

Annual Report 2022



Violence
Prevention Network

Subject matter of the report

Scope of validity

The subject of the present report is Violence Prevention Network gGmbH. The organisation works with ideologically vulnerable persons, de-radicalises offenders with extremist motivations and provides support for their reintegration into democratic society.

Report period and reporting cycle

The reporting period is the financial year 2022 from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

This report is prepared annually. This report was completed on 16/10/2023. All information is correct as at 16/10/2023, except where it relates exclusively to the previous financial year 2022.

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VISION

It is our vision for people who are susceptible to radicalisation and perpetrators of violent crimes with extremist motivations to be enabled, through disassociation work, to lead an independent life and to become a part of democratic society, in order to pre-empt and prevent extremism of any kind.

AT A GLANCE

Violence Prevention Network seeks to ensure that people are given tools and resources that enable them to reflect on and overcome their former behavioural patterns. These people must be empowered to lead a life in which they harm neither themselves nor others.



128
Employees



41
Projects



10
Our locations



185
Workshops for
schools and youth
welfare



€9.5 m
in funds
invested



338
CPD for
professionals



340
Group and individual
trainings in prisons



113
Consultations with
relatives



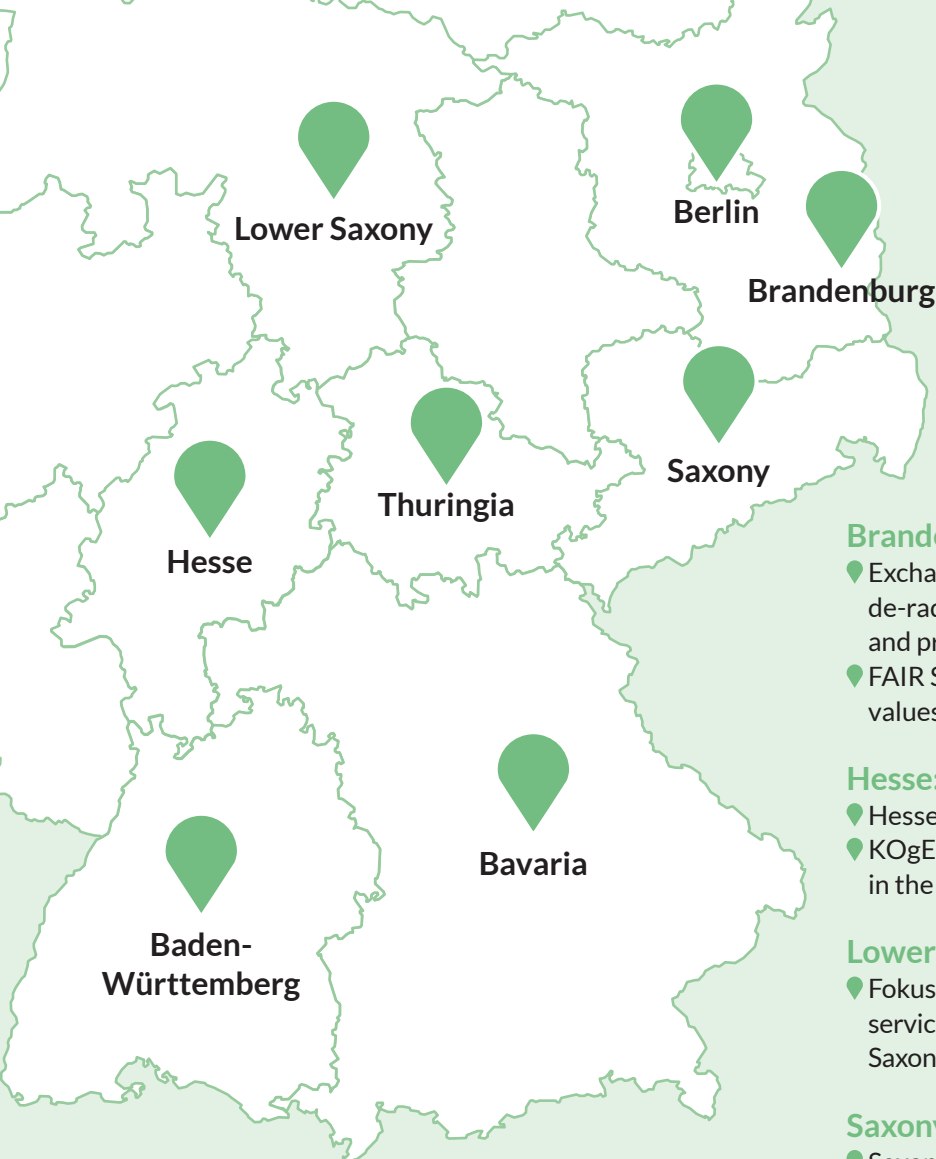
89
Consultations with
institutions



215
Cases of
disengagement
assistance



6,459
People reached
through our activities
(total)



Brandenburg:

- ♥ Exchange Brandenburg – Mobile prevention and de-radicalisation service in the justice and probation system
- ♥ FAIR STÄRKEN – Communicating beyond conflicting values

Hesse:

- ♥ Hesse Advice Center
- ♥ KOgEX Hesse 2.0 – Expertise against extremism in the justice and probation system

Lower Saxony:

- ♥ Fokus ISLEX – Mobile prevention and de-radicalisation service in the justice and probation system in Lower Saxony

Saxony:

- ♥ Saxony Advice Centre
- ♥ Early Education – Promoting democracy and fighting discrimination during the transition
- ♥ Prisma Sachsen – Identifying radicalisation, assisting with de-radicalisation, bundling skills

Thuringia:

- ♥ Thuringia Advice Centre

Nationwide:

- ♥ AG Strafvollzug und Bewährungshilfe (Prison and Probation Working Group)
- ♥ EVOLUO – Psychology expertise and coaching for counsellors working with (de-) radicalisation
- ♥ KN:IX – "Islamist extremism" expert network
- ♥ PrEval – Evaluation designs for preventive measures
- ♥ RADIS – Researching the social causes and effects of radical Islam in Germany and Europe

Online:

- ♥ Gaming and Right-wing Extremism – How right-wing extremists exploit gaming platforms
- ♥ Islam-ist
- ♥ RE:GAIN Gaming Platforms and Right-wing Extremism – Online intervention and de-radicalisation

WHERE WE ARE ACTIVE

Projects across Germany (selection):

Baden-Württemberg:

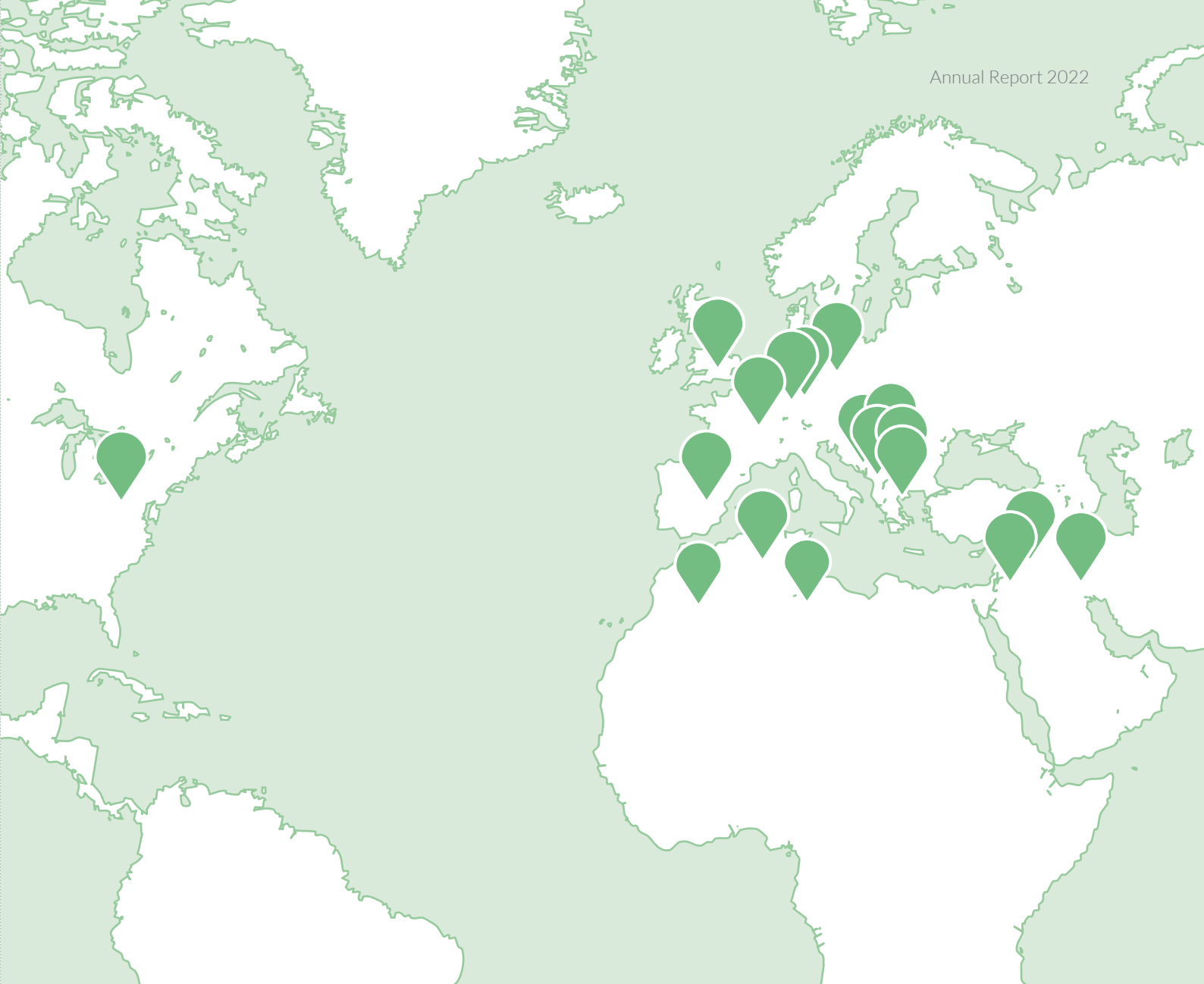
- ♥ PräWo Justiz – Series of prison workshops for young detainees at risk of radicalisation

Bavaria:

- ♥ Bavaria Advice Centre

Berlin:

- ♥ Berlin Advice Centre – Ways out of extremism
- ♥ Prevent Berlin
- ♥ TRIAS Berlin – New forms of multi-professional cooperation in extremism prevention
- ♥ CROSSROADS – Leaving right-wing extremism behind
- ♥ proRespekt – A democratic path to violence-free schools
- ♥ JUST X Berlin – Prevention and de-radicalisation in the Berlin justice and probation system
- ♥ REE! – Helping right-wing extremists change course



International projects:

European Union and Western Balkans

- ♥ FRISCO
- ♥ icommit (Dublin/Ireland, Luton/UK, Strasbourg/France, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat/Spain, Skopje/North Macedonia, Mechelen/Belgium, Liège/Belgium, Berlin)
- ♥ RAN Practitioners – Radicalisation Awareness Network and RAN in the Western Balkans (EU Member States, plus Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia)
- ♥ Atlantic Initiative (Sarajevo/Bosnia & Herzegovina)

West Asia/Middle East and North Africa

- ♥ CEPOL
- ♥ CT Inflow (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan)
- ♥ SIMVEX (Iraq)

USA/North America

- ♥ Violence Prevention Network USA Inc. (Pittsburgh/Pennsylvania)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING AHEAD

At the start of 2022, we could breathe again in the truest sense of the word as the pandemic began to ease off and the strict COVID-19 measures were largely rolled back. Finally, we could work as normal again, while at the same time establishing new, almost cherished, rituals from the pandemic, in particular the advances made in digitisation, taking meetings online to save unnecessary travel time and protect finances and the environment.

At the same time, major new crises emerged. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has been shaping the narrative of many of our projects for more than a year now. The war and media reporting on it are inflaming civil debate and leading to an increase in polarisation in Germany. It has also produced new conspiracy theories, just like the narrative around vaccinations, which turn people into bitter enemies. Here in Germany, the so-called "Reichsbürger movement" and accelerationism are busy with their plans for attacks and revolution, further fragmenting the already increasingly opaque extremism landscape.

On the political scene, a lot of our time this past year was taken up by Germany's "Promotion of Democracy Act" which extremism prevention organisations were invited to help draft. The road to the finished draft bill was a long one and only time will tell how much the final bill will actually do to implement sustainable and long-term measures aimed at preventing extremism.

For Violence Prevention Network, the next few years will be about stabilising our recognised approaches to disassociation/disengagement and primary and secondary prevention, and about growing and developing these methods in light of the ever increasing challenges we face in our field. Of particular note is the expansion of our Department of Psychotherapy, a step that is necessary to support and supplement the pedagogical approaches used in our disassociation and disengagement work. Meanwhile, we are responding to the continued increase in the blurring of the lines between analogue and digital life-worlds by expanding our Violence Prevention Network Digital Department.

Another vital pillar is the establishment of our US partner organisation: Violence Prevention Network USA Inc. US society is becoming increasingly polarised in the run-up to the 2024 Presidential Elections and as a result of the many issues the country is experiencing, which came to light in January 2021. For this and many more reasons, it makes sense to us to bring our approach to this part of the world. We are interested in training people who engage with those who have been or are at risk of being radicalised in a professional context in our Education of Responsibility Method (*Verantwortungspädagogik*®). And this is just one part of our international strategy for the next few years.

Judy Korn and Thomas Mücke
September 2023

REPORTS FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS



Digital



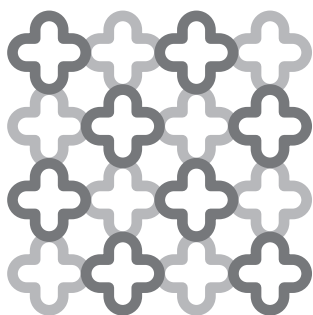
International



Psychotherapy



Right-wing
Extremism



Religiously
Motivated
Extremism



Research

DIGITAL DEPARTMENT

Sebastian Ehlers/Franziska Kreller

When it comes to Violence Prevention Network's core challenges – ideologisation, radicalisation and extremism – there's no getting away from the role played by the *internet*. Social media is contributing to a fundamental change in the field. There is a noticeable blurring of the lines between our youngest target group's digital life-world and the analogue world. Which is why our consultation work also addresses online trends and developments.

Violence Prevention Network's digital arm – Violence Prevention Network Digital – brings together findings and experiences collected from a number of the network's offline and online projects, developing new digital projects which supplement the existing structures of prevention practice meaningfully and testing new approaches to web-based radicalisation prevention. In 2022, the team oversaw a number of projects which are setting new standards. Below is a more detailed description of our *Gaming Platforms and Right-Wing Extremism – Online Intervention and De-Radicalisation (RE:GAIN)* project.

Project insight

Our **Gaming Platforms and Right-Wing Extremism – Online Intervention and De-Radicalisation (RE:GAIN)** project answers the question of to what extent are gaming communities exploited by right-wing extremists, what role do they play for right-wing extremists and what are the ways in which gamers might be protected. The aim of the project is to empower gamers to recognise right-wing extremist content and to make them aware of how they can take action or where they can go for help and support. It also focuses on developing approaches for making contact with young people who have been or are at risk of being radicalised in online social spaces and testing out intervention measures.

The project began with an ethnographic analysis of the gaming platform *Steam* as a way of approximating the issue of right-wing agitation in gaming communities. This analysis demonstrated that the spectrum of groups with an extremist right-wing leaning is extremely

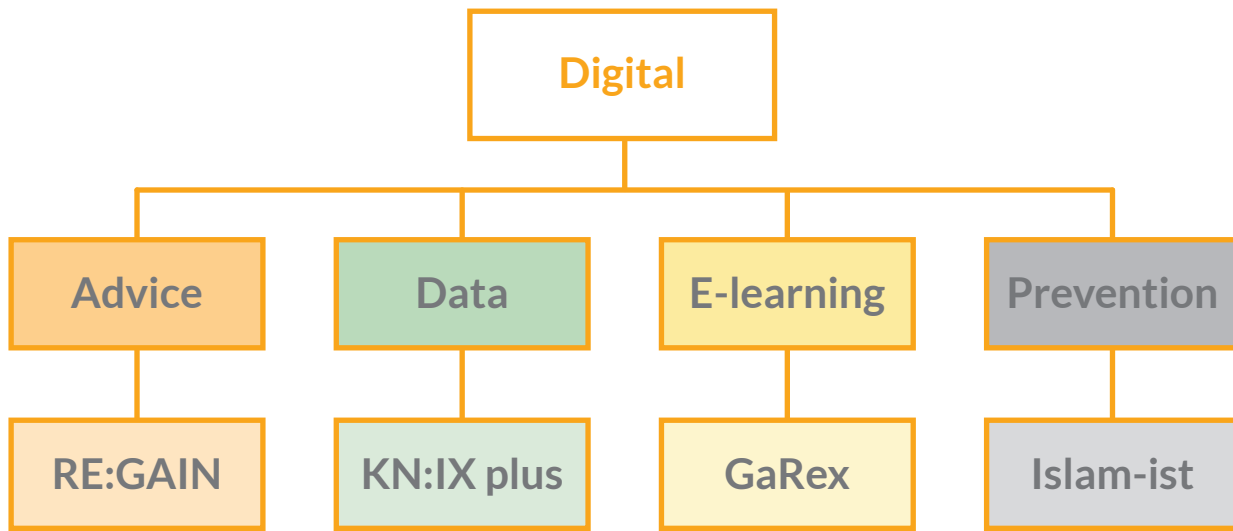
heterogeneous. They vary in their ideological stances, the types of activities they carry out and their functions (for both organisers and members). These observations were used to generate a system for classifying right-wing-leaning groups on *Steam*.

The team then conducted a survey of 240 gamers and was able to demonstrate that these gamers engage in activities on gaming platforms which also play an important role in their lives outside of the internet. For example, 60% of respondents stated that they have made new contacts via online gaming. This makes access to gaming platforms very attractive for extremist right-wing actors. It is a more anonymous way of making contact than what is offered on other platforms, while a shared interest in gaming provides a reason for reaching out and helps disguise ideological and political backgrounds.

The needs expressed in the survey were used to prepare a workshop on "Right-wing extremism and gaming" which focused on knowledge-sharing and networking between relevant stakeholders – both among existing prevention projects and networks, and also with gaming magazines and gaming community moderators. In addition, a symposium was held in 2022 under the heading "Playing into the hands of radicals? Taking action among gaming communities – an inter-disciplinary approach to gaming and right-wing extremism" in order to make the issue accessible to a wider and at the same time relevant target group (e.g. youth work and Respect Coaches), to bring knowledge and skills together and to encourage inter-disciplinary dialogue.

Structure

The way in which the Digital Department works was given an overhaul in 2022. It now has four areas of focus: advice, data, e-learning and prevention. The projects beneath were managed by a total of eleven colleagues.



Networking

The Digital Department was able to further expand its network in 2022. In addition to partnering on projects with Facebook and TikTok, our Digital colleagues are involved in the Online Working Group overseen by the *National Committee on Religiously Motivated Extremism (BAG RelEx)* and are industry partners to the *National Committee on Hate Online (BAG Hass im Netz)* and *Level Up!*, the network project from *modus | zad - Centre for Applied Research on Deradicalisation*. Violence Prevention Network also became a member of the *Independent Advisory Committee (IAC)* under the *Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT)* in June 2022. Founder and CEO, Judy Korn has been a member of the *European Safety Advisory Council (ESAC)* for TikTok since 2021.



INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Jonathan Russell/Ariane Wolff (until 03/2023)

Our growing team has increased the visibility of Violence Prevention Network in 2022 and consolidated our close working relationships with key stakeholders in the European Union, the Western Balkan states, the MENA region and Central Asia. Networking with regional and international partners is essential if we are to counteract the transnational developments among extremist movements. We have welcomed three new colleagues to our team, launched our international website (www.violence-prevention-network.com) and set up our own Twitter page (@VPNderadINT).

The Department has had great success in growing and developing their project work and networking activities in extremism prevention and has grown in a number of core strategic areas: 1) Strengthening the engagement of civic actors in extremism prevention and disassociation work (P/CVE) and growing our regional expertise; 2) Establishing and expanding models and practices for cooperating on P/CVE across institutions; 3) Containing terrorist and extremist content online: Developing tailored solutions for assisting hosting providers with new EU laws (e.g. the Terrorist Content Regulation) and changes to national regulations.

As part of the consortium charged with organising the European Commission's *Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners)*, we are fostering the sharing of knowledge and experience on prevention and disassociation work among more than 6,000 practitioners across Europe. An important milestone was the publication of a RAN paper entitled *Gender-specificity in practical P/CVE: Reviewing RAN Practitioners' activities in 2021* (published in September 2022) which was written by members of our team.

The EU-funded *EMMA* project came to a successful end in March with a closing conference and a publication entitled *Evaluation and mentoring of the multi-agency approach to violent radicalisation*. Drawing on the outcomes of the *EMMA* project, the Department has begun working on a new EU-funded project called *icommit*. Trainings and support services developed during the project will support local networks by providing them with the latest knowledge and

individual mentoring. Individualised milestone plans and supervision will strengthen local multi-agency cooperations and professionalise the collaboration between civil society and state actors with regards to prevention of and disassociation from violent extremism. The project will also address issues such as case analysis and intervention planning using social diagnostics. To that end – and taking into account a variety of different needs – an analysis tool has been developed to help practitioners to adapt their intervention measures to their individual needs and to structure their disassociation factors. The project is being run in cooperation with *modus | zad – Centre for Applied Research on Deradicalisation*, the *University of Bucharest* and the *European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)*.

A new P/CVE partnership has been launched in Iraq, with Violence Prevention Network International teaming up with the *International Organisation of Migration (IOM) Iraq* as part of the *Supporting Iraqi National Efforts for Enhanced Implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent Violent Extremism (SIMVEX)* project. We have provided practical support as part of the cooperation between *IOM Iraq* and the *Iraqi Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)* to empower Iraqi institutions to involve civil society in their prevention efforts. We have also organised two successful study visits for an Iraqi government delegation to Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina (in partnership with *IOM BiH*), and Berlin. In Sarajevo, the meeting of experts was aimed at representatives of the *National Prevention Committee* which is responsible for implementing the national prevention strategy and fostered a lively exchange of expertise and proven practices with local partners, with a particular focus on gender-equal programming, local-national coordination and the role of civil society. This visit enabled the delegation to hear first-hand about practical examples from the cooperation. This dialogue was complemented by a visit to Germany in October 2022 when Iraqi government representatives had the opportunity to exchange expertise and proven practices for P/CVE with their German counterparts. Delegation members received information first-hand about practical, legal and political examples from Germany, including proven practices and case studies on detention and probation, and how the

German government repatriates and prosecutes foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) and their families.

Another EU-financed project, *FRISCO (Fighting Terrorist Content Online)*, was launched in November 2022, in partnership with *Demokritos* (Greece), the French Ministry of the Interior, *Tremau* (France), *INACH* (Netherlands), *D-Learn* (Italy) and *IVSZ* (Hungary). The project aims to help small hosting providers implement *EU Regulation 2021/7843* which tackles the dissemination of terrorist content online, such as by providing tailored technical resources and frameworks, trainings, and initiatives aimed at raising awareness and exchanging knowledge and proven processes.

In partnership with *CEPOL* (The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training), a simulation exercise for six law enforcement officers from five MENA countries was organised in Berlin in October 2022 as part of the *CT Inflow* project (Technical Support on the Implementation of *Components 4 – MENA Terrorism Trends and Situation Report* and Associated Activities for Building Capacity). This exercise taught participants about proven practices and scenarios for overcoming the challenges involved in working in a multi-stakeholder environment when it comes to implementing CVE measures and jointly assessing the current state of terrorism. As part of the partnership with *CEPOL*, we also co-chaired sessions of the *EU-MENA Information Sharing and Analysis Network's*

(EMISA) Prisons and Probation Working Group in order to foster an exchange of experiences among experts from the EU and the MENA region on issues such as the rehabilitation and reintegration of extremist offenders, cooperation between state and civic actors, and approaches to *Restorative Justice*.

Our teams also led two training sessions in November 2022 on monitoring & evaluation and experiences from practitioners across Europe working with repatriates and their families, as part of the process of developing the national strategy for repatriating Bosnian citizens returning from Syria and Iraq which is being led by the *Atlantic Initiative* research group, headquartered in Sarajevo.

Thanks to our involvement in numerous conferences, networks and publications, we have been able to expand our collaboration with international organisations such as the *OSCE*, the *UNODC* and international partners from civil society, research and practice. Examples include talks on the lack of correlation between gender and extremism at the *Fifth Western Canadian Symposium to Prevent IMVE* and on the role of prison programmes in CVE at the *Eradicate Hate Global Summit 2022* in Pittsburgh, USA.



PSYCHOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

Hannah Strauss

The job of Violence Prevention Network is to support people at risk of radicalisation and perpetrators of crimes with extremist motivations on their individual journey to disassociation and to provide them with assistance that suits their needs. This holistic approach is what gave rise to the Department of Psychotherapy in 2020. This Department's aim is to create a bridge between extremism prevention and healthcare.

As part of the *TRIAS Berlin – New Forms of Multi-Professional Cooperation in Extremism Prevention*, *Just X Berlin – Prevention and De-Radicalisation in the Berlin Justice and Probation System* and *Evoluo – Psychology Expertise and Coaching for Counsellors Working with (De-) Radicalisation* projects, the Department offers a variety of (psycho-)therapeutic services to clients and their family members as a complement to the work of Violence Prevention Network's advice centres. A further aim of the Department is to boost networking between extremism prevention experts and healthcare professionals and to raise awareness of the work being done in the field through various forms of dialogue, training and education.

2022 was a very successful year for the Department of Psychotherapy. As well as a number of online training services and classic networking activities, the Department achieved an increase in cases received, thereby drawing greater attention to the practical case work they do in cooperation with the *Berlin Advice Centre*.

The *TRIAS Berlin – New Forms of Multi-Professional Cooperation in Extremism Prevention* project achieved an increase in cases compared to the project year 2021 as part of its cooperation with colleagues at the *Berlin Advice Centre* to consult on cases. There was also an increase in direct work with clients (therapeutic counselling formats for radicalised youth and adults, family members and other experts). The central goal of this therapeutic work was to support the disassociation and disengagement work by guaranteeing access to the healthcare system in a way that meets clients' needs, is sensitive to their culture and religion and is specific to each target group. The same is true of the *JUST X Berlin*

– *Prevention and De-Radicalisation in the Berlin Justice and Probation System* project. As part of this joint project between Violence Prevention Network and *Denkzeit e.V.*, the impact of the Department came, in particular, from their case consulting work, assisting project partners and professionals working in the justice system and social services.

The *Evoluo – Psychology expertise and coaching for counsellors working with (de-)radicalisation* project was launched in October 2022. Together with colleagues from *IFAK e.V.*, the goal of the project is to design a nationwide training programme for extremism prevention experts, to be rolled out in 2023. This programme will give counsellors direct access to knowledge and practical skills which they can use in their work with clients suffering from mental health issues. The project is being funded by the *Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)*.

The project year ended with an online dialogue event. As part of the *TRIAS Berlin* project, healthcare and extremism prevention professionals were invited to discuss the challenges and opportunities posed by their cooperation. The key message expressed by both sides after the event was a desire for greater networking and an exchange of expertise, in the interests of a holistic approach that focuses on the clients.

All in all, the Department can look back on a positive project year in 2022. There are plans to create corresponding structures and resources over the next few years as a way of making dialogue formats available to all colleagues at Violence Prevention Network. The Department's services will be gradually expanded, in cooperation with nationwide network partners and in line with the needs of the advice centres.



DEPARTMENT OF RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

Peter Anhalt

Right-wing extremism has been a focal point of Violence Prevention Network's work since the very beginning. The *Verantwortungspädagogik*® (Education of Responsibility) approach was first developed and piloted at detention facilities in Brandenburg way back in 2001. Right-wing extremism is a phenomenon that continues to pose serious threats and challenges to democracy – not least due to the increasing hybridisation and divergence of ideologies, the fragments of which are coalescing to create new third positions.

A new challenge for 2022 is the increasingly young age of the clientele. We are dealing more and more with significantly younger people who are exhibiting the beginnings of radicalisation processes from an early age. Yet at the same time, the target group is getting older and our work is focusing more and more frequently on the over-40s. New approaches need to be developed for both target groups equally, and actions adapted to suit them.

In the Saxony justice system (*PRISMA Sachsen* project), we continued our work during the second half of the year – primarily with respect to our trainings with clients which in 2022 we conducted at Zeithain Prison and Regis-Breitingen Youth Detention Centre. Our work also focused on training and educating (specialist) service providers in the justice system – in close consultation with the *State Ministry of Saxony for Justice and for Democracy, Europe and Equality* and individual detention facilities.

We also entered into discussions with the *Federal Ministry for Family Affairs* and the *Ministry of Saxony for Justice* in 2022, with the aim of expanding the training aspect of the project. Starting in 2023, our trainings will be supplemented by an online platform providing digital learning activities which will follow on from the trainings by expanding its content and going into greater depth. The aim is to eventually create an online compendium which those working in the sector can refer to for the latest, in-depth information on the different forms of expression of extremist thinking and actions. Plans and consultations also got underway on the possibility of establishing an additional Group De-Radicalisation in Prison (AKT®) Training at Dresden

Prison and of offering Father Coaching sessions, foreseeably at Zeithain Prison.

The *Early Education* project came to an end in 2022. Over the course of this project and its predecessor, *Early Birds*, we ran trainings, workshops and counselling in early-years learning for several years for facilities and people working at daycares and primary schools in the Chemnitz area. In consultation with our local network partners in Saxony, we will now begin a new project focused on strengthening communication skills and competence by training and educating those working in the sector. Another core building block of the programme will involve the constructive preparation and involvement of young people who want to act as "peer helpers" as part of a peer-to-peer approach at their school or college.

In Brandenburg, in 2022, we launched the *FAIR STÄRKEN* project which offers a range of training and counselling services in the Cottbus area for people who encounter derogatory speech and behaviour or hostile and anti-democratic attitudes at work or while volunteering.

In the Brandenburg justice system (*Exchange Brandenburg* project), we are a permanent feature of the training provided to prison officers, in addition to our client work. The focus of these programmes (3 x 2 days) is on providing information on extremism and, above all, on reflecting on participants' own role and behaviour when dealing with people who have been or are at risk of being radicalised. This is an important part of preventing co-radicalisation in the justice system.

In Berlin, we have set up services for people who are at risk of being radicalised all the way to those who are already extremely radicalised as part of our *Crossroads – Leaving Right-Wing Extremism Behind* and *REE! – Change of Direction for Right-Wing Extremists* projects. We have decades of experience working with extremist individuals with no intrinsic radicalisation. Our *REE!* project plays a particularly vital role here as it remains the only model project on right-wing extremism in Germany which focuses on working with at-risk people (e.g. in cooperation with security agencies).

We also provide our knowledge and expertise to the *National Committee 'From Disengagement to Reintegration'* (BAG Ausstieg zum Einstieg). Alongside association meetings, we are a key member of the *Directive Working Group* and the *Gender Working Group*. An interesting challenge that permeates all of this work is how to keep track of the varied developments and expressions of extremist right-wing thinking and actions and how to integrate these into both our client work and the many training and workshop services we offer. The Department has also acquired important, in-demand expertise when it comes to designing trainings and workshops on the subjects of strategies for dissenting values or professional approaches to dealing with anxiety in conflict-laden situations.



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED EXTREMISM

Feride Aktaş/Thomas Mücke

The Department of Religiously Motivated Extremism has been one of the pillars of our work at Violence Prevention Network since 2007. The aim of our work is to get young people who are exhibiting tendencies towards religiously motivated extremism or who are already committing ideological offences out of the radicalisation process. Preventive approaches are supplemented by intervention at the early stage of radicalisation processes and targeted disassociation and disengagement work both within and outside of the justice system.

Approaches to prevention work and counselling vary from region to region so as to accommodate the wide range of needs. We have our own Advice Centres in five of the Bundesländer in Germany, while we offer de-radicalisation programmes in prisons and detention centres in six Bundesländer and are engaged in the field in a total of eight Bundesländer.

While our work began focusing on the issue of so-called *Foreign Terrorist Fighters* back in 2014, we soon began to also address the more pressing issue of *Returnees*, people who had become disillusioned by the realities of war and returned to their home countries with physical and psychological wounds.

Since then, we have seen our target group become significantly younger and the problems multiply. The psychological and social issues are many: (very) young people have mental health concerns, are more susceptible to conspiracy narratives, frequently live in isolation and their worries about the future are dominated by war and the climate crisis. Assistance has been provided here by our complementary psychotherapy services. The linguistic diversity of our services has also proven useful as the demand for counselling in languages other than German has risen.

The trends described here are also reflected in our counselling work. Requests for counselling have increased enormously, from both institutions and

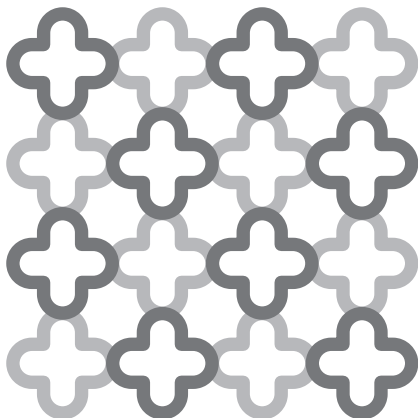
family members. What is certain is that the children and youth welfare system is frequently stretched and over-burdened by the sheer volume and complexity of the challenges that arise in day-to-day activities. This is evidenced by the huge increase in demand for coaching sessions and expert consultations for institutions. This increase in counselling for schools and children and youth welfare pushed our colleagues' capacities to the very brink in 2022. Despite this, they managed to respond to all requests for prevention workshops and counselling. The feedback from teachers and pupils confirmed the impact the workshops have on supporting participants in heavy-conflict situations at school.

In the justice system, we provided counselling and disassociation work at detention centres in Baden-Württemberg, Berlin, Brandenburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony and Saxony. A particular challenge in this area of our work is counselling returnees. Using a *social-pedagogical diagnostics* tool developed in-house, our counselling once again achieved a higher standard of quality. Training programmes for trainee prison officers were integrated into seminar plans and in 2022 we were once more able to reach people working in the justice system and social services through our tenders.

We also received positive feedback on our training courses for trainee teachers in 2022, with participants rating the programme as very effective and sustainable. We also provided training to police officers who described the programme as enriching, adding that it helped them to tackle the issues and to reflect on and change their own thinking.

The Department of Psychotherapy was integrated into our counselling work. Disassociation clients accepted our services voluntarily. The cooperation between the *Berlin Advice Centre* and the therapeutic counselling provided by *TRIAS Berlin* is now firmly established and our therapists were able to provide support on individual projects by consulting on colleagues' cases, including those involving persons in the justice system.

The Department also provided its knowledge and experience to the BAG ReEx and the *Disassociation Work during and after Detention Working Group*.



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Maximilian Ruf

The main concern and primary duty of the Research Department is to provide continuous, needs-based support to prevention practitioners based on the latest research. In 2022, the Department fulfilled this duty by working continuously on further developing and implementing the diagnostic procedure *FAIR* (case management/ intervention (planning)/(re-)evaluation) and the case management system that builds on this. Department colleagues also began compiling a new volume on the subject of *Social Diagnostics* in the context of extremism prevention which will be published next year by *Springer VS* as part of their "Ideology and Violence" series.

2022 also saw a continuation of our intense work on the issue of research and development of evaluation. Of particular note, here, is the *PrEval – Evaluation Designs for Preventive Measures* (2020 – 2022) which concluded this year. Department colleagues and expert practitioners from the organisation prepared a total of five reports over the course of the project. October 2022 saw the start of the *PrEval – Future Workshops* network project (running until 2025), with Department colleagues once more teaming up with a network of practitioner and research partners to develop and test innovative evaluation formats, and to investigate needs for support programmes and develop new concepts. The network project is being coordinated by the *Peace Research Institute Frankfurt* (HSFK/PRIF).

Violence Prevention Network also continued its cooperation on the *Federal Ministry of Education and Research's* transfer project "*Societal Causes and Effects of Radical Islam in Germany and Europe*" (*RADIS*) which involves twelve research projects investigating this multi-faceted issue. The Funding Directive brings together a total of some 100 researchers from various disciplines to address issues such as research into the causes of radicalisation, helpful prevention strategies or the effects of discourses around radical Islam. Violence Prevention Network's primary duty in this network is to design and implement a variety of transfer programmes in order to ensure that research projects and initiatives remain relevant in practice and in order to sustainably improve the wider exchange of knowledge, administration and practical experience in the field.

As part of this effective transfer of practice, the first issue of the digital magazine *ZepRa – The Journal of Practice-Based (De-)Radicalisation Research*, launched in 2021 in cooperation with *modus|zad – Centre for Applied Research on Deradicalisation*, was published in 2022. The aim of *ZepRa* is to enrich practice-related discourses with high-quality research, thereby accelerating and intensifying the transfer of knowledge between research and practice. A *Call for Papers* for the second issue was published at the end of 2022, following the successful launch of the first issue.



EVALUATION

Continuous participation in external evaluation is an indispensable part of the work we do at Violence Prevention Network. Our effective and high-quality project work is certified as part of evaluations conducted by independent institutions. These evaluations are mandatory for certain projects. These evaluation reports can be accessed via our website, under the menu item "Publications".

External evaluations and process monitoring initiated, ongoing or completed in 2022

Project evaluated	Evaluation period	Conducted by
Projects relating to "Prevention and De-Radicalisation in the Justice and Probation System" funded as part of the nationwide "Demokratie leben!" (Live Democracy!) programme	2020 – 2024	Deutsches Jugendinstitut
Projects relating to "Extremism Prevention" funded as part of the nationwide "Demokratie leben!" programme	2020 – 2024	Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik
KN:IX – "Islamist extremism" expert network	2020 – 2024	IMAP GmbH
Berlin Advice Centre – Ways Out of Extremism	2021 – 2022	Camino - Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung im sozialen Bereich gGmbH
proRespekt – A democratic path to violence-free schools	2021 – 2023	Camino - Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung im sozialen Bereich gGmbH

ORGANISATION

Violence Prevention Network organigram

Management



Department Managers



Governance

Die gGmbH structure is formed of two bodies – the **General Assembly** and the **Executive Board**.

The **General Assembly** consists of:

- Judy Korn
- Thomas Mücke
- Christian Pfeffer-Hoffmann

The gGmbH is represented by two **Directors** jointly or by one Director acting jointly with an authorised officer. The following persons have been appointed to represent the company:

- Judy Korn (Director)
- Thomas Mücke (Director)
- Melanie Paul (Power of Attorney)
- Judith Bartsch (Authorised Representative)

Violence Prevention Network is affiliated with VPN Wissenschaftsgesellschaft mbH.

Employees

	2021	2022
No. of employees	149	173
of which full-time	112	128
of which freelancers/paid a fee	37	45
of which volunteers	0	0

Environmental and social profile

Violence Prevention Network strives for gender parity in its staffing and recruitment of permanent and freelance employees. Persons who do not identify clearly with one gender are also welcome at Violence Prevention Network. We place a great emphasis on a work-life balance. Colleagues decide for themselves (in consultation and in accordance with the requirements) where they will work and what hours. So far, this has led to an above-average level of commitment and willingness to accept responsibility in individual areas of work. When travelling, employees of Violence Prevention Network use public transport (local and long-distance) wherever possible.

All persons employed by Violence Prevention Network are remunerated on the basis of the collective agreement for the public sector (TVöD Bund, TV-L, TV-H). Violence Prevention Network does not pay allowances or benefits in kind. Classification for remuneration is based on the area of responsibility. Procurement procedures are in accordance with the VOL (Regulation on the Award of Public Contracts).

Partnerships, cooperations and networks

Violence Prevention Network has maintained trusting relationships with various partners for many years.

Ashoka Deutschland is an important trademark and seal of quality for Violence Prevention Network. The fellowship opens doors to policymakers and authorities and for conversations with potential supporters.

The **Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, for Sport and Integration** has been partnering with the **Bavarian State Criminal Police Office** since 2016 to implement intervention and de-radicalisation measures in Bavaria.

The **Brandenburg Ministry of Justice** has been partnering with us since 2016 on implementing prevention and de-radicalisation measures in the justice and probation system.

The **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)** funds *EVOLUO – Psychology expertise and coaching for counsellors working with (de-) radicalisation*.

The **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)** finances the implementation of pioneering model projects with Violence Prevention Network and supports both a series of projects in the justice system and also the *"Islamist Extremism" expert network (KN:IX) and the REE! – Change of Direction for Right-wing Extremists project*.

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community** serves as an informal professional supporter of our work and periodically invites Violence Prevention Network to presentations of its work in national and international contexts.

The **Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb)** is our partner on the Gaming and Right-Wing Extremism e-learning project.

In partnership with **CEPOL** (The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training), we have organised and conducted training programmes as part of the *CT Inflow project (Technical Support on the Implementation*

of Components 4 – MENA Terrorism Trends and Situation Report and the EU-MENA Information Sharing and Analysis Network (EMISA) Prisons and Probation Working Group).

The *icommit – Improved Commitment of Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration through Model and Interactive Training Development* project is being conducted in cooperation with the **European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)**, **modus | zad – Centre for Applied Research on Deradicalisation** and the **University of Bucharest**.

The *PRISMA Sachsen* project is being conducted with the support of the **Eduq Foundation**, under the aegis of the **Fondation de Luxembourg**.

The **European Commission** supports the *icommit* and *FRISCO (Fighting Terrorist Content Online)* projects with funds from the *Internal Security Fund*.

On the *RADIS – Researching the social causes and effects of radical Islam in Germany and Europe* project, we have partnered up with the **Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF/HSFK)**.

The **Hessian Ministry of the Interior and Sport** has been partnering with us since 2014 on implementing prevention, intervention and de-radicalisation measures in the State of Hesse.

The **Hesse Ministry of Justice** partners with us in the area of prevention and de-radicalisation in the justice and probation system.

In the interests of cooperating more closely on P/CVE, *Violence Prevention Network International* has teamed up with the **International Organisation of Migration (IOM)** Iraq as part of the *Supporting Iraqi National Efforts for Enhanced Implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent Violent Extremism (SIMVEX)* project.

The **Centre of Excellence for Countering Extremism in Baden-Württemberg** has been partnering with us since 2016 on implementing preventive measures in detention facilities.

The **Kurt and Maria Dohle Foundation** supports Violence Prevention Network on projects related to religiously motivated extremism.

The **Berlin Against Violence State Committee**, under the **Senate Department for the Interior, Digitisation and Sport**, has been partnering with us since 2016 on implementing prevention and de-radicalisation measures in the State of Berlin and also joined the *TRIAS Berlin - New Forms of Multi-Professional Cooperation in Extremism Prevention* project in 2022.

The **Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice** has been partnering with us since 2016 on prevention and de-radicalisation in the justice and probation system.

The **Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family** and Violence Prevention Network launched *proRespekt* in 2019, in association with the *German Children and Youth Foundation* and *Gangway e.V.*

The **Senate Department for Labour, Social Affairs, Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination** and the **Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection** of the State of Berlin partner with us on the *De-Radicalisation in the Justice System* programme and the *CROSSROADS* project.

The **State Ministry of Saxony for Social Affairs and Social Cohesion** has been partnering with us since 2017 on implementing prevention, intervention and de-radicalisation measures in the State of Saxony as part of the state-wide *Weltoffenes Sachsen (Cosmopolitan Saxony)* programme.

The **State Ministry of Saxony for Justice** partners with us on prevention and de-radicalisation in the justice and probation system.

The **Thuringian Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport** has been partnering with us since 2017 on implementing prevention and intervention measures.

At an international level, Violence Prevention Network has close relationships with actors working on de-radicalisation in Europe. As part of the consortium charged with organising the European Commission's **Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners)**, we are fostering the sharing of knowledge and experience on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) work among more than 6,000 practitioners across Europe.

General information

Violence Prevention Network gGmbH	
Registered office of organisation pursuant to Constitution	Alt-Reinickendorf 25, 13407 Berlin
Founded	2004
Other offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergmannstraße 5, 10961 Berlin • Langhansstraße 146, 13086 Berlin • Anger 35, 99084 Erfurt • Leipziger Straße 67, 60487 Frankfurt • Ferdinandstr. 3, 30175 Hanover • Werner-Hilpert-Straße 21, 34117 Kassel • Stieglitzstraße 84, 04229 Leipzig • Schillerstraße 27, 80336 Munich • Karlstraße 3, 72072 Tübingen
Legal form	gGmbH
Contact details	<p>Address: Alt-Reinickendorf 25, 13407 Berlin</p> <p>Tel.: Tel.: + 49 30 91 70 54 64</p> <p>Fax: Fax: + 49 30 39 83 52 84</p> <p>Email: post@violence-prevention-network.de</p> <p>Website (URL): www.violence-prevention-network.de</p>
Link to Articles of Association (URL)	https://violence-prevention-network.de/ueber-uns/jahresberichte-und-mehr/
Registry	<p>Register court: District Court Charlottenburg</p> <p>Register no.: HRB 221974 B</p> <p>Date of registration: 12 October 2020</p>
Non-profit status	<p>Non-profit status declared under Sec. 52 of the Fiscal Code (Abgabenordnung)</p> <p>Date of notice of exemption: 23/02/2023</p> <p>Issuing tax office: Finanzamt für Körperschaften I, Berlin</p> <p>Declaration of non-profit purpose: To promote crime prevention as well as education and training, including student support</p>
Employee representative	None

FINANCES

Resources committed

In 2022, staff costs totalled €6,948,161.53 for 128 members of staff, including 63 trainers. Material expenses and fees totalled €2,613,264.07, including fee-based costs for 45 trainers.

Accounting and invoicing

The accounts are kept according to double-entry accounting using DATEV accounting software. The annual report is compiled according to the regulations of the German Commercial Code (HGB). The annual report is compiled by an external tax advisor (C.O.X. Steuerberatungsgesellschaft und Treuhandgesellschaft mbH, Berlin) in close collaboration with the internal accounts team and internal controlling team, and subsequently audited by an external auditing firm (Hamburger Treuhand Gesellschaft Schomerus & Partner mbB). The internal audit of the financial statement is performed by the authorised officer of Violence Prevention Network gGmbH.

Statement of assets

Assets

kEUR	2020	2021	2022
I. Intangible assets	72	55	146
II. Fixed assets	54	45	48
of which property	0	0	0
III. Financial assets	0	0	2
IV. Receivables	447 ¹	533 ²	321 ³
of which due from members or shareholders	0	0	1
V. Liquid assets	1,575	2,974	2,291
Total assets	2,148	3,607	2,808

Liabilities

kEUR	2020	2021	2022
I. Loans taken out	0	0	0
of which from members or shareholders	0	0	0
II. Trade payables	5	5	17
III. Other liabilities	557 ⁴	1,300 ⁵	435 ⁶
Total liabilities	562	1,305	452
Balance of assets less liabilities (= equity + provisions + extraordinary items)	1,586⁷	2,302⁸	2,356⁹
of which earmarked funds	5.9	19.3	49

¹ Receivables for 2020 include accruals to the amount of €9.6 k.

² Receivables for 2021 include accruals to the amount of €13.7 k.

³ Receivables for 2022 include accruals to the amount of €18 k.

⁴ Including €503.5 k of unused funds which were repaid in 2021.

⁵ Including €1,258 k of unused funds which were repaid in 2022.

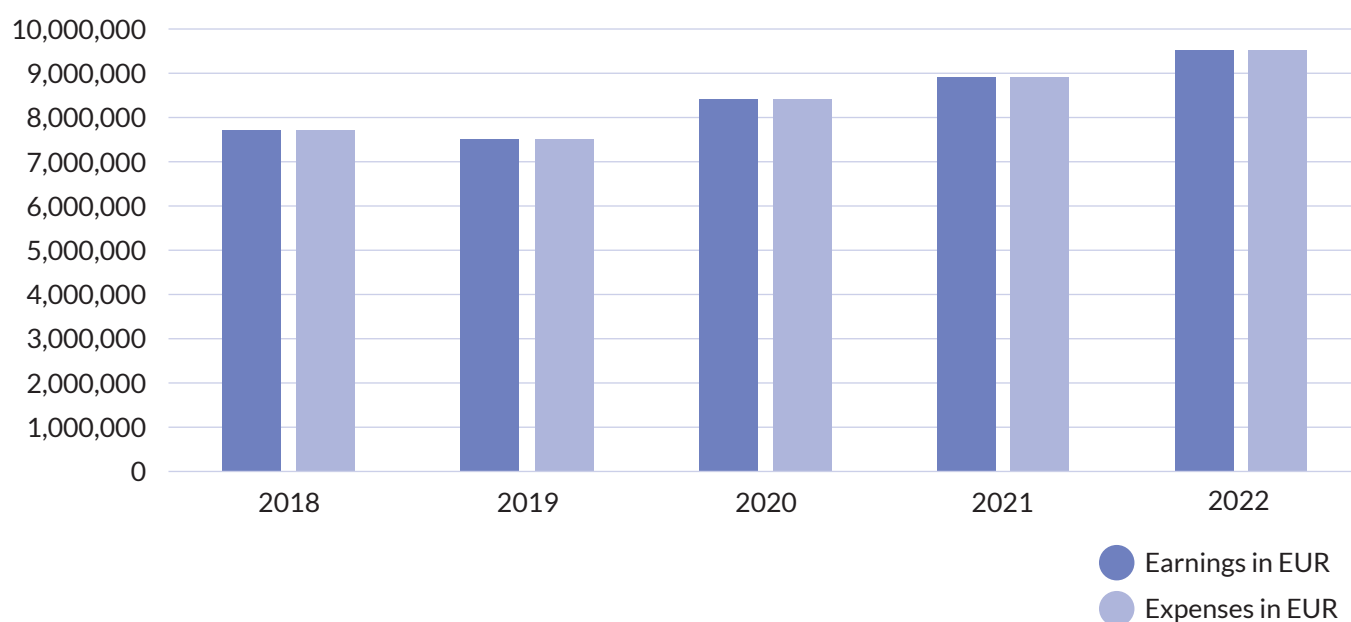
⁶ Including €398.2 k of unused funds which were repaid in 2023.

⁷ Including staff provisions of €233.6 k.

⁸ Including staff provisions of €400.5 k and extraordinary items of €74.6 k with a reserve portion.

⁹ Including staff provisions of €464.7 k and extraordinary items of €124.8 k with a reserve portion.

Earnings and expenses



Earnings

kEUR	2020	2021	2022
1. Revenue	1,488	1,629	1,608
of which from public contracts	1,346	1,517	1,337
2. Grants	6,887	7,063	7,721
of which from the public sector	6,807	6,987	7,428
3. Contributions	0	0	0
4. Other earnings	48	172	244
Total earnings	8,423	8,864	9,573

Expenses

kEUR	2020	2021	2022
A1. Project costs	7,068	7,485	8,616
A2. Advertising costs	147	173	152
A3. Administrative costs	361	487	543
4. Financing costs	0	0	0
5. Taxes	1	1	3
06. Other expenses	846	718	259 ¹⁰
Total expenses	8,423	8,864	9,573
"Cash carry-forward" Annual profit (earnings less expenses)	0	0¹¹	0¹²

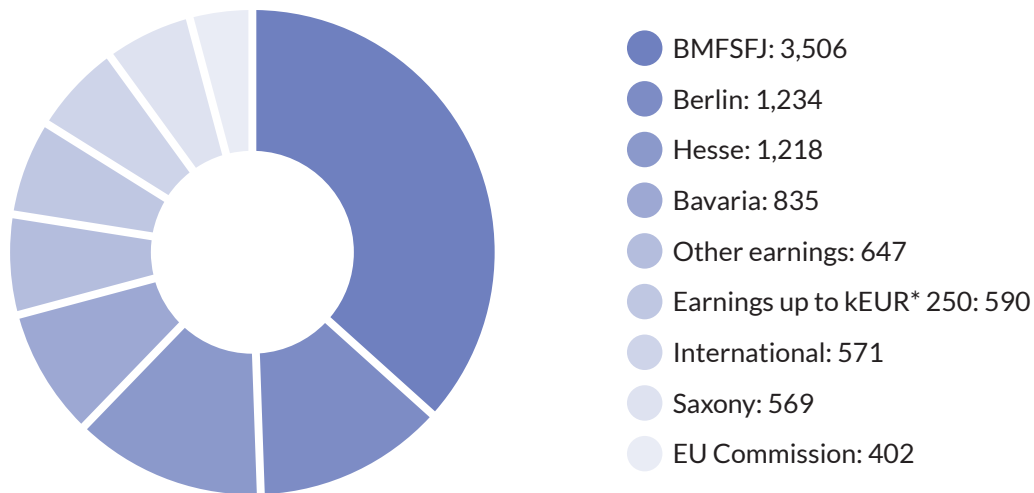
¹⁰ incl. withdrawal of €249.8 k from reserves

¹¹ Net profit from the years 2020 and 2021 was allocated to the reserves.

¹² In 2022, the deficit to the amount of €237.7 k was withdrawn from the reserves.

Where does the money come from?

Amounts in kEUR



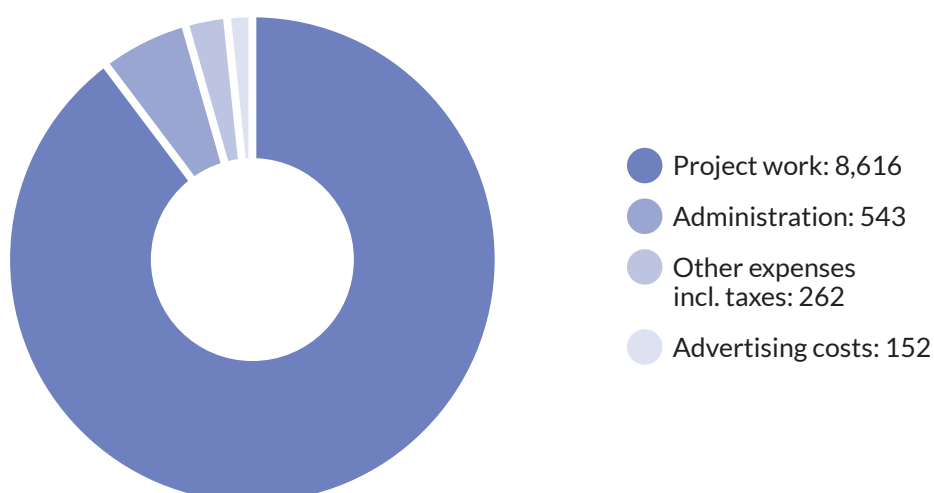
Total budget 2022 = EUR 9,573,442.46

*Earnings up to kEUR 250:

- Thuringia: kEUR 171
- Federal Agency for Civic Education: kEUR 159
- Donations: kEUR 73
- Lower Saxony: kEUR 66
- Federal Ministry of the Interior: kEUR 46
- Brandenburg: kEUR 32
- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF): kEUR 24
- Baden-Württemberg: kEUR 19

Where does the money go?

Amounts in kEUR



Subject matter of the report

Violence Prevention Network gGmbH
Judy Korn, Thomas Mücke – Executive Board
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under commercial reg. no.: HRB 221974 B

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Donations are always welcome!
Account for donations:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE14100205000001118800
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

Or online at www.violence-prevention-network.de

 @violencepreventionnetworkdeutschland

Check out our blog: www.interventionen.blog



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