Funding of Higher Education – Where does Austria go ?

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Paper

➢ **System of funding**

➢ **Consequences of restricted public budgets**

➢ **Equity in access**

➢ **Economic efficiency**

New system of Funding for Univ.

➢ **Past: cameralistic system, predefined budgets ➔ intransparent**

➢ **2004: Autonomy of the universities, GUF**

➢ **2007: GUF is allocated in 2 ways:**

80% via performance agreements

20% indicator based funding

Performance agreements

➢ **For 3 years: 2007-2009**

➢ **Should be based on development plans of the Universities**

➢ **Lump sum for the whole contract,**

no money allocated to specific projects/ tasks

Performance agreements II

➢ **University proposes draft:
Status quo + future projects**

➢ **1 or 2 negotiations with Ministry**

➢ **Agreement**

➔ **Very heterogeneous contracts,
evaluation of performance ???**

E.g: Univ of Vienna

1. Human resource development	Increase number of professors and doctoral students
2. Research	Implementation of research foci, interdisc. platforms, increase research funds
3. Teaching	Supervision of thesis, Bologna structure, E-Learning, courses for further education
4. Social objectives	Increase female prof., support scientific careers of females
5. Internationality and Mobility	Participation in EU-funded projects, joint degrees, rise mobility of students
6. Special units	Rise number of participants in univ. sports

Indicator based funding

➢ **11 indicators for all Universities**

➢ **Very complex formula:**

**status quo of universities' funds,
size of the universities
improvement over time
improvement versus all other universities**

Indicators

1 Number of students (BA, MA, Diploma)	15%
2 Number of graduates (BA, MA, Diploma)	10%
3 Graduates „in time" (BA, MA, Diploma)	10%
4 Success rates (BA, MA, Diploma)	10%
5 Number of graduates in Dr/PhD	15%
6 Research funded by FWF or EU (income)	15%
7 Research funded by other sources (income)	15%
8 Proportion of female Professors	6%
9 Number of female graduates in Dr/PhD	1%
10 Number of mobile students (outgoing)	2,5%
11 Number of mobile students (incoming)	0,5%

The formula

➢ **Indicators are weighted by field of study, type of degree and standardised by size**

➢ **Score points calculated with sigmoid function (prior periods)**

➢ **Scores weighted and summed per Univ.**

➢ **Standardised by size**

➢ **Overall budget divided by standardised points**

Results

➢ „Value" of each indicator is unknown

➢ Improvement can lead to shrinking budget

➔ **intransparent**

(already under revision)

Critics

Universities:

➢ **we operate already at our limits**

➢ **Capacity of universities neglected**

Science Council:

➢ **Very weak development plans**

➢ **Fresh money was fixed and not enough**

➢ **„No losers" – Policy**

➢ **Ministry did not use new instruments well**

Where does Austria go ?

➢ **From intransparency to intransparency?**
Open question, but hope for improvements

➢ **Per capita funding at Univ. of Applied Sciences**

➢ **Ignored issue at Universities:**

Open-Access-Policy
without capacity based funding

Thank you for your attention !

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