

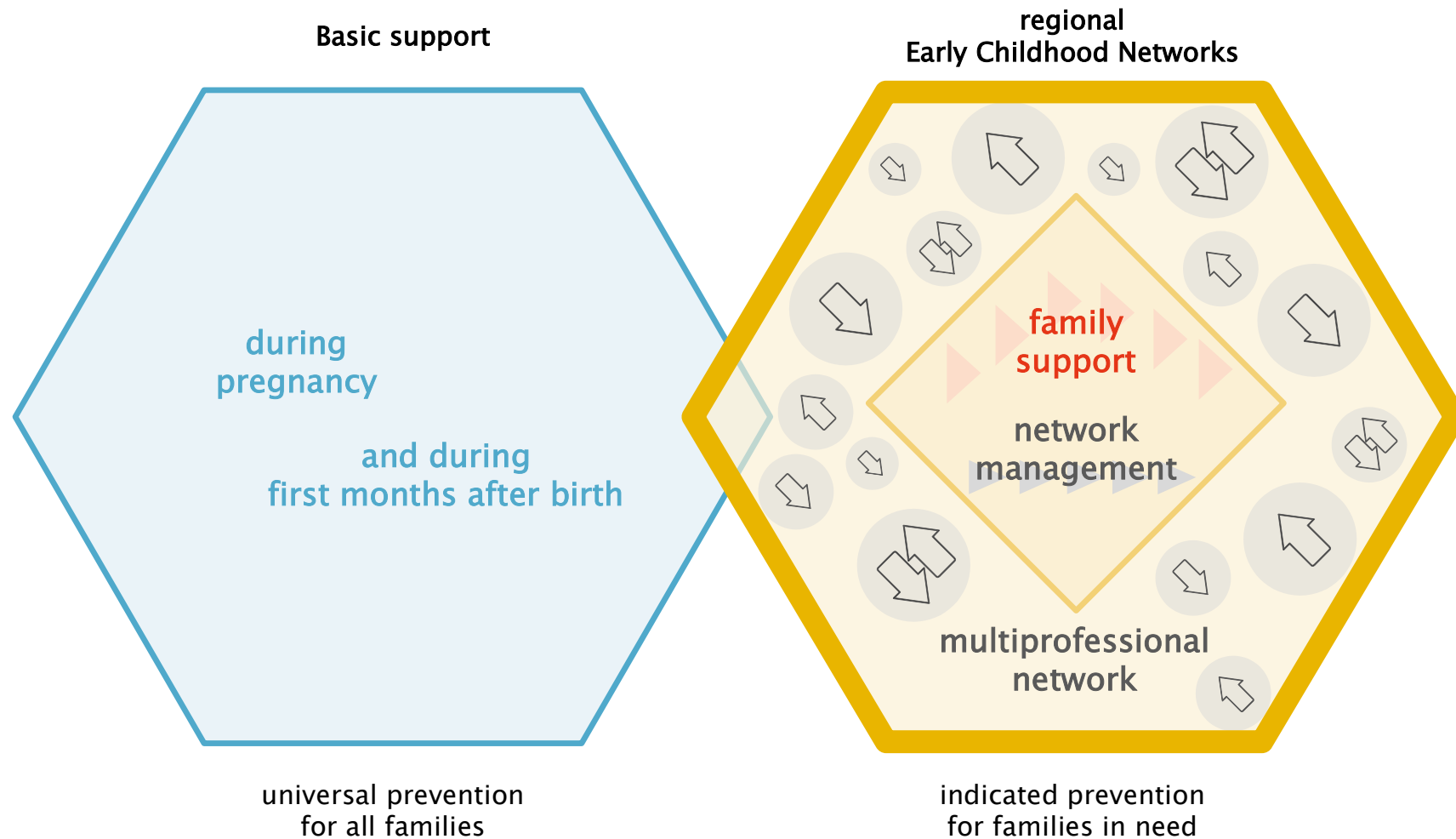
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Quality assurance measures for the implementation of early childhood intervention networks in a federal state like Austria

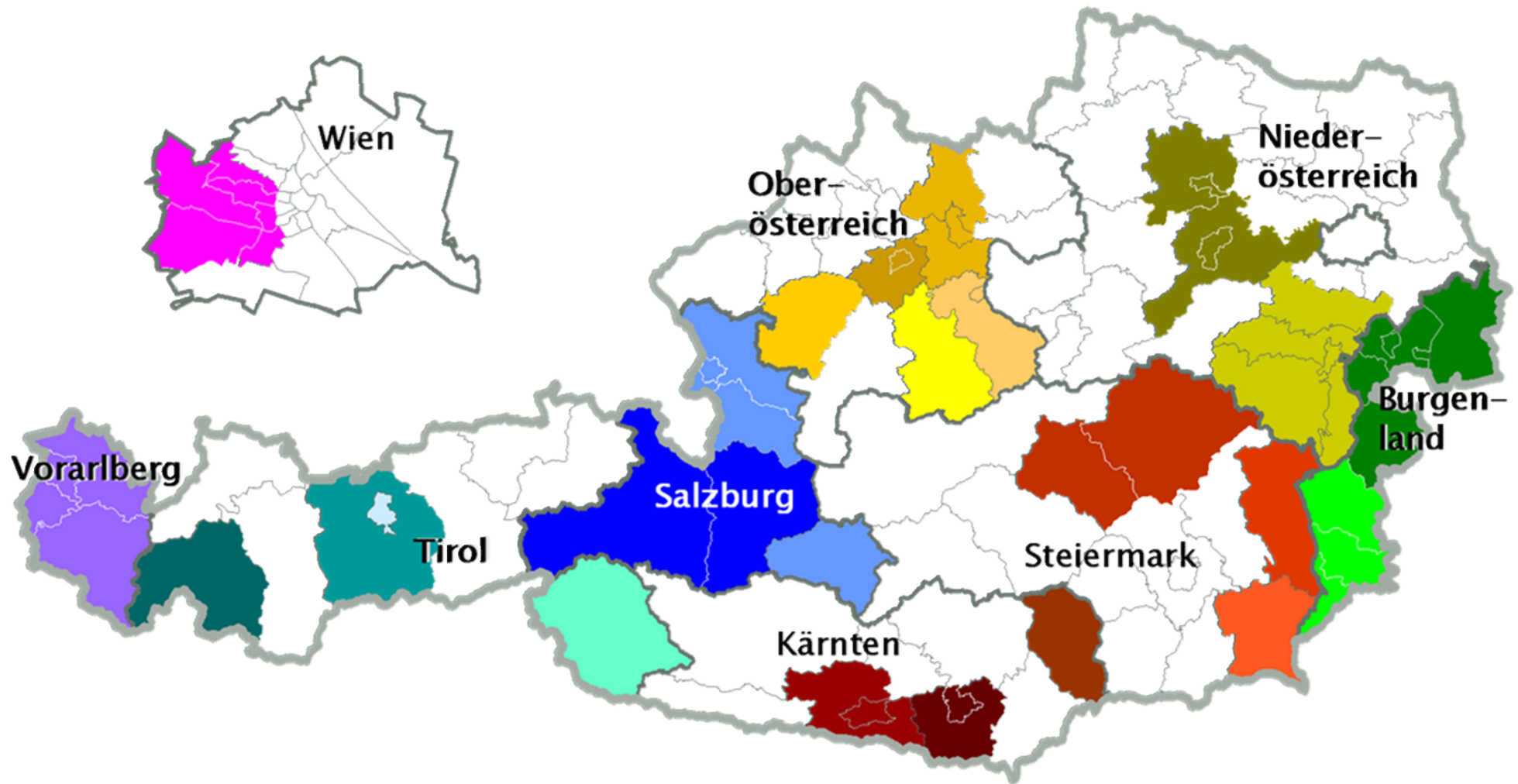
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EUSPR Conference
22. September 2017, Vienna



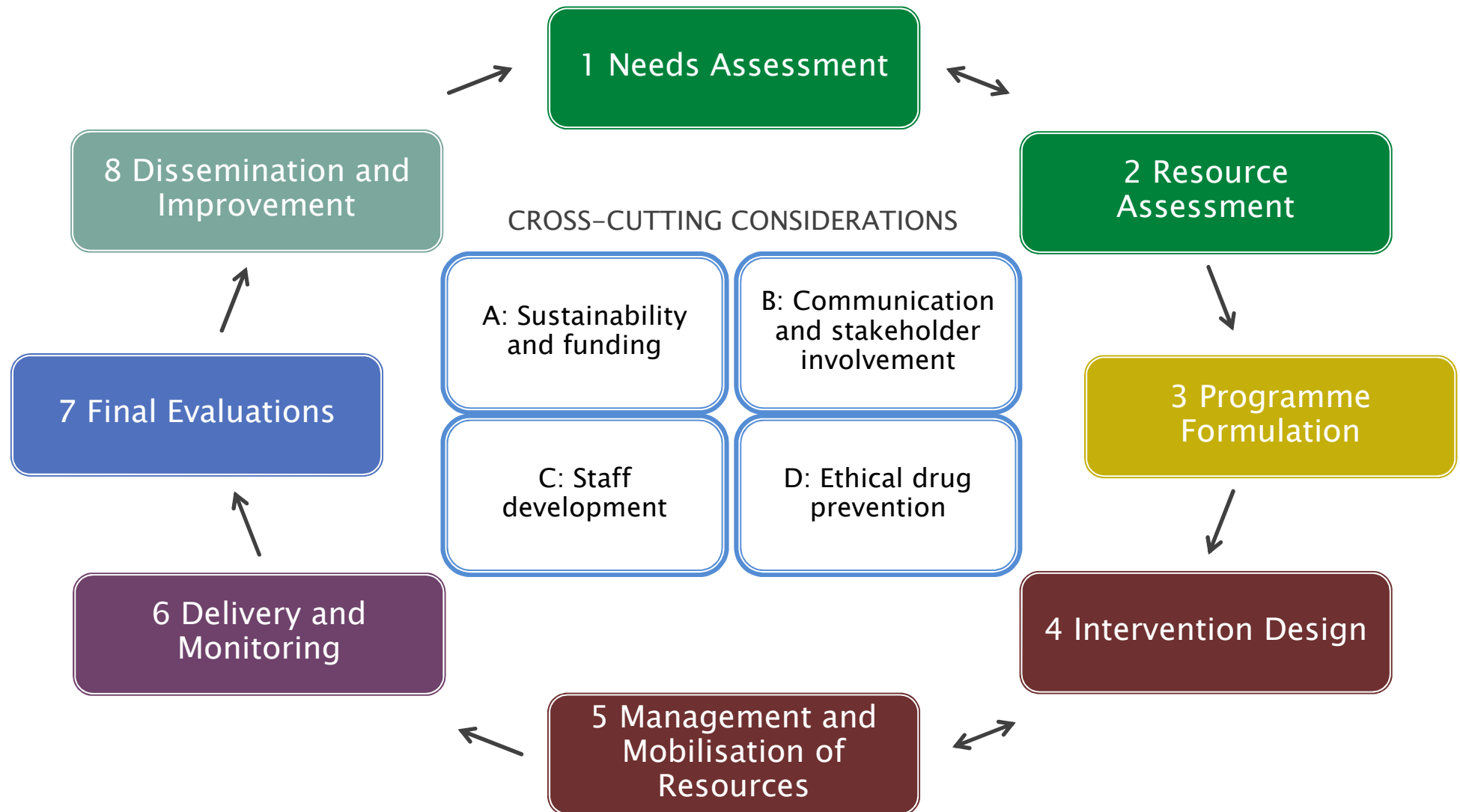
Austrian Model for Early Childhood Networks



Regional Early Childhood Intervention Networks, 2017



The drug prevention project cycle (EDPQS)

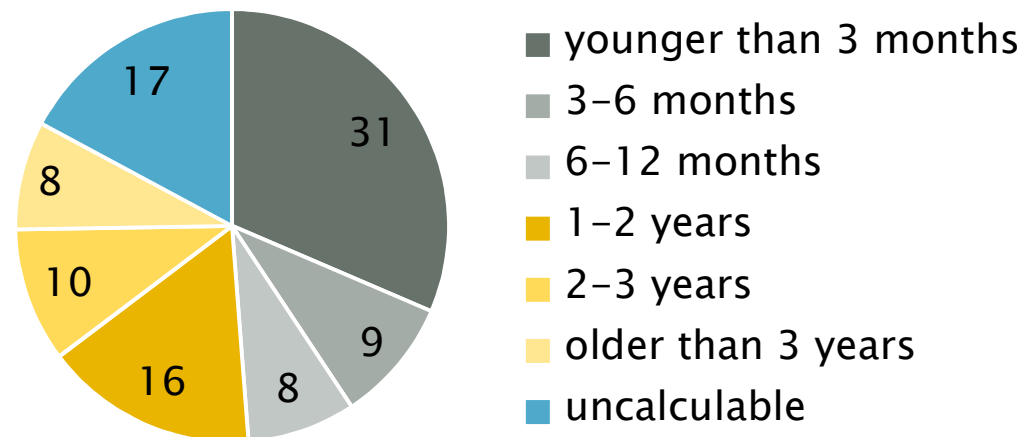


Key data on families supported during 2016

1.136 referrals to regional Early Childhood Networks, **931 families** taken over in in-depth family support, covering **1.037 children**

Women resp. families are identified and referred **quite early**:

27 % already during pregnancy, almost 50 % of the children haven't reached their first year



Key data on families supported during 2016

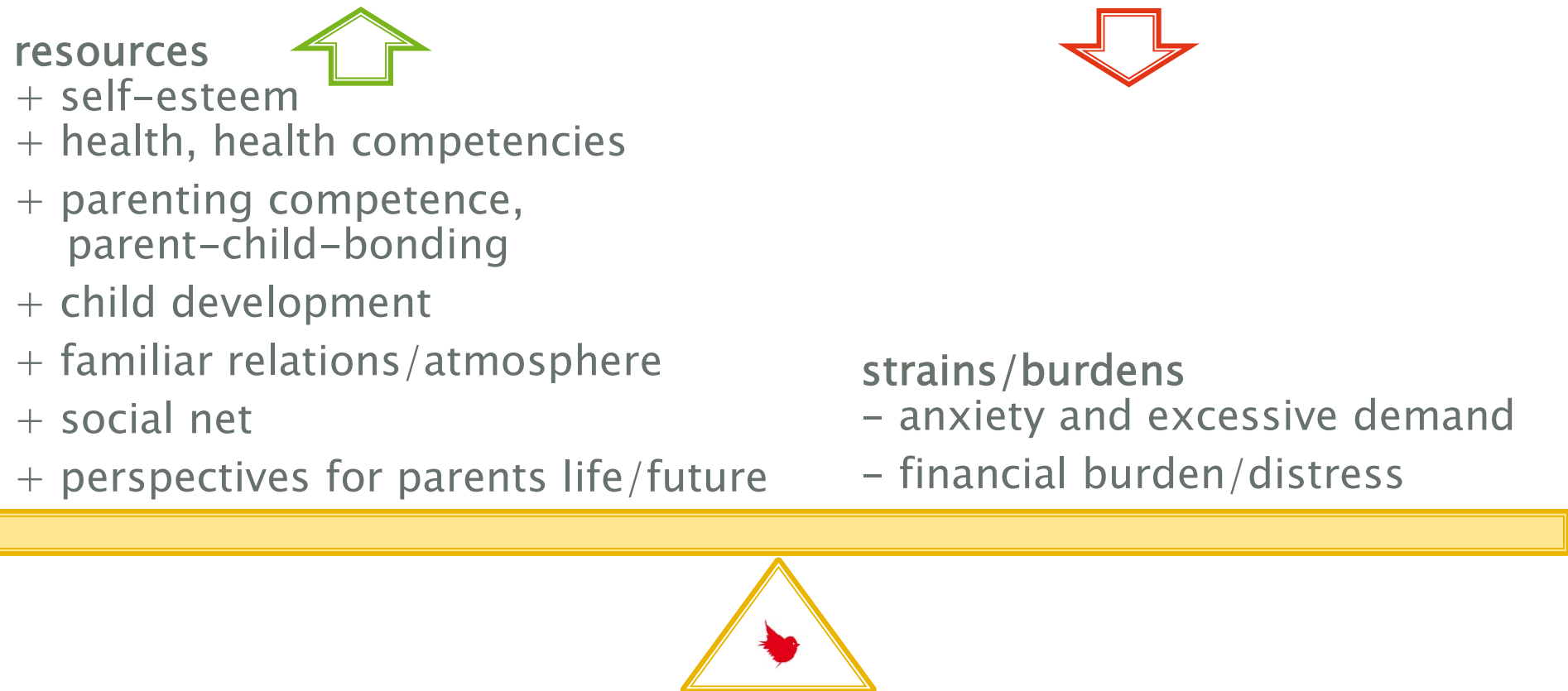
Data shows, that we do reach especially vulnerable target groups:

- » Share of single parents (almost only women) is about one quarter
- » About 30 to 50 percent of the families have a migrant background
- » About 30 percent of the main attachment persons finished compulsory school as maximum (about 30 % finished secondary school or more)
- » About 50 percent of the families have a high risk of poverty

But: Focus is not only on socially/socioeconomically disadvantaged families, because all families can experience a variety of strains/burdens during pregnancy or early childhood. So it is reasonable to reach also families with higher education etc.

Families do benefit from early childhood intervention networks

Impact on health determinants (material, social and societal environment) by **increases in personal/available resources** as well as **reduction of strains/burdens**:



Further Results / Learnings

- » Regional networks were established quite well, are very dynamic and adapted to regional situations; with satisfaction among those involved about clarity of roles and functionality
- » In order to ensure acceptance, efficiency as well as sustainability, it is key to build on existing structures, institutions and stakeholders in the region as well to involve different sectors, professional groups and intervention fields
- » Partly considerable differences of available resources and no fulfillment of demand, yet, -> differences in implementation
- » The National Centre is assessed as important part in order to ensure the compliance with the Austrian model as well as the quality of the regional implementation

Quality assurance – what do we have already?

Besides all the aspects mentioned already (unique model, unique documentation system, training activities, networking,...), we do have:

- » A **causal model** as theoretical basis
- » **Positive results** of evaluations studies, showing that the implementation is working well and that the objectives are resp. will be reached
- » **Committment** on federal/provincial level – and in different sectors – for broad implementation in line with defined quality criteria
- » **Further funding** of existing regional Early Childhood Networks from 2017 to 2020, allowing some expansion

Challenges identified

Specific for federal country: in general responsibility for funding and implementation of health/social services on provincial level

- > federal level can only raise awareness, motivate and support, but rarely take decisions (alone)!
- > collaborative (federal/provincial administration and social insurance) “health (care) reform” might be an opportunity



So what (else) can we do?

Continue all current activities, also those which are not directly linked to quality assurance but have an impact through funding or cooperation (e.g. raising awareness/commitment among relevant professional groups)!

Intensify activities to

- » ensure continuous exchange and networking on federal and regional level
- » support regional networks in their regular communication of activities and results and in negotiations with other stakeholders
- » support joint public relation activities
- » ensure uniformity by developing minimum quality standards and guidance for the implementation of the in depth family support

Start with activities to allow participation of the target group

Thank you for you attention!

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