



# **Associations in Germany**

## **The organization**

# History and overview

- The roots of clubs in Germany ground in the 18th century.
- At that time, clubs were still called associations or societies.
- At this time people have found the opportunity to organize themselves, totally independent of their social status.
- The aim of an association is to focus on common interests.
- Own association statutes (rules and guidelines).



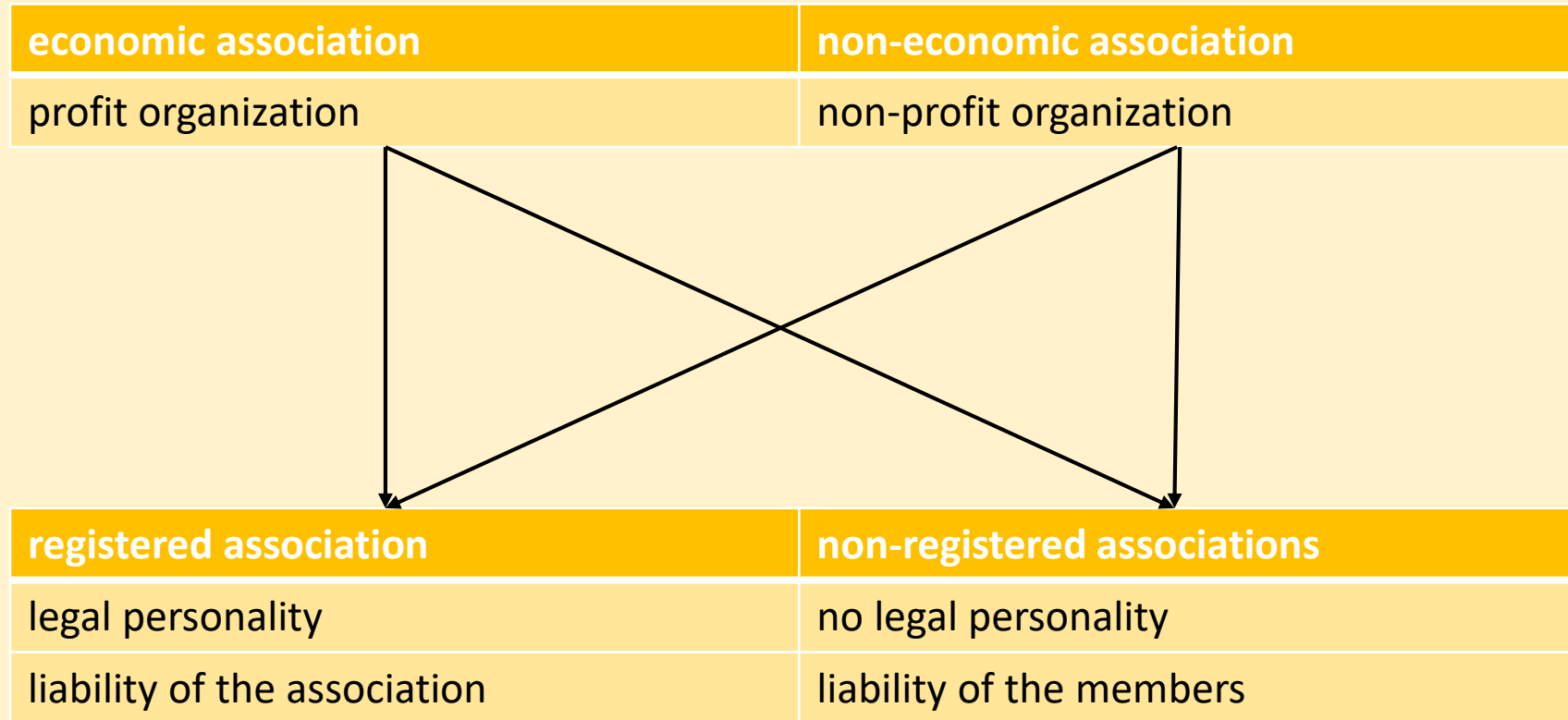


# Typical Types of clubs in Germany

- Traditional clubs
- Sports clubs
- Music society
- Cultural associations
- Environmental association
- Self-help associations
- Humanitarian associations
- Sponsoring associations



# Legal forms of clubs

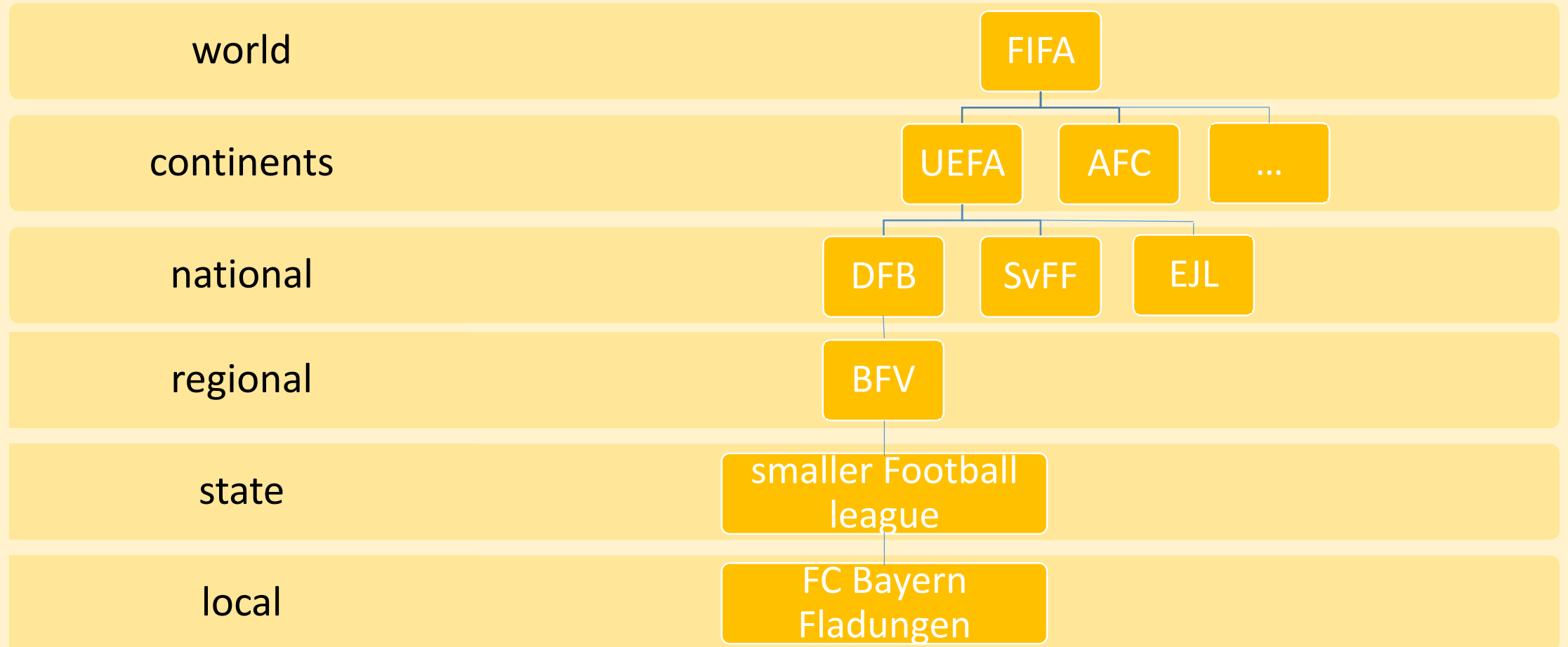


# Legal forms of clubs

- Associations are typically small organizations, who mostly act in a local area.
- Several clubs with the same interests and club purposes can join together to form another club, a so-called '**governing body**' (umbrella organization).
- Here you can bundle the interests of the clubs, network and exchange experiences.



# Example Footballclubs and their governing bodies



# Facts and figures

- There are currently around 620,000 clubs in Germany with over 50 million members  
Approx. 27 million volunteers
- More than 90% of all sports, art, music and education events are organized by clubs in cooperation with local authorities.
- Volunteers generate about 4.6% of the gross domestic product with their mostly unpaid work, which is about 40 billion €.





# Clubs in Fladungen



## sport associations

- Schützengilde Fladungen e.V.
- FC Bayern Fladungen/ DJK Oberfladungen/ TSV Heufurt
- Angelsportverein Fladungen/ ASV Leubach
- Volkstanzgruppe



## traditional and cultural associations

- Rhön-Zügle e.V.
- Rhönklub Zweigverein Fladungen
- FFC Fladungen/ OCC Oberfladungen
- Soldatenkameradschaft Fladungen/ Soldatenkameradschaft Heufurt
- Förderverein Freibad Fladungen e.V.
- Bullenstall e.V.
- Frühschoppenverein Leubach
- Vereinsgemeinschaft Brüchs/ Vereinsgemeinschaft Leubach



## nature conservation and humanitarian associations

- Kolpingfamilie
- Obst- und Gartenbauverein
- Bayerisches Rotes Kreuz Faldungen
- Freiwillige Feuerwehr



## music society

- Musikverein Fladungen/ Musikverein Heufurt
- Streutaler Musikanten





# Clubs in Fladungen

## Rhön-Zügler e.V.

- registered association
- founded in 1980 in Offenbach
- since 1996 in Fladungen
- provide historical steamtrains
- traditional and cultural club
- number of members :
  - Active members: 22
  - Passive members: 34



# Clubs in Fladungen

## FC Bayern Fladungen

- registered association
- founded in 1920
- sports club
- biggest association in fladungen with over 400 members
- provides a lot of different sporttypes:
  - football
  - table tennis
  - aerobic
  - volleyball
  - children's gymnastics

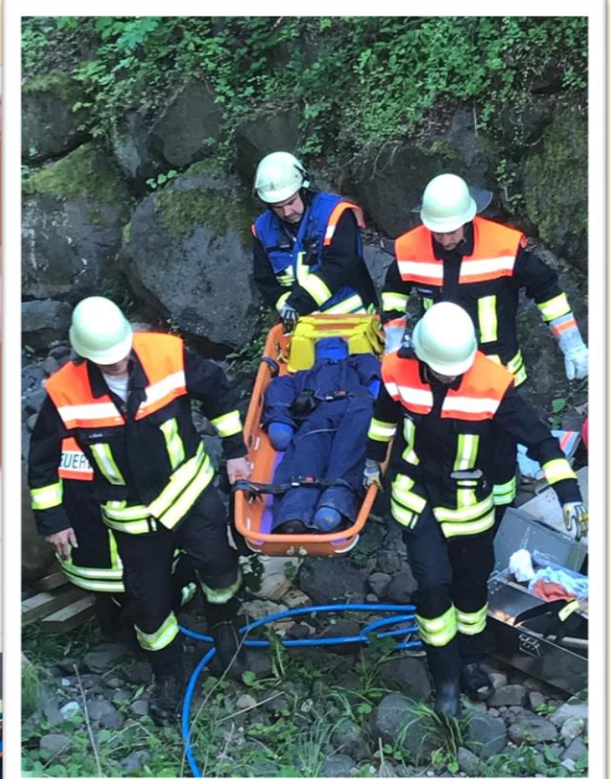




# Clubs in Fladungen

## Freiwillige Feuerwehr Fladungen

- founded in 1872
- humanitarian association
- every district of Fladungen has his own firedepartment
- the work is voluntary
- firefigther got no salary





# Clubs in Fladungen

## Musikverein Fladungen

- registered association
- founded in 1976
- music society
- number of members:
  - Active members: 60
  - Passive members: 235
- accompany the city life
  - St. Martin's procession
  - Own concerts
  - All festivals in Fladungen
  - Also in church
  - Fladungen Classics



## Question

Why are associations  
so important,  
especially in small  
cities ?







Example for the importance  
of associations for cities:  
Fladungen classics





# Fladungen Classics



- oldtimer festival
- about 15.000 visitors
- 400 special selected oldtimers are allowed to enter city
- whole city is decorated in the style of the 50's/60's
- typical shops, food and drinks from the 50's/60's
- vintage ferris wheel
- lifemusic out of that time
- no modern cars allowed





# The problems of crises for associations, example of the corona-crisis

- Because of social distancing and political decisions there were a lot of limitations for the associations
  - the membership in an association is mostly connected with personal interests
  - a lot of people got their friends in the associations
  - events organised by the associations were cancelled

➡ people lose a lot of their social life

➡ change of interests

➡ people get more lazy



# Impact of the problems on associations

- Young people don't find their ways in to associations.
- Engagement in the associations decreases.
- Threat of existence.
- Loss of culture and tradition.





# Importance of associations in times of crises

- People help each other

examples:

- Corona: youth clubs go shopping for older people
- Ukraine: people send goods to the ukraine
- Nature conservation: Friday for future demonstrations

- Conclusion:

- ➡ associations strengthen the community
- ➡ make a region lively
- ➡ strengthen of the ,us' feeling

