

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

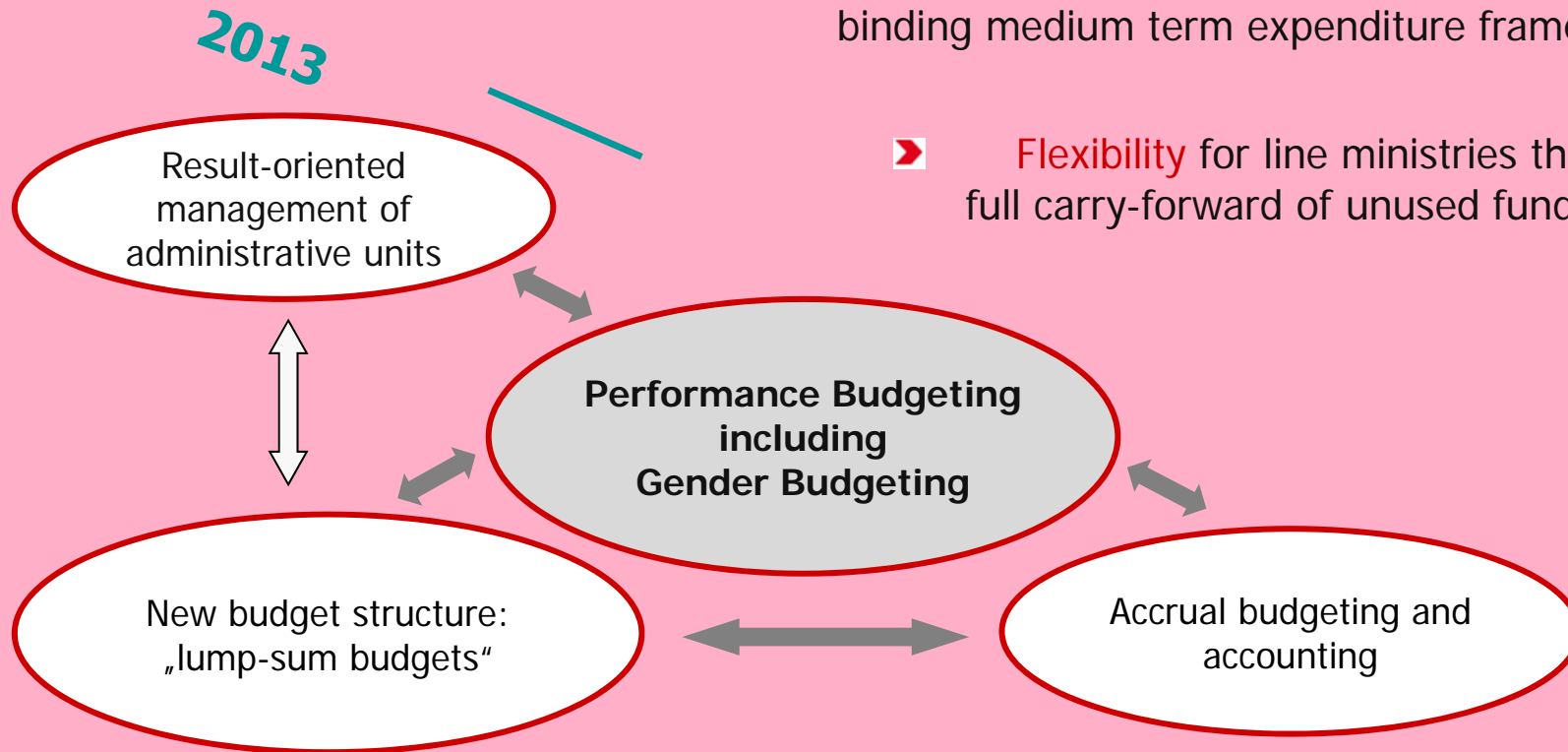
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► **Budgetary discipline and planning:**  
binding medium term expenditure framework

► **Flexibility** for line ministries through  
full carry-forward of unused funds



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

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# 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:

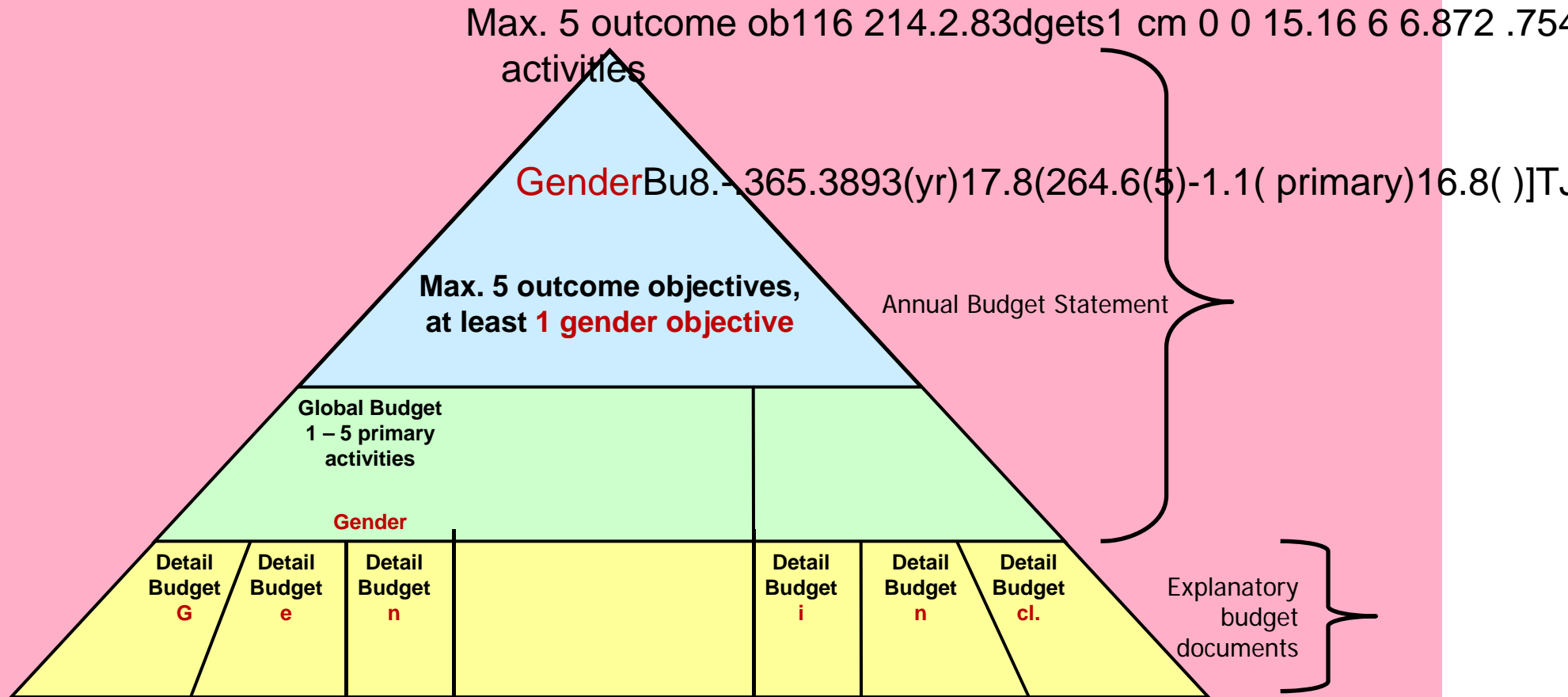
- Don't try to create a perfect system which covers everything. You would create a bureaucratic monster!
- Focus on the most important issues.
- Design simple tools to support GRB (i.e. common standards to present GRB in the budget).
- Collect, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and gender-related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









# 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

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- Make gender relevant    integrate it into the budget!

Thank you for your attention!

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