

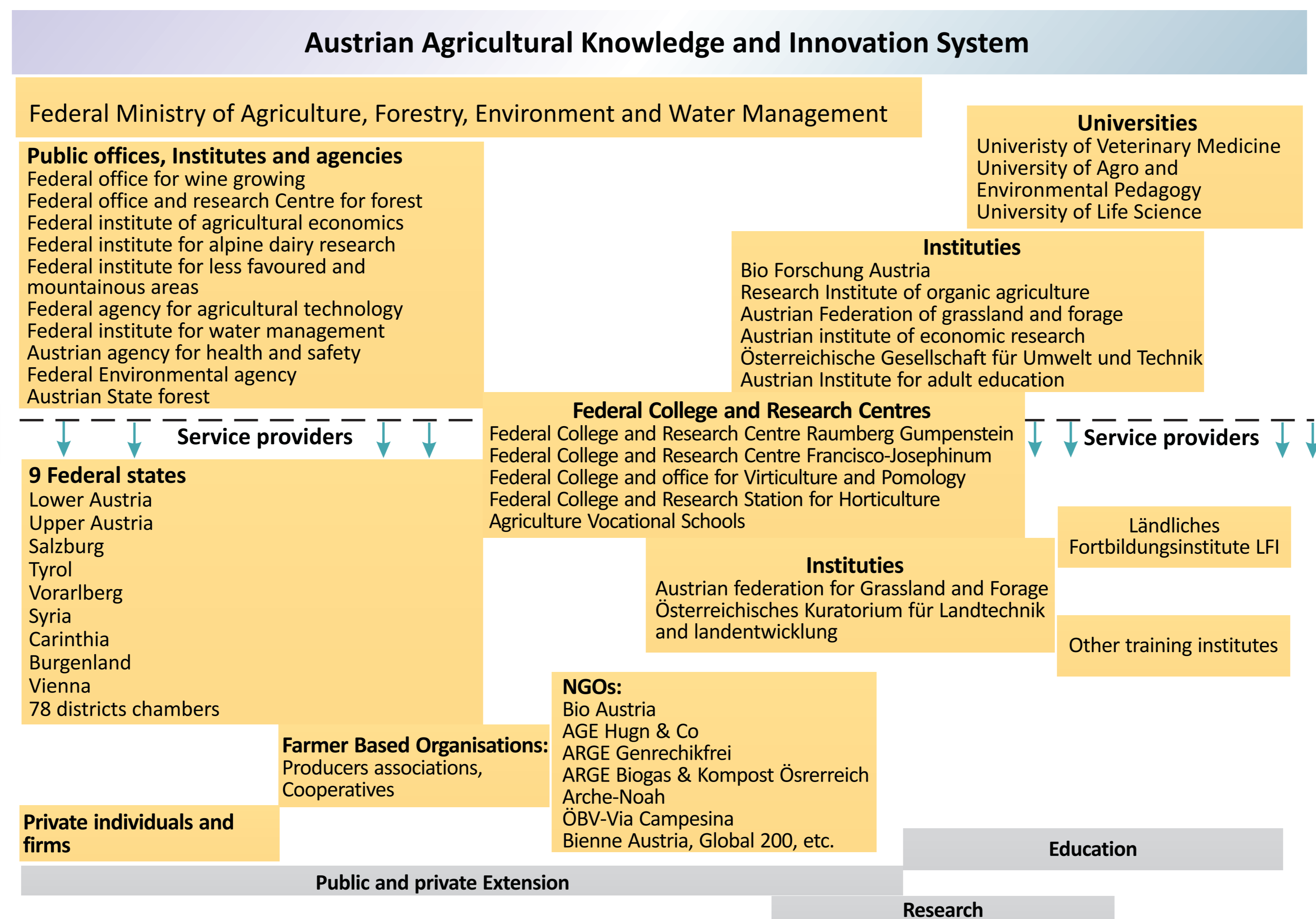


Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



AUSTRIA

AKIS DIAGRAM



Main supplier(s) of advisory services:
 Chambers of agriculture
 (78% of total farmers' contacts with advisory organisations)

Main clients:

- large
- medium and
- small commercial farms

Main topics of advice:

- plant and animal production
- business diversification
- rural development
- environment and
- cross compliance

Main methods:
 in general: individual methods,
 group and mass methods

Main actors of AKIS:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- federal offices and agencies
- chambers of agriculture
- research institute, schools and NGOs
- private institutions and commercial organisations
- cooperatives - deliver services only in a very specific topics

Cooperation between AKIS actors:
 going on well but...

- transfer of information is rather slow
- only few organisations have direct contact with farmers (chambers of agriculture)
- however - some institutions are well connected and in some cases even integrated i.e. public research, education and extension bodies

Main sources of funding the advisory services:

1. Public funding constitutes the important share followed by membership contributions and fees;
2. Mixed-funding of advisory services prevails in Austria with both federal and regional governments providing financial assistance;
3. Most organisations depend on several sources of income - public subsidies, membership fees and chamber contributions, EU funding and income from the sale of services and products;
4. Basic services are generally free of charge;
5. Individual advices are directly paid for by the farmers.



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