

status 2022

The Volkswagen Foundation in
figures



VolkswagenStiftung

Who we are and what we do

status 2022 – Annual report of the Volkswagen Foundation



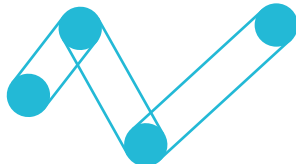
The Foundation

The Volkswagen Foundation is the largest private research funding organization and one of the largest foundations in Germany in terms of foundation capital. Its purpose is to support the humanities, social sciences and natural, life and technical sciences in research and higher education. It was founded by the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Lower Saxony as an in-dependent charitable foundation under private law. The Volkswagen Foundation, which is based in Hanover, is not affiliated to the Volkswagen automobile manufacturer.



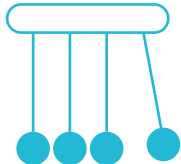
Capital and funding

At present, the Foundation’s capital amounts to approx. 3.4 bn. euros. The resources available for funding are generated from asset investment and allocated mainly in the area of “General Funding”. Added to this are profit entitlements from 30.2 m Volkswagen trust shares held by the Federal State of Lower Saxony (mainly dividends). These funds are awarded to research institutions in Lower Saxony, in close cooperation with the state government (see “zukunft.niedersachsen”). In 2022 the funding volume in this area amounted to 237.3 m euros. Since the Foundation started its activities in 1962 funding totalling 280 bn. euros was approved.



Strategy

Three profile areas structure the funding portfolio: 1. Exploration, 2. Societal transformations, 3. Understanding Research – Evaluation and Science Practice. There is also a focus on the cross-sectional area Science in Society.



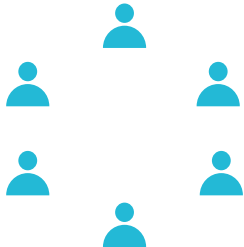
Funding concept

- The Foundation has developed four guidelines for its funding practices.
1. Providing impetus: The Foundation aims to play a pioneering role by supporting highly innovative pilot projects.
 2. Taking risks: It creates experimental spaces for upcoming top researchers.
 3. Crossing borders: Transnational, inter- and transdisciplinary projects characterize its funding activities.
 4. Shaping structures: The Foundation aims at generating sustainable effects. These are systematically analyzed in order to benefit from lessons learned and subsequently shared with others.



Investing in sustainability

The Foundation’s investment policy has been taking sustainability aspects into account since 2011. The entire equities and bonds portfolio is analyzed on an ongoing basis to determine whether ESG criteria are being observed, i.e., whether investments are, among other things, purposefully geared towards considerations of sustainability. The challenge for the Foundation with its investment strategy is to achieve the highest possible degree of sustainability – without jeopardizing the mission set out in the Articles of Association to invest its assets as profitably as possible.



Organization

Currently, the Volkswagen Foundation employs about 100 people, mainly in the three departments of Funding, Investment, Finance and Administration. Four staff units report directly to the Secretary General Dr. Georg Schütte, who heads the Foundation. The Board of Trustees comprises 14 personalities belonging to the scientific community and other areas of society. It usually meets three times a year to decide on strategy issues and funding applications.



“zukunft.niedersachsen”

The Foundation and the state government jointly support research and higher education in Lower Saxony with a specific funding program. The goal of “zukunft.niedersachsen” is to make the science location tangibly more visible in national and international competition. The focus is on quality-assured selection processes and the ongoing identification of cutting-edge research fields. Currently, three focal points are being specifically promoted: Digitality, Transformation and Research Excellence. “zukunft.niedersachsen” replaces the predecessor program „Niedersächsisches Vorab“ as of 2023.

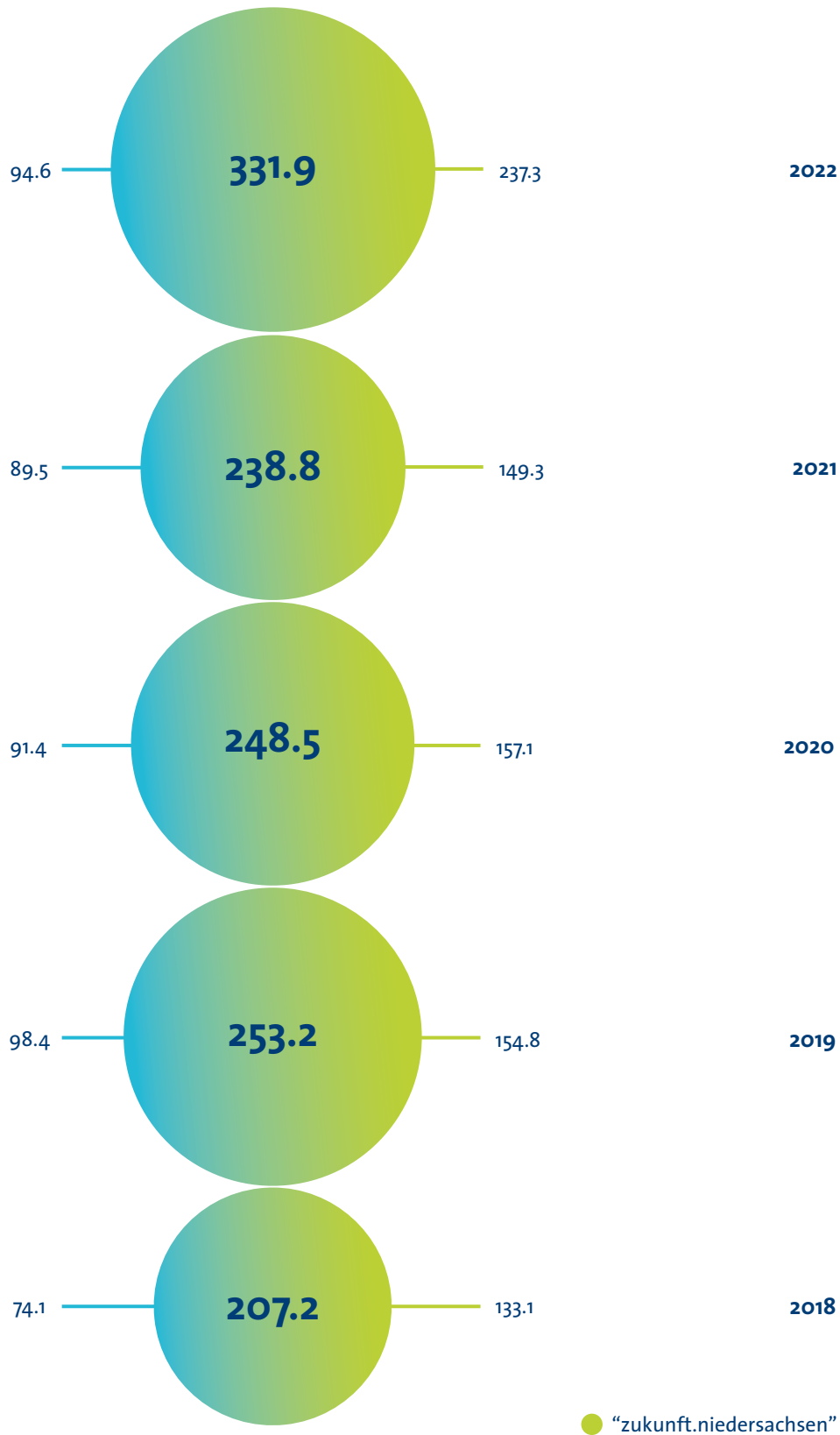
1962

History

The Foundation owes its existence and its name to an agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the state of Lower Saxony concluded in 1961: the “Volkswagenwerk GmbH” was converted into a stock corporation, thus settling the dispute over the unresolved ownership situation. The proceeds from this privatization were used to establish the Foundation, which began its work in Hanover in 1962. It is an independent private, non-profit foundation under private law – and not a corporate foundation..

Grants

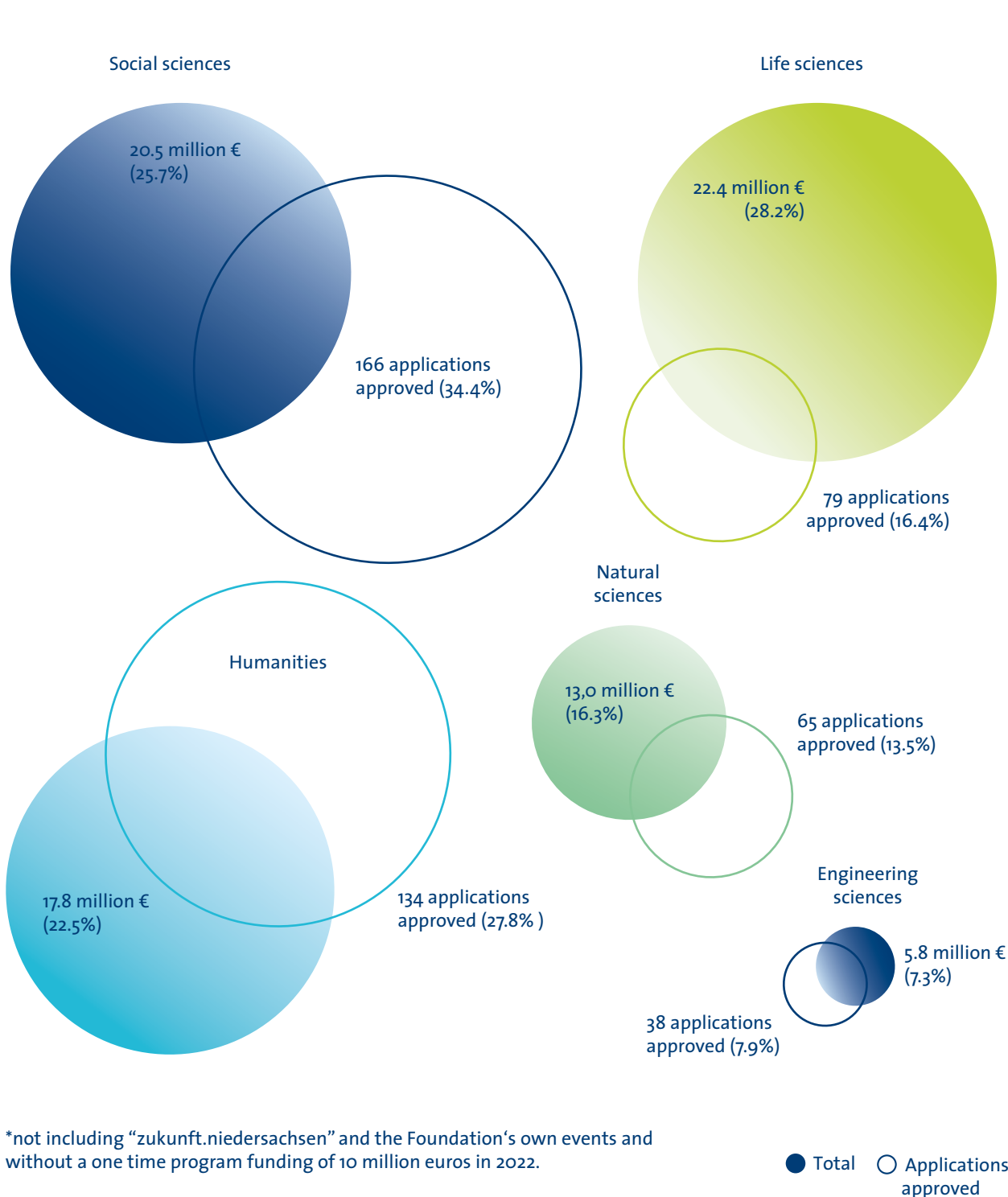
Grants awarded from 2018 to 2022 in millions €



Appropriation of Funds*

Grants in the area of general funding (482 in total), broken down by scientific discipline, number of grants and funding amount, and in each case (as a percentage) the share of grants and total funding amount.

In 2022, there were 300 grants in the humanities and social sciences and 182 grants in the life, natural, and technical sciences.



*not including "zukunft.niedersachsen" and the Foundation's own events and without a one time program funding of 10 million euros in 2022.

● General Funding

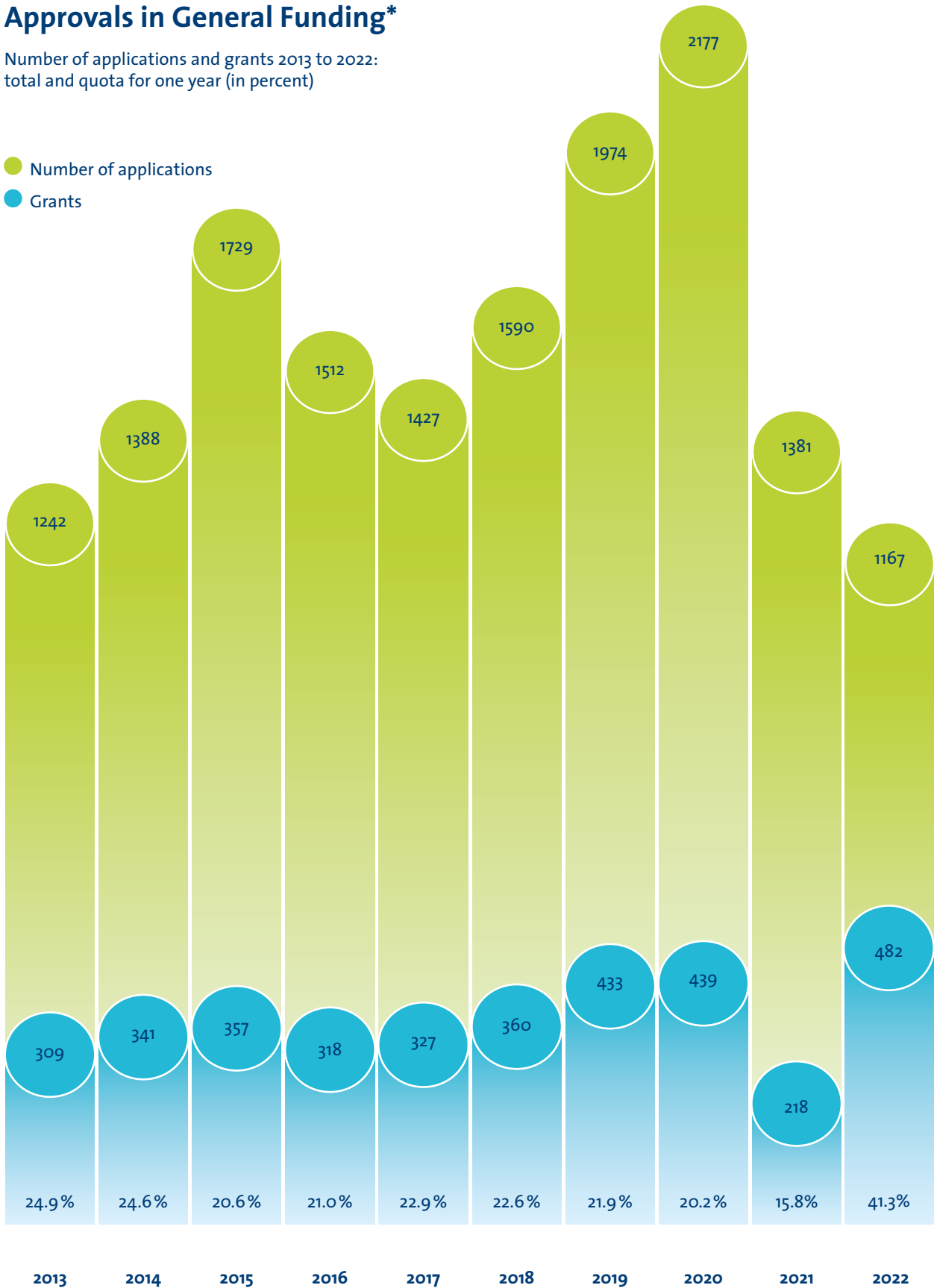
● "zukunft.niedersachsen"

● Total ○ Applications approved

Approvals in General Funding*

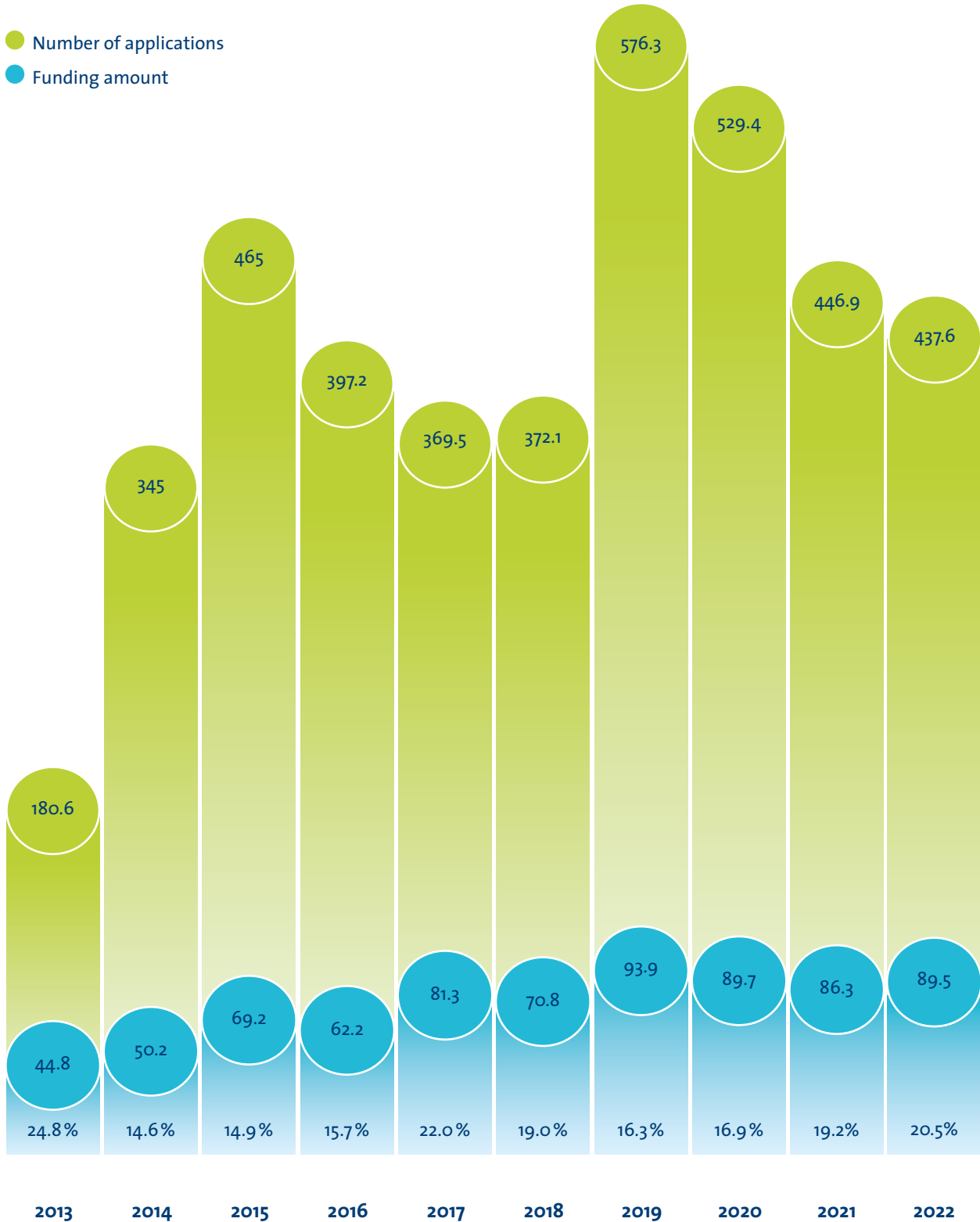
Number of applications and grants 2013 to 2022: total and quota for one year (in percent)

- Number of applications
- Grants



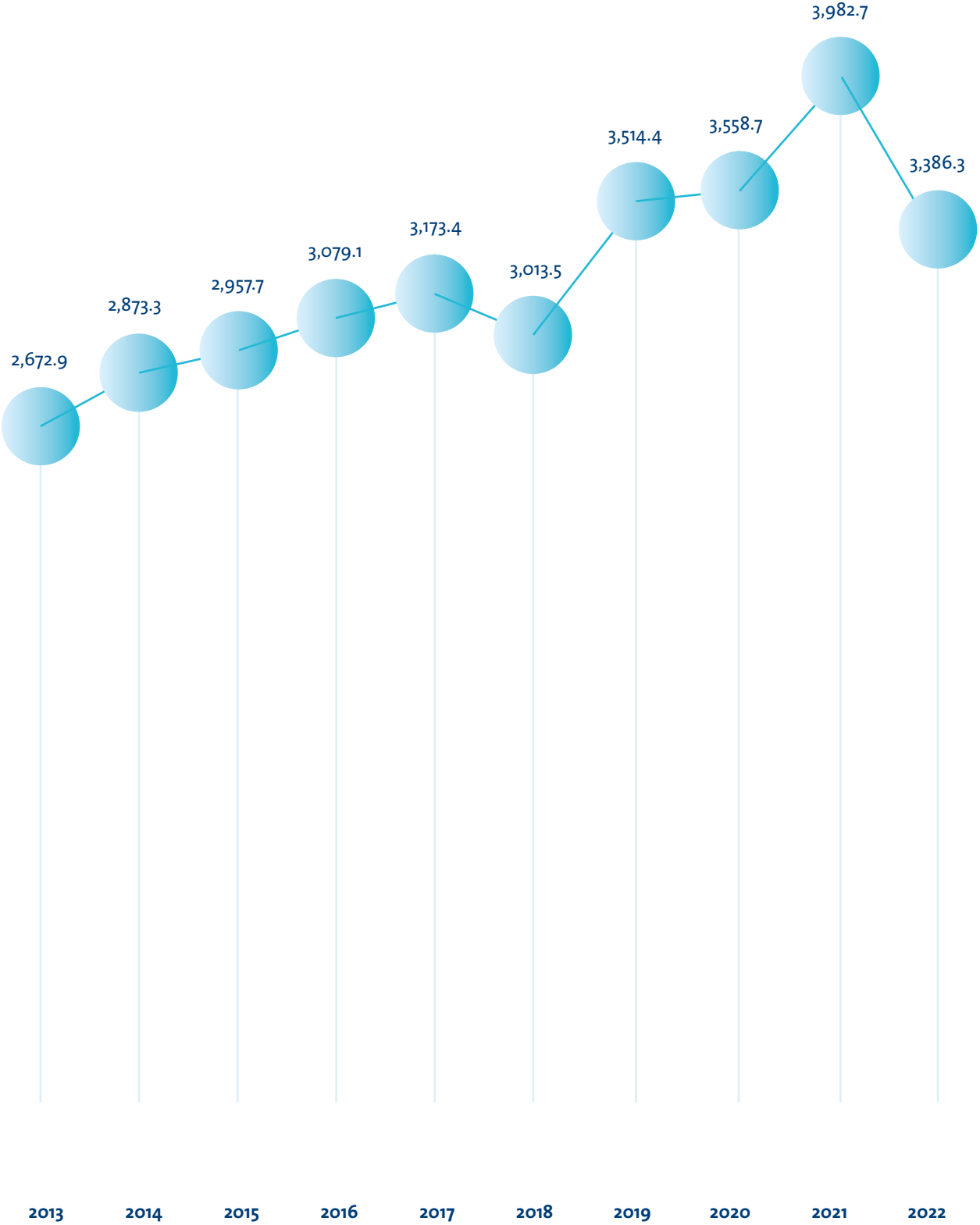
Applications and approval amounts in € millions 2013 to 2022: total and quota for one year (in percent)

- Number of applications
- Funding amount

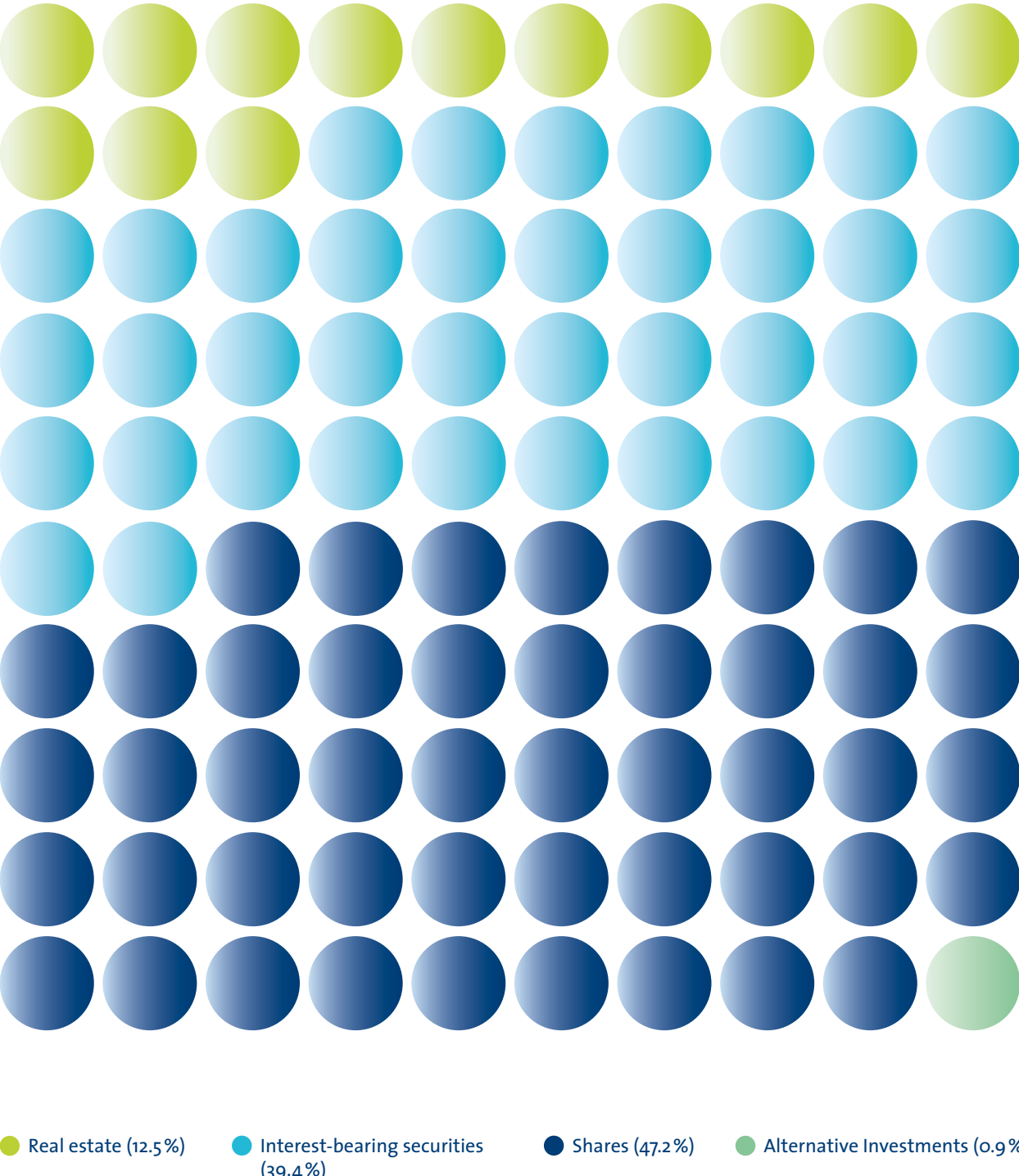


*not including "zukunft.niedersachsen" and without the Foundation's own events

Development of Foundation's Assets in € Millions



Asset Classes in Asset Management



Statement of Income and Appropriation of Funds in € Thousands

	2022	2021
Income from asset management	404,202	307,927
Expenses in asset management	52,251	8,068
Surplus from asset management	351,951	299,859
Grants for funding purposes	252	0
Administrative expenses	19,673	15,974
Annual yield	332,530	283,885
Expenses for the fulfillment of the Foundation's purpose	321,218	226,253
Net income	11,312	57,632
Appropriations carried forward from the previous year	61,288	51,783
Transfer to voluntary reserves: (-) / withdrawal (+)	-4,338	-41,127
● Appropriations carried forward to the following year	68,262	68,288

Audit

The auditing firm BDO AG, Hanover, audited the annual financial statements of the Volkswagen Foundation for 2022 and issued an unqualified audit opinion.

Balance in € Thousands

Aktiva	2022	2021
A. <u>Claims</u> pursuant to § 4 (1b) of the Articles of Association against the State of Lower Saxony	76,694	76,694
B. <u>Fixed assets</u>		
I. Intangible assets	1,260	1,447
II. Fixed assets	1,623	1,830
III. Financial assets	3,425,442	3,313,872
C. <u>Current assets</u>		
I. Receivables and other assets	18,058	16,856
II. Securities	47,368	48,956
III. Cash and cash equivalents	21,623	7,802
D. Deferred income	261	259
● Balance sheet total assets	3,592,329	3,467,716
Liabilities	2022	2021
A. <u>Equity</u>		
I. Foundation capital	1,324,707	1,324,707
II. Transfer to voluntary reserves: (-) / withdrawal (+)	1,385,935	1,381,598
III. Appropriations carried forward from the previous year	68,262	61,288
	2,778,904	2,767,593
B. Project reserve pursuant to 62 (1) No. 1 AO	2,267	1,815
C. Provisions	47,488	41,642
D. Liabilities	763,670	656,666
● Balance sheet total liabilities and shareholders' equity	3,592,329	3,467,716

