



The BfR in brief:  
**FACTS & FIGURES**

## LOCATIONS



## 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



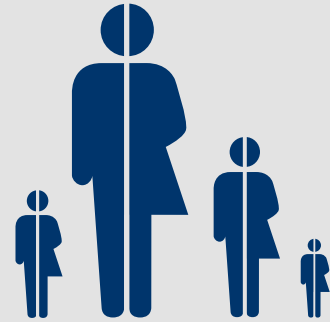
**MOST CLICKED:**  
*FAQ: Can the new type of coronavirus be transmitted via food and objects?*



**4,424,955**  
VISITS TO THE BfR WEBSITE

## EMPLOYEES

**1,112**



## BUDGET



**approximately**  
**130 million euros**

## OPINIONS



**429,000**



**MOST CLICKED:**  
*Health risk assessment of nicotine pouches (No. 23/2022)*

## THIRD-PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS



**131**

## PRESS RELEASES



**48**

## EVENTS



**117**



The BfR in brief:  
**FACTS & FIGURES**

*“The protection of human health  
is at the centre of our work.”*

# About the BfR

Dear readers



The year 2022 was a special one for the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR): We celebrated our 20th anniversary with numerous activities and events such as the interactive plant maze “BfR Nectar Hectare” and the BfR Knowledge Dialogue on the subject of trust.

The anniversary also saw the Institute awarding outstanding research projects. The “BfR beacon projects” featured research on phages combating bacteria, on benefits and risks of a plant-based diet, and on perceived risks around microplastics.

The “BfR in brief” format presents the facts and figures of the 2022 reporting year at a glance. Are you curious about the projects and publications behind the figures? You will find more detailed information on the BfR website. And if you are interested in the BfR’s core research areas and contents in 2022, you can read about them in our science magazine BfR2GO.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andreas Hensel".

Professor Dr Dr Andreas Hensel,  
President

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.

## Identify Risks – Protect Health

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 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.

## Networks and cooperation

The BfR is supported in its risk assessment and risk communication by an independent scientific expert network made up of 13 commissions and is advised in its strategic focus by the Scientific Advisory Board.

## 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.

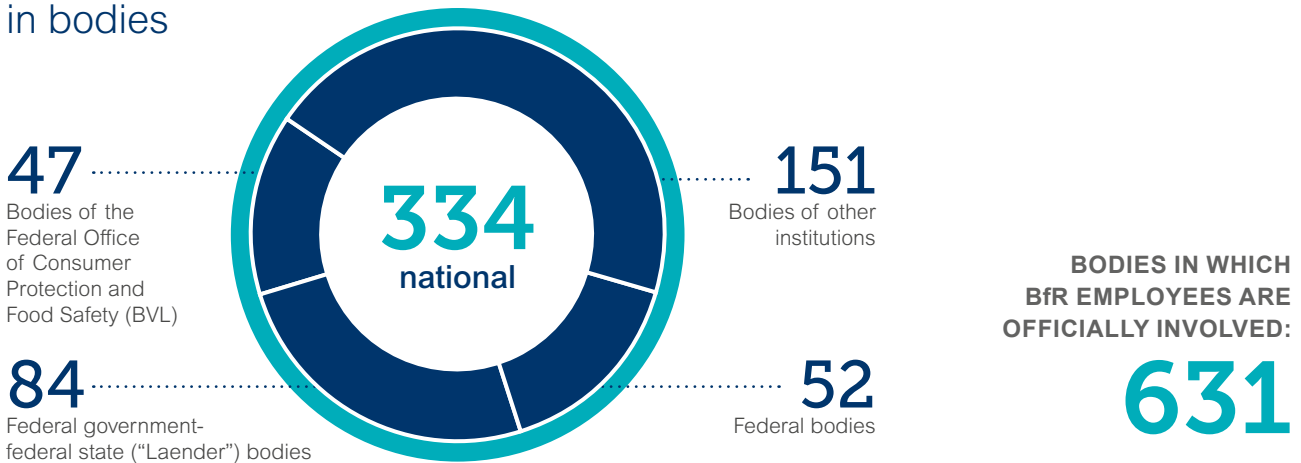
## Alternatives to animal experiments

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

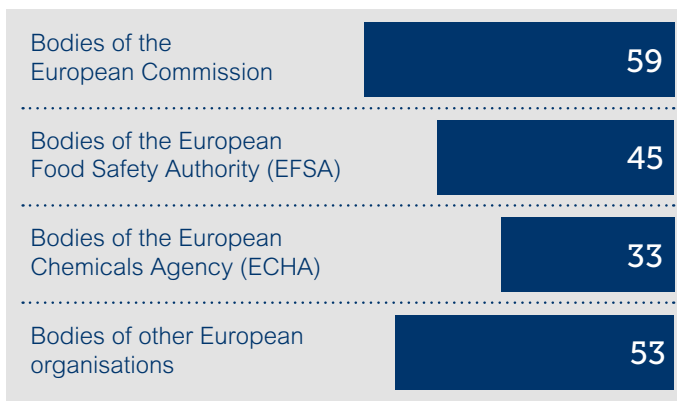
# Networks

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 bodies. The institutional exchange between experts is also becoming more important.

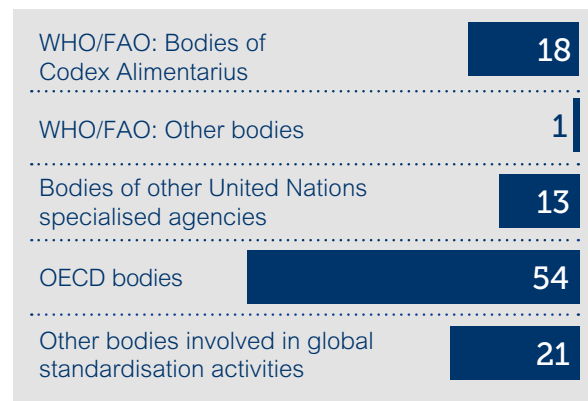
## Participation in bodies



## 190 European level ...



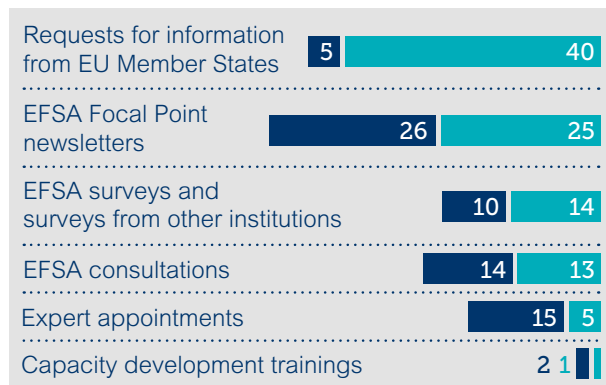
## 107 Worldwide ...



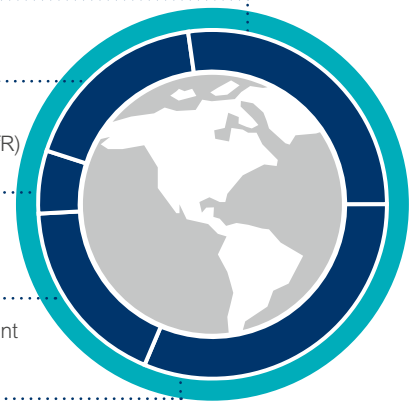
The BfR works in close partnership with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). As the interface between EFSA and the various national food and feed safety authorities, the EFSA Focal Point at the BfR is entrusted with scientific coordination work and the exchange of information. In addition, the BfR cooperates with 53 national, international, governmental and non-governmental institutions on all continents\* and advises on the establishment of official risk assessment structures.

## EFSA Focal Point

Scientific coordination and information exchange in 2022 (■) and 2021 (■)



## International Affairs



## Capacity building

### 1 BMZ-funded project for technical cooperation in Tunisia

**Time period:** 2021–2025

**German project partner:** Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)

**Objective:** Establishing and sustainably strengthening the respective Tunisian authorities in the areas of food safety and consumer health protection

[www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/together-for-more-food-safety-in-tunisia-project-flyer.pdf](http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/together-for-more-food-safety-in-tunisia-project-flyer.pdf)

### 2 BMZ-funded project: Boosting Uganda's investments in Livestock Development (BUILD)

**Time period:** 2019–2023

**Project partners:** International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and 4 German partners (including BfR)

**Objective:** Strengthening of existing structures for animal health and zoonoses control in Uganda

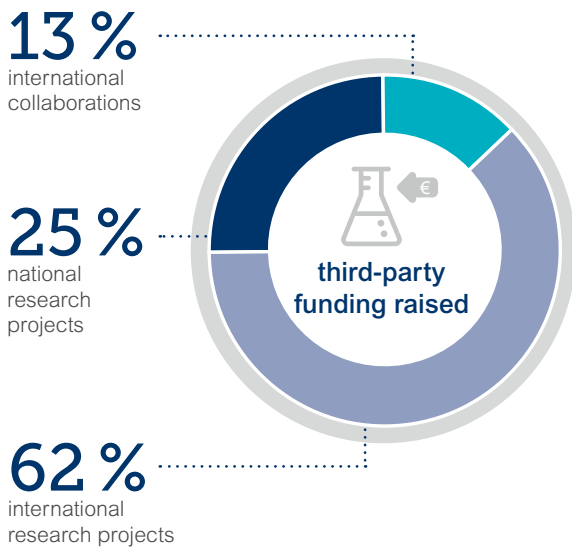
[www.ilri.org/research/projects/boosting-ugandas-investment-livestock-development](http://www.ilri.org/research/projects/boosting-ugandas-investment-livestock-development)

\* 4 international organisations, 3 in Africa, 4 in North and South America, 11 in Asia, 31 in Europe (EU 27, EU candidate countries, EFTA Member States, Russia [Currently projects and programmes with state participation from Russia and Belarus are suspended, subject to compliance with legal framework conditions. / BMBF, announcement 17.03.2022])

# Research

One of the BfR's key competences is independent, application-orientated 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



Third-party funding raised	Funding (in thousands of euros)	Number of projects
<b>national research projects</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>45</b>
Federal government	2,075	
DFG	325	
Other	24	
<b>international research projects</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>76</b>
EU	3,872	
EFSA	2,070	
Other	16	
<b>international collaborations (EU, EFSA, BMZ etc.)</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,624</b>	<b>131</b>

THIRD-PARTY FUNDING IN 2022 AMOUNTED TO  
**9.6 million euros.**

**i** *Third-party funded projects*  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > Research > Third-party projects

**i** *Main areas of research*  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.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 bundle technical expertise on inter-departmental topics.



# Personnel and training



Scientists	516
Administrative staff	238
Technical assistants	138
PhD candidates	52
Animals carers	21
Apprentices/trainees	19
Other (e.g. librarians, laboratory assistants, etc.)	128

A TOTAL OF  
**1,112 employees**

## 90

NEW APPOINTMENTS PER YEAR,  
OF WHICH 4 ARE TRAINEES

### Training professions

- ▶ Laboratory chemist
- ▶ Office management clerk
- ▶ Animal carer
- ▶ Plant mechanic
- ▶ Electronic technician
- ▶ Laboratory biologist
- ▶ IT specialist

[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > Job advertisements  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > The Institute > Working at the BfR

### Trade fair appearances

**Sticks & Stones** BERLIN,  
EUROPE'S LARGEST LGBTIQ + JOB AND CAREER FAIR

**Leipziger  
Tierärztekongress** LEIPZIG

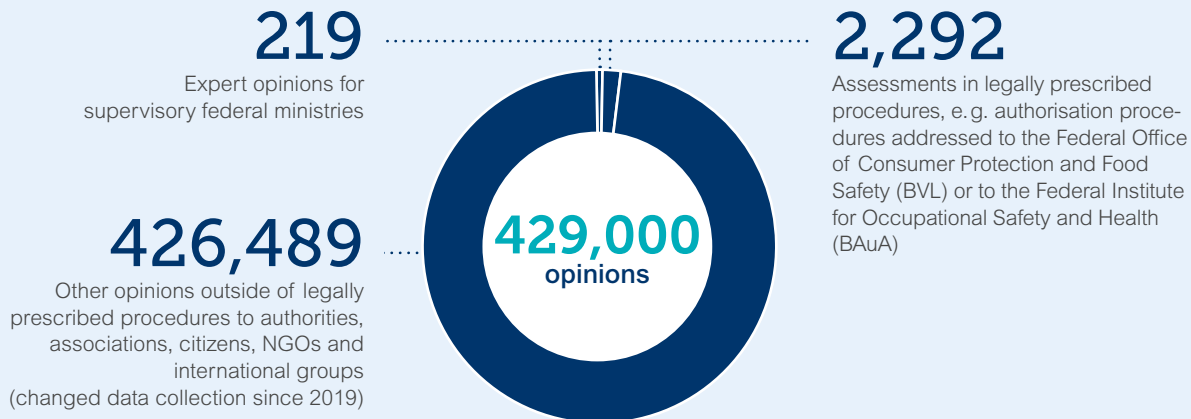
**Stuzubi** BERLIN,  
STUDY AND TRAINING FAIR

### Focus on human resources development



# Publications

## Opinions



### KEY OPINIONS PUBLISHED IN 2022

- Health risk assessment of nicotine pouches, No. 23/2022
- New Findings concerning “Bovine Meat and Milk Factors” (BMMF), No. 36/2022
- Health benefits of infant formula and follow-on formula containing human milk oligo- and/or galactooligosaccharides have not yet been proven, No. 37/2022

## Publications

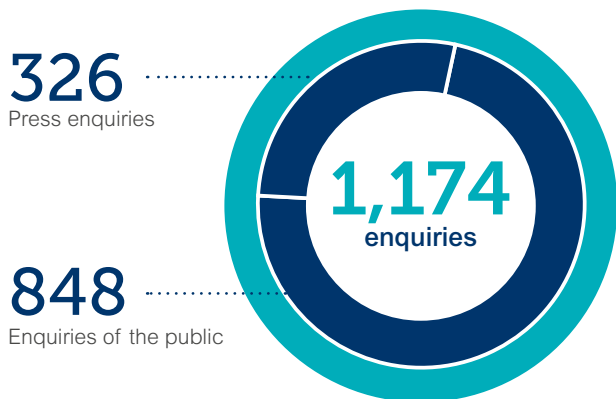
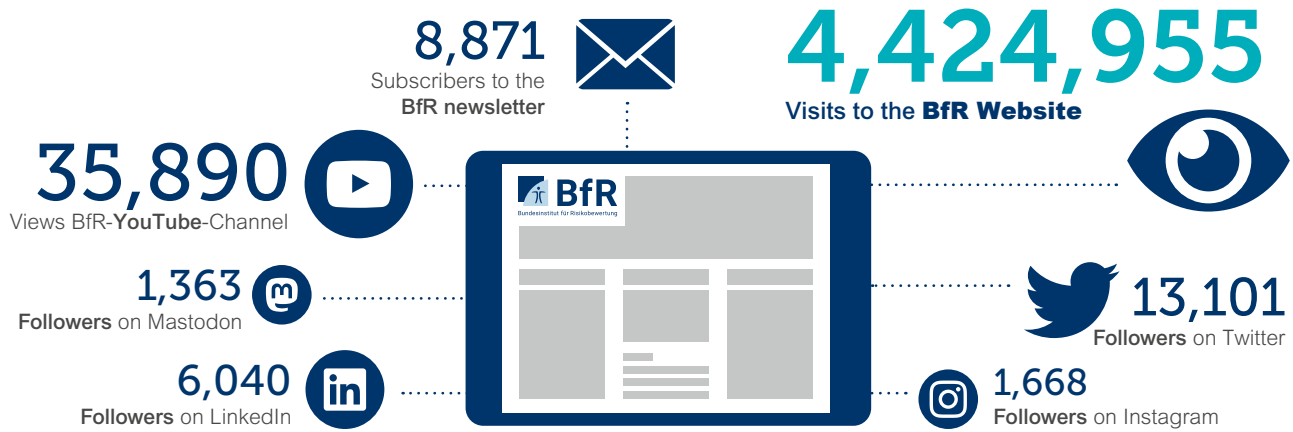
	Number
Contributions to compilations	8
Contribution to collected editions	9
<b>Journal publications</b>	<b>258</b>
Contributions to conference proceedings	196
Poster contributions	208
Presentations (including conference speakers)	863
Dissertations/postdoctoral papers/master theses/diploma theses/bachelor theses	55
Reports/EFSA	11

### KEY PUBLICATIONS IN 2022

- ▶ Wagner, B. et al. 2022. **Transfer of cannabinoids into the milk of dairy cows fed with industrial hemp could lead to  $\Delta^9$ -THC exposure that exceeds acute reference dose.** *Nature Food* 3(11): 921-932.
- ▶ Kirsch, F. et al. 2022. **Personal Protective Measures during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Germany.** *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 121: 177-183.
- ▶ Abraham, K. and B. H. Monien. 2022. **Transdermal absorption of  $^{13}\text{C}_4$ -perfluorooctanoic acid ( $^{13}\text{C}_4$ -PFOA) from a sunscreen in a male volunteer – What could be the contribution of cosmetics to the internal exposure of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?** *Environment International* 169: 107549.

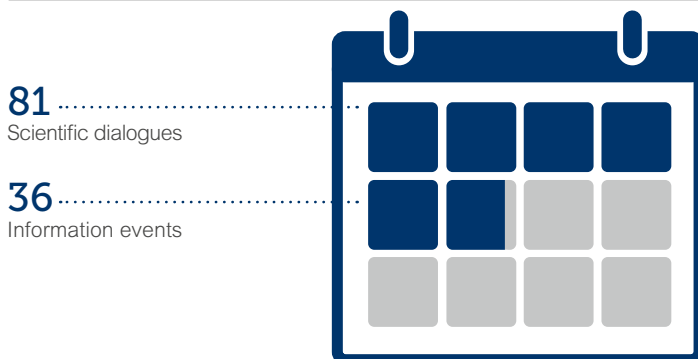
**i** Overview of all publications  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > publications  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > Science News  
[www.openagrar.de](http://www.openagrar.de)

# Public relations



The BfR received **326 enquiries** from TV, print/online media, news agencies as well as from radio, among others on ...

Ingredients and additives in food	44
Cosmetics	33
Microbial risks of food	32
Tobacco products	24
Tattoo products and Hemp as animal feed	each 19

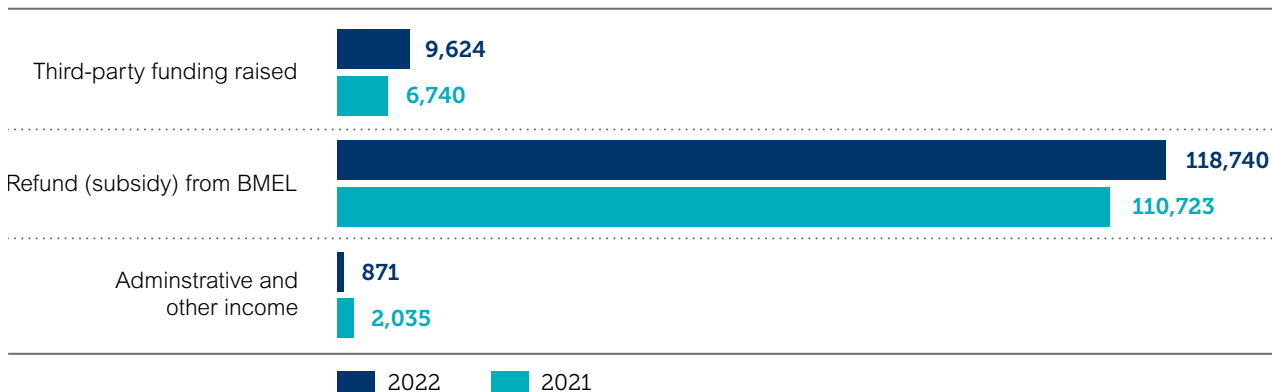


**117 events** were organised by the BfR.

*i* Overview of all BfR events  
[www.bfr-akademie.de/english](http://www.bfr-akademie.de/english)

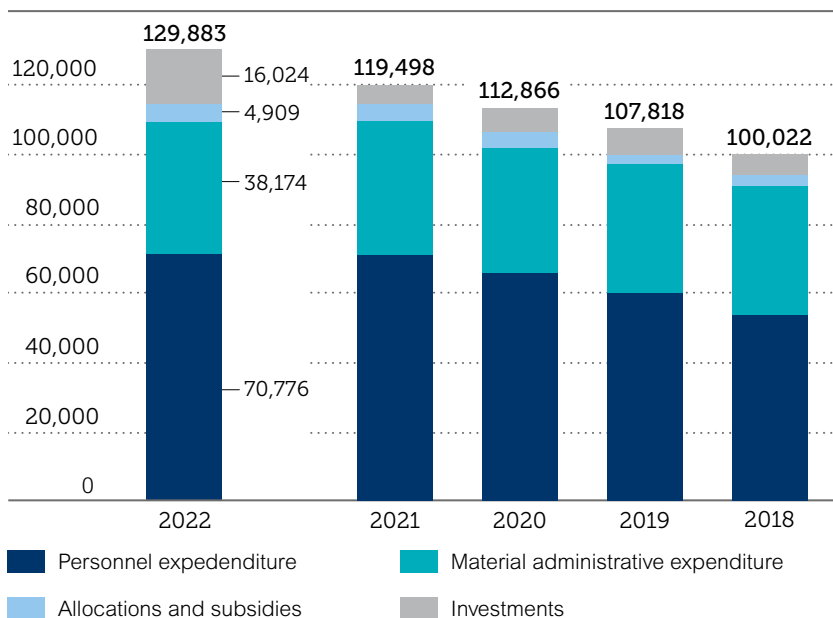
# Budget

## Income (in thousands of euros)



IN 2022, THE BfR SPENT APPROXIMATELY **130 million euros.**

## Expenditure (in thousands of euros)



### Selected expenditure

Scientific collections and libraries	522,649 €
Initial and further training	337,567 €
Public relations work, publishing and documentation	1,321,891 €
Conferences, trade fairs, exhibitions	571,138 €

# More about the BfR

## Consumer protection to go

Twice a year, the compact and knowledge-packed BfR2GO scientific magazine provides current and well-founded information 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: [www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en)



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