

Health Literacy in Austria

Health Care Reform, the Role of Social Security
and the Impact for a Strategy on Health Literacy

Mag. Stefan Spitzbart, MPH

Public Administration

- **Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare**
- **9 Provinces**
- **Financing of Health Care is regulated by a treaty between Government and Provinces**

Independent Administration

- **Social Health Insurance (SHI)**
- **Legal Framework for the duties of SHI**

Independent administration means that the state transfers certain administrative responsibilities to those groups of people who have a direct interest in these tasks.

IN AUSTRIA THERE ARE VARIOUS FORMS:

Independent administration of professional and employees' associations established by law

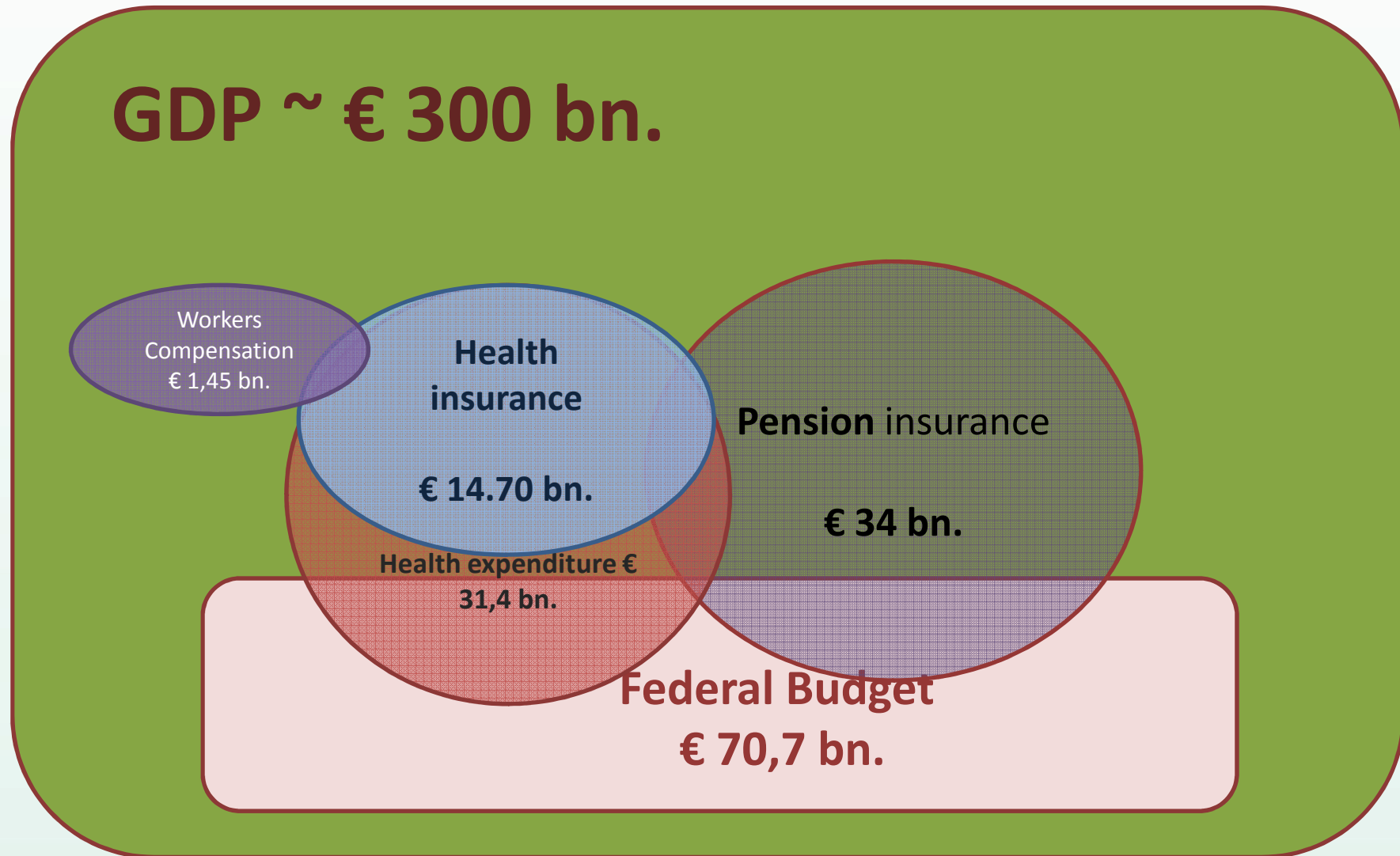
e.g.
Chambers of Commerce,
Labour, Agriculture,
Medical Doctors
and Pharmacists

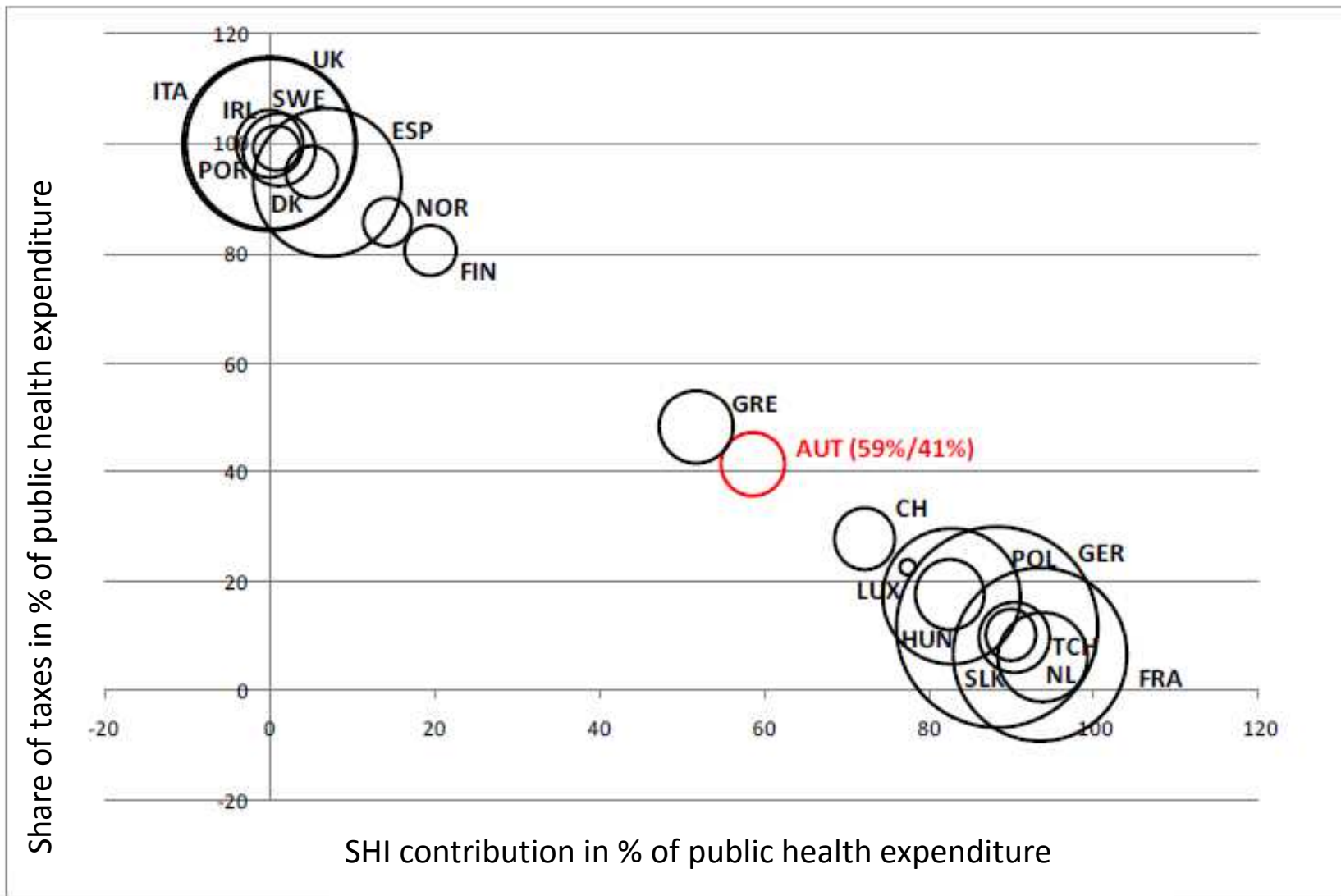
Independent administration of local authorities



Independent administration of the Social Insurance System







MAIN ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIAN SOCIAL SECURITY

PENSION INSURANCE	HEALTH INSURANCE	ACCIDENT INSURANCE
Pension Insurance Institution	9 District Health Insurance Funds	6 Occupational Health Insurance Funds
Social Security Institution for Trade and Industry		Accident Insurance Institution
	Social Security Institution for Farmers	
Insurance Institution for the Austrian Railway and Mining Industries		
Insurance Institution for Austrian Notaries	Insurance Institution for Public Service Wage and Salary Earners	

Health Promotion and Prevention

- **Medical services in the primary sector (including physiotherapy, psychotherapy)**
- **Drugs, therapeutic products, medical aids**
- **Dental treatment, dentures**
- **Hospital care**
- **Out patient care**
- **Sickness benefits**
- **Maternity benefits**
- **Medical rehabilitation**
- **Health Promotion and disease prevention**
- **Travel expenses and transport costs**

According to „Masterplan Gesundheit“ (Reformpaper of social insurance institutions, 2010):

- Developing health targets
- Strengthening of health promotion and prevention
- Need-orientated planning, quality and management on national level
- Strengthening and development of structured treatment programs for chronic diseases
- Integrated Care (Process and Organisational)
- Focus on quality, financing and restructuring of hospitals

- **Ministry of Health, 9 Provinces and Social Health Insurance signed a treaty concerning future health care reform**
- **New way of thinking – management by objectives**
- **Objectives are part of the treaty**
- **Main topic is the reform of health care system**
- **Other important topics are:**
 - Patient orientation
 - Health literacy
 - Strengthening health promotion

1. Empowering the people and patients

- **special programs for individuals and patients**
- **strengthening patient participation**

2. Strengthening Health Promotion

3. Making the system more readable by

- **better communication of the health professionals**
- **plain language**
- **health literate organisations**
- **reducing the complexity of the system by defining new pathways through the system**

- **foster HL should become a legal obligation for the Health insurance - law in appraisal**
- **study on HL of Migrants is planned**
- **study on MOGP for the SHI – will be published in June 2013**
- **strengthening the cooperation with secretary for Integration**
- **being part of the process of Health target**
- **defining goals for the Social Security**

- **creating data for decision-makers**
- **comprehensive dialogue and broad participation**
- **building partnership between institutions with concrete projects**
- **using windows of opportunities**

Last but not least

- **at least a bit of luck**

The health care reform will be brought on its way till June 2013. Time will show what we will achieve

