

Summary

Project: JLS/2008/ISEC(FPA/C1/021

Beccaria-Project: Knowledge Transfer in Crime Prevention

In Europe, there is abundant criminological and crime-prevention knowledge available. Transfer of this knowledge, however, and networking in the field leave ample room for improvement. New approaches to collect and present the available knowledge are needed, and this was the central **goal** of the “Beccaria-Project: Knowledge Transfer in Crime Prevention”. The project was realized by the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony in the Lower Saxony Department of Justice together with ten EU-partner-organizations in Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

The **target-group** includes all member states, acceding states and candidate states as well as institutions, experts and practitioners at the European, the national and the local level.

To reach the project’s goal, suitable measures have been designed:

- The development and installation of a web-based „Beccaria-Portal“ in English.
- The relaunch of the German „Beccaria-Website“ (aimed specifically at local agents).
- The evaluation and presentation of „Guidelines“ for systematic approaches in crime prevention in English (Beccaria-Portal) and of quality-oriented “tools“ in German (Beccaria-Website).
- The development of „Interactive Beccaria Steps“ in English and in German, integrated into the Beccaria-Portal and the Beccaria-Website.
- The translation of the „Beccaria-Standards for Ensuring Quality in Crime Prevention Projects“ into 18 languages and the installation of a special website for these.
- The implementation and evaluation of specialized training (Beccaria Qualification Programme and Master in Crime Prevention) including the installation of specific websites and fora for a) participants in the qualification programme and b) students in the Masters programme.
- The organization of an expert symposium with our partner organizations from the EU member states.

External Evaluators (scientists and practitioners) accompanied the process of developing and implementing the various measures. Apart from frequent written and telephone contacts, extended evaluation meetings took place, leading to final experts’ opinions. Their involvement guaranteed a permanent **assessment and ensuring of quality**.

Results

The web-based English language „**Beccaria-Portal**“ www.beccariaportal.org combines up-to-date information from criminology and crime prevention in order to advance the transfer of knowledge and networking in these fields in Europe and worldwide. Experts, practitioners and other people interested in these issues find a diversity of contents and contacts under the following headings and are invited to add such data themselves:

Networker: An international market-place for contacts with crime prevention experts in which specialists can post their profile of expertise and activities and consult other peoples’ profiles.

Calendar: Overview of upcoming international events.

Qualification: Worldwide overview of training programs in criminology and crime prevention, arranged by the level of qualification.

Glossary: Collection of short definitions of key terms in crime prevention.

News: Presentation of current developments and events in crime prevention.

Guidelines: Collection of several conceptional and methodological procedures for systematic approaches in crime prevention.

Links: An organized collection of links to the websites of relevant institutions, organizations etc. in the field of crime prevention.

The “**Guidelines**“ consist of internationally recognized conceptional or methodological tools for systematic approaches in crime prevention which have to be applied to the respective context and adapted to the conditions of the actual setting. By consulting the short description of the respective instrument the user can at a glance assess its context and framework, its content, target-group, its purpose and benefits. The German equivalent are the “**Qualitätswerkzeuge**“ (quality tools) under www.beccaria.de.

Among numerous other instruments, the "**Beccaria-Standards**" are presented there. They are a manual for project management in the form of a practice-oriented guidance which developers can follow in the planning, implementing and evaluation of a project. Under <http://www.beccaria-standards.net> they are available in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, German, Croatian, English, French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portugese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Czech, Hungarian, Lithuanian and Polish.

The "**interactive Beccaria-Steps**" are a special offer for practitioners. With their help, projects can easily be planned, implemented and evaluated, because they lead them online through all important stages in the process of project management. They are available in English on the Beccaria-Portal www.beccariaportal.org and in German under www.beccaria.de.

The English language "**Beccaria-Portal**" offers a future-oriented solution to the challenges of knowledge transfer in Europe. It stands for the enhancement of knowledge through the wisdom of many and can be used worldwide. The Beccaria-Portal is designed for future sustainability: After the expiration of the project relevant developments and results in the field of crime prevention will continue to be posted. The EUCPN-Board-Meeting on 16. Dezember 2011 in Warsaw reached agreement in principle that a cooperation with the Beccaria-Portal should be recommended.

Increasing demands for expertise to achieve effective crime prevention result in a continuing importance of professional training and education. Specific qualifications in prevention will contribute to improving the quality of prevention work. The "**Beccaria-Qualification-Program**" for crime prevention practitioners encompasses an interdisciplinary, holistic training in prevention. The course was offered in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, further courses are planned in the following years. The program consists of four modules of two weekends each: 1. Criminology, 2. Crime Prevention, 3. Project-Management, and 4. Project-Evaluation (process and results). The modular qualification as a "Specialist in Crime Prevention" is geared towards all those working in the field of crime prevention wishing to improve their competence in criminology, crime prevention and project management. Per course up to 27 persons are trained. The course contents have a solid scientific base and at the same time are highly relevant for daily practice. The participants are qualified to critically assess criminological theories and empirical studies, to develop and implement prevention projects by consulting current scientific insights and findings and to apply methods of project management. After completion of all four modules the certificate „Specialist in Crime Prevention“ is awarded. After the 5th course – at the end of 2012 – there will be 100 such specialists. The contents of the modules may be found under www.beccaria.de, in addition, participants have access to a forum with teaching materials under <http://forum.beccaria.de/>.

In the winter term 2011 the master's program „**Präventive Soziale Arbeit mit Schwerpunkt Kriminologie und Kriminalprävention**“ (**Preventive Social Work with an Emphasis on Criminology and Crime Prevention**) started at the Ostfalia – University of Applied Sciences (Faculty of Social Work) in Wolfenbüttel with 20 students. It is designed as a completely modularized fulltime course of studies over four terms. Its concept has originated in the Beccaria-Project.

In line with the concept of prevention as a cross-sectional task of society as a whole, the program is designed as an interdisciplinary course. At the intersection of criminology, social sciences, law, psychology, pedagogics, social work, economics, and administration science it teaches a wide range of subjects in criminology and crime prevention, management competencies and the capacity for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work. The course serves both the acquisition of scientific qualifications and the access to leadership functions in the respective fields of work. The students are qualified for the development of prevention projects and –concepts, for supporting and advising decision-makers, for the scientific evaluation of prevention projects and for leadership roles. Competencies for action and for analysis are taught together according to the close relationship between theory and practice which is fundamental for universities of applied sciences. The course requires a Bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification and contains the following basic modules: Organization, administration, business administration, social work science, budgeting and controlling, and staff management. In addition, the specialized modules criminology, crime prevention, legal foundations of crime prevention, practical applications of criminology and crime prevention, and crime control policy are taught (see <http://www.master-kriminalpraevention.de>). The students have their own forum with teaching materials <http://master.beccaria.de/>. Both programs are suitable for various target-groups at different levels of qualification form the foundation for a Europe-wide adaption.