

Your reliable partner for research, education and innovation.

2020

Annual Report





We are the future

Climate change and digitalisation, social cohesion and individual learning, biodiversity and technological progress, human health and artificial intelligence: these are the major issues that the DLR Projektträger (DLR-PT) is tackling to pave the way for a sustainable future.

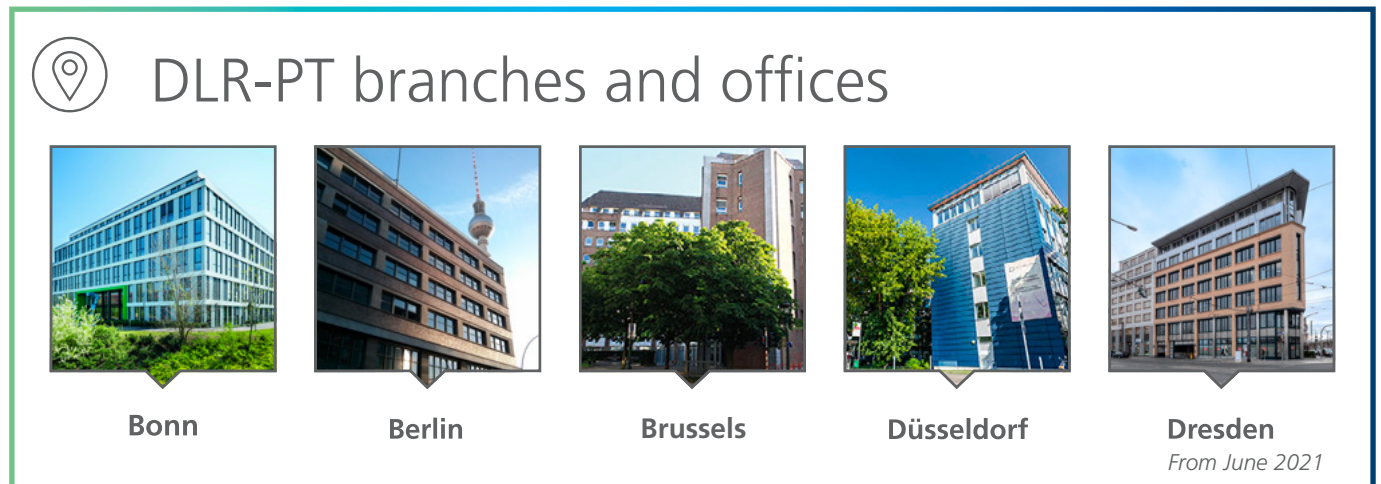
Research, education and innovation

We provide comprehensive, knowledge-based services for the management of research, education and innovation. Our clients are well-known: federal and state ministries and their subordinate authorities, European Commission, scientific organisations, large associations and foundations that value our range of services. We advise them on strategies and suitable action concepts on the basis of well-founded analyses, and plan and implement funding programmes. We manage dialogue processes and knowledge transfer, support communication and evaluate whether the diverse measures of our clients are effective.

As a central pillar of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the DLR Projektträger (DLR Project Management Agency, DLR-PT) complements its scientific orientation. For more than four decades,

DLR-PT has been committed to strengthening Germany as a powerful scientific, educational and industrial location.

In addition to its headquarters in Bonn, the DLR Projektträger has a branch in Berlin, as well as offices in Brussels, Düsseldorf and Dresden.



Our domains, our goals

The areas of expertise of the DLR Projektträger range from international cooperation and health to society, innovation and technology, education, gender, environment and sustainability. In all areas, we offer our services keeping an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach. We analyse social developments, design strategies for action and provide impulses for the further development of the research, education and innovation system. Our three competence centres, *Science Communication*, *Public Relations*, *Analysis and Evaluation*, round off the range of expertise with their services.

We develop funding programmes and funding instruments, provide technical and administrative support for funding projects and support the practical utilisation of project results. We also organise dialogue among representatives from science, education, politics, industry and society.

We think and act as a network – within DLR-PT and with external partners. In order to develop solution-oriented strategies and concepts as well as to plan and successfully implement our clients' measures with precision, we cover the entire value chain – from knowledge generation and transfer to market-oriented, social and sustainable utilisation.



Services of DLR-PT



Evaluation, analysis and
conception



Funding management



Information and
contact points



Public relations



Dialogue



Science
communication



Policy advice



IT services for all
DLR-PT divisions

Our core competencies

What are the challenges facing the society and economy today? How can research, education and innovation help overcome them? How can future-oriented action be promoted? And who should be involved in the process? We help our clients find answers to these questions with competence and experience.

Analysis and evaluation

Technological knowledge is important, but it is not enough for us. We are interested in the consequences too. To analyse correlations in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary manner, we profit from the fact that we have the broadest thematic range of all German project managing agencies.

We always consider challenges for economy and society in context. This is because sustainable management can succeed only when consequences are taken into account as well. We think holistically and provide our clients with coherent strategies and action concepts. We collaborate on funding programmes from the very beginning. We manage them and find out if they work, to provide indications on how they can work better.

That is why an efficient review process is an important part of our offer. We are expanding our expertise in this field by actively collaborating with DeGEval – Evaluation Society. We are particularly involved in the working groups on research, technology and innovation policy, environmental policy and evaluation in the industry.



In 2020, we prepared

2,971 analyses,

for example, statements for our clients, evaluations of documents or inputs for position papers.

Strategic consulting

Careful analysis and many years of practical experience – this is the basis on which we provide sound assessments and clear recommendations for strategies and operational measures that accelerate change. But knowledge loses its topicality with each passing day. In order to keep abreast of the most recent developments in education, research and innovation, we regularly engage with decision-makers and stakeholders on a national and international level. Active communication is a basic prerequisite for designing measures in such a way that they are effective and accepted by their target groups.



We conducted

66,357 consultations with clients and

funding recipients.

Funding management

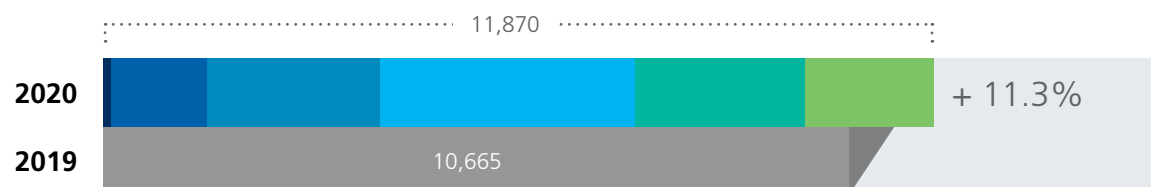
From the development of funding concepts and instruments and the implementation of funding measures to the communication and utilisation of results: we support clients, applicants and funding recipients at every stage! We design funding processes to be useful, flexible and practical – short-term funding with a small budgetary volume as well as multi-year, complex, large-scale projects that require close professional and administrative support.

We are aware of the fact that the satisfaction of our clients, applicants and funding recipients depends on the quality of our service. We therefore see quality assurance as a core component of funding management. In addition to the structured training of our employees and quality control in the form of spot checks, we attach importance to the critical scrutinisation of process flows.

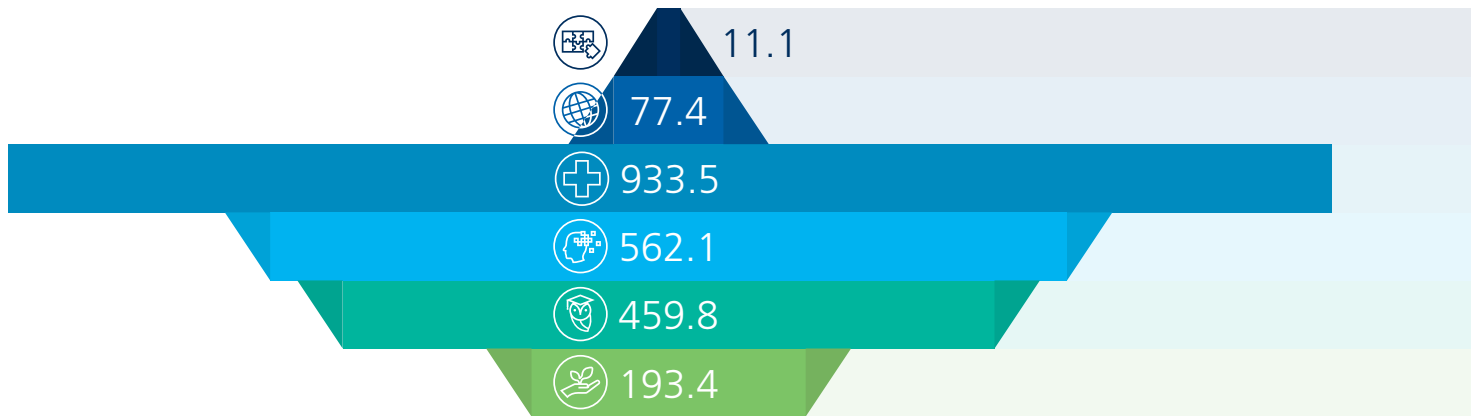
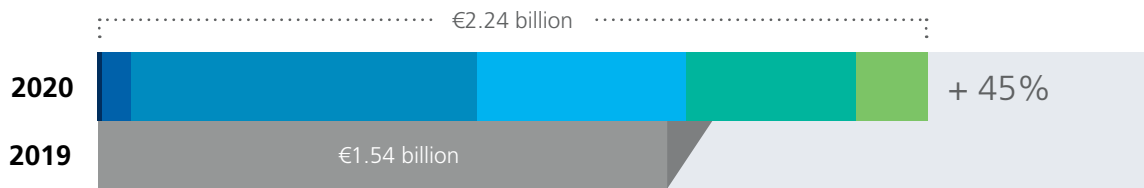
Based on all this, we develop new methods and instruments for enhanced customer friendliness, economic efficiency and sustainability:

- **Standardisations and simplifications:** we accelerate our processes while complying with the regulatory framework, ensure customer friendliness and reduce costs. We regularly discuss with our clients which changes in funding regulations and central instruments of funding management might be appropriate.
- **Efficiency review:** we use relevant indicators such as the speed of application processing or the utilisation of provided funds to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of funding.
- **Digital technologies:** we continuously develop IT-based systems for submitting, reviewing and managing project outlines in national and international calls for proposals. If requested by the client, we also develop our own IT solutions that are tailored to the respective funding measure. We are constantly expanding our portfolio of IT-based tools that meet the highest standards of quality, customer satisfaction and efficiency.

Number of funded projects



Funding in € million



Communication and dialogue

What is the point of well-designed programmes and initiatives if they are not known or understood? Communication and dialogue are crucial even for idea generation and the innovation process. Good science communication conveys more than the research results; it also talks about how scientists arrive at their findings. It manages to strengthen the trust of the general public in scientific expertise, to communicate the relevance of new findings for current issues in an understandable way and thus to create acceptance for their implementation. However, all of this can succeed only if researchers and teachers engage in public discourse and participate in the process of shaping the society directly.

Dialogue between stakeholders in the science and education system as well as from society, industry and politics is one of DLR-PT's areas of expertise. The formats used by our competence centres *Science Communication* and *Public Relations* are diverse. These include:

- Newsletters, flyers, brochures
- Websites and multimedia applications
- Press releases and interviews
- Technical articles
- Communication campaigns
- Civil dialogues, formats with online participation, democracy workshops
- Strategic processes to prepare decisions on new initiatives
- Discussion events, symposia and conferences
- Trade fair participation



Events

- We participated in **370** international network and committee meetings.
- We gave **224** talks at external events.
- We organised **767** events, of which **652** took place online.



Online

- We operated **35** social media channels.
- We supported **142** websites in terms of editing and/or design.
- We distributed **215** newsletters to over **87,000** subscribers.



Print

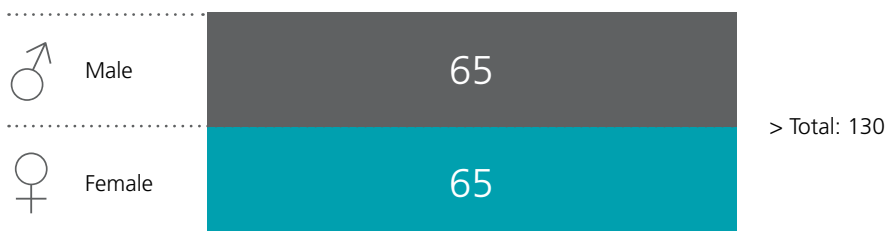
- We created **42** brochures with a total circulation of over **37,000** copies.
- We published **23** info-flyers, with a total circulation of around **3,500** copies.
- We created **1,241** technical reports and fact sheets for our clients.

Our asset: our employees

We owe our strength to the diversity of our employees, to their creative exchange and the cooperation across departments and divisions. Three examples: in our organisation, health professionals work with health economists, nutritionists, natural scientists and specialised journalists on important health issues. Geographers and geologists form teams with biologists, physicists and meteorologists, chemists, social scientists, economists and lawyers to develop future-oriented funding guidelines for climate and environmental protection. And computer scientists join forces with physicists, social scientists and political scientists to assess the social consequences of using artificial intelligence and to draw up recommendations for action.

Management staff

(Corporate, divisional, departmental, working group and coordination group management)

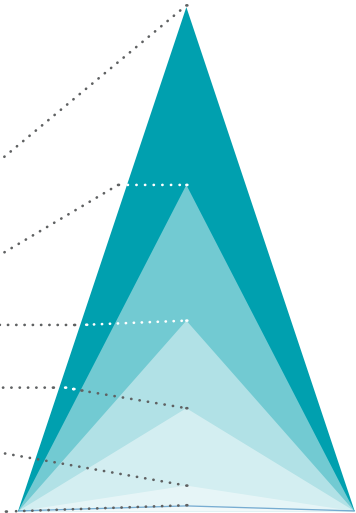


To maintain this strength, we support our employees with optimal framework conditions: in 2019, the DLR Projektträger was identified as one of the most attractive employers in Bonn by *Statista*. DLR e.V. as a whole is regularly ranked among *the top 10 employers in Germany* by *stern* and *Statista* (2021: 7th place). DLR has held the *audit work and family* certificate for family-conscious personnel policy since 2018.

Employees

Total number (end 2020) 1,359

- Scientific officers: 587
- Fund managers and clerical staff: 380
- Office assistants: 222
- Management: 130
- External staff: 33
- Trainees: 7



Matter of honour: sustainability



E-mobile: Head of Division Steffen Bruckner puts the new IT pool car into operation in his Centres of Expertise and Services.

The DLR Projektträger is committed to sustainability in its mission statement. This means: we consider the "social", "ecological" and "economic" dimensions at the same time so that both DLR-PT along with its employees and the environment, on which we have an impact, develop sustainably.

As an economic business operation of DLR e.V., we continuously invest in the further development of our services and the organisation. At all levels, we work as efficiently as possible – with the aim of conserving resources and fulfilling our special role in the system of public funding for research, education and innovation. In 2020, immediately after the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, we simplified processes and regulations in consultation with our clients to ensure smooth continuation of funding. In the process, we took advantage of new digital opportunities to hold planned events, enable staff to work from home and thus counter the spread of Covid-19.

However, as a project management agency focused on sustainability, we also feel responsible for advising and supporting clients, customers and partners in the sustainable implementation of their measures and goals. We are therefore involved in the development and implementation of appropriately designed funding programmes, we exchange information on successful examples and also bear in mind the gender-aligned design of measures.

Another goal is to ensure that all colleagues identify strongly with the DLR Projektträger as an employer. The importance of our work, our efforts for work-life balance and the culture of training within the organisation are the foundation of our growing workforce. During the pandemic, our colleagues were able to ensure that promised funds were actually given. In health research, DLR-PT was able to implement the necessary extensive measures in a short time, thanks to its dedicated staff. We are proud to have played our part in this role.

The ecological dimension of our activities has long been a key topic at DLR-PT. On the one hand, employees from all areas focus on it in the internal *Sustainability* working group. On the other hand, environmental protection had already been identified and set as a goal for continuous improvement at an early stage by the management. We want to achieve climate neutrality well before 2030, with emission reduction clearly taking priority over CO₂ compensation.

Continuous improvement of resource efficiency in our services has also been a standard practice at DLR-PT for a long time. We have continuously reduced energy and paper consumption. In 2020, we developed a concept for reducing business travel-related CO₂ emission, which is being implemented at the moment. In addition, DLR-PT participates in a traffic reduction programme of the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg district. Together with other large employers in the region, we are trying to reduce private commutes to work, for example through carpooling.



E-charging station of DLR-PT at Godesberger Allee 138 in Bonn

Our certificates

- **Quality management system**

- ✓ ISO 9001:2015
- ✓ Validity: until 2021
- ✓ Guarantees: reliable services based on quality promises, risk avoidance, exploitation of opportunities, continuous improvement of the range of services and processes, high customer satisfaction



- **Environmental management system**

- ✓ ISO 14001:2015
- ✓ Validity: until 2021
- ✓ Guarantees: consideration of concrete environmental aspects in internal processes and external effects, reduction of environmental impacts through own actions, occupational safety



- **Energy management system**

- ✓ ISO 50001:2018
- ✓ Validity: until 2022
- ✓ Guarantees: systematic improvement of energy efficiency, i.e., of energy performance, energy consumption and environmentally friendly energy use



Our clients (selection)



Federal Ministry
of Labour and Social Affairs



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



Federal Ministry
of Transport and
Digital Infrastructure



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy



Federal Agency
for Nature
Conservation



European
Commission

Ministry of Culture and Science
of the State of
North Rhine-Westphalia



Federal Institute for
Vocational Education
and Training



DZHK
DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FÜR
HERZ-KREISLAUF-FORSCHUNG E.V.



Spitzenverband



KOINNO
COMPETENCE CENTRE
INNOVATIVE PROCUREMENT



Federal Ministry
of Health



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



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



Federal Office for
Agriculture and Food

Baden-
Württemberg
Stiftung



KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG



**Gemeinsamer
Bundesausschuss**

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



UNABHÄNGIGE KOMMISSION
ZUR AUFARBEITUNG
SEXUELLEN KINDESMISSBRAUCHS

Our international cooperation partners

Nine examples from our projects with partners in around 130 countries

Canada

On behalf of the BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research), DLR-PT supports German research institutions and companies as well as their partners in Canada in making industrial processes more sustainable and energy-efficient. In total, we fund 16 three-year research projects related to this topic.

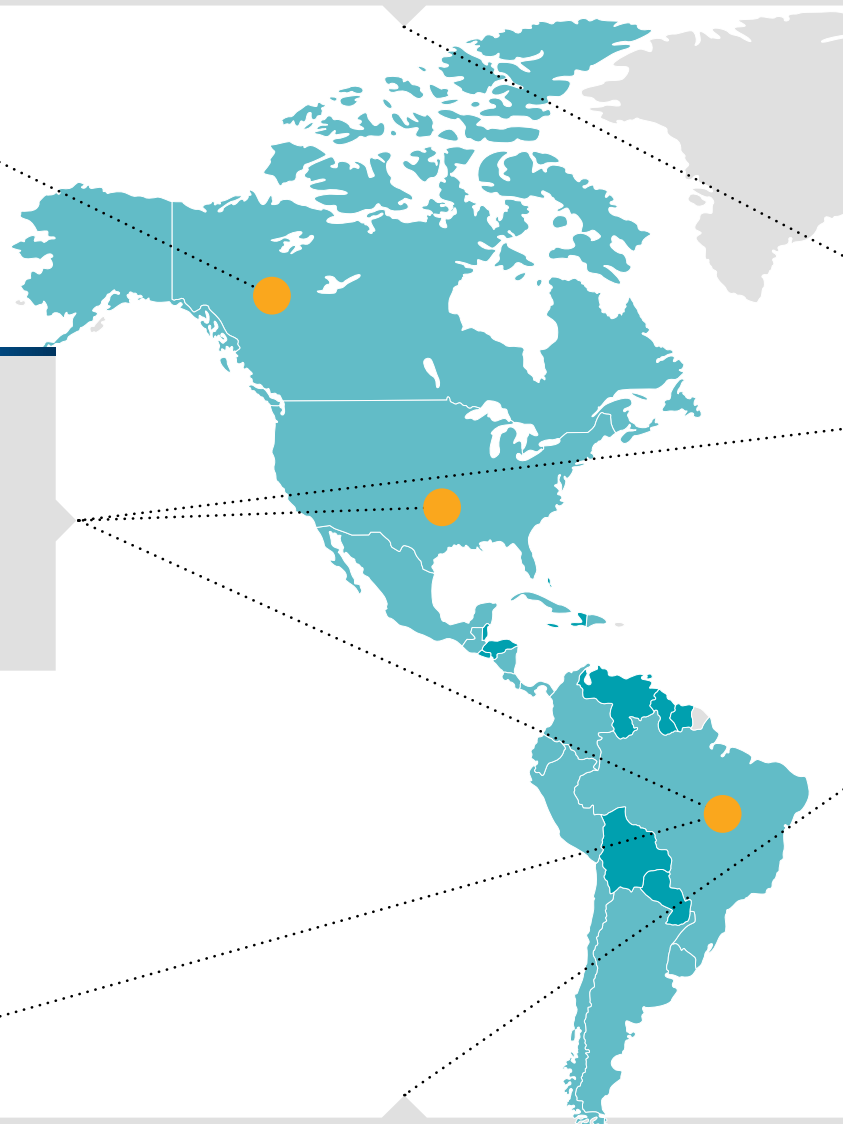
Mediterranean Area

On behalf of the BMBF, we play an important role in the implementation of the international funding initiative *PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area)*. 19 countries from Europe and the Mediterranean region as well as the European Commission are involved in this initiative. The aim is to develop innovative and sustainable solutions for the water and agri-food nexus.

Europe/USA/Brazil

The German Aerospace Center (DLR) is a member of the ENRICH Global association, which bundles the activities of four EU-funded ENRICH centres. At DLR-PT, we support research-based small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Europe in opening up international markets, as project partners for *ENRICH in the USA* and *ENRICH in LAC* with a special focus on the USA and Latin American countries.

- Cooperation partners in joint projects
- Project funding target countries
- Cooperation partners in joint projects and contracts **AND** target countries for project funding
- No cooperation



Brazil

The *Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America (Mecila)* is an international research centre with focus on humanities and social sciences, which is managed and supported by DLR-PT on behalf of the BMBF. Interdisciplinary research focuses on past and present forms of social, political and cultural coexistence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Africa

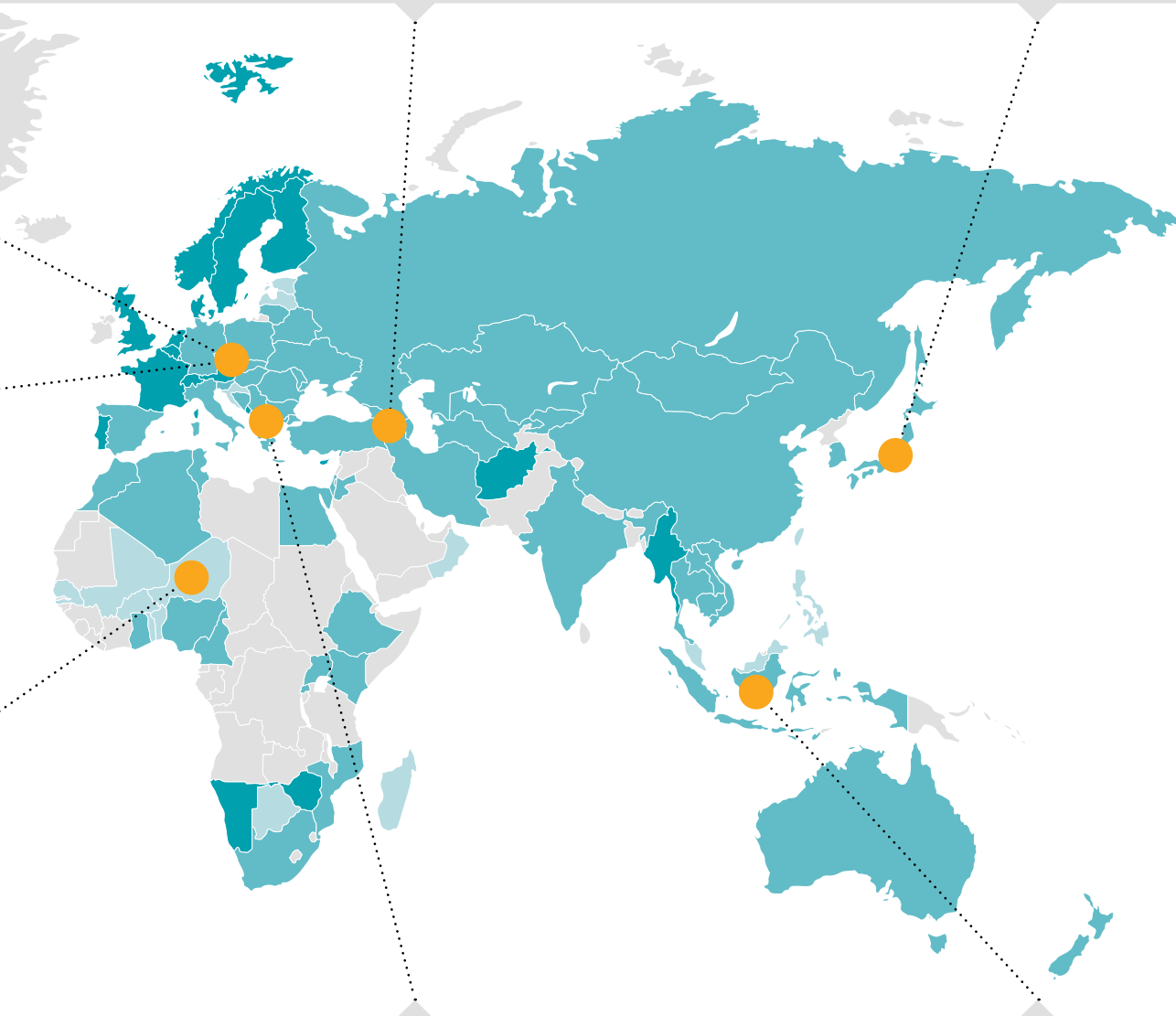
In Southern and Western Africa, DLR-PT has been working for ten years on behalf of the BMBF as project manager of the funding measures *SASSCAL* and *WASCAL*. The aim of both centres is to develop and implement strategies and measures to adapt to climate change. Climate change will hit this continent particularly hard, even though it has the lowest pollutant emissions.

Eastern Partnership

In the context of the *Eastern Partnership*, the EU is intensifying its relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. They are also supposed to participate in the *Green Deal* call for proposals of the European Commission, which funds sustainable innovations to the tune of EUR 1 billion. Within the framework of the *International Service Facility*, DLR-PT promoted the ten Green Deal thematic areas in a three-part, very well-attended virtual training series for scientists and through various individual consultations.

Japan

Within the framework of the EUREKA network, an international call for proposals (*Globalstars*) was organised for the first time with Japan and with the participation of seven other European countries. As *EUREKA Office*, we coordinate the participation of German project partners for the BMBF in close consultation with the Japanese New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). The open-topic call for proposals funds those innovative products, processes and services with technological risk, in which at least one company per country is involved.



Western Balkans

By order of the European Commission (EC) and in cooperation with the German Presidency of the EU Council, DLR-PT organised a virtual ministerial meeting of the Western Balkans. In the meeting, a strategic foresight project coordinated by us was presented for the Western Balkans and discussed with the ministers with regard to the future orientation of research and innovation policy.

South-east Asia

On behalf of the EC, we implement bi-regional, multilateral research funding measures in the *South-east Asia – Europe Joint Funding Scheme for Research and Innovation* assignment. We coordinate the participation of around 20 funding organisations from both regions with the aim of networking researchers in areas of common interest (e.g. infectious diseases, bioeconomy, smart cities) and harnessing synergy potential.

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