

Autonomy and Accountability - The Austrian Reality

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About the Austrian Science Fund

Annual budget: €150 million

Staff: 75 employees

Internationally oriented



Autonomy I

Statutory rights of the supervisory authority

Approval of the balance and the budget

Approval of long term contracts

 Approval of the long term and short term working plan



Autonomy II

Annual reports

- Nomination of 3 (in near future 4) members of the Supervisory Board
- 2 supervisory authorities (Ministery of Transport, Innovation and Technology and Ministery of Science and Research)



Autonomy III

No say in funding decisions

- No say in the composition of the Board
- No say in the Appointment of the Managing Director
- Budget distribution: right of veto (approval)



Accountability

Statutory obligations of the FWF

- Research funding
- Science Communication
- And underlying of course the financial accountability



Science Communication

Growing area of interest

Examples:

- Prize for Science Communication
- School projects
- Cooperation with Science Museum Vienna



Research funding

Project evaluation

Programme evaluation

Evaluating the Institution

Auditing the Organisation



Finances at large

No Controlling department/ scattered competencies

ex ante v ex post – strategy and administration

External Auditing planned



Objectives

 Effectiveness – ensured by funding procedures and quality standards

Efficiency – regular monitoring



Instruments

Lean Structures

HR development

Personnel Controlling

Management Accounting



Conclusion

• The more autonomy the more accountability?

Ensure public confidence

THE END