

Public Health & Crime Prevention

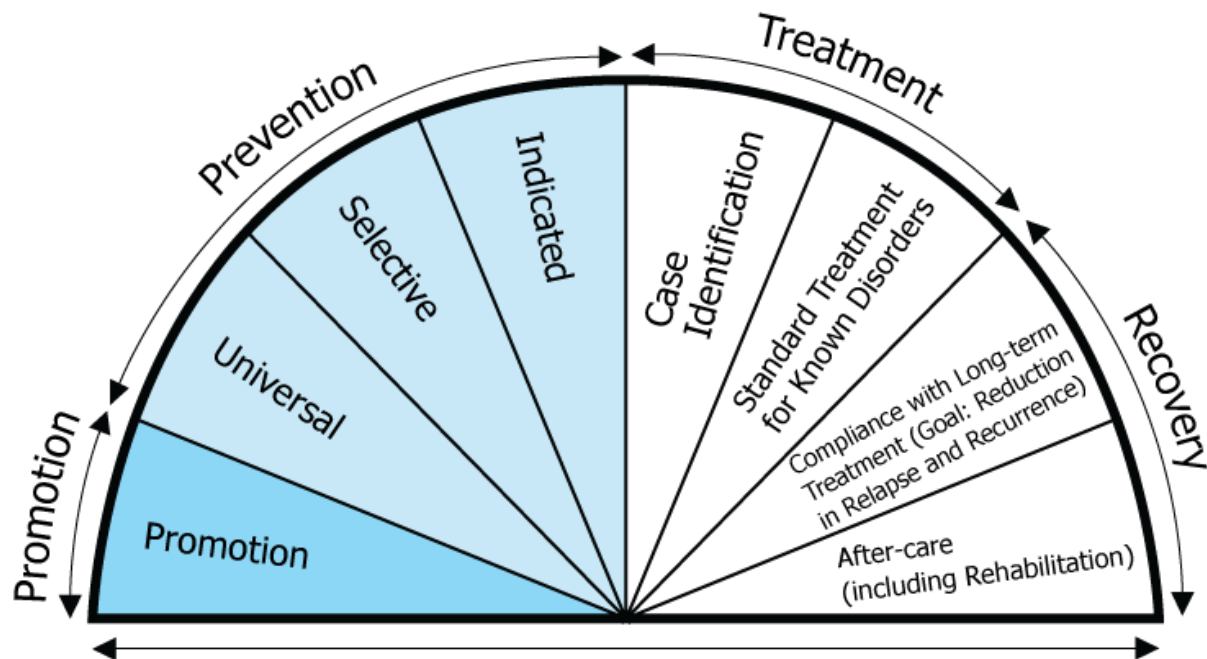
Erich Marks

1 Remarks on some key terms and understandings of prevention

It is of great importance to find out and discuss different definitions, understandings and terms, especially in the interdisciplinary treatment of topic complexes. In the ideal case, this can lead to common and cross-disciplinary orientations and understandings. With a few comments on some key words of preventive orientation, I would like to stimulate an intensified discourse on the coexistence of public health and crime prevention.

1.1 Between promotion and treatment

The US Institute of Medicine (IOM) has, most recently in 2009, published a very helpful presentation of the entire spectrum of a treatment or intervention chain and the associated understanding of prevention.



IOM - Institute of Medicine / National Research Council, USA (2009)

In this IOM chart, the three areas of prevention are first seen in connection with the sector of upstream measures of "Promotion". On the other hand, prevention measures are distinguished from later measures in the "Treatment" and "Recovery" sectors, which are therefore not marked with the heading "Prevention". This presentation and the associated view of preventive action appears particularly important because it makes it possible to define the individual sectors more precisely both technically and linguistically. With regard to the transition between general "promotion" and "universal prevention", which in practice partly flows, the additional objective that prevention is intended to avoid specific problems must be pointed out in particular.

1.2 Primary, secondary and tertiary prevention measures

The term "primary prevention" is used in particular to describe measures that are far in advance of an event described as undesirable. The category of 'secondary prevention' includes, in particular, measures that are close to an event described as undesirable and which are intended to prevent aggravation. Finally, "tertiary prevention" describes measures that lie after the occurrence of undesirable events and are intended to prevent a relapse. The IOM system also makes it clear that the traditional prevention classifications "primary", "secondary" and "tertiary" also fall short in the fields of public health and crime prevention and are apparently becoming less and less important.

1.3 Universal, selective and indicated prevention approaches

These terms are recommended because, according to the current state of discussion, they most accurately reflect the different justifications, objectives and orientations for preventive action. Universal prevention measures therefore target all members of a population that has not been selected on the basis of their risk level. Selective prevention measures target selected groups in a population with an increased risk, without the problem to be prevented already being present. Measures of indicated prevention aim at persons with a high risk or the first signs of problem behaviour, but without a "clinical" diagnosis of the problem already being available. The synonymic use or equation of the terms "universal or primary prevention", "selective or secondary prevention" and "indicated or tertiary prevention", which is partly made in the literature and in practice reports or policy papers, must be rejected as imprecise and simplistic.

1.4 Developmental prevention, community prevention, situational prevention and law enforcement

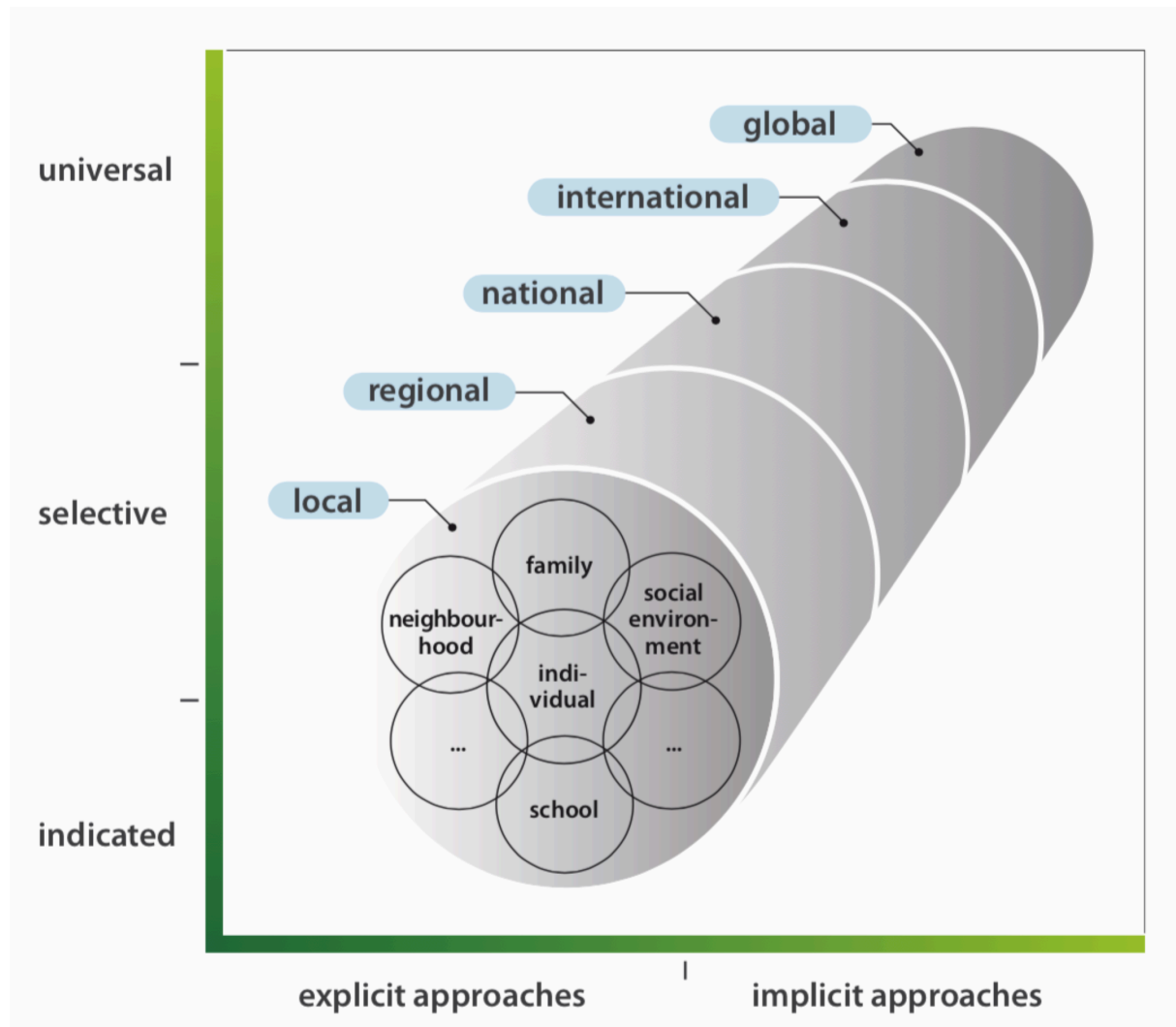
A further approach to presenting a complete spectrum of a prevention and intervention chain was described early in criminology by Tonry & Farrington (1994), differentiating between developmental prevention, community prevention, situational prevention and law enforcement. In a further variant, UNODC (2010) distinguishes between social, local, situational and reintegrative prevention with a special focus on the type and concrete location of preventive measures. The terms chosen here are used more frequently, particularly in prevention practice, for the attribution and delimitation of institutional responsibilities and, in my opinion, do not contradict the recommended use of the terms universal, selective or indexed prevention.

1.5 Behavioural prevention and prevention in terms of situation (environmental prevention)

In behavioural prevention measures, the individual person is the point of reference and the target for behavioural change. In contrast, measures of prevention in terms of situational prevention aim to influence the concrete individual living conditions of individuals and groups and thus achieve preventive effects. Particularly in the implementation of prevention programmes, it is becoming increasingly clear how important stable structural framework conditions are for positive results and effects. In the methodological and strategic prevention debates of the past decades, it has become increasingly clear that these two approaches should not be regarded and understood as alternatives but as complementary.

1.6 Explicit and implicit prevention approaches

The following matrix provides an overall view of different areas of crime prevention and the different levels at which preventive action should take different forms.



Matrix Crime Prevention, Erich Marks (2018)

Further differentiation is proposed for all preventive measures, whether universal, selective or indexed. Accordingly, a distinction is made as to whether prevention measures are explicitly and thus directly conceived as crime prevention measures, or whether they implicitly have a crime prevention effect. The particularly typical and important examples of implicit approaches are the numerous programmes and measures in the field of public health. These do not directly pursue crime prevention goals, but very often have demonstrably corresponding crime prevention effects. At the levels to be considered, particular attention will have to be paid in future to the local and regional levels even more intensively. Accordingly, the primary task of the national and international levels should be to advise and promote concrete prevention measures at local and regional level.

2. Politics, research and practice as central fields of work in (crime) prevention

The following diagram shows the interdependence of the three fields of work at all levels, from the regional to the global level, as well as the necessity of cooperation according to subsidiary principles (top down and bottom up). On the other hand, successful cooperation between the fields of prevention policy, prevention research and prevention practice can only succeed if specific prerequisites for cooperation are created in each field:

- Multidisciplinary working methods in every field of work,
- Position and profile determination for each field of work, and
- Development of information and communication strategies in every field of work.



Triad Prevention, Erich Marks (2013)

It is part of the self-image of the German Prevention Congress to invite and address in particular those responsible from the three central fields of prevention policy, prevention research and prevention practice. Only slowly and sometimes laboriously is a clearer self-understanding of these three main fields of prevention emerging. In all parties and parliaments we know traditionally as a matter of course politicians for internal affairs, social affairs, foreign affairs or for example defence – prevention politicians still have a hard time asserting themselves across the board and are therefore

rarely to be found. The situation is similar in science and practice. Only a few dozen high-profile researchers throughout Europe now describe themselves as prevention scientists (www.euspr.org). And in practice, colleagues are still more likely to work as experts on youth issues, social work or, for example, addiction issues, but far too seldom as qualified specialists for prevention.

Over the past two decades, the promotion of exchange and cooperation between these different fields of prevention work and the various levels of their activities has proved to be a central function of the German Prevention Day. On the horizontal axis, it is in particular the better networking and coordination between the numerous different initiatives, institutions and organisations with their different responsibilities for prevention at the level of the municipalities and also at the national level. On the vertical axis, a much better information and cooperation policy between the local, regional and (inter)national levels is generally required. National and international there is still a lot to do and to improve. Internationally, it can currently be observed that the importance of preventive action is emphasized everywhere. In view of the diversity of undesirable social conditions and developments, significantly more prevention measures, prevention orientations and prevention strategies are called for. However, these demands for "more prevention" are still far too rarely associated with more precise ideas, plans and indications of concrete, intended political or practical preventive action. A prerequisite for targeted and concrete preventive action is to understand and grasp the situation as well as possible on the basis of concrete data and findings - with particular regard to the current global social, political and climatic conditions.

3. A short German Prevention Congress-information block and a cooperation invitation

3.1 Annual International Forum Crime Prevention 2019

The German Congress on Crime Prevention – GCOCP (in German: Deutscher Präventionstag – DPT) is on the one hand the 1995 founded and meanwhile world's largest annual conference on the topic of crime prevention and related prevention areas. On the other hand the GCOCP forms with its Institute for Applied Prevention Research (GCOCP-i) and other key activities a platform for information, knowledge transfer and an interdisciplinary dialogue between prevention practice, prevention research and prevention policies. Since 2007 the German Congress on Crime Prevention (GCOCP) is hosting the Annual International Forum (AIF) to address the international (non-German speaking) audience. The aim of the AIF is to add a international perspective to the German Congress and to give the opportunity to share experiences in crime prevention on an international level. While the world is growing closer research as well as experience should be disseminated within a broad professional framework. Therefore we ask international experts from all areas of crime prevention to introduce, share and discuss their ideas, goals, outcomes, projects and speeches with other experts and to experience the German modality of crime prevention.

Congress 2019

The next German Congress on Crime Prevention with the 13th Annual International Forum will take place on 20 and 21 May 2019 in Berlin, Germany. The main topic will be "Prevention & Democracy Promotion". Further programme details will be published on

the website www.gcocp.org and via a newsletter, which can be ordered via the following link: www.praeventionstag-/nano.cms/newsletterservice-en.

3.2 Daily Prevention News (DPN)

Since 2011, the German Congress on Crime Prevention publishes the Daily Prevention News in German and for German professionals, researchers and politicians. From December 2017 onwards, the information service reaches out to an international readership with international news from all over the globe.

Practitioners, politicians, and researchers do a great job worldwide to prevent crime and violence. With their work and ideas, they make their neighbourhoods a better place for everyone, strengthen social cohesion, support victims of crime, and help inmates to reintegrate, make the case for child protection and train young people in non-violent behaviour.

With the Daily Prevention News, we want to spread their word, their ideas, new theories and research findings and make them known. We inform about events, latest research, publications, and backgrounds around crime and violence prevention issues from all over the world. It is our objective to support you in your daily business to prevent crime and violence and enhance a worldwide networking. **The Daily Prevention News** is a service offered by the German Congress on Crime Prevention, is free of charge, and can be received via E-mail on a daily, weekly or monthly base or you can follow us on Twitter @Prevent_News.

3.3 DPT-Institute for applied prevention Research

The GCOCP-institute for applied prevention research (gcocp-i) promotes the dialogue between prevention research, practice and politics. Major tasks of the gcocp-i are:

- Intensification of the dialogue between science, politics, administration, organizations and civil society on the results of prevention research with the aim of a stronger foundation of knowledge in the field of prevention
- Cooperation with other scientific institutions in order to implement research projects with a practical orientation
- Consulting of the German Congress on Crime Prevention and its partner organizations concerning the results and present situation of prevention research
- Implementation of research projects with the perspective of a practical application of research results

Learn more about the events, webinars and projects of the gcocp-i via <http://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/gcocp-institute>.

3.4. www.dpt-map.org

The “DPT-Map” website searches specifically for projects, activities, institutions and persons in the field of crime prevention. This search for keywords is based on thematic databases published already in the internet by recognized specialized organizations.

At the start of www.dpt-map.de in October 2010, 2.462 datasets could be searched, based on the websites of the German Congress on Crime Prevention (Deutscher Präventionstag – DPT) and the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony (Landespräventionsrat Niedersachsen). As of October 2018, 30.958 datasets are available.

Further specialized organizations are to be included continuously as partners. Institutions interested in a partnership and in linking their databases to DPT-Map please contact the editors via <http://www.dpt-map.org/information>.

