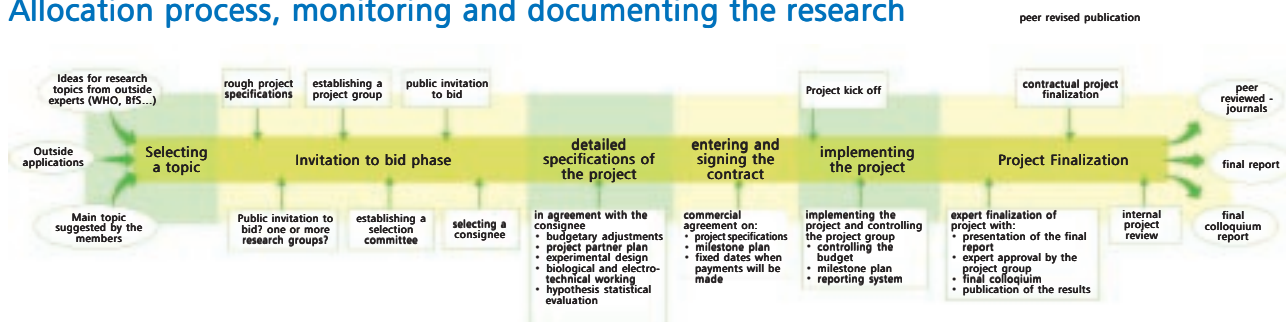


Research Strategy

Allocation process, monitoring and documenting the research



The FGF especially concentrates on promoting investigations done on the biological effects of low energy high frequency fields. The research projects are investigations done on the following levels: “the individual”, (humans, animals), “cells and tissue”, “molecules” as well as safety relevant electromagnetic compatibility, such as the safety limits for devices. The wide expanse of the studies encompasses all types of studies from literature to long-term studies, this also includes explorative as well as hypothetical studies.

The **topics of the studies** are clearly defined by the FGF. When making a decision concerning a topic the FGF carefully considers the following points:

- Recommendations from the WHO research agenda
- Suggestions given by national and international governmental groups and groups of experts
- Activities and results from other research institutes

In the **inviting to bid phase**, scientists are requested to submit a project proposal. The external experts’ recommendations are taken into account when **selecting** a project proposal. FGF **project teams** monitor the work of the commissioned researchers and make sure that there is a continual exchange of information. The current state of the project is explained in an **interim presentation** and is then evaluated. All of the **final reports and publications** on the research are made assessable to a wide public and are open to discussion. This is ensured through the following channels:

- Public scientific colloquiums on the final results of a study
- Information from its own publications and media (Newsletter, Edition Wissenschaft, FGF Internet site)
- Results published in peer reviewed (i.e. expert refereed) scientific journals
- Publications are catalogued and added to various scientific data banks (e.g. the literature data bank of the femu in Aachen)
- Workshops are held on the latest findings concerning individual research topics

Research



This procedure ensures that every step of research promoted by the FGF is transparent and comprehensible. **External experts** are included in every phase of the procedure; defining the goals, the selection, the design of the study, as well as being included in the final evaluation.

Future Prospects

In accordance with the statutory mandate, the FGF will continue to do research in the field of electromagnetic compatibility to the environment, "to pursue, push ahead with the research and then to be a source of information about it". With its goal, with its mandate and the type of organization it is, the FGF is unique in the world and has done pioneer work with its systematic efforts in addressing the research question: "Do low energy electromagnetic waves affect or harm humans and the environment in any way?" The FGF has acquired expertise through its research projects and it unrestrictedly places this expertise at the disposal of its members and it is readily available to national and international committees. The FGF has also been a catalyst in substantially contributing to the improvement in the quality of research that was not commissioned by the FGF.

It will continue to follow the principle of taking a neutral position in publicly lead discussions concerning technology and assessing the consequences of this technology, moreover it will continue to act as a moderator in objectifying debates. Diverse analyses by experts on the published research results are scientifically conclusive and to date have not proven any significant harmful health effects. However, despite long-term extensive scientific research, more extensive research and some detailed questions remain to be answered, for instance, we must take into account that new technology or new measuring methods will pose new questions.

Strategy

An brief survey of the FGF research strategy

1. Financing

Strategy:

- to adhere to WHO research agenda
- to take into account research determined by
 - national governments and the EU
 - national and international groups of experts
 - FGF members
- to close existing gaps in knowledge
- to avoid the same study being done at the same time and to avoid competition in research
- to review the available possibilities for financing a project with the partner

2. Publications

Strategy:

- to make final reports and publications of FGF commissioned studies freely available to the public
- the widespread circulation of information through publications and services of the FGF
- promoting and supporting the exchange of information through data banks, e.g. the data bank set up by the RWTH in Aachen for the FGF (a literature bank of scientific findings) (WBLDB) the femu

3. Quality

Strategy:

- the contractors are obliged to fulfil the requirement of the GLP (good laboratory practice) when researching and when applicable – GCP (good clinical practice)
- the research team committed to doing the research must be committed to high research standards and to guarantee for the laboratory
- a well polished design for the study and a record of the procedure (including statistics for the pre and post analysis).

4. Credibility

Strategy:

- the definition and the publication of a clearly described procedure for the selection and the administration of FGF-financed research projects
- receiving advice from independent, acknowledged scientists
 - To select and decide on research topics
 - to process the project selection
 - to interpret the results
- to make the results for scientific discussions available and to release the results as general information