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An overview of the 13th German Congress on Crime Prevention 2008

The annual German Congress on Crime Prevention (GCOCP) aims to present, discuss and strengthen the interdisciplinary character of crime prevention in a broad societal context. This text offers an overview about the structure and numerous topics, sections and forums of the 13th German Congress on Crime Prevention that took place on the 2nd and 3rd of June 2008 at the Congress Centre Leipzig.

Mission statement of the German Congress on Crime Prevention

The German Congress on Crime Prevention was established in 1995 as a national annual convention focusing especially on the field of crime prevention. Since the beginning it aims to present, discuss and strengthen the interdisciplinary and cross-departmental character of crime prevention within a broad societal context. By degrees the GCOCP opened for institutions, projects, methods, issues and knowledge from other fields of prevention that are more or less connected to each other.

Even though crime prevention is the centre of attention during the congress, the broaden spectrum of topics varies from prevention of drug addiction, traffic prevention to different aspects of prevention concerning health care.

The congress addresses itself in particular to all actors and people being in charge of prevention such as administration, municipalities, districts, health care, youth welfare, justice, church, media, politics, police, prevention committees, projects, schools, sport, associations and organisations, research etc.

As a national annual convention, the German Congress on Crime Prevention aims to:

- impart knowledge and exchange about current and fundamental issues of different spheres of crime prevention and their effectiveness
- bring together partners of crime prevention
- offer a forum for practitioners and enable the exchange of experience
- establish international ties and support the exchange of information
- discuss strategies of implementation
- develop and give recommendations to practitioners, politics, administration and research

Program advisory board

For the preparation of each German Congress on Crime Prevention a program advisory board is set up where the organiser as well as the hosting and permanent partners

are represented. The advisory board is responsible for the content of the upcoming congress as well as for prearrangements of prospect conventions. As already practised during previous years, a request for the submission of speech topics has been published in advance and received positive feedback. The number of submitted proposals and applications exceeded the limited quantity of lecture units available.

Partners

The commitment and bonds of the congress partners are a central component for the success of the congress. We would like to thank all involved decision-makers and representatives for their commitment. Altogether 34 organisations and institution have contributed in various forms and roles as an official partner of the 13th German Congress on Crime Prevention with their logo, reputation as well as personal and financial resources.

In the same way we want to thank the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth for the sponsorship of the 13th German Congress on Crime Prevention.

Research expertise

In advance of the congress a highly valued research expertise by Dr. Wiebke Steffen has been published via internet and the congress catalogue in order to provide a basis for the debates about the congress' main focus topic "Dedicated Citizens - Safer Communities".

Lectures to the main theme

The main focus of the 13th German Congress on Crime Prevention, "Dedicated Citizens - Safer Communities", has been discussed by 37 speakers in 20 individual topics. The thematic choice of the individual topics aimed to complete the research expertise of Dr. Wiebke Steffen, so as to cover the broad range aspects of the main topic systematically.

Lectures to the main theme

- Prof. Dr. Dieter Hermann
Social capital and security – About the effects of civic commitment
- Thomas Krüger
Political education, prevention and social cohesion
- Heiko Rosenthal
Civic commitment „Motor of the city community“ – Preventive strategies, networks and projects aiming at increasing the sense of security of the citizens of Leipzig

- Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Heitmeyer / Sandra Hüpping / Julia Marth
Social environment and group-related misanthropy: New approaches for strengthening the civil society
- Norbert Friedrich / Jörg Seedorf
„Courage against Violence – A manual for moral courage“ as a guideline for prevention projects
- Reinhold Hepp
In the name of mute victims – Promotion of witness and assistant behaviour in case of child abuse
- Hermann Groß / Prof. Dr. Arthur Kreuzer
Voluntary police as a link between citizens and police? An evaluation of the Hessian Voluntary Police Service
- Prof. Dr. Hans-Dieter Schwind
Moral Courage – When do people help and when rather not?
- Frank Goldberg
Thinking global, acting local: crime preventive civic participation while considering participation, transparency and efficiency
- Dieter Meißner / Rainer Mollik
Advisor in youth criminal proceedings Dresden – An exemplary project of voluntary civic commitment
- Elke Hannuschka
*“... Civic participation has to take place, but not in crime prevention councils...”
– Results of quantitative and qualitative research study about communal crime prevention councils in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern*
- Susanne Kirchhoff / Dr. Kati Zenk
More security through a new culture of conflict management? – Options and chances of mediators in crime prevention
- Siegfried Bayer / Hans-Alfred Blumenstein / Prof. Dr. Günter Rieger
The honorary post at non-profit organisations of victim and delinquent assistance
- Kornelia Kamla
Civic commitment for the social rehabilitation and recidivism – voluntary work in the field of probation assistance

Lectures in the Open Forum

The Open Forum offered space for speeches and presentations that were not directly linked to the main topic of the congress but still covered current issues of crime prevention in the broader or narrower context. Abstracts about all presentations, information about speakers, written versions of presentations and even Power Point presentations of the Open Forum are available at the homepage of the German Congress on Crime Prevention.

Lectures in the Open Forum

- Prof. Dr. Georg Ruhrmann & Dr. Denise Sommer
Immigration policy in 1:30 – A comparing study about the effects of TV news and their implications about the inner security of Germany
- Michael Herschelmann
Sexist German Gangsta-Rap – Does it lead to sexual violence?
- Andreas Riedel
„With Brain against Violence“ – A project initiative aiming at territorial networking
- Reinhard Koch
Rightning extremist youth: Access between prevention and repression
- Ilona Adler / Farzin Akbari Kenari / Svetlana Rafalson
Migrants as volunteers: IKUSH – Intercultural health care and drug addiction assistance for migrants, offered by migrants in Leipzig, field report
- Paul Scholz
Reorientation of crime prevention activities by the Police of the Free State of Saxony
- Dr. Marc Coester / Dr. Anja Meyer / Thomas Müller / Prof. Dr. Jochen-Thomas Werner
Knowledge is power: The Beccaria project - Quality management in crime prevention
- Cathleen Kappes
Effects of violence prevention at school
- Klaus Stüllenberg
The future of communal crime prevention
- Prof. Dr. Robert Pütz / Verena Schreiber / Christian Schwedes
Crime prevention at schools in Germany: Fields of action and spatial implications
- Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Pott
Prevention of alcohol abuse of teenagers
- Bastian Finke / Dr. Bodo Lippl
Homophobic violence in public spaces – Victim assistance and prevention
- Brigitte Komescher / Sibylle Völker
Cross-generational crime prevention using the example of mediation at schools through the „Seniorpartner in School“
- Prof. Dr. Adolf Windorfer
Visiting care through family midwives for at risk families during pregnancy and baby care = Ideal prevention of child neglect?

- Michael Breitschwerdt
Overall responsible security and crime prevention management using the example of antibullying
- Bernd Holthusen / Dr. Christian Lüders
Youth with migrational background – A challenge for crime prevention?
- Dr. Isabell Götz
Violence against partner, children and senior citizens - Options of arrangement by family courts
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Heckmann
Drug policy as city management – A European comparison
- Prof. Dr. Dr. Klaus Beier
The Berlin model of the prevention of sexual child abuse of unreported cases
- Prof. Dr. Britta Bannenberg
Evaluation of crime prevention projects in Germany – A practice overview

Internet Forum

(Crime) prevention and the internet have several points of contacts and intersections regarding its content.

Since positive experience during the 12th GCOCP (2007), the congress offers a forum where the broad range of the internet, its chances and risks, can be observed and discussed. Besides a general debate, internet specific crimes, net-based consulting, crime preventive information services and databases or methodical issues of media competence are topics dealt with.

Within the Internet Forum in Leipzig 5 lectures were given:

- Rolf Grimmer
Cybercrime 2008 – risks-measures-contact points
- Stefanie Krauel / Dorothea Schulz
„Preventive measures protecting youth from harmful media – Secure chats using the example of the moderated children chat of ” Seitenstark”
- Annette Cieslinski / Emily Engelhardt
Professional online counselling by volunteers - A field report
- Judith Hilgers
„Happy Slapping“ – Nature and motives. Empirical results and suggestions for prevention
- Walter Stauffer
What is my child doing online? In what kind of danger is it when it uses the internet? Hints for media education, media recommendations and assistance offers

2nd Annual International Forum (AIF)¹

Within the 13th GCOCP, the 2nd Annual International Forum (AIF) took place where 5 lectures of international experts in the field of crime prevention were presented and an accompanying program was held.

- Prof. Dr. Christian Pfeiffer
Prevention of Juvenile Violence in Germany
- Valérie Sagant
International examples and developments in crime prevention
- Leo Tigges
“Probation meets Prevention” - Presentation of the Summary and Conclusion of the CEP-Workshop within the 2nd Annual International Forum of the German Congress on Crime Prevention
- Johanna Schmitz
Kids Company and the principle of “loving care”
- Christa-Berta Kimmich
Intercultural Exchanges - a chance for young people to de-learn violence?
- Roland Ziss
Community participation for violence prevention - selected experience from Latin America and South Africa

Besides a high number of participants from Germany, over 70 colleagues from 33 countries participated at the 13th GCOCP and 2nd AIF where English was the official language.

GCOCP-University

The GCOCP-University 2008 was subdivided into two lectures of the children university, a film show with a following debate within the youth university as well as two contributions of the senior university which was held for the first time.

The events of the GCOCP-university were visited by numerous attendees and 1.700 additional guests of the particular target group.

Children University

- Uwe Matthias
„How to catch a criminal?“

¹ For more information on the AIF visit <http://www.aif-prevention.org>