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# Preventing Violence in the Context of Right-Wing Extremist Manifestations - Experiences in Lower Saxony

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EFUS  
General Assemblies  
European Forum & French Forum  
25 and 26 June 2009, Toulouse, France

Debate "Cities Facing Collective Violence"  
Input on "Collective Violence in a Spontaneous Context"  
Friday, June 26th 09:45-11:15

## Outline

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- ✓ Crime prevention in Germany
- ✓ The Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony
- ✓ Programme against right-wing extremist manifestations in communities
- ✓ Example of a practical case

# Crime Prevention in Germany



## At the Federal Level:

- German Forum for Crime Prevention (Berlin) [[www.kriminalpraevention.de](http://www.kriminalpraevention.de)]
- Prävis [[www.praevis.de](http://www.praevis.de)]
- German Youth Institute (Munich and Halle) [[www.dji.de](http://www.dji.de)]
- German Congress on Crime Prevention (Hanover) [[www.gcocp.org](http://www.gcocp.org)]
- **To be created: The German Forum for Urban Safety (DEFUS)**

## At the Federal-State Level:

- Conference of Ministers
- Centre for Criminology (Wiesbaden) [[www.krimz.de](http://www.krimz.de)]
- Programme for the Police Crime Prevention at State and Federal Level [[www.polizei-beratung.de](http://www.polizei-beratung.de)]

## At the State Level:

- State Crime Prevention Councils

## Local Authorities:

- Crime Prevention Boards
- Relevant NGO and citizen initiatives

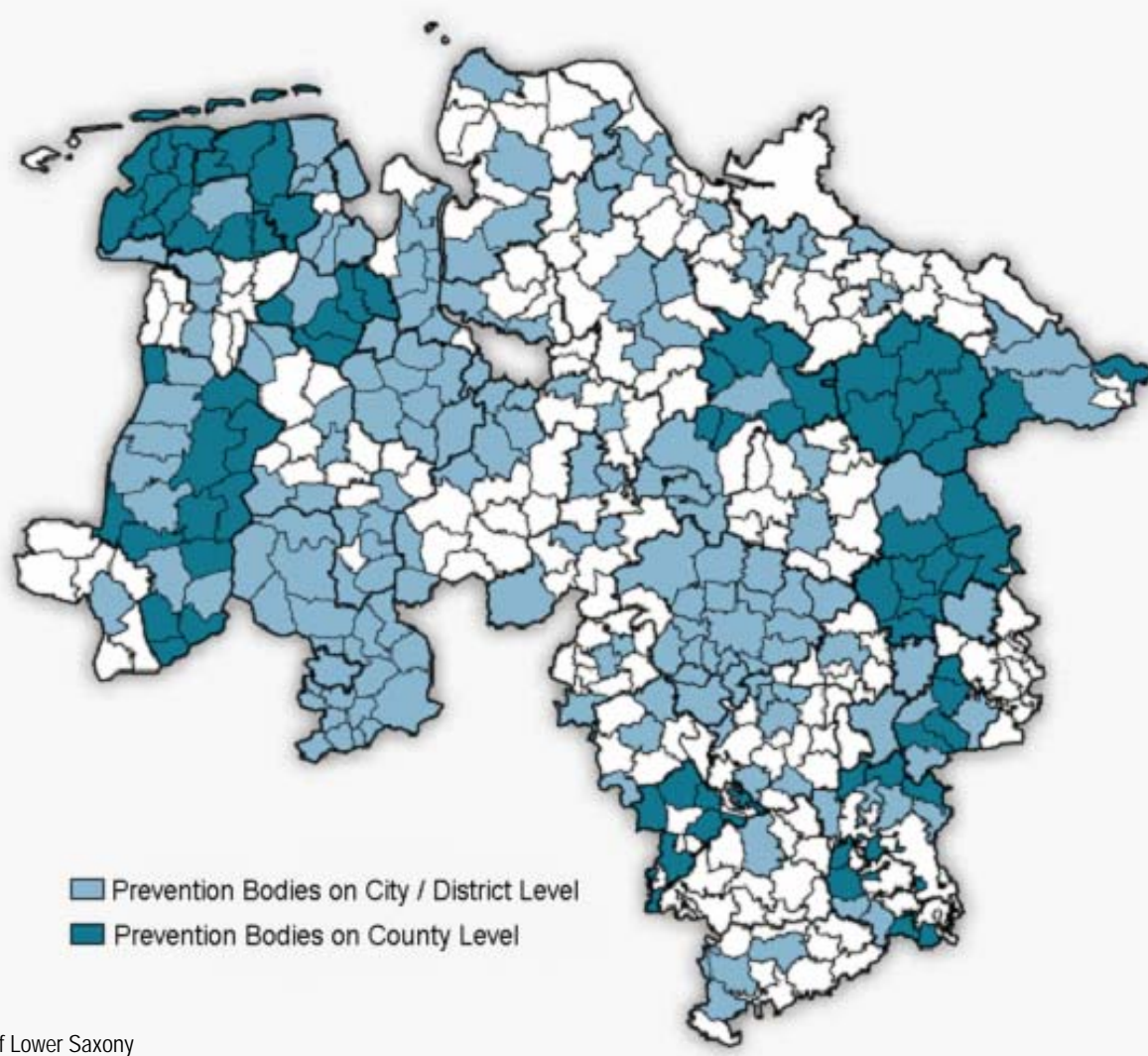
➤ Today approx. 2.000 Crime Prevention Councils on all levels of Government in Germany

## Crime Prevention Council Lower Saxony



- ✓ The Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony (CPC) was founded in 1995 on the basis of a resolution of the Lower Saxony State Government
- ✓ Its main tasks are: supporting and advising local crime prevention councils, observing and analyzing criminality, advising the State Government in issues of crime policy, disseminating scientific findings and practical experience
- ✓ Today, the CPC has 15 staff-members and organizes some 35 activities, projects, cooperations and events
- ✓ The CPC has continuously grown since its founding. Today it holds approx. 250 member organisations (government departments, local authorities, associations, scientific institutions and above all almost 200 municipal crime prevention councils and supporting associations)

# Crime Prevention Councils in Communities





Strategic Programme of the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth  
"competent. for Democracy. Counseling-Networks against Right Wing Extremism" (2007-2010)

- ✓ State Coordination Center at the Crime Prevention Council
- ✓ Deploys a network of professional counseling offers
- ✓ This network holds governmental and non-governmental resources and competencies (ministries and state agencies, police, office for the protection of the constitution, specialists of social work, youth organisations, justice, medicine, psychology, media, science, private initiatives etc)
- ✓ Persons / Authorities at the local level can contact the State Coordination Center when discovering a "Local Crisis Situation" in the context of right-wing extremist manifestations



## Local Crisis Situations

A crisis is defined as a threatening situation with a right-wing extremist, xenophobic or anti-Semitic background

It can result from:

- ✓ Infiltration of the local youth work or formation of civil engagement structures
- ✓ "no-go areas"
- ✓ relevant citizen initiatives
- ✓ real-estate buy-out
- ✓ organised (youth) cultural events (concerts, infostands etc)
- ✓ Violence, damage to property, provocation (demonstrations etc)

It can affect victims, citizens, parents, pupils, headmasters of schools, teachers, youth workers, local administrators, projects, parties, media, churches, clubs, communities etc.



## Mobile Intervention Teams (MIT)

- ✓ For goal-oriented intervention a case-related MIT is composed by the Counseling-Network which carries the adequate counseling competencies and gets active on site
- ✓ The MIT analyses the situation and develops a solution concept together with the persons concerned
- ✓ The MIT helps the persons concerned to solve the problems by themselves
- ✓ The MIT refers the persons concerned to external experts





## A Case Example

- ✓ Community in Lower Saxony (inhabitants: approx. 20.000) organises - together with the local sports club - an annual public run. In 2006 the local fellowship registers for the first time to participate in the run
- ✓ They using this event as a platform to display their ideology and demonstrate that they are finally arrived in the "middle of society"



## A Case Example

- ✓ After the situation escalates in 2007 the community and sports club seeks aid at the State Coordination Center
- ✓ In many sessions and with the help of experts a process of community counseling is realised. The goal is to keep the members of the fellowship away from the run in 2008 and to sensibilise the population. The counseling process is all about support, education, sensitization, networking and exchanging of information
- ✓ The following was realised:
  - ✓ Formation of a Civil Alliance including actors from all areas of community (local administration, clubs, schools, churches, police, kindergarten etc)
  - ✓ Changing of the statutes of the sports club as well as the public run: introducing a "democracy clause"
  - ✓ Accomplishing themed events in the community, in schools, in churches etc.



## A Case Example

- ✓ As a result the fellowship calls off their involvement in the run in 2008
- ✓ People using the logo of the civil alliance to display their solidarity
- ✓ For the first time in years the media reports positive about the run and the community
- ✓ The process of counseling continues until today. Next run: 28 August 2009

**Thank you for listening**

## **Contact**

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