

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Exzellenzinitiative des Bundes und der Länder in Deutschland

*Was passierte am Freitag, dem 13.
Oktober?*

Beate Konze-Thomas
Wien, den 15. Dezember 2006

Deutschlands Exzellenzinitiative

- *Eine kurze Einführung:*
- *Exzellenzcluster
Graduiertenschulen
„Zukunftskonzepte“*
- *Auswahlprozess*
- *Entscheidungsverfahren*
- *Ergebnisse*

Deutschlands Exzellenzinitiative

Entstehungsgeschichte

Idee:

- **Deutschlands Universitäten stärken**
- **sie sollen (einige!) international sichtbarer und attraktiver werden, mit besseren Professoren, besseren Studierenden und besserer Forschung!**

Prozess:

- **zusätzliche 1.900 Millionen € für 5 Jahre (verlängerbar um weitere 5 Jahre)**
- **ein 18 monatiger Prozess politischer Überlegungen ging der Umsetzung voraus!**

Joint funding by the Federal Government (75%) and the *Länder* (25%)



sum total (2006-2011): 1.9 billion € 380 million €p.a.

20% of the project grant sum for indirect costs of research

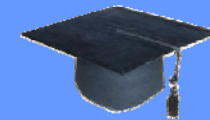


Institutional Strategies for Top-Level University Research



Graduate Schools

- approx. 40 Research Training Schools
- approx. 1 million €p.a. each



Clusters of Excellence

- approx. 30 Excellence Centres
- approx. 6,5 million €p.a. each

Graduate Schools

- Structured research training in an excellent research environment
- Integrative interdisciplinary approach
- Umbrella integrating other structures and non-university research institutions
- Professional leadership and efficient management
- Unconventional ideas encouraged



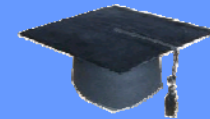
Graduate Schools

Highest level research training

- **approx. 40 Research Training Schools**
- **approx. 1 million €p.a. each**

Clusters of Excellence

- Major research focus on the basis of existing strengths
- Important part of a university's strategic and thematic planning, significantly raising its profile and reflecting its considered long-term priorities
- Enhance scientific networking and cooperation among research institutions in the region (non-university research institutes, industry)
- Unconventional ideas encouraged



Clusters of Excellence

Centres of excellence in research

- **approx. 30 Excellence Centres**
- **approx. 6,5 million €p.a. each**

Cluster of Excellence

Criteria

Excellent Research

- **Quality of research; originality and coherence of the research programme**
- **Added value of interdisciplinary cooperation**
- **Impact on the scientific field in the future**
- **Plans for transferring research results into practical applications**

Excellent People

- **Highly qualified research groups and international visibility**
- **Career development opportunities and appeal to young investigators**
- **Research training concepts**
- **Gender balance**

Excellent Structures

- **Integration of local research capacities, e.g. non-university institutions**
- **Organisation and management**
- **Impact on the university's structural development**

Institutional Strategies

Institutional Strategies for Top-Level University Research

*Increase international competitiveness
whole university*

- **approx. 10 Institutional Strategies**
- **approx. 10 – 15 million €p.a. each**

- Develop university profile to top international standard by:
 - ✓ strengthening individual departments
 - ✓ strengthening structures
 - ✓ developing new institutions / measures
- Unconventional ideas encouraged

Essential: At least one Cluster and one Graduate School !

Institutional Strategies

Criteria

Excellent track-record

- **in top level research: several internationally competitive research areas**
- **and graduate training**

Convincing Institutional Strategy

- **innovative and unique approach to ameliorate the international position of the university**
- **distinctive profile**
- **international competitiveness as an institution during the funding period**
- **Important aspects: top research, excellent graduate training, internationalization, gender mainstreaming**

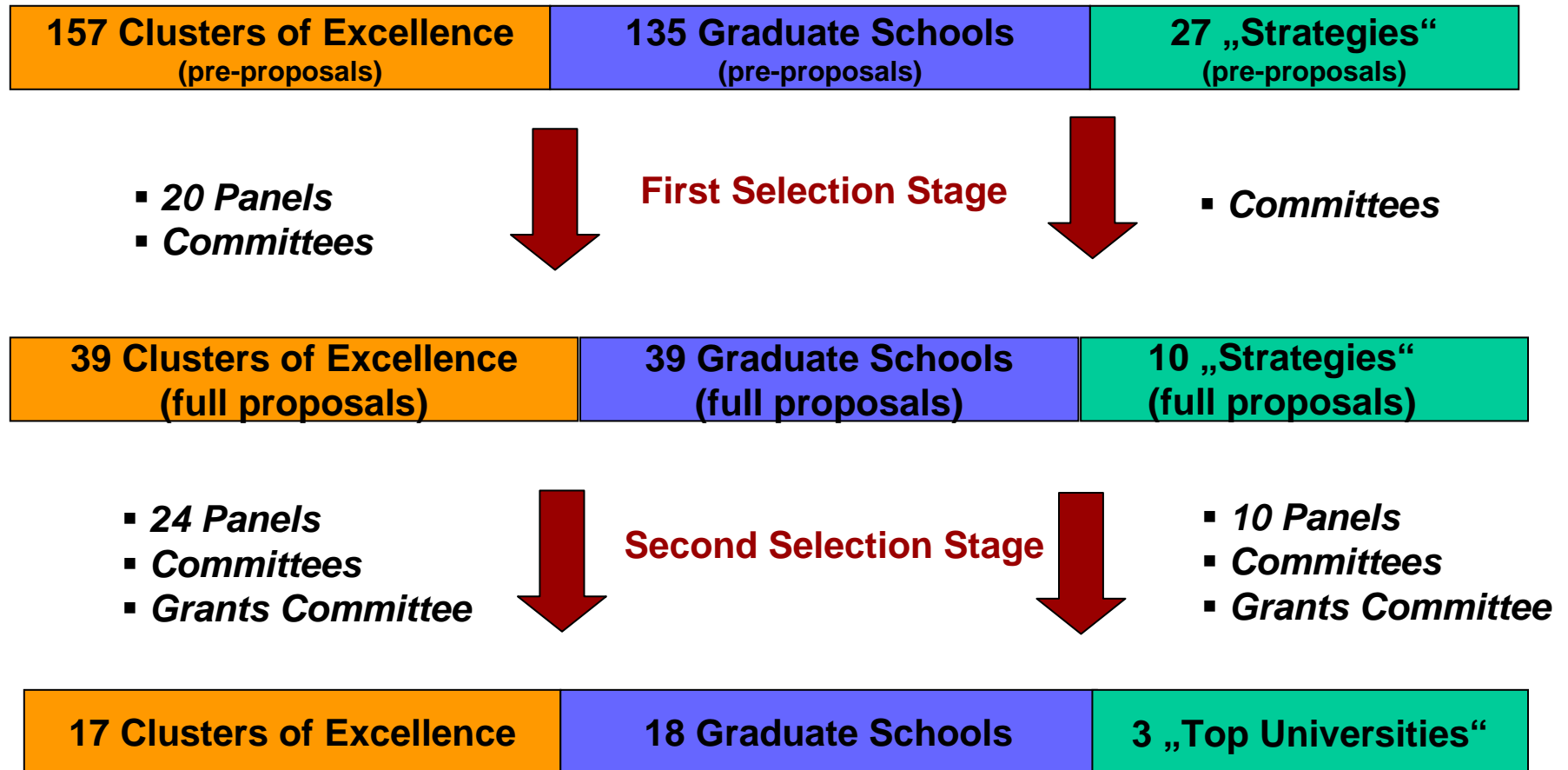
Germany's Excellence Initiative

- *A Brief History of the Excellence Initiative*
- *Clusters of Excellence*
Graduate Schools
Institutional Strategies
- *Selection Process*
- *Decision Mechanisms*
- *Results*

Selection Procedure (two selection rounds)

- **First round: September 05 till October 06**
(completed)
- **Second round: September 06 till October 07**
(in progress)

Selection Procedure / results (first round)



Selection Procedure (second round)

123 Clusters of Excellence (pre-proposals)	118 Graduate Schools (pre-proposals)	20 „Strategies“ (pre-proposals)
<i>+ 22 unsuccessful first round proposals</i>	<i>+ 21 unsuccessful first round proposals</i>	<i>+ 7 unsuccessful first round proposals</i>

- *27 Panels*
- *Committees*

First Selection Stage

- *Committees*

~ 35 Clusters of Excellence (full proposals)	~ 40 Graduate Schools (full proposals)	~10 „Strategies“ (full proposals)
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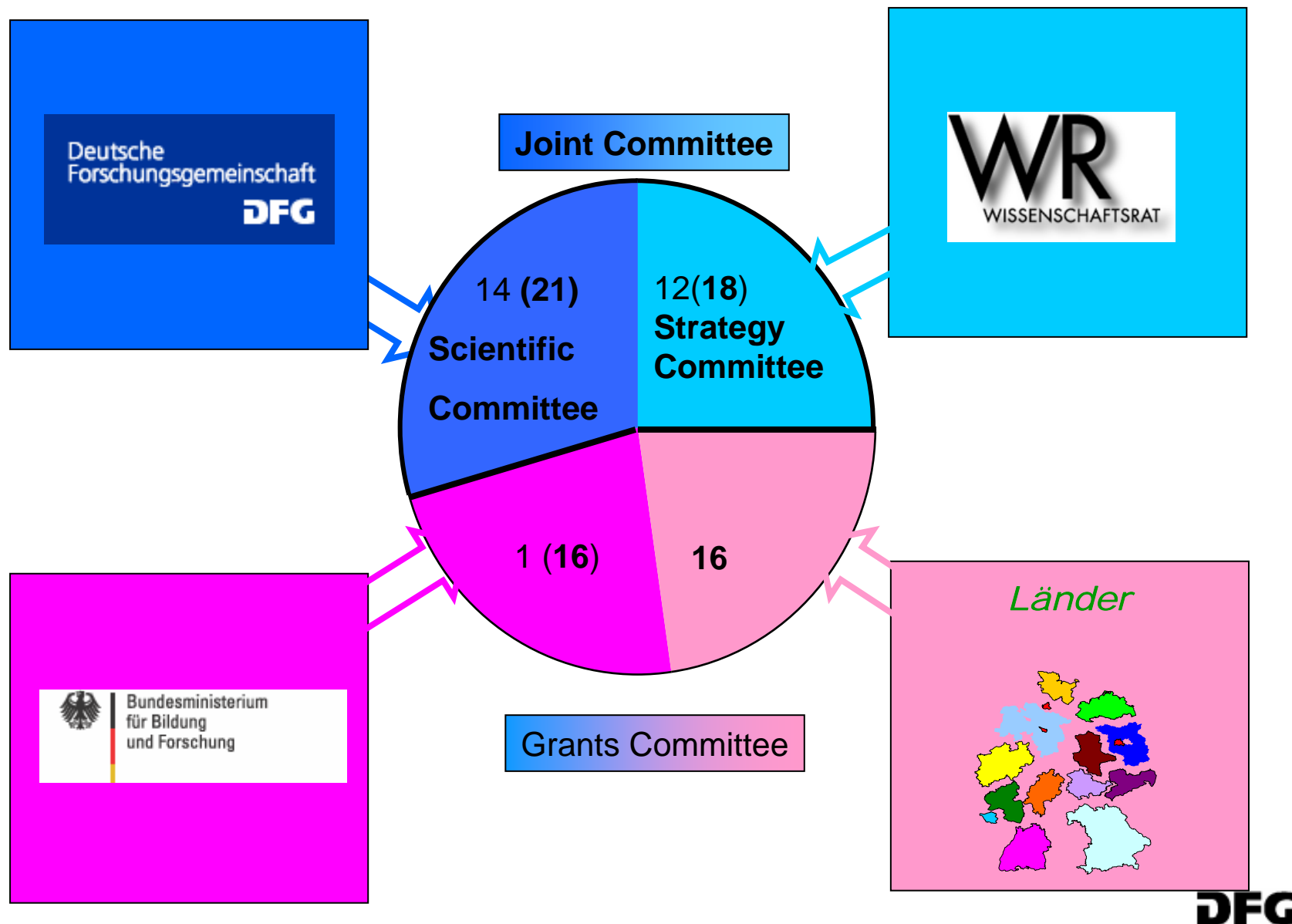
- *~ 20 Panels*
- *Committees*
- *Grants Committee*

Second Selection Stage

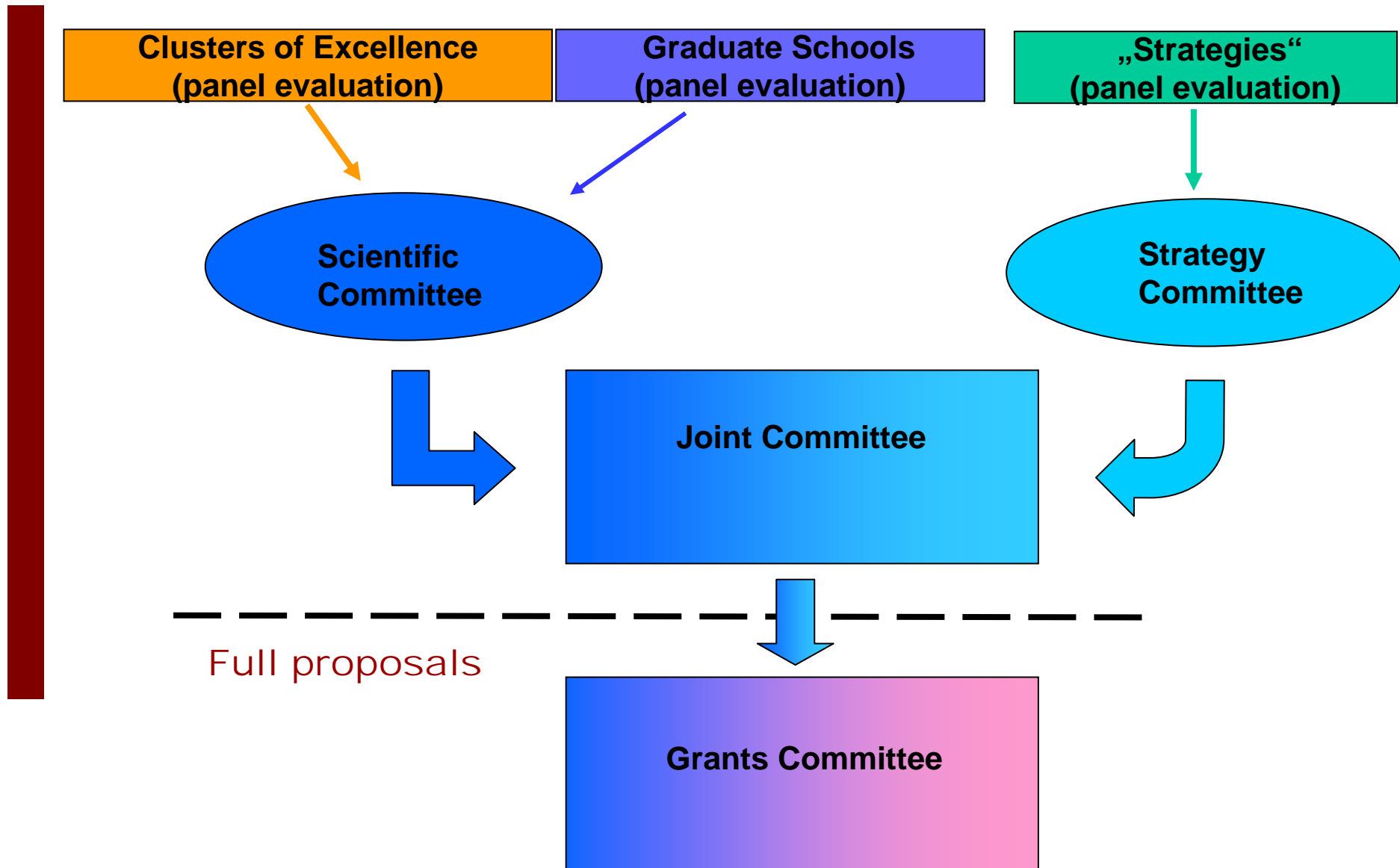
- *~ 10 Panels*
- *Committees*
- *Grants Committee*

~ 15 Clusters of Excellence	~ 20 Graduate Schools	?? „Top Universities“
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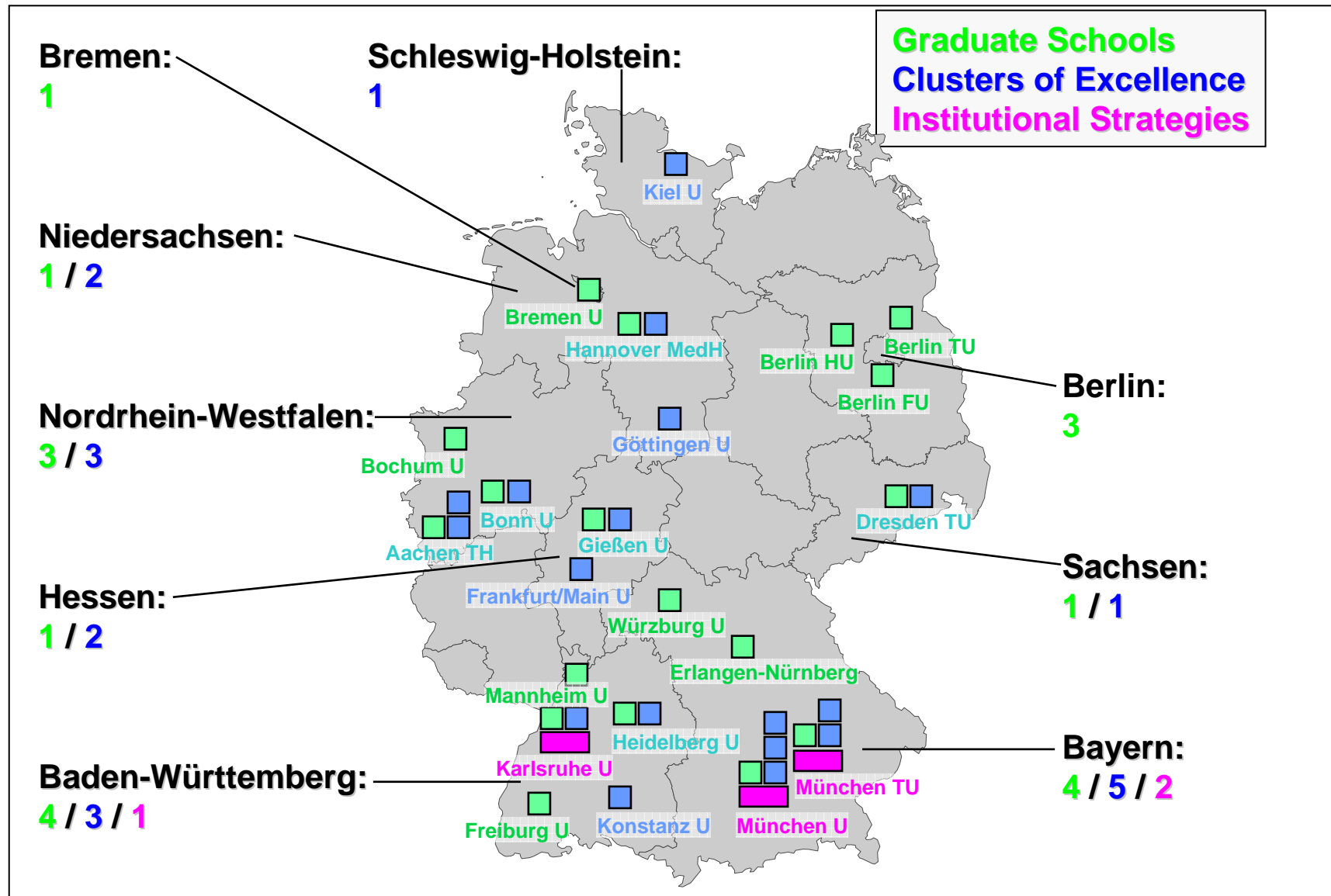
Parallelogram of Interests



The Decision Process (full proposals)



Results (1st Round, Oct. 2006)



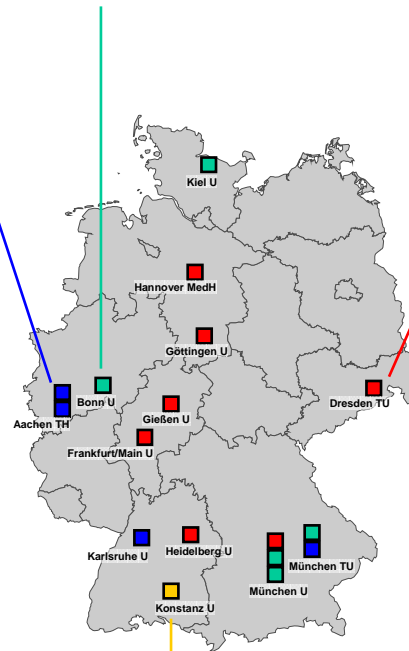
Clusters of Excellence – 4 Examples

Bonn U: Mathematics: Foundations, Models, Applications

- series of thematic priorities, interdisciplinarity
- cooperation of international guest professors with colleagues in Bonn
e.g.: G. Faltings (Fields-Medal), R. Selten (Nobel prize economics)

Aachen TH: Integrative Production Technology for High-Wage Countries

- researching the conditions for producing successfully in high-wage countries
- building on the existing technology roadmap, incorporating 12 business and industry cases with partner companies



Dresden TU: From Cells to Tissues to Therapies

- research on human stem cells
- top-up funding for the DFG Research Centre on Regenerative Therapies established in 2005

Konstanz U: Cultural Foundations of Social Integration

- social integration and desintegration on all social strata
- incorporating recent trends

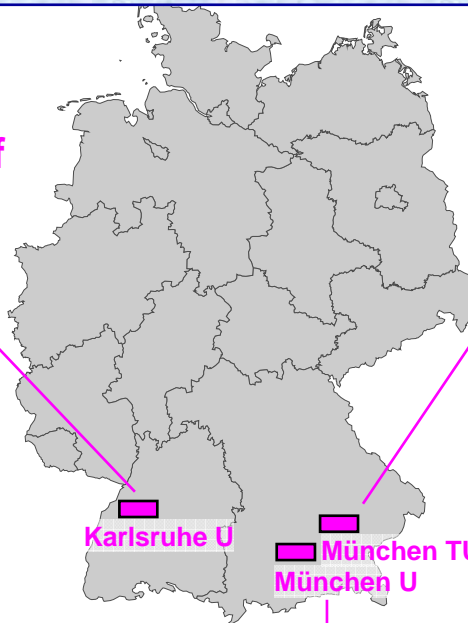
Three "Top Universities"

Institutional strategies for

- internationalization of research
- professionalization of management structures
- more independence for researchers

Karlsruhe: The foundation of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

- merger of Karlsruhe University and the Research Centre Karlsruhe into KIT (modelled on MIT)



TUM: The Entrepreneurial University

- at the centre: TUM Institute of Advanced Study (modelled on the IAS in Princeton)
- establishing a research-friendly administration

LMUexcellent: Working Brains – Networking Minds – Living Knowledge

- institutional strategy focussing on new proactive recruiting strategies (headhunting)
- cooperations with MPIs and other universities
- creating a Center for Advanced Studies (strengthening interdisciplinarity)

Effects / Challenges

- Mobilisation of university system
- Change of mindset in universities (**initiated ...**)
- Impulse towards
 - internationalisation,
 - gender balance,
 - diversity
- Alternatives for the Humanities?
- New role for DFG?

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Vielen Dank für Ihre
Aufmerksamkeit!

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