

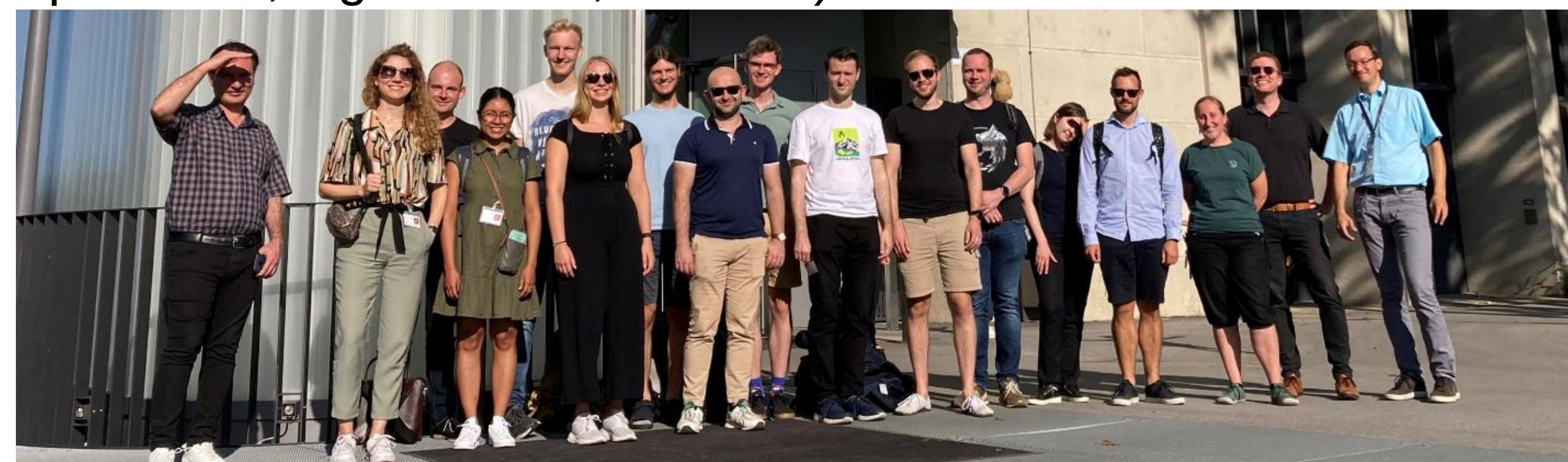
Motivation and Objectives

The IRTG provides a structured and comprehensive framework for the development and further scientific qualification of the CRC's early-career researchers.

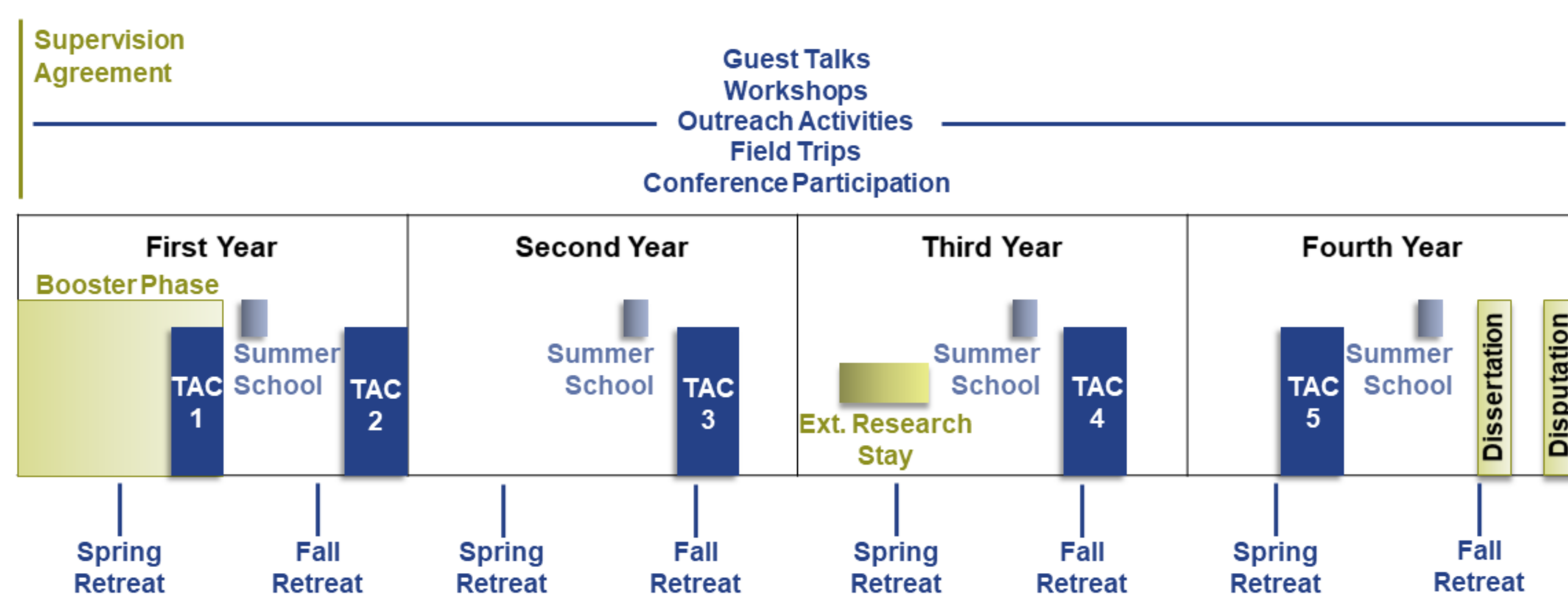
- Promotion of scientific independence
- Support during all phases of the doctorate and early postdoctoral phase
- Building networks within the CRC and beyond

Members and Numbers

- **Second funding period: 44 IRTG members** (12 female and 32 male; seven international)
- **Completion of 12 doctorates**, four more are in the final stages
- **Currently (March 2024): 27 members** (25 doctoral researchers and two postdocs; eight female, 19 male)



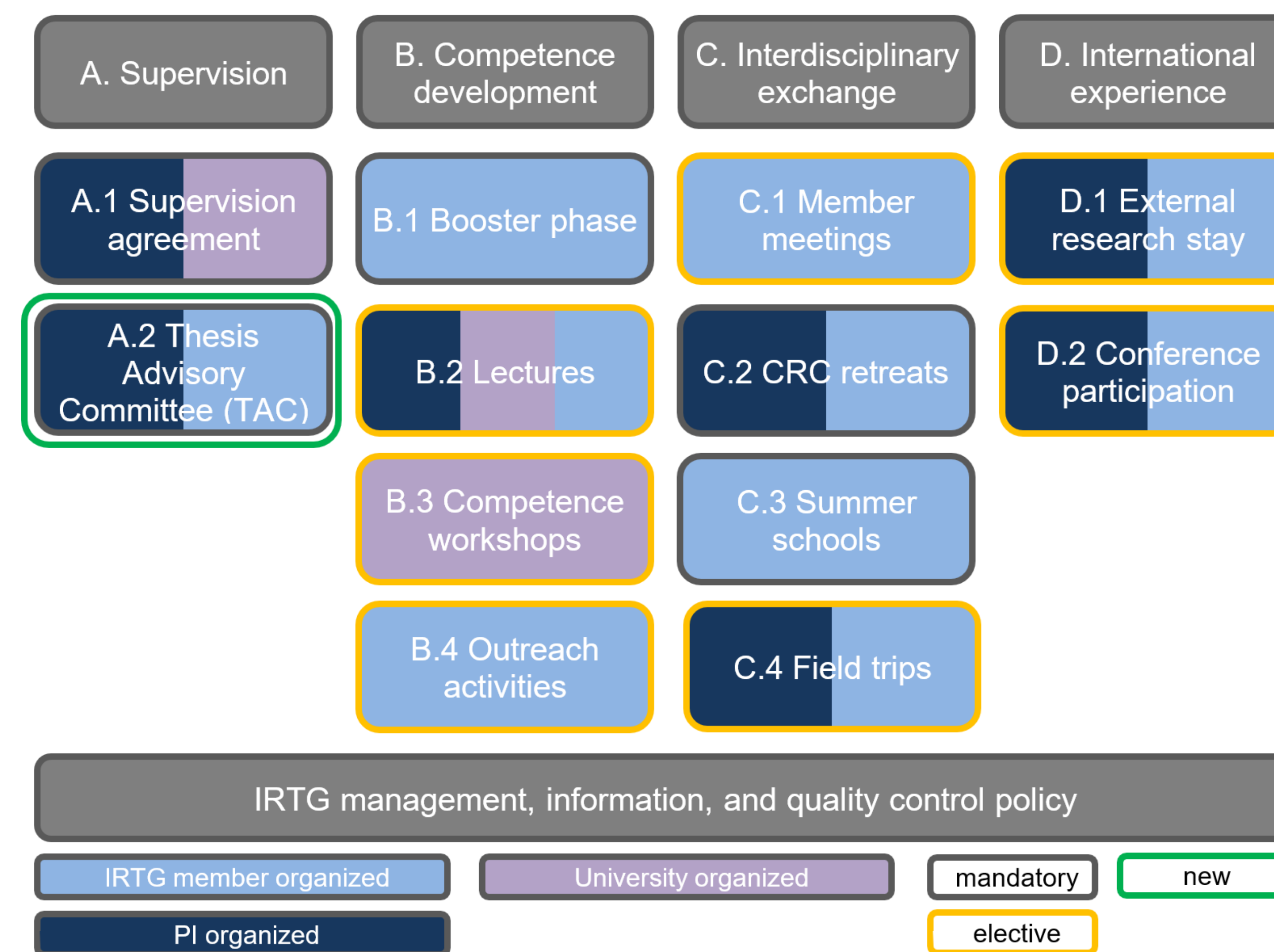
Exemplary Timeline



International Experience



Elements of the IRTG



A. Supervision

- **Supervision Agreement:** defines the rights and responsibilities of the doctoral researchers and supervisors
- **Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC):** meetings of the doctoral researcher with the two supervisors and one external expert; continuous discourse on the thesis projects
 - individual advising and mentoring of the doctoral researchers
 - focused research discussions and academic writing experience
 - feedback for preparation of dissertation and disputation

B. Competence Development

- **Booster Phase** (first 6 months): introduction of new members into the IRTG and CRC, includes e. g. lab tours, mentoring, introductory courses
- **Lectures:** monthly colloquium talks by invited guests on a large variety of CRC-related topics
- **Competence Workshops:** wide range of technical, soft-skill, and cross-curricular workshops, offered by various institutions of Kiel University as well as organized especially for our IRTG members
- **Outreach Activities:** exhibitions and fairs in cooperation with SOP, CRC podcast

C. Interdisciplinary Exchange

- **Member Meetings:** biweekly; peer-to-peer learning in informal atmosphere
- **CRC Retreats:** biyearly; two to three days, all CRC members → current state of all projects, discussions, cooperations
- **Summer Schools:** yearly; talks, workshops, team-building activities
- **Field Trips** to other research institutions

D. International Experience

- **External research stay:** four to twelve weeks duration, IRTG members do research at international universities/institutions
- **Conference Participation:** presentation of research findings at conferences, symposia, and external summer schools

Highlights of the Second Funding Period



Plans for the Third Funding Period

Through the bottom-up approach of the IRTG, its program will **continue to evolve** in order to fulfill the current requirements of its members. This is ensured at different levels:

- Suggestions for new measures from IRTG members
- Representation of the early-career researchers on the IRTG Board
- Regular evaluations in cooperation with the Scientific Outreach Project

Examples of specific new measures:

- Workshop on creating illustrations for publications
- Focus on fostering diversity: seminar on inclusive engineering

IRTG Board

The IRTG Board consists of the three principal investigators, three early-career researchers who are elected annually by the IRTG members, the IRTG manager and a representative from the Scientific Outreach Project.



Requested Funds

IRTG Manager: E14, 50 %

Direct Costs, Fellowships and Global Funds: 377 k€