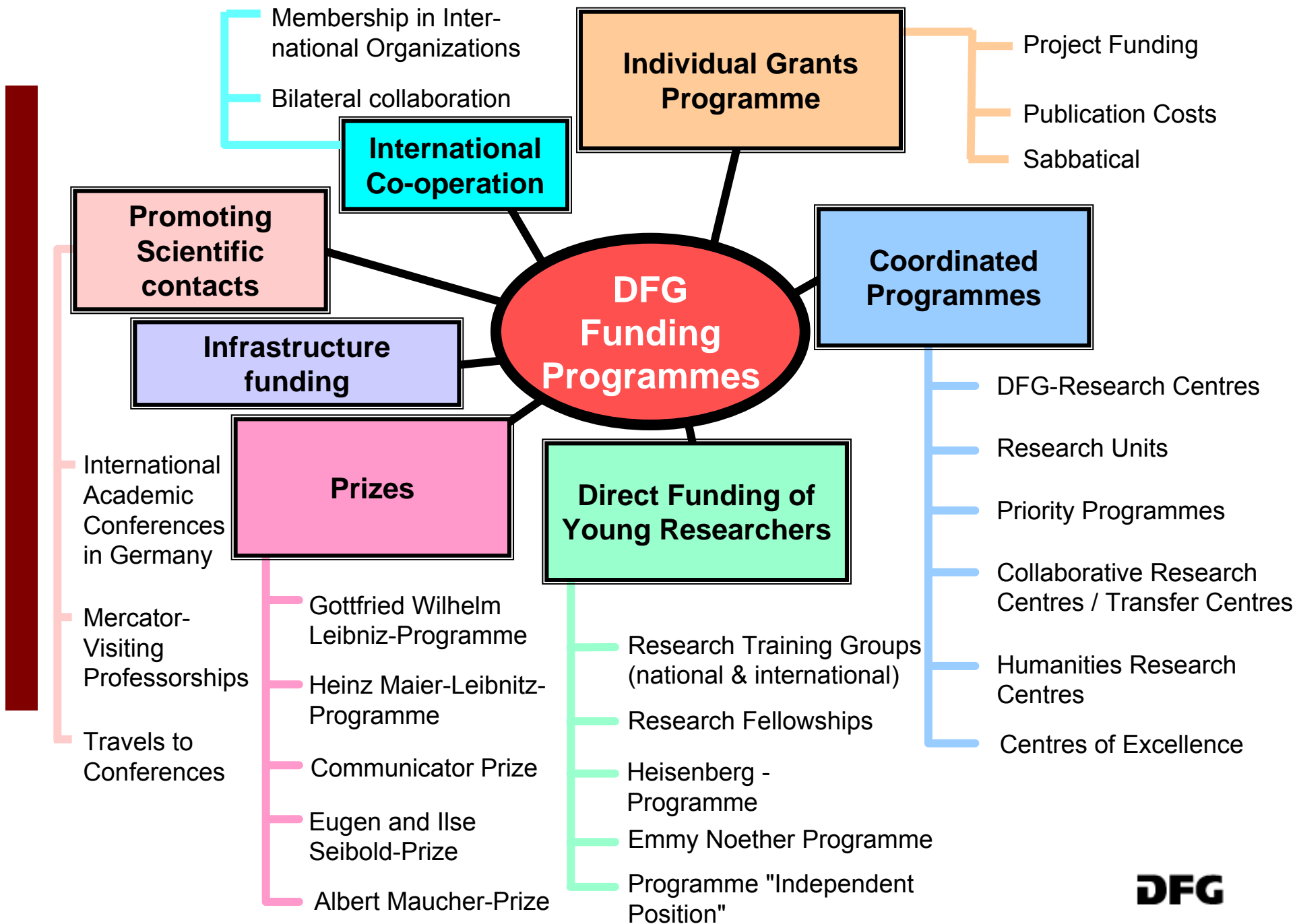


**Internationality**



**Interdisciplinarity**

**Promotion of  
Young Researchers**



# Promoting International Cooperation





<p><b>Preparatory Visits Research Stays</b></p> 	<p><b>Joint research projects</b></p> 
<p><b>Bilateral Symposia</b></p> 	<p><b>Cooperation within Coordinated Programmes</b></p> 

Illustration taken from: [http://www.n-tv.de/images/200108/2266436\\_Lufthansa.jpg](http://www.n-tv.de/images/200108/2266436_Lufthansa.jpg); [http://www.flightpix.com/pix/big/t\\_010.jpg](http://www.flightpix.com/pix/big/t_010.jpg)  
<http://www.bgo.ch/Berufsvorbereitung/Bilder/Arbeitsgruppe.gif>; <http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pwb/01/0604/m/wang.jpg>;  
<http://www.wet.kuleuven.ac.be/wet/mercator.aif> : [http://www.touropnet.com/bevtours/allied\\_tours/imaaes/scuola.aif](http://www.touropnet.com/bevtours/allied_tours/imaaes/scuola.aif)

# International Dimension of all Programmes

## All fellowship-programmes

- are open to candidates from abroad, as long as they intend to be based in Germany for a longer time

## All programmes have been opened for international cooperation:

- funding for travel costs, research stays, inviting guest scientists
- bilateral research projects
- integration of research groups abroad

# DFG-Promotion of Young Researchers

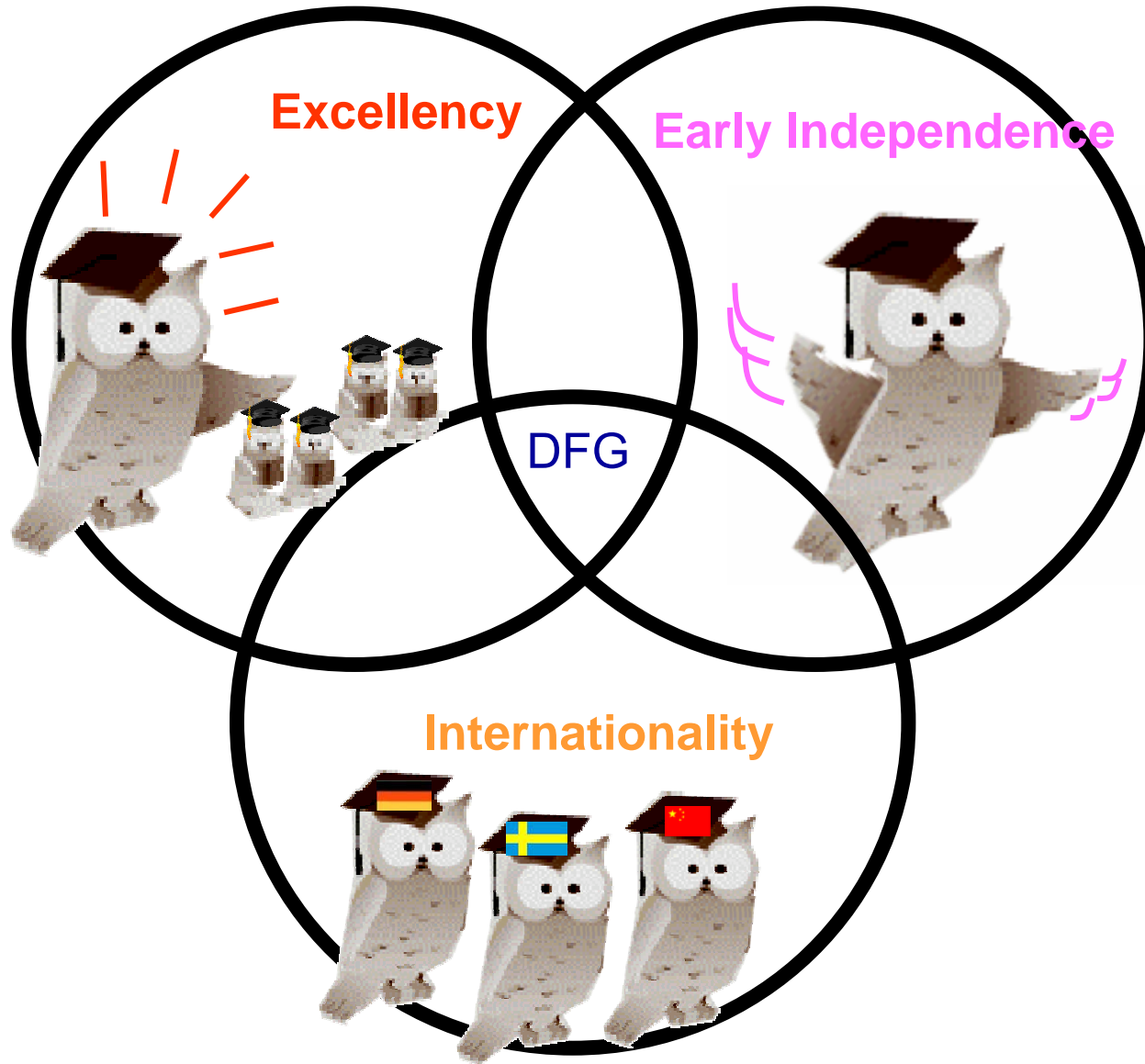
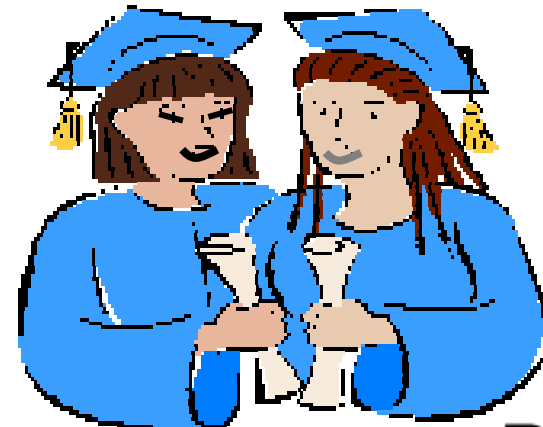


Illustration unter Verwendung von: <http://nest.csusb.edu/graphics/owl.gif>

# Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs)

excellent – innovative – international

- **thematically focussed research and study programme**
- **5 - 10 faculty, 1 - 2 postdocs, 12 - 24 PhD students  
3 - 4 research students, coordinator**
- **established at centres of scientific excellence**
- **selected on a competitive peer-review basis**
- **limited duration (max. 9 years, 2 funding periods)**



**DFG**



## Set Up

- **Group of professors and junior scientists agree on research topic (may come from different faculties, non university institutes)**
- **design joint / complementary research projects; specify expected outcome**
- **design appropriate study programme (innovative, interdisciplinary work, methodical training, high level courses/ block seminars, visiting scientist programme, soft skill seminars)**
- **university: provides core infrastructure, takes responsibility for administration, additional support for researchers and PhD students**
- **Criteria: research profiles, coherence of research programme, quality of study programme, advisory commitment, contribution to scientific progress**

## Characteristics

- **Coherent research programme**
  - **thematically focussed**
  - **often interdisciplinary**
- **Tailor-made study programme**
  - **Broad theoretical and methodological knowledge**
  - **Complementary scientific techniques**
  - **Common basis of knowledge**

## Funding

- **Fellowships/positions for PhD students, B.A. students, and some postdocs**
  - **Positions advertised world wide**
  - **Local selection by Research Training Group**
  - **PhD fellowships 3 years, postdocs 2 years**
- **Means for research students (undergraduates)**
- **Research materials, consumables, and travel funds for students**
- **Workshops, excursions, and a visiting scientist programme**
- **Costs for soft skill seminars**
- **Co-ordination costs**

## Figures

- 272 RTGs in all scientific fields, 35 International RTGs
- 6.600 doctoral students currently funded, 41% female, 28% foreign doctoral students (of these 35% from CEEC = largest group)
- ~ 10% of Germans doctoral students complete their doctorate in RTGs
- Averaged budget of one RTG: ~ 450.000 €p.a.  
Programme budget 68 m €p.a. (6% of DFG's total budget)
- Individual PhD funding: stipend up to 1.350 €/month or position (applied Maths, Physics, Informatics, Engineering, Chemistry)
- Annually ~ 100 new proposals, going up  
Funding rate: ~ 35%, going down

## Examples

- ***Bioinformatics***

Bielefeld (Biology and Informatics)

- ***Environmental and Resource Economics***

Heidelberg/Mannheim (Economics and Geography)

- ***Travel Literature and Cultural Anthropology***

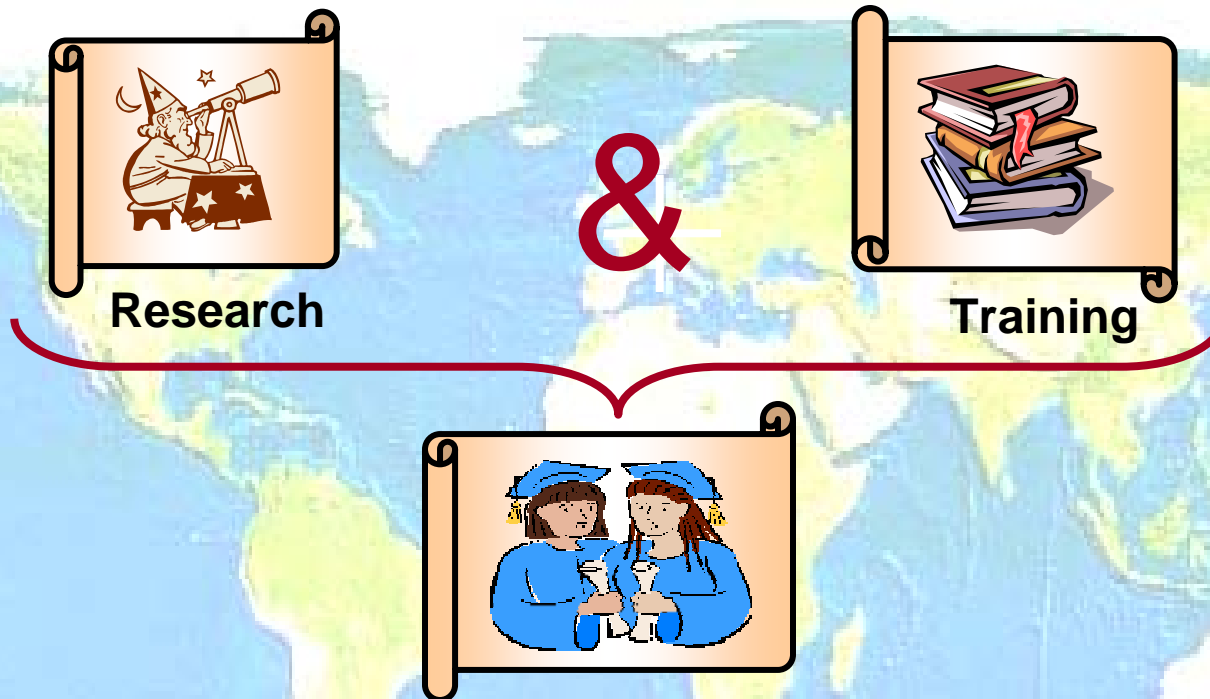
Paderborn (Cultural Anthropology, Literature Studies, History, ...)

- ***Hydrogen Bonding and Hydrogen Transfer***

Berlin (Chemistry and Physics)

[www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/coordinated\\_programmes/research\\_training\\_groups/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/coordinated_programmes/research_training_groups/index.html)

# International Research Training Groups

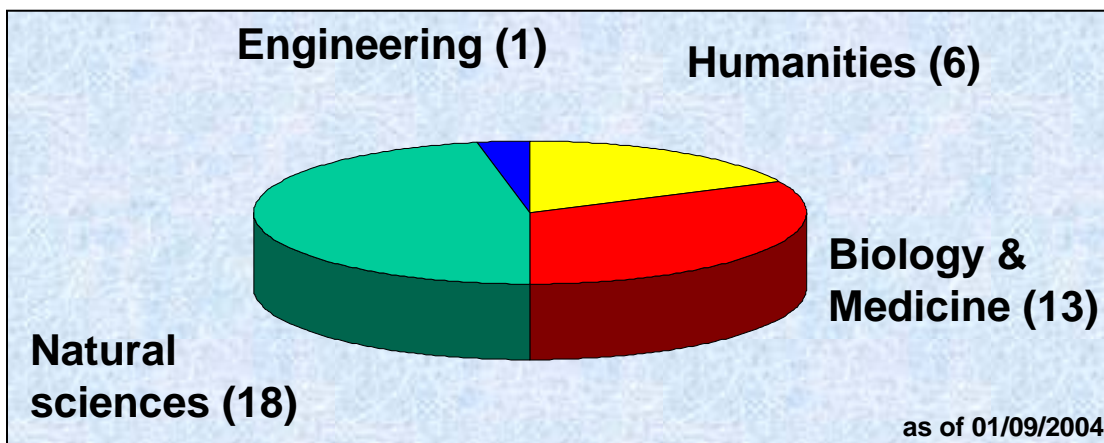
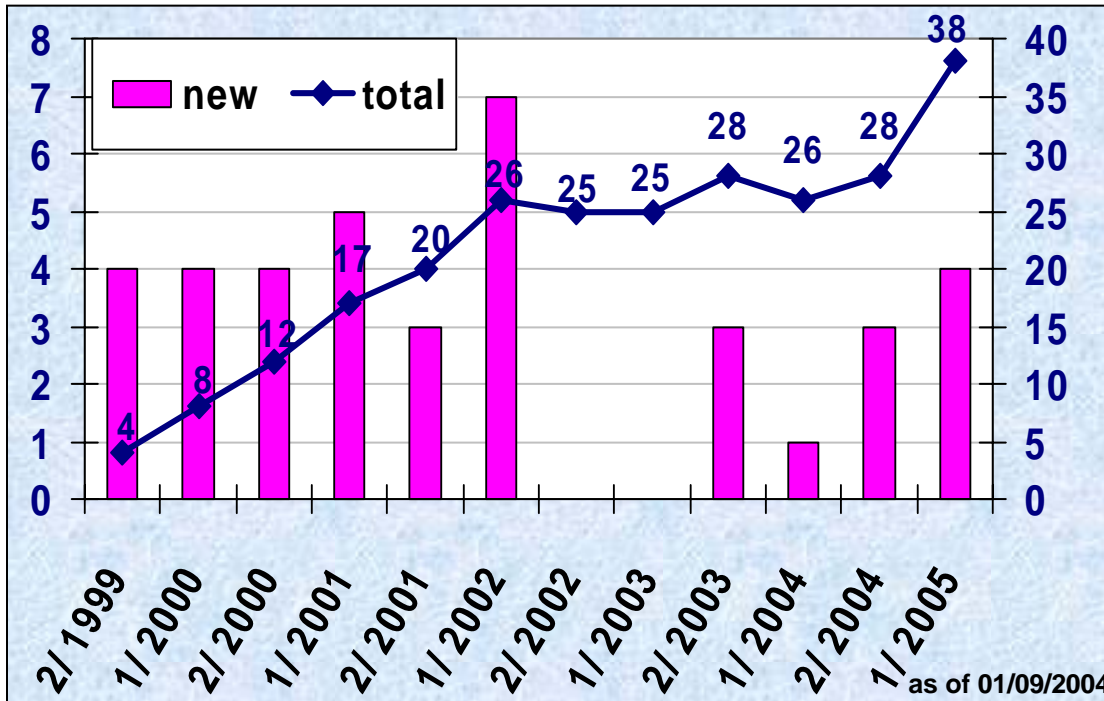


- integration of complementary expertise at centres of excellence
- systematic coordination of bilateral research projects / joint supervision
- 6-12 months mobility period at partner university
- complementary funding needed

⇒ allows to profit from cooperation & counteracts brain drain

Illustration taken from: <http://www.aas-ra.org/pics/worldmap.jpg>; [http://www.touropnet.com/beytours/allied\\_tours/images/scuola.gif](http://www.touropnet.com/beytours/allied_tours/images/scuola.gif)

# International Research Training Groups



bilateral:	
Netherlands	9
France	4
Switzerland	4
Poland	3
China	3
Sweden	2
United Kingdom	2
USA	2
Denmark	1
Italy	1
Norway	1
Hungary	1
Japan	1
Russia, India (in the pipeline)	
trilateral:	
France / United Kingdom	1
United Kingdom / Belgium	1
Italy / Austria	1
Denmark / Finland	1

as of: 01/09/2004

# EUROPEAN GRADUATE COLLEGE

Marburg

Budapest

## Participants

8 supervisors

Fick, Gebhard, Heimbrodt,  
Höfer, Koch, Stolz,  
Thomas, Weiser

2 EGC postdocs

financed by EGC

6 EGC fellows

financed by EGC

13 other EGC members

financed from other sources

9 supervisors

Fazekas, Jánossy, Kugler,  
Mihály, Pipek, Sólyom,  
Virosztek, Zarand, Zawadowski

7 EGC postdocs

financed from other sources

7 EGC fellows

financed by EGC

10 other EGC members

financed from other sources

## Program

Lectures

Lectures

Joint research projects

Joint workshops

Joint seminars

Exchange of students

Benthien, Grage, Kurz, Ye ↔ Csontos, Demkó, Kiss, Radnóczy

Exchange of lecturers

Gebhard, Thomas ↔ Fazekas, Sólyom

Financing April 2002 - March 2005

DFG

Ministry of Education

OTKA

Financing April 2005 - March 2011

DFG

OTKA

subject to positive evaluation

graduate program remains  
to be established



## International Research Training Groups **with Central and Eastern Europe**

### ■ **Particularly attractive because:**

- **many existing long-term scientific cooperations**
- **good structural preconditions in PhD-Training**
- **based on principle of balance; no brain drain**

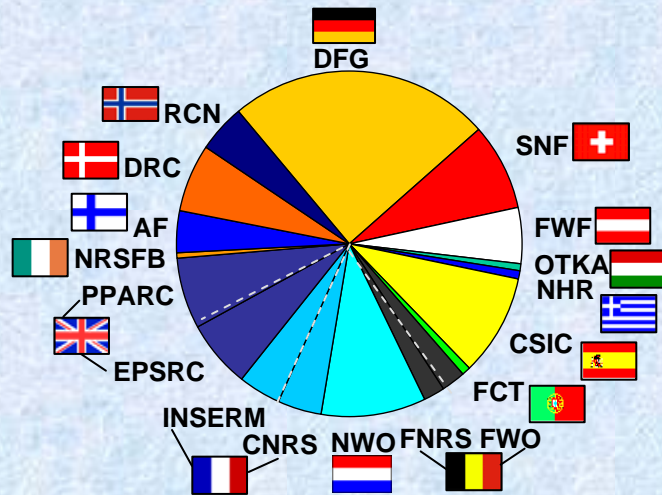
→ **IRTGs have become the most visible model for scientific cooperation with CEEC**

→ many **initiatives**: Russia: 15, Poland: 13, Hungary: 5, Čech Republic: 5  
(to compare: France: 10, NL: 6, India: 3)

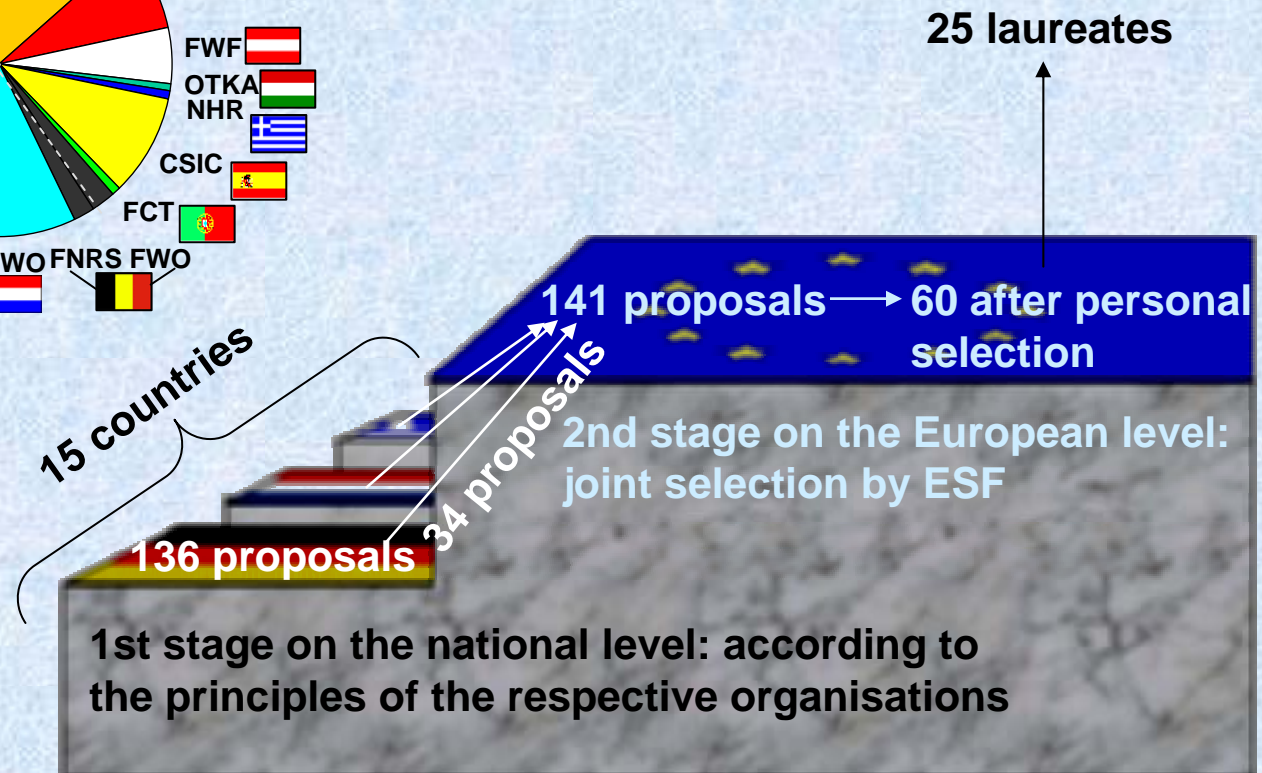
→ partner organizations have **introduced similar programmes / increased budget**

# The European Young Investigators (EURYI) Awards

Joint funding: contributions by participating organisations



Two-stage review process:



# Institutional Cooperation

## **Aim:**

to build a transparent network of bilateral structures on an institutional level, promoting a more intense collaboration of researchers

## **Implementation:**

- carry out joint thematic workshops
- extend existing thematic and structural networks
- develop joint procedures and instruments
  - evaluation
  - funding
- staff exchange

## **European dimension:**

- prepare for European Research Council
- increase attractiveness of European Research Area



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**Thank you for your Attention!**

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