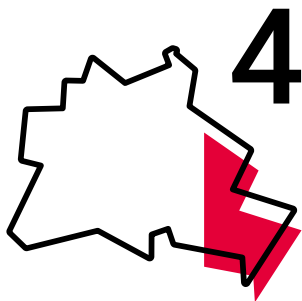


# Facts & Figures

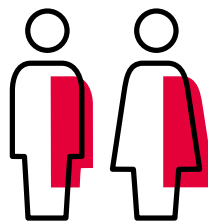
The BfR in brief



4

## Locations

Berlin, Jungfernheide  
Berlin, Alt-Marienfelde  
Berlin, Nahmitzer Damm  
Berlin, Marienfelde

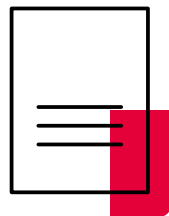


1,237  
Employees



4,523,170

Visits to the BfR  
website



4,198

Expert  
opinions

### Most clicked:

FAQ: Coenzyme Q10: what is known  
about the health risks – and what isn't?

### Most clicked:

Food supplements containing melatonin: BfR  
points out possible health risks (No. 38/2024)

9

## Departments

- Central Department
- Risk Communication
- Exposure
- Biological Safety
- Food Safety
- Pesticides Safety
- Chemical and Product Safety
- Safety in the Food Chain
- Experimental Toxicology and ZEBET



Approximately

148  
million euros



101

Third-party funded  
projects



40

Press releases



135

Events



1,272

Enquiries



# Facts & Figures 2024

The BfR in brief

# About the BfR



Dear readers,

Digitalisation remained a central topic in 2024, including at the BfR. Digital solutions are increasingly relevant when it comes to efficiently organising and assessing data and knowledge about health risks, exposure, and technology.

The BfR is testing how artificial intelligence can be used in a legally secure manner in the contexts of science, research, administration, and communication. Of course, this testing takes place according to scientific best practice. Another focus of the past year was international networking to support more intensive scientific exchange in the field of consumer health protection. Examples of this include the conference on alternative protein sources and the cooperation agreements made with Singapore and Costa Rica.

The format "BfR in brief" offers a quick overview of the facts and figures from the 2024 reporting year. Are you curious to find out what projects, publications, and core research areas are represented by these numbers? You can find detailed information on the BfR website as well as in our BfR2GO science magazine.

**Professor Andreas Hensel**  
**President**

**Identifying risks – protecting health: How can food, chemicals, cosmetics, toys and many other everyday products be made as safe as possible? The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment – BfR for short – provides the answers.**

The BfR was founded in 2002 to strengthen consumer health protection in Germany. As a federal authority with legal capacity within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, it advises the federal government and German federal states ("Länder") on food and feed safety issues and on the safety of chemicals and products.

The BfR's main tasks include assessing existing health risks and identifying new ones, preparing recommendations on risk mitigation and communicating this process transparently.

All working areas of the BfR – science, assessment, communication and administration – have been certified in accordance with quality standard DIN EN ISO 9001 since 2010.

At the BfR, there are also National Reference Laboratories under Regulation (EU) 2017/625 in the domains of food and feed safety and food hygiene. This means that the BfR is part of an EU-wide network for improved food monitoring.

The BfR is supported in its risk assessment and risk communication by an independent scientific expert network made up of 14 commissions and is advised in its strategic focus by the Scientific Advisory Board.

# Work areas

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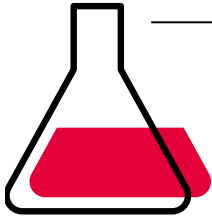
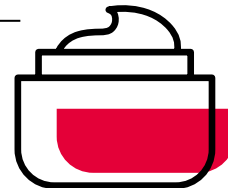


## Food and feed safety

Be it ingredients or additives, residues, contaminants or germs and parasites – on the basis of international recognised criteria, the BfR assesses food and feed with regard to toxicological, microbiological and nutritional aspects.

## Product safety

The BfR investigates ingredients and their release from products such as cosmetics, toys, clothing or food packaging and containers, and assesses whether the contained substances could be a hazard to human health.

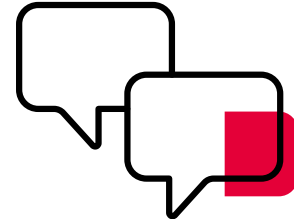


## Chemical safety

The BfR also assesses health risks of chemicals, plant protection products, biocide products and hazardous materials to quickly identify undesirable effects.

## Risk communication

The BfR examines the risk perception and risk behaviour of the population. To inform the public about health risks, the BfR talks to various stakeholders in society.



## Alternatives to animal experiments

The BfR performs the tasks of the "German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R)" and coordinates activities countrywide with the goal of restricting animal experiments and ensuring the best possible care for laboratory animals.

# International

---

The BfR works closely with various multilateral, international, European and national institutions, ministries and embassies on all continents.

To strengthen the BfR's international cooperation, the International Affairs unit coordinates activities with institutions and organisations worldwide. The focus is on establishing long-term and active partnerships with an emphasis on knowledge transfer and exchange.

This includes participation in international events and exchanges at expert and management level through delegation visits and international capacity development activities and projects. In addition, the BfR is represented in numerous global networks and committees, and currently chairs the global ILMERAC network. At the European level, the partnership with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is particularly important. As the interface between EFSA and the various national food and feed safety authorities, the EFSA Focal Point at the BfR is responsible for scientific coordination and information exchange.



[bfr.bund.de/en](https://bfr.bund.de/en) › [The Institute](#) › [Cooperation](#) › [International Cooperation](#)

Capacity building

1

**xORA – eXcellent One Health Risk Assessment Education**  
A European initiative to strengthen qualified training programmes for risk assessment

**Start:** 2024

**Project partners:** 8 European institutions for risk assessment (AUT, DNK, FIN, HRV, HUN, ITA, NLD, NOR)

**Objective:** Certification of qualified training programmes for risk assessment in the area of One Health

[www.xoraeducation.eu](http://www.xoraeducation.eu)

2

**ENA Leadership within the BMZ-funded project for technical cooperation in Tunisia**

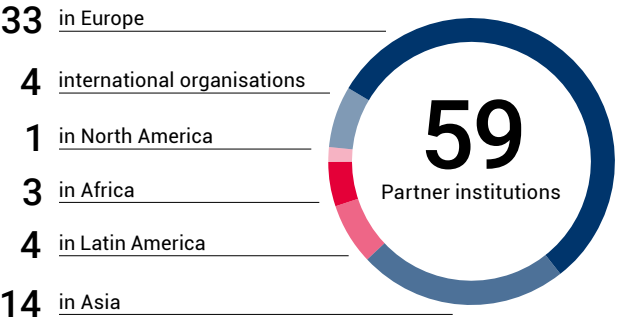
**Time period:** November 2024 - November 2025

**Project partners:** Tunisian Ministry of Health, the Tunisian National School of Administration (ENA)

**Objective:** 29-week training course to prepare future decision-makers in the field of food safety in Tunisia

<http://www.ena.tn/fr/>

Cooperations



ILMERAC

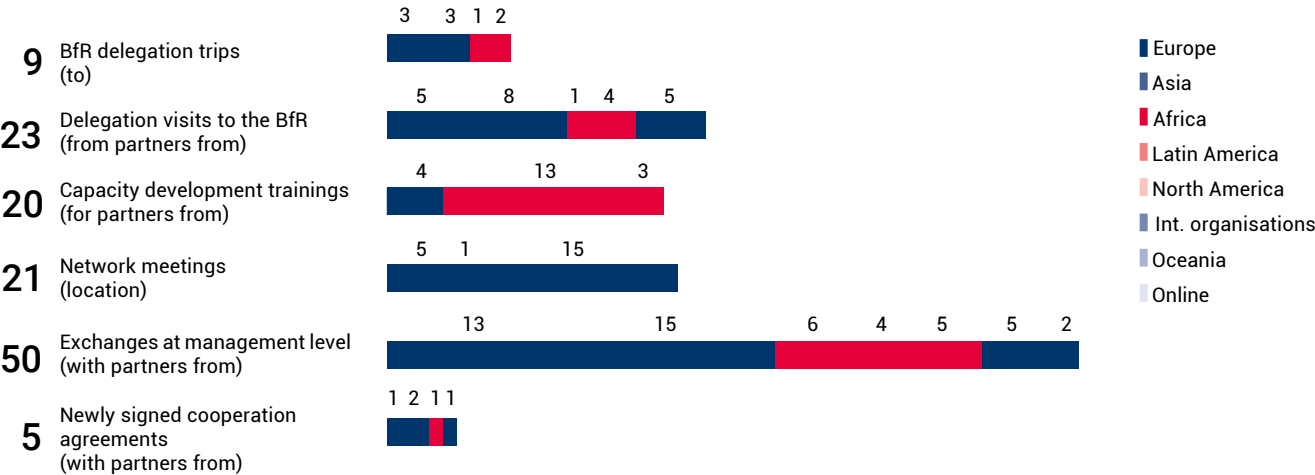
**ILMERAC - International Liaison Group on Methods for Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food and Feed chaired by BfR**

**Time period:** 2024 - 2026

**Objective:** Facilitation of global expert exchange and collaboration to address best practices and new developments in the field of chemical risk assessment in food and feed

[www.bund.de/en](http://www.bund.de/en) > The Institute > Cooperation > Global cooperation > ILMERAC

International activities



# Networks

Partnerships exist in the form of institutional cooperations or joint research projects. Scientists at the BfR actively contribute to the work in a variety of committees. The institutional exchange between experts is also becoming more important.

## Participation in committees

651

Committees in which BfR employees are officially involved

158

Committees of other institutions

78

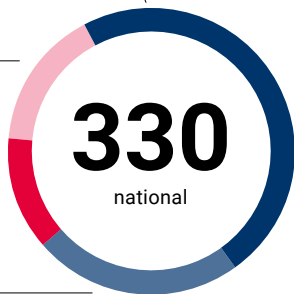
Federal government-federal state („Laender“) committees

42

Committees of the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)

52

Federal committees



57

Committees of the European Commission

59

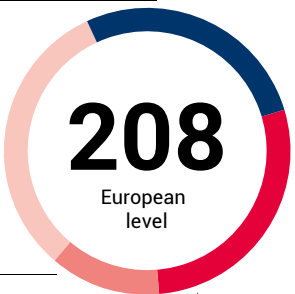
Committees of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

26

Committees of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

66

Committees of other European organisations



57

OECD committees

19

WHO/FAO: Committees of Codex Alimentarius

2

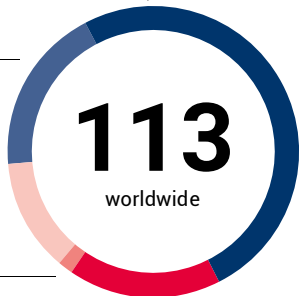
WHO/FAO: Other committees

14

Committees of other United Nations specialised agencies

21

Other committees involved in global standardisation activities





# Research

One of the BfR's key competences is independent, application-oriented and cause-related research. The topics are closely related to its assessment tasks. One aim is to close knowledge gaps. Another is to constantly expand the Institute's scientific expertise in risk assessment and risk communication independent of economic, political and societal interests. The BfR is actively involved in numerous national and international research projects.

## Third-party funded projects

39 %

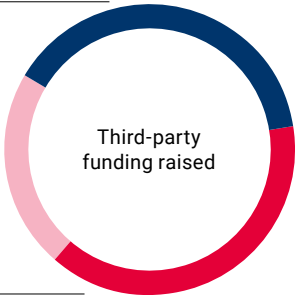
National research projects

22 %

International collaborations

39 %

International research projects

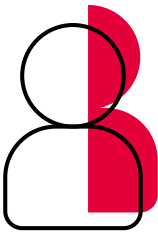


## Third-party funding raised

	Funding (in thousand of euros)	Number of projects
<strong>National research projects</strong>	<strong>2,293</strong>	<strong>36</strong>
Federal government	1,885	24
DFG	389	6
Other	19	6
<strong>International collaborations (EU, EFSA, BMZ and others)</strong>	<strong>1,268</strong>	<strong>13</strong>
<strong>International research projects</strong>	<strong>2,258</strong>	<strong>52</strong>
EU	1,336	25
EFSA	892	23
Other	30	4
<strong>Total</strong>	<strong>5,819</strong>	<strong>101</strong>

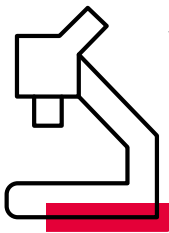
[bfr.bund.de/en > Research > Third-party projects of the BfR](https://bfr.bund.de/en/Research/Third-party_projects_of_the_BfR)

[bfr.bund.de/en > Research > Main research](https://bfr.bund.de/en/Research/Main_research)



### Junior research groups

Junior research groups provide young scientists with research and scientific qualification opportunities shortly after completing their PhD. In doing so, the BfR specifically boosts core research areas and junior scientists.

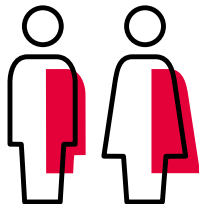


### Study centres

The study centres provide long-term prioritisation in strategically important areas of the BfR and pool technical expertise on interdepartmental topics.

# Personnel and training

1,237  
Employees

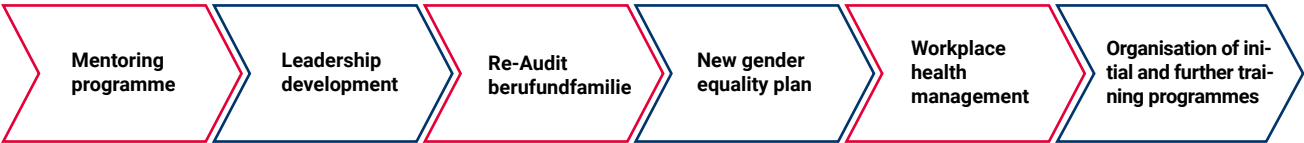


170  
New appointments,  
of which

6  
Trainees

Scientists	573
Administrative staff	290
Technical assistants	152
PdD candidates	45
Apprentices/trainees	18
Animal carers	25
Other (e.g. librarians, laboratory assistants, etc.)	134

## Focus on human resources development



### Training professions

Laboratory chemist

Office management clerk

Animal carer

Electronic technician

Laboratory biologist

IT specialist

### Trade fair appearances

#### Sticks & Stones, Berlin

Europe's largest LGBTIQ+ job and career fair

#### career corner at the Leipzig Veterinary Congress, Leipzig

#### Stuzubi, Berlin

Study and training fair

#### Online career day, Berlin

Information fair for IT specialists

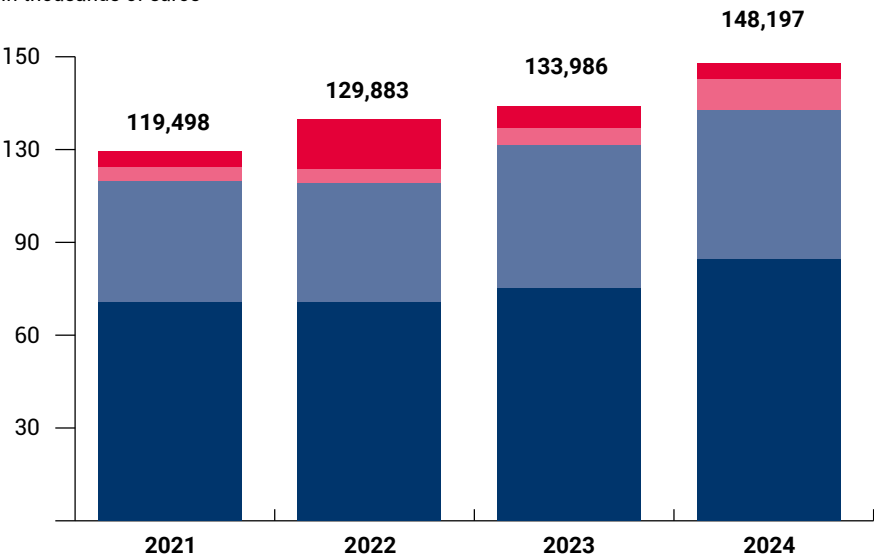
[bfr.bund.de/en > The Institute > Working at the BfR](#)

[bfr.bund.de/en > Job advertisements](#)

# Budget

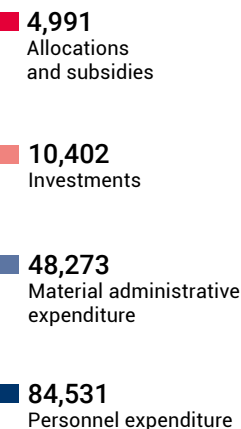
## Expenditure 2021–2024

in thousands of euros



## Expenditure 2024

detailed, in thousands of euros



In 2024, the BfR spent approximately **148** million euros.

## Selected expenditure

in thousands of euros

Scientific collections and libraries	569
Initial and further training	577
Scientific publications and risk communication	1,088
Conferences, trade fairs, exhibitions	345

## Income

in thousand of euros

**140,432**  
Refund (subsidy) from BMEL

**1,946**  
Administrative and other income

**5,819**  
Third-party funding raised



# Publications

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The expert opinions of the BfR are risk assessment reports and therefore the basis for advising policy-makers and the public.

They comprise the four elements of a risk assessment (hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure estimation, risk characterisation), the scientific uncertainties and their causes and formulate goals and strategies to minimise the risk.

In addition, the BfR fulfils the legal mandate to review the formulations of chemical products and to provide them to the poison information centres (GIZ) for their medical counselling activities. These product reports make up a large part of the BfR output reported here.

The BfR's risk assessments are always also the subject of the Institute's risk communication.

All of the BfR's published expert opinions can be found at:



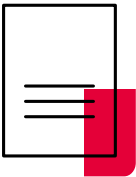
**[bfr.bund.de/en](https://bfr.bund.de/en) > Publications > Opinions**

# Opinions

227	Expert opinions for supervisory federal ministries
2,560	Assessments in legally prescribed procedures, e.g. authorisation procedures addressed to the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) or to the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA)
1,411	Other opinions outside of legally prescribed procedures to authorities, associations, citizens, NGOs and international groups
1,018,597	Product reports

1,665  
Publications

Presentations	960
Journal publications	254
Poster contributions	239
Contributions to conference proceedings	158
Dissertations/postdoctoral qualification/master theses/diploma theses/bachelor theses	43
Contributions to compilations	4
Reports EFSA	7



## Most clicked opinions:

- Food supplements containing melatonin: BfR points out possible health risks (No. 38/2024)
- Updated maximum intake recommendations for vitamins and minerals in food supplements and enriched foods (No. 06/2024)
- Lectins in plant-based foods: Is there a health risk? (No. 03/2024)

🔗 Overview of all publications  
[bfr.bund.de/en > Publications](https://bfr.bund.de/en/Publications)  
[bfr.bund.de/en > Science News](https://bfr.bund.de/en/ScienceNews)  
[openagrar.de](https://openagrar.de)

## Key publications

Dumit, V. I. et. al. 2024. Meta-Analysis of Integrated Proteomic and Transcriptomic Data Discerns Structure–Activity Relationship of Carbon Materials with Different Morphologies. *Advanced Science* 11(9): e2306268.

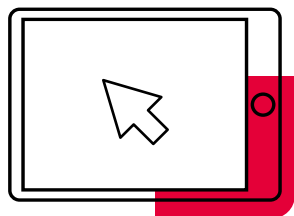
Abraham, K. et al. 2024. Kinetics of 15 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) after single oral application as a mixture – A pilot investigation in a male volunteer. *Environment International* 193: 109047.

Kuklya, A. et al. 2024. A multi-technique approach for the quantification of 60 plasticizers and selected additives using GC- and LC-MS/MS and its application for beverages in the BfR MEAL study. *Food Chemistry: an international journal* 446: 138874.

# Public relations

4,523,170

Visits to the BfR website



Views on the BfR YouTube channel	77,007
Follower X (formerly Twitter)	13,054
Subscribers to the BfR newsletter	10,343
Followers on LinkedIn	14,038
Followers on Instagram	4,142
Followers on Mastodon	1,788
Followers on Threads	407
Followers on Bluesky	76
BfR Podcast	around 1,000 listeners per month

1,272 Enquiries

were submitted to the BfR, of which

872

Enquiries from the public

400

Enquiries from TV, print/online media, news agencies as well as from radio



51 Ingredients and additives in food

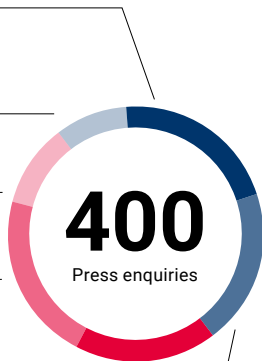
22 Cosmetics

25 Plant protection products

52 Consumer products

43 Food supplements and enriched foods

48 Biological safety



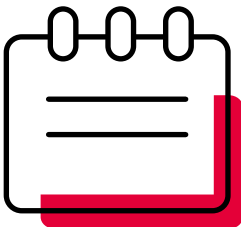
135 Events

were organised by the BfR.

[bfr-akademie.de/en](https://bfr-akademie.de/en)



38 Information events



97 Scientific dialogues

# Legal notice

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The BfR in brief: Facts & Figures 2024

Publisher: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)  
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Institution under public law  
Represented by its president Professor Dr Dr Dr h. c. Andreas Hensel  
Responsible under the German Press Act: Dr Suzan Fiack  
VAT Reg No: DE 165893448

Editor: BfR Press and Public Relations  
Layout/Realisation: Kern GmbH, Bexbach  
Printing: Druck- und Verlagshaus Zarbock, Frankfurt am Main  
Print run: 200 (German), 50 (English)

Follow us:



ISBN 978-3-948484-82-8

ISSN 2702-7929 (print)

ISSN 2702-7937 (online)

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Twice a year, the compact and knowledge-packed BfR2GO scientific magazine provides current and well-founded information on the research on and assessment of possible health risks of food and feed, chemicals and consumer products. Order, subscribe to or download the magazine free of charge at: [bfr.bund.de/en](https://bfr.bund.de/en)

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**BfR** | Identify Risks –  
Protect Health