

“It is better to prevent crime
rather than to punish it.”

(Cesare Beccaria, 1764)



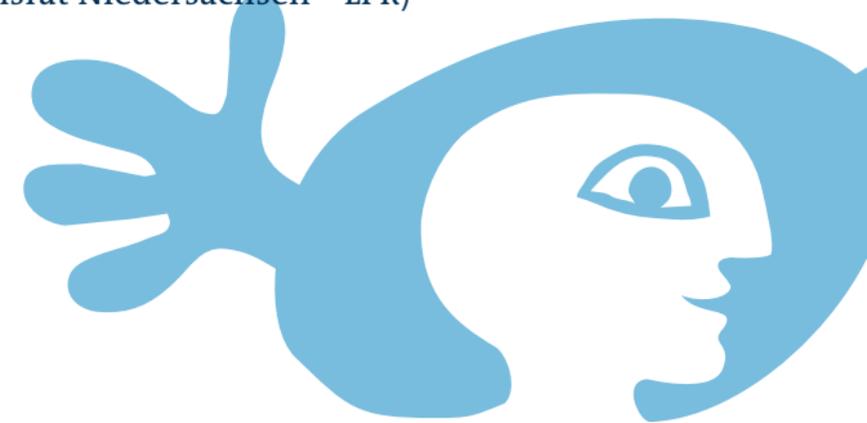
Landespräventionsrat
Niedersachsen

Published by:

Landespräventionsrat Niedersachsen
(Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony)
Niedersächsisches Justizministerium
Am Waterlooplatz 5A
30169 Hannover

www.lpr.niedersachsen.de

Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony – CPC
(Landespräventionsrat Niedersachsen – LPR)



Advise | Inform | Support

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Together against crime and violence in Lower Saxony

Prevention is the concerted action of many people with the goal of preventing crime and increasing the citizens' feeling of safety and security.

Crime and violence have a multitude of causes and shapes. For investigating and countering them pinpointedly and effectively, shared responsibilities and strategies of society as a whole are required.

With the founding of the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony (CPC) in 1995, a forum for these common efforts was established. More than 250 member organizations from all relevant social sectors contribute with their expertise to political concepts concerning security and criminality and support their realization.

Presently, some 210 local prevention bodies and networks are active in Lower Saxony. Supporting them intensively in their important work and linking up their efforts is the primary task of the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony and its secretariat.

The Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony has and will in the future play its full part for this dual goal: That an active and responsible conduct of people is developed through the efforts of all those involved in prevention and that the citizens' feeling of safety and security is improved.



Bernd Busemann
Minister of Justice of Lower Saxony



Sigrid Maier-Knapp-Herbst
President of the CPC

Contacting us

Do you want to have information on the kind of consulting the Crime Prevention Council offers or do you need information on certain projects? Then please contact the staff of the secretariat – we are looking forward to any exchange with you.

Address Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony:
Landespräventionsrat Niedersachsen
Niedersächsisches Justizministerium
Am Waterlooplatz 5A | 30169 Hannover

Telephone +49 (0) 511 120-5255

Fax +49 (0) 511 120-5272

E-Mail info@lpr.niedersachsen.de

Internet www.lpr.niedersachsen.de



lower row from the left:

C. Klages, Dr. K. Zenk, D. Freudenberg, Dr. B. Hasenpusch

second row from the left:

S. Wolter, K. Höfel, B. Strauch, Dr. A. Meyer, A. Buskotte

third row from the left:

H. Ehlers, F. Groeger-Roth, G. Bücken, E. Marks, C. Wieck

upper row from the left:

Dr. M. Coester, M. Spelzhaus



Further Activities of the Crime Prevention Council

Working group “Structural Child Welfare” | Exposition “Mediation” | Alliance for Healthy Children in Lower Saxony Primary Schools | Conflict Management Congress | Cooperation with the Foundation “German Forum for Crime Prevention” | Lower Saxony’s Prize for Civil Courage | Project against Truancy | Cooperation with the Project “Parent-Media-Trainer” | Partnership for Security in Urban Development | Security-Partnership against Economic Crime | Contest “Fair play takes you further” | and many others.

The projects presented here are just a selection of our wide spectrum of activities. Please make yourself acquainted with our tasks, projects and cooperations in the internet:

www.lpr.niedersachsen.de

The Board of Directors of the CPC

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Association for the Advancement of Municipal Crime Prevention in Osnabrück

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lower row from the left:

W. Wellmann, S. Maier-Knapp-Herbst, J. Storm, A. Gerken-Klaas, Dr. B. Vollmer-Schubert, H. Kofahl-Langmack, S. Löprick, E. Marks

upper row from the left:

H. Roselieb, A. Bruns, C. Ens, M. Oevermann, Dr. F. Lüttig

Board of Directors

- 1 chairperson
- 6 representatives of members: 3 from municipal bodies and 3 from non-governmental organizations operating statewide
- 1 representative of the State Chancellery
- 4 representatives of Lower Saxony Government Departments: Department of the Interior, for Sports and Intergration, Department for Social Affairs, Women, Families, and Health, Department of Education, Department of Justice
- 1 Executive Director of the CPC Secretariat

General Assembly of Members

- Government departments and subordinate authorities
- non-governmental organizations operating state-wide
- municipal crime prevention bodies
- associations and foundations promoting crime prevention
- scientific institutions

Secretariat

- 1 Executive Director
- 1 Deputy Director
- Staffmembers

Our Structure

In Germany, crime prevention is the responsibility of all three levels of government (Federal, State and Municipal, see below). Due to the constitutional principle of subsidiarity, the role of non-governmental organizations and local communities has precedence over activities at the state- or federal level. To coordinate these efforts, crime prevention councils have been established in many municipalities and most states. State crime prevention councils support and advise local crime prevention bodies and networks, disseminate scientific findings and practical experience concerning crime prevention, analyze crime trends and advise the government on issues of crime policy and interdepartmental cooperation in this field.

The Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony presently has some 250 member organizations, its secretariat is part of the Department of Justice. Several of its projects are funded in the context of a framework-partnership with the European Commission, additional support is provided by the Federal Government and foundations such as the Klosterkammer Hannover.

Conferences and Events for the Public

In order to disseminate recent scientific findings and examples of best practice concerning crime prevention, but also to provide opportunities for informal networking among researchers, administrators and practitioners, the Crime Prevention Council regularly organizes or participates in large scale conferences and public events. Among them were the “Conflict Management Congress” and the conference on “Society engaged in Prevention” in 2008 and the 14th German Congress on Crime Prevention in Hanover in 2009.

The CPC is in close contact with the German Congress on Crime Prevention, which has its secretariat in Hanover. It is the largest European annual conference on crime prevention and related issues – there were more than 3000 participants in 2009 and some 300 presentations, lectures, workshops etc. The Congress includes an international platform for an interdisciplinary exchange in English, the Annual International Forum. The 15th Congress will be held in Berlin in May 2010, focussing on the role of education in crime prevention.

The Lower Saxony Crime Prevention Conference is a bi-annual meeting of experts involved in societal crime prevention in Lower Saxony. It demonstrates the wide spectrum of current approaches and initiatives in Lower Saxony and serves to facilitate contacts, networking and the exchange of experience among practitioners in municipal crime prevention. New practical, scientific and political or legal developments are presented in lectures and workshops as well as an extensive exposition.





Contact:

Erich Marks

erich.marks@mj.niedersachsen.de

Dr. Burkhard Hasenpusch

burkhard.hasenpusch@mj.niedersachsen.de

Dr. Marc Coester

marc.coester@mj.niedersachsen.de

Dr. Anja Meyer

anja.meyer@mj.niedersachsen.de

Frederick Groeger-Roth

frederick.groeger-roth@mj.niedersachsen.de

Susanne Wolter

susanne.wolter@mj.niedersachsen.de

International Relations of the CPC

International contacts are necessary today to profit from experiences abroad, learn about new developments and find partners for cooperative efforts. Due to projects co-funded by the European Commission (SPIN and Beccaria), partnerships with organizations in a dozen EU-member states have been established.

Apart from these relations, the CPC is part of the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) and its German chapter DEFUS, has close links to the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), the Annual International Forum (AIF) within the German Congress on Crime Prevention, and the international working group on Communities That Care, to name but a few examples.

Several of the CPC staff are members of international scientific societies such as the European and the International Society of Criminology.

Our Objectives

The Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony – CPC

- strengthens crime prevention at the municipal level
- develops concepts and describes the necessary framework for their implementation
- promotes the ensuring and improvement of quality in crime prevention
- offers a platform for the transfer of knowledge and information
- coordinates and supports networking in crime prevention
- cooperates with institutions relevant to crime prevention including those outside Lower Saxony
- imparts competence in crime prevention
- publicises the goals, methods, and concepts of societal crime prevention
- encourages the citizens' involvement in crime prevention





Organization of Crime Prevention in Germany

In Germany, crime prevention is the responsibility of all three levels of government: Federal, State and Municipal.

At the Federal level, there is an interdepartmental working group of several Ministries, the German Forum for Crime Prevention in Berlin, the German Congress on Crime Prevention (with its secretariat in Hanover) and the German Youth Institute in Munich and Halle.

Among the joint Federal/State activities in the field of crime prevention, the conferences of ministers (primarily of justice and the interior), the Centre for Criminology in Wiesbaden and the Programme for Police Crime Prevention are most prominent.

At the level of the 16 individual States, there are state crime prevention bodies with tasks similar to the one in Lower Saxony, although not always as differentiated and as resourceful.

The majority of crime prevention efforts takes place at the municipal level, either by individual public or private organizations, or in concert with a local crime prevention board.

All in all, there are approximately 2000 crime prevention bodies and networks at all levels of government in Germany.

Useful links:

- www.kriminalpraevention.de
German Forum for Crime Prevention
- www.gccp.org
German Congress on Crime Prevention
- www.dji.de
German Youth Institute
- www.krimz.de
Centre for Criminology
- www.polizei-beratung.de
Programme for Police Crime Prevention

Social area-based Prevention in Networks

With the pilot-project “SPIN – Social area-based Prevention in Networks” funded largely by the European Union the CPC will test and adapt the “Communities That Care” (CTC) concept for use in the federal state of Lower Saxony to encourage evidence-based prevention in communities and promote an exchange of experience with other European countries using the CTC approach.

The CTC-process is a long-term prevention strategy developed in the USA. It is underpinned by research evidence on factors of risk and protection, connecting certain conditions in children’s lives and the likelihood of subsequent problem behaviour. It helps communities to select proven prevention programmes to address the most pressing risk factors. CTC provides communities with a manualized operating system including:

- assessment tools to identify and measure the level of risk- and protective factors in an area, to prioritize and then to target them with interventions,
- a data bank providing evidence and information on programmes that are effective in reducing risk factors or showing promise of doing so,
- on-site training and assistance in a step-by-step process to foster joint prevention planning and to define measurable outcomes that can be tracked over time.

With financial support from:



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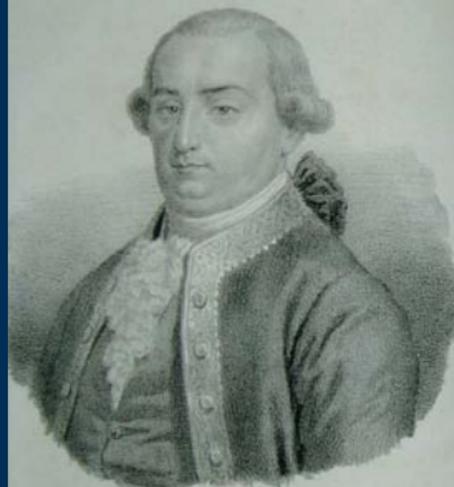
Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Soziales, Frauen, Familie
und Gesundheit



Contact:

Frederick Groeger-Roth
frederick.groeger-roth@
mj.niedersachsen.de

Dr. Burkhard Hasenpusch
burkhard.hasenpusch@
mj.niedersachsen.de



Cesare Beccaria 1739 – 1794

Contact:

Dr. Anja Meyer

anja.meyer@mj.niedersachsen.de

Dr. Marc Coester

marc.coester@mj.niedersachsen.de

Dr. Burkhard Hasenpusch

burkhard.hasenpusch@
mj.niedersachsen.de

The Beccaria-Programme: Quality through Competence

The issue of quality in crime prevention work is closely related to the issue of what we can achieve and what we want to achieve. Effective and lasting / sustainable crime prevention presupposes professional competence and knowledge. The teaching of special prevention knowledge is the concern of the Beccaria-Programme.

The Beccaria-Programme:

- stands for three subsequent EU-projects
 1. Quality-Management in Crime Prevention (2003 – 2005)
 2. Training in Crime Prevention (2005 – 2007)
 3. Knowledge-Transfer in Crime Prevention (2008 – 2011)
- offers the Beccaria-Standards for planning, administering and evaluating intervention or prevention projects in more than a dozen languages
- teaches professional knowledge for crime prevention work
- trains people active in crime prevention in the Beccaria-Qualification-Programme
- advances quality in crime prevention with a view to the future.

With financial support from:



Advice to Measure!

Municipal prevention efforts

The Secretariat of the Crime Prevention Council supports the municipalities in the field of crime prevention. Among the services provided are

- on-site consulting on issues relating to the establishment of a crime prevention council
- project-planning and related advice
- moderating events and workshops
- advancing and funding crime prevention projects
- information and dissemination of knowledge by an electronic newsletter, a website and by large-scale congresses



Contact:

Heike Ehlers

heike.ehlers@mj.niedersachsen.de

Bernd Strauch

bernd.strauch@mj.niedersachsen.de



Domestic Violence

One out of four women in Germany is at least once in her life a victim of violence by an intimate partner. Many of these women suffer for a long time from an abusive relation and its consequences. Children, too, can be seriously affected by witnessing such violence. In order to protect and support abused women and their children adequately, police, justice, social services, and counselling centres have to work hand in hand. As a consequence, the government of Lower Saxony has joined several measures concerning the intervention against and the prevention of domestic violence in an interdepartmental plan of action for combatting domestic violence. It has also established a coordinating office within the Crime Prevention Council for executing this plan of action.

The Coordinating Office “Domestic Violence”

- supports practitioners in the development of local and regional cooperative structures
- organizes and supports training for social services, women’s counselling centres, police, and justice
- works as a clearing-house for information between the municipal and the state level
- develops concepts for intervention against and prevention of domestic violence.

Contact:

Andrea Buskotte
andrea.buskotte@mj.niedersachsen.de

Dagmar Freudenberg
dagmar.freudenberg@mj.niedersachsen.de

Against Right-Wing Extremism – for Democracy and Tolerance

The Crime Prevention Council’s work on right-wing extremism focuses on:

- the administration of the federal programme “Youth for Diversity, Tolerance, and Democracy – against Right-Wing Extremism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism”
- a series of events called “Assuming Responsibility in the North”
- the project “Red-Colourful-Card Against Right-Wing Extremism – For Democracy and Justice”
- participation in the implementation of local analyses in the research project “Group focused Enmity” conducted by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflicts and Violence at the University of Bielefeld

By administering the federal programme “Competent. for Democracy – Consulting Networks against Right-Wing Extremism”, the CPC can also react immediately and efficiently to problematic situations arising in the context of right-wing extremism, xenophobia, and antisemitism in Lower Saxony. Citizens, representatives of municipal or state politics, youth- and social workers and others being confronted with a problem related to such attitudes may contact the CPC directly.



Contact:

Dr. Marc Coester
Gerd Bücker
Carmen Wieck
Dr. Kati Zenk
nilako@lpr.niedersachsen.de