



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

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Activities of the BMBF to support coordination of cancer research

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Outline:

Activities of BMBF to support coordination of cancer research

National:

Introduction to the research landscape in Germany

Cancer research in Germany

The Health Research programme of the Federal Ministry BMBF

overview

cancer research within the Health Research Programme

policy on networking (national)

policy on networking (international within Health RP)

International:

IMI

ESFRI

ERA-Net of funding agencies

Coordination of cancer centres ?

Introduction to the research landscape in Germany

„relatively MOBILE money:

the funding of „projects“ (concise research proposal for limited time)

1) bottom-up, initiative by scientists: DFG

2) programmes and funding initiatives:

3) mostly „model projects“ (

Sustainability:

the funding of „institutions“ (long time finances for running costs and personel)

1) universities (**35** medical faculties), financed by the Länder

2) publicly funded research institutes, cofinanced by Bund and Länder

Max-Planck Society (Mainly basic science, **78** institutes)

Helmholtz-Association (**15** national institutes, e.g. DKFZ)

Leibnitz-Association (diverse group of **80** institutes)

Fraunhofer Society (mainly applied science, **58** institutes)

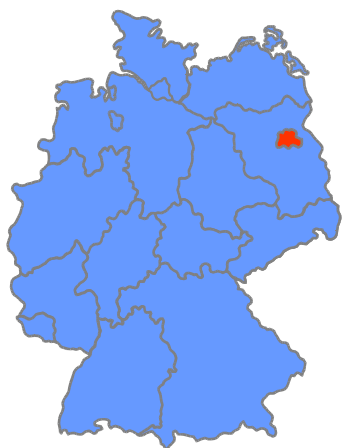
3) Research Institutes of the Ministries (e.g.

Robert-Koch-Institut, infectious diseases, health ministry,

Friedrich-Löffler-Institut, animal health, avian flu, Ministry of nutrition, agriculture and consumers protection)

Programm der Bundesregierung

„Gesundheitsforschung: Forschung für den Menschen“



**Projektförderung
durchgeführt und implementiert durch das
BMBF**

BMBF
Bundesministerium für Bildung
und Forschung

Ist 2005 109 Mio.
Biotechnologie
Soll 2006 126 Mio.

Ist 2005 91 Mio.
Biomedizin und
Molekulare Medizin
Soll 2006 107 Mio.

Ist 2005 92 Mio.
Medizin und
Gesundheit
Soll 2006 113 Mio.

Ist 2005 113 Mio.
Gesundheitsforschungs-
programm
Soll 2006 145 Mio.

Health Research Programme

„Scientific Research for the People“

Aims of the Programme:

- To improve prevention and health precaution
- To examine the causes of diseases and to develop effective treatment
- To contribute to a productive and affordable health care system
- To improve the transfer of research into health care system and the economy
- To foster the research landscape

Calls for proposals which support networking

Funding instruments:

single projects:

multicentre clinical treatment trials, investigator initiated (29 mio € per anual call)

small scale consortia,

molecular diganostic, 5 Mio € per annual call

inovative therapies, 12 Mio € per annual call

large scale national networks:

Competence Networks in Medical Sciences

Follow up initiative

local coordination:

„Integrierte Forschungs- und Behandlungszentren (IFB)“

integrated centres of health care and research in medical faculties

research infrastructure:

clinical trial centres

Research Structures

Infrastructure for Clinical Trials

Starting in 1998

12 “**Coordinating Centers for Clinical Trials**” are funded which

- improve standards,
- train physicians and nurses,
- build an infrastructure for conducting clinical trials
- 29 Mio € have been granted.

A new program for “**Study Centers**” was launched in 2006, which aims at an ever greater participation of clinicians.

- 6 centers are going to start in 2007
- 48 Mio € will be granted

Centres for coordination of clinical trials („KKS“)

= infrastructure for clinical trials

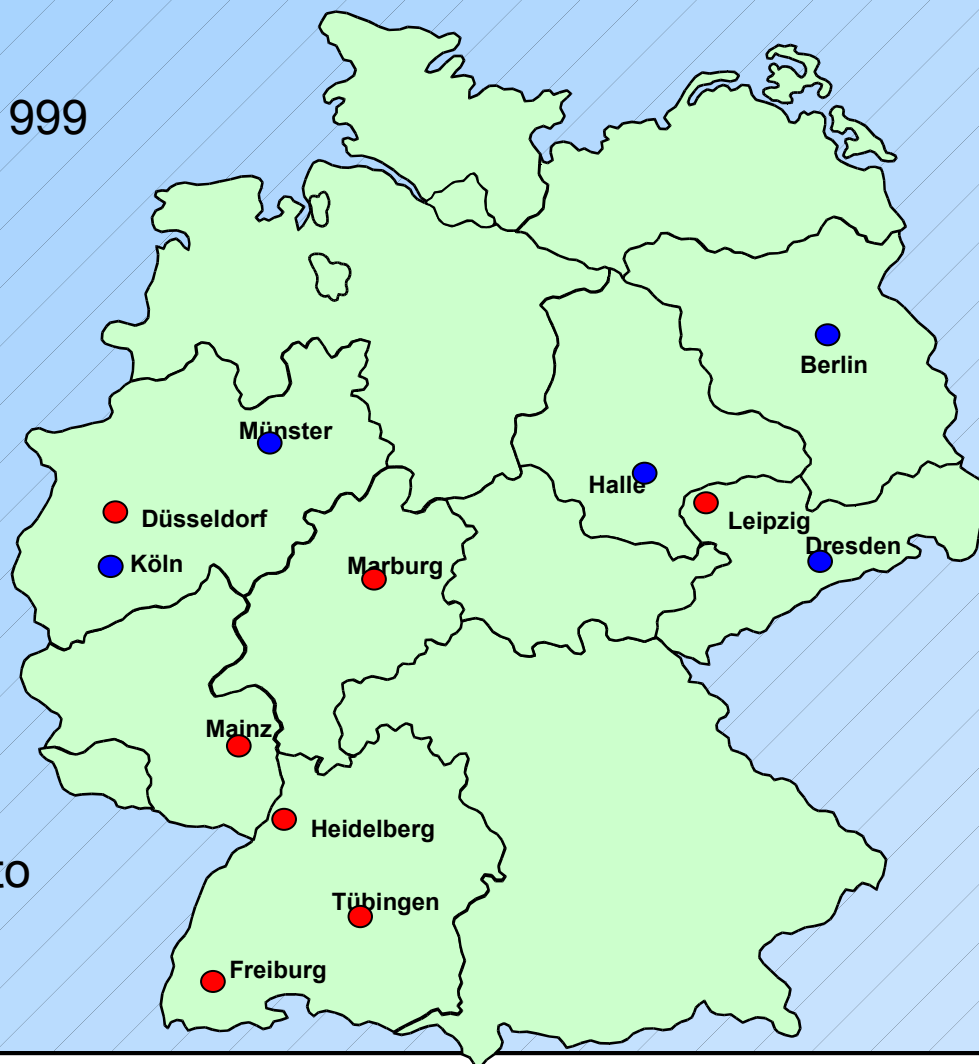
the first KKS were established in 1999

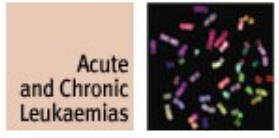
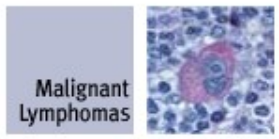
meanwhile there are 12
plus two specialized modules
for pediatric topics and
for studies on surgery

funding by BMBF
29,6 Mio. €

Follow-up initiative in 2007

On the long run the centres have to
find support from from
the university funds and industry.





Welcome to the Internet Portal of the Competence Networks in Medicine

The 17 large-scale research projects of this network are being funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and deal with specific diseases.

Funding by the BMBF started in 1999 in order to set up competence networks in the field of medicine, its purpose being the establishment of supraregional medical networks concerning specific diseases characterized by high morbidity and/or mortality.



- based on the experiences of the competence networks in medicine
- goal: foster translational research
goal: establish national networks for diseases entities which foster interdisciplinary work of basic scientists with clinical scientists on
research on causes and etiology of disease(s)
development of new treatment and diagnostic procedures
health care research
- first announcement (August 2006): dementia
other topics to follow, 1-2 per year, 8-10 competence networks in total
- call for small collaborative research consortia (4-10 projects)
allow them to grow
foster interconnections between different consortia
- 2,5 - 5 Mio € p.a. for 4 x 3 years,
up to 60 Mio € per network
~ 400 Mio € total funding,

Longlasting prospective cohort studies

Prospective cohort studies

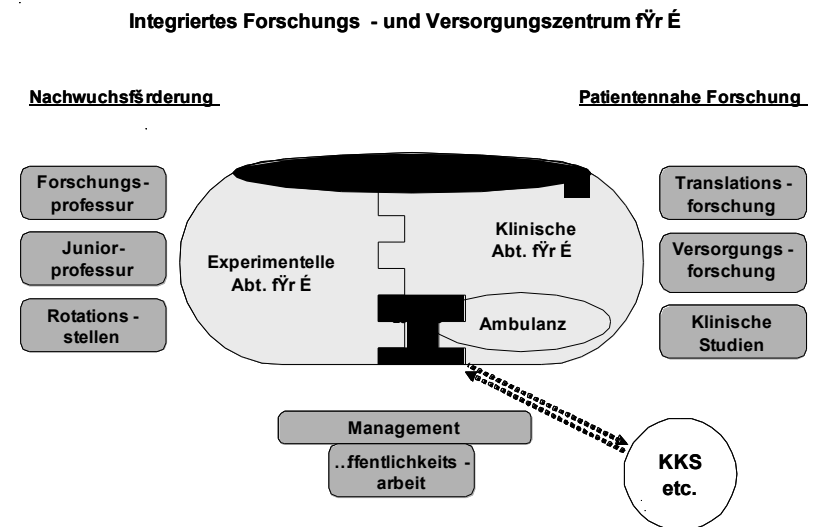
are an important instrument to analyse pathogenesis including genetic and non-genetic factors by epidemiological research.

Moreover they are essential to answer clinical and health care research questions concerning e.g. therapy prognosis and outcome or implementation of research results into practice.

The necessary long time period of these studies require combined efforts of project funding and research institutions.

BMBF will launch a funding measure in 2007 in order to analyse how the systematic difficulties with longlasting prospective cohort studies in health research could be overcome.

- main goal 1: help medical faculties to focus and develop strategic plans, coordinate interdisciplinary cooperations in clinical research within the faculty and with groups working in neighbouring institutions
NO PRE-DETERMINED TOPICS,
BUT DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES
- main goal 2: improving patient-oriented research
- research work equally important as clinical work: develop attractive careers for young (medical) scientists, scientific professor equally important as clinical professor
- first announcement: May 2006
- 5 Mio € p.a. for 2 x 5 years per center,
50 Mio € per center
8 centers, 400 Mio € total funding,



Cancer research in the Health research programme, currently running initiatives

Application-oriented breast cancer research (6,4 Mio €, 2003- 2008)

Hormone Replacement Therapy and Cancer (6 Mio €, 2005-2007)

Competence Networks in Medicine (1998 – 2009):

- Malignant Lymphomas (13,8 Mio €, 1999-2007)
- Leukemias (11,9 Mio €, 1999-2008)
- Pediatric Oncology (13,4 Mio €, 1999-2007)

National Genome Research Network (2000-2007):

- The CancerNet (9,8 Mio €, 2001 - 2007)
- Brain tumours (2,5 Mio €, 2004 - 2007)
- Embryonal tumours (3,1 Mio €, 2004 - 2007)

Innovative Therapies
Molecular diagnostics
Regenerative Medicine
Clinical trials
Coordinating Centres for Clinical Trials (KKS)

comparision:

national initiatives

competence networks

funding programmes:
molecular diagnostics
innovative therapies

clinical trial infrastructure

clinical trials repetitive open call

long term cohort studies, open call

?

?

?

european initiatives

possible within FP7 as large scale cooperative project

Possible within FP7, small scale cooperative projects

FP7, ESFRI Infrastructure for Clinical Trials and
Biotherapy

?

?

EATRIS – Infrastructure for translational medical
research

European Bio-Banking and Bio-Molecular Resources

IMI

Eurocan+Plus: Analysis of status quo and Feasibility study for the coordination of cancer research in Europe

P. Lange, BMBF: chair of working group of European funding organisations

ERA-NETs (**E**uropean **R**esearch **A**rea **N**etworks) in Life Sciences

- ERA-Age (ageing research)
- Neuron (neurosciences)
- E-Rare (rare diseases)
- Pathogenomics (pathogenic microbes)
- Plant genomics
- ERA-SAGE (ethics in genome research)
- proposed (suggestion of ministries & funding agencies involved in Eurocan+Plus):

ERA-NET on translational cancer research

Article 169 (of the EU treaty) initiative

- EDCTP: European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (aids/HIV, malaria, tuberculosis)

Technology Platforms (Joint Technology Initiatives: PPP)

- IMI: Innovative Medicines Initiative

ESFRI: European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures

E. Curtius, BMBF: chairman of the Biological and Medical Sciences Working Group

- e.g. EATRIS: The European Advanced Translational Research Infrastructure in Medicine
- e.g. ECRIN: Network of Distributed Infrastructure for Clinical Trials
- ...

Objective: Reduce fragmentation of research efforts made at national & regional level in Europe

Reasons for coordination:

- ✓ Achieving critical mass, to ensure better use of scarce resources
- ✓ Join Forces to provide common answers to common problems
- ✓ Addressing global issues
- ✓ Developing common approaches (e.g. ethics, standards)
- ✓ Addressing specific geographical issues
- ✓ Speaking with “one voice” to third countries

In many cases several reasons apply but for all:

- ✓ Avoiding overlap and build up of expertise
- ✓ Exchange of good practices
- ✓ Access to expertise

- proposed by funding organisations (engaged in Eurocan+Plus) to EC for inclusion into 3rd call of FP7 work programme, theme 1 ("Health")
- estimated timeline (very preliminary)
 - > launch of call for proposals: end of 2007 / start of 2008
 - > start of project: ~ end of 2008 / early 2009
- participants: ministries & funding agencies (from EU Member States & Associated States), not researchers (except for advisory functions)
- aims (e.g.):
 - overcome fragmentation and redundancy in national funding of translational cancer research by (e.g.):
 - > coordinating national funding activities within a strategic plan
 - > launching joint European call(s) for research proposals
- contact: Birgit Wetterauer, BMBF

- proposed by scientists AND funding organisations (engaged in Eurocan+Plus) to EC for inclusion into 3rd call of FP7 work programme, theme 1 ("Health")
- estimated timeline
- participants: excellent EU research institutes & hospitals
- aims:

THANK YOU for your attention!

ESFRI Roadmap Proposals in Life Sciences

Upgrade of European Bio-Informatics Infrastructure

Infrastructure for Clinical Trials and Biotherapy

EATRIS – Infrastructure for translational medical research

Integrated structural biology infrastructure

Functional Genomics in the Mouse

European Bio-Banking and Bio-Molecular Resources