

BUDGET

REFORM

Putting tax money to effective use for citizens.

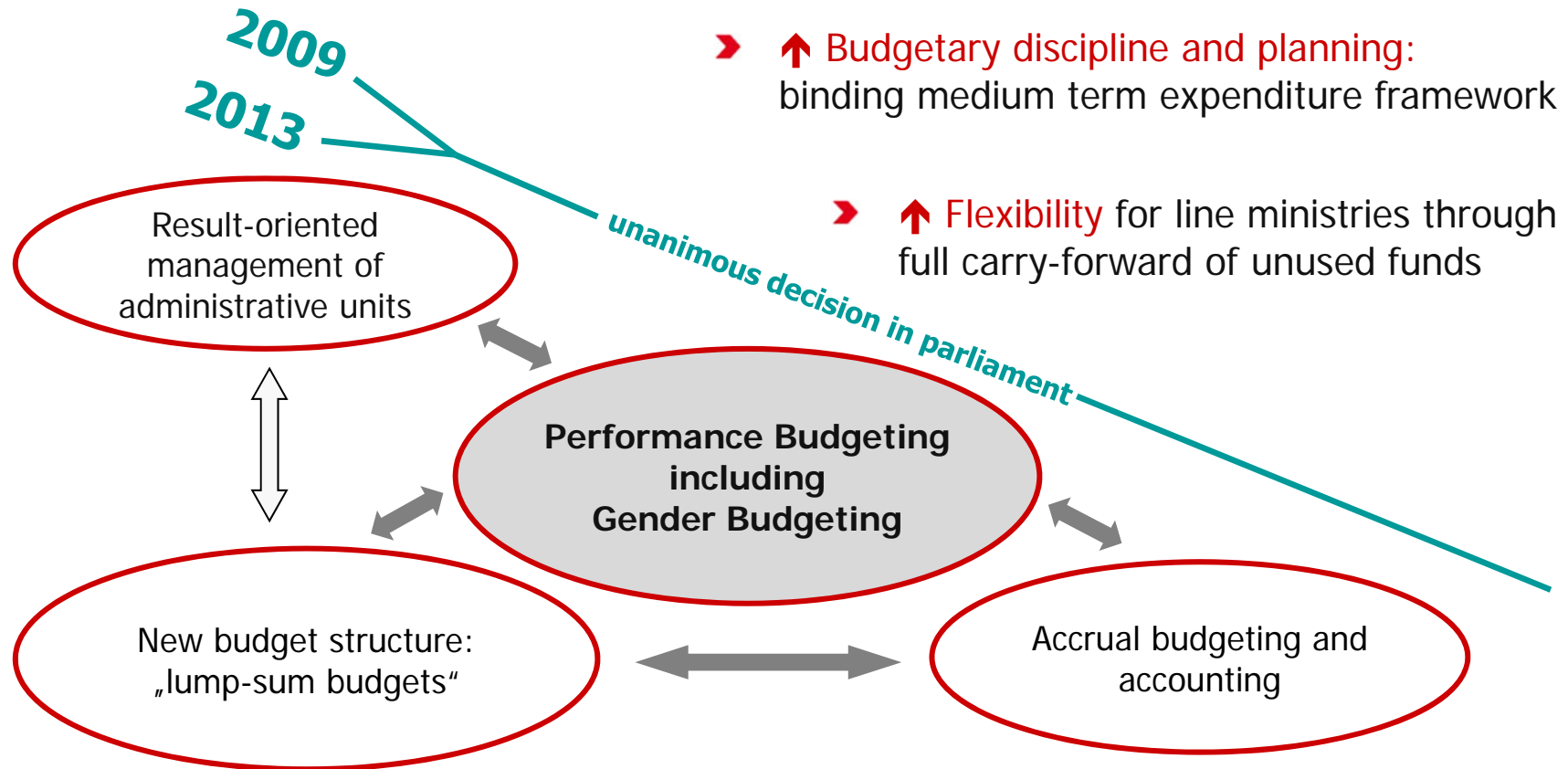
Making Public Finance Management Systems gender responsive: the GRB Experience in Austria

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GRB integrated in a comprehensive Budget Reform



new budget principles: outcome-orientation; efficiency; transparency; true and fair view

Gender Budgeting enshrined in the Austrian Constitution



- Art. 13 of the Austrian Constitution requires:
“Federation, States and Communes are to strive for the effective equality of women and men in their budget management.”
- According to the Austrian Constitution the Austrian Federation has to apply Gender Budgeting as an integral element of Performance Budgeting: Art. 51 of the Austrian Constitution states:
„In the budget management of the Federation the fundamental principles of impact orientation, especially under consideration of the objectives of the effective equality of women and men . . . are to be observed.”

Challenges in Implementing gender-responsive PFM Reform I



- To foster gender equality: Focus on the most important levers.
- Budget decisions are KEY decisions: Government policy put into numbers.
- Therefore: Use the budget as lever for gender equality!

Challenges in Implementing gender-responsive PFM Reform II



Political:

- Create awareness for gender issues: Convince politicians, senior civil servants, social partners...
- Identify reasons, why GRB could be attractive for the respective stakeholders.
- Form alliances with NGO's, experts outside the administration (i.e. universities), media.
- Establish a broad political consensus to implement GRB and to incorporate gender perspectives into policymaking (CSW 2008).
- Use windows of opportunities to launch GRB (i.e. general budget or administrative reform processes).

Challenges in Implementing gender-responsive PFM Reform III



Technical:

- Don't try to create a perfect system which covers everything. You would create a bureaucratic monster!
- Focus on the most important issues.
- Design simple tools to support GRB (i.e. common standards to present GRB in the budget).
- Collect, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and gender-related data (CSW 2008) to identify the challenges which have to be tackled.
- Provide adequate training of staff (CSW 2008).

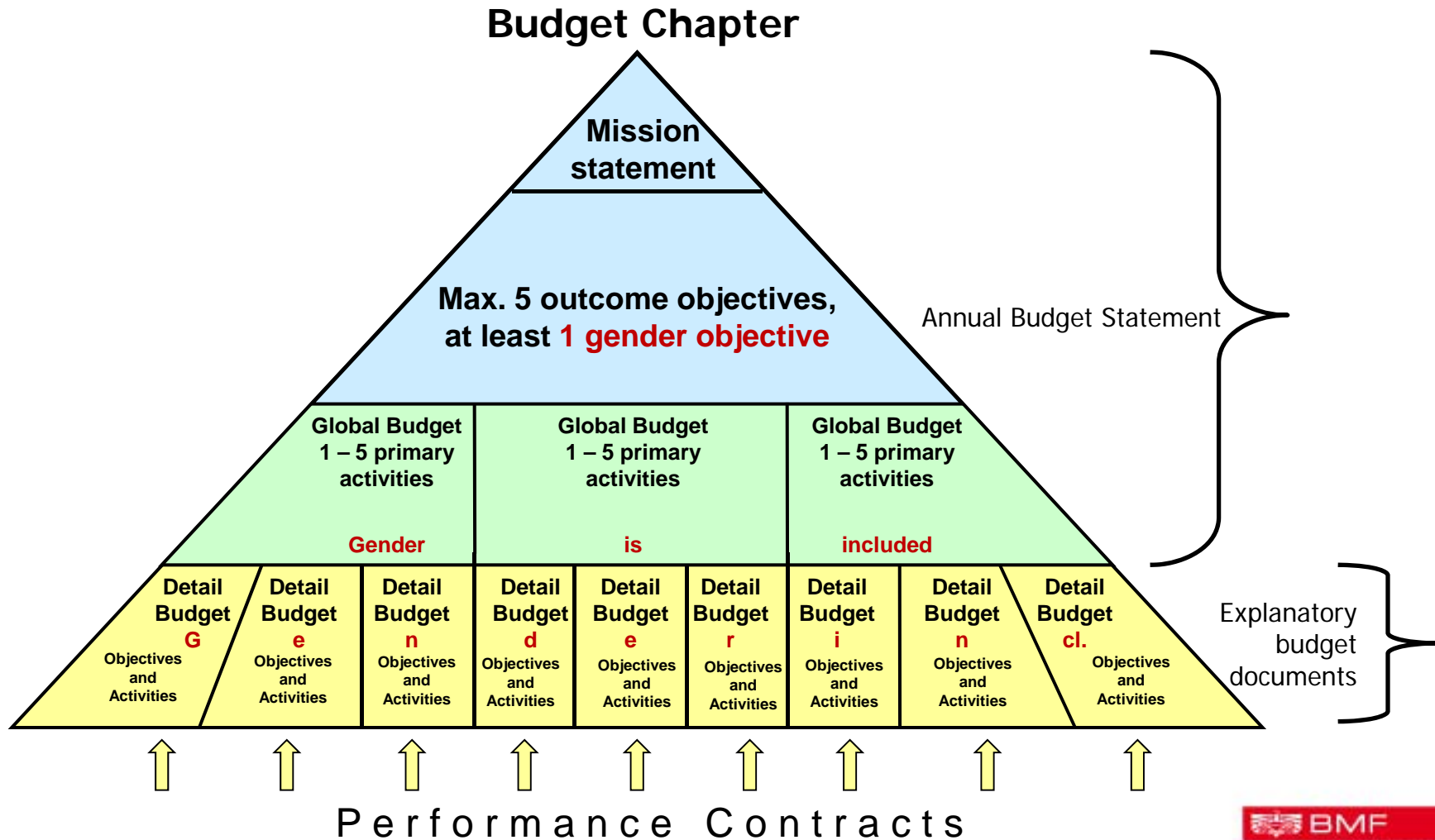
Institutional Mechanisms to Facilitate GRB – the Austrian Approach



GRB integrated in performance budgeting (national machinery as mentioned at CSW 2008):

- Pivotal role for the budget process → Ministry of Finance
- Monitoring and support for line ministries → Chancellery
- Assessment of delivery → Court of Audit
- Covering all policy fields; this makes human and financial resources for the empowerment of women available (CSW 2008); impact assessment in drafts of legislative acts → line ministries.
- Transparency to the public → budget documentation, media, political debate, civil society.

Performance Budgeting (GRB integrated) - Pyramid



Annual Budget Statement as of 2013 per Ministry



Outcome objective 1:

Why this objective:

What is done to achieve this objective:

What would success look like:

- **Max. 5 outcome objectives per chapter**
- At least 1 outcome objective directly addressing **gender equality**
- Overall objective: **Integrated view** on budget and performance information

Annual Budget Statement as of 2013 per Global Budget



Activities/Outputs (*max. five including gender activity/activities*)

Contribution to outcome objective/s no.	What is done to achieve the outcome objectives? Activities/Outputs:	What does success look like? Milestones/Indicators for n+1	What does success look like? Milestones/Indicators for n

Comments on activities/outputs of the preceding budget statement, which are no longer listed in the present budget statement

Recent recommendation of the Court of Audit

Response of the ministry

Practical Examples at Sectorial Level



Some draft outcomes for 2013:

- **Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture:** Promoting equality in the educational system (reducing gender, ethnic and socioeconomic inequalities).
- **Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth:** Improving work-family reconciliation.
- **Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection:** Increasing employment of women, especially after leave of absence.
- **Ministry of the Interior:** Better protection from violence, especially violence against woman, young and elderly people.
- **Ministry of Finance:** Increasing the percentage of women in supervisory board functions of larger, state owned companies.

Lessons from the Austrian GRB experience



- Make gender relevant → integrate it into the budget!
- Prepare GRB carefully – politically and technically.
- Cover all Ministries.
- Pivotal role for the centre of government (in the Austrian case: Chancellery, Ministry of Finance) in guiding the process.
- No effective GRB without gender-related data (especially relevant in the context of crisis and its impact on inequalities).

Thank you for your attention!

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