

Annual Report 2019



Violence
Prevention Network

Subject matter of the report

Scope of application

The subject matter of this report is the Violence Prevention Network gGmbH (referred to in the report as 'Violence Prevention Network'). The organisation works with ideologically vulnerable people, deradicalises extremist offenders, and supports them in their efforts to reintegrate into the democratic community.

Reporting period and reporting cycle

The reporting period is the fiscal year 2019 from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. The report is prepared annually.

Application of the SRS

The report was prepared on 31 August 2020 according to the 'Social Reporting Standard (SRS)'. All information is given as at 31 August 2020 unless it refers exclusively to the previous fiscal year 2019.

Contact partner

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Judy Korn



Vision

Our vision is that people in danger of radicalisation and violent offenders who are motivated by extremism will change their behaviour through deradicalisation work, lead a responsible life, and become part of the democratic community, thereby avoiding and preventing extremism of all types.

Thomas Mücke



Violence Prevention Network works to ensure that people have the tools and resources available to reflect on and overcome their previous behaviour patterns. The goal is to enable them to live a life in which they do not harm themselves or others.

‘Extremism knows
no lockdown and
no curfew.’

Preface

‘This pandemic is a democratic imposition.’

With these words, spoken during a speech in the Bundestag (German Federal Parliament) in April 2020, Federal Chancellor Merkel described the effects of the pandemic on the social state in Germany. And, in many respects, she is right. The pandemic is a democratic imposition and an imposition for democracy – not only because it massively restricts and encroaches on citizens’ rights, but also because opponents of democracy use those restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic as an ideologically destructive narrative. Interestingly, those opponents represent all forms of extremism in various ways. This rebellion of the supposedly unyielding against measures ordered ‘from above’ provides extremists of every hue a dangerous influx during times of crisis.

Abstruse conspiracy narratives

Moreover, abstruse ideas and false facts are celebrating a comeback in (social) media. Right-wing extremists and anti-Semites – traditional mouthpieces for conspiracy myths – along with antivaxxers and ‘citizens of the Reich’ form an explosive third position that sometimes blames ‘the Jews’, sometimes the pharmaceutical industry for spreading the virus. The followers of Islamism and Salafism see the coronavirus as a punishment from God and a test for nonbelievers. In their narrative, closing mosques in compliance with the ban on gatherings suppresses Muslims and takes away their religious freedom. Even though these ‘explanations’ appear absurd, they have become compatible with the mainstream and have gained influx in all channels and from all sides.

Times of crisis are times of radicalisation

Furthermore, particularly because the economic situation will become very difficult in the coming months and years, we cannot lose sight of the social climate. In times of crisis, when people experience perceived or actual injustice, when their existence is threatened and they worry about their future, extremist groups and ideologies have their heyday. At no other time do they find as many supporters. At no other time is recruiting as easy as it is right now. This is borne out by the latest figures published in July 2020 by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (‘Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz’). The potential for violence-oriented right-wing extremists alone has grown by a third compared with 2018.

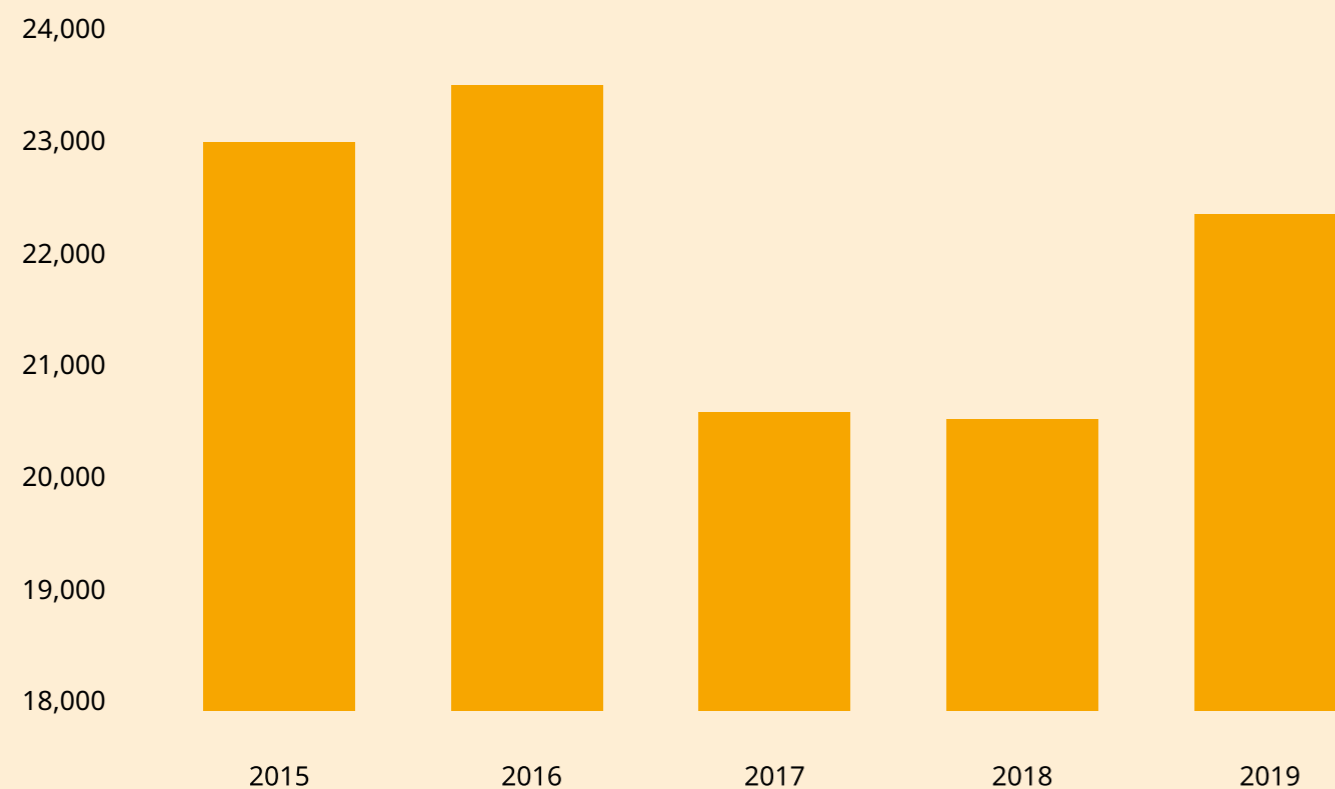
Therefore, it is urgent that politics and civil society strengthen their solidarity at this precise moment and entities who promote deradicalisation and the prevention of extremism in Germany are sustainably and permanently empowered. Extremism knows no lockdown and no curfew. Therefore, our work is more important than ever.

**Judy Korn and Thomas Mücke
in August 2020**

Social problem

Politically motivated violence from the far-right

Criminal acts with a background motivated by right-wing extremism



Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community ('BMI') / Federal Criminal Police Office ('BKA') Politically motivated crime in 2019, Berlin 2020

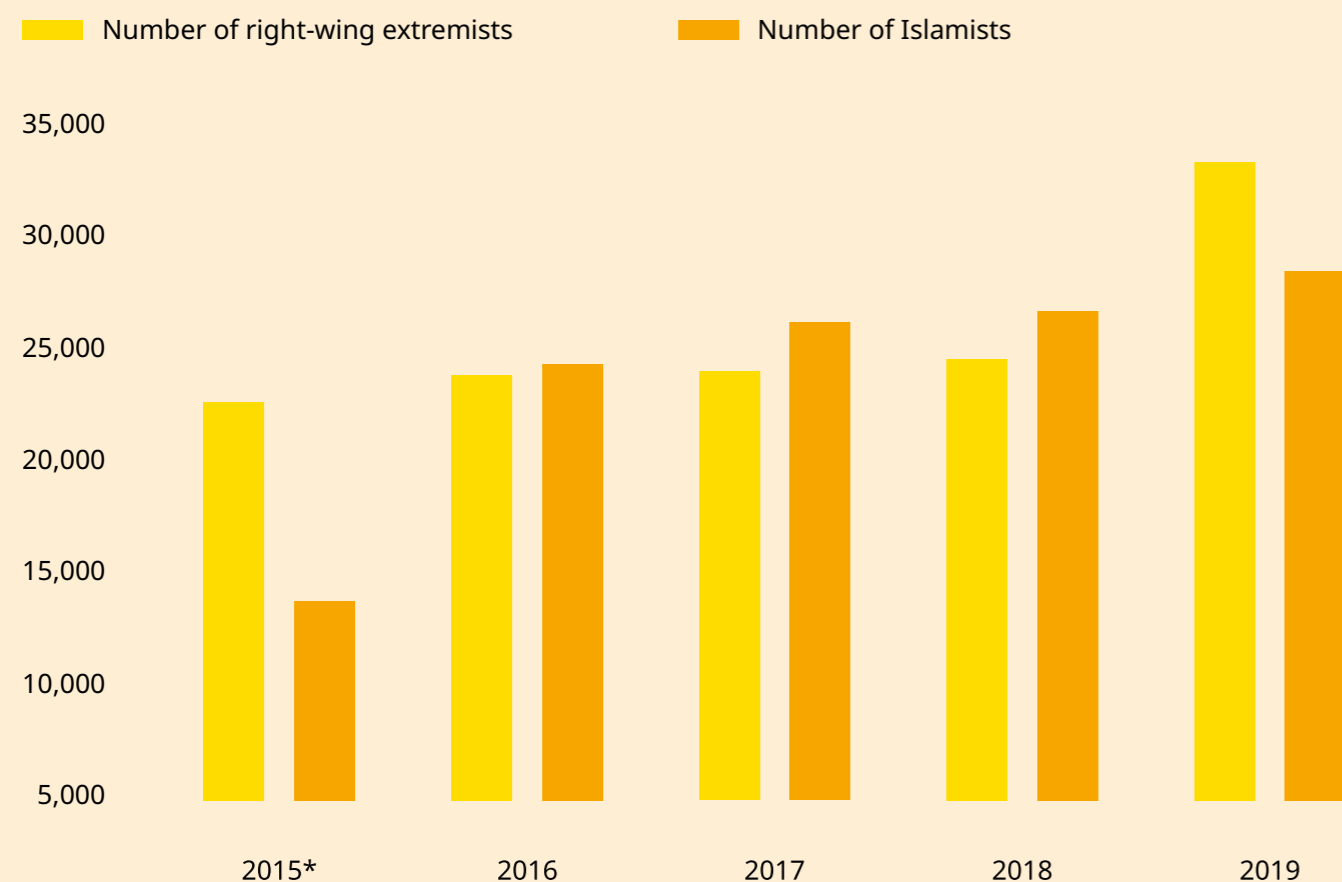
Violence Prevention Network works throughout Germany in two large fields of phenomena: Right-wing extremism and religiously motivated extremism. Our fields of activity include prevention, intervening in law enforcement, deradicalisation, and accompanying people as they exit and try to disengage themselves from extremist groups.

The phenomenon known as right-wing extremism was underestimated or ignored by the security authorities for a long time, despite the fact that the so-called NSU (National-socialist underground) has been strengthening right-wing extremist terrorism since 2011. The figures, however, speak an alarming language.

After declining somewhat for the first time since the 'record years' of 2015–16, since 2019 they have risen almost to the level of 2015. This particularly involved an increase in the numbers of homicides, hate crimes, and anti-Semitic criminal acts (Source: BMI/BKA: Politically motivated crime in 2019, Berlin 2020). Furthermore, the number of people counted among the 'citizens of the Reich' and the 'self-governing' remains constant at 19,000, of which around five percent are classified as right-wing extremists. According to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the number of people in this spectrum cannot be expected to decline significantly, 'since the ideological convictions of 'citizens of the Reich' and the 'self-governing' have often consolidated'.

Number of extremists

in the fields of phenomena in which Violence Prevention Network is active



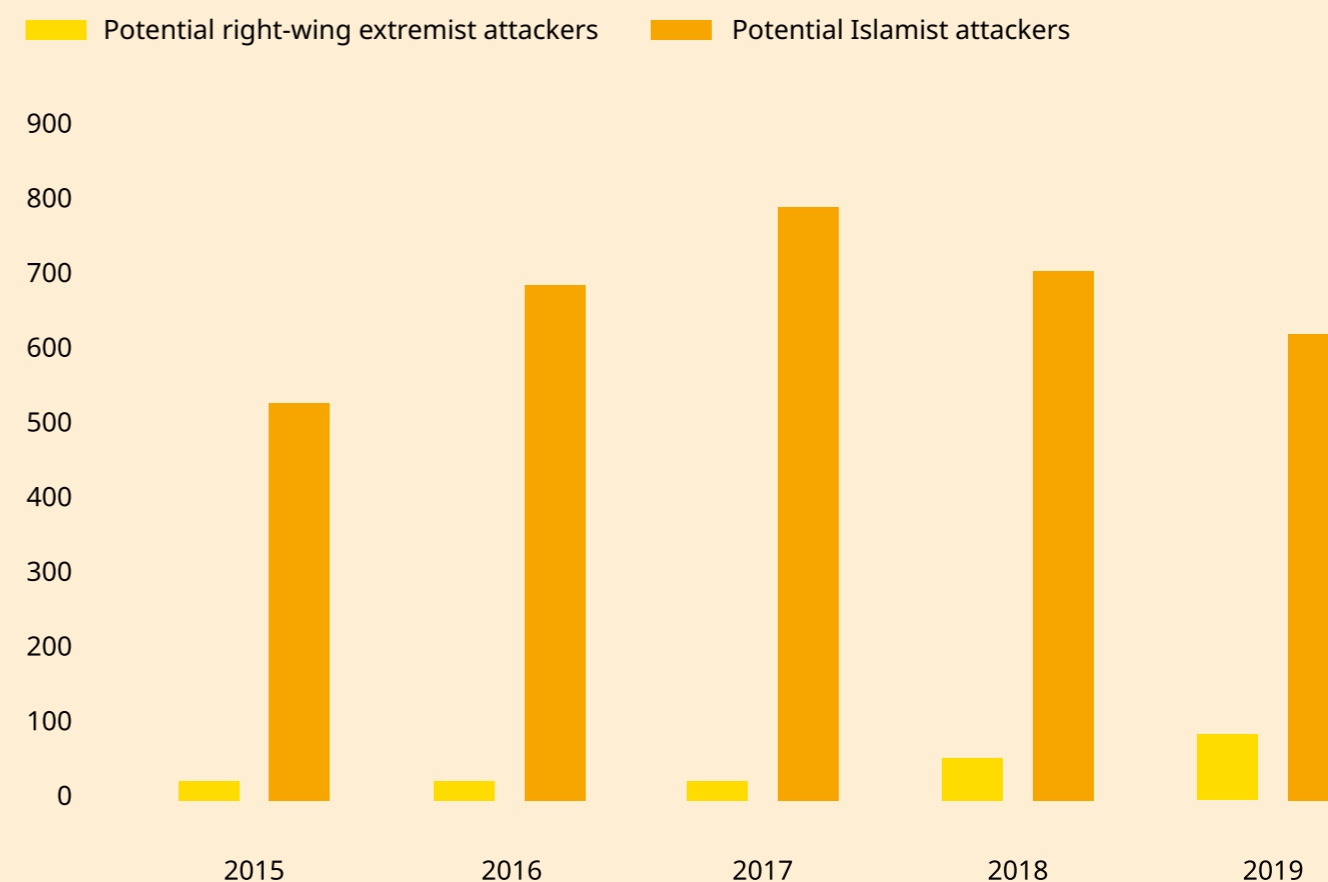
Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community ('BMI'): Reports on protecting the constitution 2015–2019

* In 2015, not all relevant groups had been recorded yet.

The number of extremists in both categories has steadily increased for years. Compared with 2018, however, the phenomenon of right-wing extremism has risen sharply by a third, to 32,080 people. Around half in both groups are classified by the security authorities as ready to use violence.

Potential attackers

in the fields of phenomena in which Violence Prevention Network is active



Source: BKA

Although the figures were almost as high in both areas, and in 2019 the number of people in the 'right-wing extremism' category increased sharply, in recent years far fewer potential attackers were identified in the right-wing extremism spectrum than in the Islamist spectrum. The fact, which becomes apparent again and again, that even members within police and security authorities stand out through their proximity to right-wing extremist

behaviour or through a membership in right-wing extremist networks, merits additional, special attention. Cooperation between security authorities and pedagogical intervention in the topic area of right-wing extremism can succeed only if such incidents are investigated consistently and transparently and structural changes are made within the institutions to prevent such developments.

Services

Overview of the most important project fields

Phenomenon Right-wing extremism	Phenomenon Religiously motivated extremism
Prevention of radicalisation	
Online projects	Online projects
Early prevention in preschool age	Work with refugees
Continued training	Continued training
Workshops in schools	Workshops in schools
Deradicalisation in prisons	
Trainings in prison in Brandenburg, Thuringia, and Saxony	Trainings in prison in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Berlin, Bavaria, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Saxony
Exit and disengagement assistance	
Consultation for parents and relatives	Consultation for parents and relatives
Advice Centre for deradicalisation in Berlin	Advice Centre for deradicalisation in Bavaria, Berlin, Hesse, Thuringia, and Saxony
International networking / Science & research	

Resources used

In 2019, personnel costs amounted to 5,485,484.11 euros for 106 employees, among whom 62 trainers. The material costs and fees amounted to 1,863,423.91 euros; this includes the costs for 15 trainers on a fee basis.

‘To reach our clients, we sometimes take our own path. Passers-by noticed the person in question in a section of the woods, when they aggressively shouted out Islamist messages. The police came and brought the person home. Then, we were called. It was clear that we couldn’t simply show up at the door and say ‘Hello, what happened?’ So we relied on a tried-and-true method: We wrote the person a letter and enclosed the flyer for our advice centre. And they actually got in touch with us. After the first conversation, however, it quickly became clear that this was not a matter of radicalisation, but a psychological problem that needed psychotherapy. We established contact with an appropriate agency and were happy to have been able to clarify the situation.’

Testimonial of a trainer



The following services were rendered during the reporting period:



423 school workshops



3043 participants



237 continued training for specialists



3106 participants

100 group and individual trainings in prison



163 participants



182 cases of disengagement assistance



122 consultations with relatives



137 consultations with institutions

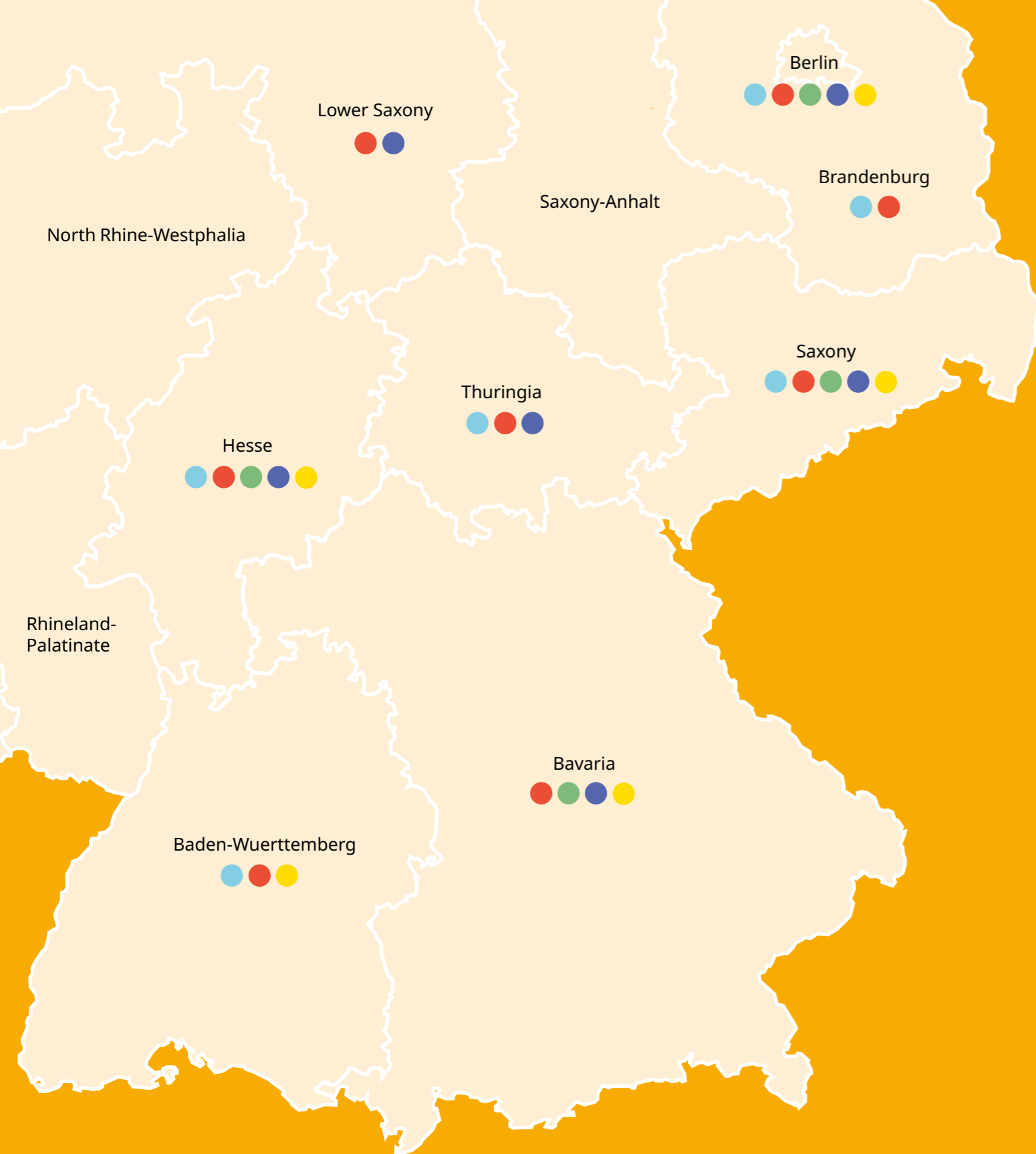


34 consultations with refugees



'I've noticed that it's not only a matter of determining subject-related content, but rather of me myself: my own behaviour and attitude. My working method has a lot more to do with me than I assumed at first.'

Participants of a continued training



- Prevention of radicalisation
- Intervention - deradicalisation trainings for criminals in prison who are motivated by extremism
- Deradicalisation - parent counselling in the context of Islam
- Disengagement assistance - work with radicalised people and returnees
- Radicalisation prevention for refugees

As of: 2019

Disseminating the approaches

Deradicalisation in prisons - how we work

Stabilisation coaching after release 6 to 12 months

Transition management in prison

Trainings in prison

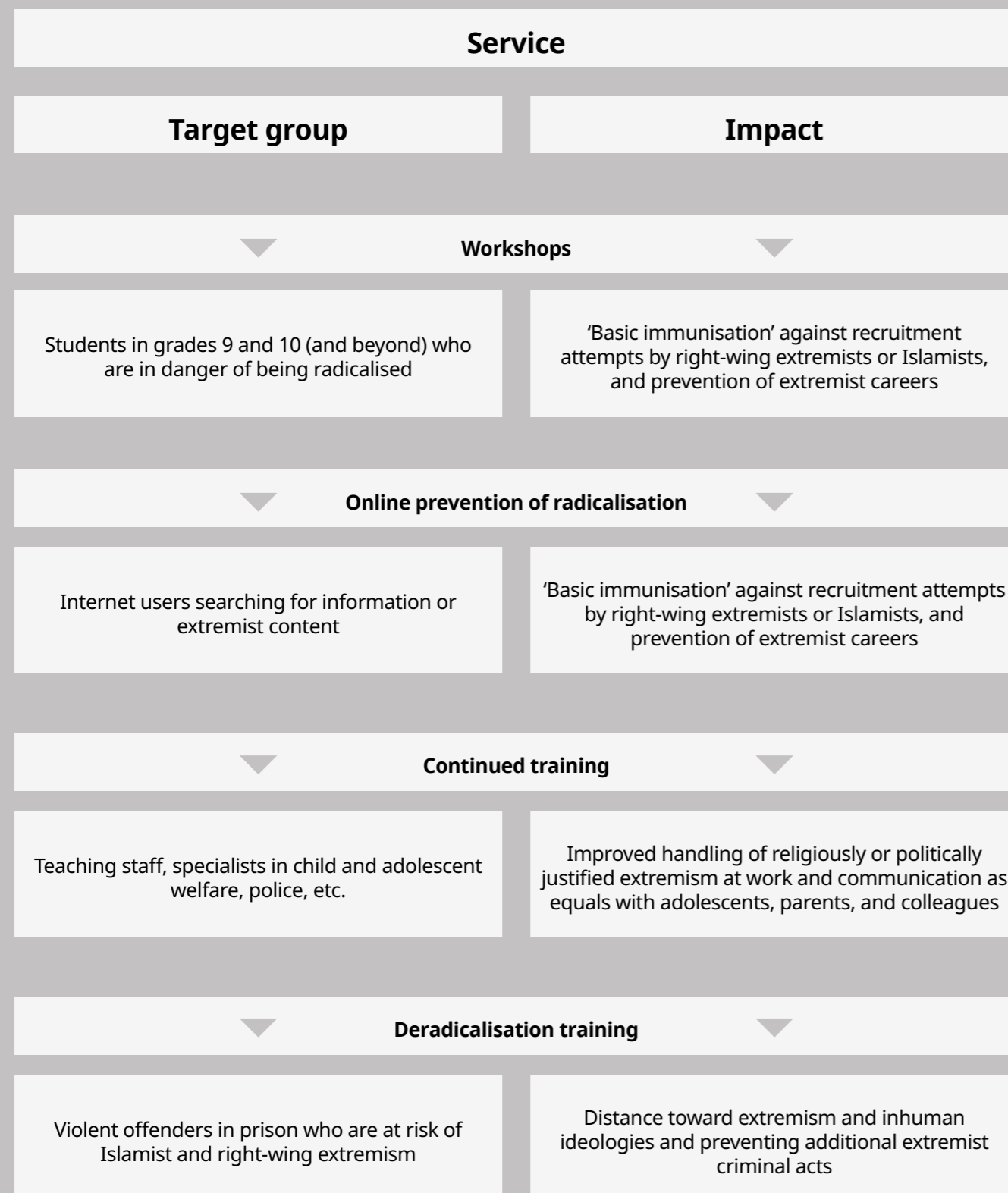


23 days

‘Overall, the workshop series promoted candid, peaceful, and respectful interactions among the adolescents, especially regarding other people in prison who think and believe differently, and made a valuable contribution to a constructive discussion on world views and views of humanity. In particular, the units on the rule of law, the role of women, the conflict in the Middle East, and religiously motivated violence were able to help the young people in prison change their perspective and reflect on those topics after they left the workshop.’

Feedback from the school department of a juvenile detention centre

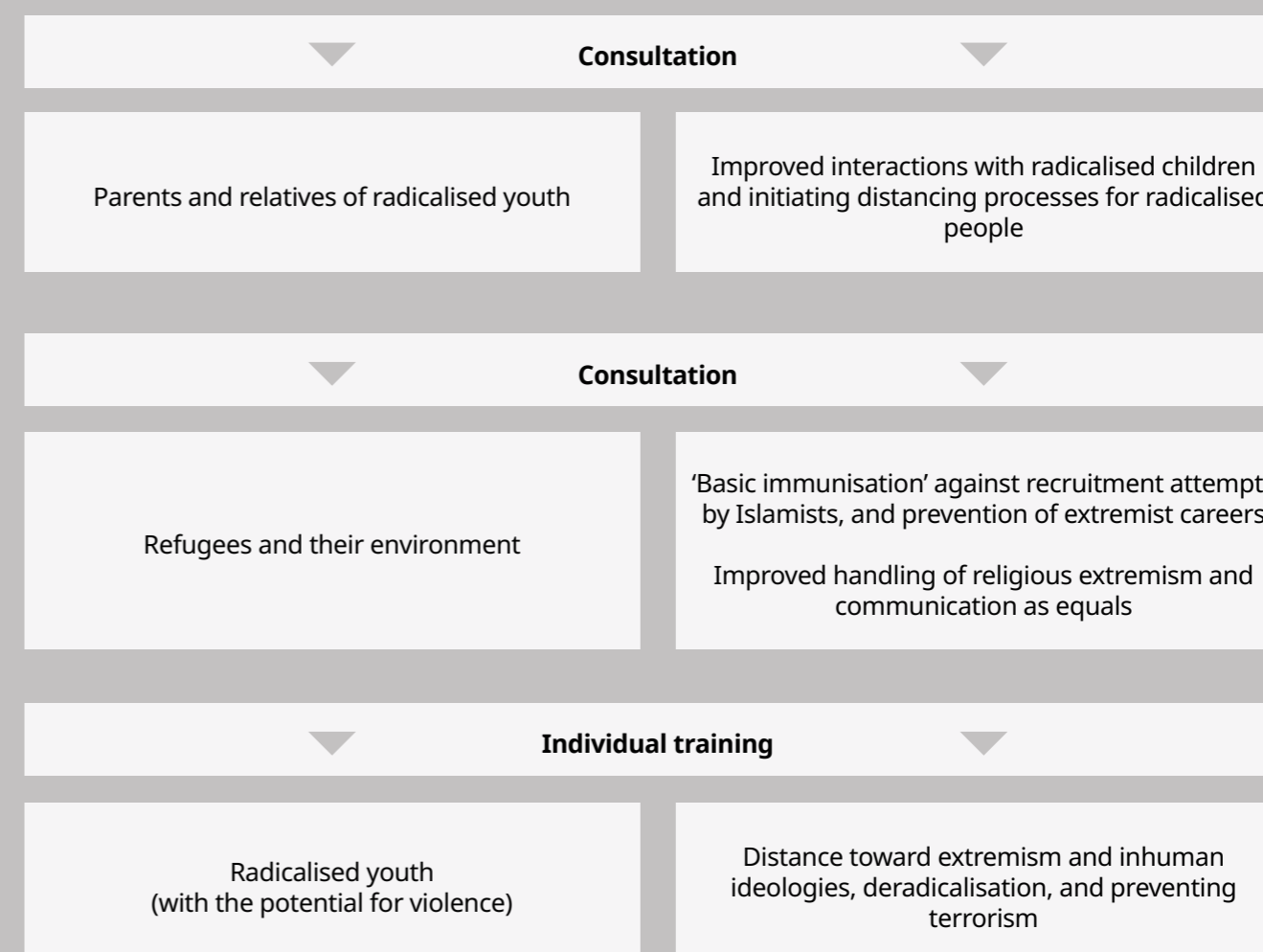
Impact



'It's the most important bridge between institutions and everyday life. Prisoners who stir up trouble are always very calm and balanced after talking with you. Besides the esteem with which you meet prisoners, it's mainly your authenticity and honesty that impresses not only the prisoners but the staff as well.'



The leader of a correctional facility on deradicalisation training



External evaluation

Continuous participation in external evaluations is a key component of the work of Violence Prevention Network. Effective, high-quality project work is also certified by the evaluations conducted by indepen-

dent institutions, which are an obligatory part of comprehensive project implementation. We make the evaluation reports available on our homepage, under the menu item 'Publications'.

Evaluated project	Evaluation period	Implementing institution
DERAD Bayern	2017 - 2019	Hochschule Esslingen
Exchange Brandenburg	2017 - 2019	Camino - Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung im sozialen Bereich gGmbH
KOgEX Hessen	2017 - 2019	Hochschule Esslingen
Fokus ISLEX Lower Saxony (process support)	2017 - 2019	VPN Wissenschaftsgesellschaft mbH
Prisma Sachsen	2017 - 2019	Camino - Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung im sozialen Bereich gGmbH
Projects in the promotional column J 'Radicalisation prevention and deradicalisation in prison and probation' promoted as part of the federal programme 'Live Democracy!'	2018 - 2019	DJI - Deutsches Jugendinstitut e. V.
Scientific support of the model project 'Den Extremismus entzaubern' (Demystifying extremism)	2018 - 2019	Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik (Institute for Social Work and Social Pedagogy)
Evaluation of the state programme 'Hessen - Aktiv für Demokratie und gegen Extremismus' (Hesse: active for democracy and against extremism), here: 'Advice Centre Hesse' and 'Demystifying extremism'.	Since 2019	Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik (Institute for Social Work and Social Pedagogy)
Evaluation of the state programme 'Demokratie. Vielfalt. Respekt. Gegen Rechtsextremismus, Rassismus und Antisemitismus' (Democracy. Diversity. Respect. Against right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism), here: 'CROSSROADS' and 'BAHIRA'	Since 2019	Camino - Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung im sozialen Bereich gGmbH

'The project "Demystifying extremism" succeeds convincingly in building and stabilising work relationships with various forms and types of schools. In one case, a cooperation agreement was adopted for the first time between VPN and a school in which the entity has been active for a number of years. The observed interactions between the project team and the respective school personnel can be described as friendly, really respectful, and familiar.

In the same way, the 'Demystify extremism' team successfully built a positive relationship with the students during the evaluated workshops in the respective classes, thus helping them be more cognitively and emotionally open to the educational content. This was successful regarding a very broad spectrum of students (age structure, scholarly background, migration and refugee experience, and knowledge of languages).'

From: 'Beziehung kommt vor Bildung' - Abschlussbericht der wissenschaftlichen Begleitung des Modellprojekts 'Den Extremismus entzaubern' ('Relationships come before education' - Final report on scientific support of the model project 'Demystifying extremism') by Marius Hilker and Susanne Johansson, Frankfurt/M. 2019

'In scholastic education, there is not nearly as much attentiveness and concentration as during the days of the workshop. Sometimes, they even work through the break, because it's just so exciting. I get to know my students all over again.'

A teacher after a school workshop

Organisation

Management
Judy Korn/Thomas Mücke

Head of finances and controlling
Melanie Paul

Head of acquisition and reporting
Judith Bartsch

Divisions

Online
division

International
division

Science
division

Islamist
extremism
division

Right-wing
extremism
division

Staff positions

Data protection and
quality management

Personnel planning and
development

Press and public
relations work

Employees

	2018	2019
Number of employees	130	121
of whom full-time	113	106
of whom freelance	16	15
of whom voluntary	1	0

Governance

The **board as a directing body** is a formally necessary organ of the corporation that is legally responsible for the association's transactions. It is only authorised to sign when two signatures are provided.

Chairperson: Judy Korn (Founder and Managing Director), full-time

Board member: Thomas Mücke (Founder and Managing Director), full-time

Board member: Sebastian Ehlers (secretary), volunteer

According to the Articles of Association, all board members are authorised to represent the association.

The **management** manages the association's transactions and makes all operative decisions. It is responsible for the association's business and con-

sists of the two founders of Violence Prevention Network. All transactions require two signatures. The management is also part of the Board. For this reason, two signatures from the three-member board are always required for legally valid transactions.

Judy Korn, Managing Director, full-time

Thomas Mücke, Managing Director, full-time

Management, full-time:
Judith Bartsch – overall divisional management for acquisition and reporting

Melanie Paul – overall divisional management for finances and (internal) controlling

The **general meeting** of four people (2019) meets once a year and additionally if needed. All members are entitled to vote. The duties as a board member occur on a voluntary basis.

Violence Prevention Network is affiliated with VPN Wissenschaftsgesellschaft mbH.

Environment and social profile

Violence Prevention Network adheres to the principle of gender parity for staffing and hiring full-time and freelance workers. Violence Prevention Network attaches great importance to the work-life balance. The staff members decide independently (following consultation) on work hours and place. This has led to a level of commitment which is far above-average and a great acceptance of responsibility in individual fields of work. For travelling, the staff members of Violence

Prevention Network mainly take the train. All employees of Violence Prevention Network are paid in line with the the Collective Agreement of the Civil Service [Tarifvertrag des öffentlichen Dienstes (TVöD Bund)] and the Fee Structure of the Federal Agency for Civic Education [Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung]. Violence Prevention Network does not pay bonuses or benefits in kind. Classification occurs according to the respective area of responsibility. Procurement procedures are in accordance with the VOL.

Partnerships, cooperations and networks

Violence Prevention Network has been working reliably with various partners.

The **Federal Criminal Police Office** has been a partner of Violence Prevention Network since 2019 in raising awareness of criminal acts regarding on-line radicalisation.

The **Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**, as a funder, carries out groundbreaking model projects with Violence Prevention Network and has funded the association until the end of 2019 as a federally relevant entity as part of structural support.

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community** functions as an informal financial supporter of our work and its subject matter, and regularly invites Violence Prevention Network to give presentations on its work in national and international contexts.

In cooperation with the **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)**, Violence Prevention Network works on standards in counselling the social environment of (presumably) radicalised Islamists.

The **Hessian Ministry of the Interior and Sports** has been a cooperating partner since 2014 in realising measures for prevention, intervention, and deradicalisation in the state of Hesse.

The **Hessian Ministry of Justice** is our cooperating partner in the area of deradicalisation in prisons.

The **State Commission Berlin against violence** of the **Senatorial Administration for Interior Affairs and Sports** of the state of Berlin has been a cooperating partner since 2016 in realising measures for prevention and deradicalisation in the state of Berlin.

With the **Senatorial Administration for Education, Youth, and Families** of the state of Berlin, Violence Prevention Network initiated the project *proRespekt* in 2019 in an association with the German Children and Youth Foundation as well as Gangway e.V.

The **Senatorial Administration for Justice, Consumer Protection, and Antidiscrimination** of the state of Berlin is a long-time cooperating partner in the area of deradicalisation in prisons.

The **Bavarian State Ministry for the Interior, Sports, and Integration** and the **Bavarian State Criminal Police Office** have been cooperating partners since 2016 in the realisation of measures for intervention and deradicalisation in the state of Bavaria.

The **Thuringian Ministry for Education, Youth, and Sports** has been a cooperating partner since 2017 in realising measures in the area of prevention and intervention.

The **Saxon State Ministry for Social and Societal Cohesion** has been a cooperating partner since 2017 in realising measures for prevention, intervention, and deradicalisation in the state of Saxony.

The **Saxon State Ministry of Justice** is our cooperating partner in the area of deradicalisation in prisons.

The **Lower Saxon Ministry of Justice** has been our partner since 2016 in radicalisation prevention and deradicalisation in prison and probation.

On an international level, Violence Prevention Network closely networkes with the key players of deradicalisation work in Europe. In this context is to mention the membership in the **Radicalisation Awareness Network** of the **European Commission**, especially the leadership of the Working Group EXIT (until December 2019).

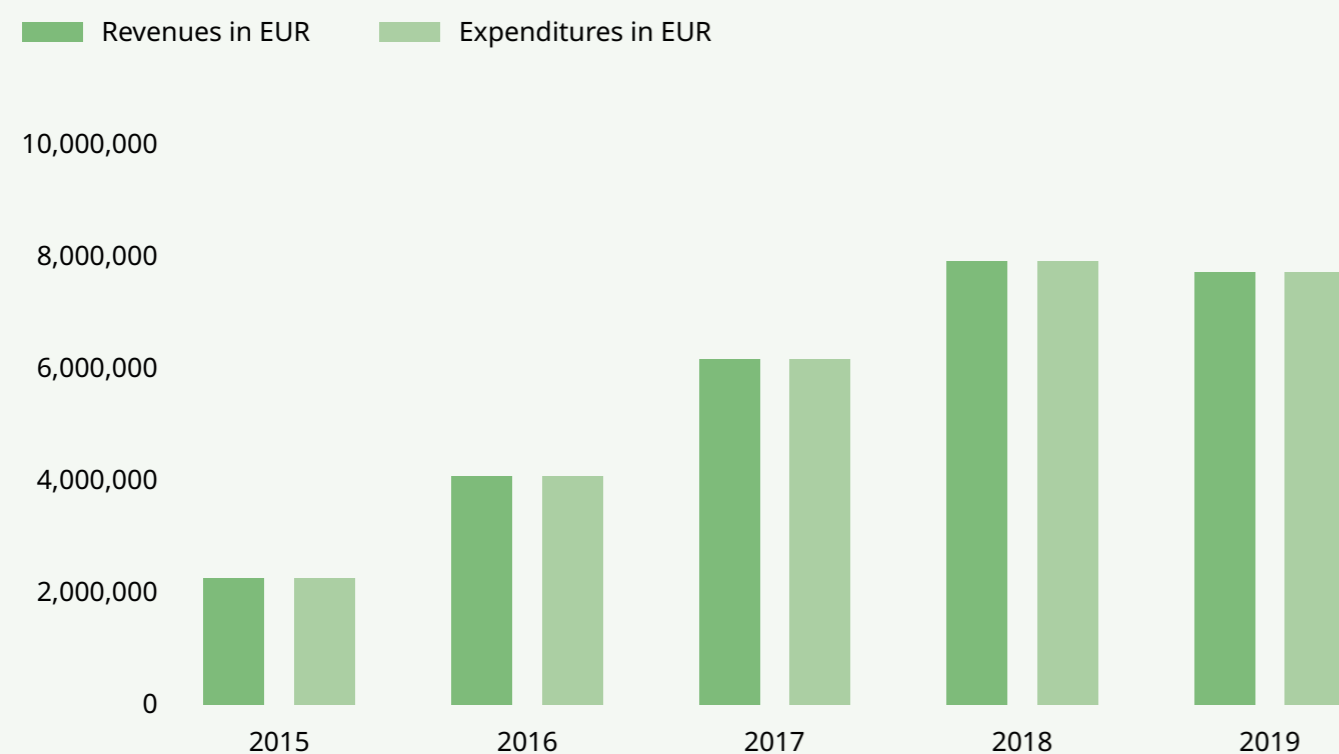
Ashoka Germany is an important brand name and seal of quality for Violence Prevention Network. The fellowship helps to open the door to politics and public authorities as well as conversations with potential supporters.

General information

Name	Violence Prevention Network e. V.
Headquarters of the organisation in accordance with the Articles of Association	Berlin
Founded	2004
Other branches	Bergmannstrasse 5, 10961 Berlin Langhansstrasse 146, 13086 Berlin Anger 35, 99084 Erfurt Leipziger Strasse 67, 60487 Frankfurt Ferdinandstr. 3, 30175 Hannover Werner-Hilpert-Strasse 21, 34117 Kassel Stieglitzstrasse 84, 04229 Leipzig Schillerstrasse 27, 80336 Munich Reinsburgstrasse 4, 70178 Stuttgart
Legal form	Registered association
Contact information	
Address	Alt-Reinickendorf 25, 13407 Berlin
Telephone	Phone: +49 30 91 70 54 64
Fax	Fax: +49 30 39 83 52 84
Email	post@violence-prevention-network.de
Website (URL)	www.violence-prevention-network.de/?lang=en
Link to the Articles of Association (URL)	https://violence-prevention-network.de/ueber-uns/zahlen-fakten/jahresberichte-und-mehr/?lang=en
Registration entry	
Registration court	District Court of Charlottenburg
Registration number	244 27 B
Date of the entry	11 April 2005
Non-profit status	
Indication of non-profit status in accordance with Sec. 52 Tax Code	
Assessment date	8 January 2020
Issuing tax office	Corporate Tax Office I, Berlin
Statement of the non-profit purpose	Promotion of crime prevention
Worker representation	Not available

Finances

Development of revenues and expenditures



Bookkeeping and accounting

Accounting occurs in accordance with the method of double-entry bookkeeping. LEXWARE Professional 2019 is used as a bookkeeping program. The annual financial statement is based on the stipulations of the HGB [German Commercial Code]. The financial statement is prepared by an external tax consultant (C.O.X. Steuerberatungsgesellschaft und Treuhandgesellschaft mbH, Berlin) in close cooperation

with the internal accounting department and the internal controlling department and subsequently verified by an external auditing firm (Hamburger Treuhand Gesellschaft Schomerus & Partner mbB).

The internal audit of the annual financial statement is prepared by the management of Violence Prevention Network gGmbH.

Statement of assets

Assets

kEUR	2017	2018	2019
I. Intangible assets (such as software)	96	104	95
II. Tangible assets	119	106	67
of which real estate	0	0	0
III. Financial assets	0	0	0
IV. Receivables	233	197 ¹	211 ²
thereof against members or shareholders	0	0	0
V. Cash and cash equivalents	972	844	1,042
Total assets	1,420	1,251	1,415

Liabilities

kEUR	2017	2018	2019
I. Loans taken out	0	0	0
thereof from members or shareholders	0	0	0
II. Trade liabilities	11	1	6
III. Other liabilities	495	395 ^{3,4}	385 ⁵
Total liabilities	506	396	391
Account balance of assets minus liabilities (= equity capital + provisions)	914	855	1,024⁶
of which earmarked funds	98.2	5.7	5.9

¹ The receivables 2018 contain deferred items amounting to kEUR 9.4.

² The receivables 2019 contain deferred items amounting to kEUR 11.4.

³ These contain approx. kEUR 95.1 of unused subsidies that will be refunded in 2019.

⁴ These contain kEUR 205.3 of personnel provisions.

⁵ These contain kEUR 308.8 of unused subsidies that will be refunded in 2020.

⁶ These contain kEUR 254.4 of personnel provisions.

Statement of assets

Revenue

kEUR	2017	2018	2019
1. Proceeds	1,120	925	658
of which public contracts	1,080	902	583
2. Grants	4,694	6,530	6,699
of which from the public sector	4,613	6,437	6,654
3. Contributions	1	0	0
4. Other revenue	106.5	270	178
Total revenue	5,921.5	7,725	7,535

Expenses

kEUR	2017	2018	2019
A1. Project expenses	5,094	6,434	6,441
A2. Advertising expenses	112.5	137	133
A3. Administration expenses	360 ⁷	552 ⁸	449 ⁹
4. Financing expenses	0	0	0
5. Tax	0	0	0
6. Other expenses	355	602	512
Total expenses	5,921.5	7,725	7,535
Annual result (revenue minus expenses)	0	0	0¹⁰

⁷ These items represent the actual administrative expenses for the organisation.

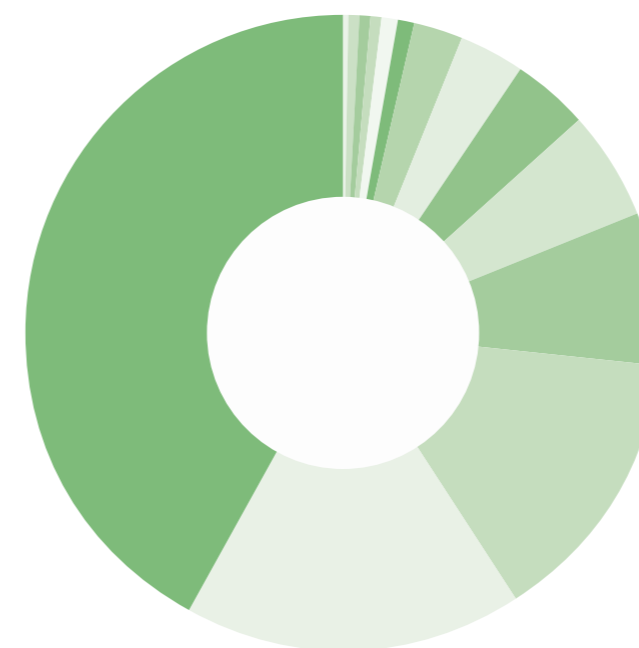
⁸ These items represent the actual administrative expenses for the organisation.

⁹ These items represent the actual administrative expenses for the organisation.

¹⁰ The surpluses from 2015, 2016, and 2017 were added to the reserves.

Where does the money come from?

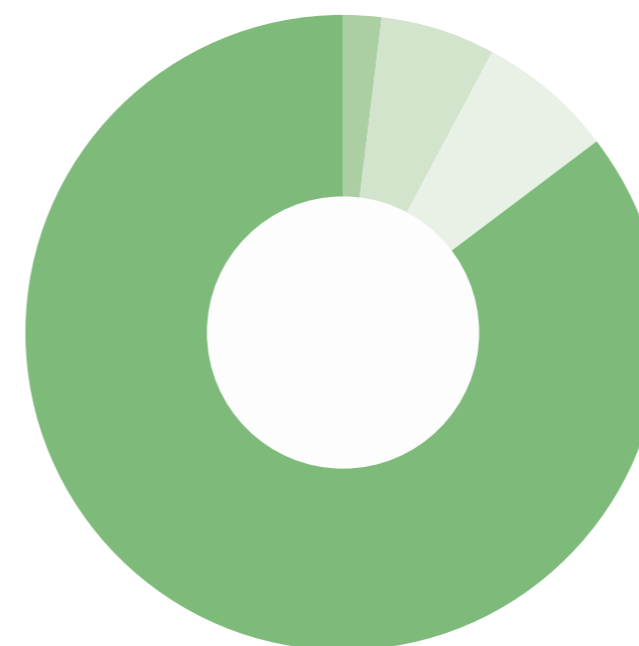
Information in kEUR



Total budget 2019 = 7,535,003.10 €

Where does the money go?

Information in kEUR



- Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ): 3,170
- Hesse: 1,294
- Berlin: 1,074
- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF): 591
- Bavaria: 403
- Other: 309
- Saxony: 249
- Thuringia: 187
- BKA: 66
- Lower Saxony: 55
- BMI: 48
- Donations: 38
- Brandenburg: 32
- Baden-Wuerttemberg: 19

Legal notice

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Registered with the District Court of Berlin-Charlottenburg:
HRB 221974 B

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Donations are welcome!
Donation account:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE14100205000001118800
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

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