

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – EXCERPT

360 IDEAS FINANCED WITH DKK 988 MILLION



BE INSPIRED BY THE HIGHLIGHTS OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND CHECK OUT THE KEY FIGURES FROM 2017

You can delve deeper into Independent Research Fund Denmark's digital annual report (in Danish) - visit dff.dk or <https://aarsrapport.dff.dk>



DANMARKS FRIE
FORSKNINGSFOND

Annual report

In 2017 Independent Research Fund Denmark boosted excellence research and invested in high risk projects. We financed the researchers' own ideas in all scientific fields.

[Watch video](#) (Danish, not subtitled)



Peter Munk Christiansen, Chairman

Total applications



2103

for a total of DKK 7.362bn

Total projects



9228

2004 - 2017

Ongoing projects



940

in 2017

360 new research ideas

Independent Research Fund Denmark (IRFD) launched 360 new research ideas after receiving DKK 985.2 million from the National Budget in 2017. All in all, IRFD experienced a success rate of 13.4%, noticeably up from the success rate of 9.5% in 2016. It is a positive indication and helps ensure that IRFD can continue to motivate researchers to apply for independent funding with a reasonable chance of securing financing for promising new research.

Research ideas initiated



360

Success rate



13,4%

Researchers applied for DKK 7.362 billion

IRFD continues to receive applications from research environments for far more funding than is budgeted – in 2017, the total amount sought by applicants was more than seven times greater than the actual budget. By the end of 2017, IRFD had financed a total of 9228 research ideas with a total sum of DKK 16.8 billion since its establishment in 2004. Of the 9228 financed research ideas, 940 are ongoing projects.

Impact

IRFD launched the report "Impact – Tools and methods for measuring the impact of research" in early 2017. The report aimed to contribute to the debate on measuring research impact and provide a view to international standards in the area. The report concluded that research can spread to many paths, and that measuring the wider effects of research is far from simple. IRFD will continue to contribute to the debate on the effects and role of research in society.

[Read the report here](#) (in Danish)

A boost for Independent Research Fund Denmark

The National Budget and the research reserve agreement for 2018 provided a boost for Independent Research Fund Denmark. With a total research budget of DKK 1.175 billion, IRFD's funding from the National Budget is close to pre-cutback levels following cost saving measures in 2016 and 2017. However, a portion of this funding is earmarked for special research efforts. Cutbacks had a significant impact on IRFD's total grants in 2017, which were at the lowest level since 2007.

Excellence agenda 2017

Independent Research Fund Denmark boosted its pool for excellent younger research leaders by more than DKK 40 million compared to 2016 in response to record high application numbers. The excellence agenda in 2017 was characterised not least by the Government's research and innovation strategy with a focus on strengthening excellent research and creating favourable conditions for breakthroughs. It resulted in a positive focus on and increased National Budget financing for the IRFD excellence initiative Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant of DKK 40 million in 2018. In 2017, there was a record number of applications to Sapere Aude, and significant numbers are also expected in 2018. The number of applications to IRFD has almost quadrupled in seven years. Five Sapere Aude researchers presented their ideas at the IRFD Original Minds conference for almost 200 stakeholders who attended to gain insight into excellent research and enter into a dialogue on conditions for elite research.

[See the IRFD Talk videos on YouTube](#) (Danish researchers, not subtitled)

Boost of Sapere Aude



DKK **165** m. in 2017

International Post docs



30 Grants

International Postdoc

30 younger researchers will spend a minimum of a year and a half at a foreign university to absorb new knowledge that can further Danish research. That is the objective of the new funding instrument from Independent Research Fund Denmark that was allocated in 2017, and saw DKK 45 million allocated to the International Postdoc initiative. Collaboration with international research institutions will strengthen the career opportunities of the individual researcher as well as Danish research environments through the development of researcher ideas.

[See International Postdoc recipients and project descriptions.](#)

New Act and name change for Independent Research Fund Denmark

The Act on Independent Research Fund Denmark came into force on 1 July 2017. In addition to changing the name from a council to a fund, politicians presented a proposal to draw more on the research expertise of the fund to also allow for allocation of thematic funding to high quality research projects that are relevant to significant societal challenges. The call for proposals and allocation of funding to thematic research within the areas of: People

and society, Early knowledge-based initiatives for vulnerable children and youth, Learning and education quality, and Socio-economic effects of welfare investments, will already begin in early 2018.

For more information see the press releases: [Independent Research Fund Denmark becomes a reality as of 1 July 2017](#) (in Danish)

Key figures 2017



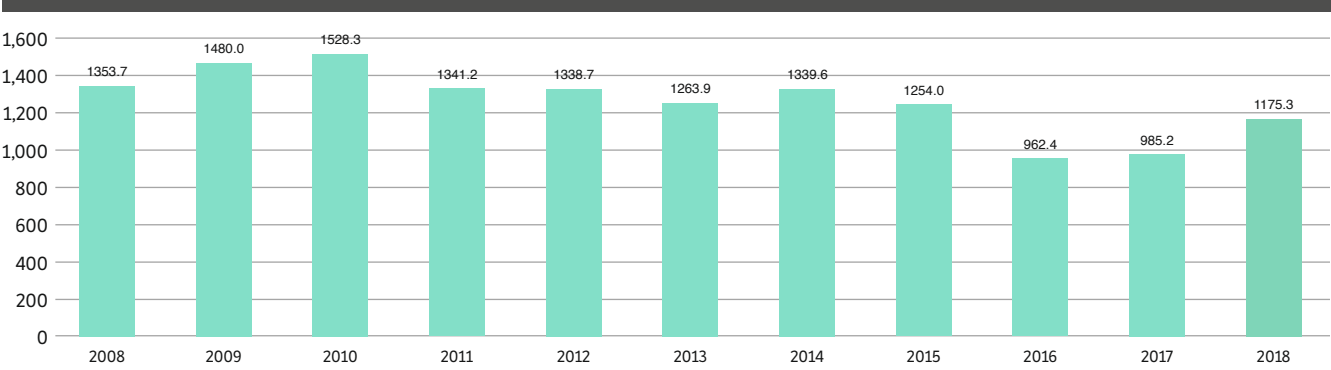
*The granted amount is greater than the budgeted amount, because it includes the distribution of returns from previous grants.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FUND DENMARK'S FUNDING, BUDGET 2017 (DKK million)

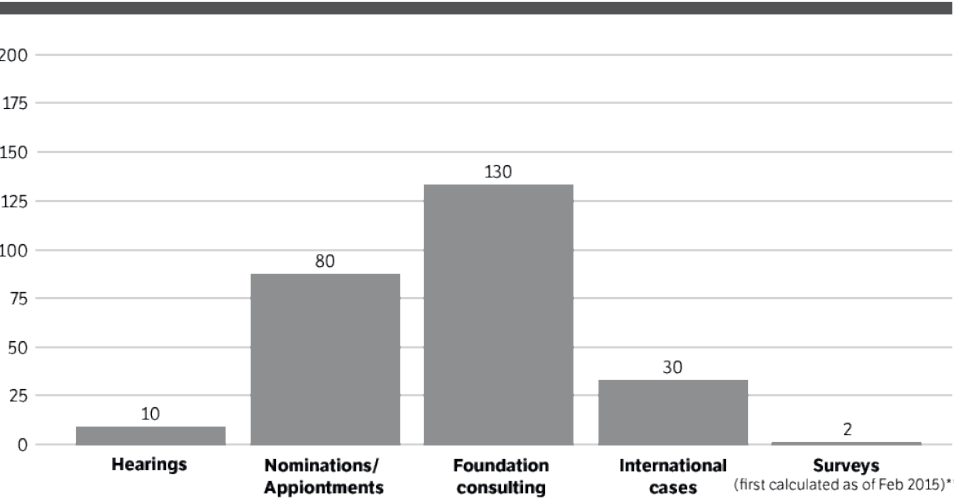
	Basic grant, budget	Special funding*, expenditure	Total
IRFD Humanities	108.2	33.4	141.6
IRFD Natural Sciences	176.2	47.1	223.3
IRFD Social Sciences	84.2	22.3	106.5
IRFD Medical Sciences	180.8	34.7	215.5
IRFD Technology and Production Sciences	208.0	42.6	250.6
Sub-total	757.3	180.1	937.4
Cross-council pool	16.7		
Total	774.0	180.1	954.1

* Within the special funding, DKK 21.1 million is earmarked for researcher education outside of the universities. Furthermore, the special funding was used in 2017 primarily for the Sapere Aude programme. In addition to the figures mentioned in the table, funding was also allocated to the board's budget.

NATIONAL BUDGET FINANCING FOR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FUND DENMARK 2008-2018 (fixed prices 2018, DKK million)



Independent Research Fund Denmark's advisory services, 2017



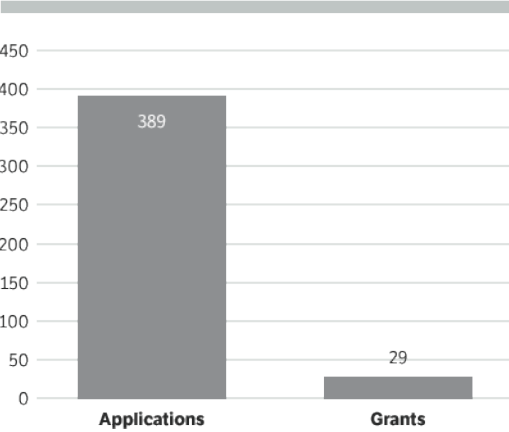
* Consultation in connection with applications to other councils and foundations ** Surveys often come from international organisations.



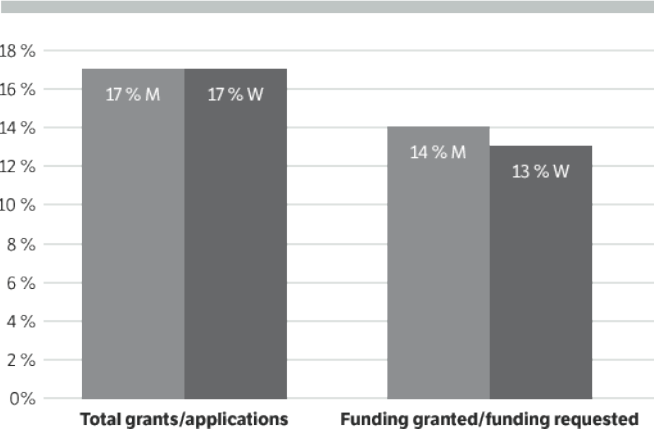
Average grant

Independent Research Fund Denmark has a keen eye trained on the growth layer of Danish research, both in relation to career levels and different fields. IRFD offers funding instruments for all research levels and of varying grant size, which creates wide-ranging career and research field opportunities within the applicant pool.

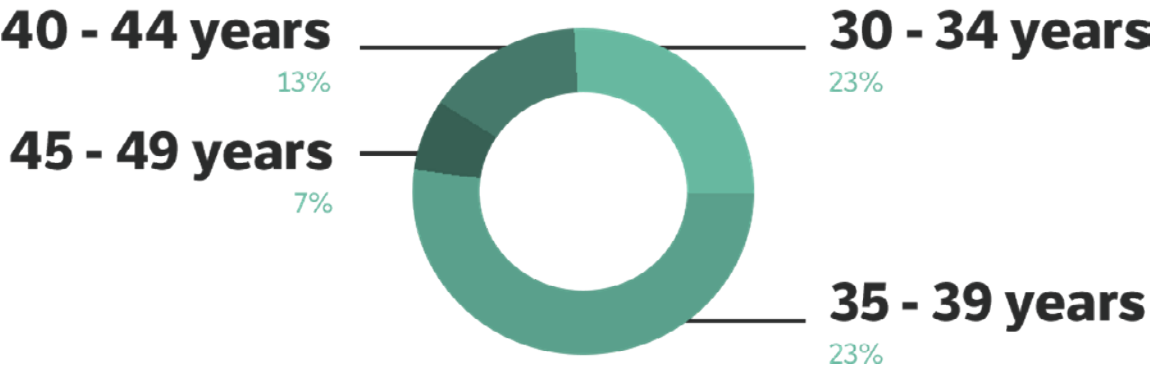
Sapere Aude Research Starting Grant, applications and grants, 2017



Success rates for Independent Research Fund Denmark, by gender, 2017(%)



AGE DISTRIBUTION FOR RECIPIENTS OF SAPERE AUDE STARTING GRANT





Daniel Enrique Lucani Rötter

One of this year's recipients of Sapere Aude:
DFF-Starting Grant

What is your project about?

*"This project aims at solving challenges for the Internet of Things (IoT).
The IoT will grow the number of devices connected to our networks from
12 billion nowadays to 500 billion in the next decade."*

[Read portrait here](#)



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