The Leibniz Mission

Leibniz Institutes conduct problem-oriented research and provide scientific infrastructures of national and international importance. They foster close collaborations with universities, other research institutes, and industry in Germany and abroad. Leibniz researchers uphold the highest standards of excellence in their efforts to provide research-based solutions to the challenges facing society today.

The Leibniz Association is a network of scientifically, legally, and financially independent research institutes and service facilities which all adopt an interdisciplinary approach. Research topics range from the humanities, spatial research, and economics to the social and natural sciences, life sciences, engineering, and environmental research.

The Leibniz Association has developed a comprehensive system of quality management. In this unique peer review process, independent experts assess each institute at regular intervals.

Facts and Figures

- 89 member institutions and one associate member
- a total budget of € 1.5 billion
- 17,200 employees
- 8,200 researchers in total
- strategic research foci
- research and scientific infrastructures
- knowledge transfer and policy advice
- exemplary system of regular evaluation

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www.leibniz-association.eu

History

Germany’s federal tradition has made its mark on the way research is funded. Article 91b of the German Constitution lays out a framework for cooperation between the Federal Government and the Länder to promote research of national importance. At the beginning of the 1990s, German unification brought about an increase in the number of jointly-financed Leibniz Institutes with the incorporation of the 34 most effective institutions in the Academy of Sciences of the GDR. In 1997, the organisation adopted the name Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz as a symbol of its commitment to interdisciplinarity and universality in science. Launched in 2006, the liaison office in Brussels represents the Leibniz Association and promotes the interests of Leibniz Institutes at European level. The Brussels office contributes to the development of European research policy and cooperates with other stakeholders. It is the Leibniz Association’s premier point of contact for all internal and external partners on matters of European research policy.

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Research and Cooperation

The Leibniz Association connects 89 independent research and scientific infrastructure institutes, and has one associate member. The research and science-based services they carry out are of national importance and account for a major slice of Germany’s publicly-funded research potential. Leibniz Institutes are involved in more than 3,400 contractual collaborations with international partners in academia and industry, and some 5,600 foreign scientists spend time researching at Leibniz Institutes every year, contributing their expertise to output, too.

Third-party funds of approx. € 338 million per year are indicative of the competitive strength and excellence within the association. Leibniz Institutes currently coordinate 80 projects funded by the European Union. In 2012, they were also awarded grants by the European Union (€ 49 million) and the German Research Foundation (DFG, € 58 million), while € 33 million were raised through cooperation with industry partners.

Leibniz Institutes are involved in clusters of excellence in fields such as mathematics, optical technologies, materials research, bio-medical research, environmental research, bio- and nanotechnology, as well as biodiversity, economic policy, and educational research. The Leibniz Association is structured into five scientific sections.

"Global problems demand answers from top-level research which combine the tenacity of independent science with a passion for creating practical solutions. This is what the Leibniz Association stands for."

Karl Ulrich Mayer, President

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646 - 1716)

Philosopher, mathematician, universal academic, political advisor, scientific manager, librarian. Leibniz' fundamental notion of a close combination of theory and practice (theoria com praes) is evident in the work carried out by the Leibniz Association today. In fact, Leibniz Institutes engage in the entire spectrum of activities that Leibniz himself pursued at the end of the 17th century.