

# Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement

***The National Network  
for Civil Society  
Germany***

## The BBE aims to...



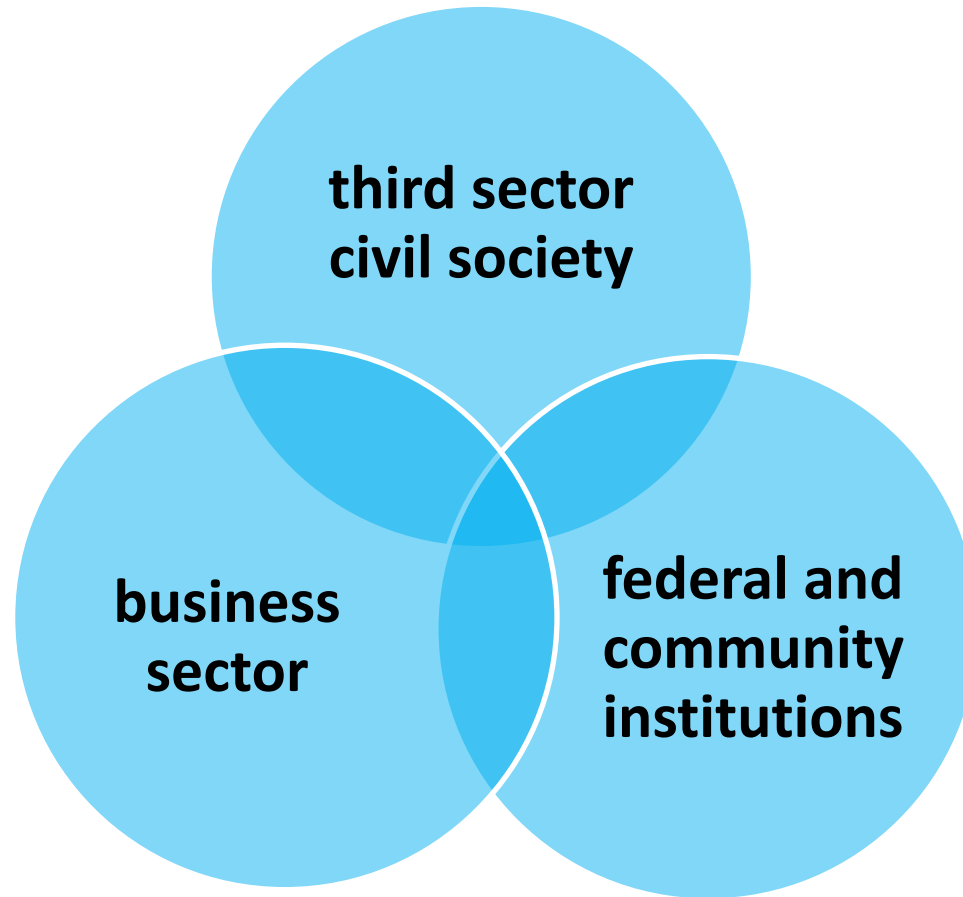
- encourage and support projects regarding civic engagement and participation as well as to raise and activate political awareness
- intensify sharing of experience at national, European and international level and make findings of academics/research on volunteering/civic engagement accessible to a broader public
- improve the general conditions for volunteering/civic engagement
- strengthen local civil society
- contribute to the reform of the public administration and open it up to civil society
- open all organisations and institutions to participation and civic activity; expanse the corporate citizenship of companies
- develop qualifications and education for civic development
- promote the civic involvement of migrants
- develop a culture of recognition for civic involvement.

# Milestones



- Founded in June 2002 by the German National Council of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) involving the 30 largest NGO in Germany
- First National Volunteer's Week in 2004: Since then National Volunteer's Week is established as annual recognition campaign for volunteering
- 2009: Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) started a process to develop a "National Strategy for Civic Engagement".  
2009/2010: BBE organised the consultation process through a "National Forum for Engagement and Participation"

## BBE – a Trisectoral Network

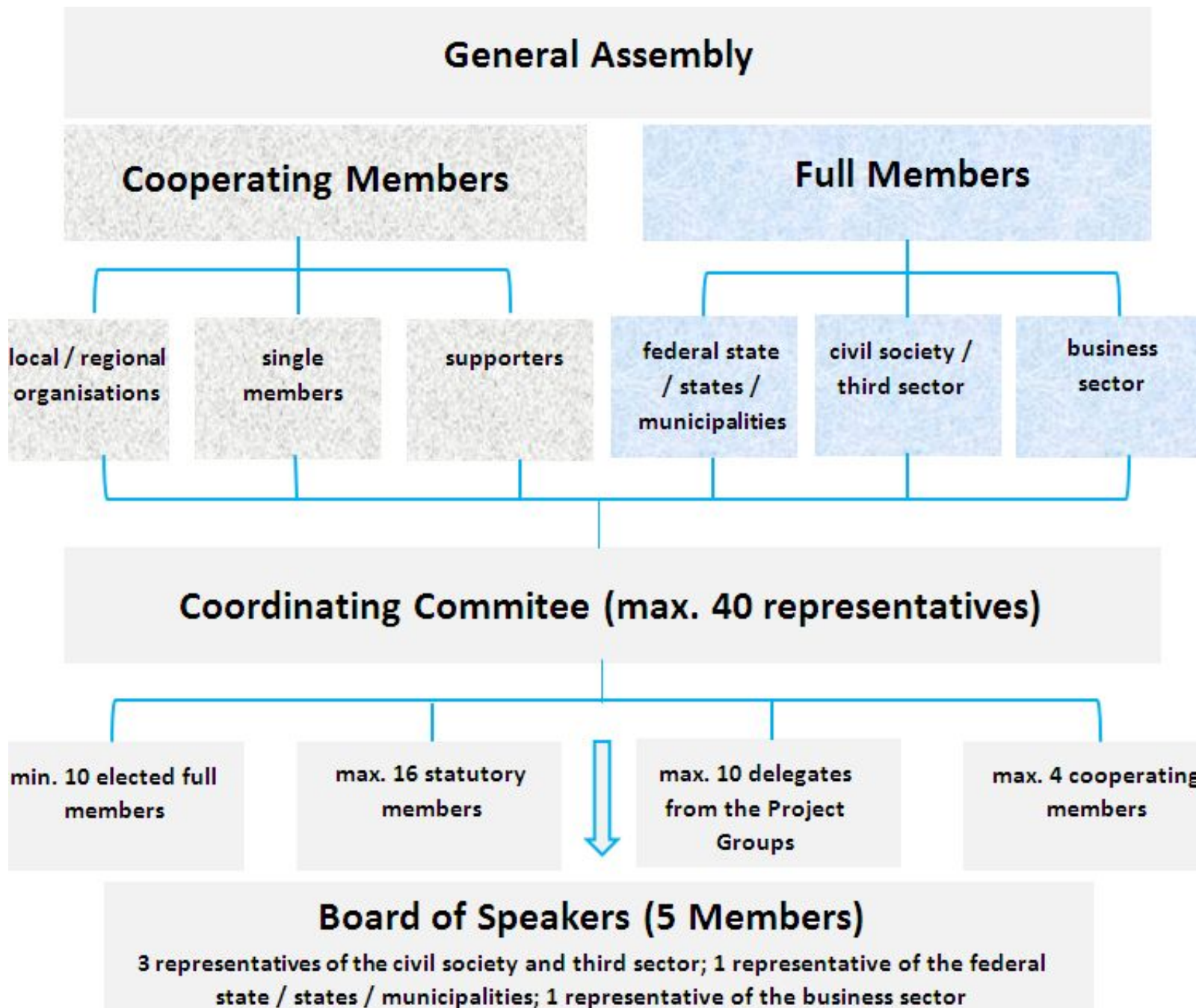


- Basis for the cooperation within the network: mutual trust and partnership relying primarily on dialogue, cooperation and practical stimuli with the aim of promoting the development of civic engagement and participation.

The image displays a large collection of logos for German NGOs and social organizations, arranged in a grid-like fashion. The logos are diverse in design, featuring various symbols, colors, and text. Some logos are well-known, such as the Diakonie logo (a stylized cross) and the Caritas logo (a red cross). Others are more specialized, representing organizations like the Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen (German Foundation Federation) or the Bundesverband Deutscher Jugendberufshilfen (German Federation of Youth Career Support). The logos are organized into rows and columns, with some logos being larger and more prominent than others. The overall layout is a comprehensive visual representation of the German NGO sector.



# How We Work



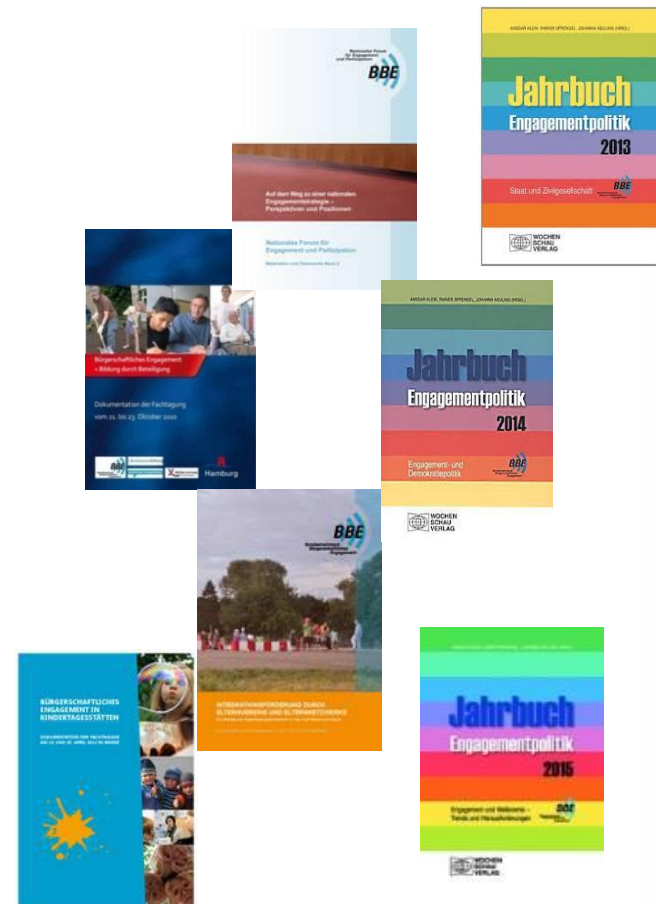
# Working Groups



Working Groups form the centre of activities of the BBE. They are the place for members to come together and exchange over core issues of civil society, organise events, produce publications and policy recommendations.

At the present, the BBE runs seven Working Groups:

1. Qualification/Education
2. Youth Engagement
3. Gender Equity
4. Civic Engagement in the local Communities
5. Digitalisation and Civil Society
6. Civic Engagement and Social Equality
7. Voluntary Services
8. Migration/Integration/Diversity
9. Civil Society Research



## The National Volunteer Week: Each year in mid-September

- Since 2004, the National Network for Civil Society (BBE) has been honoring the commitment of more than 30 million volunteers with the campaign »Commitment makes strong!« Around 15.000 actions and events take place during this week.
- The current Federal President is traditionally the patron of the Civic Engagement Week.
- The campaign is sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). ZDF is the official media partner.





## Strategic cooperation between BBE and the State/Government



### Tools and measures that helped to establish a strategic cooperation between BBE and the State

- Volunteer survey every five years
- Figures on the structural change of nonprofit associations in Germany
- Establishment of a subcommittee on civic engagement in the German Bundestag
- Establishment of a national engagement week (since 2004)
- Establishment of a media partnership with ZDF (Second German Television)
- Intensive discussion on compacts, framework agreements and a code of good practice for civil participation (Council of Europe)
- Intensive discussion on Art. 11 TEU and the European Citizen Initiative
- Insistence of the German CS to develop a national engagement strategy (2009/2023ff) together with a national Democracy Promotion Act

# What the BBE expects from the National Engagement Strategy



## Expectations:

- Clearly defined goal. What should be the outcome of the strategy?
- Participative strategy development. No top-down process. Utilization of results must be clear.
- Coordination with states and municipalities (some already have an engagement strategy).
- Visibility of civil society participation and governance (outcome and process are significant).
- National Engagement Strategy and Democracy Promotion Act should be formulated as one process.
- Integration of diverse target groups into the process.
- Process must be based on specialist policy, strategically planned and professionally moderated.

For more information, current projects and material, visit us at [www.b-b-e.de](http://www.b-b-e.de)

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