

The 1st European Beccaria Conference

The 1st European Beccaria-Conference „Visions for a better Quality in Crime Prevention” took place from January 20th to January 22nd, 2005 at the Academy of Sports in Hanover, Germany.

[Program](#) of the 1st European Beccaria-Conference

[Vitae](#) of Speakers

[Photos](#) of the conference

In accordance with the objectives of the Beccaria project, the 1st European Beccaria Conference was used to promote awareness of the topic of quality in crime prevention and encourage the exchange of ideas on the same. Especially the European-wide networking of active participants and experts in crime prevention was in the foreground here.

As with some of the other measures, the plans for the conference were changed several times during the preparations to obtain the best possible results. The original plan was to use the conference as a platform to put forward suggestions for quality standards (and corresponding recommendations for action) in crime prevention based on the results from the surveys, as well as to present a first draft of the glossary (with a limited number of terms). Furthermore, the conceptual plans for establishing an academy were to be concretized and the possibility of introducing a seal of approval was to be investigated. Last but not least, it was also intended to initiate and enable a workgroup containing interested practitioners and experts, such as a European crime prevention quality forum.

Target groups for this conference were all active participants and experts in crime prevention from the entire EU. Especially provider groups, institutions, scientists and other disseminators should have used it to discuss the topic of quality in crime prevention and to implement corresponding actions. The conference aimed to act as a platform and exchange forum for this target group.

It took place between the 20th and 22nd of January 2005, thus around the middle of the total project duration. There was enough time available after the conference to turn the obtained input and the discussions of the Beccaria project into concrete measures and to perform modifications.

As one of the declared aims of the conference was to adopt (minimum) quality and evaluation standards as well as corresponding recommendations for action in crime prevention, suggestions for action criteria within the Beccaria Project were developed in advance to standardize the quality of projects. During the course of this work, the idea evolved to create working aids for prevention practice, that would improve the quality of projects by encouraging project management. Both initially had to be discussed in workshops with the participants.

The creation of a European academy and a Beccaria Center were also discussion topics at the conference. The original thoughts covered not only the discussion about the formal design of

the course of studies (European basis, ECTS regulation, location of the academy, etc), but also the course contents. Here the idea was also the initial use of workshops as work media.

In view of the Beccaria project's own quality management, the 1st European Beccaria Conference was evaluated using a questionnaire to obtain feedback about its contents and organization. The creation of the relevant conference literature is of course planned and will soon be available over the Internet.

The plans mentioned for the conference were presented to the cooperating institutions at the 1st Beccaria partner meeting at the end of October 2004. During the subsequent, very constructive discussion, a possible partial change in plans was considered in order to achieve an optimal result for all the participants. A disproportionate number of workshops at the conference would result if all the originally planned program points, such as the discussion and adoption of standards and the possible creation of an academy or a glossary, were to take place. During the dialogue with the partners, it became apparent that at this precisely stage, the Beccaria project is in special need of input from external experts who are leaders in the discussion of higher quality in crime prevention. The role of these "leading people" is not only to increase the awareness of the topic of quality, but also to prepare the ground for establishing this subject at a European level. It became clear that although it is possible to work on standards, it might be better to use the study group, the European crime prevention quality forum, for this purpose. There is however no basis yet for a decision or implementation. The initial requirement would be above all expert knowledge and experience. It might therefore be more sensible for the Beccaria Conference to put the main focus on selected contributors using a wide range of themes, rather than workshops.

The program was changed accordingly. Prof. Paul Ekblom from the University of Arts and Home Office Research, Development and Statistics in London had been invited long ago. With his theses about the "Five I's" and the "Five K's", he has already laid important foundations for the formulation of general European prevention standards. The Beccaria project was able to invite a number of other well-known contributors, such as Prof. W. Sherman from the Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Britta Bannenberg from the University of Bielefeld, Prof. Ronald V. Clarke from the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University of New Jersey, Prof. Christian Pfeiffer, Director of the KFN (Kriminologisches Forschungsinstitut Niedersachsen) in Hanover, as well as Prof. Per-Olof Wikström from the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge. Furthermore, two more contributors from the partner countries were able to enrich the conference with their presentations: Dr. Lars Rand Jensen, president of the Police Department of Odense and chairman of the central SSP-committee of the Crime Prevention Council in Denmark, as well as Michel Marcus, general manager of the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) in France.

This remarkable list of internationally reknown contributors, together with the preparatory work already achieved in the Beccaria project, lead to an extremely successful conference in January 2005, which will simultaneously be an important milestone for the project in its second year.