



Leopoldina

Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

10 Years
German National Academy of Sciences
2008-2018

366 Years
German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina
1652-2018



„Reason and enlightenment are more important than ever in the search for answers to the great questions of the present and the future. We must turn to experts in the fields of science and research for this. For over ten years, the Leopoldina – the German National Academy of Sciences – has been providing the political and social realms with expert advice on numerous issues that are of great importance for the future. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Leopoldina members, as well as to all those who have supported the Leopoldina in this demanding work. “

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

President of the Federal Republic of Germany
Patron of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the 12th President of the Federal Republic of Germany, has been the patron of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina since 2017. He thus acknowledges and honours the National Academy as an important adviser on political and social matters. Frank-Walter Steinmeier’s patronage continues a tradition that began in the year 2008. When the Leopoldina was designated as the German National Academy of Sciences on 14 July 2008, the Federal President at the time, Horst Köhler, took over the patronage of the academy and thereby established the close relationship between the head of state and the National Academy.

Further responses and all information on 10 Years German National Academy of Sciences can be found at www.leopoldina.org

366 years as an independent academy and society of scholars

The Leopoldina, then *Academia Naturae Curiosorum*, was founded in 1652 by four physicians in Schweinfurt/Germany. It was their common goal to deepen scientific understanding of the natural world and to improve the communication between researchers of that time. The Academy selects its members among outstanding scientists. These included, among others, Marie Curie, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Alexander von Humboldt, Justus von Liebig and Max Planck. On July 14, 2008, the Leopoldina was appointed German National Academy of Sciences and has been under the patronage of the German Federal President since. It is independently run and dedicated to the common good.



1652

Founding

The *Academia Naturae Curiosorum*, the oldest continuously existing academy in the world today, is founded in Schweinfurt/Germany. Together with leading scholars of their time, the founders set out to „...explore nature for the glory of God and the good of mankind“. Motto for this ambitious goal is *Nunquam otiosus* (Never idle).

1677/87

Imperial recognition and independence

Emperor Leopold I. recognizes the academy with the Imperial Signum by confirming its statutes and guarantees independence from the ruling dynasties of the individual countries. The Leopoldina is endowed with the Imperial Privilege, inter alia, complete freedom of censorship for their publications. The Academy carries the name Leopoldina ever since.

1878

Settling in Halle

After years of travel while changing location following its respective president, the Leopoldina eventually settles in 1878 in the Prussian university town Halle on the river Saale.

1933-1989

Time of National Socialism and the GDR

The era of National Socialism also left its mark on the Academy. Members and the leadership of the Academy alike yielded to the Nazi regime. The Leopoldina was able to largely preserve its independence during the GDR years. The history of the Leopoldina during the first half of the 20th century was examined in a research project at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

Science-based policy advice – national and international

The main purpose of the German National Academy of Sciences is to advise society and policymaking on scientific and economic issues. Based on the wide-ranging competence of its members, the Leopoldina authors written statements on fundamental developments and pressing issues of society. Early recognition of important scientific developments which are likely to become relevant in the near future, thus providing analysis and recommendations early on, is another important aspect of the Academy's work. In cooperation with other National Academies, the Leopoldina also accompanies the G7 and G20 summit meetings of the Heads of State and government by addressing important questions scientifically and introducing them as recommendations to the negotiation process.



2008

National Academy

The German Academy of Natural Scientists is appointed to the German National Academy of Sciences on 14 July 2008. In the presence of Federal Minister of Education and Research Annette Schavan, Leopoldina President Volker ter Meulen and Minister President of Saxony-Anhalt Wolfgang Böhmer, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Horst Köhler signs the guest book as patron of the Leopoldina. (from left to right)



2010

The XXVI. President

Jörg Hacker becomes the first full-time president of the Leopoldina, seen here on the day of the handover ceremony with the chain of office, which was donated in 1955 by members from West-Germany and the founding town of Schweinfurt/Germany.



2011

Renewable energies and preimplantation diagnostics

The statement on preimplantation diagnostics discusses legal regulation and a possibly limited authorization of this procedure. An ad hoc statement provides energy and research policy recommendations after the events in Fukushima.

2012

New headquarters

The Leopoldina relocates to its new headquarters at Jägerberg in Halle (Saale). More centrally positioned, the Leopoldina now gains greater public awareness.



The National Academy of Sciences – facts and figures

The Leopoldina today has around 1,500 members from more than 30 countries. In its history, more than 7,000 personalities were admitted to the Academy, a total of 178 of them were awarded a Nobel Prize. More than 30 current members of the Leopoldina are Nobel laureates. Since its appointment as a National Academy in 2008, the Leopoldina has published more than 130 statements, recommendations and discussion papers, inter alia, in association with the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, acatech - National Academy of Science and Engineering and other scientific organizations. At the head quarter in Halle (Saale) and the Berlin office, around 90 employees are currently working for the Academy.



2012/13

Bioenergy

The statement elaborates on the chances and limits of bioenergy.

2015

Genome editing and palliative care

In 2015 the statements on palliative care in Germany and on the opportunities and limits of genome editing received the biggest response.

2017

Summit consulting

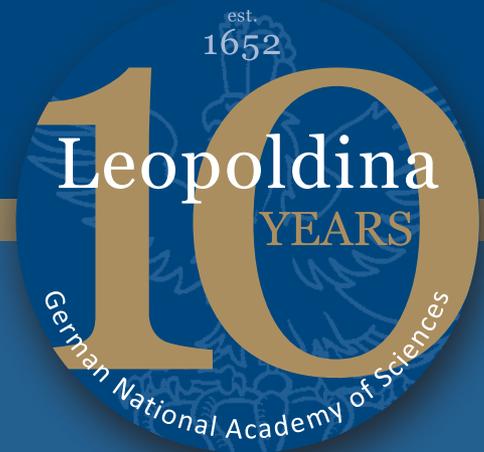
In cooperation with other National Academies, the Leopoldina provides scientific advice to the G7 and G20 summits. Most recently, German Chancellor Angela Merkel received the recommendations in 2017.

2018

Central topics

Important topics the Leopoldina addresses are digitalization and reproductive medicine. All topics and publications of the Leopoldina at www.leopoldina.org/en/science

www.leopoldina.org



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