

Facts & Figures

The BfR in brief



German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment



Most clicked:

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

Most clicked:

High single doses of vitamin D via food supplements at intervals of days or weeks associated with health risks.

10 Departments

- Central Department
- Information Technology
- Risk Communication
- Exposure
- Biological Safety
- Reference Centre for Food and Feed Analysis
- Pesticides Safety
- Chemical and Product Safety
- Food and Feed Safety in the Food Chain
- German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals and Experimental Toxicology



Approximately
163
million euros



87
Third-party funded projects




33
Press releases



105
Events



1,205
Enquiries



Facts & Figures 2025

The BfR in brief

About the BfR



Dear readers,

In 2025, we were faced by challenging conditions: global crises and economic uncertainties presented many institutions like ours with particular challenges. As a federal research institute, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) fulfilled its tasks

reliably and continued to assess health risks in a scientifically independent and transparent manner.

The BfR set key priorities in 2025. Specialist events on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and microplastics supported scientific exchange on current issues in consumer health protection. At the same time, international cooperation was expanded, for example with partners in Saudi Arabia, the United States of America and the Republic of Moldova. In addition, the BfR prepared key projects: the launch of the German Poisoning Register in early 2026 and the expansion of the COPLANT study on plant-based nutrition to include additional modules.

This “BfR in Brief” offers a quick overview of the facts and figures for the 2025 reporting year. Are you curious about the projects, publications and core research areas behind them? Then please find further information on the BfR website and in our science magazine BfR2GO.

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 answer.

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 (“Laender”) 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 areas 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

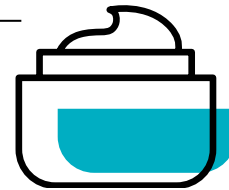


Food and feed safety

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.

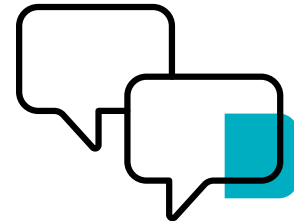


Chemical safety

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 and hosts the Scientific Secretariat of 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.



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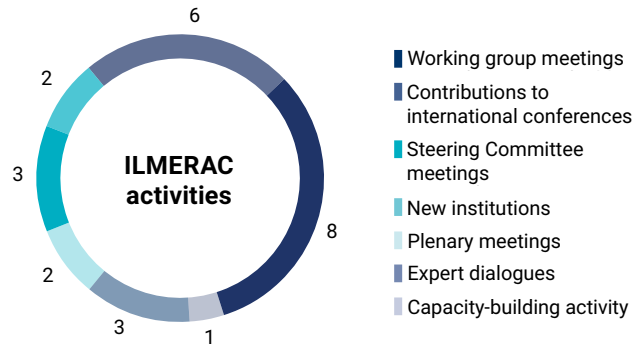
Global ILMERAC network

Chaired by the BfR: ILMERAC – International Liaison Group on Methods for Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food and Feed

Duration: 2024 to 2026

Objective: To establish a platform for international exchange on the development and implementation of methods, approaches and tools for the risk assessment of chemicals in food and feed

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Cooperations

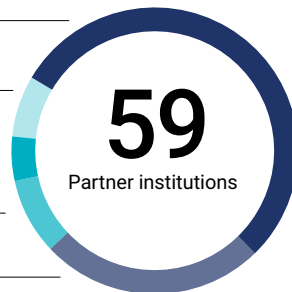
32 in Europe

4 international organisations

3 in Africa

5 in North and Latin America

15 in Asia



Capacity building

Successful completion of the project “Strengthening food safety and consumer health protection in Tunisia”

Duration: 30/03/2021 to 31/03/2026

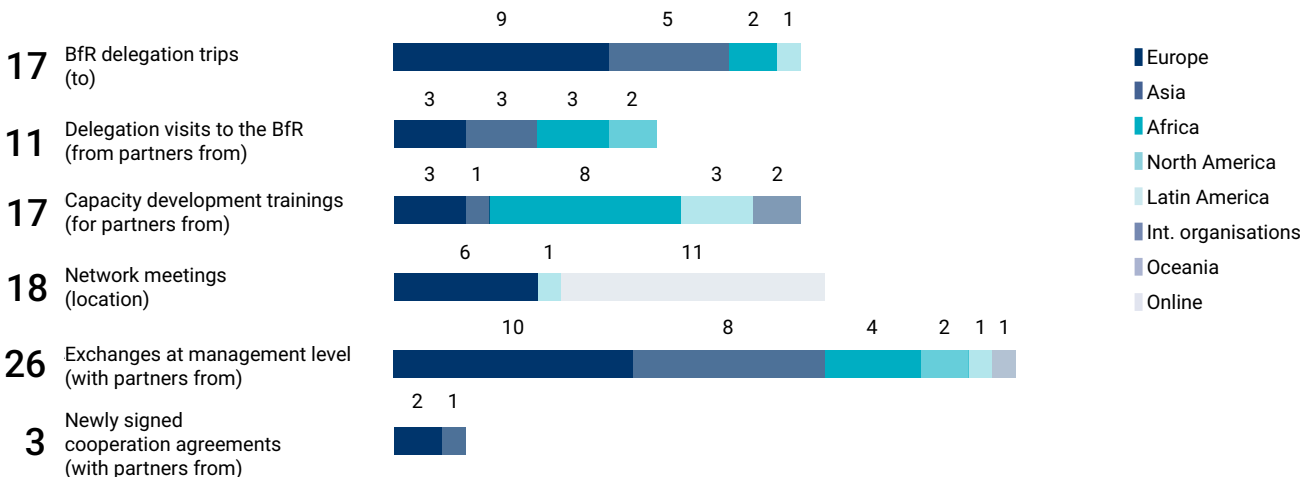
Over 100 professionals trained in risk assessment

22 trainers trained in HACCP

Over 440 people in 24 regions trained in HACCP

29 managers from 8 departments trained in the ENA Leadership Programme

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

650

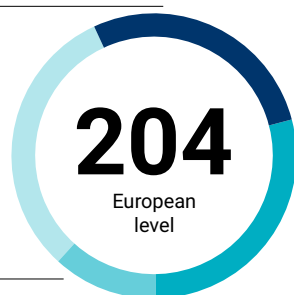
Committees in which BfR employees are officially involved

57
Committees of the
European Commission

59
Committees of the European
Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

24
Committees of the European
Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

64
Committees of other European organisations

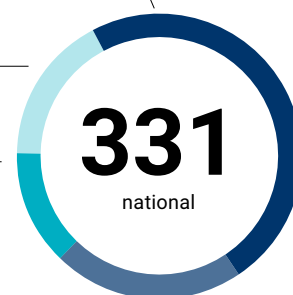


160
Committees of other institutions

72
Federal government-federal
state ("Laender") committees

43
Committees of the Federal
Office of Consumer Protection
and Food Safety (BVL)

56
Federal committees



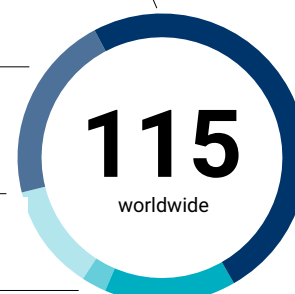
57
OECD committees

17
WHO/FAO: Committees
of Codex Alimentarius

3
WHO/FAO: Other committees

14
Committees of other United Nations
specialised agencies

24
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

42 %

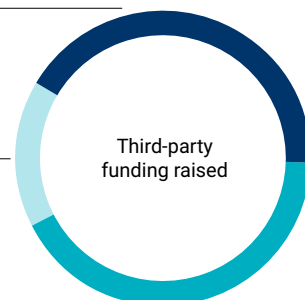
National research projects

16 %

International collaborations

42 %

International research projects

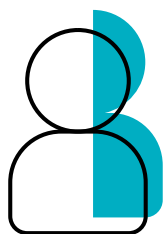


Third-party funding raised

	Funding (in thousands of euros)	Number of projects
National research projects	3,822	32
Federal government	3,210	20
DFG	559	6
Other	53	6
International collaborations (EU, EFSA, BMZ and others)	1,410	12
International research projects	3,760	43
EU	2,343	23
EFSA	1,377	19
Other	40	1
Total	8,992	87

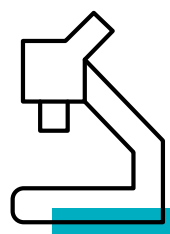
[bfr.bund.de/en › Research › Third party projects of the BfR](https://bfr.bund.de/en/Research/Third-party-projects-of-the-BfR)

[bfr.bund.de/en › Research](https://bfr.bund.de/en/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

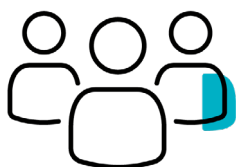
Employees

106

New appointments,
of which

10

Trainees



Scientists	566
Administrative staff	303
Technical assistants	142
PhD candidates	43
Apprentices/trainees	26
Animal carers	21
Other (e.g. librarians, laboratory assistants, etc)	136

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

Stuzubi, Berlin

Study and training fair

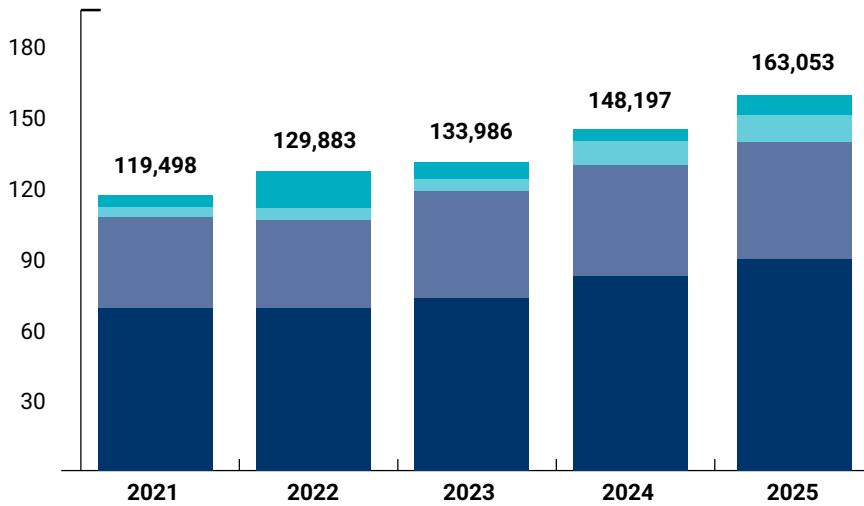
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Budget

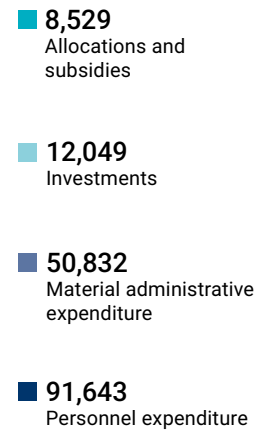
Expenditure 2021–2025

in thousands of euros



Expenditure 2025

detailed, in thousands of euros



In 2025, the BfR spent approximately **163** million euros.

Selected expenditure

in thousands of euros

Scientific collections and libraries	512
Initial and further training	464
Scientific publications and risk communication	804
Conferences, trade fairs, exhibitions	446

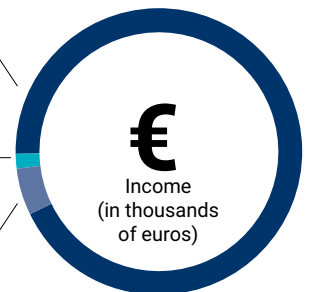
Income

in thousands of euros

151,662
Refund (subsidy) from BMEL

2,399
Administrative and other income

8,992
Third-party funding raised



Publications

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://www.bfr.bund.de/en) › [Publications](#) › [Opinions and Communications](#)

Opinions

332	Expert opinions for supervisory federal ministries
2,227	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)
1,766	Other opinions outside of legally prescribed procedures to authorities, associations, citizens, NGOs and international groups
1,023,610	Product reports



Most clicked opinions

- High single doses of vitamin D via food supplements at intervals of days or weeks associated with health risks (No. 031/2025)
- Glycerol in slush ice drinks can cause undesirable health effects (No. 004/2025)
- Foot-and-mouth disease – No health risk expected when consuming pasteurised milk and dairy produce (No. 005/2025)

1,624

Publications

Presentations	925
Journal publications	256
Poster contributions	235
Contributions to conference proceedings	169
Dissertations/postdoctoral qualification/master theses/diploma theses/bachelor theses	31
Contributions to compilations	7
Reports EFSA	1

🔗 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

Key publications

von Coburg, E. et al. 2025. **Cell Painting PLUS: expanding the multiplexing capacity of Cell Painting-based phenotypic profiling using iterative staining-elution cycles.** Nature Communications 16, 3857.

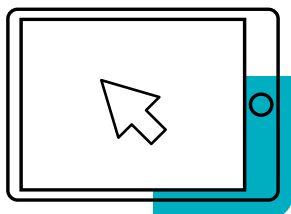
Lindekamp, N. et al. 2025. **Hemp containing breads: Cannabinoid content, profiles, and thermal stability during baking.** Food Chemistry 487, 144714.

Stobernack, T. et al. 2025. **Predicting the morphology-driven pathogenicity of nanofibers through proteomic profiling.** Nano Today 65, 102812.

Public relations

6,860,058

Visits to the BfR website



1,205 Enquiries

were submitted to the BfR, of which

836

Enquiries from the public

369

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



105 Events

were organised by the BfR.

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



Views on the BfR YouTube channel	64,221
Followers on X (formerly Twitter)	11,561
Subscribers to the BfR newsletter	9,892
Followers on LinkedIn	18,451
Followers on Instagram	5,378
Followers on Mastodon	2,017
Followers on Threads	481
Followers on Bluesky	586
Subscribers to the BfR Podcast	1,338
Subscribers to the science magazine BfR2GO	5,371

62

Ingredients and additives in food

37

Residues and contaminants

54

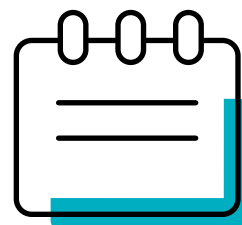
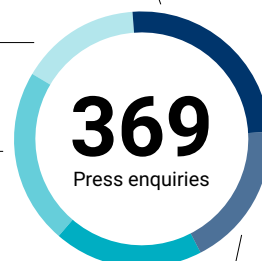
Consumer products

46

Food supplements and enriched food

44

Biological safety



34

Information events

71

Scientific dialogues

Legal notice

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Protecting Health