



2024 Annual Report



Violence
Prevention Network

Subject of the report

Scope of validity
This report deals with *Violence Prevention Network gGmbH*
The organisation works with ideologically endangered people, deradicalises offenders motivated by extremism and helps them to reintegrate into the democratic community.

Period under review and reporting cycle
The period under review is the 2024 financial year from January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2024. The report is prepared annually. The report was completed on November 24, 2025. All information is up to date as of 24/11/2025, unless it relates exclusively to the previous financial year 2024.

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Judy Korn Thomas Mücke

VISION

We strengthen democracy by preventing extremism.

MISSION

We draw on disengagement work to lay the foundation for persons endangered by ideology and motivated by extremism to change their behaviour, lead independent lives and become part of the democratic community. We give them tools and resources to help them reflect on and overcome their previous behavioural patterns. They are empowered to lead lives that harm neither themselves nor others.

We develop fresh approaches and methods to prevent extremism. We also connect with social actors and political decision-makers to create a sustainable framework for countering extremism both online and offline.

AT A GLANCE



193
Employees



11
Locations



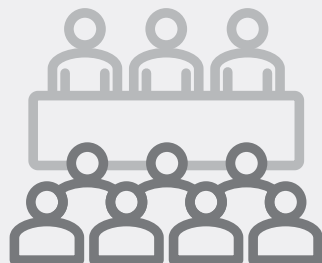
44
Projects



323
Further training courses
for professionals



363
Group and individual
trainings in the prison system



4
Conferences



51
Publications



155
Consultations
with relatives



41
E-learning courses
(modules and workshops)



119
Advice for
institutions



195
Workshops for schools
and youth welfare



€11.06 Million
Resources deployed



135
Cases of disengagement
assistance



9,284
People reached
by our activities (in total)



WHERE WE ARE ACTIVE

Projects in the federal states (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 2.0
- ♥ CROSSROADS – Leaving right-wing extremism behind
- ♥ proRespekt specialist unit – A democratic path to violence-free schools
- ♥ JUST X Berlin – Prevention and deradicalisation in the Berlin justice and probation service
- ♥ REE! – A change of course for right-wing extremists

Brandenburg:

- ♥ Exchange Brandenburg – Mobile prevention and deradicalisation services in the justice and probation system
- ♥ FAIR STÄRKEN – Communication in value-based conflicts

Hesse:

- ♥ Hesse Advice Centre
- ♥ KOGEX Hessen 2.0 – Fighting smart against extremism in the justice and probation system

Lower Saxony:

- ♥ Focus ISLEX – Mobile prevention and deradicalisation services in the justice and probation system in Lower Saxony

Saxony:

- ♥ Saxony Advice Centre
- ♥ FAIRhandeln – Practical skills for dealing with group-focused enmity
- ♥ Prisma Sachsen – Identifying radicalisation, assisting with deradicalisation, bundling skills

Thuringia:

- ♥ Thuringia Advice Centre

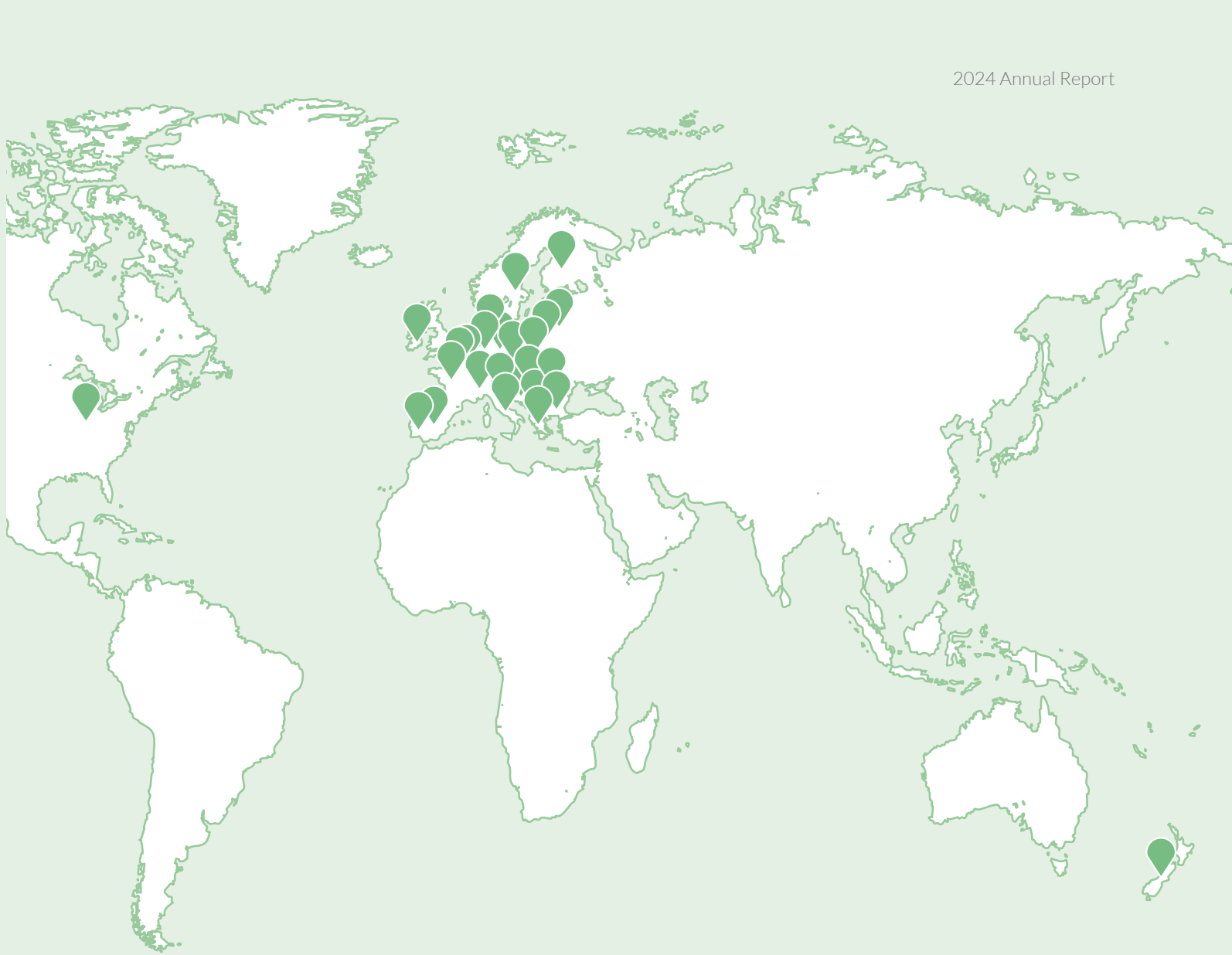
Nationwide:

- ♥ Prison and probation working group
- ♥ DeSBa – De-escalation and self-protection for advisers in disengagement work
- ♥ EVOLUO – Psychology expertise and coaching for counsellors working with (de)radicalisation
- ♥ KN:IX – ‘Islamist Extremism’ expert network
- ♥ PrEval – Evaluation designs for prevention 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
- ♥ RE:GAIN gaming platforms and right-wing extremism – Online intervention and deradicalisation
- ♥ SOMEX – Social media extreme
- ♥ Referral counselling when facing conspiratorial thinking
- ♥ VIVA – Understanding and intercepting conspiracy thinking at an individual level

As of: 2024



International projects:

European Union and Western Balkans

- ♥ RAN Practitioners – Radicalisation Awareness Network and RAN in the Western Balkans, until June 2024 (EU Member States as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia)
- ♥ FRISCO (EU)
- ♥ CCAN – Christchurch Call Advisory Network (France)
- ♥ EOOH – European Observatory of Online Hate (EU)
- ♥ PARTES (EU)
- ♥ TRACE (Poland, Hungary, Czechia and Slovakia)

USA/North America

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

Oceania

- ♥ CCAN – Christchurch Call Advisory Network (New Zealand)

Worldwide

- ♥ INDEX – International Network for Disengagement and Exit

As of: 2024

THE YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING AHEAD

Dare to prevent – A plea

Solingen, Mannheim, Magdeburg, Halle, Hanau – unfortunately the list goes on. Everyone knows immediately what these city names mean. They are associated with suffering, despair and death for many people, as these city names stand for terrorist, extremist attacks on people living in Germany. It is irrelevant which extremist ideology is used to commit an attack. An act of terrorism always feels like a threat to the people directly affected, as well as to those who are only indirectly involved and hear of an attack through the media or other channels. It is also less important that the number of attacks per year fluctuates greatly, increasing one year and decreasing the next. The perceived threat is always looming, suggesting that acts of terrorism are on the rise and that the danger to life and limb is therefore growing as well. So what can we do to counter both the perceived and the real threat of extremist violence?

We never give up on anyone

As one of Germany’s pre-eminent civil society organisations in the field of extremism prevention with over two decades of commitment to the deradicalisation of extremist offenders, we have a clear response: Prevention is needed to counter the threat. Aside from the security aspects associated with extremist attacks, prevention is the only sustainable solution. Prevention works at different stages and is found in a variety of formats. We use the term ‘primary prevention’ when organising workshops in schools or training teachers, police, and prison staff. By offering ‘basic immunisation’ for young people against recruitment attempts by extremist groups, we protect them from slipping into extremist circles themselves. We train professionals to recognise (young) people at risk in their environment so that they can offer them help. ‘Secondary protection’ comes into play as soon as there are grounds for suspicion or people are already at significant risk. We can use meaningful training to extract people who are in the process of radicalisation out of the vicious cycle.

The term ‘tertiary prevention’ is used when a crime has already been committed and the offender is, for example, in prison. We step in at this point to prevent further crimes in the future. We never give up on anyone.

Social diagnostics and risk assessment

We draw on more than just our practical experience to assess how far a person has progressed in the radicalisation process. In this case, we use the scientific method of social diagnostics. Unlike the risk assessments that security authorities apply to estimate how much of a risk (e.g. of committing an attack) a person poses, social diagnostics analyses the socio-educational perspective of the disengagement process. Social and emotional stabilisation resources are accessed and developed during this process to counteract violent behaviour and extremist thinking. It is not rare for these resources to affect a person's mental health as well.

Here, preventing extremism stands at the interface between psychotherapeutic and deradicalisation measures.

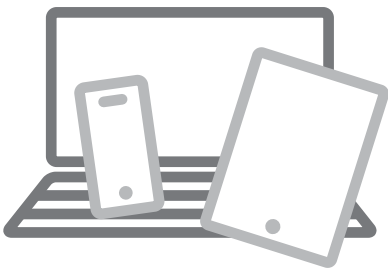
More prevention = more democracy

Prevention is the most important tool we have to forestall extremist acts of violence, to protect our democracy and to make an effective contribution to identifying and addressing radicalised people at an early stage. At the same time, tertiary prevention in particular saves high follow-up costs and is therefore the method of choice – also from a budgetary perspective. What is needed from politicians is that they find the courage to engage in more – not less – (tertiary) prevention.

Funding cuts in this area send out the wrong signal given the increasing polarisation of society and the hostility towards the work of civil society organisations. Right-wing extremism is one of the greatest threats to democracy and we must work together to ensure that the ever-growing global crises do not sow even more division in our shared values. Prevention is highly effective – politicians can provide the conditions needed to enable prevention and create social cohesion that counters further polarisation and therefore extremist acts.

*Judy Korn and Thomas Mücke
In November 2025*

REPORTS FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS



Digital



International



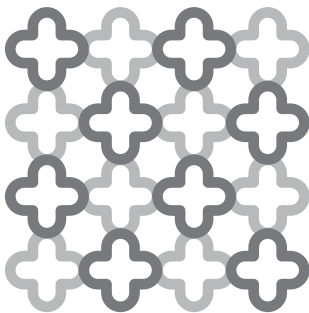
Psychotherapy



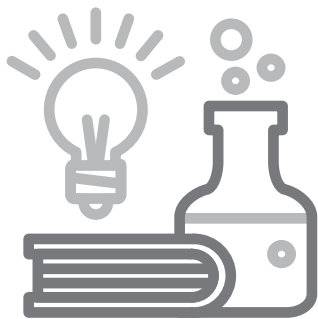
Violence Prevention
Network Academy



Right-wing
Extremism



Religiously
Motivated Extremism



Research


DIGITAL DEPARTMENT



Sebastian Ehlers/Franziska Kreller

The Digital Department transfers the expertise of the *Violence Prevention Network* to the online sector and in doing so makes a vital complementary contribution to the work of practical prevention and disengagement professionals. We develop programs for specific target audiences to expand knowledge and skills about digital spaces and approaches to preventing extremism, develop ideas for connecting these approaches and implement them as e-learning courses, online counselling or as data processing within our monitoring of social media. In doing so, we work on a variety of intertwined phenomena of digitalisation and extremism, e.g. manifestations of modern right-wing extremism in digital gaming worlds, disinformation, false reports and fakes in social media or conspiracy narratives as a propaganda tool in extremist contexts.

The year 2024 was largely shaped by two areas of activity:

1. We expanded the courses program on our e-learning platform to include content on preventing anti-Semitism, conspiratorial thinking and hate speech.
→ <https://elearning-vpn.digital/>




2. Our online counselling platforms for right-wing extremism and Islamist extremism now give those affected the ability to reach their counsellors digitally and – if preferred – to contact them anonymously and from any location.
→ <https://ausstiegsberatung-extremismus.violence-prevention-network.de/>
→ <https://ausstiegsberatung-islamismus.violence-prevention-network.de/>

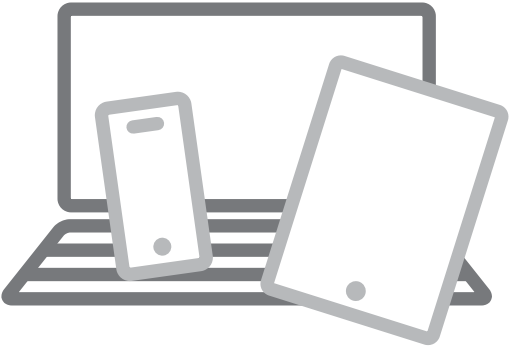


Project insight

Professionals, multipliers and interested persons can access our *Violence Prevention Network* e-learning platform to learn more about digital training courses on topics relating to the prevention of extremism, which can be flexibly integrated into everyday (working) life, expand knowledge and strengthen skills. We create freely accessible self-study courses as web-based training or microlearning. At the same time, we are developing access-restricted digital learning opportunities for hybrid settings in a blended learning format.

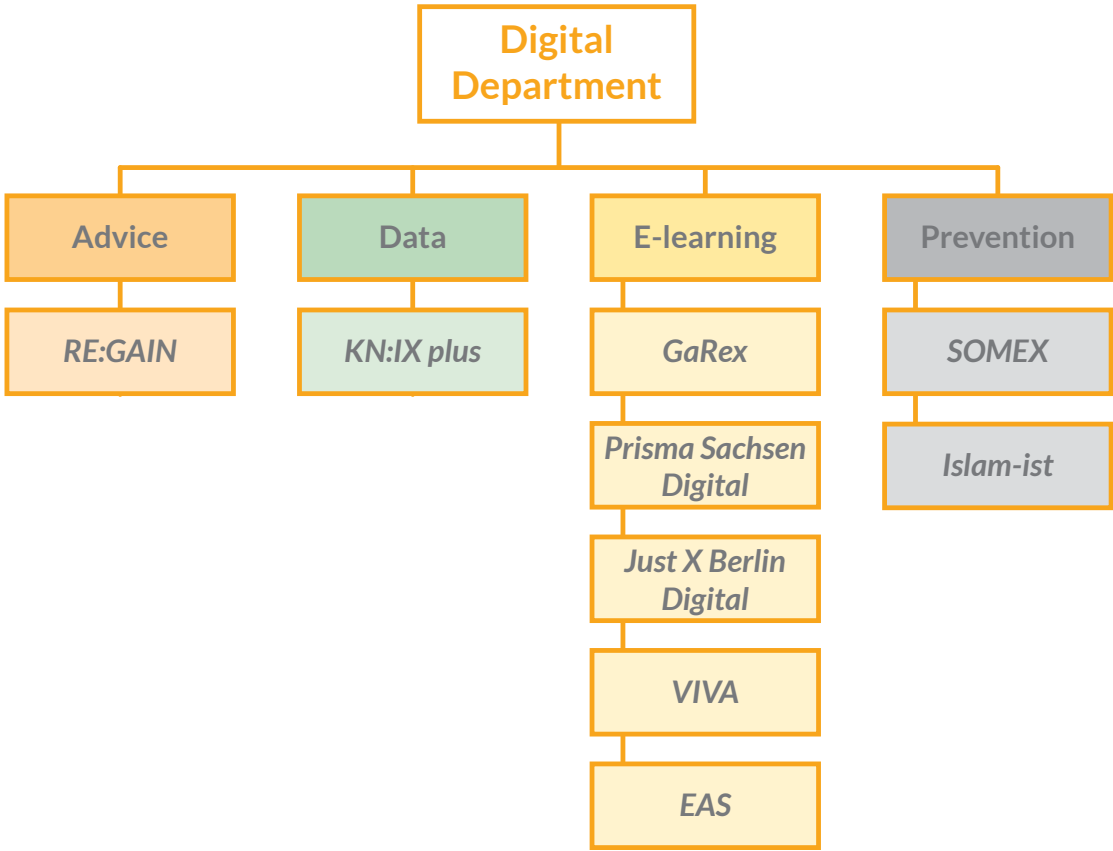
The following learning opportunities are available on the e-learning platform:

- **GaRex – Gaming and right-wing extremism**
Participants of this five-part course learn how digital games shape our everyday lives and how right-wing extremists misuse them for their own purposes. They also learn how to address the topic of right-wing extremism and digital games in educational contexts and how to deal with right-wing extremist content and potential radicalisation processes.
→ <https://elearning-vpn.digital/kurse/gaming-and-rechtsextremismus/>
- **VIVA – Understanding and intercepting conspiracy thinking at an individual level**
This course teaches participants about the social, psychological and emotional mechanisms behind conspiratorial thinking and the functions that belief in conspiracy narratives can fulfil.
→ <https://elearning-vpn.digital/kurse/viva-verschwoerungsdanken-individuell-verstehen-und-auffangen/>



Structure

Work in the Digital Department continued to focus on four priority areas in 2024: Counselling, data, e-learning and prevention. The sub-projects were implemented by 15 colleagues in total.



Networking

The Digital Department again benefited from its network in 2024. In addition to the project partnership with Meta, the colleagues are also working with the *National Committee on Hate Online* as part of a *use case*. We are also a member of the online working group, *The German Council on Preventing Extremism*.

The department was also involved in the project *VIVA - Understanding and intercepting conspiracy thinking at an individual level* as a permanent member of the *Berlin Network against Conspiracy Narratives*.

In the area of gaming, colleagues from the department have participated as experts in events organised by the joint project *RadiGaMe (Radicalisation on gaming platforms and messenger services)*. The purpose here was to connect research, practice, and civil society. Another aim was to discuss and continue developing current findings, challenges, and practical approaches in dealing with extremist movements in the gaming sector. The team has also been involved in the EU-funded research project *GEMS – Gaming Ecosystem as a Multi-layered Security Threat* since 2024. The project aims to establish a pan-European network for knowledge sharing and joint analysis of radicalisation risks in digital gaming environments.

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Jonathan Russell

The *Violence Prevention Network* realigned its international strategy in 2024. In this context, the focus was on sharing expertise in relation to best practices in the field of tertiary prevention, as well as internet use among extremist actors. These two areas were brought together by developing a referral structure from the online sphere to the offline world. The underlying purpose was to acquire the ability to refer requests for counselling at global level to tertiary prevention professionals in the field of P/CVE. In this context, we ...

... supported technology companies in countering terrorism on their platforms.

With support from *Public Safety Canada*, we laid the foundation for a 10-year plan with the *Diversions Playbook* to develop a strategic framework for incorporating technology platforms into positive online interventions.

We remain a member of the Independent Advisory Board of the *Global Internet Forum for Counter Terrorism* (GIFCT) and are actively involved in this capacity as Vice Chair.

... intensified our efforts to curb hate and terrorism on the internet.

In 2024, with the support of the European Commission, we started work on the *European Observatory of Online Hate* (EOOH) project as part of a strategic partnership with Textgain and other organisations. The aim is to harness artificial intelligence to detect hate speech and then train law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations to use this new technology in their work to curb online hate.

We also launched the *Fighting Terrorist Content Online* (FRISCO) project to help small and medium-sized hosting service providers in implementing the EU regulation on terrorist content online (TCO). FRISCO was established as part of a strategic partnership with Tremau and other organisations.

... supported the efforts of the European Union to fight hate.

We are members of the *Participatory Approaches to Protecting Places of Worship* (PARTES) project. As part of PARTES, we brought together 15 religious leaders from different countries to provide guidance and feedback on the different research findings generated in the project to ensure they are used sensitively and effectively for their communities.

Since 2024, we have supported the *Observatory for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism and Antiziganism* in Central and Eastern Europe (TOMCAT), which aims to develop a platform for recording, tracking, and reporting offenses in these areas and to provide best practices to ensure they are curbed.

... promoted knowledge sharing between practitioners worldwide.

We founded the *International Network for Disengagement and Exit* (INDEX) in 2024. It was launched at a kick-off event in Berlin with ten experienced organisations from around the world, followed by a subsequent online kick-off event with over 70 practitioners from four continents and 30 different countries. This was followed by a four-month consultation phase with international practitioners to identify their needs and define the INDEX program priorities for 2025 and beyond.

More over, we cooperated with the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC) to support the *National Rehabilitation Centre* in the Maldives with capacity building training measures.

In 2024, we continued our more than ten years of work as part of the *Radicalisation Awareness Network* (RAN) of the *European Commission*. We have been entrusted with its organisational implementation in collaboration with *Radar Europe*. Among others, we supervised the Prison, Rehabilitation and Victims working groups within this framework and provided technical support and expertise at numerous interdepartmental events.

The International Department also supported the establishment and expansion of the *Violence Prevention Network Academy*.



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOTHERAPY

Marvin Stipp

In 2024, the Department of Psychotherapy continued to support counsellors involved in disengagement and desistance work, as well as people at risk of radicalisation and radicalised individuals with mental health problems or disorders. We also accompanied their relatives. Our work focuses on areas where mental health issues intersect with radicalisation and disengagement processes.

Our work is needs-oriented and culturally and religiously sensitive. The aim is to help clients overcome complex challenges in a spirit of equality. To this end, the department is divided into four work areas.

(Psycho-)therapeutic counselling of affected persons and relatives

The (psycho-)therapeutic accompaniment and support of clients and their relatives is an essential part of our work. This work is completed to a large extent as part of our cooperation with the *Berlin counselling centre* and in the nationwide project *EVOLUO – Psychology expertise and coaching for counsellors working with (de)radicalisation* which we implemented together with the *Cross-Border Advice Network (IFAK e. V.)*.

Several clients who received support at the Berlin advice centre or through the project *JUST X Berlin – Prevention and deradicalisation in the Berlin justice and probation system* in 2024 attended (psycho-)therapeutic sessions with our colleagues. This involved, for example, stabilisation, crisis intervention, dealing with specific mental health problems or preparation for a transition to the healthcare system.

A brochure entitled ‘Guide to Mental Health and Religiously Motivated Extremism’ was published as a resource for relatives. It is aimed at people who are concerned about their children or other family members. We encourage relatives to seek professional help instead of remaining isolated with their worries.

Consultation of professionals

Regular case consultations were provided to colleagues on a (psycho-)therapeutic basis as part of the cooperation with the *Berlin Advice Centre*. These consultations took place in both individual and group settings and were organised at short notice in cases of acute need.

Moreover, the department used the *EVOLUO* project in cooperation with the *Cross-Border Advice Network* to offer digital case consultations and psychological coaching to accompany cases handled by colleagues. In total, 20 counsellors from nine federal states took part in the case consultations for colleagues. Aside from the active cases from 2023, eleven new inquiries from counsellors in five federal states received support in 2024 as part of the psychological coaching sessions accompanying the cases. As part of the courses, professionals were able to reflect on their perceptions from casework, assess mental health issues and experiment with new methods for everyday work. As a result, clients also benefited from the counsellors’ increased ability to reflect and act.

Knowledge

Further training for counsellors from all over Germany in the area of religiously motivated extremism are a central element of *EVOLUO*. Building on lessons learned from the first run, the program was developed purposefully and repeated in 2024. An internal evaluation revealed that the combination of practical knowledge transfer and case-related support led to a significant increase in participants’ knowledge and confidence in dealing with clients experiencing mental health issues.

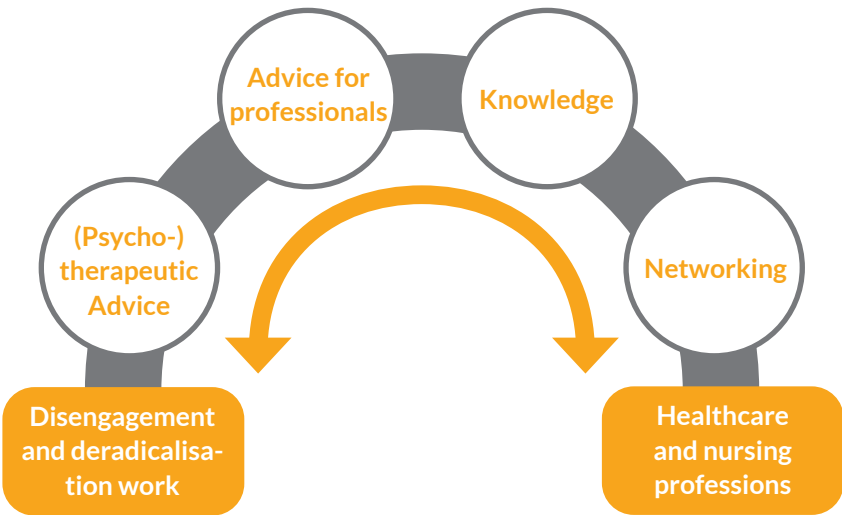
The anthology entitled ‘*Mental stress in clients of deradicalisation counselling*’ (Dittmar and Mücke 2025) was conceived and compiled in 2024 based on our experiences. It will be published in 2025. The Department of Psychotherapy made contributions on suicidal ideation in religiously motivated extremism, on multi-professional collaboration between counselling and psychotherapy and on specific experiences of cooperation at the Berlin advice centre.

Another focus was on professional self-care in disengagement and desistance work and on dealing with suicidal ideation. The Department of Psychotherapy organised several workshops on these topics as part of the *DeSba – De-escalation and self-protection in counselling work* project. Further, the *Interventionen. Zeitschrift für Verantwortungspädagogik* magazine by the *Violence Prevention Network* published an article entitled ‘Self-care for employees of advice centres for the prevention of extremism’.

We also addressed these topics and prepared them for professionals working in prison settings as part of our work in the *Prison and Probation Working Group*.

Networking

Professional networking was another priority in 2024. New contacts with psychotherapists and psychiatrists were established and existing connections strengthened. Close cooperation also took place with the *HE-QV – Activation of Healthcare Professionals for the topic of preventing extremism at Ulm University Hospital*. For example, colleagues from the Department of Psychotherapy took part in a symposium for doctors and psychotherapists and a round table on networking in Saxony.



DEPARTMENT OF RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

Peter Anhalt/Elisabeth Hell

The year 2024 was marked by the completion of numerous projects as well as the development of new project concepts and preparations for new funding periods and programs. In terms of content, we were concerned with the rise of right-wing extremism and the emergence of new structures, particularly among very young people who are adopting radical ideologies and are prepared to use violence.

Furthermore, there is a trend towards an ever-widening proliferation of phenomena such as toxic masculinity, sovereign citizens, conspiracy ideologies, anti-feminism, and bridge narratives, etc. These are all developments that endanger our basic democratic order. This process is part of a worldwide trend and is fuelled by global dynamics. At the same time, we are experiencing greater sensitivity and an increased awareness of the problem, e.g. in schools, educational institutions, and on the part of the judiciary, which we strongly welcome.

We continued with our proven services in our prison projects.

Our **PRISMA Sachsen- identifying radicalisation, assisting with deradicalisation, bundling skills** project with individual and group training sessions is now firmly integrated into the treatment measures offered in Dresden Prison, in addition to Regis-Breitingen Prison and Zeithain Prison. We also work in other prisons, such as Waldheim.

As in 2023, we have connected our training courses and training series as well as the courses offered as part of candidate training to the digital learning platform from *PRISMA SACHSEN digital*, which is evolving continuously in cooperation with us.

In the project **Exchange Brandenburg - Mobile prevention and deradicalisation services in the justice and probation system**, we were also able to reach Luckau-Duben Prison in 2024 – where we are now firmly established with individual and group training sessions – in addition to our regular activities at Brandenburg Prison. We held workshops on the topic of ‘masculinity’ in Cottbus Prison. Regular workshops were also held at the Berlin-Brandenburg Prison in cooperation with

the Just X Berlin project. In turn, our training program focused primarily on reflecting on one's own role and attitude when dealing with extremist prisoners.

We used both of these prison projects to contribute to the final report [“ModellHAFT - Final publication of the model projects ‘Prevention and radicalisation in the Prison System and Probation Service’ as part of the federal program ‘Living Democracy!’ 2020-2024”](#).



FAIR STÄRKEN - Communication in value-based conflicts

The FAIR STÄRKEN project drew to an end in late 2024. A focus was defined for the final twelve months of the project based on the experiences of previous years and discussions on site. This included the development and implementation of a specific qualification for the school sector as well as process support and moderation for the development of a civil society action plan to counter right-wing extremism. The qualifications attracted a great deal of interest and demonstrated the high demand for this kind of training course.

In view of the stress, concerns and fears in the wake of the Brandenburg state elections of fall 2024, the project team decided to organise another open networking meeting for professionals from the Cottbus region. The purpose of the event was to strengthen educational attitudes in times of a political shift to the right and to promote sustainable networking among professionals, even beyond the project.

We developed and helped to manage a civil society action plan against right-wing extremism for the city of Cottbus. A series of workshops in the middle of the year was used to prepare a catalogue of measures to help to prevent and counter right-wing extremism in Cottbus across seven fields of action. The action plan was ceremoniously presented and handed over to the Lord Mayor as part of the Cottbus Awakening anniversary celebration on September 7, 2024. **FAIRhandeln - Practical skills for dealing with group-focused enmity.**

A pivotal aspect of the FAIRhandeln project in Saxony was the implementation of a qualification series for educational professionals and peer support worker training. To do so, we approached vocational colleges and open child and youth work institutions.

The aim of the training for educational professionals was to leverage their competencies to raise awareness, expand their skills, activate and professionalise their ability to deal with issues such as group-focused enmity, anti-discrimination, and right-wing extremism and hence to deal with conflicting values in these areas. Another objective was to prepare a constructive strategy for implementing a peer-to-peer approach at the individual institutions. To this end, the educational professionals were involved within a participatory capacity in the design of the peer-to-peer approach at their school or institution. This also enabled the completion of peer support worker training with young people.

Finally, the project organised a networking meeting on the topic of ‘Shift to the right. State elections - And then what? The significance of socio-political changes for me and my educational work’.

Crossroads – Leaving right-wing extremism behind

Among the striking features of 2024 was the growing need to provide counselling to young people in connection with right-wing extremist statements and incidents. This led to a high volume of counselling sessions. There was a particularly significant demand in the area of preventing radicalisation and supporting young people in disengaging with radicalisation, as well as advising relatives. The need for advice among educational professionals and relatives was high, especially in the aftermath of relevant actions organised by new groups such as ‘Jung und Stark’ (Young and Strong) or ‘Deutsche Jugend Voran’ (German Youth First). The growing number of requests for counselling from young women and girls was equally eye-catching. Here, too, counselling cases often related to more recent groups involved in right-wing extremist action in Berlin.

We responded to these developments with age-appropriate counselling formats for affected young people and also with gender-sensitive counselling and training courses. In 2024, for example, we again implemented

the ‘Staying in touch – on pedagogical approaches to right-wing youth’ training series, which also addresses the issues of gender and right-wing extremism. Participants are empowered to engage in sustainable radicalisation prevention, among other things.

Aside from the cases and inquiries with a clear link to right-wing extremist ideologies, there were also an increasing number of prejudice-driven incidents that were not necessarily attributable to a right-wing extremist world view. These incidents can be better described with the concept of ‘hate violence’.²² Included in hate violence are crimes in which the victims of the offense are ‘classified’ by the perpetrators according to the criterion of (presumed) affiliation to a social, religious, ethnic, etc. group. There are overlaps with patterns used to justify right-wing extremism. We respond to this in our educational work.

REE! A change of course for right-wing extremists

We have used the [“REE! - A change of course for right-wing extremists – a review of four years of disengagement work with a non-intrinsically motivated group”](#)



to summarise our findings and experiences from the project work. The publication is aimed at representatives of security authorities, politics, academia and civil society in particular. We also encountered a growing number of cases involving young clients.

In September, we organised a nationwide and very well-attended symposium entitled ‘EXTREMELY RIGHT AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE – Experiences from disengagement work with right-wing extremists who are unwilling to leave the movement, in cooperation with civil society and security authorities’.



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED EXTREMISM

Feride Aktaş/Annika von Berg

The phenomenon of religiously motivated extremism has been one of the focal points of *Violence Prevention Network's* work since 2007. The aim of our work is to disengage (young) people who exhibit radicalisation tendencies in this phenomenon area or who have already committed ideologically/extremist-motivated crimes from the radicalisation process. In addition to preventive approaches, intervention measures are also implemented in response to incipient radicalisation processes as well as targeted disengagement and desistance work – both inside and outside prison.

Our advice centres are on the ground in five federal states, and we offer prevention and disengagement measures in the prisons of seven federal states. The challenges outlined in the 2023 annual report persisted in 2024: Our target audience continues to experience complex psychological and social problems. The audience is young and increasingly socially isolated or connected online. Fears about the future due to global crises, the shift to the right in many democratic countries and the war in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza are very major issues in the everyday lives of our clients.

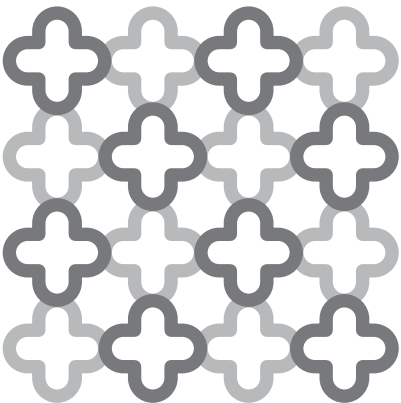
The number of cases increased due to the Israel/Gaza war and the associated polarised discussions, for example in schools, as well as the attacks on 31 May 2024 in Mannheim and 23 August 2024 in Solingen. Our regional and nationwide hotline services noted a significant increase in inquiries in 2024. This sharp increase in demand for counselling posed a considerable challenge for our staff capacities. Nevertheless, all prevention workshops and training courses for multipliers were held successfully in 2024 and all requests for advice were processed. The feedback from individual counselling sessions, group courses, student and multiplier training in and outside of prison is always positive and confirms the positive impact of our work.

Within the judicial setting, we successfully continued our prevention, counselling and disengagement services in the federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Berlin, Hesse, Lower Saxony and Saxony. Counselling work with returnees remains a challenge due to the often complex case constellations and multifaceted problems in this context.

We continued to intensify our collaboration with the Department of Psychotherapy in 2024. For example, the colleagues supported the Berlin advice centre by providing (psycho-)therapeutic sessions for clients and relatives. Case consultations for professionals were also held for the teams in Berlin, Saxony and Thuringia. Nine counsellors from five federal states also took part in the *EVOLUO* training course, which provides practical knowledge and skills for dealing with clients who show mental health problems or even disorders.

In 2024, an initial pilot project was created to provide online counselling for dropouts and groups of relatives. The *De-escalation and self-protection in counselling work (DeSBa)* project also provided training to employees in the areas of self-protection and threat management. Further, focus group discussions were held to develop new self-protection and threat management concepts.

The knowledge and experience from the department were incorporated into the work of the *RelEx German Council* and the *Prison and Probation working group*.



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Maximilian Campos Ruf/Svetla Koynova

Social diagnostics and quality management

The year 2024 began with the launch of an app that was developed specifically to accompany the Social Diagnostics in the prevention of extremism developed by the *Violence Prevention Network: GRIDD PRO® – Social Diagnostics*. The app helps counsellors to effectively integrate the complex social diagnostic procedures of counselling practice into their everyday work. Based on the social diagnostic process developed in an extensive cooperation process between research and practice, the app provides not only practical support, but also creates a framework for improving standardised data analysis for practical research and evaluation. The book *‘Soziale Diagnostik in der Extremismusprävention – Diagnose, Fallverstehen, Intervention und Wirkungsmessung’* from the *‘Ideologie und Gewalt – Schriften zur Deradikalisierung’*, which was published 2023 by the *Violence Prevention Network* in Springer Verlag, also provides more profound insight into social diagnostics. Continuously implemented by the Research Department and the Practice Teams in line with the analysis categories of social diagnostics, the ongoing development of instruments for internal process and impact monitoring as well as capacity building for self-evaluation are other key aspects of social diagnostics.

Research cooperations

In the joint project *PrEval Future Workshops (2022–2025)*, the Scientific Team of the *Violence Prevention Network* continued to work with its partners to improve and support needs-based evaluation projects for the promotion of democracy, civic education and the prevention of extremism in Germany. A series of counselling services based on the comprehensive survey and development processes of the previous year was designed in 2024 to contribute to long-term capacity building in this area. The evaluation surgery, which addresses the short-term support needs of professional practice and administration, was piloted. Towards the end of the year, the testing of methodological workshops and practice-oriented presentations of evaluation experiences were comprehensively planned for the following year following initial

practical tests. The prepared formats and recommendations were published in the first edition of the *PrEval Monitor* and then presented and discussed at the Berlin symposium in November 2024. The *PrEval Monitor 2024* and the reports from the two future workshops coordinated by the department team are available on the website of the Research Department:

→ <https://violence-prevention-network.de/fachbereiche/fachbereich-wissenschaft/>



To learn more about the project, visit:

→ <https://preval.hsfk.de/>



This year, the department's team continued its important work in knowledge transfer for the BMBF funding program *RADIS*. The staff organised transfer workshops between research projects from the funding program and experts from the field. They addressed issues such as how to deal with Islamist recruitment in everyday school life and facilitated European networking and exchange with participants of the *Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners)* of the *European Commission*. They also wrote four blog posts in total dealing with various challenges of practical research collaborations and developed practical curricula.

The researchers from the *Violence Prevention Network* worked with colleagues from the practice areas and the international team on a study entitled *‘Assessing Gender Perspectives in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Practices’*. The study was prepared in cooperation with experts from the *International Centre for Counter-Terrorism* in The Hague and is an excellent example of collaboration with external partners on urgent topics of practical research outside of specific projects.

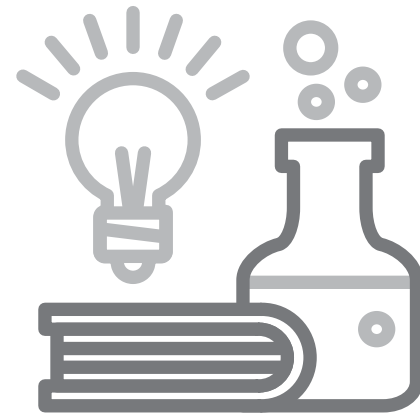
Knowledge transfer and dialog between practice, research and administration

Implementation of the 'Further development of the prevention of and advice on conspiratorial thinking in connection with extremist attitudes' began in 2024 as a subproject within the framework of the 'Living Democracy!' federal program. In this context, the *Violence Prevention Network* team is organising the establishment of a nationwide referral counselling structure on the topic of conspiratorial thinking. One part of the assignment seeks, among other things, to strengthen legal certainty for professional practice and the collaborative creation of quality standards for counselling in this special field. Among other things, the institution is responsible for the above-mentioned tasks and coordinates the institutional association, which also includes *modus|zad* and the *Amadeu Antonio Foundation*.

In addition to the projects and activities directly located in the department, research assistants are involved in various institutional projects as well as in other networks in order to promote knowledge sharing and dissemination. In 2024, this also applied to the *KN:IX plus* monitoring platform as well as contributions to and management of publications such as *KN:IX analyses* and *KN:IX Impulse* as well as the in-house publication series by the *Violence Prevention Network*.

In addition, *modus|zad* published the third issue of *ZepRa - Zeitschrift für praxisorientierte (De-)Radikalisierungsforschung* (The journal for practical (de)radicalisation research) in 2024, which is both *open access* as well as *peer-reviewed*. The aim of the publication is to collect German-language research contributions with direct practical relevance, which are made freely accessible to all interested parties and, above all, offer practical researchers and young scientists an opportunity to publish their contributions.

In contrast to the *ZepRa* research journal, the "*Interventionen. Zeitschrift für Verantwortungspädagogik*" (Interventions. The journal of education responsibility) places a particular focus on current trends and experiences from the perspective of professional practice. Published in 2024, the 18th edition focused on the topic of 'Digital counselling practice' with articles on digital disengagement support, self-care for practitioners and the app to accompany the social diagnostic procedure used by the *Violence Prevention Network GRIDD PRO® - Social diagnostics*.



VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK ACADEMY

Julia Nowecki

The *Violence Prevention Network Academy* focused mainly on establishing new networks and collaborations in 2024. Building on the VPN Wissenschaftsgesellschaft, establishing the Academy expressed our goal of pooling practical knowledge from 25 years of experience working with radicalised people and people at risk of radicalisation and making it accessible to others in the form of (international) training, e-learning and counselling services. After all, disengagement work is a task for society as a whole. Radicalisation processes do not take place in a vacuum – everyone working in the field will benefit from looking at the issue at global level, taking an interdisciplinary and multi-perspective approach, and learning from each other.

A milestone was our participation in the *Megaweek* in Montreal in May, where we enjoyed lively interaction and discussions on the topics of *social diagnostics and pedagogical approaches in disengagement work*. We made contact with colleagues in New Zealand who showed great interest in our approaches. In the summer of 2024, this eventually led to a joint project application with a New Zealand cooperation partner to the *Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)* for the training of practitioners, which was approved in the fall. Preparations for the training sessions for 2025 began at the end of the year.

Overall, the topic *social diagnostics* was very important for our work in 2024. We managed to provide *GRIDDPRO® - Social Diagnostics* in different contexts and have discussed the approaches used by the *Violence Prevention Network* with practitioners and researchers from Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. A meeting of the *RAN Prison Working Group*, gave us the opportunity to present *GRIDD PRO® - Social Diagnostics*, which was received with very considerable interest.

At the same time, we have started to develop materials and concepts with the aim of systematically collecting and processing available practical knowledge from various advice centres and using it to design training courses for different contexts. Besides close coopera-

tion with the *International Department*, 2024 saw lively knowledge sharing with the *Violence Prevention Network* advice centres (including on pedagogical approaches and counselling practice) as well as with the *Research Department* (also on social diagnostics and evaluation) and the *Digital* department (for instance on the development of e-learning formats). One concrete result of this process was a first **microlearning**, which we published on our website in 2024 – a low-threshold, compact learning format that initially acts as a teaser to showcase our services and which we would like to continue expanding in 2025.

Our first international assignment in 2024 took us to North Macedonia, where we provided teaching to psychologists in a train-the-trainer format in the fall of 2024. They accompany professionals in schools attended by children who lived with their families for several years under the so-called 'Islamic State' in Syria and Iraq and have since returned to North Macedonia. The schools were often barely prepared and felt overwhelmed and unsure how to deal with the situation. There was a lack of professional support and guidance for the children concerned. Our training sessions helped to raise awareness – of their realities, their potential, and the importance of empathic support.



EVALUATION

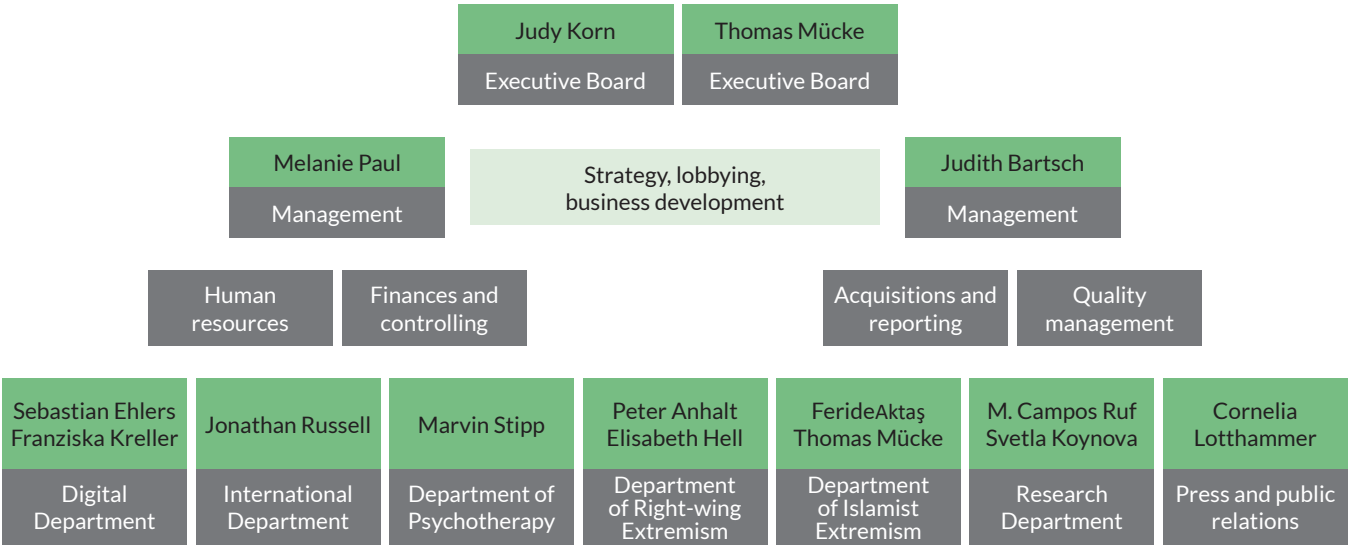
Continuous participation in external evaluations is an indispensable component of the *Violence Prevention Network's* work. The evaluations are carried out by independent institutions – which are a mandatory part of implementing some projects – and confirm our effective and high-quality project work. We make the evaluation reports available on our homepage under the menu item 'Publications', provided they have been published.

External evaluations and process support started, ongoing or completed in 2024

Evaluated project	Evaluation period	Conducted by
Projects relating to 'Prevention and deradicalisation in the justice and probation system' funded as part of the 'Living Democracy!' federal program	2020 – 2024	German Youth Institute
Projects relating to 'Extremism prevention' funded as part of the 'Living Democracy!' federal program	2020 – 2024	Institute of Social Work and Social Pedagogy
'Islamist Extremism' expert network (KN:IX)	2020 – 2024	IMAP GmbH
Berlin Advice Centre	2021 – 2024	Camino gGmbH

ORGANISATION

Violence Prevention Network gGmbH



Governance

The gGmbH consists of two bodies - the **General Assembly** and the **Executive Board**.

The **General Assembly** is composed as follows:

- Judy Korn
- Thomas Mücke
- Christian Pfeffer-Hoffmann

The gGmbH is managed by two **Directors** jointly or by one director together with an authorised signatory.

The following persons have been appointed to represent the organisation:

- Judy Korn (Management)
- Thomas Mücke (Management)
- Melanie Paul (authorised signatory)
- Judith Bartsch (power of attorney)

The *VPN Wissenschaftsgesellschaft gGmbH* has been a non-profit organisation since November and is a subsidiary of *Violence Prevention Network gGmbH*.

Employees

	2023	2024
Number of employees	193	193
of which full-time	131	122
of which freelancers/paid a fee	62	71
of which volunteers	0	0

Environmental and social profile

Violence Prevention Network attaches importance to gender parity when filling vacancies and recruiting permanent and freelance employees. People who do not identify with any gender are also welcome at *Violence Prevention Network*. Reconciling the interests of family and professional life matter deeply to us. Employees decide independently (in consultation and according to requirements) on their working hours and place of work. So far, this has led to outstanding commitment and a high level of responsibility in the individual areas of work. When traveling on business, the employees of *Violence Prevention Network* use local public transport or long-distance passenger transport whenever possible.

All employees of *Violence Prevention Network* are paid in accordance with the collective agreements of the public sector (TVöD Bund, TV-L, TV-H). The pay grade depends on the area of responsibility. Contracts are advertised in accordance with the statutory regulations and those set out in the grant notices.

Partnerships, cooperations and networks

Violence Prevention Network has been working with various partners on a basis of trust for many years.

Ashoka Germany is an important trademark and quality mark for the *Violence Prevention Network*. The fellowship opens the door to politicians and authorities as well as to contact with potential supporters.

The **Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, for Sport and Integration** has been, together with the **Bavarian State Criminal Police Office**, a cooperation partner in the implementation of intervention and deradicalisation measures in the state of Bavaria since 2016.

The **Brandenburg Ministry of Justice and Digitalisation** has been a cooperation partner in the implementation of prevention and deradicalisation measures in the prison system and probation service since 2016.

The **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)** supports the project *EVOLUO - Psychological expertise and coaching for counsellors working with (de)radicalisation* (until the end of 2024) and the project *De-escalation and self-protection in counselling work (DeSBa)*

As the funding body, the **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** implements model projects together with the *Violence Prevention Network* and promotes a number of projects in the prison system as well as the ‘Islamist Extremism’ expert network (KN:IX) (until the end of 2024), the *Prison and Probation Working Group* and the project *REE! – A change of course for right-wing extremists* (until the end of 2024)

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior** acts as an informal expert supporter of our work and regularly invites *Violence Prevention Network* to give presentations on its work in a national and international context. It also sponsors the *PrEval - Evaluation designs for prevention measures* project.

The **Federal Agency for Civic Education** is our partner in the e-learning project *Gaming and right-wing extremism*.

The *PRISMA Sachsen* project is supported by the **Eduq Foundation** under the patronage of the **Fondation de Luxembourg** (until the end of 2024).

The **European Commission** supports the projects *FRISCO (Fighting Terrorist Content Online)* (until the end of 2024), *PARTES - Participatory approaches to protecting places of worship* (until the end of 2024), *European Observatory of Online Hate (EOOH)* and *TRACE - Threat Observatory for Monitoring and Countering Antisemitism and Antigypsyism in Central and Eastern Europe*.

In the *RADIS - Research on the social causes and effects of radical Islam in Germany and Europe* project, we are a cooperation partner of **PRIF – Peace Research Institute Frankfurt**.

The **Hessian Ministry of the Interior, for Security and Homeland Security** has been a cooperation partner in the implementation of prevention, intervention and deradicalisation measures in the state of Hesse since 2014.

The **Hessian Ministry of Justice** is our cooperation partner in the field of prevention and deradicalisation in the prison system and probation service.

The **Competence Centre against Extremism in Baden-Württemberg of the Baden-Württemberg State Office of Criminal Investigation** has been a cooperation partner for the implementation of prevention measures in the prison system since 2016.

The **Kurt and Maria Dohle Foundation** supports the *Violence Prevention Network* in projects relating to religiously motivated extremism and right-wing extremism.

The **Berlin against violence State Committee** of the **Senate Department for the Interior and Sport** has been a cooperation partner in the implementation of prevention and deradicalisation measures in the state of Berlin since 2016.

The **Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice** has been our partner for prevention and deradicalisation in the prison system and probation service since 2016.

Together with the **Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family**, the *Violence Prevention Network* co-operated with the *German Children and Youth Foundation* and *Gangway e. V.* to initiate the *proRespekt specialist unit* in 2019.

The **Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection** and the **Senate Department for Labor, Social Affairs, Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination** of the State of Berlin are long-standing cooperation partners in the field of prevention and deradicalisation in the prison system and probation service. The latter also supports the *CROSSROADS* advice centre.

The **Saxon State Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Social Cohesion** has been a cooperation partner in the implementation of prevention, intervention and deradicalisation measures in the state of Saxony since 2017.

The **Saxon State Ministry of Justice** is our cooperation partner in the area of prevention and deradicalisation in the prison system and probation service.

The **Thuringian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Labour and Family** is a cooperation partner in the implementation of measures in the areas of prevention and intervention.

At international level, the *Violence Prevention Network* maintains close connections with deradicalisation actors in Europe. As part of the consortium responsible for the organisational implementation of the **Radicalisation Awareness Network** (RAN Practitioners) of the European Commission, we have been instrumental in shaping the Europe-wide exchange of knowledge and experience between 6,000 practitioners in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) until the end of the program in June 2024.

General information

Name	Violence Prevention Network gGmbH
Registered office of the organisation in accordance with the Articles of Association	Alt-Reinickendorf 25, 13407 Berlin
Foundation	2004
Other branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schießgrabenstraße 16, 86150 Augsburg• Bergmannstraße 5, 10961 Berlin• Langhansstraße 146, 13086 Berlin• Anger 35, 99084 Erfurt• Leipziger Straße 67, 60487 Frankfurt• Ferdinandstr. 3, 30175 Hanover• Stieglitzstraße 84, 04229 Leipzig• Karlstraße 3, 72072 Tübingen (until September 30, 2024)• Jurastrasse 27, 72072 Tübingen (since October 1, 2024)
Offices abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violence Prevention Network USA, Inc. 2681 Sidney Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203• Violence Prevention Network International Department 91 Rendlesham Road, Unit 91 London E5, United Kingdom
Legal form	gGmbH, non-profit LLC
Contact details	Address: Alt-Reinickendorf 25, 13407 Berlin Phone: Phone: +49 (0)30 91 70 54 64 Fax: Fax: +49 (0)30 39 83 52 84 Email: post@violence-prevention-network.de Website (URL): www.violence-prevention-network.de
Link to the Articles of Association (URL)	https://violence-prevention-network.de/ueber-uns/jahresberichte-und-mehr/
Register entry	Register court: Berlin-Charlottenburg Local Court Register number: HRB 221974 B Date of entry: October 12, 2020
Non-profit status	Information on the organisation's non-profit status in accordance with Section 52 German Fiscal Code (AO) Date of the assessment notice: April 22, 2025 Issuing tax office: Tax Office for Corporations I, Berlin Declaration of charitable purpose: Promoting crime prevention and public and private education and vocational training including student assistance
Workforce representation	None

FINANCES

Resources deployed

Personnel costs amounted to €7,680,269.07 in 2024 for 122 employees, including 51 trainers. Material costs and fees amounted to €2,844,254.34; including the costs for 71 trainers on a fee basis.

Bookkeeping and accounting

Bookkeeping is carried out using the double-entry bookkeeping method with the accounting program DATEV. The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the German Commercial Code (HGB). The annual financial statements are prepared by an external tax consultancy (C.O.X. Steuerberatungsgesellschaft und Treuhandgesellschaft mbH, Berlin) in close cooperation with internal accounting and internal controlling and then audited by an external auditing company (Hamburger Treuhand Gesellschaft Schomerus & Partner mbB). The internal audit of the annual financial statements is performed by the authorised signatory of *Violence Prevention Network gGmbH*.

Statement of assets

Assets

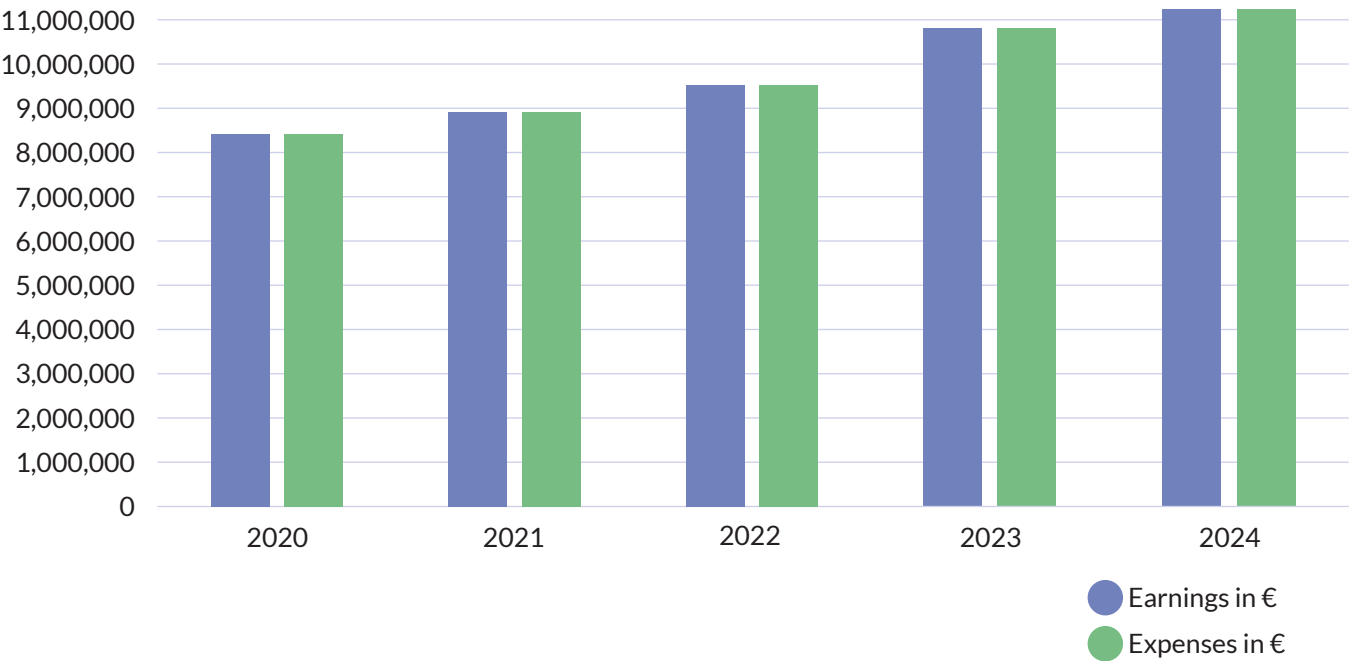
K€	2022	2023	2024
I. Intangible assets	146	119	128
II. Property, plant and equipment	48	47	36
thereof real estate	0	0	0
III. Financial assets	2	0	26
IV. Receivables	321 ¹	792 ²	191 ³
of which from members or shareholders	1	0	0
V. Cash and cash equivalents	2,291	1,958	3,056
Total assets	2,808	2,916	3,437

Liabilities

K€	2022	2023	2024
I. Loans taken out	0	0	0
of which from members or shareholders	0	0	0
II. Trade accounts payable	17	11	8
III. Other liabilities	435 ⁴	510 ⁵	764 ⁶
Total liabilities	452	521	772
Balance of assets less liabilities (= equity + provisions + special items)	2,356⁷	2,395⁸	2,665⁹
of which earmarked funds	49	11	35

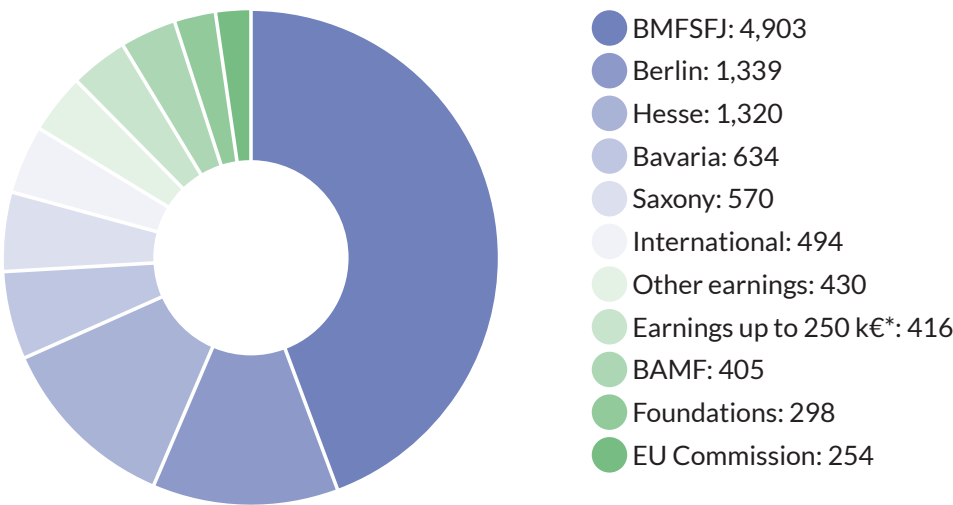
¹ Receivables in 2022 include accruals and deferrals in the amount of k€18.
² Receivables in 2023 include accruals and deferrals in the amount of k€10.
³ Receivables in 2024 include accruals and deferrals in the amount of k€18.
⁴ This includes k€398.2 in unused funds that were repaid in 2023.
⁵ This includes k€485.0 in unused funds that were repaid in 2024.
⁶ This includes k€717.0 in unused funds that were repaid in 2025.
⁷ This includes k€464.7 in personnel provisions and k€124.8 in special items with an equity portion.
⁸ This includes k€572.0 in personnel provisions and k€88.0 in special items with an equity portion.
⁹ This includes k€365.0 in personnel provisions and k€94.0 in special items with an equity portion.

Earnings and expenses



Where does the money come from?

Figures in k€



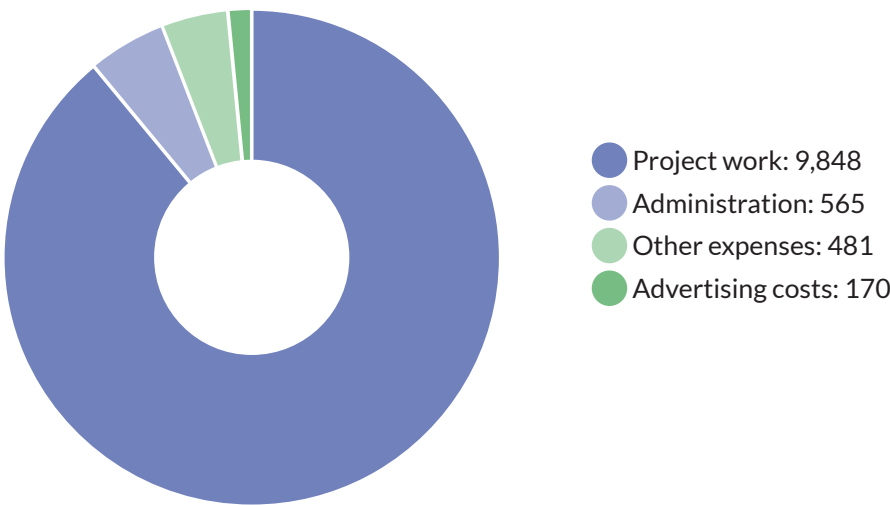
Total budget for 2024 = €11,063,726.56

*Earnings up to k€250:

- Thuringia: k€184
- Lower Saxony: k€70
- Donations: k€68
- Brandenburg: k€37
- Federal Agency for Civic Education: k€33
- Baden-Württemberg: k€24

Where does the money go?

Figures in k€



Total budget for 2024 = €11,063,726.56

Earnings

K€	2022	2023	2024
1. Proceeds	1,608	1,626	1,640
of which from public contracts	1,337	1,456	1,524
2. Grants	7,721	8,900	9,253
of which from the public sector	7,428	8,426	8,778
3. Dues	0	0	0
4. Other earnings	244	247	171
Total earnings	9,573	10,773	11,064

Expenses

K€	2022	2023	2024
A1. Project costs	8,616	9,737	9,848
A2. Advertising costs	152	173	170
A3. Administrative costs	543	450	481
4. Financing costs	0	0	0
5. Taxes	3	0	0
6. Other expenses	259 ¹⁰	413 ¹¹	565 ¹²
Total expenses	9,573	10,773	11,064
'Funds carried forward' Year-end result (earnings less expenses)	0	0	0¹³

¹⁰ incl. withdrawal of k€237.7 from the reserves

¹¹ incl. withdrawal of k€17.8 from the reserves

¹² incl. allocation of k€485.0 to the reserves

¹³ The surpluses from 2022, 2023 and 2024 were allocated to the reserves.

Legal notice

Violence Prevention Network gGmbH
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under the commercial register number: HRB 221974 B

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Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE14100205000001118800
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

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