



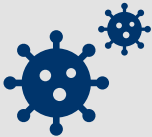
The BfR in brief:  
**FACTS & FIGURES**

## LOCATIONS



## 9 DEPARTMENTS

- ▶ Administration
- ▶ Risk Communication
- ▶ Exposure
- ▶ Biological Safety
- ▶ Food Safety
- ▶ Pesticides Safety
- ▶ Chemical and Product Safety
- ▶ Safety in the Food Chain
- ▶ Experimental Toxicology and ZEBET



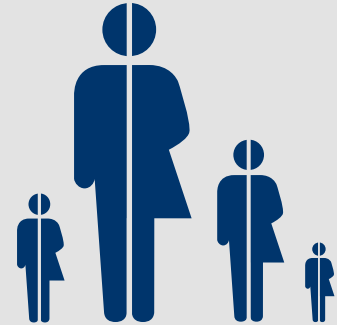
**MOST CLICKED:**  
*FAQ: Can the new type of coronavirus be transmitted via food and objects?*



**5,748,294**  
VISITS TO THE BfR WEBSITE

## EMPLOYEES

**1,151**



## BUDGET



**approximately**  
**119 million euros**

## OPINIONS



**635,678**



**MOST CLICKED:**  
*Health risks from e-cigarette flavourings: Research is needed (No. 43/2021)*

## THIRD-PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS



**121**

## PRESS RELEASES



**50**

## EVENTS



**91**

2021

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

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

# About the BfR

Dear Readers



Even in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BfR strongly focused on its primary task “identifying risks – protecting health”.

As a known authority for consumer health protection in Germany – this was the result of the 5th BfR stakeholder and population survey published in 2021 – the BfR is also highly connected at the international level. In addition to participating in a large number of bodies, the institute now collaborates with almost 60 partner institutions across all continents and advises on developing official risk assessment structures, as is currently the case in Tunisia, for example.

The “BfR in brief” format offers you a quick overview of facts and figures for the reporting year 2021. Are you curious about the projects and publications behind the figures? More detailed information is available on the BfR website. And if you are interested in the BfR's core research areas and contents in 2021, you can read about them in our science magazine BfR2GO.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read '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.

## Science in the service of humanity

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 cooperations

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.

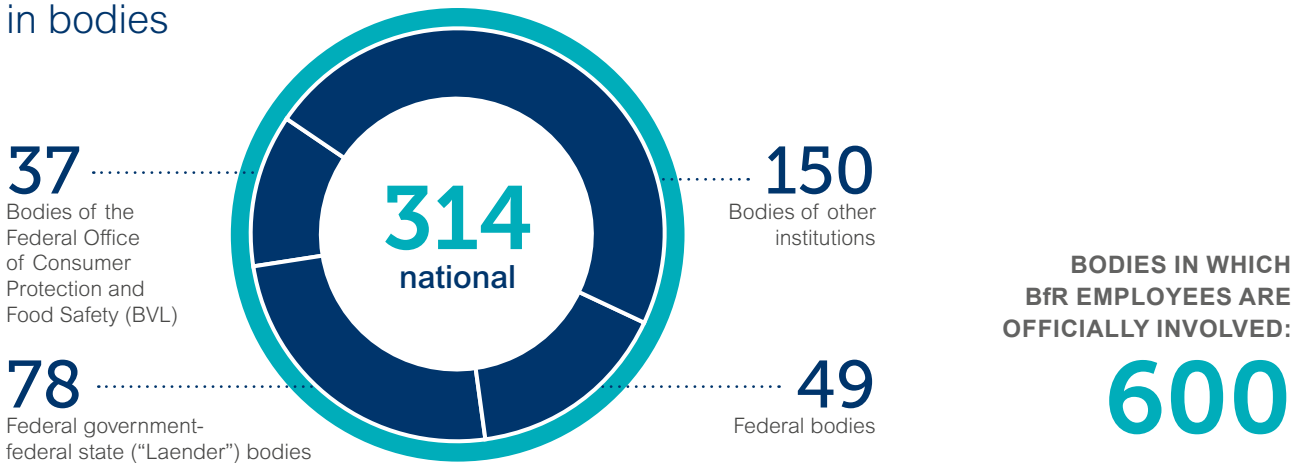
## Alternatives to animal experiments

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 ...

Bodies of the European Commission	59
Bodies of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)	47
Bodies of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)	33
Bodies of other European organisations	51

## 96 Worldwide ...

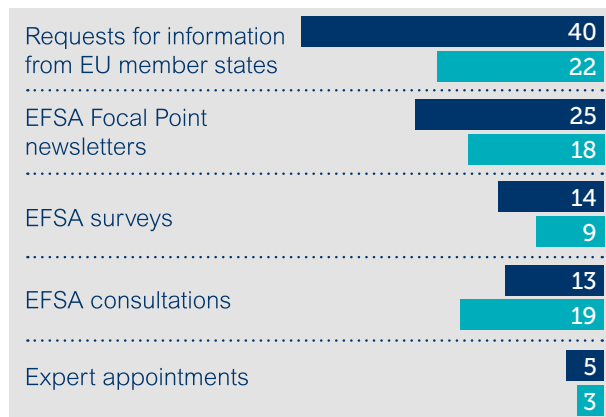
WHO/FAO: Bodies of Codex Alimentarius	17
WHO/FAO: Other bodies	1
Bodies of other United Nations specialised agencies	13
OECD bodies	46
Other bodies involved in global standardisation activities	19

[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > The Institute > Cooperations

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 nearly 60 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 2021 (■) and 2020 (■)



## International cooperations



<sup>1</sup> EU 27, EU Candidate Countries, EFTA Member States, Russia

## 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 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Risk Assessment Symposium (LARAS)

**Time period:** October 2021

**Project partner:** Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality (ACHIPIA)

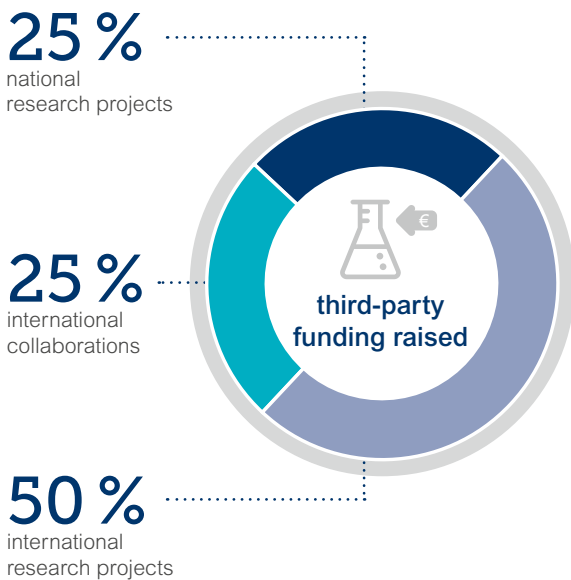
**Objective:** Strengthening risk analysis as an official approach to food safety

[www.achipia.gob.cl/laras2021/](http://www.achipia.gob.cl/laras2021/)

# 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>1,703</b>	<b>47</b>
Federal government	1,457	
DFG	216	
Other	30	
<b>international research projects</b>	<b>3,383</b>	<b>64</b>
EU	2,685	
EFSA	688	
Other	10	
<b>international collaborations (EU, EFSA, BMZ etc.)</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,740</b>	<b>121</b>

THIRD-PARTY FUNDING IN 2021 AMOUNTED TO  
**6,7 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	534
Administrative staff	246
Technical assistants	138
PhD candidates	57
Animals carers	24
Apprentices/trainees	20
Other (e.g. librarians, laboratory assistants, etc.)	132

A TOTAL OF  
**1,151 employees**

## 107

NEW APPOINTMENTS PER YEAR,  
OF WHICH 5 ARE TRAINEES

### Training professions

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

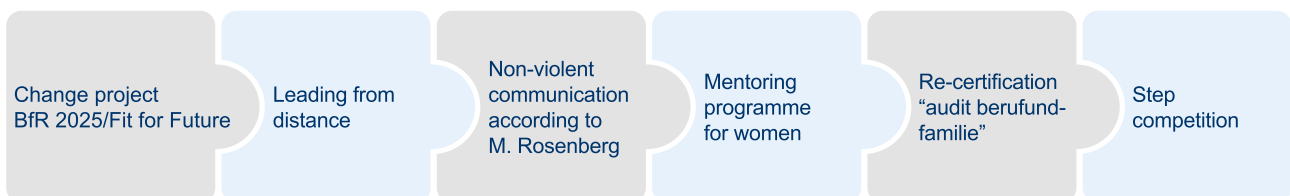
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > Job advertisements  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > The Institute > Working at the BfR

### Trade fair appearances

**Sticks & Stones** DIGITAL,  
EUROPE'S LARGEST LGBT + JOB FAIR

**herCAREER** MUNICH,  
LEADING EXPO FOR FEMALE GRADUATES,  
WOMEN IN SPECIALIST AND EXECUTIVE  
POSITIONS AND FEMALE FOUNDERS

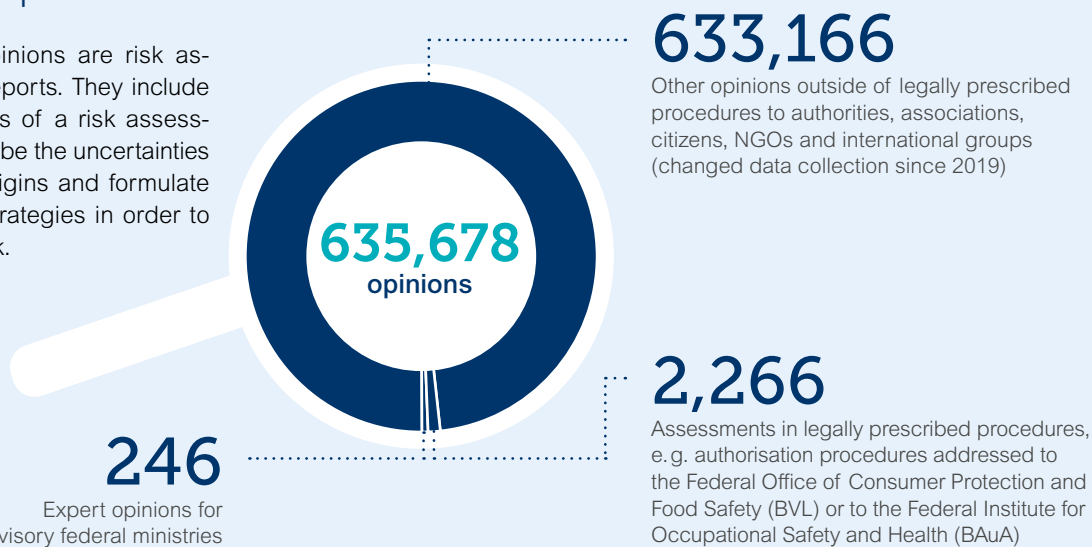
### Focus on staff development



# Publications

## Expert opinions

The BfR opinions are risk assessment reports. They include the elements of a risk assessment, describe the uncertainties and their origins and formulate aims and strategies in order to minimise risk.



### KEY OPINIONS PUBLISHED IN 2021

Health risks from e-cigarette flavourings: Research is needed (No. 43/2021)

Re-evaluation of titanium dioxide: BfR draws similar conclusions as the European Food Safety Authority (No. 38/2021)

Curcumin in food supplements: Acceptable daily intake may be exceeded (No. 40/2021)

## Publications

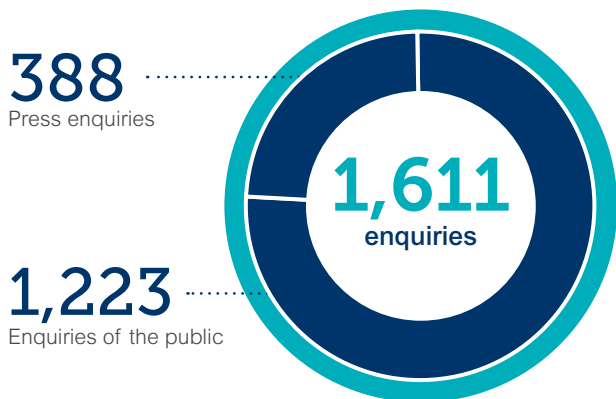
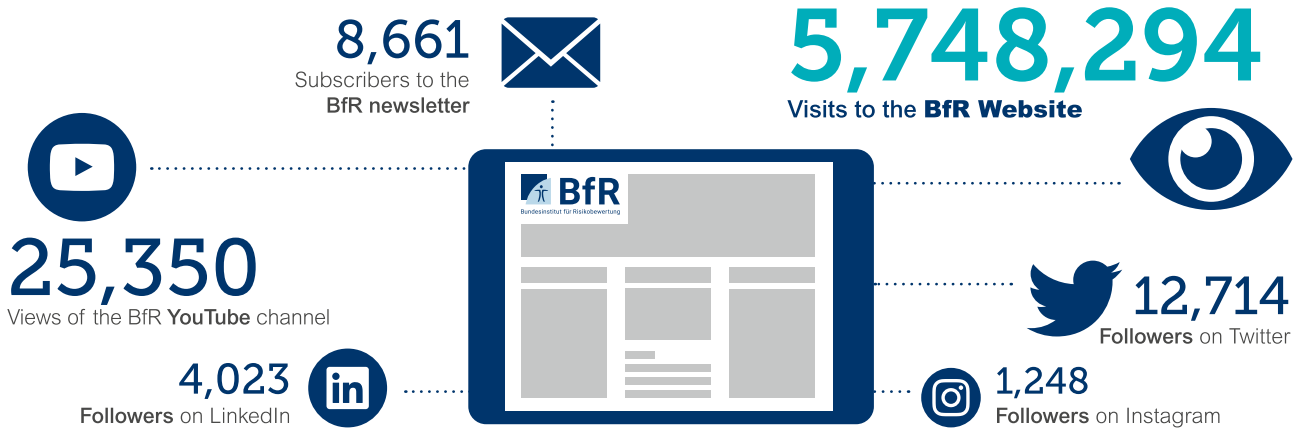
	Number
Contributions to compilations	14
<b>Journal publications</b>	<b>269</b>
Contributions to conference proceedings	123
Poster contributions	133
Presentations (including conference speakers)	712
Dissertations/postdoctoral papers/ master theses/diploma theses/ bachelor theses	27
Reports/EFSA	5

### KEY PUBLICATIONS IN 2021

- ▶ Herzler, M. et al. 2021. **The “EU chemicals strategy for sustainability” questions regulatory toxicology as we know it: is it all rooted in sound scientific evidence?** *Archives of Toxicology* 95(7): 2589–2601.
- ▶ Hackethal, C. et al. 2021. **Total arsenic and water-soluble arsenic species in foods of the first German total diet study (BfR MEAL Study).** *Food Chemistry* 346: 128913.
- ▶ Lemoine, L. et al. 2021. **Commensal-related changes in the epidermal barrier function lead to alterations in the benzo[a]pyrene metabolite profile and its distribution in 3D skin.** *mBio* 12(5): e0122321.3.

**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)

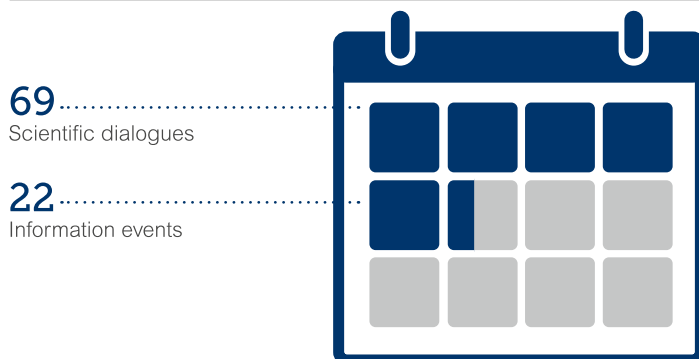
# Public relations



The BfR received **388 enquiries** from TV, print/online media, news agencies as well as from radio, among others on ...

Tattoos	25
COVID-19 <sup>1</sup>	23
Foodborne infections	21
Plant protection products/Glyphosate	19
Food supplements	15

<sup>1</sup> Concerning foods, consumer products/surfaces, disinfectants

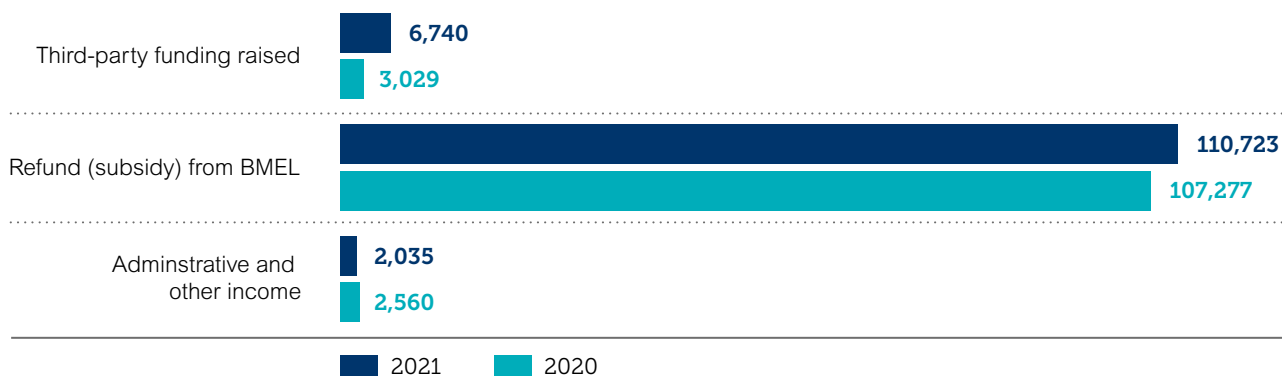


**91**  
events were organised by the BfR.

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

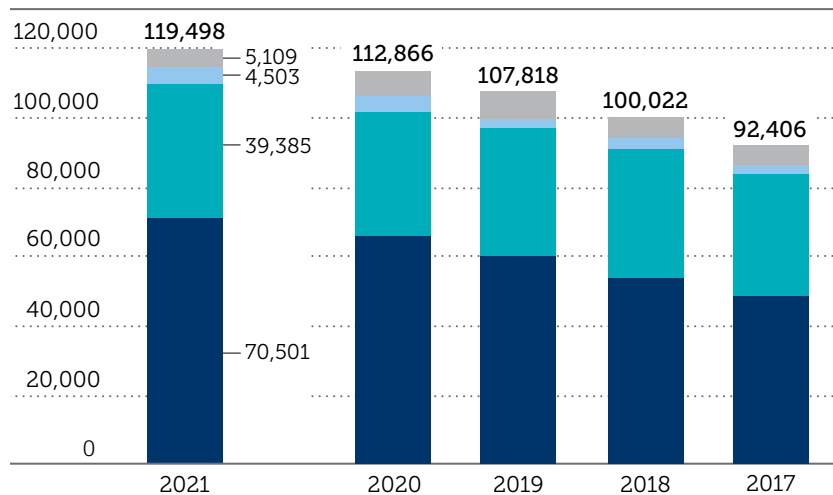
# Budget

## Income (in thousands of euros)



IN 2021, THE BfR SPENT APPROXIMATELY **119 million euros.**

## Expenditure (in thousands of euros)



### Selected expenditure

Scientific collections and libraries	618,043 €
Initial and further training	420,024 €
Public relations work, publishing and documentation	1,505,050 €
Conferences, trade fairs, exhibitions	190,483 €

# 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 the research 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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