

# PhDnet

Stay connected. Stay informed.



The organization and principles of Max-Planck-Society

# MAX-PLANCK-SOCIETY



# Organization & principles of MPS

- **fundamental research** in science, arts, and humanities
- **80+ institutes**
- every **MPI** is **autonomous**
- every institute **director** is **independent** → no director can be forced to follow a certain rule

Jupiter, FL (USA) ●  
Nijmegen (NL) ●

Florence (IT) ●  
Rome (IT) ●



PhDnet encompasses all PhD candidates of Max-Planck-Society

# INTRODUCTION TO PHDNET





# PhD candidates facts & figures

- 5000+ PhD candidates
- ~40% PhD candidates in 60+ IMPRS graduate schools
- more than 25% of all employees
- paid via MPS stipends or contracts (60:40)

Jupiter, FL (USA)



Nijmegen (NL)



Florence (IT)



Rome (IT)

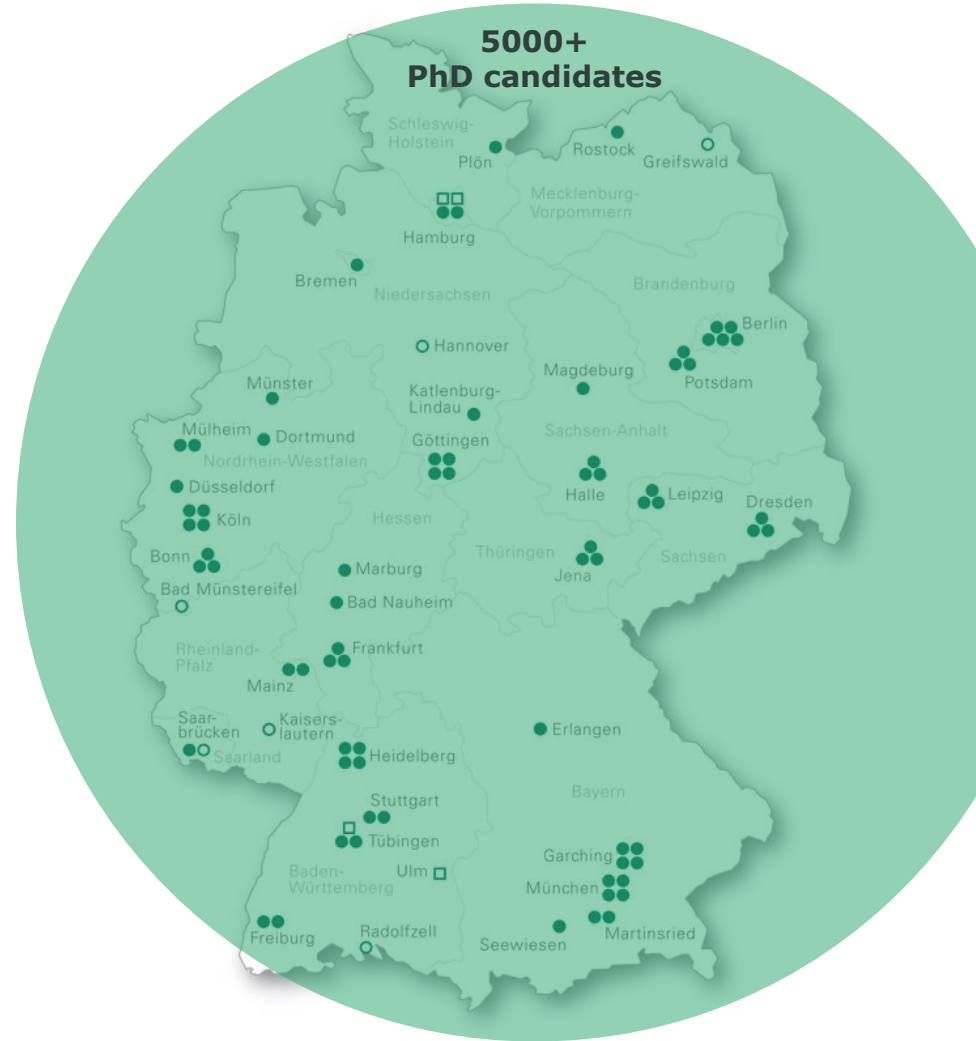


# The idea of the PhDnet

- discuss and solve common problems
- promote interdisciplinary exchange
- improve doctoral education and conditions
- represent doctoral interests towards
  - Max-Planck-Society
  - Stakeholders

# Who is PhDnet?

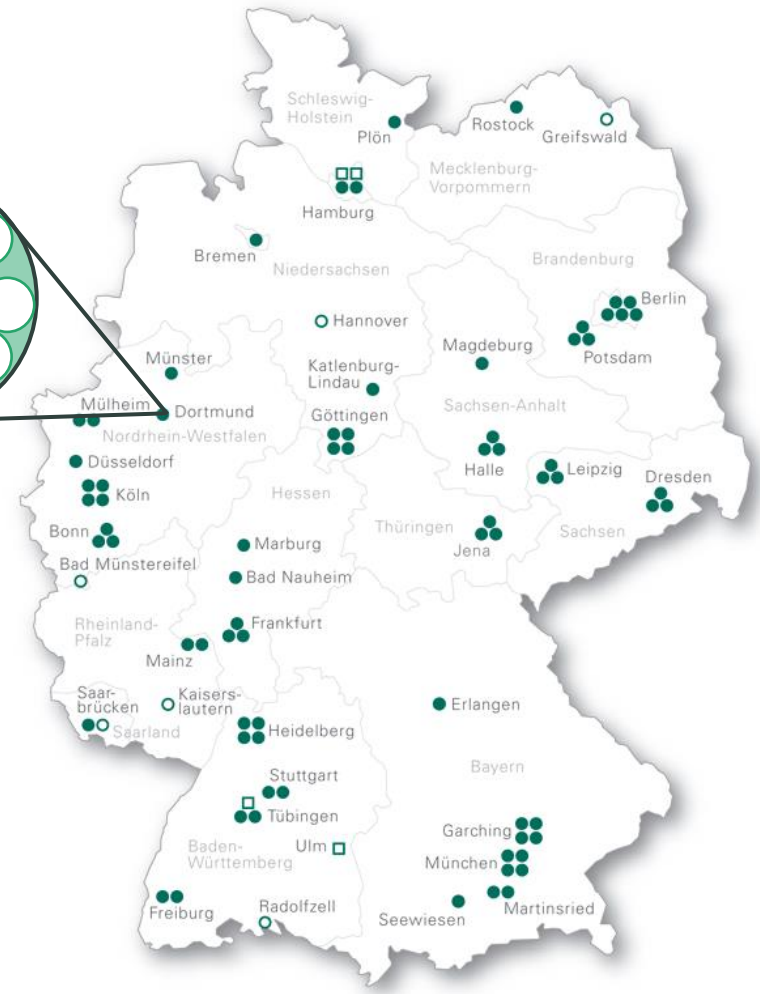
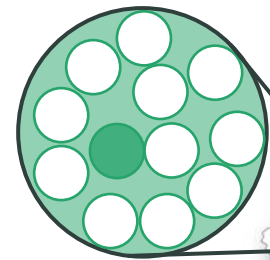
- All PhD candidates within the MPS



# Representation within PhDnet

## PhD candidates at each MPI

- elect PhD representatives
  - represents towards directors
  - represents within the PhDnet
- organize local events, seminars meetings, activities





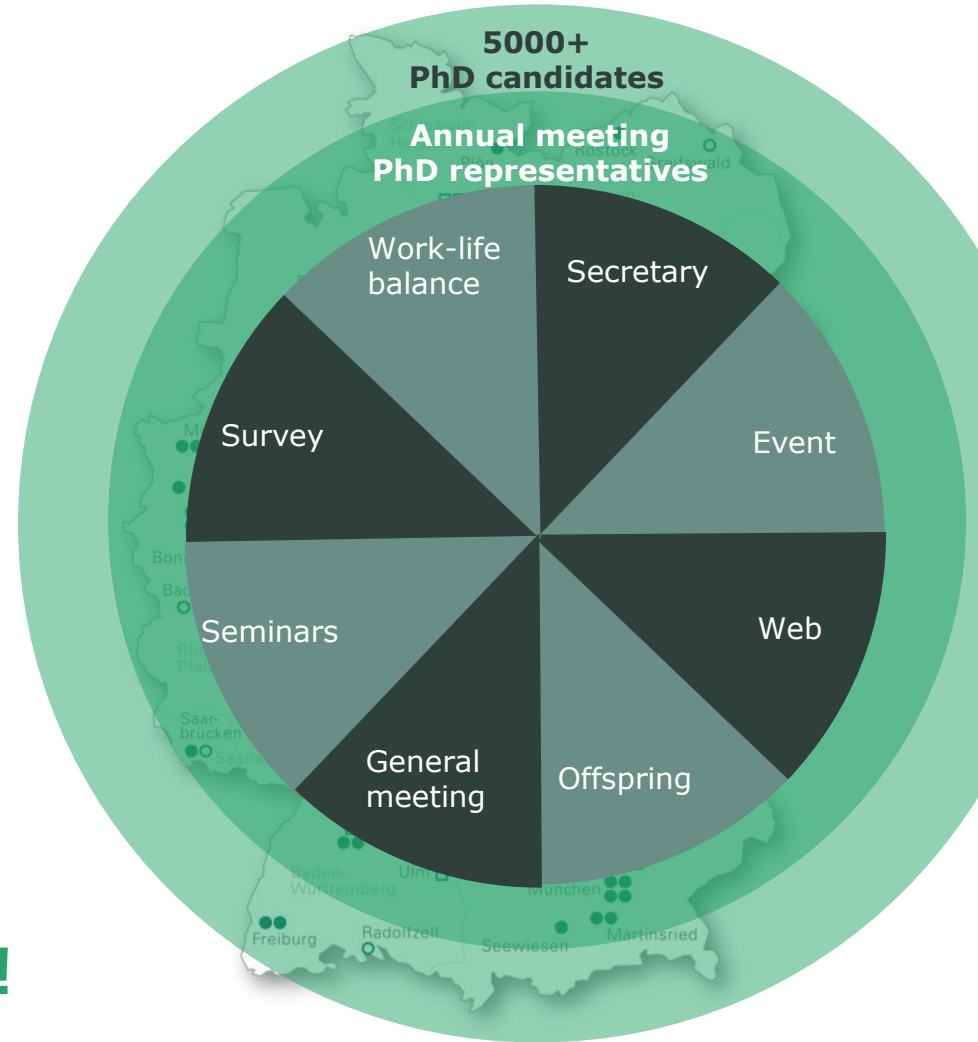
# PhDnet structures

- All PhD candidates within the MPS
- Annual Meeting of PhD representatives



# PhDnet structures

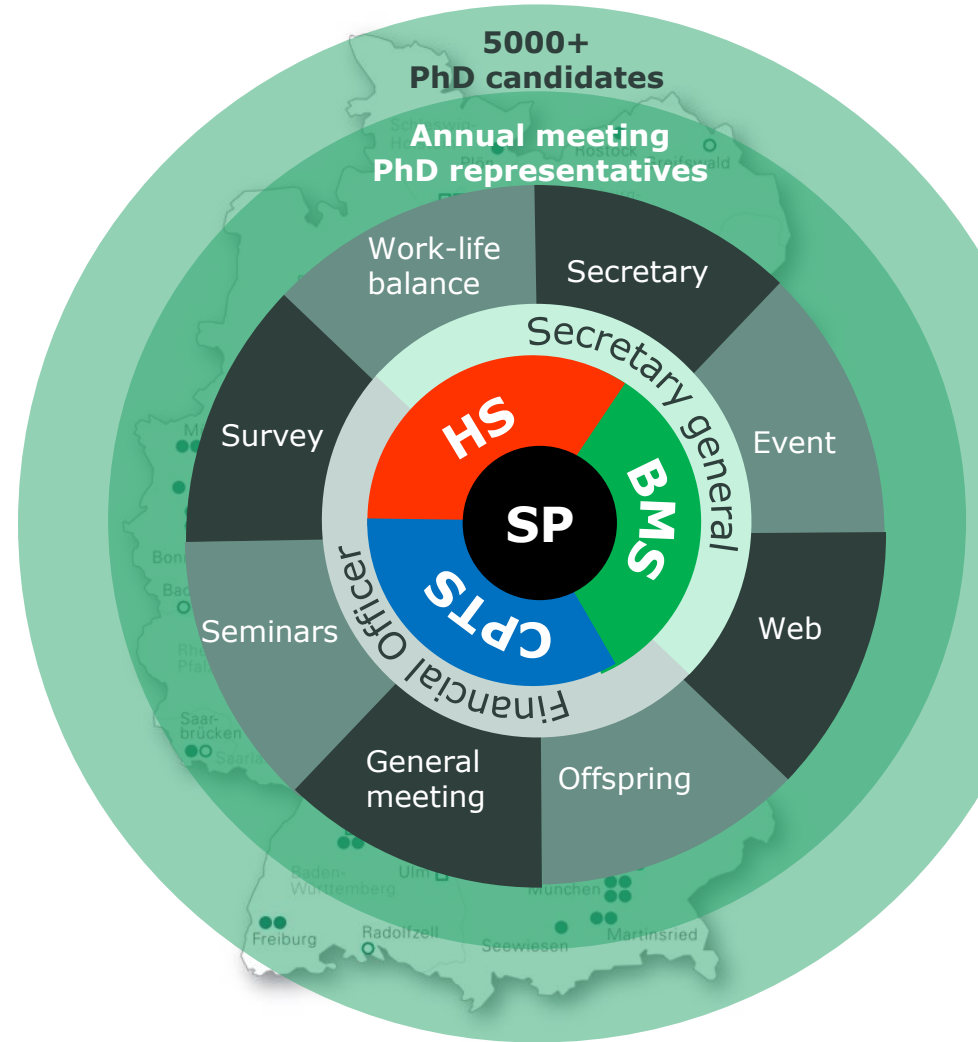
- All PhD candidates within the MPS
- Annual Meeting of PhD representatives
- Working groups



**Get involved!**

# PhDnet structures

- All PhD candidates within the MPS
- Annual Meeting of PhD representatives
- Working groups
  - Steering group



# PhD steering group 2013



PhDnet spokesperson:

**Felix Pithan**, MPI f. Meteorology, Hamburg

Section Representative Chemistry, Physics and Technology:

**Andrea Scacioc**, MPI f. Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen

Financial Officer:

**Natascha Hasenkamp**, MPI f. Evolutionary Biology, Plön

Section Representative Humanities:

**Julian Pritsch**, MPI f. Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg

General Secretary:

**Jeff Hodgson**, MPI f. Radio Astronomy, Bonn

Section Representative Biology and Medicine:

**Zainab Beiruti**, MPI f. Marine Microbiology, Bremen

# PhD steering group 2014



PhDnet spokesperson:

**Andreea Scacioc**, MPI f. Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen

Section Representative Humanities:

**Ana Carolina Alfinito Vieira**, MPI f. the study of societies, Cologne

Section Representative Chemistry, Physics and Technology:

**Clemens Buss**, MPI f. dynamics and self-organization, Göttingen

Section Representative Biology and Medicine:

**Prateek Mahalwar**, MPI f. developmental biology, Tübingen

Financial Officer:

**Jan Grieb**, MPI f. extraterrestrial physics, Garching

General Secretary:

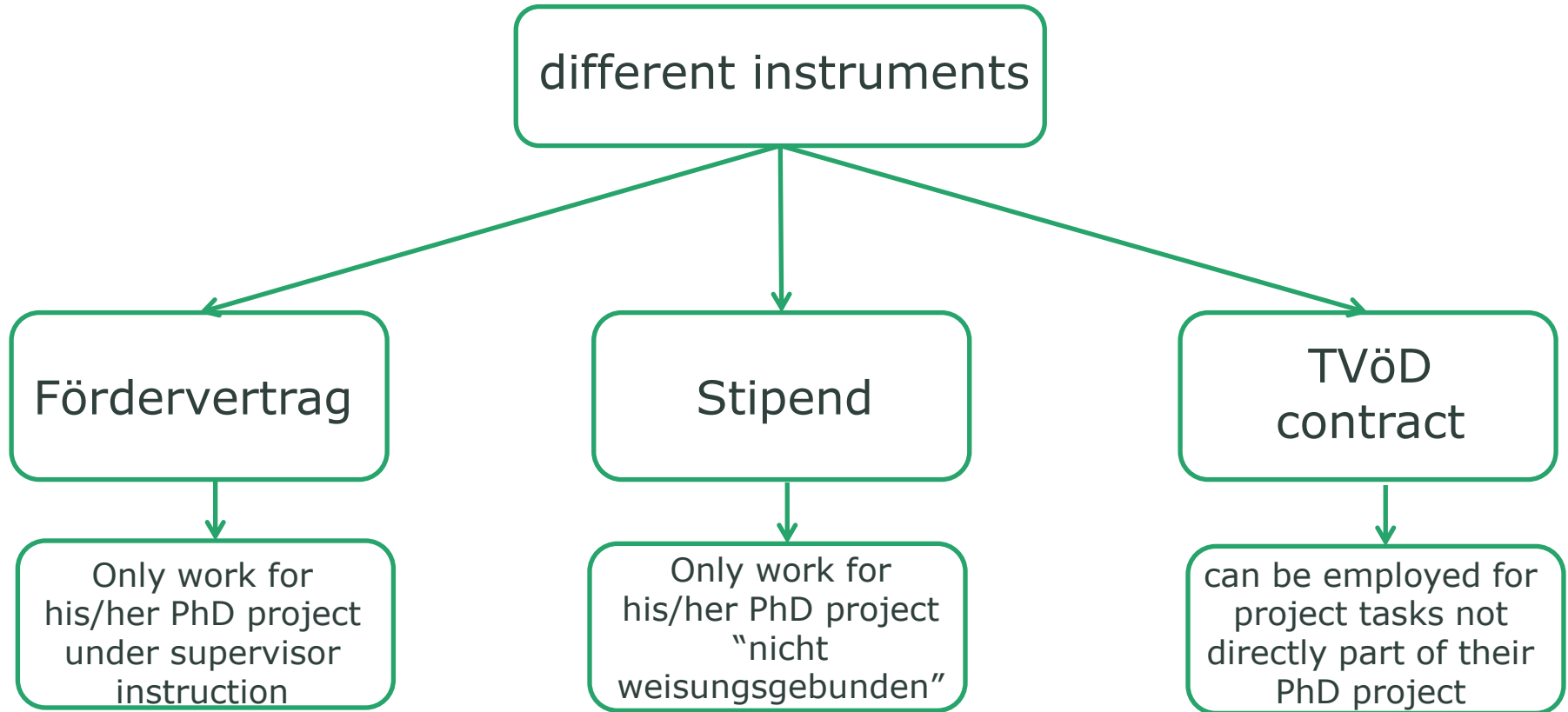
**Friederike Wrobel**, MPI f. solid state research, Stuttgart

Payment of doctoral candidates in Max-Planck-Society

# STIPENDS VS. CONTRACTS



# Methods of payment



- 1440 Förderverträge/ 2264 Stipends (2012 Personalstatistik)
- 85% of doctoral candidates would choose a contract (2012 PhDnet survey)

# Methods of payment

different instruments

Fördervertrag

Stipend

TVöD  
contract

- TVöD is not designed for PhD candidates in the MPS  
focus on Fördervertrag and stipend
- in both cases, focus should be exclusively on the  
PhD research project
- differences in rights and obligations



# Comparison: Rights

	Fördervertrag	Stipend
<b>Status</b>	employment contract	subsistence money
<b>Payment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•taxable &amp; contribution to social insurance</li> <li>•mostly EG 13/2 TVöD</li> <li>•monthly revocable bonus of up to 100 % of EG 13 TVöD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•untaxed &amp; no social insurance</li> <li>•basic stipend = € 1365</li> <li>•part-time possible</li> <li>•monthly recruitment bonus of up to € 200</li> </ul>
<b>Vacation</b>	20 working days	recovery break after 1 year
<b>Duration</b>	up to 3 years	up to 3 years
<b>Extension</b>	2 x 6 month	2 x 6 month

\*Note: external stipend holders e.g. DAAD, DFG, Boehringer-Ingelheim Stiftung are considered guests at the institute



# Comparison: Obligations

	Fördervertrag	Stipend
Obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• instruction-dependent</li> <li>• fixed working hours</li> <li>• involvement in operational procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independent</li> <li>• no fixed working hours</li> <li>• no comprehensive involvement in operational processes</li> <li>• regular participation in meetings can be required</li> </ul>

\*Note: external stipend holders e.g. DAAD, DFG, Boehringer-Ingelheim Stiftung are considered guests at the institute



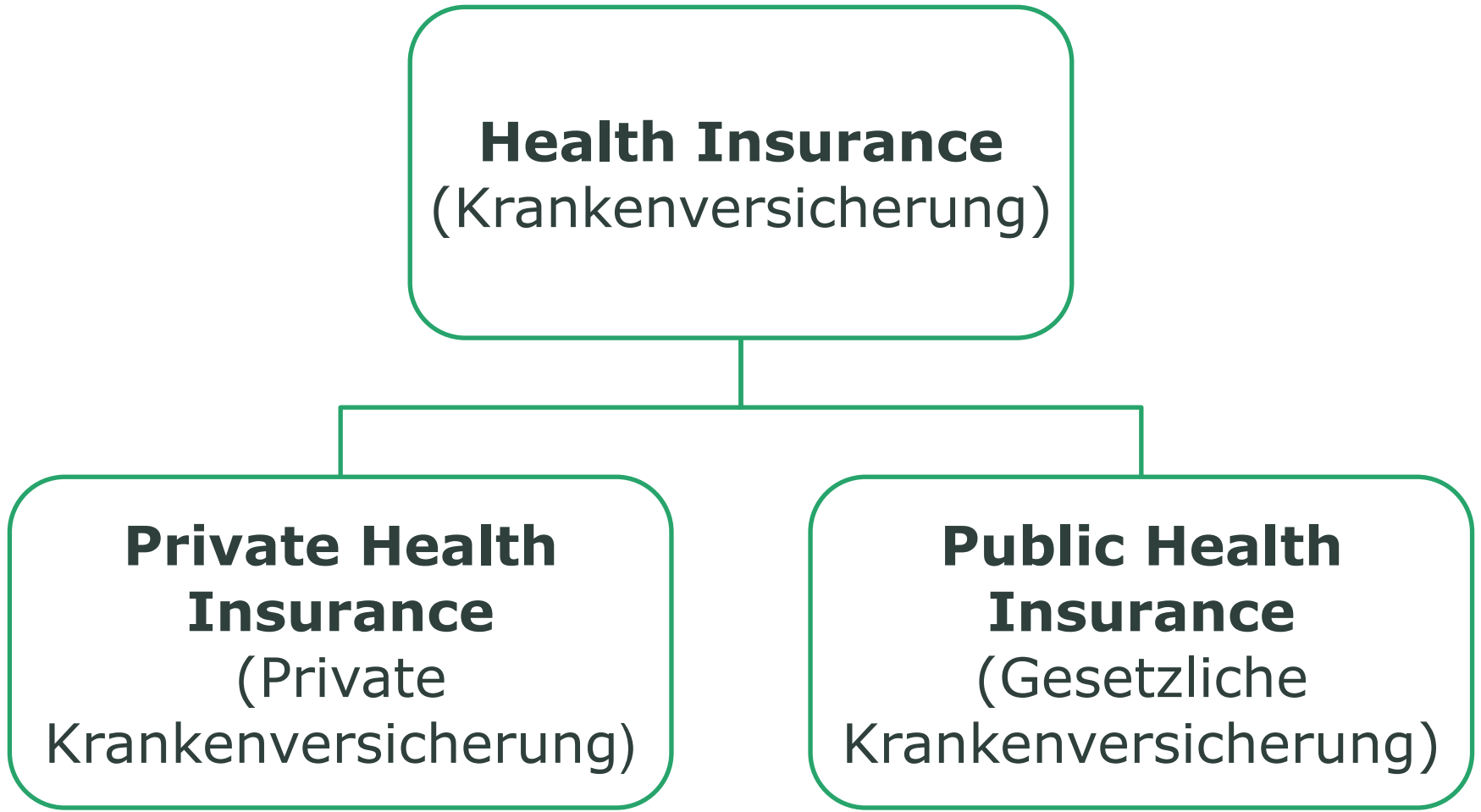
Social coverage

# HEALTH INSURANCE AND CO.



- Insurances
  - Health insurances

# Types of health insurances



# Statutory vs. private health insurance

## Statutory health insurance (Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung)

- Easily offered to contract holders.
- Not easily offered to stipend holders. When offered, they are expensive (~€270/month). **We have a subsidy for this**
- International stipend holders can be covered through AOK Bayern and Siemens Betriebskrankenkasse.
- Complete coverage\*
- It is not easy to switch from the private to the public health insurance.

\*complete coverage - pre-existing conditions, pregnancy, child care and vaccines, regular check-ups, and a better coverage for the dental insurance.

## Private health insurance (Private Krankenversicherung)

- Divided into two types:
  - Cheap travel health insurances in a price range of € 30-70/month e.g. Mawista Science, Europa
  - The expensive ones which are equivalent to the statutory ones e.g. Mawista HALLESCHE
- The travel health insurances do not offer complete coverage\*.
- The travel health insurances can be easily signed into.



# Health insurance subsidy

- Since the beginning of 2012, the MPG had offered the health insurance subsidy of € 100 for the stipend holders.
- The subsidy\* means:  
270 € (the monthly payment for the insurance) –  
100 € ( the subsidy) = 170 € (your new monthly payment)

It seems expensive but **it's worth it**. Think complete coverage.

\*not possible for external stipend holders e.g. DFG, Boehringer-Ingelheim Stiftung



# Other important insurances

Highest priority in insurance coverage in Germany are **health**, **liability** and **accident** insurances.

		Contract	Stipend	
accident	statutory accident insurance	YES	NO	
	Group accident insurance (Gruppen-Unfallversicherung)	YES	YES	
	Radiation accident insurance (Strahlen-Unfallversicherung)	upon registration	upon registration	
	Collective accident insurance Sammel-Unfallversicherung	top up	YES	€
liability	Group liability insurance (Gruppen-Haftpflichtversicherung)	YES	NO	
	Company car liability insurance (Dienstwagen-Haftpflichtversicherung)	if required	if required	€

→ you have to be **proactive**

→ always ask your **local administration for details**



# Other social benefits

	Contract	Stipend
Pension insurance (Rentenversicherung)	YES	NO
Unemployment insurance (Arbeitslosengeld)	YES	NO
Pflegeversicherung	YES	NO
Child allowance	YES	A monthly sum of 400 € is paid for the first child and 100 € for each subsequent child*
Family element	parental leave possible	Scholarship extension to up to 1 year or childcare costs („money instead of time“) *

\*not possible for external stipend holders e.g. DFG, Boehringer-Ingelheim Stiftung



- Insurances
  - Social security

# Social security in general

## EU Charter for Researchers:

“[...] adequate and equitable **social security provisions** (including sickness and parental benefits, pension rights and unemployment benefits) in accordance with **existing national legislation** and with **national or sectoral collective bargaining agreements**. This must include researchers at all career stages [...]”

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/europeanCharter>



- Insurances
- Social security

# Social security comparison

	Fördervertrag	TVöD	Stipend
<b>Vacation</b>	20 working days	29 working days	Recovery break of 30 working days after first year
<b>Health insurance</b>	YES	YES	Health insurance subsidy
<b>Pension Unemployment benefits Pflegeversicherung</b>	YES	YES +VBL	NO
<b>Accident insurance liability insurance</b>	YES	YES	Partial
<b>Parental leave Child allowance</b>	YES	YES	Family element Child allowance
<b>Notice for termination</b>	YES	YES	NO

\*Note: external stipend holders e.g. DAAD, DFG, Boehringer-Ingelheim Stiftung are considered guests at the institute

International doctoral candidates

# VISA & RESIDENCE



# Residence in Germany

- As soon as you move in a German town, even German and EU citizens, you have to register at the **Residents' Registration Office** (Einwohnermeldeamt) for getting the Confirmation of Registration (Meldebestätigung).
- If you come from a non-EU country, you have to visit the **Foreigners' Registration Office** (Ausländerbehörde).

[http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Zuwanderungsrecht\\_node.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Zuwanderungsrecht_node.html)  
[https://www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/info\\_entry\\_and\\_residence.pdf](https://www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/info_entry_and_residence.pdf)



# Tips for Ausländerbehörde

- Call for an appointment three months in advance of your contract expiry date
- Ask beforehand what you need to bring with you
- Get the form you need to fill in there beforehand and fill it in with a German speaking friend

Supervision and support of PhD candidates in the Max-Planck-Society

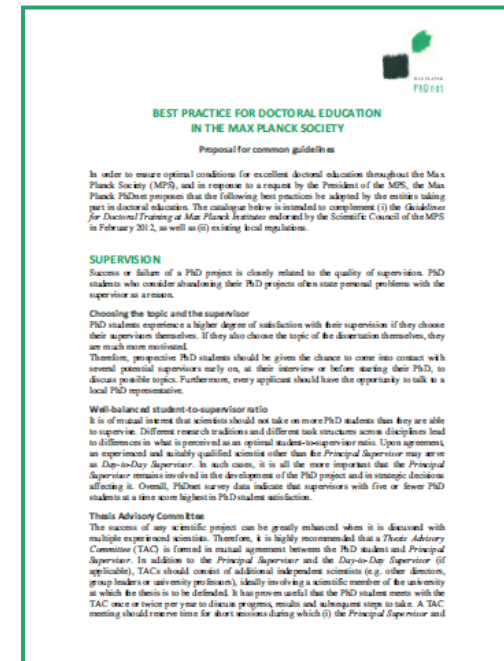
# BEST PRACTICE GUIDE



# The content of the BPG

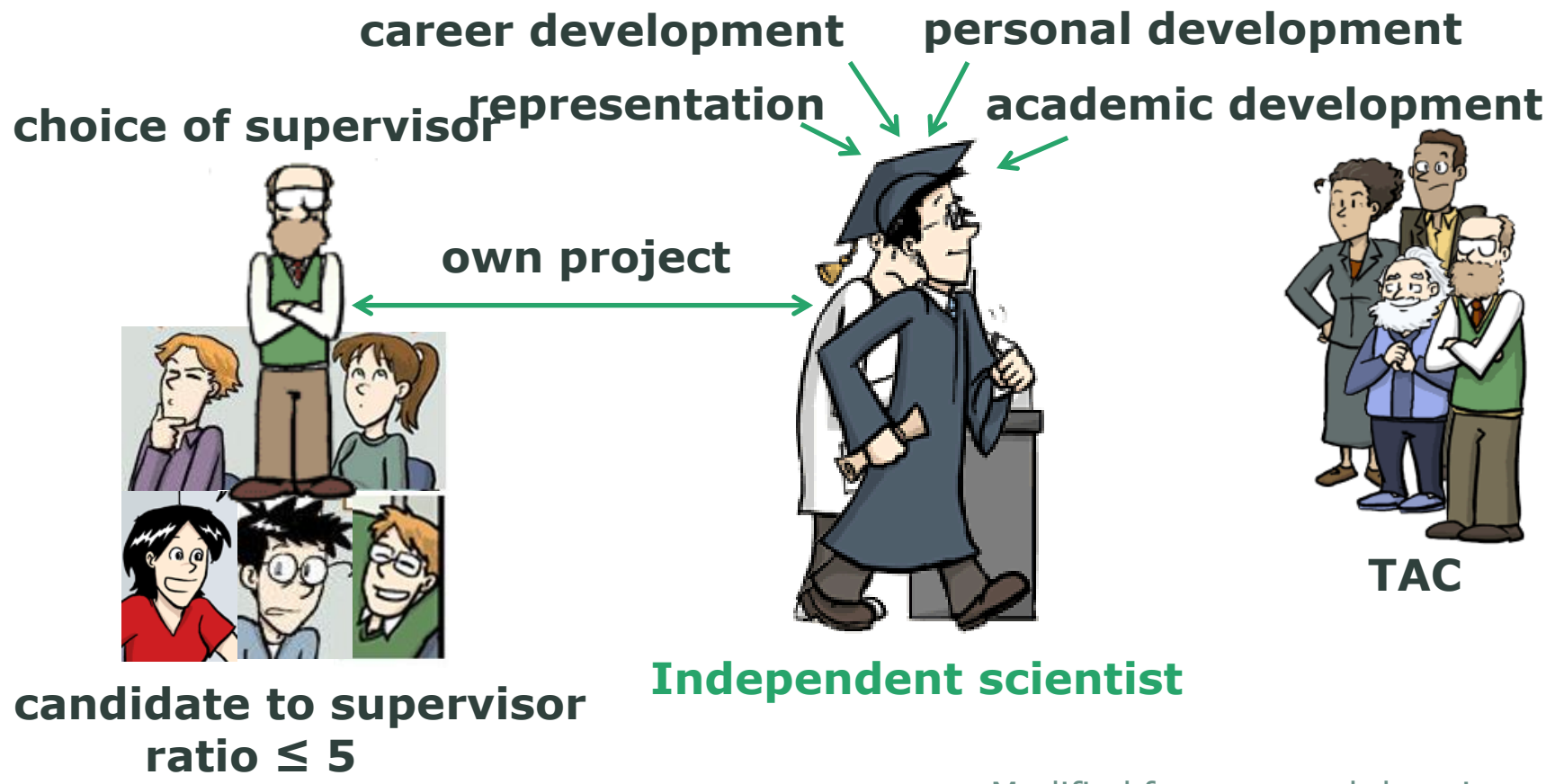
## Best practice guide (BPG) for doctoral education in the Max-Planck-Society:

- supervision
- support
- work and family life
- administrative aspects



- Supervision & Support
- Best practice guide in Max-Planck-Society

# BPG on supervision & support



Modified from [www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)  
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Take home message:

**CONCLUSIONS**



# Final remarks

- Be pro-active
- Ask your local administration for special rules and arrangements
- We are always ready to hear your questions
- **Adjust your insurance coverage to your specific needs!**

Let's keep in touch:

# CONTACT OPTIONS



- Let's keep in touch
- Contact options

# Contact within PhDnet

- Email the steering committee

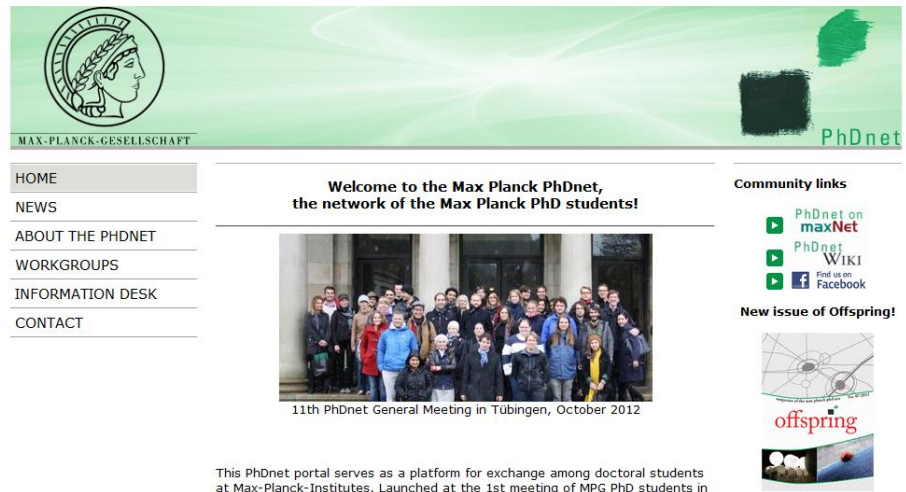
[spokesperson@phdnet.de](mailto:spokesperson@phdnet.de)

- Webpage

[www.phdnet.mpg.de](http://www.phdnet.mpg.de)

- Monthly newsletter

<https://listserv.gwdg.de/mailman/listinfo/mpg-phdnet>



The screenshot shows the Max Planck Phdnet website. At the top left is the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft logo. Below it is a navigation menu with links: HOME, NEWS, ABOUT THE PHDNET, WORKGROUPS, INFORMATION DESK, and CONTACT. The main content area features a welcome message: "Welcome to the Max Planck Phdnet, the network of the Max Planck PhD students!". Below this is a group photo of students at the 11th Phdnet General Meeting in Tübingen, October 2012. To the right of the photo is a "Community links" section with icons for "PhDnet on maxNet", "PhDnet WIKI", and "Find us on Facebook". Below the community links is a "New issue of Offspring!" section with a small image of the Offspring newsletter cover.

MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft

HOME  
NEWS  
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Welcome to the Max Planck Phdnet,  
the network of the Max Planck PhD students!

11th Phdnet General Meeting in Tübingen, October 2012

Community links

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PhDnet WIKI  
Find us on Facebook

New issue of Offspring!

This Phdnet portal serves as a platform for exchange among doctoral students at Max-Planck-Institutes. Launched at the 1st meeting of MPG PhD students in

# Thank you for your attention!

