

Annual Report 2025

- Summary



Violence
Prevention Network



Judy Korn

Thomas Mücke

VISION

By preventing extremism, we strengthen democracy.

MISSION

We lay the foundations for people who are ideologically vulnerable or motivated by extremism to change their behaviour through disengagement work so that they act responsibly and become part of the democratic community. We provide them with tools and resources to help them reflect on and overcome their previous behaviour patterns. They are empowered to lead a life in which they harm neither themselves nor others.

We develop new approaches and methods for preventing extremism and engage with societal actors and political decision-makers to create sustainable frameworks for combating extremism both online and offline.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Democracy as a Duty

The year 2026 will shape political education, the promotion of democracy and the prevention of extremism in Germany in the long term. The announced restructuring of the tried-and-tested federal programme “Demokratie leben!” (Live Democracy!), which has so far been unrivalled internationally in terms of its scope and achievements, will bring about lasting changes to the landscape of democratic practice in Germany. It remains to be seen how the results achieved so far can be transferred and safeguarded, and it is to be hoped that Germany can maintain its pioneering role in this field, which is firmly established both in Europe and internationally.

Over the past few decades, a highly qualified and specialised prevention landscape has developed in Germany, which, in this form, serves as an international model. Violence Prevention Network is committed to the professional development of counselling services to help in deradicalisation and disengagement work, both in relation to specific phenomena and in general, as well as for stronger networking and effective synergies. In cooperation with other organisations, we have been making a unique contribution here for many years. In tertiary prevention in particular, exemplary collaboration between organisations undertaking societal prevention work, academia and government bodies has been evident. This collaboration is crucial for successful deradicalisation work.

Funding programmes and their structure are decided at a political level and implemented by the administration; societal organisations work within these parameters, thereby fulfilling a democratically mandated role: they bring specialist expertise, counselling and community work to areas where government services alone often fail to achieve the same reach and impact.

Furthermore, beyond the funding policy landscape in Germany, the day-to-day work of those involved in prevention is repeatedly shaped by a succession of global crises, such as pandemic outbreaks, armed conflicts or energy crises. Extremist actors exploit the resulting uncertainties and fears in society to win over young people, particularly with simplistic answers and promises of salvation.

Anti-democratic narratives are disseminated rapidly and widely via online social media platforms.

The urgently needed extremism prevention is currently taking place within this complex landscape, while the conditions under which it must prevail are becoming increasingly precarious. This is precisely why strengthening and preserving democracy must remain our top priority, not least as a duty to future generations.

Judy Korn and Thomas Mücke
July 2026

AT A GLANCE



184
Employees



11
Locations



44
Projects



6
Specialist
seminars



34
Publications



185
Workshops for schools
and youth support
services



€10.4 million*
Resources deployed

*This is a provisional estimate,
which may be adjusted once the annual report's been finalised.



296

Training
programmes for
professionals



705

Group and individual
interventions within the
prison service



121

Counselling
services for
relatives



50

E-learning courses
(modules and workshops)



116

Counselling services
for institutions



198

Disengagement
support services



7,372

People reached through
our initiatives (total)



WHERE WE WORK

Projects in the federal states (selection):

Baden-Württemberg:

- ♥ PräWo Justiz – a workshop series within the prison service for young prisoners at risk of radicalisation

Bavaria:

- ♥ Bavarian Counselling Centre

Berlin:

- ♥ Berlin Counselling Centre – Pathways out of extremism
- ♥ Prevent Berlin 2.0
- ♥ CROSSROADS – Exiting from right-wing extremism
- ♥ proRespekt Specialist Centre – Shaping non-violent schools democratically
- ♥ JUST X Berlin – Prevention and deradicalisation in Berlin's prison and probation services
- ♥ REE! – A change of course for right-wing extremists

Brandenburg:

- ♥ EXchange Brandenburg – Mobile initiatives for prevention and deradicalisation in prison and probation services

Hesse:

- ♥ Hessian Counselling Centre – Pathways out of extremism
- ♥ Hessian Counselling Centre – Intercultural competence
- ♥ KOgEX Hessen 3.0 – Competence against extremism in prison and probation services

Lower Saxony:

- ♥ Focus ISLEX – Mobile measures for prevention and deradicalisation within the Lower Saxony prison and probation services

Saxony:

- ♥ Saxony Counselling Centre
- ♥ Prisma Saxony – Identifying radicalisation, supporting deradicalisation, pooling expertise
- ♥ FAIRhandeln – Developing practical skills for dealing with racism targeting specific groups

Thuringia:

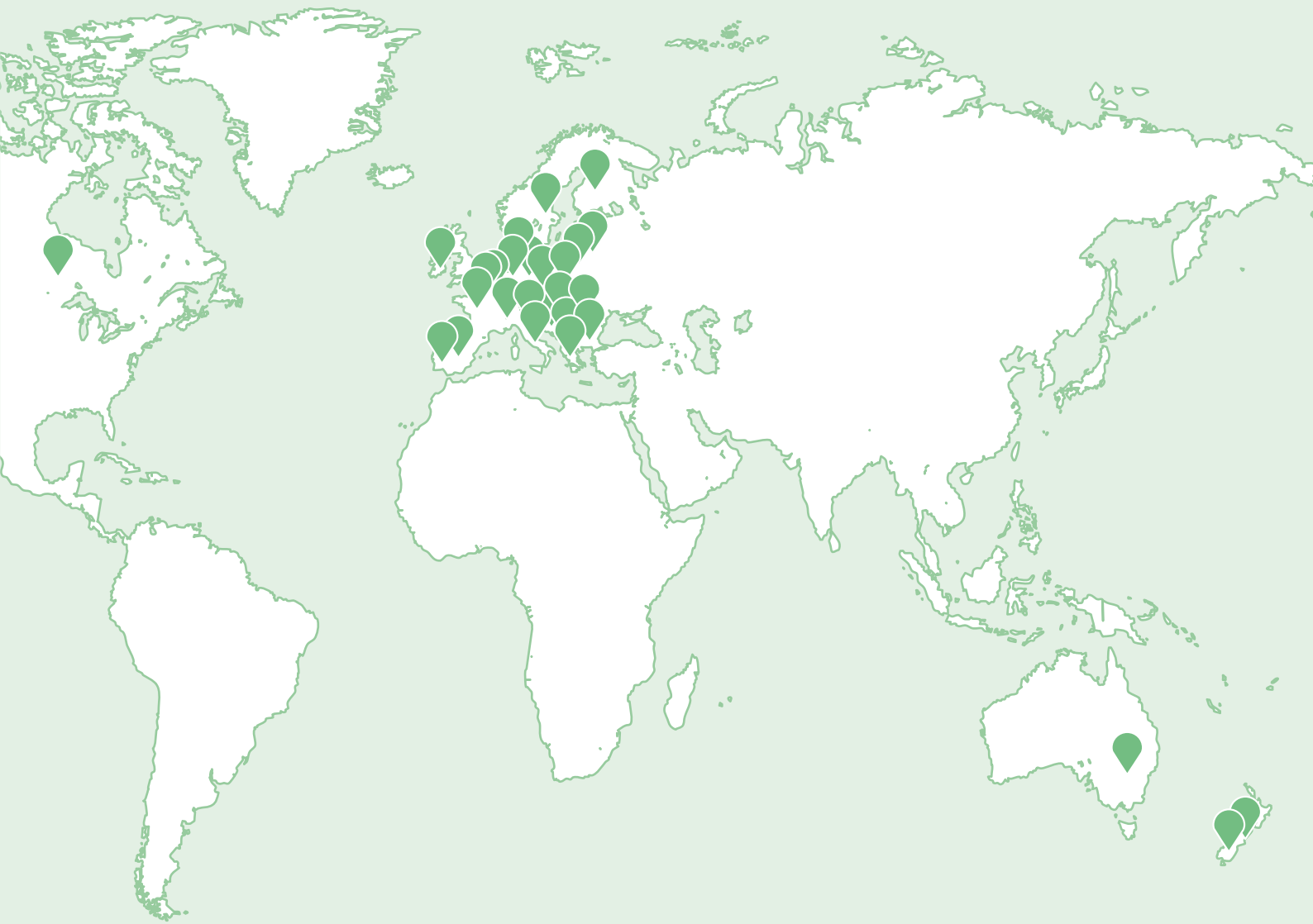
- ♥ Thuringian Counselling Centre – Point of contact for the topics of Islamism and Islamophobia in Thuringia

Nationwide:

- ♥ Working Group of the Prison and Probation Services
- ♥ DeSBa – De-escalation and self-protection in counselling work
- ♥ dist[ex] – Development of a Network for Disengagement and Exit work
- ♥ PrEval – Evaluation designs for prevention measures
- ♥ RADIS – Research into the societal causes and effects of radical Islam in Germany and Europe
- ♥ From Confrontation to Dialogue – Constructive conversations in the neighbourhood

Online:

- ♥ EAS – E-learning on the prevention of antisemitism for migrants
- ♥ EXchange Brandenburg Digital
- ♥ Gaming and right-wing extremism – How right-wing extremists misuse gaming platforms
- ♥ GaRex – Countering hate speech effectively
- ♥ JUST X Berlin Digital
- ♥ Thuringian Prison Service Compass
- ♥ Net Heroes 60+
- ♥ PRISMA Saxony Digital
- ♥ Further development of prevention and counselling on conspiracy ideology in connection with extremist views



International Projects:

European Union and the Western Balkans

- ♥ EOOH – European Observatory of Online Hate (EU)
- ♥ EU Knowledge Hub on the Prevention of Radicalisation (EU)
- ♥ PARTESS-COM (EU)
- ♥ Persuasive AI Chatbot for Counter-Extremism: A value-sensitive multi-stakeholder feasibility study (Austria, EU)
- ♥ TRACE (Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia)

North America

- ♥ DIVERSIONS – Canada (Canada)

Oceania

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

Worldwide

- ♥ INDEX – International Network for Disengagement and Exit

As of: 2025

Legal Notice

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