Gifted Education in Austria

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Who’s speaking to you?

- Johanna Stahl, Psychologist and Senior Researcher at the Austrian Research and Support Center for the Gifted and Talented (ÖZBF)

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History of GE in Austria

- 1962: GE explicitly mentioned in educational legislation (§6)
- 1974: opportunity of skipping classes (SchUG §26)
- 1986: first extra-curricular talent courses in Salzburg
- 1996: unit for GE in Ministry of Education; nomination of coordinators in the provinces
- 1998: Sir-Karl-Popper-School in Vienna
- 1999: ÖZBF established
- 2005: several amendments on GE from the Ministry
- 2008: Task Force Gifted Education and Research
- 2009: Basic Decree for Gifted and Talented Education
- 2010: Unit for Research on Gifted in Ministry of Science and Research

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GE national network

- BMUKK and BMWF (federal ministries)
- regional coordinators in all provinces
- school authorities
- (pre)schools, universities, teacher training colleges
- professional associations etc.
ÖZBF: from individual to institutional counseling

Initial focus:

- information and conferences
- development and evaluation of pilot projects
- identification and counseling of G&T
- provision programs (talent courses, pupils attending university etc.)

→ piecemeal provisions, no long-term and systemic impact

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ÖZBF: from individual to institutional counseling

shifted focus:

• holistic approach in supporting G&T

• long-term perspective

• catering to: parents, educators and teachers in elementary/primary/secondary education, tertiary educational institutions, community, work life → support the G&T support system

• information, networks, qualification, research

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ÖZBF: from individual to institutional counseling

mission:

• develop strategies and concepts
• quality development in GE and research
• teacher training and professional development
• link theory and practice in elementary education, schools, universities and research
• national and international networks
• information and awareness raising

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ÖZBF: from individual to institutional counseling

• Development of strategies and concepts
• Quality development and research
• Teacher training and professional development
• National and international networking
• Information and awareness raising

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Support for G&T in Austria

Provision programs:
• summer academies
• talent courses
• pull-out courses
• Sir-Karl-Popper-School
• special classes for G&T
• Olympics and contests
• Skipping classes

• resource rooms
• mentoring
• special certificates
• individualized learning
• differentiation
• pupils attending university
• revolving door model

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Support for G&T in Austria

Teacher training:

• certified training courses at Teacher Training Colleges
• ECHA training courses
• MA program in Gifted Education at Danube-University in Krems
• in-service trainings at schools
• conferences, working groups etc.

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Support for G&T in Austria

Recent developments:

- GE experts in schools
- GE as part of school development
- Quality standards established
- Master programs in GE
- White Paper on Gifted Education (2011)
- Professorship in GE, KFU Graz (starting 2014)

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Thank you for your attention!

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