

# Comparative urban management

Performed : Borisov M.A.

# Selected city for analysis – Helsinki

- Helsinki is the capital and largest city of Finland, the administrative center of the province of Uusimaa (Nyuland). It is located in the south of the country, on the shore of the Gulf of Finland of the Baltic Sea.
- The population is 630 225 people.
- Helsinki is divided into 8 administrative districts.



# Local government organization and the role of the head of the city in Helsinki

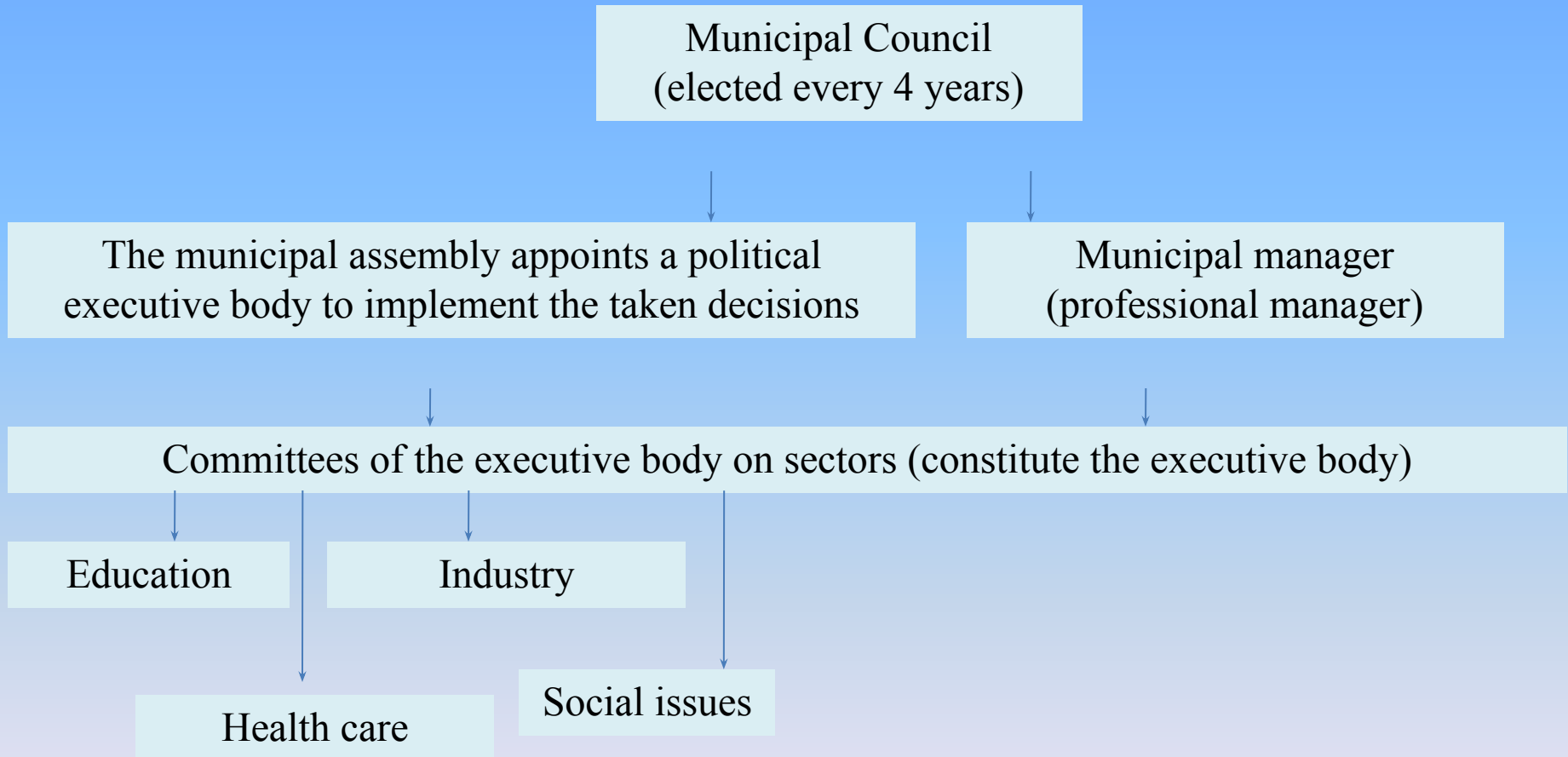
- In Finland (respectively, in Helsinki), local government is based on the principle of self-government of citizens residing in the municipality.
- Local self-government is based on the management of regions. This issue is guaranteed in the Finnish Constitution.
- In Finland, there is a special model of local self-government - the Scandinavian model.

# Scandinavian model of local self-government: features

- Large autonomy of local governments in resolving operational issues, but at the same time there is very little legal guarantees.
- Local governance is a part of a single public administration.
- Electivity and independence of local authorities.
- Control over the activities of local self-government bodies is distributed between the state, citizens and specially created public bodies.
- Local government is integrated into the state mechanism.



# The management system in Helsinki (management system in the municipality)



# Features of the electoral system in Helsinki

- The electoral system is proportional.

Features:

- Proportional system with open lists.
- The d'Hondt method.
- Without any interest barrier.

# Features of the electoral system in Helsinki

Depending on the constituencies:

- Elections for a multitude of multi-member constituencies.

Depending on the availability of election blocks:

- Electoral blocs are allowed.

# Features and results of the Helsinki electoral system

- The system of proportional representation allows each political party to obtain the number of seats in proportion to the number of votes. Therefore, this system may seem more fair than the majority system.
- The most diverse groups of voters can provide places for their representatives, and therefore the result of elections is considered by the population as fair.
- With this system, voters are more likely to vote for candidates close to their own position, rather than for candidates who are more likely to be elected.

# Relations between state authorities and LSG bodies in France and Germany

- **France:**
- The modern system of interaction of state and municipal authorities in France has a decentralized and democratic character. Representatives of the government are still present on the ground (after the LSG reform), but their functions now only come down to informing the central government about what is happening in the regions and to checking the decisions of local government bodies on the subject of legality. In communes in general there are no state officials. Their functions are performed by the head of the executive power of the commune - the mayor.
- Thus, the model of interaction between state authorities and local self-government, which has developed in France today, is very different from the continental model, the prototype of which it was originally. The current French model is a symbiosis of centralization and decentralization, state control and free self-government.

# Relations between state authorities and LSG bodies in France and Germany

- **Germany:**
- There is no strictly unified order in the organization of interaction between state power and local self-government in Germany. In different lands, this order can differ significantly.
- A characteristic feature of the German model is that the federal authorities practically do not take part in interaction with local government bodies. Relations between the state and municipalities are developing almost exclusively in the sphere of relations between the federal land and local authorities.
- The system of interaction of state authorities and local self-government in Germany is based on the principle of control and supervision by the state. At the same time, this supervision does not restrict local self-government.
- Direct interference of the state in the affairs of municipalities occurs extremely rarely, of course, if this does not concern the exercise of certain state powers. Municipalities in Germany have the right even to oppose state acts of supervision and apply to the court.

# Relations between state authorities and LSG bodies in France and Germany

- The main similarity between the German and French models is the presence of an intermediate level of power between the authorities of the republic (federal land) and local self-government. Its main task is to ensure that municipalities comply with legislation.
- But if in France this function is performed by representatives of state power in the provinces, then in Germany special territorial subdivisions of the authorities of the federal states are created. This level of power in Germany is called the average level.
- The French and German models are essentially different only in that there is a certain unified procedure for the interaction of state and municipal authorities in France, and in Germany there is none, different variations of interaction can be used in different lands. For other characteristics (intermediate level of government, control and supervision by the state, etc.), these models are almost identical.