

**What security policies will be adopted
over the next few years?
Why prevention is a good solution!**

10 Remarks by Erich Marks

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1

Very often our subject is not clear enough: crime prevention, urban safety, urban security, intervention, treatment, ?

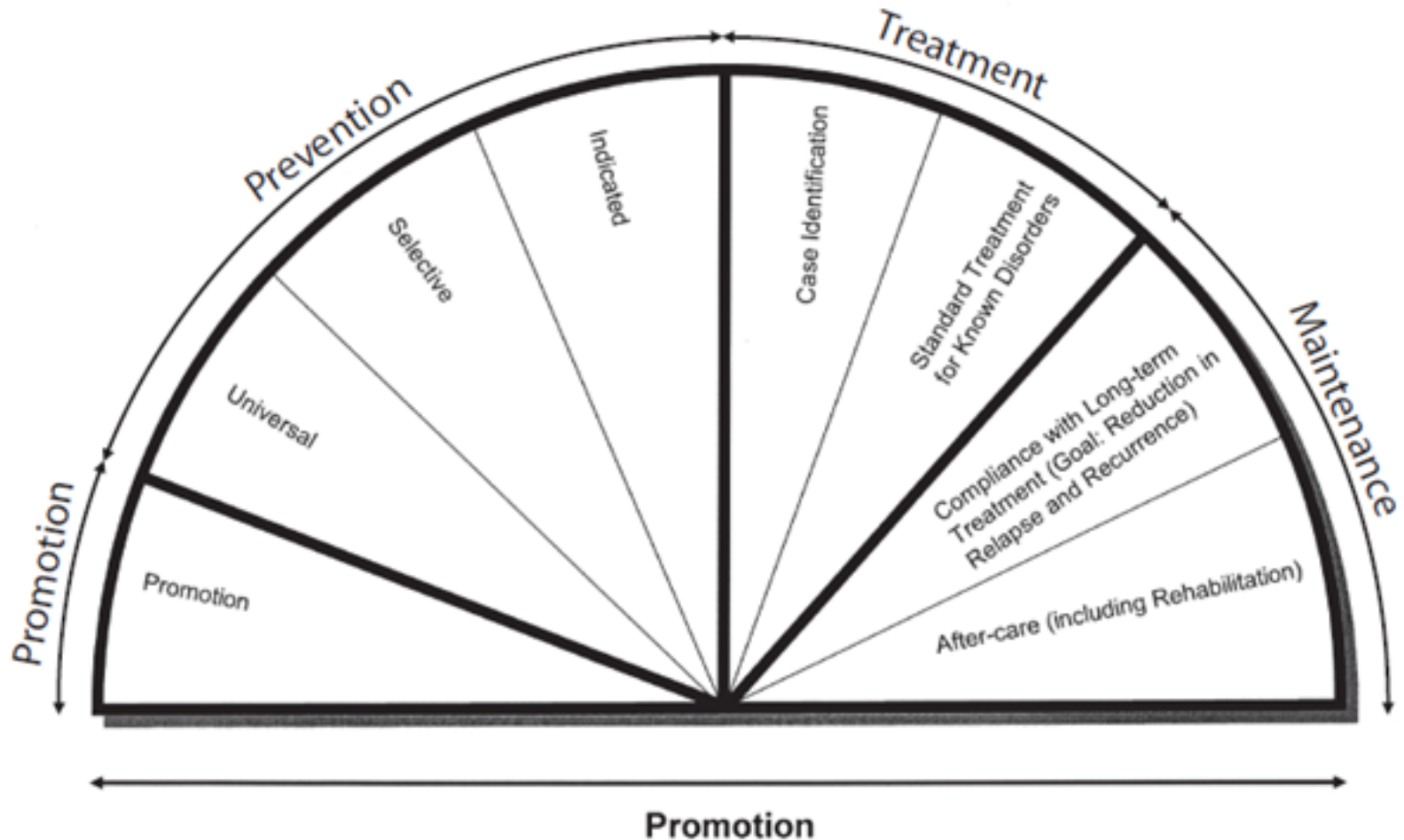
Suggestion:

Precise definitions and wordings are very helpful, not only for planning, communication and evaluation.

Security, Democracy and Cities: The Manifesto of Aubervilliers and Saint-Denis



**Report des Institute of Medicine / National Research Council (USA) 1994
„Promoting Health“ und 2009: „Preventing Mental, Emotional, and
Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities“**



2

In practice, policy and science, multidisciplinary cooperation is still underdeveloped

Suggestion:

For any discipline and for any level of government, crime prevention should nowadays be a primary subject of shared attention and multidisciplinary cooperation

...by work sharing & collaboration!



3

The existing prevention knowledge
is hardly in action

Suggestion:

Prevention knowledge must be better disseminated, especially to the responsible decision-makers at all levels and via the internet.

- A lot of crime prevention standards, memoranda and findings, e.g. those by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)), European Forum for Urban Security ([EFUS](#)), International Centre for the Prevention of Crime ([ICPC](#)), Violence Prevention Alliance of the World Health Organization ([VPA/WHO](#)), [Beccaria-Standards](#) , European Crime Prevention Network ([EUCPN](#)), [UNHABITAT](#), Communities That Care ([CTC](#)), etc. are not sufficiently publicized;
- We are not yet successfully moving **knowledge into action**;
- At any level, **existing tools, standards and guidelines** are not sufficiently used.

Communities That Care - CTC

- is a proven strategy to prevent multiple problem behaviors in youth on community level
- facilitates the use of evidence-based prevention programs accordingly to community needs
(see: www.communitiesthatcare.net)

Prevention needs are assessed through

- measuring individual community profiles of risk- and protective factors with a standardized CTC Youth Survey
- benchmarking the community results against state-wide data from the CTC Youth Survey (e.g. in Lower Saxony)
- use of available secondary data

4

Modern criminal policy is still not sufficiently guided by current experiences of crime prevention in practice, policy and science

Suggestion:

It is an exhausting but necessary way to change from „more of the same“ and „fight against crime“ to crime prevention as an individual and societal attitude.

- a kind of **“Morbus punitivum”** is a common disease;
- security, safety and crime prevention are usually not discussed as a **holistic issue**;
- **mediation, reconciliation, victim assistance, restorative justice, and parallel justice** are still not adequately discussed, developed and implemented;
- **Pillarisation** versus/and **networking**.

5

New risks and types of crime are perceived too late

Suggestion:

We must not lose sight of the fact that our current global problems require a new and fundamental focus on prevention. We therefore need new goals, priorities and strategies in prevention generally and crime prevention specifically.

- **The focus of crime-prevention activities** continues to be on the areas of mass, violent and youth crime; however, other areas such as economic crime are increasing in significance;
- Living in the Anthropocene, an era in which for the first time man transforms his environment on a global scale, **we still have not developed a necessary new general preventive attitude**;
- In the economic world, we know a lot about Business Continuity Management, but we are still not good enough in Societal Continuity Management. Crime prevention up to now has made too little a contribution to a kind of **“Societal Continuity Management”**.

6

Exchange of knowledge, discourses and benchmarking are not sufficiently widespread

Suggestion:

Responsible persons at all levels should promote evidence based strategies of crime prevention. In case of doubt it is better to adapt a program already evaluated than to design a new one.

Some relevant international crime prevention data banks:

1. www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints

(Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado Boulder)

2. www.campbellcollaboration.org

(The Campbell Collaboration, Oslo)

3. www.preventviolence.info

(Violence Prevention Alliance / WHO)

4. www.gruene-liste-praevention.de

(Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony, Germany)

5. www.eucpn.org

(European Crime Prevention Network, Belgium)

6. www.dartington.org.uk/projects

(Blueprints for Europe, social research unit, UK)

7. www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice

(Best practice portal, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Portugal)

7

The interaction between various levels are often affected by „top down“ versus „bottom up“

Suggestion:

The principle of subsidiary is a good model for the interaction between the local, regional and national levels.

levels of cooperation



& language based cooperation

8

Sufficient resources are rarely provided for effective, long-term and sustainable prevention strategies

Suggestion:

As a specific NGO combining the urban, the national and the European / international level, EFUS should be more active in the future in realizing and promoting the evaluation of crime prevention and prevention research.

- the **positive cost-benefit-analysis** and the knowledge about the return on crime prevention investments are not sufficiently used and often apparently not compatible with short term legislative periods;
- crime prevention can be more successful if there is **good management** and adequate funding and personell activities in the broad field of (crime) prevention are still too rarely evaluated;
- **budgets for (crime) prevention** are quite too low.

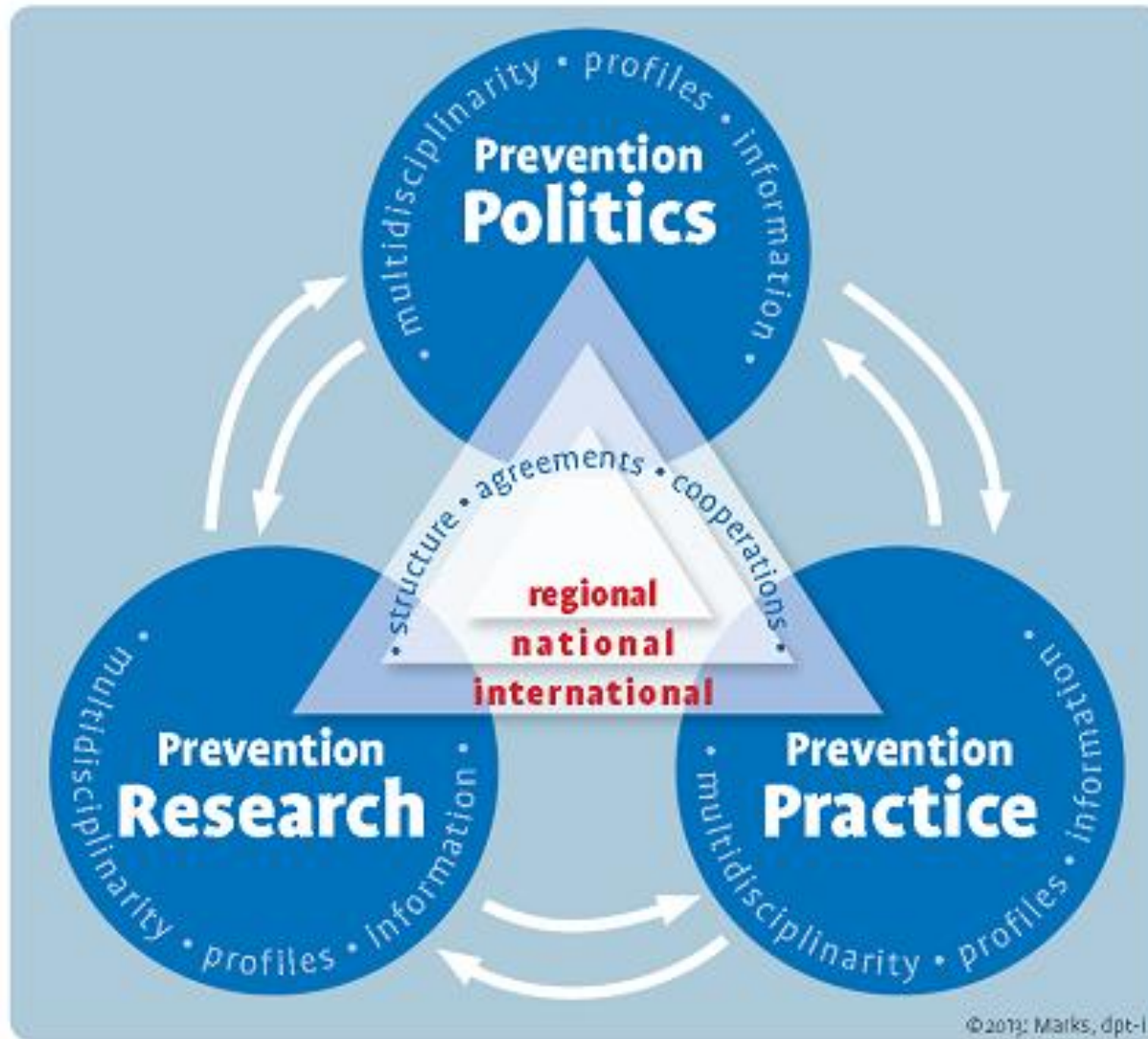
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Prevention is dangerous
in impulse, by chance & as short-
term action

Suggestion:

Crime prevention must be an explicit long-term and sustainable oriented collaboration of the three main working fields „prevention politics“, „prevention research“ and „prevention practice“

Shared Attention ...



10

Do we have a general
orientation?

Suggestion:

More and more,
prevention must become an attitude.



... prevention is different ...

Washington D.C. 2054
Steven Spielberg (2002)

Thank you for your Attention !