

# Crime Prevention in Germany

- structures – strategies – experiences -

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Cesare Beccaria  
1738 - 1794

„It is better  
to prevent crime  
rather than to punish it“

# Introduction

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- Thank you for invitation
- Importance of international exchange and cooperation
- Additional information and links
- Structure of lecture

# Structure

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- (1) general overview
- (2) National, state & local level
- (3) Programs & project examples
- (4) Science & applied research
- (5) provisional results & general remarks

# Structure

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# Federal Republic of Germany

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- Federal Parliamentary Republic
- Reunification: 1990-10-03
- Population: 82.000.000
- Area: 357.000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Capital: Berlin
- President: Horst Köhler
- Chancellor: Angela Merkel

# general overview

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- [Federal Republic of Germany](#)
- 16 Federal States
- Legislatures – Executive – Judiciary
- Municipal self-administration
- Civil society and third sector
- European involvement

# European involvement

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- European Union
- European Crime Prevention Network
- European Parliament
- Council of Europe
- European Forum for Urban Safety
- European Society of Criminology

# Structure

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# National level

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- Federal ministries
- Police Responsibilities (ProPK & BKA)
- German Congress on Crime Prevention
- German Forum for the Prevention of Crime

# Federal ministries

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- Federal Ministry of the Interior
- Federal Ministry of Justice
- Federal Ministry of Health
- Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs

# Police responsibilities

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- **Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA)**

Since 1951, there has been a nationwide criminal police office - the BKA. It also investigates in certain serious cases of crime with an international dimension. Since 1995 the BKA operates the "Infopool Prevention", a database which can be used by all actors of crime prevention. "Good-practice"-examples from Germany and other countries are presented in a brief description that is available on the internet.

- **Program Police Crime Prevention of the Federal States and the Federal Government (ProPK)**

Introduced in 1965, this nationwide prevention program aims to inform and educate citizens, media and other responsible bodies about various forms of crime and relevant prevention options. The program includes the creation of crime prevention publications and tools which support the local police in their prevention work.

# German Congress on Crime Prevention

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The [German Congress on Crime Prevention](#) was founded in 1995 as an annual national convention for the field of crime prevention.

The aim of the German Congress on Crime Prevention is to present and strengthen crime prevention within a broad societal framework. Thus it contributes to crime reduction as well as reducing both the fear of crime and the number of victims of crime.

Since 2007 with the introduction of the [Annual International Forum](#) this is also true for the international perspective. With the AIF an international (English speaking) audience is addressed to share their experiences in crime prevention. We believe that while the world is growing closer research as well as experience should be disseminated within a broad professional framework.

# German Forum for the Prevention of Crime

The [German Forum for the Prevention of Crime \(DFK\)](#) was launched by the German Federal Government and the Federal Länder in 2001 as a nationwide body investigating causes of crime and creating prevention measures affecting society as a whole. It promotes federal and regional partnerships and acts as a networking forum for political, scientific and societal agencies and bodies. Other main goals are knowledge transfer and awareness raising on a broader societal scale. In its mission statement, the DFK underlines that the integration of the whole society and all institutions is essential for successful crime prevention approaches.

# State level

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16 federal states



16 different crime prevention policies and organizational structures

# State-level Crime Prevention Strategies

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1. [Baden-Württemberg](#)
2. [Bavaria](#)
3. [Berlin](#)
4. [Brandenburg](#)
5. [Bremen](#)
6. [Hamburg](#)
7. [Hesse](#)
8. [Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#)
9. [Lower-Saxony](#)
10. [North Rhine-Westphalia](#)
11. [Rhineland-Palatinate](#)
12. [Saarland](#)
13. [Saxony](#)
14. [Saxony-Anhalt](#)
15. [Schleswig-Holstein](#)
16. [Thuringia](#)

# local level

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- 3 Central Associations of Local government in Germany
  - [German Association of Cities](#)
  - [German Association of Towns and Municipalities](#)
  - [German County Association](#)
  
- ~ 2.000 local advisory boards for crime prevention



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# some diversity examples

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- Papilio (primary prevention social competence in preschool education)
- EFFEKT (Parents-childrens-training)
- Pro child (early intervention program)
- Communities that care
- Klasse2000 (Health promotion at school)
- Buddy project
- **Beccaria program**

# (3) The Beccaria Program

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- [Beccaria Training / Qualification](#)
- Beccaria Master
- Beccaria [Standards](#)
- Beccaria Tools
- Beccaria Portal (under construction)

<http://www>

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# Science & applied research

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- Various University departments
- German Youth Institute
- Institute for Interdisciplinary Conflict and Violence
- German Association for Criminology
- Center for Criminology
- Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony
- Periodic Reports on Crime and Crime Control (2 so far)

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# crime prevention ...

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- 1. ... is today primarily a municipal task**
- 2. ... requires an interdisciplinary network**
- 3. ... is a responsibility concerning all of society**
- 4. ... is an approach for nearly all criminal offences**
- 5. ... is economically successful**

# crime prevention ...

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6. ... requires close cooperation with other areas of prevention (health, childwelfare, etc.)
7. ... is a problem-oriented solution strategy
8. ... above all, is a process-like attitude
9. ... is applied subsidiarity
10. ... demands an enlightened crime policy



# crime prevention ...

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- 11. ... is proving to be a qualified occupational field**
- 12. ... has an important intersection with restorative justice**
- 13. ... needs transnational cooperations**
- 14. ... needs civic commitment**
- 15. ... develops its own standards**

# crime prevention ...

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**16. ... needs specific prevention management**

**17. ... needs evaluation**

**18. ... also works through adaptation**

**19. ... needs exchange and benchmarking**

**20. ... reduces unreported cases**

# crime prevention ...

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**21. ... has a strong internet impact**

**22.... works evidence based**

**23.... is a long term strategy and oriented towards sustainability**

**24.... is a global cooperation and coordination process**

# Thank you for your attention

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"If you want to build a ship,  
don't drum up people to collect wood  
and don't assign them tasks and work,  
but rather teach them  
to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944)*