

20 years of PB in Germany

From global proposals (Bürgerhaushalt)
to fixed civic budgets (Bürgerbudget)

www.buergerwissen.de

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Democracy means connecting.

We connect citizens, admin staff, politicians.

We connect online, on-site, paper.

Since 2006 we have been shaping PB in Germany.

We create the most activating online plattformen.

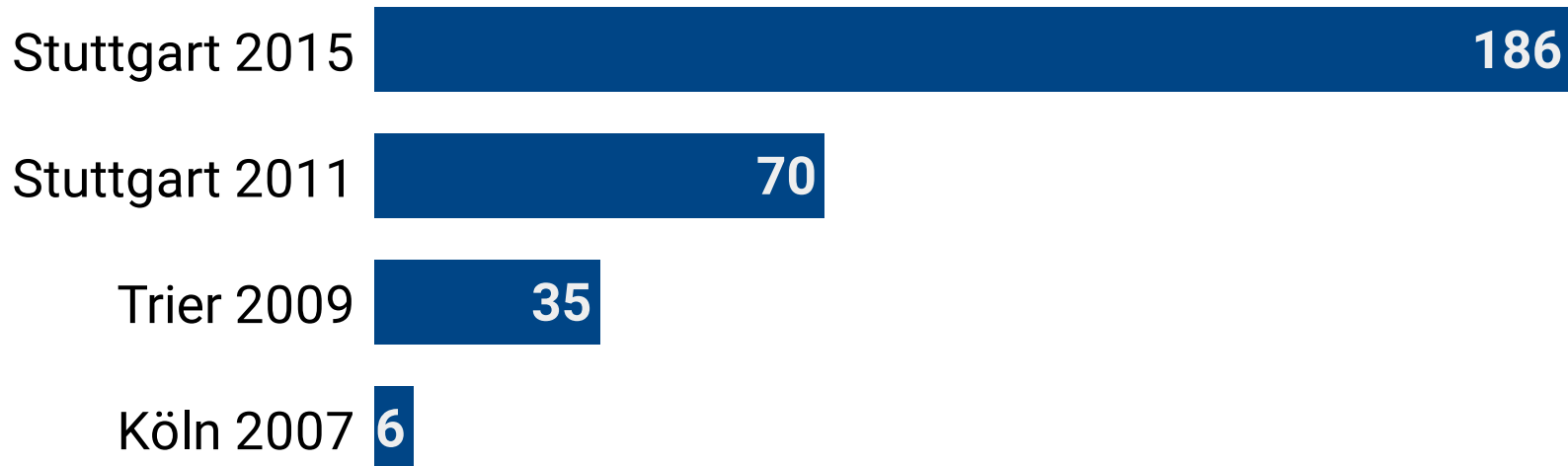
foto: City of Stadt Gelsenkirchen

We ask ourselves...

Could we make it simpler?

How can we increase user activity?

We have increased the **number of range votes per online user** from 6 to 186. No other platform reaches this high activity.



20 years PB in Germany

300 municipalities | 900 cases



inactive

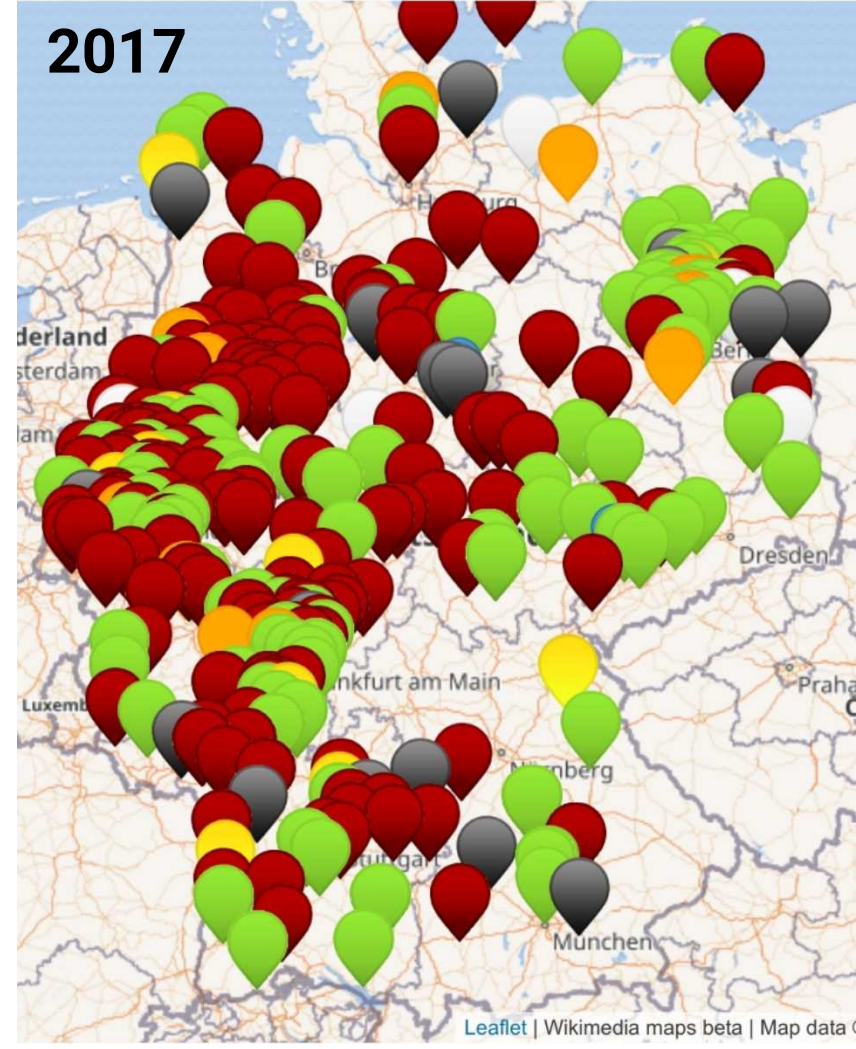


active

1998 role model Christchurch,
not Porto Alegre



2017



Main elements of PB in Germany

[brackets mean: only used sometimes]

inform, activate

1. readable budget
2. [intensive promotion]

participate

3. propose
4. [steering committee]
5. [voting]

implement outcome

6. realise few [top] proposals
7. [personal] feedback



foto: unsplash.com

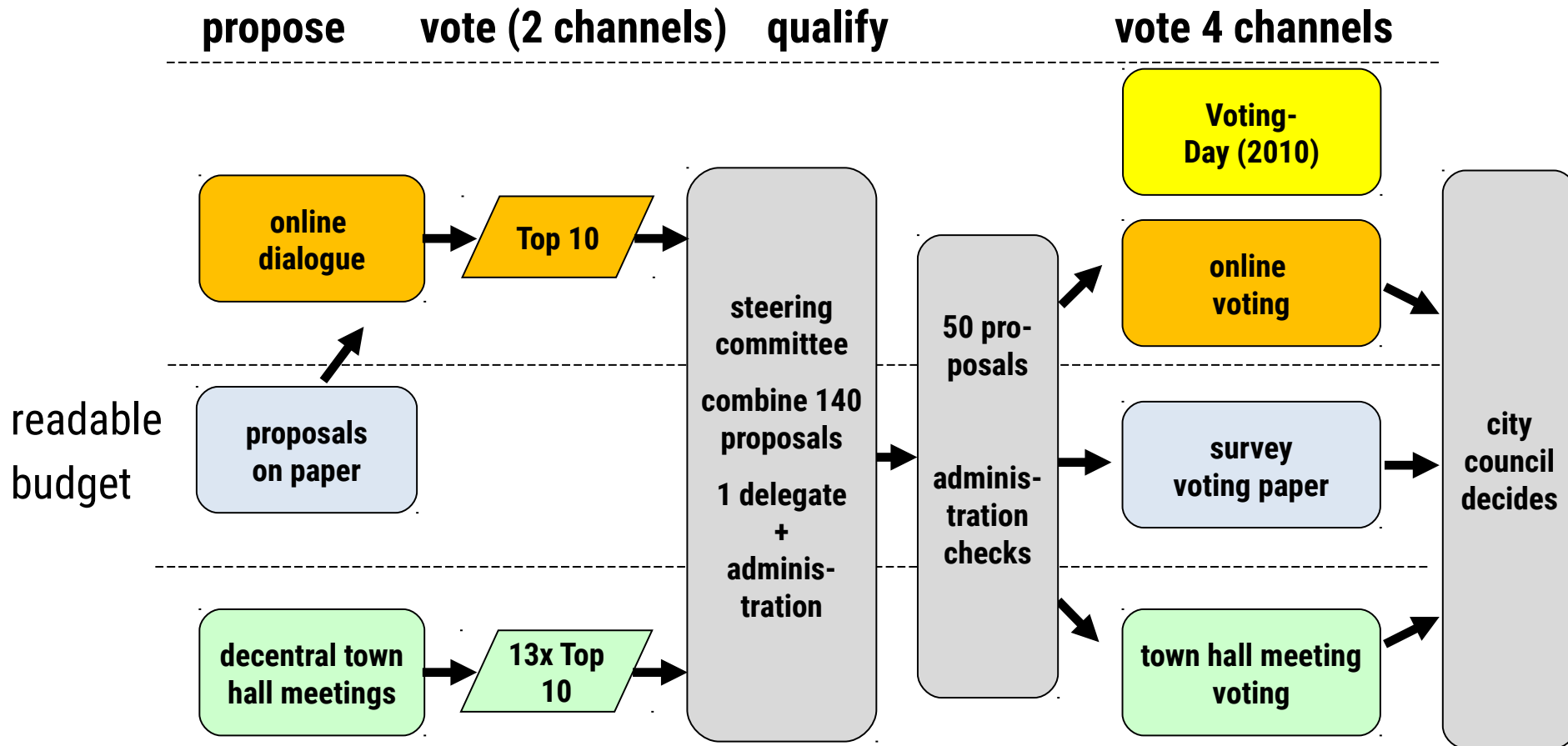
Used methods in German PBs

900 real-experiments

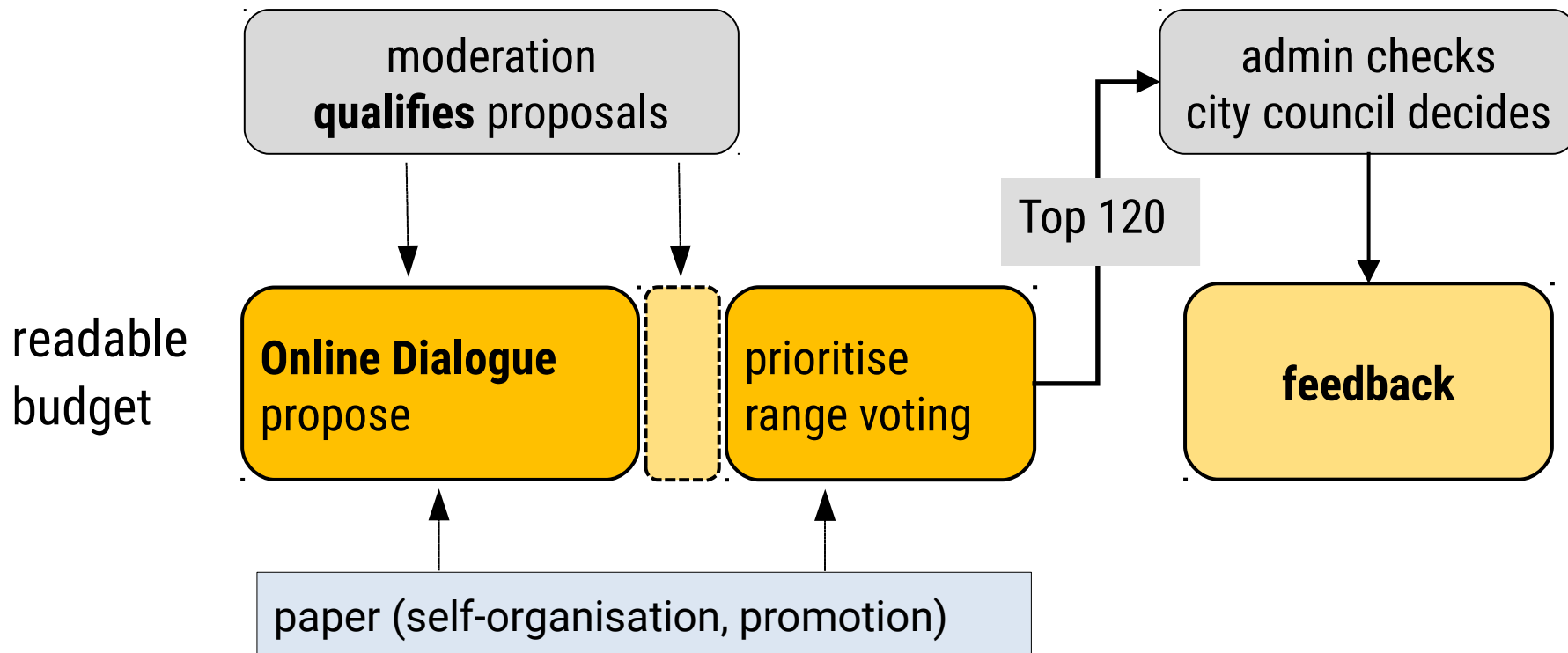
method	function	remarks
Town hall meeting(s)	propose (+ vote)	works in small towns
Online dialogue	propose + vote	works (+ paper)
Survey	propose (+ vote)	unclear results
Complex mix	combine the above	works, expensive
Proposal form (only)	propose (paper, online)	don't work, often used

- ... prioritise given consolidation
- ... prioritise given investment plans
- ... discuss parts of the budget plan
- ... participative budget calculator

Complex: Lichtenberg 2005 – 2010



Simply successful PB: Stuttgart 2011–2017



- range voting realizes the wisdom of the crowd
- moderation instead of steering committee
- works with 10 and 10,000 proposals

Simply successful PB

Stuttgart 2017

52,000 people

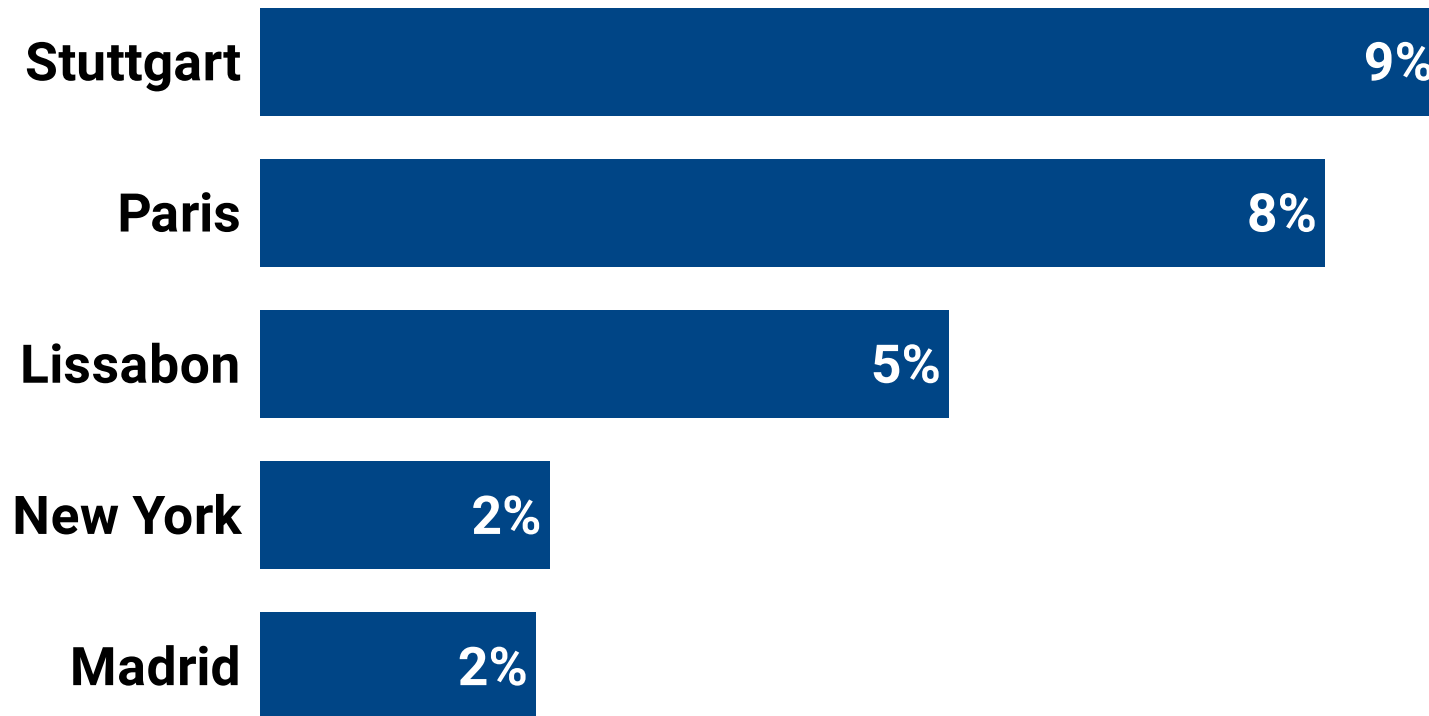
3,500 proposals

12,000 comments

3,000,000 range votes

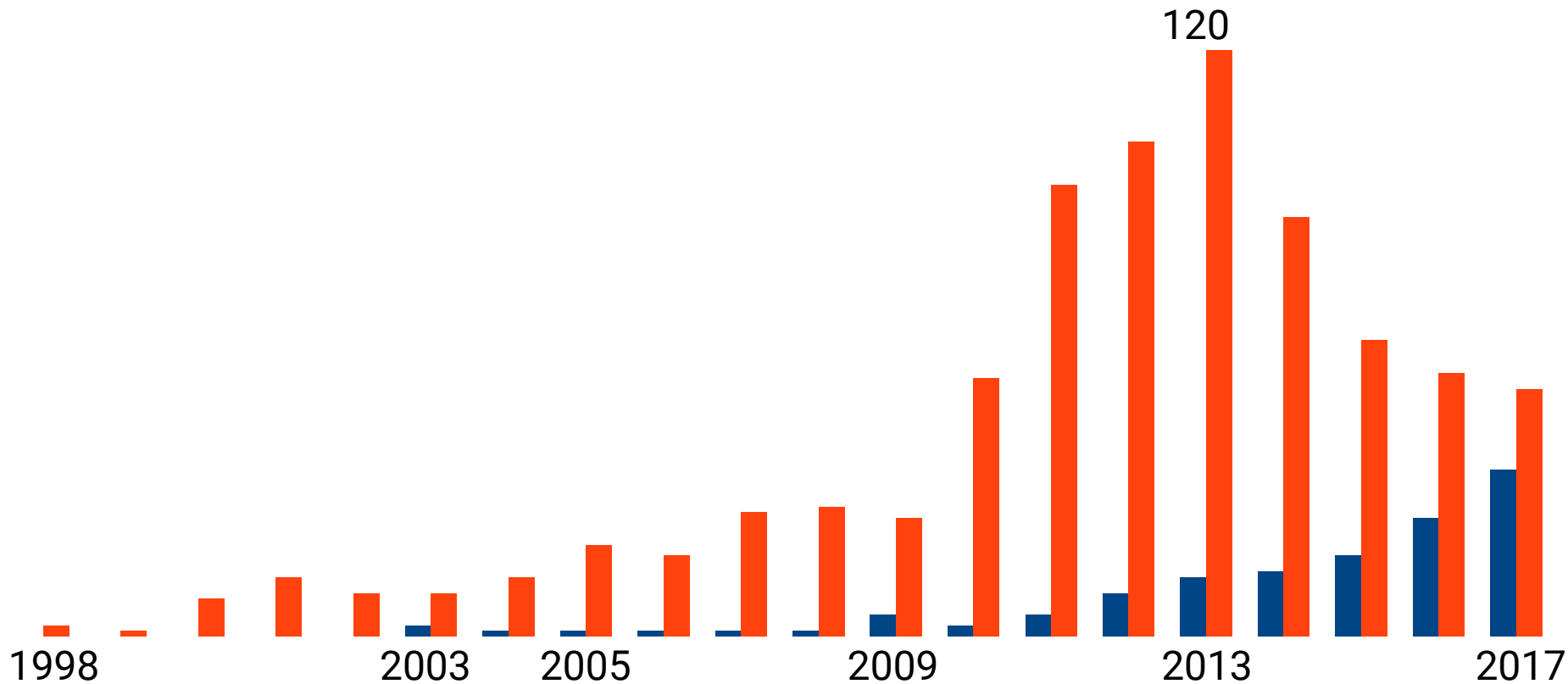
Participants in PBs in large cities

Participants as % of inhabitants



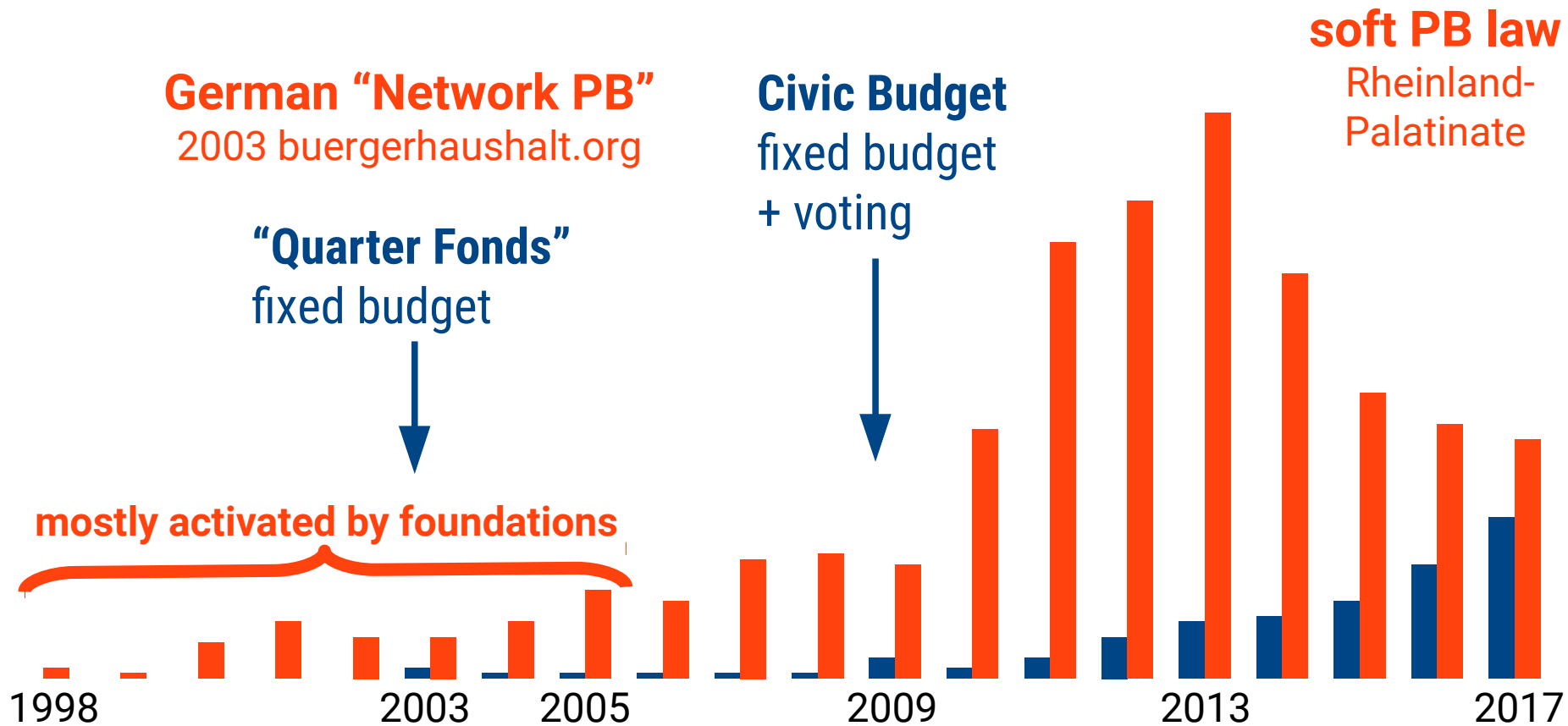
German PB-cases per year 1998 – 2017

■ from Budget Proposals (Bürgerhaushalt)
■ to fixed Civic Budgets (Bürgerbudget)



German PB-cases per year 1998 – 2017

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A lot of German PBs have ended. **Why?**
 1% or less participate, activity decreases by time.

- **ideological:** decision-makers prefer representative models
- practical: poor promotion (→ mail every household)
- procedural: no voting phase



City Council Isselburg
 Source: wikipedia.de, Ziko

What are the positive lessons?

- (range) voting reaches most
- a fixed budget works well
- qualify proposals
- fit PB into existing institutions
- stimulate self-organization
- use an activating platform
- simple successful examples

ask: **vorwerk@buergerwissen.de**



Glarner Landsgemeinde 2014

Source: wikipedia.de, Ludovic Péron

Save the date:

International PB conference
in Berlin

25 – 27 November 2018

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Max participants
24 % of inhabitants

Max Civic Budget
24 € per inhabitant