



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA
Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology OPET

The Triangle of Competitiveness in Switzerland

**KEN Awards,
6th of June 2011
Maribor**

Robert Reich, Swiss Ambassador to Slovenia



Competitiveness: Switzerland at Top

Position	EIS	WEF	IMD
1	Switzerland	Switzerland	USA
2	Sweden	USA	Hongkong
3	Finland	Singapur	Singapur
4	Germany	Sweden	Switzerland

Sources:

EIS: European Innovation Scoreboard, 2010

WEF: Global Competitiveness Report, 2009

IMD: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2009



Keys to Competitiveness

Competitiveness:

- **Research & Development**
- **qualified minds: intelligent skills- and grade-mix**



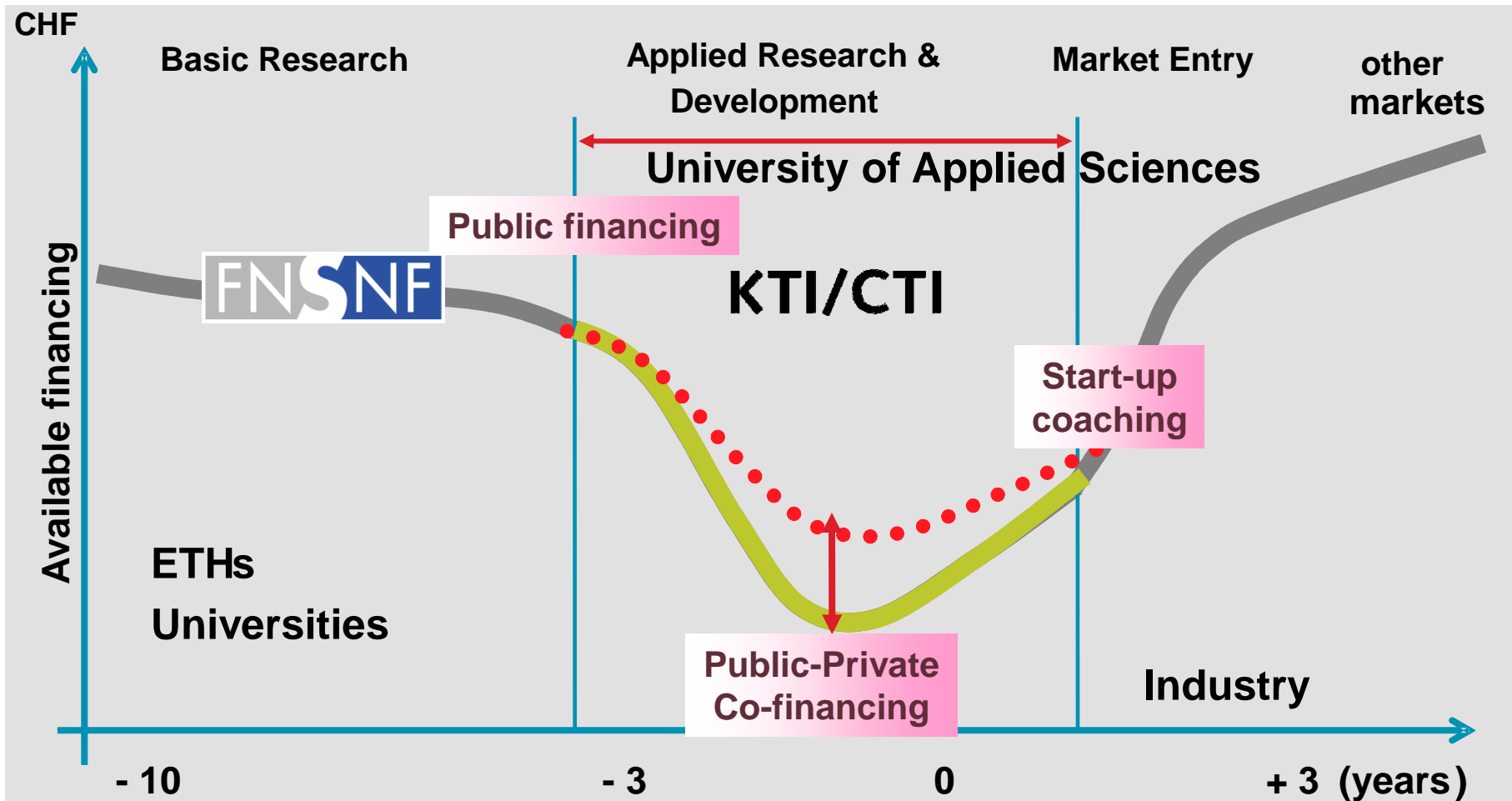
Swiss R&D Expenditures

- 2.8% of GDP (2.14% private; 0.68% public) invested in R&D (= overall Lisbon goal reached)
- 1/3 Public R&D expenditures versus 2/3 Industry R&D expenditures
- Swiss Industry R&D expenditures in foreign countries are higher than in Switzerland.



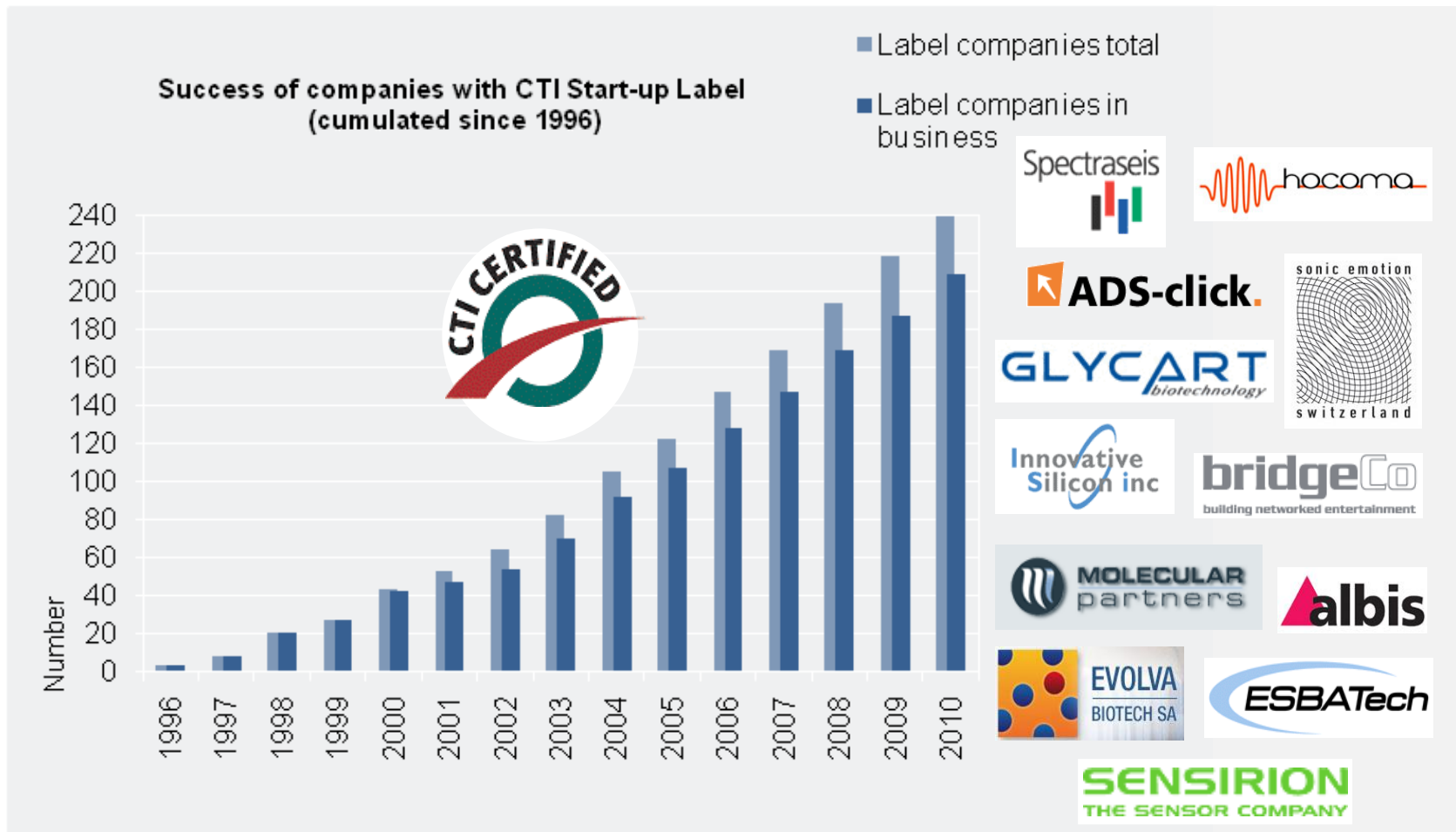


Support from Basic Research to Innovation





CTI- supported Start-ups: excellent success rate





Keys to Competitiveness

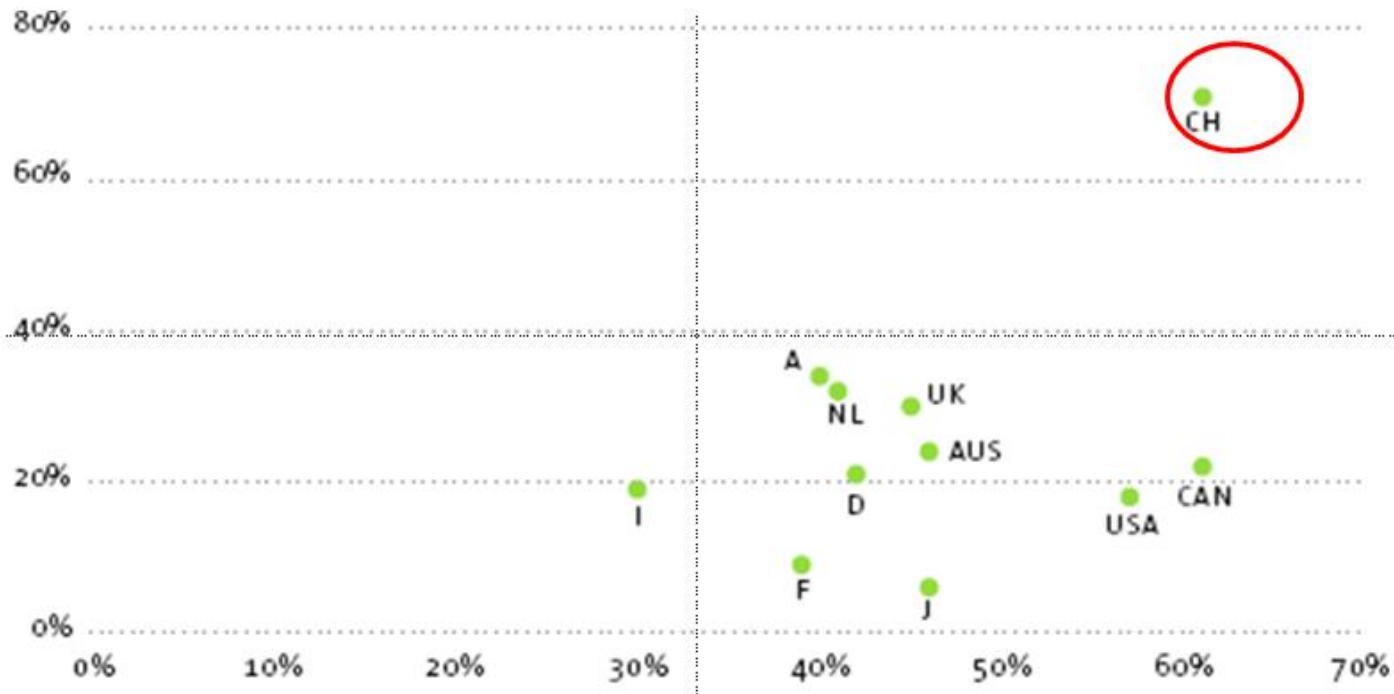
Competitiveness:

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Quota of Students at Top Ranked Universities in Relation to the Public Expenditures per Student, 2005/07

Quota of students at Top-200-Universities (Shanghai), 2007



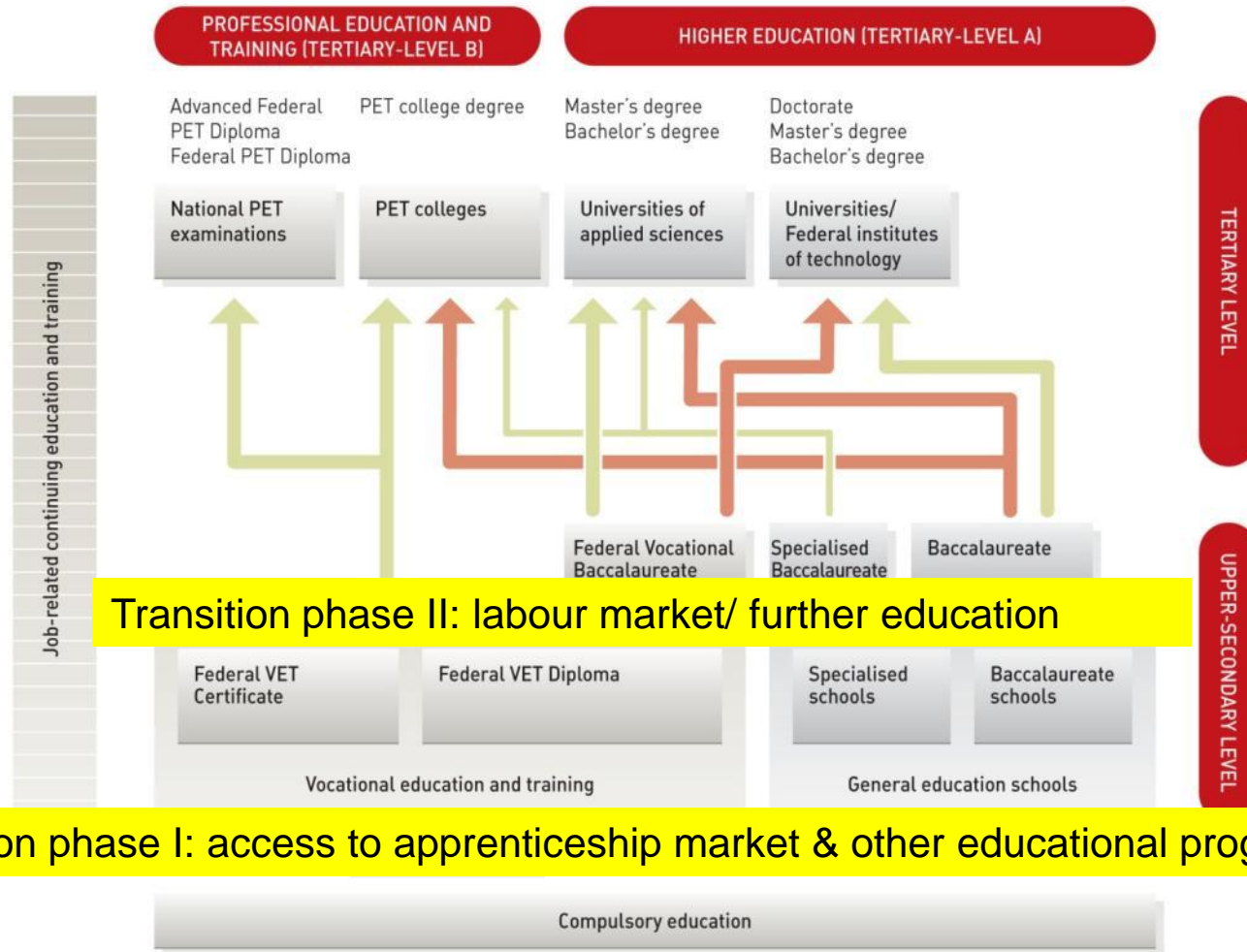
Public expenditures for tertiary-level A per student in relation to GDP per capita, 2005

Data: OECD, Interpretation: SKBF
Quota of students at Top 200 Universities

Educational System in Switzerland



Transition phase III: labour market

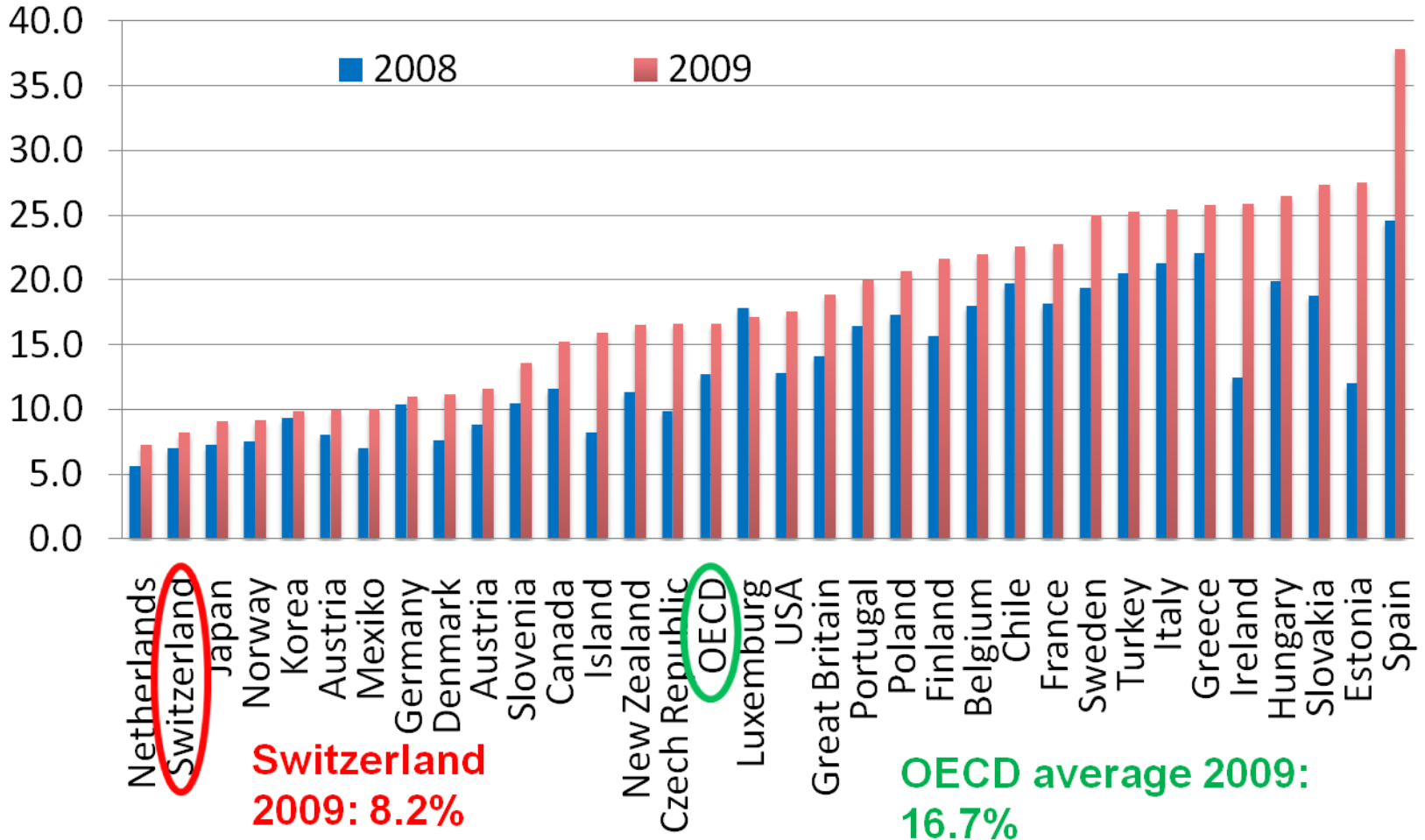


Transition phase I: access to apprenticeship market & other educational programmes



Youth unemployment (under age 25)

(OECD 2010, reference year 2008 and 2009)





Particularities and Strengths of Switzerland's Educational System

- **Practical skills** are the main focus of both VET/PET programme
 - **High permeability:** “no dead-end qualifications!”
 - **Adaptability:** occupational profiles, VET/PET programmes are based on the needs of the labour market
 - **Profitability:** host companies offering apprenticeships attain a positive cost/benefit ratio
 - **Low (youth) unemployment**
 - **Social recognition**
- **Overall educational system: intelligent skills- and grade mix to strengthen competitiveness**

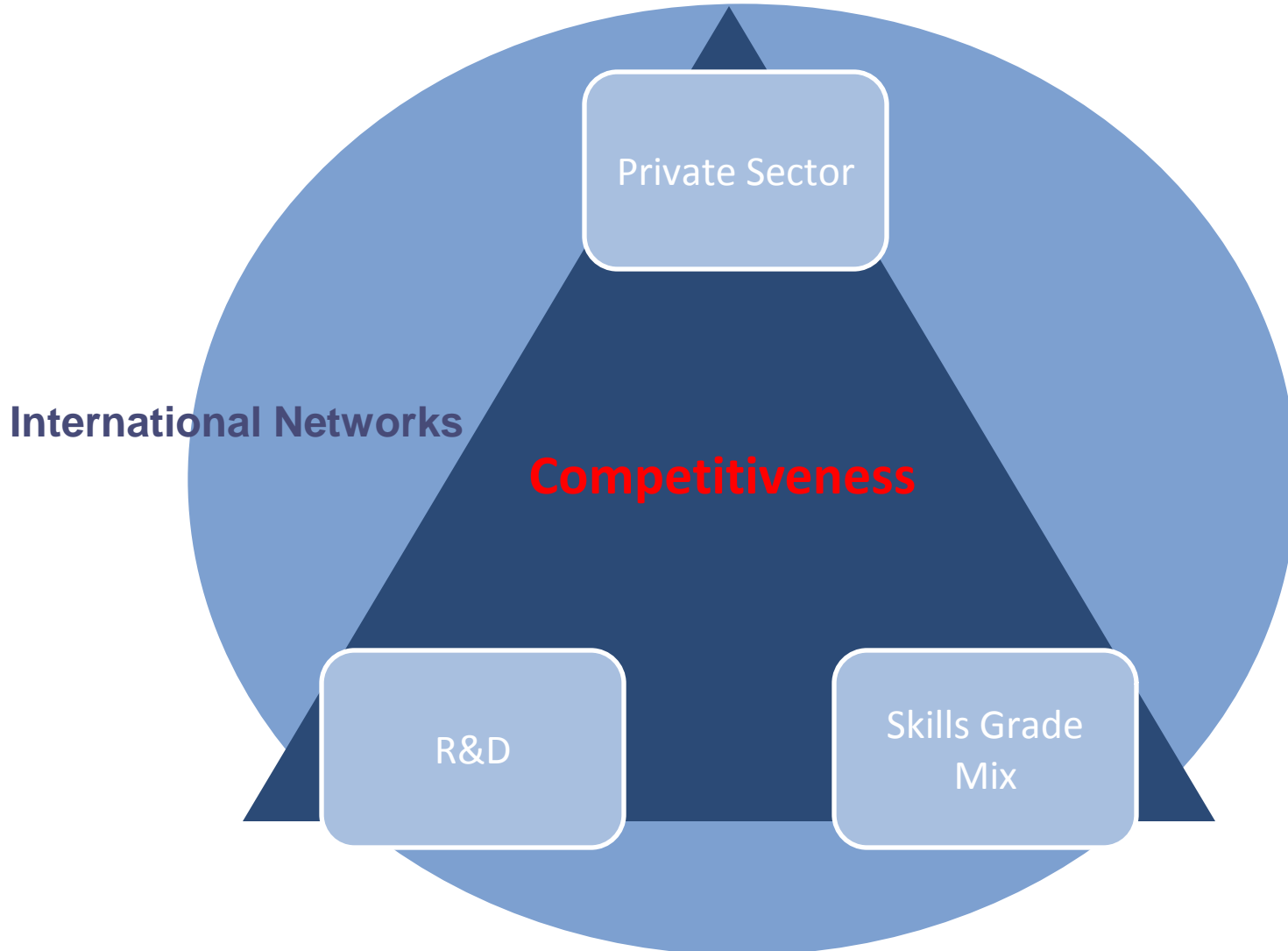
“Recipe” for Competitiveness

In order to be among the most competitive countries, favourable **general conditions** must be created to:

- provide **companies with incentives to invest in education, research and innovation**
- **enable highly qualified workers along the entire value added chain** to gain the skills needed for the labour market (Skill Grade Mix)
- encourage **international cooperation** and interdisciplinary approaches at all levels
- foster **mobility** of skilled workers



Triangle of Competitiveness





Thank you for your attention!

For further information: www.bbt.admin.ch