

Centres of Expertise and Services

# 2020

## Annual Report



## CENTRES OF EXPERTISE AND SERVICES



# Welcome to the professional world!

## Interview with Dr Annette Wilczek, manager of the new dual study programme Research and Innovation Management at the DLR Projektträger.

*Things started moving for 16 youngsters in February and March 2021: in the summer semester, they were the first group of freshmen to get placed at DLR-PT. The academic part of the dual study programme is offered by the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences at the RheinAhrCampus in Remagen – not far from DLR-PT's Bonn headquarters.*

*The theoretical-academic part focuses on business administration, public law and the mechanisms of research and innovation funding in Germany as well as in an international context. At DLR-PT, new recruits are trained in all facets of our comprehensive project funding services. They learn about the funding management phases and the interplay between politics, business and society.*

*DLR-PT designed the programme and arranged the legal framework conditions with the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences in 2020. This was followed by a campaign to inform young people about the dual study programme and related career opportunities. Dr Annette Wilczek talks about the goal, paving the way – and getting started.*

### **Dr Wilczek, you met the new students at the selection interviews. What do these first-year students expect from the course?**

Annette Wilczek: Intensive practical experience – they want to apply knowledge from their studies at an early stage and then build on this practical experience. They are also very interested in our subject areas. They want to contribute to changing society in their professional life. Social and ecological sustainability play a central role.

### **Introducing a new programme involves a lot of effort. Why did DLR-PT decide to do this?**

Some of our employees will take their well-deserved retirement in the next few years. We have realised that it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit specialists as successors through the traditional way of job postings alone. At the same time, staff requirements increased due to the rising workload. With the dual programme, we want to inspire as many young people as possible to consider DLR-PT as an employer for the long term. Upon successful completion of the programme, we offer students a secure, interesting and diversified job!

### **What was the first big challenge you had to master?**

Probably the realisation that one department alone cannot handle this project. We soon realised that this could be achieved only through cross-divisional and interdisciplinary as well as agile cooperation. This is a basic principle in our day-to-day work at DLR-PT and in our exchange with each other. In the programme, we've also been able to apply this practice with great success.

#### **Dr Annette Wilczek**

*manages the new dual study programme Research and Innovation Management. She supervises students during their placement at the DLR Project Management Agency.*



Students receive their academic training at the RheinAhrCampus of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences in Remagen.

### How exactly did this cooperation work?

Our experts at DLR-PT together with colleagues at DLR worked together very closely from the original conception of the project to the start of the programme. The idea itself originated with Dr Christian Ganseuer. As a proven education expert and head of the *Education, Gender* division, he developed the technical content of the programme and accompanied the content-side of the process. For the organisational implementation, we looked to the expertise of our *Centres of Expertise and Services*. Therefore, the baton was passed on to the head of this division, Steffen Bruckner. He brought the departments together to clarify legal, personnel and financing issues and develop marketing measures. The aim was to make the course visible to potentially interested parties and to design selection and supervision concepts.

### As manager and practice coordinator, you call the shots. What were your most important tasks?

The main task was to bring different stakeholders on board at the right time. We had to first choose a suitable cooperation partner, develop an appropriate study model with the chosen university and get all participants to agree on it. After extraordinarily positive discussions with the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, we prepared the cooperation agreement and developed the concepts for the respective study phases. Contracts providing a high-quality and reliable basis had to be drafted. Here, my exchange with our legal support team was of great help to me, and we were also able to benefit from the experience of our DLR-colleagues.

And then, eventually, it was about the visibility of the course. No one knew about it six months before the start of studies. At the same time, we noticed that a number of other prominent employers in the greater Cologne-Bonn area were advertising dual study opportunities. However, we were able to achieve success with our communication. The *competence centre Public Relations* as our in-house agency at DLR-PT took over the professional marketing of the programme.



## CENTRES OF EXPERTISE AND SERVICES

# From analyses to central funding management

The success of the DLR Projektträger is based on its economic orientation with a high-quality range of services, efficient business processes, innovative personnel management and modern infrastructure. The central division *Centres of Expertise and Services* ensures the implementation of objectives and the successful orientation of DLR-PT by developing and providing suitable core competencies, control instruments as well as a future-oriented technological and organisational infrastructure. As a service provider within the DLR Projektträger, the division supports the core business of DLR-PT as well as the development of new business areas in the departments on the basis of well-defined integrated process flows and high-quality standards.

In cooperation with central organisational units of DLR e.V., the division thus ensures the operation of DLR-PT by providing organisational, personnel and technical infrastructure as well as central competencies as a partner to the departments. It also forms the basis for the development of new and innovative business areas of DLR-PT. In addition to process and product innovations, it ensures continuous improvement in the quality of established services such as funding management.

### Competence Centres: strong in communication, evaluation and analysis

With its three *competence centres Analysis and Evaluation, Science Communication and Public Relations*, the division bundles essential core competencies in the range of services offered by the DLR Projektträger. Our external clients receive support for communication and public relations from two competence centres with different focal points: the competence centre *Science Communication* focuses on communicating scientific findings to the public. It shapes the intensive dialogue between science and society and is a reliable partner of the BMBF in the conception, execution and further development of its science communication activities for funded projects.

The competence centre *Public Relations* supports clients in communication, event and dialogue formats as well as press and public relations work regardless of topic. In addition, it works closely alongside DLR-PT departments as an in-house agency and drives the dialogue between various players in the science and education system on one side and society, industry and politics on the other. The formats for such dialogue are diverse: from civil dialogues, online events and

Our main goal was to transport our story with a combination of interesting faces and messages in an unusual format on websites, via social media and in job advertisements. And we were successful. The number of outstanding applications we received increased exponentially.

After the campaign had reached the target group, our HR staff organised the selection interviews. We were also able to recruit experienced funding managers from our divisions for the selection committee.

The "onboarding" is now complete. We are extremely satisfied with our selection – they are highly motivated, high-performing and team-oriented young employees. We look forward to helping them achieve a good degree and motivate them to stay with our organisation for the long term.

**What, according to you, is the significance of the dual study programme project for the DLR Projektträger as a whole?**

Together, we have developed ideas and flexible solutions. The creativity and agility that we have experienced contribute to DLR-PT's ability to compete and continuously adapt to a complex, ever-changing future. The programme also increases the visibility of DLR-PT on the job market and thus strengthens our employer attractiveness.

In Baden-Wuerttemberg, for example, the dual university system has been successfully implemented for decades. We see this programme as an incubator for young talent for our funding management. In the long term, the programme will ensure a continuous flow of highly qualified and very well-trained graduates. These students will also contribute to strengthening the quality and professionalism of funding management. ▶



*The practical part of the dual study programme takes place at the DLR Projektträger in Bonn.*

democracy workshops, to agenda processes to prepare decisions on new initiatives, to the transfer of new knowledge into practice or discourse on difficult ethical questions regarding the application of new technologies. New funding programmes are often initiated and generated from such dialogues.

Our *Analysis and Evaluation* competence centre offers high methodological competence for analyses, studies and evaluations. It supports our clients by providing strategic and organisational advice, by evaluating funding programmes and other measures and by writing methodologically sound studies.

**Our services departments ensure high quality in internal processes and orders**

With the departments *Contract Management and Controlling*, *Legal Support*, *Logistics* as well as *Human Resources*, the *Centers of Expertise and Services* division offers effective internal services – be it for the preparation and submission of all tenders and support of current contracts by our contract management and controlling team, for the clarification of legal issues in various subject areas by the legal support team or the acquisition and support of personnel.

The *ICT Services* department is responsible for providing the digital infrastructure to execute our orders. The *ICT team*, and here especially our in-house software development team, support us in driving forward the digitalisation of the business processes and services of all divisions of the DLR Projektträger. Our expert experience in the development of individual software for the special requirements of our customers helps us in funding management. Last but not least, this involves suitable IT-based tools to facilitate the application process, the review processes and user-oriented communication during the term of a funding project supervised by us.

The *Central Funding Management/Quality Assurance* department completes our set of service departments. This is where all the expertise on funding procedures is bundled and the central internal quality assurance of our funding management services is ensured. In addition, the department is responsible for the further development of our funding instruments in the interest of customer satisfaction and economic efficiency.

### What is the next step for you in this project?

For the first twelve months, we are planning to guide the students individually in the practical phases on a weekly basis in order to optimise their integration. We are excited to start working with the students – the first larger group of employees from Generation Z. They will provide new impetus.

Our goal is to jointly develop our culture of exchange and cooperation. A motivating and encouraging start will help our students to develop their full potential, ultimately to the benefit of all employees.



*Concise, but successful: the advertising campaign for the dual study programme.*

## Dual Study Programme “Research and Innovation Management” at DLR-PT

Funding managers work at the intersection between public financiers and funding recipients such as universities, educational institutions or companies. They are the first point of contact for all kinds of questions and challenges. On the one hand, their day-to-day work is shaped by routines, on the other hand, they regularly deal with special cases under funding law and gain insight into exciting projects of the funding recipients.

Sustainable recruitment and retention of qualified funding managers is essential for DLR-PT. In 2020, the *Centres of Expertise and Services* division therefore instituted the three-and-a-half-year dual study programme “Research and Innovation Management” (FIMT) together with the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences. Here, theoretical phases at the university are alternated with practical phases in the company. The aim is to generate and sustainably retain highly qualified young talent at an early stage.

Both centralised and decentralised support models are implemented at DLR-PT. The first 16 students were recruited for the summer semester 2021 and more will join for the winter semester 2021. With an annual intake of 25 students, we have planned the integration of 100 students into current operations and the absorption of 25 graduates per year starting from 2024.

The *Centres of Expertise and Services* division of the DLR Projektträger is responsible for centrally guiding students and coordinating the course in ongoing and institutionalised coordination with the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences.

## Digitalisation in funding management

Services need to be proactively adapted when the ways of working, requirements and expectations of clients change. Quick action is required in the case of short-term changes. Last but not least, it is DLR-PT's own commitment to constantly improve its processes and make them more efficient. This also includes digitalisation.

The *Central Funding Management* of the DLR Projektträger, in cooperation with experts from the *ICT Services* department, plays a key role in introducing the possibili-

ties of digitalisation into the project funding processes in a practical and targeted manner.

Projects are processed only in teams: funding managers, scientists and budget managers successfully oversee the projects together. We guarantee quality, safety and efficiency – also in times of contact restrictions and remote work. For this reason, in 2020 the DLR Project Management Agency continued to forge ahead with the shift towards working on digitalised documents and increased the use of electronic signa-



tures. This made it largely possible to work together regardless of location.

Extensive digitalisation is essential for DLR-PT. We find solutions for digitalisation-challenges – and do so in accordance with the provisions of the Online Access Act, the E-Government Act and the special requirements of our public and private clients.

In order to promote digitalisation within DLR-PT, the team "Requirements and Project Management" of the *ICT Services* department has developed a concept as part of an analysis project that demonstrates the potential of the *electronic file (e-file)* in detail - especially with regard to core and support processes. It is not just about filing familiar paper documents using an IT tool, but about increasing productivity and quality, for example in the turnaround times of application processing, information security, interaction with funding recipients and clients and, last but not least, the satisfaction of our employees. To take advantage of its full potential, the use of a digital file will be accompanied by changes in the handling processes.

As a future-oriented project management agency, we consider it our task to not only introduce the electronic file in-

house, but also to advance digitalisation in the entire funding business. The dialogue with clients, also about replacing established paper-based procedures, is just as important as an exchange with all partners in the DLR-PT network. Finally, the pandemic showed how important it is to safely and accurately adapt established procedures to new conditions. In places where an e-file cannot be used, the necessary paper documentation of



administrative procedures remains an additional work step. With solutions that efficiently combine digital processing steps with the maintenance of paper files, the DLR Projektträger can offer its services to customers on both ends – funding bodies as well as applicants and funding recipients – in a reliable and sustainable manner.

Employees are part of the change: there is hardly anyone who questions the need for increased use of digital technologies. However, if concrete changes are imminent, then employees must be on the same page. Informing and qualifying them are thus essential aspects of the change process. Since 2020, the DLR Projektträger has relied almost exclusively on online formats for training. In this way, the necessary skills can be imparted at short notice, flexibly and in a needs-based manner. What the pandemic forced us to do has now developed into an accepted and even more suitable qualification format.

Digitalisation in the funding process should therefore be seen as an opportunity for the DLR Projektträger and its customers. With its digital expertise and extensive experience, DLR-PT will be able to advise and support its clients even better in the future.

## Hybrid work as a model for the future? ■

Since the spring of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented us with new challenges. We have responded to these challenges with adapted solutions in order to comprehensively ensure the DLR Projektträger's ability to work under more difficult conditions. For example, employee pres-



ence was reduced and remote work was made widely possible. Where specific tasks did not allow this, single use of offices was made obligatory. During the safety-critical phases in spring and winter, 80 to 90 percent of employees worked remotely and the proportion of mobile workplaces was increased to 100 percent. At the same time, productivity could be ensured without technical limitations, and business operations were successfully expanded.

In a very short time, we succeeded in creating conditions that allowed us to continue to perform our daily tasks by adapting the organisation of work and digitalising processes, supported by the provision of a suitable infrastructure.

Presence in the workplace has taken on a completely new significance at DLR-PT in the wake of the pandemic. The shift to remote work and the experience with hy-

brid working models, where work from home or other off-site locations was combined with presence in the workplace, have already taught us some valuable lessons for the future. An important element is the continuous dialogue between managers and employees, a high degree of willingness to accept responsibility and awareness of responsibility as well as camaraderie and team spirit among all employees.

The fact that a lion's share of work was done remotely made us rethink the topic of communication at various levels - both with regard to the exchange among colleagues as well as the topic of "leadership at a distance". We have opened up new communication tools so that meetings and conferences now take place almost exclusively by video conference. We put this into action internally as well as externally by designing, planning and

implementing custom-fit solutions for a wide range of digital event formats for our clients. But we also clearly understood one thing: digital formats can support communication, but cannot replace the all-important personal interaction.

The introduction of flexible forms of work can be advantageous for the compatibility of family and work. In 2020,



however, our employees were also under the enormous additional burden of taking care of small children and home-schooling among other things. During this time, we supported them in the best possible way with flexible forms of work and services to help them meet the challenges posed, for example, by the closing of schools and daycare centres. DLR-PT employees were also able to benefited from online workshops focusing on handicrafts, exercise or puzzles in the *Kids Portal* offered by DLR.

The DLR-wide *Gesund zu Hause (Healthy at Home)* project team continues to deal intensively with the prevention of mental stress. Digital counselling services and DLR's digital sports courses for bringing a balance to life help employees compensate for one-sided activity and bring relief to their daily routine.



## DLR-PT on the move: relocation to a new building

It finally happened in May 2020: the construction of the modern new building of the DLR Projektträger was complete. More than 300 employees moved from buildings at Bonner Bogen to the striking new building at Godesberger Allee 138. The reason for choosing this office site was its attractive location, which is characterised, among other things, by its proximity to the Federal

Ministry of Education and Research, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure and important scientific and intermediary organisations.

Digitalisation requirements had already been taken into account during the construction planning; a first-class IT infrastructure was always the primary goal. The re-

sult: modern network components, secure server rooms, very good WiFi coverage and modern meeting and event rooms with interactive touchscreens, online whiteboards and video conferencing systems that facilitate digital work and collaboration.

All activities and steps necessary for the relocation were allowed only if conditions





such as using masks and maintaining minimum distance were followed. Also, not all colleagues could start using their offices at the same time, and smart scheduling was needed to avoid encounters as much as possible. The necessary remaining work on the building could only be implemented with strict interlocking logistics and day-to-day management.

In the course of 2020, more and more employees were able to move to the building step by step. "I am very happy about moving to the new building," says Steffen Bruckner, Head of *Centres of Expertise and Services*, the division responsible for the relocation. "The good location, high-quality facilities and great conference and event rooms make it an excellent location for the DLR Projektträger and an attractive workplace for

employees. We look forward to taking advantage of the offered opportunities and appreciating them even more once the pandemic subsides."

The DLR Projektträger also had sustainability in mind during construction planning. For example, three charging columns for electric vehicles and charging stations for e-bikes are available to employees in the underground car park. DLR-PT is thus further expanding its commitment to future-oriented solutions and the use of climate-friendly means of transport. This also includes a new, pure electric vehicle for business trips in and around Bonn. These measures go hand in hand with DLR-PT management's commitment to greater sustainability. In September 2020, it adopted a concept to reduce the carbon footprint by reducing business

travel-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The focus is on measures such as replacing business trips with digital communication formats, selecting climate-friendly means of transport and offsetting unavoidable air travel through external CO<sub>2</sub> compensation providers. In addition, DLR-PT plans to set a quantified CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target for the DLR-PT balance sheet and to include this target in the target agreements of all divisions and staff positions.

## The ICT strategy of recent years has borne fruit



The DLR Projektträger recognised the innovation potential for new processes and services in the funding business very early on through its own in-house ICT department. In 2016, the department, whose primary focus until then was day-to-day IT operations, was strategically restructured and since then it has directly supported the services of DLR-PT in its core business. The proximity of IT experts to funding management and other services enables rapid development of high-quality IT solutions and web applications for clients and more convenient administrative procedures for funding recipients.



The implementation of the strategy is clearly reflected in the targeted use of IT resources to support our services. Our modern IT solutions find their way into various bids and contribute to DLR-PT's success through digitalisation and automation. The IT service management processes certified in the course of strategy implementation, guarantee highest quality and security. The

*IT Project Management* and *In-house Software Development* departments develop high-quality product and process innovations for the work of the DLR Projektträger. A modern and resilient IT infrastructure is the backbone of DLR-PT's proven digital services.

The performance of our in-house ICT department and the success of its IT strategy were particularly evident in 2020 in two contracts: *Digital Jetzt* and *DigitalPakt Schule*. For the funding measure *Digital Jetzt – Investitionsförderung für KMU* (Digital Now - Investment Funding for SMEs), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) has small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in mind and it supports them in the digitalisation process with financial grants. As part of the assignment, DLR-PT developed an online funding portal through which companies can apply for grants. The planning and development of the online funding portal was carried out in close co-operation between the client, the specialist department and the *ICT Services* department. Our professional Requirements and Project Management team manages the measure using clear agile project management methods and with the help of the ICT department's In-house Software Development.

We took advantage of the flexibility required for developing an overall solution, which goes hand in hand with the great success of the funding programme,

so that the low-threshold grants of the funding programme could be used for innovation in companies. The use of in-house ICT resources allowed us to quickly respond to the numerous applications, keeping the framework of the funding programme in mind.

The *DigitalPakt Schule* funding programme, which aims to equip schools with digital learning tools, is of great social importance, especially in the face of the challenges raised by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting school closures. The distribution of funding, which is largely provided by the federal government, is the responsibility of the federal states, which in turn pass on the funds to municipal education providers.

With its innovative IT systems, DLR-PT supports the BMBF in monitoring and controlling the allocation and use of funds in a complex and dynamic environment. For this purpose, a team of IT experts is developing a new IT system in an agile environment that is geared to the specific needs of the client and the federal states and that enables structured data transfer and, subsequently, targeted data evaluation. With this innovative administration tool, we offer the participating players the possibility to quickly, easily and securely comply with all legal requirements for the allocation of funds in this funding programme.

## Plastic Pirates - Go Europe!

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the competence centre *Science Communication* has been strategically developing Citizen Science for many years, and coupling participation and research processes with high-profile campaign work. For the *Science Year 2016\*17 - Seas and Oceans*, the competence centre had conceived the *Plastic Pirates* campaign together with the Kiel Science Factory and implemented it with partners in Germany. In 2020, this initiative received new impetus as part of the German Presidency of the EU Council and was expanded to include Portugal and Slovenia, partners of the Trio Presidency. Until the end of 2021, school classes are called upon to study how much plastic waste lies in rivers and on coasts in the three countries.

Acting on behalf of the BMBF, DLR-PT plays a key role in the conception and implementation of the European campaign *Plastic Pirates – Go Europe!* The EU Office of the BMBF, based at DLR-PT, and the *Science Communication* competence centre jointly manage the network of German and European partners from the fields of research, education and politics. In Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, this ensures that the Citizen Science project becomes known, reaches its target groups and that the data

obtained from school children meets scientific standards so that it can be used in research.



In addition, we have also ensured the smooth implementation of BMBF's mobilisation campaign during the German Presidency of the EU Council so that as many young people as possible could participate in the campaign. Concrete work of the *Science Communication* competence centre therefore includes keeping track of things in a complex and heterogeneous network, prudently coordinating the complex project and involving all the players in the process.

We represent German and European network partners in meetings with the BMBF. As a cross-divisional team, we are responsible for developing the necessary formats for promoting the Citizen Science campaign and implementing it in local schools. Together with our national and European partners and a communication agency, we develop a website, school materials and concepts for press and public relations work.

At the same time, the competence centre is working to ensure that the project can soon be implemented throughout Europe. Together with the BMBF, ministries of partner countries, the European Commission and research partners, we are currently working on a structure that will enable young people from all over the EU to contribute to the research on rivers and seas and thus to environmental protection. The political will already exists: in their Council Conclusions of 1st December 2020 on the European Research Area, EU member states expressed their support for a Europe-wide execution of the campaign.

[www.plastic-pirates.eu/en](http://www.plastic-pirates.eu/en)

## Federal report on research and innovation

With the *Federal Report on Research and Innovation (BuFI)*, the federal government regularly presents the current structures, priorities and goals of the research and innovation policy in Germany. The report is published every two years in the form of one main volume and one data volume as well as a short version in German and English.

The Innovation *Strategies and Instruments* department at the DLR Projektträger has been running the BuFI Office on behalf of the BMBF and in cooperation with Prognos AG since 2016. This office controls editorial processes, provides draft texts and manages the coordination processes within the federal government. An important aspect of our task is conceptual development, in which our in-house competence centre *Public Relations* also plays an important role. As part of the office it acts as an in-

termediary between the client, the commissioned agency and all service providers involved.



During the entire formation process, we also advise the client BMBF on all graphic aspects of print media and website design. We ensure that the client's specific requirements are implemented in all details; this concerns both the review of the generally

applicable corporate design specifications and the consideration of all special features of this complex report that are requested by the BMBF, for example with regard to user guidance.

Part of our assignment is also to maintain the BuFI website: in 2020, the focus was on user-friendly further development, combined with a complete relaunch. This was implemented in cooperation with *Tech4Germany*, a digitalisation initiative under the patronage of the Federal Chancellery. The newly designed website <https://www.bundesbericht-forschung-innovation.de/en/index.html> provides intuitive access to data and information on research and innovation activities in Germany.

## Evaluation Gesund.Leben.Bayern. (Healthy Living Bavaria)



*Gesund.Leben.Bayern.* - that's the name of the initiative with which the Bavarian State Ministry of Health and Care promotes model projects for health promotion and disease prevention. The Bavarian State Office for Health and Food Safety is responsible for the technical and organisational management of the funding and, in 2020, it commissioned the DLR Projektträger to evaluate the initiative. This included, among other things, evidence-basing, evaluation and cooperative approaches as well as scientifically substantiated prioritisation of content.

Since 2020, the *Analysis and Evaluation* competence centre, in cooperation with the DLR Projektträger's *Health* department, has been tasked with evaluating the *Gesund.Leben.Bayern.* funding programme as a whole and developing proposals for the conceptualisation and structuring of processes.

During the evaluation of *Gesund.Leben.Bayern.*, which is carried out by the *Analysis and Evaluation* competence centre of the DLR Projektträger, it is necessary to separate this programme from other funding, particularly according to § 20a of the Social Security Code Book V (SGB V). On the one hand, this allows us to take subsidiarity considerations into account. On the other hand, it helps us to bear in mind the responsibility towards society as a whole, which concerns not only social insurance agencies but also individuals and government agencies.



The evaluation of the *Gesund.Leben.Bayern.* initiative should contribute towards identifying the scope for action for state funding of measures in the field of prevention and health promotion while adhering to the principle of subsidiarity. The results should create a basis for further developing the initiative, provide impulses for new orientation - especially with regard to the principle of subsidiarity - and strengthen the role of the initiative for the *Bavarian Prevention Plan*. In addition, alternative forms of funding and the possibilities of institutional funding for projects that have proven themselves over many years are to be discussed on the basis of the evaluation.

In the first step, we analysed and processed data available on the initiative, especially existing data on evaluation, structure and processes as well as descriptions of the concept. The projects were thematically classified in the national funding landscape. In total, we have included the 40 individual projects that have been funded since 2015.

Particular attention has been paid to the data requested from the client on the principle of subsidiarity and on self-evaluations. Here, the Bavarian State Office for Health and Food Safety was advised primarily by DLR-PT experts. In parallel, the *Analysis and Evaluation* competence centre identified the national funding programmes that could overlap with the Bavarian initiative and presented these overlaps in detail. We methodically created a data table of all 40 funded projects, which was then compared with the extracted individual objectives of the Bavarian State Framework Agreement on the Implementation of the National Prevention Strategy, the Bavarian Prevention Plan, the offers of the GKV-Bündnis für Gesundheit and the *Gesund.Leben.Bayern.* initiative. The project is supported by a panel of six renowned experts from German health research, who were recruited for the project thanks to DLR-PT's excellent networking with the scientific community.

## Evaluation report on the "e-cigarette" law



Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) have been on the market worldwide since 2007. They are supposed to be a lower-risk alternative to tobacco cigarettes or a method to help people quit smoking tobacco cigarettes. Nowadays, many e-cigarettes are also advertised as "e-shishas". However, there is still no final verdict on the health risks of e-cigarettes and e-shishas.

Children and adolescents need to be especially protected from the risks of nicotine use as their bodies are still developing and are very sensitive to toxins. With an *Act for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which came into force on 1st April

2016, the federal government wants to warn people against the dangers of using e-cigarettes and e-shishas and reduce possible health risks to protect children and young people under the age of 18 in their growing years. The specific measures of the law are: 1) Bans on the sale and consumption of tobacco products are extended to electronic cigarettes and electronic shishas. 2) It is ensured that tobacco products, electronic cigarettes and electronic shishas are supplied only to adults even when it is via mail order.

DLR e.V., specifically the *Analysis and Evaluation* competence centre of the

DLR Projektträger, was commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) to evaluate this law. The main objective was to investigate whether the bans that have been in place since 2016 have actually led to a decrease in the use of e-cigarettes and e-shishas among children and adolescents. In addition, subgroups were analysed, distribution channels of e-cigarettes were investigated, the consumption of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes was outlined and new developments on the e-cigarette market were highlighted. Another question that was analysed was: what effects can be expected from the advertising ban

on tobacco products and e-cigarettes that will be introduced gradually from 2021. The obtained findings serve to answer the question of whether the measures adopted so far are sufficient or whether further measures need to be taken to protect children and young people.

In July 2020, the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) published a research report. The aim of this study was a long-term investigation of the prevalence, motives, attitudes and situational conditions of smoking as well as the consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs among children, adoles-



cents and young adults. The *Analysis and Evaluation* competence centre carried out a secondary evaluation of the results of this research report and interpreted them in the presented context. Further, a literature research was conducted to find further information to answer the research questions. Both scientific and "grey" literature such as media reports and websites were included.

## Framework contract of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Since January 2020, the *Public Relations* competence centre has been supporting the *Office of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse*. This commission is financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). As the first project within a framework contract for the implementation of online communication measures, the team at DLR-PT took over the project management for the technical implementation of the website relaunch of [www.aufarbeitungskommission.de](http://www.aufarbeitungskommission.de). The site went online on schedule in October 2020.



Our support services cover a broad spectrum. For example, we advise the commission on the accessibility of its website and

carry out the corresponding project management. We manage the ongoing technical support of the website, implement content on the website and ensure that the newsletter is sent out.

In summer 2020, the contract was extended to include consulting services for conducting virtual events. The next project within this framework contract is a website called "Geschichten, die zählen" (*Stories that count*). The preparations for its launch in 2021 are in full swing with the creation of the content concept and technical planning.

## Assignments: Centres of Expertise and Services division

### Federal Ministry of Education and Research

IT applications for the Bildungsprämie programme

Science communication

### Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Evaluation report on the Act for the Protection of Children and Young People from the risks of consuming electronic cigarettes and electronic shishas

### Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)

IT applications for the Vocational Orientation Programme

### Bavarian State Office for Health and Food Safety

Evaluation of the Gesund.Leben.Bayern. initiative

### Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Framework contract for online communication media and virtual events

### doctronic GmbH & Co. KG

IT application Red List

### Federal Joint Committee

Implementation of trials according to § 137e of the SGB V

Innovation fund – new forms of healthcare, healthcare research

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