

The policy mix for science-industry knowledge transfer in Austria

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The case study analyses the Austrian policy mix supporting knowledge transfer from an analyst point of view, describing its history, main instruments, and current challenges faced.

Topics covered

Policy mix, development, Competence Centres, collaborative laboratories, regional & cluster policies

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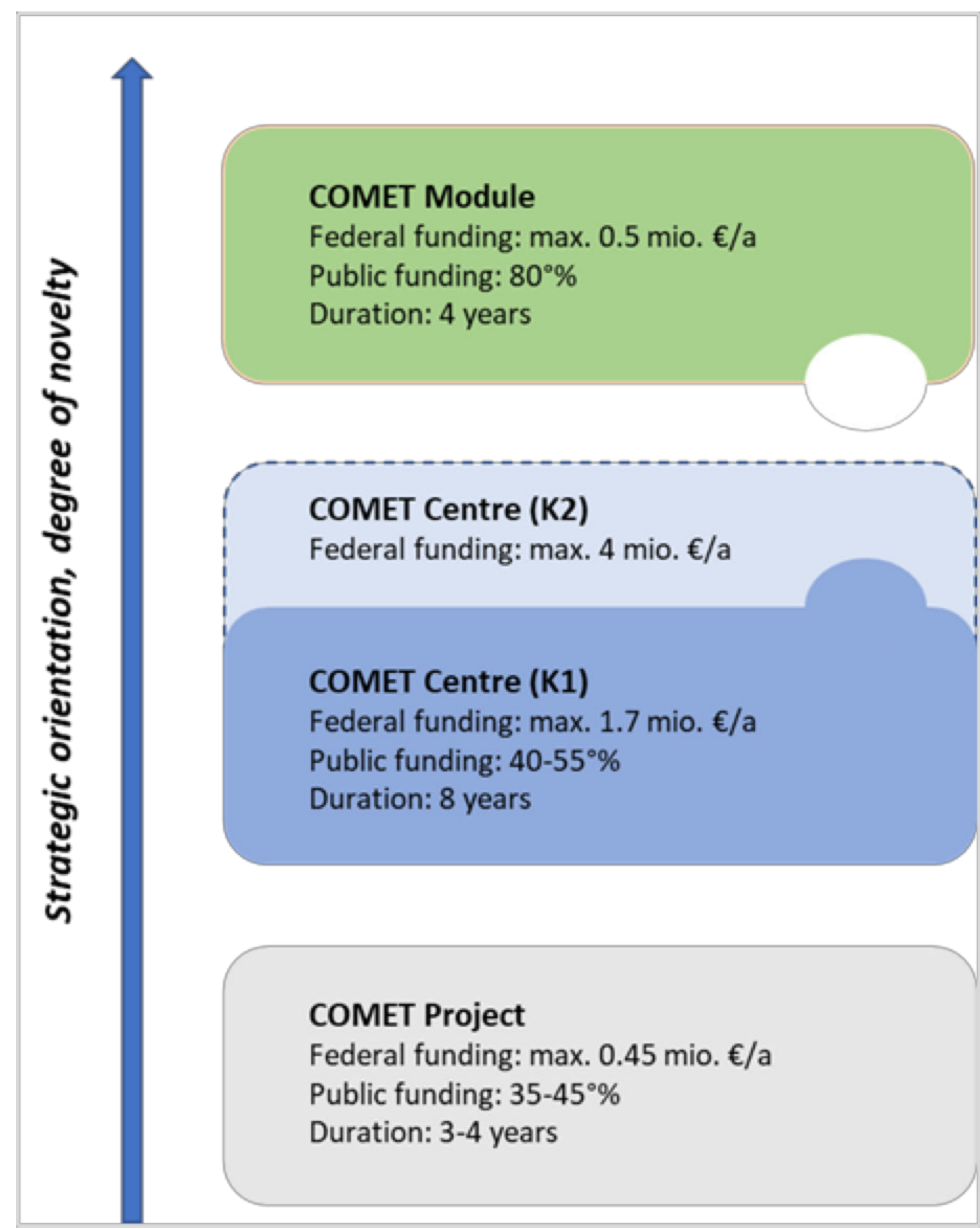
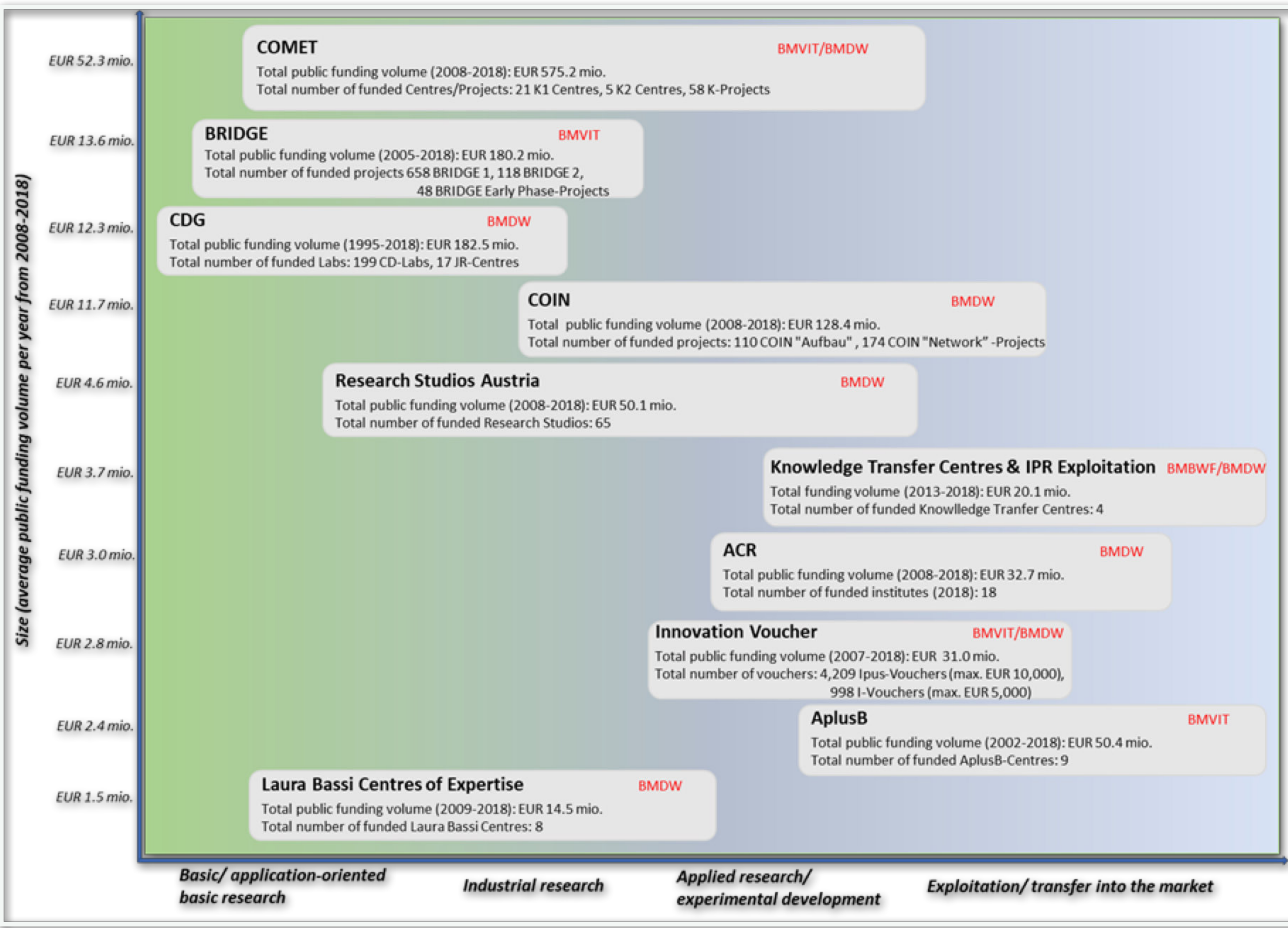
History of knowledge transfer policies



Main instruments

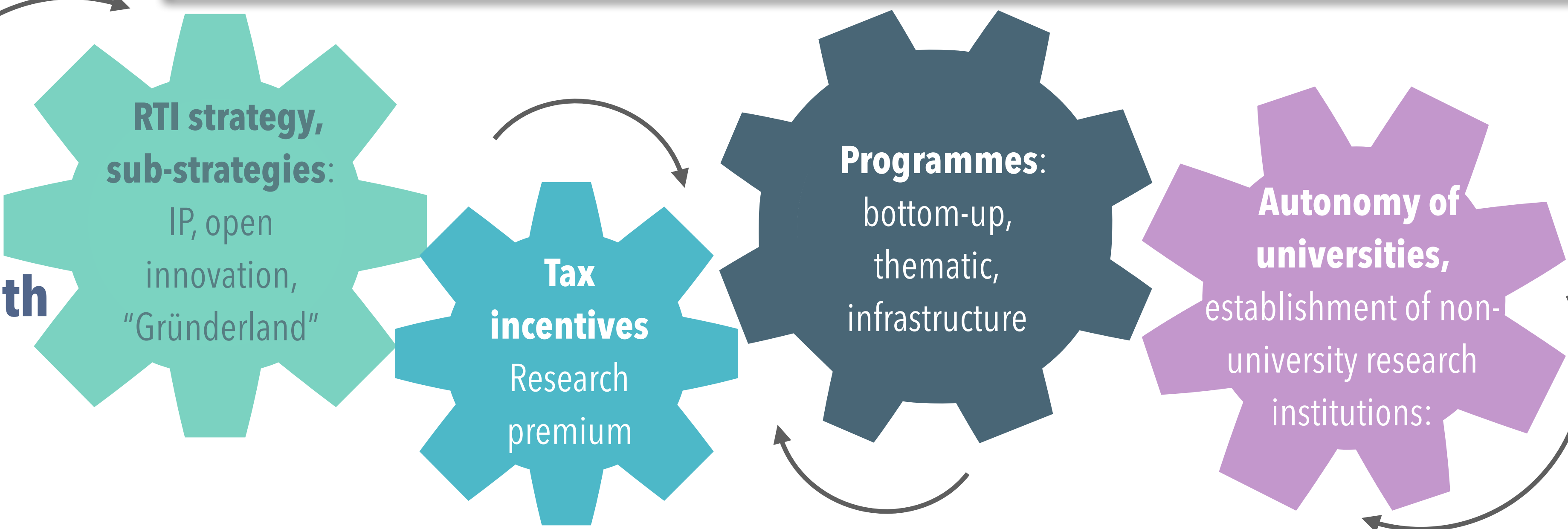
- COMET Competence Centre Programme
- Christian Doppler (CD) Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres
- BRIDGE
- COIN Cooperation & Innovation
- Research Studios Austria (RSA)
- AplusB-Centres
- Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise
- Knowledge Transfer Centres and IPR Exploitation
- Innovation Voucher
- Spin-off Fellowships
- Cluster policy (e.g. Automotive Cluster Styria, 1998; Automotive Cluster Upper Austria, 2000)
- Silicon Austria laboratories

Selected funding programmes targeted towards knowledge transfer, according to size and activities funded



Overview of COMET Competence Centre programmes

Interaction with other policies



Challenges

- Transfer of **academic knowledge into goods and services** by academic spin-offs
- **Strengthen strategically oriented collaboration** between science and industry
- Paying attention to **excellence and sustainability** of collaborative research outcomes
- **Support SMEs** for more STI-collaboration
- **Foster more enterprises** towards technology leadership and top positions ("niches") in innovation
- **Reduce complexity** of funding landscape and strengthen synergies.

Study on interactions with other policies

- Method: **Interviews with 27 policy experts** from ministries and agencies responsible for R&D
- **Diversified research funding** portfolio of funding programmes since 1990s
- **Universities Act of 2002** increased autonomy of universities
- **R&D tax credit** ("research premium")
- **National RTI Strategy** of 2011