

Information and Strategy Day of the German Rectors' Conference
for the Heads of German Universities in Berlin, 17-18 January 2013

How to move on beyond the “Horizon 2020” decision?

The future EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation as of 2014
and the strategic positioning of the German Universities

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Funding innovation

Funding of ideas

TOP PRIORITIES

Quality of idea
Quality of Investigator



ERC grant

No need for issued call.
Bottoms up, academia driven innovation.
Once in a life-time opportunity
~~Balances & checks in peer review.~~

€ 1 billion p.a.

Funding of call-driven consortia

TOP PRIORITIES

Adapt to a call
Find the right consortium structure



National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

RO1 mechanism

No need for issued call.
Bottoms up, academia driven innovation.
Continuous application - sustainability
Balances & checks in peer review.

\$ 30 billion p.a.

What makes Germany attractive / unattractive for a researcher from abroad?

- Recognition and reward of merit (meritocracy).
- Investment in a social system.
- Core support enables better investment into ideas.
- Combination of University and Research Centers is attractive for research investment.
- Stellar opportunities for interaction with industry.
- Good Funding Opportunities

What makes Germany attractive / unattractive for a researcher from abroad?

1

Social science

2

Flexibility

3

Red tape

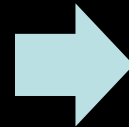
1

Social science

Top down vs. bottom's up research



No need for issued call.
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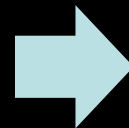


10,000 top funded ideas / year

bottoms up, top-investigator
driven collection of where
research is going

European / German funding

Need for calls issued with little transparency.
Top down policy making.
No checks in peer review process.



“Political” fund distribution

Paradox: Adaptation of ideas to
structures!

Do politics & few investigators
know better what is good for
science?

2

Flexibility

20th century : a century of progress



Communication



Computing



Cure

(absence of catalytic engineering culture)

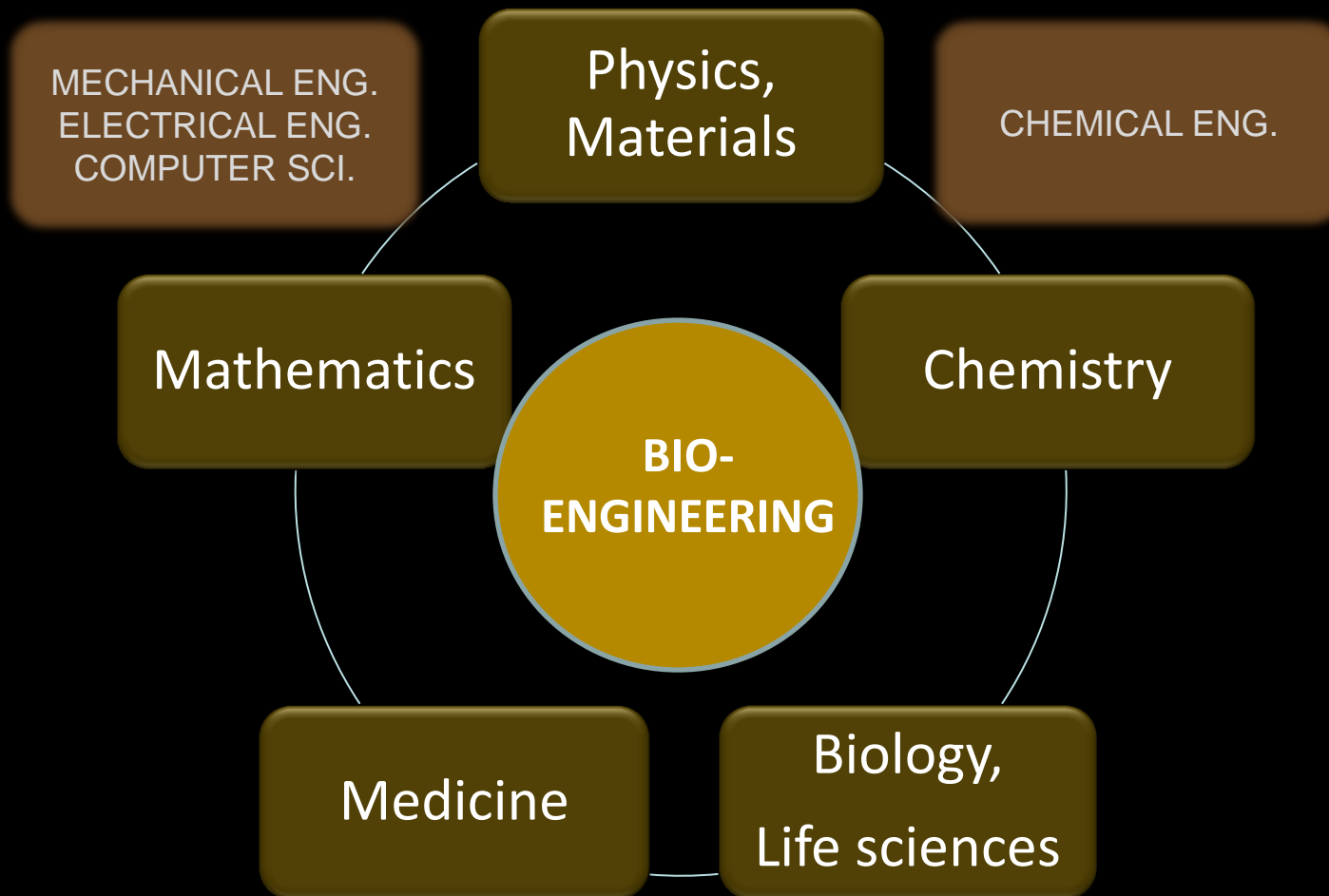


19th century

20th century

21th century

Departmental standing



Improve cross-campus competence

MIT Response

Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST)

Department of Biological Engineering

Center for Biomedical Engineering

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

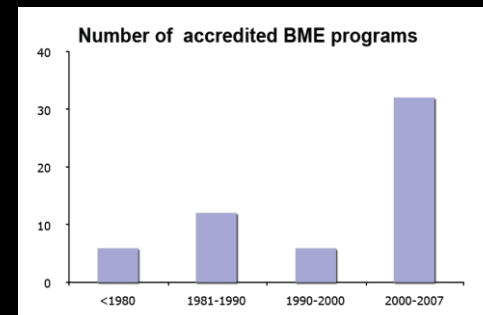
McGovern Center for Brain Research

Koch Integrative Center for Cancer Research

Broad Institute

Risk taking
vs.
Definition of
success /failure

USA Developments



3

Red Tape

is excessive regulation or rigid conformity to formal rules that is considered redundant or bureaucratic and hinders or prevents action or decision-making. *(wiki definition)*

ERC Proof of Concept

Helping grant-holders bridge the gap between their research and the earliest stage of a marketable innovation.

35 years old applicant to ERC PoC

Education

- MBA - MIT Sloan School of Management Cambridge, USA
- BS - MIT – Engineering Cambridge, USA – Management of Technology

Experience

- 1.5 years - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Cambridge, USA
School of Engineering Development Officer
Worked with Chancellor to raise funds and support MIT startups.
- 2 years Co-founder of 4 companies
Advisory and Operational Services for startups.
- 8 years - Siemens AG Healthcare Solutions Forchheim & Erlangen, Germany
Regional Business Manager, Product Manager, Sales Manager – Medical Solutions
(Tasks: Strategy & Execution, Product Positioning)

Languages: English, Spanish, German.

Possible salary allowed?

60K

Summary

Higher trust on the ideas and the ethics
of the
INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATOR

CAN

1. Drive a bottoms up approach on the scientific landscape
2. Find and fund true innovation
3. Reduce red tape – Improve flexibility & decision making

ERC Funding Improvements

1. Increase funding

2. Ensure Sustainability

Multiple applications per PI allowed
Maintain Quality

3. Improving peer-review process

Establishing Checks & Balances



40 Senior grants / year

500 highest qualified individuals

Average senior career of 25 /yrs = 20 new people/yr

