



**National Policies and Programmes for the
Support of the Gifted and Talented in Austria**
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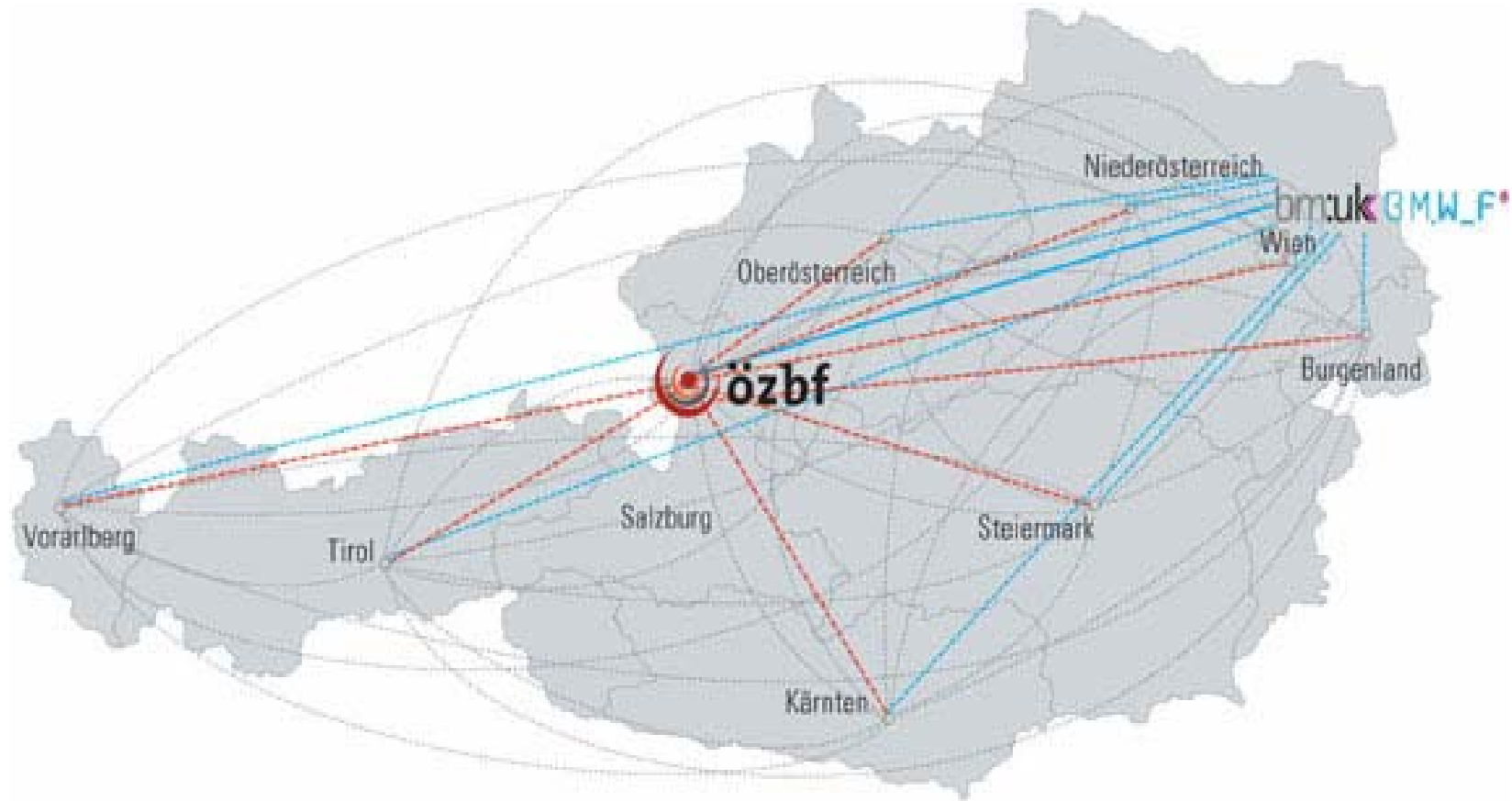


Review of GE in Austria

- 1962 **Explicit mentioning** of GE in Educational Legislation (§6)
- 1974 Opportunity of **skipping classes** (SchUG §26)
- 1986 the **first extra-curricular talent courses** in Salzburg
- 1988 **European conference** in Salzburg („*Needed the gifted*“)
- 1996 Establishment of a **unit** for GE **in the Ministry** of Education
 - nomination of coordinators in the provinces
- 1998 Establishment of a **special school** for highly gifted (Sir Karl Popper School)
- 1999 Foundation of the **özbfb**
- 2005 - Several **amendments** from the Ministry
- 2006 Decree „Better Promotion“



Austrian Networks of Talent Development



Status quo of gifted and talented support in Austria

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Provision programmes:

- Summer Academies
- Talent Courses
- Revolving Door Model
- Differentiation
- Individualized Learning
- Olympics and Contests
- Pupils attending University
- Skipping Classes
- Sir-Karl-Popper School



Status quo of gifted and talented support in Austria

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Teacher Training:

- certified training courses
- ECHA-training courses
- Professional MSc at Danube-University in Krems

Diagnostics

Counselling

Research



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Founded in 1999

financed by the - Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and
- Ministry of Science

School improvement:

- pilot projects and talent support programmes
(e.g. *ELCAD*; *Pupils attending University*)
- web-based Best Practice databank
- teaching resources pool
- brochures and guides
- school standards



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In-Service Training for teachers :

- certified training programme in GE (with e-learning modules)
- seminars and courses at Pedagog.Institutes, Universities...
- training of headmasters
- iPEGE (International Panel of Experts for Gifted Education)

Teacher education :

- development of instruction modules for Educational Universities



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Information:

- website www.begabtenzentrum.at
- journal „*news & science – Begabtenförderung und Begabungsforschung*“
- brochures and guides
- international özbF-Conferences (Nov.08)



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Training :

- KLIKK - Parent Training
- COMPASS – Children Training
- virtual parent´s school (e-learning training course for parents)

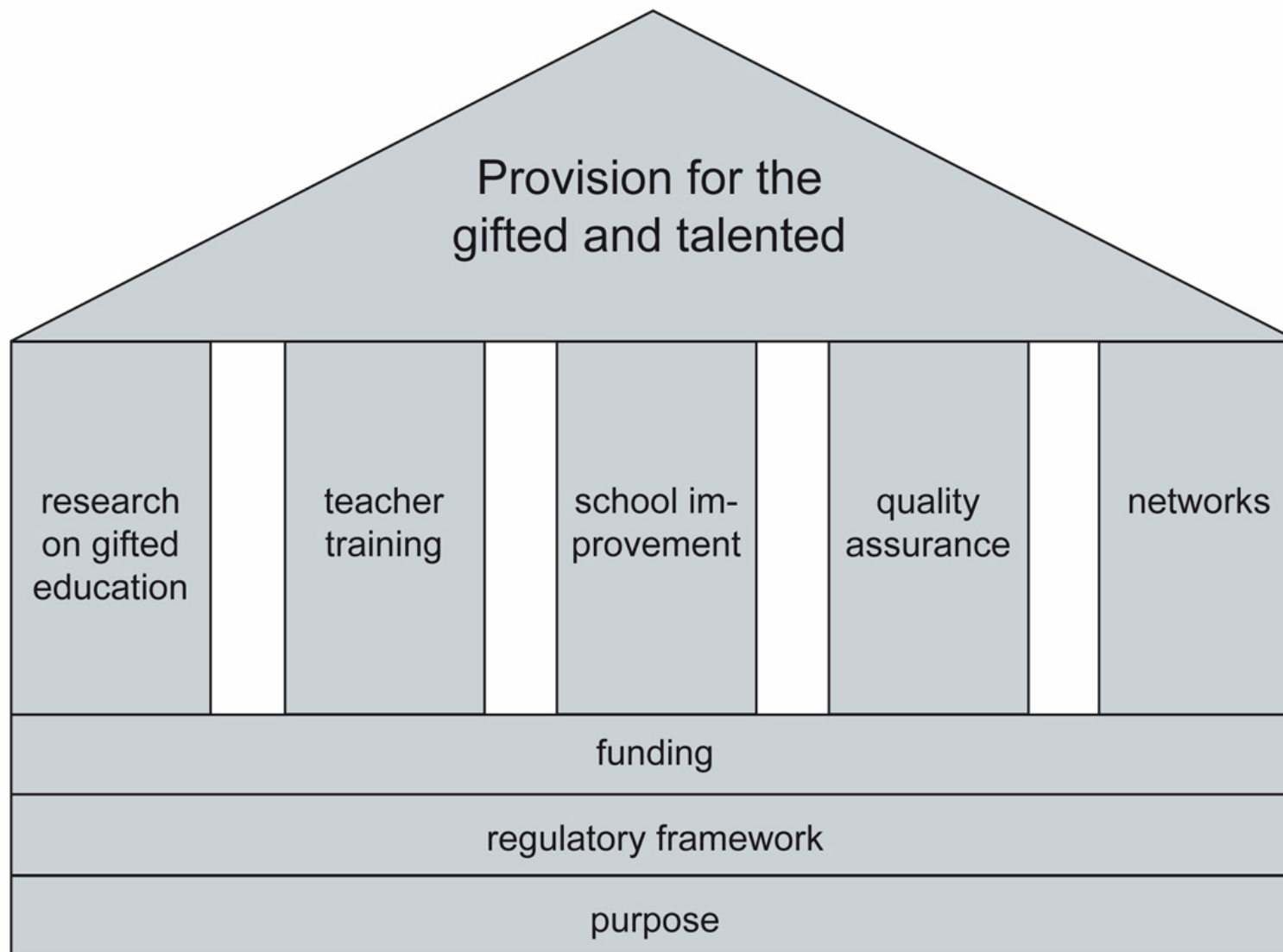
Research :

- in cooperation with scientific board and universities

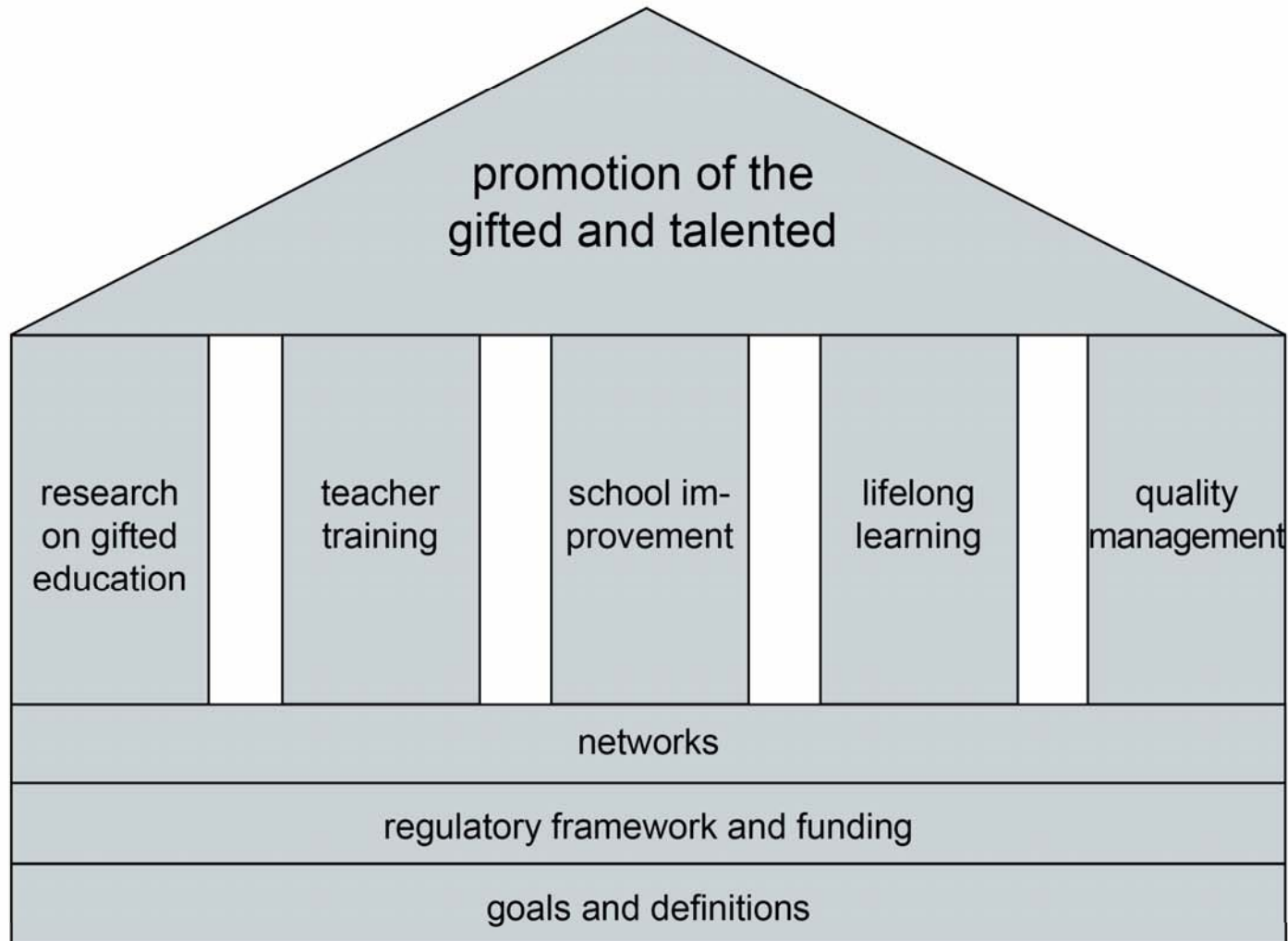
Cooperation :

- universities, ministries, specialized institutions etc.
nationally and internationally





Strategy for Gifted Education in Austria



Goals

- GE is **part of** the overall **educational system**
- GE is **part of** the overall **school concept**
- Promotion of Gifts and Talents at **each school** and for **all pupils**
- **Every teacher** is also a teacher for GT
- Combination of **curricular and extra-curricular** programmes



Legal Regulation

Examples of necessary **modifications**:

- Higher degree of **autonomy** and **flexibility**
 - Pupils:
 - choice of learning contents
 - acquired competences, instead of school year attendance
 - Teachers:
 - curricula should focus on competences – not on binding contents
 - Headmasters
 - Selection of teachers
- **Obligatory evaluation** of the provision in GE



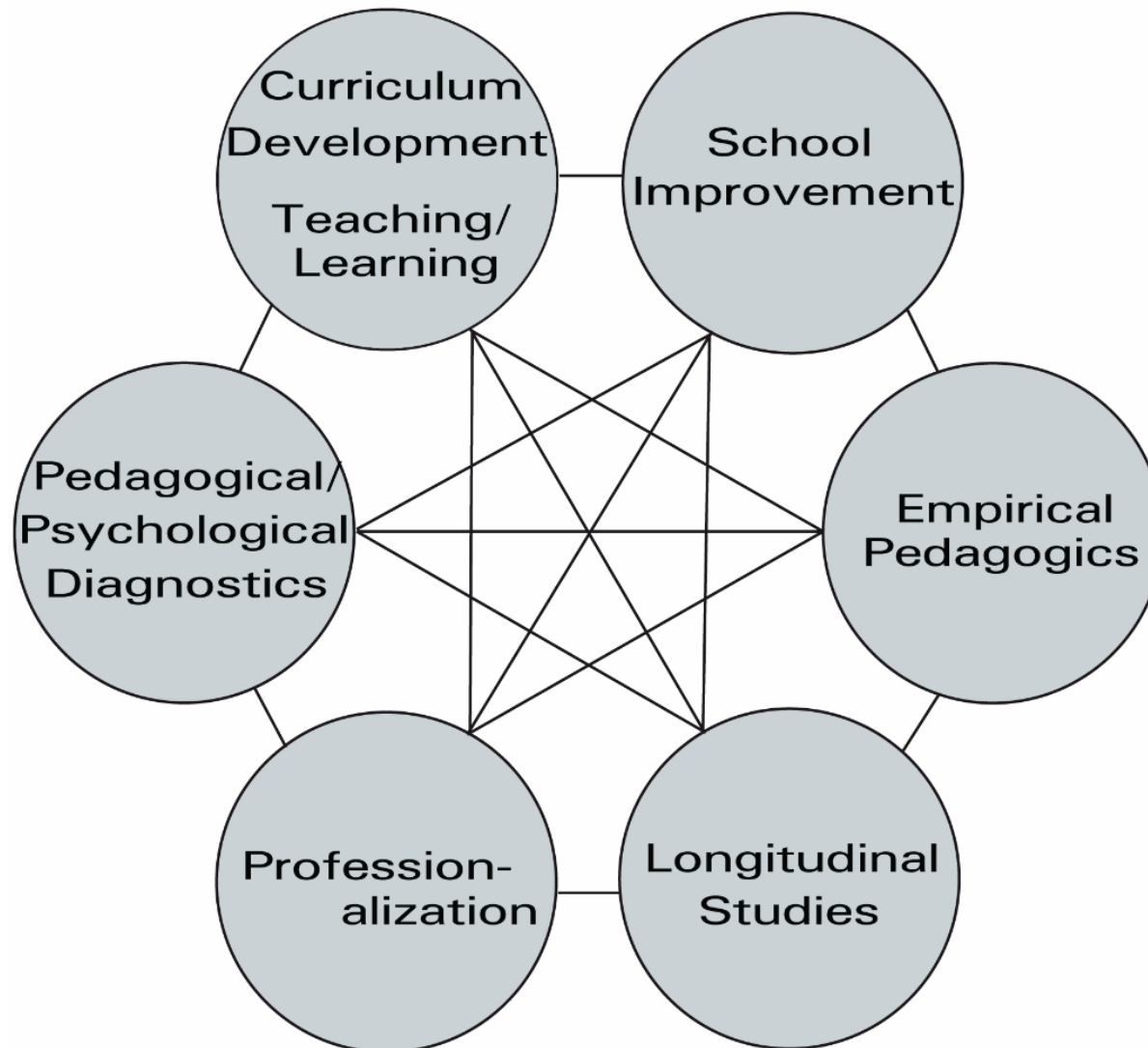
Funding

Financial support in GE is modest!

Resources are needed:

- to establish **competence teams** in every province
- for **schools**: coordination; conduction of activities in GE
- for **school psychology**
- for **research projects** and **institutions**





RESEARCH IN THE FIELDS



Teacher Training

- GE needs to be included in **curricula** of teacher training programmes – Universities, Teacher Training Colleges
- International **quality standards** are necessary
- Teacher training courses should be **related to practice**
- TT should be **adapted to individual needs** of teachers
- Creation of **vocational incentives**



School Improvement

- **Delegation of competences** and responsibilities
 - More flexibility and autonomy for schools
- **Organizational development**
 - Development of leadership
 - Training of headmasters also in GE
- **Quality development**
 - Internal and external evaluation
- **Pedagogical development**
 - Location-related concept of educational support
 - Developm. of pedagogical teams, Pedag. conferences

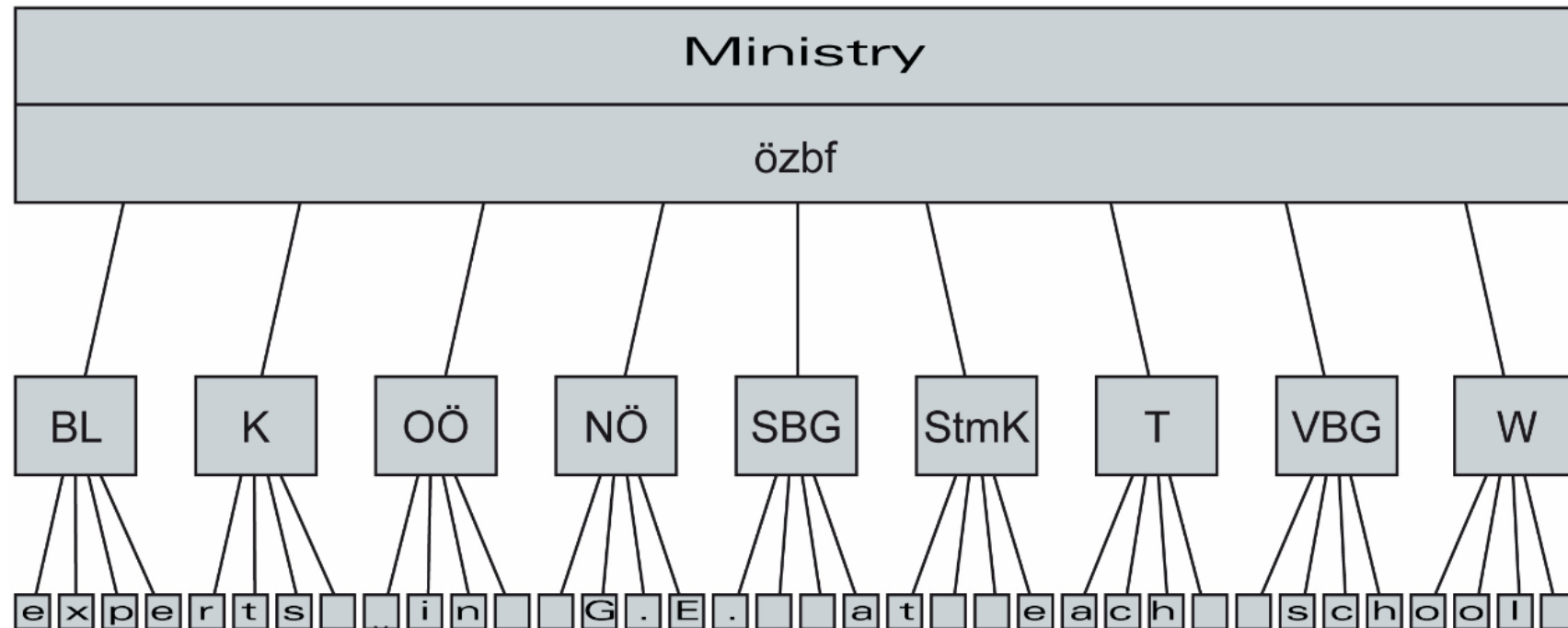


Quality Management

- binding **quality criteria** based on research
- school standards – classroom standards (s. UK)
- scientifically evaluated **admission procedures** for GT programmes
- quality **award** for schools



Networks



Networks - Provinces

Competence centres in the provinces = specialists of various fields:

- Experts in psychological diagnostics
- Pedagogues for counselling
- Experts in school improvement
- Experts in organisation and project management
- Experts in teacher training
- Experts in didactics

A Coordinated and accurately defined division of tasks avoids *competence chaos!*



Networks - international

- View from outside
- Exchange of know-how
- Common projects



Next Steps

Inter-ministerial steering committee:

- Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
- Ministry of Science
- özbF

Aim: elaborate strategies, get political support and implement them



Conclusion

What has been done in Austria for GE?

- Initiatives and activities in each province
- Establishment of a unit in the Ministry
- Foundation of a national centre – özbF
- Coordinators in each province
- Motivated teachers and principals

What is necessary now?

- constant political volition of a holistic development
- national strategies and a common framework





Thank you very much for your attention!