

## AiF at a glance





**German Federation of Industrial Research Associations**  
*Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen "Otto von Guericke" e.V. (AiF)*





## The AiF

- is **the leading research network** for the German "Mittelstand".
- stimulates and funds **research, transfers and innovation**.
- aims to **strengthen** the competitiveness of the **national economy of Germany** through innovation.



# Who we are

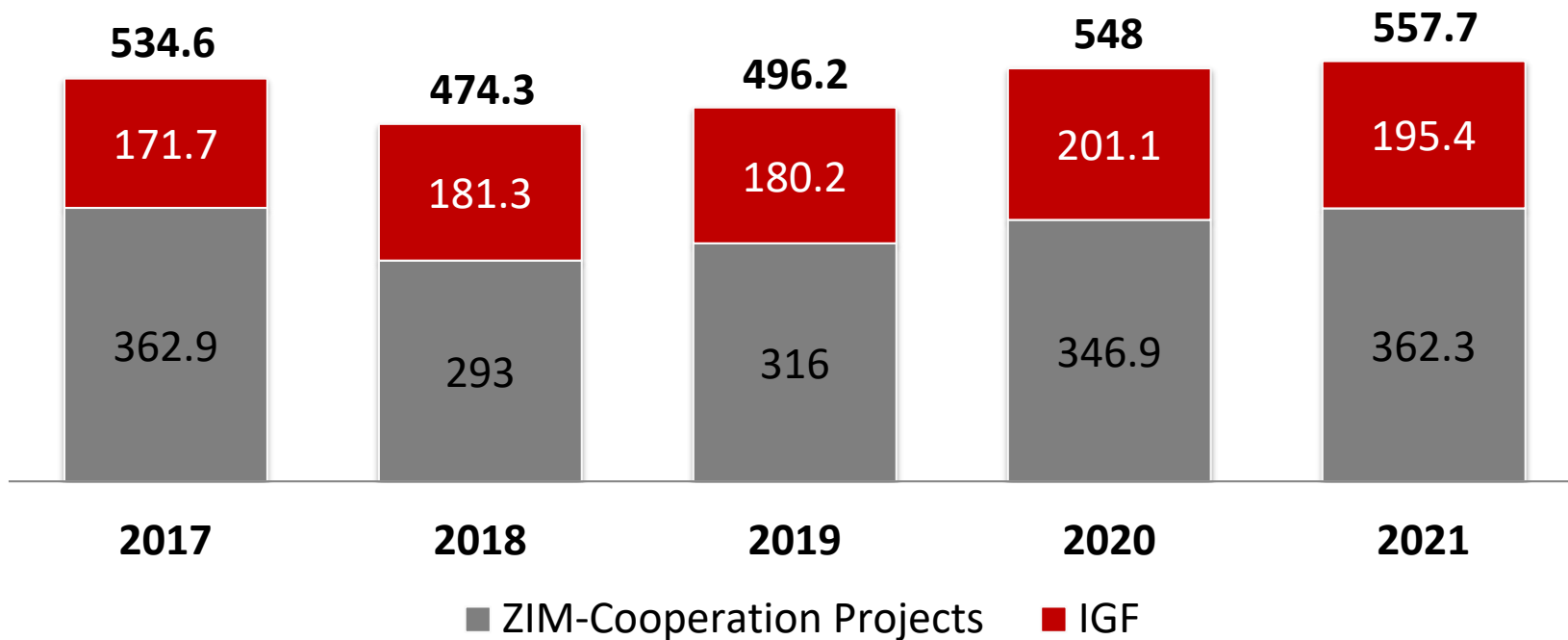


<b>Name</b>	AiF German Federation of Industrial Research Associations
<b>Legal form</b>	Registered association, non-profit organisation
<b>Founded</b>	1954
<b>Members</b>	100 industrial research associations of different industrial and technological sectors, representing about 50,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
<b>Staff</b>	211 employees
<b>President</b>	Prof Dr Sebastian Bauer
<b>CEO</b>	Dr Thomas Kathöfer
<b>Subsidiaries</b>	AiF Projekt GmbH (Berlin), AiF FTK GmbH (Cologne)
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Promotion of collective research for the benefit of entire industrial sectors (IGF)</li><li>– Project management of governmental Research &amp; Development (R&amp;D) programmes for individual SMEs, e.g. Central Innovation Programme (ZIM) - ZIM Cooperation Projects</li></ul>



- About 13.5 billion euros of public funds have been disbursed through the AiF for R&D Projects since its foundation in 1954
- Approx. 245,000 R&D Projects were launched via the AiF since its foundation
- In 2021, the AiF carried out more than 10,000 R&D Projects

# Public funds managed by the AiF 2017-2021 in m euros



## Collective Research



- Collective Research is research for broad groups of companies, especially SMEs
- Each project must clearly demonstrate the economic added value of research for companies in a given sector
- Collective Research projects are precompetitive and are proposed and managed exclusively by industrial associations
- Collective Research is organised by the AiF and her members and funded by the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action






- Collective Research projects are carried out by research institutes or universities selected according to their excellence
- The involvement of SMEs in every research project is ensured via project monitoring groups
- Both the industrial associations and the research institutes involved in a project are responsible for technology transfer and the diffusion of innovations

- **Prenormative or product standardisation**  
e.g. standard dimensions
- **(Sectoral) Technical "tools"**  
e.g. materials database
- **Environmental solutions**  
e.g. emissions, dangerous substances, safety at work
- **Generic industry demand**  
e.g. body scanning in clothing industry
- **Basic technologies**  
e.g. alternative materials (cost/benefit, functional qualities)
- **Process technologies**  
e.g. cost benefit analysis of alternative technical solutions

	2019	2020	2021
<b>Budget in m euros</b>	180.2	201.1	195.4
<b>Number of projects</b>	1,918	1,876	1,876
<b>New projects</b>	576	562	454
<b>Research institutes involved</b>	822	810	812
<b>Companies involved</b>	24,899	24,495	24,472
<b>Companies involved per project</b>	13.0	13.1	13.0

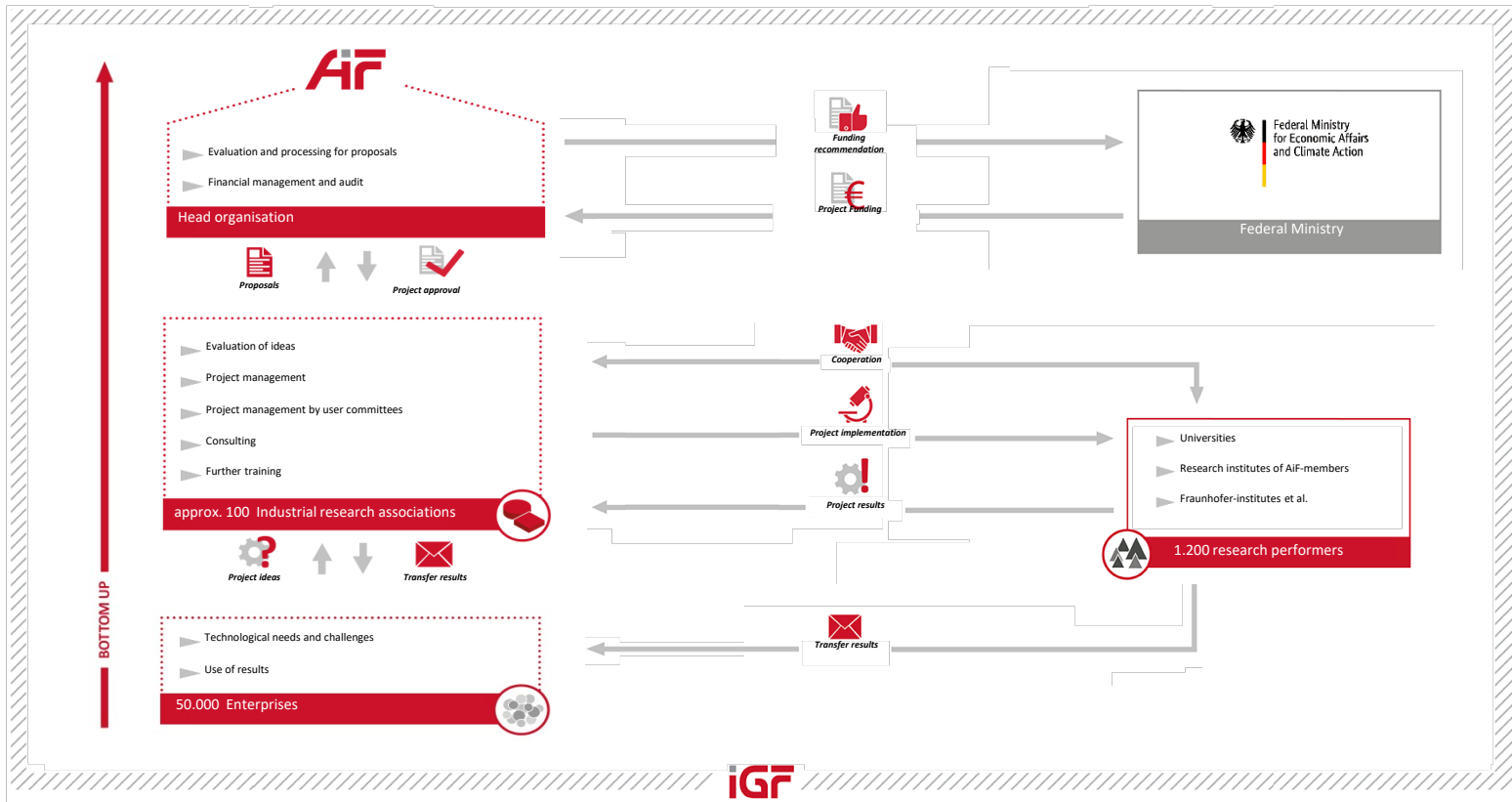
-  **cornet** Transnational Collective Research
- **PLUS**  
Projects of greater scale consisting of several individual parts that combine basic and applied research
- **Leading Technologies for SMEs**  
Projects of greater scale concerning future technologies and increasing the competitiveness of an entire business sector

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# iGR: German Collective Research Scheme



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