General Development

As a research institution of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Free State of Bavaria, the GSF is a member of the Helmholtz Association[1], Germany's biggest public research organisation. It investigates the foundations of the medicine and medical care of the future as well as ecosystems of substantial significance to health. The GSF has existed since 1960 and it has been a GmbH (German limited liability company) since 1964.

Its bodies are the Assembly of Partners, the Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors and the Scientific and Technical Board. By appointing members to the Supervisory Board and to the Scientific and Technical Board the scientific and technical staff are also involved in fundamental decisions. On scientific questions the institution also obtains the advice of the Scientific Advisory Board, which consists of external members.

Partners

The partners of the GSF are the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Minister of Education and Research, and the Free State of Bavaria, represented by the Bavarian State Minister of Finances.

Necessary funding is provided by the federal government and the government of Bavaria (in the latter case by the Bavarian Ministry of Education, Science and the Arts) at a ratio of 90 : 10 in accordance with the Framework Agreement on Research Promotion *(Rahmenvereinbarung Forschungsförderung)* of 28/11/1975 and the Implementation Agreement of 26/6/1978.

As an exception to this arrangement the federal government pays all the funds required for the ASSE Research Mine in Lower Saxony as well as for the GSF's activities as a project agency of the BMBF (PT-GSF).

Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board oversees the lawfulness, appropriateness and economic efficiency of the management. It decides upon general research objectives and on important matters of research policy and financial matters of the GSF. It lays down the basic principles for performance control. The Supervisory Board is composed of 12 honorary members.

The Supervisory Board has the following members:

MinDir Dr. Peter Lange –
Chairman of the Supervisory Board –
Federal Ministry of Education and Research

MinDirig Dr. Adalbert Weiß –
Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board –
Bavarian State Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts

MinR Klaus Herzog
Bavarian State Ministry of Finance

MinDirig Dr. Karl Eugen Huthmacher
Federal Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Reactor Safety

MinR Hermann Riehl
Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Prof. Dr. M. Grasserbauer
DG Joint Research Centre / Institute of Environment and Sustainability

Dr. Harald Seidlitz
Department of Experimental Environment Simulation of the GSF

Prof. Dr. Joachim Graw
Institute of Developmental Genetics of the GSF

Dr. Andrea Kleinschmidt
Institute of Molecular Virology of the GSF

[1] Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e. V.

Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board advises the GSF

- on fundamental scientific issues and in connection with taking on new tasks,
- on the research and development programme, including the required financial planning,
- on questions of cooperation with universities, other research institutions and international institutions.

The Scientific Advisory Board has the following members:

Prof. Dr. Yves-Alain Barde,
Division Pharmacology,
Neurobiology, Biocentre,
University of Bâle

Prof. Dr. Heiko Becher,
Hygiene Institute, University of Heidelberg

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bieber,
Hospital and Out-Patient Clinic of Dermatology,
University Hospital of Bonn

Prof. Dr. Maria Blettner,
Institute of Medical Biometry,
Epidemiology and Informatics,
University of Mainz, Deputy Chair

Prof. Dr. Bernd Dörken,
Med. Clinic with a Focus on Oncology – Haematology – Tumour Immunology, Charité University Medicine, Campus Buch, Robert-Rössle-Klinik; Berlin

Prof. Dr. Martin H. Gerzabek,
Institute of Soil Research,
University for Soil Culture Vienna

Prof. Dr. Manfred Grasserbauer
DG Joint Research Centre – Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Ispra (Italy), Chairman

Prof. Dr. Peter Herrlich,
Leibniz Institute of Age Research (Fritz-Lipmann-Institute e.V.), Jena

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Kurth,
Robert-Koch-Institut, Berlin

Prof. Dr. Dieter Mayer,
Aventis-Pharma, Idstein

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang-Ulrich Müller,
Institute of Medical Radiation Biology, University Hospital of Essen

Prof. Dr. Dierk Scheel,
Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Halle

Prof. Dr. Sylvia Schnell,
Institute of Applied Microbiology,
University of Gießen

Prof. Dr. Hans R. Schöler,
Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Biomedicine, Münster

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Schultze-Werninghaus,Berufsgenossenschaftl. Kliniken Bergmannsheil Hospital of the Ruhr University, Bochum

Prof. Dr. Martin Vingron,
Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Genetics, Berlin

Scientific and Technical Board

The Scientific and Technical Board (WTR) acts as a consultant to the other bodies of the institution on all scientific and important technical questions. The decisions and recommendations of the WTR are prepared by a Permanent Committee which can also be assigned to deal with certain tasks independently.

The Directors of the Institutes as well as elected representatives of the scientific and technical employees are on the WTR. The Board Members and a member of the workers' council participate in the WTR meetings in an advisory capacity.

WTR Members (as of 1/4/2007):

Prof. Dr. Martin Göttlicher – Chairman

Prof. Dr. Rainer Meckenstock – Deputy Chairman

PD Dr. Michael John Atkinson

Dr. Joachim Altschuh

Prof. Dr. Georg W. Bornkamm

Prof. Dr. Ruth Brack-Werner

Prof. Dr. Jean-Marie Buerstedde

Dr. Ingo Drexler

Prof. Dr. Jörg Durner (acting)

Prof. Dr. Dr. Karl-Hans Englmeier (acting)

Prof. Dr. Magdalena Götz

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hammerschmidt

Prof. Dr. Anton Hartmann

Prof. Dr. Heinz Höfler

Dr. S. Hoelter-Koch

Prof. Dr. Martin Hrabé de Angelis

Dr. Berit Jungnickel

Dr. Jan Christian Kaiser

Dr. Arnd Kieser

Prof. Dr. Rupert Lasser

Prof. Dr. Reiner Leidl

Dr. Esther Mahabir-Brenner

Prof. Dr. Thomas Meitinger

Prof. Dr. Hans-Werner Mewes

Dr. Gabriele Möller

Prof. Dr. Jean Charles Munch

Prof. Dr. Dr. Herwig Paretzke

Prof. Dr. Michael Sattler

Dr. Uta von Rad

Dr. Peter Reitmair

Prof. Dr. Dolores Schendel

Prof. Dr. Jörg Schmidt

Dr. Philippe Schmitt-Kopplin

Prof. Dr. Peter Schröder

Dr. Sigurd Schulte-Hostede (acting)

Prof. Dr. Holger Schulz (acting)

Andreas Stampfl

Prof. Dr. Dr. H.-Erich Wichmann

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wurst

Board of Directors

The Board Members are the legal representatives of the GSF and do business according to the Partnership Agreement, the resolutions of the Assembly of Partners and the Supervisory Board. In cooperation with other bodies they develop the initiatives required to fulfil the GSF's tasks in planning, coordination and control and ensure the effective and economically viable allocation of funds.

- Scientific and Technical Director: Prof. Dr. Günther Wess
- Administrative Director: Dr. Nikolaus Blum

Project Funding

In the year under review of 2006 the financial volume of the GSF was € 154 million with institutional funding of € 91 million and third-party funds of € 63 million. The third-party subsidies for research projects amounted to € 22 million, which is 24% of the institutional funding. The remaining third-party funds were for special tasks (Asse, project sponsorship, evaluation facility, training). In 2006 a total of approx. 270 funded research projects were handled in the GSF's research programmes. Apart from contracts with the GSF as a single partner, some of the projects showed a high degree of networking with consortium partners. These include, in particular, the research projects with the European Commission and nationally funded projects, such as the National Genome Research Network (NGFN), the special DFG research programmes as well as some measures initiated by the Helmholtz Initiative and Networking Fund. With a subsidy of € 4.7 million, EU funding is still the largest portion of international funds raised, thereby making a fundamental contribution to the formation of the European Research Area and the solution of the essential European research questions.

There are currently 60 ongoing agreements with the EU. The successful participation in the 6th Framework Programme for Research resulted in an increase in grants in 2006 over the previous years of 2004 (€ 3.4 million) and

2005 (€ 3.9 million). After the conclusion of the 6th Framework Programme it can be said that the funds raised increased considerably from € 14 to 25 million over the 5th Framework Programme for Research. The approval rate also increased from 28% to 33% of the applications filed. The increase in funds raised was mainly for projects in the fields of life sciences, food quality and safety as well as the EU mobility measures, accompanied by a simultaneous drop in Euratom subsidies. As a coordinator the GSF successfully started the EU project under the acronym ‚EUCOMM' in 2006. The integrated project has a funding volume of € 13 million, with the GSF's share amounting to € 3.7 million. The aim of the project is to create a functional European platform for mouse mutants for research into human diseases and it is embedded in numerous other EU projects.

The GSF participates in the funding programmes of the Helmholtz Initiative and Networking Fund by providing substantial input. In the 2006 tender for Virtual Institutes, i.e. cooperative projects between Helmholtz Centres and universities, the GSF was awarded a research project on neurological diseases and signs of aging of the central nervous system. Furthermore, two special professorships for outstanding woman scientists have been gained in the framework of excellence assurance. Two approved re-entry positions after child-care periods contribute to more equal opportunities.

Apart from project funding, new cooperation projects have been initiated on a national and international level to heighten the competitiveness and excellence of the GSF and to establish an important basis for raising project subsidies in the future. There are special cooperation contracts with various organisations already, such as with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Health Protection Agency and the RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology in Japan or NACIS (Central Iron & Steel Research Institute). Apart from this, there have been talks with representatives of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in the US in order to identify potential cooperation projects. The GSF is currently engaged in approx. 900 international cooperation projects with universities and non-university research institutions in more than 53 countries of the world as a result of sponsorship and cooperation contracts and the bilateral exchange between scientists on guest stays, joint studies and publications.

Human Resources

As of 31/12/2006 the GSF had 1740 employees (previous year: 1725). The number of employees financed by the basic financing has dropped by nine to 1169. The number of employees funded by third parties has increased by 24 to a total of 571. This means that approx. 33 percent of all employees are funded by third parties.

Temporary employment contracts were entered into with 854 employees. This amounts to approx. 49 percent. Among the staff paid for by basic financing, employees with temporary employment contracts make up approx. 36 percent.

The number of employees has mainly continued to increase in the scientific area *(see Fig. structure of GSF employees by areas*).

The largest number of scientists work in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics and medicine *(see special fields of the GSF scientists)*.

It is very positive to see that the ratio of women among the scientists is rather high at 44 percent. The reasons for this are our openness towards to part-time employment and the higher rate of junior woman scientists employed. Reduced weekly working hours are agreed with 15 percent of our employees. 55 percent of our junior scientists and postgraduate students are women (previous year 48 percent) and 51.3 percent of the overall GSF payroll are women.

Advancement of Women

In the Helmholtz Programme for the re-entry of scientists to work after family-related leave under the President's Initiative and Networking Fund, two female scientists were employed with the GSF for three years starting in 2006. Helmholtz can also fund positions for excellent woman scientists (W2/W3 positions), in order to win them over permanently for the Centre in good positions. The GSF successfully applied for the funding of two outstanding woman scientists and their teams for the duration of five years.

The improvement of opportunities for women and the support of young scientists is also the focus of the EU project "Pallas Athene – Ambassodors for Women and Science", in which the GSF participates alongside other Helmholtz Centres. Excellent woman scientists act as "Ambassadors", presenting their research results at different types of events and promoting an interest in science among young people, particularly women.

In its Junior Scientists' Programme the GSF gives young scientists the possibility to run their own teams. To specifically further women, a second junior group has been announced in addition to an already existing group, which was given a woman as a team leader in 2006.

Child Care

The GSF is also still committed to looking after employees' children on its own property in the association "ganz schön frech" (very cheeky), which was established by GSF employees, and which runs the GSF's own child care centre for approx. 25 children from the age of eight weeks to six years.

Further Training

The GSF supports the further vocational training of its employees by offering a wide range of appropriate internal and external training courses. In the 2006 training programme the focuses were on management, communication and personal development as well as technical operational subjects, EDP and language courses. 50 in-house seminars/courses and more than 300 external training measures were approved.

Advancement of Junior Scientists

Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate students at the GSF work on highly topical questions in an excellent scientific environment. They make a substantial contribution to the success of our research centre, so ensuring they are given the best possible training and excellent working conditions is a top priority. In order to further young scientists even more specifically, we have developed a comprehensive postgraduate programme coordinated by mentors in the four major fields of the GSF. Apart from the basic prerequisite that each postgraduate is given scientific support by scientists during the entire duration of the work on their thesis, a number of subject-related, inter-institute and inter-programme events are offered in the postgraduate programme. Apart from introductory presentations on research targets, institutes and technologies of the GSF, these include various subject-related courses such as summer and winter schools, and seminars in rhetoric, project management, the protection and marketing of research results, applying for grants, writing publications and many other things. Once a year closed meetings are offered outside the GSF, at which the postgraduate students can present their results and discuss them with experts. Furthermore, each postgraduate has the possibility to present the results of his or her work to a broad expert audience at national and international workshops or conferences. In addition to this, subsidies are granted which allow visits to national or European workshops and conferences from the very beginning of work on a thesis. This gives the postgraduates an early insight into the scientific environment of their field or neighbouring fields. They are actively involved in the scientific life of the GSF from the beginning and can benefit from the centre's interdisciplinary approach.

The total number of postgraduates employed in 2006 (376, of which 231 were sponsored by third parties and universities), which went up again, goes to show that the GSF was able further enhance its attractiveness for qualified postgraduates with its postgraduate programme.

The Association of the Friends and Sponsors of the GSF awards the annual postgraduate prize of € 1500 for excellent scientific performance and the extraordinary commitment of postgraduates together with the Genossenschaftsverband Bayern (cooperatives' association of Bavaria). Three outstanding theses win the award in the fields of environmental and health research. The prize is awarded at the institute forum, the highlight of the GSF's scientific year.

Trainees

As of 31/12/2006 the GSF employed 72 trainees in Neuherberg and in Remlingen. The focuses were on training in the following professions: biology laboratory assistant, animal nurse, office clerk, industrial mechanic, energy electronics expert, Dipl.-Ing. (BA) in the field of radiation protection and environmental technology, warehousing specialist, computer specialist and agricultural assistant.

Voluntary Ecological Year

Since 1995 the GSF has been recognised as an institution for the voluntary ecological year. The voluntary ecological year offers young women and men between the ages of 16 and 27 the possibility to find out where their main interests lie by working for a year as a volunteer in an institution of conservation and environmental protection or environmental education before embarking on a career. The practical work is accompanied by a training programme run by the German Catholic Youth Federation (BDKJ).

Every year the GSF offers positions for the voluntary ecological year and is the leader in Bavaria in this field. In 2006/2007 four positions were occupied, and five participants have already been marked down at the GSF for 2007/2008.

Internships/Work Experience

Internships alongside work or studies
Internships are possible at the GSF, in particular trial internships for professional orientation during and after school education as well as compulsory internships for various courses of study.

Work experience – diploma students – postgraduates
At the GSF, pupils and students continue to have the possibility to gather practical experience in all scientific fields for their first steps into their working lives, to get an insight into the scientific world and to benefit from contacts with scientists for their future careers as scientists.

Pupils' Forums

Since 1998 the GSF has been offering "Pupils' Forums" to the science pupils at Bavarian high schools. In the 2005/2006 school year, southern Bavarian high schools were invited. The aim of the one-day events is to show these young people the working environment in research and to attract them to it. In the morning, general presentations provide a theoretical background, and in the afternoon laboratory visits are offered. The curricula of these events was determined together with teachers and scientists. The Pupils' Forums are very popular with both pupils and teachers alike. In 2006 more than 700 pupils and their teachers attended seven of these events at the GSF.

The Glass Laboratory

More than 3000 people visited the glass laboratory in the year under review. The focus of a day of experiments in the glass laboratory is on one of the many fields that the GSF National Research Centre works on. The experiments are prepared so as to be interesting for school pupils and so that they can do the experiments themselves.

The GSF and the municipal Bertolt-Brecht-Gymnasium in Munich jointly developed a project for sustainable basic scientific education. Under the motto "School goes Research" the pupils of Class 5a worked on the subject "Light and Life" both in class and in a project week at the GSF.

In order to also give the target group of Realschule secondary school pupils an insight into scientific work, a new "Chemical Reactions" internship was offered last year in cooperation with the Chemistry Work Group. The numerous enquiries about this internship clearly indicate the enormous interest in this practical learning experience.

"Volunteer" scientists outside the class plan have the opportunity to slip into the white coat and get a feeling for a day in the laboratory by engaging in various experiments. These include Girls and Technology, Girls' Day, ESOF2006 Helmholtz pupils' laboratories and the Munich Science Days, Art at the Scheyern facility, Mini-Munich and vacation programmes. This year the integration of kindergartens into the programme was a new experience, introducing the pre-schoolers to science with a playful approach.

In November 2006, the Glass Laboratory of the GSF-National Research Center launched a cooperation with the Bertolt-Brecht-Gymnasium, a high school for girls with a focus on economics and social sciences, with a long-term project for sustainable basic scientific education and the goal of showing women as professional role models. Here, young girls are offered the opportunity to experience modern research in real life. Initially, a continued cooperation between the pupils of the Bertolt-Brecht-Gymnasium and the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health is planned over five school years. This school year the 32 pupils of Class 5a learned to look at the subject of "Light and Life" from different angles in a project week at the GSF. To prepare for this event, the pupils carried out measurements in class from November 2005 to February 2006 and investigated the relationship between temperature and light.

The Carl Friedrich von Martius Environment Prize

Since 1984 the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health has awarded the "Carl Friedrich von Martius Environment Prize for Scientific Papers" together with the Bavarian Volks- und Raiffeisenbanken and the Association of the Friends and Sponsors of the GSF, in order to support young people's dedication to topic relating to the environment and health. The Prize is awarded in memory of the life's work of the Bavarian tropical scientist and physician Carl Friedrich Philipp von Martius. It is under the patronage of the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment, Health and Consumer Protection and has a total prize money of € 7500. 101 papers were submitted for the 2006 competition. The awards ceremony was in June. The ten prize winners came from Munich and the Munich area, Upper Bavaria, Lower Bavaria, Swabia, Central Frankonia.

Financial Development in 2006

In 2006 the **basic financial** support from the Free State of Bavaria and the federal government plus own profits were down by approx. € 3.17 million as compared to 2005. The reasons are the following: personnel costs rose by approx. € 0.90 million, the physical resources budget was reduced by € 3.47 million year on year and the budget for grants and subsidies (Clinical Cooperation Groups) was reduced by 0.1. Apart from that, investments were increased by € 0.36 million, while construction and procurements > 2.5 million were reduced by € 0.85 million.

In the budgets planned for 2005 and 2006 the increases and reductions in the individual areas as of 31/12 were as follows:

Institutional funding:

Planned budgets	2004 € million	2005 € million	2006 € million
HR	52.88	50.10	51.00
Physical resources	25.79	24.70	21.23
Grants/subsidies	3.20	3.30	3.20
Investments	12.70	13.88	14.24
Construction and procurements > 2.5 million	5.39	6.75	5.90
Total expenses	**94.57**	**98.74**	**95.57**
Own profits	8.75	7.60	3.10
Grants Federal / Bavarian	91.21	91.14	92.47
Total funding	**99.96**	**98.74**	**95.57**

The following data (as of 07/03/2007) are the **actual data** and include both the institutional and third-party funding of the GSF.

The GSF budget was financed as follows:

Income / Grants	2004 € million	2005 € million	2006 € million
Federal government (basic financing)	81.56	80.34	81.22
Bavaria (basic financing)	8.15	8.93	9.02
Third parties (basic financing)	0.27	0.28	0.22
Total (basic financing)	**89.98**	**89.55**	**90.46**
Federal government (third-party funds)	38.10	38.80	43.70
European Union	3.40	3.90	4.70
Third parties	7.30	16.00	15.00
Total (third-party funds)	**48.80**	**58.70**	**63.40**
Own profits (basic financing)	8.60	5.81	2.30
Own profits (third-party funds)	6.82	16.00	14.30
Total (own profits)	**15.42**	**21.81**	**16.60**
Total income	**154.20**	**170.06**	**170.46**

The GSF's expenses are as follows:

In 2006 **total HR** costs (as of 07/03/07) amounted to € 74 million (previous year: € 78.2403 million).

The portion of HR expenses in total expenses amounts to approx. 47.17 percent (previous year: 47.60 percent). In the basic financing the percentage is 53.36 (previous year: 50.74 percent).

The total **cost of materials** (including grants and subsidies) were reduced by € 12.258 million from € 63.484 million to € 51.225 million and amount to approx. 32.66 percent (previous year: 38.62 percent) of total expenses. When looking only at the basic financing, expenses were reduced from € 28 million to € 24.425 million in 2006, i.e. by € 3.574 million. This also includes the grants and subsidies of € 3.20 million.

Total expenses for **current investments** amount to € 25.743 million, i.e. 16.41 percent (previous year: 9.67 percent) of total expenses. The expenses for current investments in basic financing (previous year: € 13.884 million) increased to € 14.243 million.

Construction projects and procurements > 2.5 million amount to € 5.90 million (previous year: € 6.751 million).

Communication

The GSF endeavours to communicate its targets and visions both to external target groups and its own employees and to continue to discuss these with them. The focus is on communicating the issues and results in line with modern forms of knowledge management to the respective target groups. Wherever possible, the GSF wants to give substantiated answers to current questions from the public, presenting problems and their solutions objectively from a scientific point of view.

It is of great importance to the GSF to use various modes of successful corporate communication to interest young people in the sciences as well as to attract the attention of outstanding young scientists, provide further training for them or employ them, in order to be successful together. It is a welcome side-effect that these activities also help improve the GSF's image.

Some Outstanding Examples for 2006

Under the motto "Chernobyl – 20 Years On" the GSF organised an excursion for journalists. From 20 to 25 March, journalists from Stuttgarter Zeitung, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Die Welt, TAZ and ZDF television as well as freelance journalists and scientists from the Society for Plant and Reactor Safety (GRS) and the GSF travelled from Minsk to Gomel and on to Chernobyl and Kiev.

In autumn 2006 the Munich Re Foundation and the GSF extended an invitation to a series of evenings, each devoted to a particular subject: more than 500 interested Munich citizens discussed current minor and major, real and alleged risks to the population of Munich with high-ranking scientists. At the end of the series the role of politics and the media was scrutinised in the risk debate.

Minister Christa Stewens started off the initiative "Women in Science – Science for Women" on 11 July 2006, the purpose of which was to draw more attention to the work done by woman scientists and give them more support. The initiative named by the Greek goddess of wisdom "Pallas Athene" is part of a programme subsidised by the European Union with a total of € 220,000 under the category of Science and Society, in which the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health participated alongside five other centres of the Helmholtz Association.

The GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health and Munich's Bertolt-Brecht-Gymnasium started a joint project on sustainable basic scientific education: 32 pupils from Class 5a visited the GSF in February 2007 to consider the subject of "Light and Life" from different angles during a project week. The cooperation is designed to go on for 5 years and will be scientifically assessed.

On 19 December, well-known experts discussed the question "Ethics – a Matter of Perspective?" at the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health on the

The group of journalists in front of the sarcophagus

Minister of State Christa Stewens (centre) started the initiative "Women in Science – Science for Women" on 11 July.

occasion of the Science Future Forum. In this series of events the GSF faces the social issues resulting from scientific work. Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mittelstraß (University of Constance), Prof. Dr. Herwig Hulpke (formerly Bayer AG), Prof. Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Graf (LMU) and Prof. Dr. Klaus Peter (LMU) participated in the panel discussion.

With specific communication focuses for selected target groups the GSF continued its various series of publications in 2006. Among other things the following subjects were adapted in the form of brochures for the broad public:

"Radiation – from Röntgen to Chernobyl" is the title of the new issue of the GSF magazine mensch+umwelt spezial, which informs the interested public on fundamental issues of the effects and risks of ionising radiation.

Another publication was the brochure "Vom Labor in die Klinik – Translationale Forschung in der GSF" (From the Laboratory to the Clinic – Translational Research at the GSF), which offers the latest information on how the GSF transfers its insights from fundamental research into clinical applications – and how it conversely integrates expertise from hospitals into its biomedical research work. This is a very essential approach by which the GSF wants to make a decisive contribution in the search for effective mechanisms all the way to their application for patients.

In the Internet the concept of no barriers was successfully implemented. The number of hits increased to an average of 800,000 per month.

Other fields of activity in the communication of science were, e. g., congresses and scientific events, training and discussion events for opinion leaders, press releases and background talks with journalists and politicians.

The diversity of these activities in the communication of science has certainly contributed to the fact that the GSF can consider itself one of the leading research institutions in the world in the field of environment-related diseases.