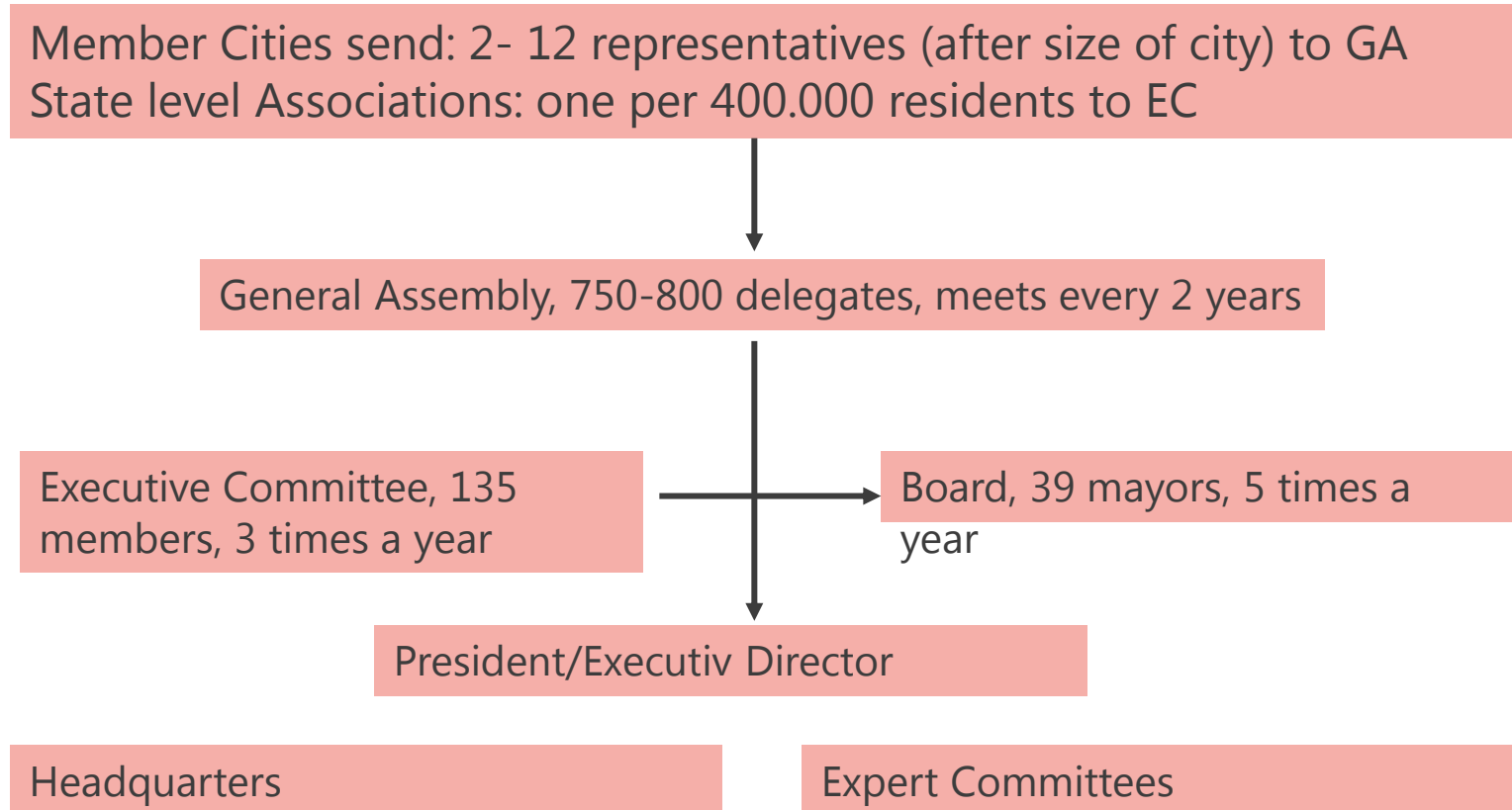


Project overview

- Project / process title: Ensuring political and financial independence of the Association of German Cities
- Name/s of the involved institution/s: German Städtetag
- Three-line project description: The DST applies different mechanisms to make sure it maintains its independence both on a financial and political level.

1. Institutional setting



2. Starting point

- Direct Members and no Association of State Associations
- Constitutional guarantee of local self-administration
 - Independence and non-intervention of central government
- Therefore:
 - Maintaining party political independence
 - Maintaining financial independence

☐ CDU
☐ SPD
☒ **Independent**

3. Approach

Party-political independence

$\frac{3}{4}$ -majority in voting by decision bodies

No decisions by specialist committees

President is selected alternately from one of the two large national parties

Principles governing action by local DST representatives are based less on party-political grounds but are motivated more by issues relevant to the municipality

Financial independence

No support from State

Voluntary Membership

Member contributions per inhabitant



4. Outputs

- DST as an independent voice of Germany's cities
- Stable Household
- No party interests but municipal interests
- Overarching interests
- Capacity to create common positions even when interests are diverging
 - E.g. ban on diesel driven vehicles

5. Lessons

Lessons learnt from History:

1933 forced to merge with other national organisations to form *Deutscher Gemeindetag*, supervised by Nazis
At these times mouthpiece of government but not of the cities

Political groups negotiate before issues become subject of decision bodies

6. Follow up

Open questions:

- Two Party System
- Binding Members
- Lack of resources/dependence on member contributions
- Non members also profit without paying
- Challenge to come to overarching positions