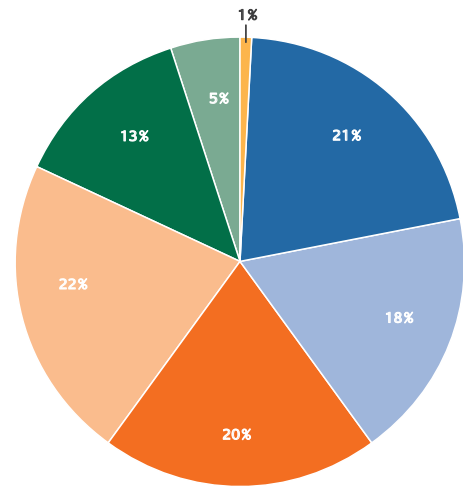


## Organization of the Ministry

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research has been headed by Federal Minister Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan since 22 November 2005. She is supported by Parliamentary State Secretaries Thomas Rachel and Dr. Helge Braun as well as the Permanent State Secretaries Cornelia Quennet-Thielen and Dr. Georg Schütte. The Federal Ministry has around 750 staff members at its main office in Bonn and around 250 at its Berlin office.

## Budget

Education and Research – Areas of Responsibility 2012  
– BMBF (departmental budget 30): € 12.941 billion –



- Knowledge-oriented and cross-programme basic research
- Research and development to provide for the future
- Promotion of technology and innovation
- University construction and predominantly university-related special programmes
- Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG)
- Educational expenditure not relevant to R&D excluding BAföG (inter-company training centres, additional traineeships in East Germany, upgrading training/AFBC)
- Ministry including pensions

## Offices, Addresses, Internet



For travel directions please visit [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)



### More information

[www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)  
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Bonn, Berlin 2012

## A Profile of the Ministry





## The Ministry as a Partner for Education and Research

Curiosity is a trait common to all children. It is among our sources of motivation. Learning new things, developing ideas and putting them into action is in our nature. In Germany, we need a culture that values and rewards performance and creativity, associates awareness with enterprise and understands the connection between innovation and tradition. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research backs people and their ideas by funding research institutions and universities, by awarding fellowships and prizes, and by fostering competition in education and research.



Germany is the land of poets and philosophers, the land of ideas. But we must focus on putting these ideas into action, on igniting ideas. Education and research are the key to Germany's future viability. It will only be possible to sustain prosperity and a high quality of life over the long term if we continuously generate new ideas and turn these into innovative products.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research aims to strengthen research in Germany, to promote talent, and to create jobs and improve the quality of life through new technologies. The Ministry's staff of around 1,000 in Bonn and Berlin are contributing their great commitment and outstanding expertise to achieving this goal.

With the High-Tech Strategy for Germany, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research is setting the course for the development of promising technologies – in the areas of health, security and energy, for example – making it possible to reduce the time needed to transform research results into finished products.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. You can also find detailed information on the Internet: [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)

Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan, MdB  
Federal Minister of Education and Research

## Our Aims

### High-Tech Strategy for Germany

The Federal Government has defined a national strategy for innovation policy through its High-Tech Strategy. All partners in the areas of business, science and politics are working together to meet the challenges posed by the global market. The High-Tech Strategy defines the aims of such interaction and outlines new forms of cooperation. The idea behind the plan is to gain more freedom for research and science. This involves taking a close look at all the determining factors.

### Germany – a talent lab

An especially large number of secondary school graduates will enter higher education in the coming years. These young men and women represent an excellent opportunity for our country. This is why we are working together with the *Länder* to establish good learning conditions and to transform our universities into centres of academic excellence. Our aim is to make German lecture halls, laboratories and workshops more widely known and more appealing on an international level. We are also promoting particularly talented students and the outstanding experts of tomorrow.

### The Federal Government's Qualification Initiative

An individual's life chances and social participation depend mainly on his or her education and qualifications. At the same time, well-trained young women and men are the key to growth, prosperity and progress in any society. We must make every effort to ensure that people in our country can develop their talents and abilities, regardless of their origin or social status. Advancement through education is possible.

### Science and democracy

Our task is to promote science – not just because of the economic benefits it provides, but also for basic research purposes. In the process, it is important that research always remains in dialogue with society as a whole. After all, many disciplines and their research results touch on people's self-concepts and social interaction. For this reason, it is important that researchers also respond to the probing and critical questions posed by citizens, thus ensuring the democratic legitimacy of their work.

## Our Work

The BMBF performs a variety of tasks within the scope of its constitutional responsibilities:

- Legislation governing non-school vocational training and continuing education
- Research funding in all fields of science
- Support for young researchers
- Promotion of international exchanges in initial and continuing training, in higher education and in research
- Legislation governing training assistance and its funding (together with the *Länder*)
- Promotion of the gifted and talented