

**Report on the state of Germany**  
in the framework of the  
**‘Innovative Strategies for the  
Prevention of the Re-offending  
(ISPR)’ project**

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### 1. Crime prevention at the level of local responsibility

In order to understand the discussion on the forms of prevention in Germany, it is necessary to recall that this country is strongly marked by a federal system, equally founded on the principle of subsidiarity. This signifies that the responsibility of the various domains concerning prevention is divided up over several levels. Thus, criminal law comes under the federal level, whereas the prison system, organisation of the police and the educational system are the province of the *Länder*. Germany is divided into 16 *Länder* that can therefore promulgate thoroughly different regulations for the aforementioned spheres. What are the municipalities' responsibilities?

The municipalities represent the lowest of the tri-level administrative organisation. The Federal Republic and the *Länder* distribute the missions and necessary funds to the municipalities. A distinction is made between the specific missions: transferred, voluntary or obligatory. In the case of specific missions, the municipality is free to organise things as it sees fit without receiving directives from the federal authorities or *Länder*. This is also valid for the voluntary missions in which municipalities can decide on the services they are going to subsidise with their own budget. Such is not the case with the obligatory or transferred missions for which the federal authorities and *Länder* simply call on the municipalities' administrative structures for carrying out precise missions.

What does that signify in the case of the prevention of re-offending amongst young delinquents? First of all, one can observe that federal authorities delegate the legal protection of young people to the municipalities. The legal protection of young people underscores in particular the socio-pedagogical aspects in criminal procedures before the juvenile courts by delivering a report (written and/or oral) on the persons indicted. Similarly, it verifies whether it is necessary to call for specific measures of assistance to young people or if there are alternatives to a formal criminal procedure (alternative sentencing). They have an influence on the course of the procedure and organise and supervise the judicial teaching measures (*see below*). The federal authorities are responsible for the execution of sentences, i.e., the direction of prisons; this concerns open as well as closed remand centres. Consequently, the bases of prevention of re-offending amongst young delinquents sentenced to prison come under the responsibility of the *Länder*. However, certain points here also enter into the framework of the municipalities' responsibility. Just as the life of the young delinquents after their release falls under the responsibility of municipal structures, the cities and towns are responsible for the general interest on the one hand and young people in a precarious situation on the other. Thus, the municipalities are in charge of applying the juvenile legal protection as well as the applying the law on assistance to children and youth, the other paragraphs of the law on juvenile courts and the law on the protection of minors as well as the application of various other social Codes that deal in particular with the issues of employment or housing.

As will be shown further on, youth assistance plays a particularly important role in preventive actions. This is structured especially by the principle of subsidiarity. This means 'that

the projects and programmes [...] are primarily conceived and carried out at the local level. With SGB VIII [Title VIII of the German Social Code, assistance to children and youth], the federal authorities define only the framework, which is then organised in a specific way by the *Länder*.’ (B. Holthusen and H. Schäfer, 2007, p. 131). However, this also means that numerous measures of assistance to young people and juvenile legal protection are not applied by the municipalities but by private organisms.

When one considers the causes and circumstances that are at the root of crime and violence, such as the absence of emotional/affective bonds, or recurrent breaks in liaisons and points of reference, the deficits in terms of training—at school or in general education—the absence of prospects in seeking positions of adapted training and employment, and domestic violence (*see* Federal Prevention Committee, Lower Saxony, 2001, p. 7), there is no doubt: ‘The fight against a large part of the causes presented does not lie within the competences or missions of the police and justice.’ (T. Müller: *Kommunale Präventionsgremien in Niedersachsen. Grundlagen, Rahmenbedingungen und Strukturen für eine erfolgreiche Netzwerkarbeit*. Hanover, 2004, p. 2)

As indicated above, the police and justice are not under municipal responsibility. The municipal structures for helping young people, social security office, job promotion, schools as well as private organisms at the local level are thus obliged to agree to joint efforts. This responsibility is not specific to the target group of delinquents already charged and sentenced, but ensues from general missions of the municipalities. Consequently, it refers to the primary, secondary and tertiary partial prevention missions.

## 2. Current discussion

To understand the current discussion on forms of prevention of young delinquents’ re-offending in Germany, it is useful to first consider a few stands on what prevention can be and in what form it can be measured. Thus, according to W. Steffen:

“There are many re-offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes. But, at present, there is no possibility or even any trail for identifying them—before acting, if possible—to then be able to intervene and react opportunely and, if possible, beforehand—and that in the aim of preventing the beginning of a possible “criminal” career. We do not always have “instruments” allowing us sufficiently early—starting from an individual case or on the basis of empirical results—to detect the indicators of a predisposition for serious crimes or a probable criminal career so that we might intervene in time with socio-pedagogical, educational and also judicial and police measures.” (W. Steffen, 2003, p. 153)

It is admittedly easy to describe, *a posteriori*, the relatively limited group of delinquents who have been spotted as ‘re-offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes’ owing to their repeated and (equally) serious crimes over a prolonged period, given their criminal behaviour, their social origin and their ‘career’ but, *a contrario*, this information does not allow for predicting—or only in exceptional cases—whether a given person will commit a crime or not.

Holthusen and Lüders also go in this direction when they declare:

“When one speaks of crime prevention, it is necessary not only to explain to what degree crime, considered as an avoidable act, is predictable; it is equally necessary to put forward ideas on what must be understood by the term “prevention” on an individual basis. At first glance, that seems simple: it is a matter of avoiding, by adapted means, predictable, probable and supposed undesirable situations. Any preventive action is based on a dynamic system of connections of influences. Because preventive actions generally bear, directly or indirectly, on undesirable third-party actions, preventive action is inevitably dependant on important factors of uncertainty. On the one hand, any anticipation of the future is risky,

for an error is always possible and, on the other hand, no one can affirm with certainty that the preventive tool will really work.” (B. Holthusen and C. Lüders, 2003, p. 21)

These basic hypotheses must be stressed for two reasons. On the one hand, in Germany, there is a divergence between public opinion on the topic of crime and prevention and/or sanctions against young delinquents, and discussions of specialists on this topic. Whereas public opinion hopes to quickly obtain miracle solutions on the way certain violent young people or delinquents must be handled, or on promising projects for ‘bringing young people back to the straight and narrow’, the professionals say something quite different. W. Steffen describes this divergence as a problematical circle (*see* W. Steffen, 2003, pp. 153 *sq.*): Everything begins with the fact that ‘a lively public debate, presented primarily in the media, concerning the crime of children and young people [... concentrates] on the “problem” of re-offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes (keyword: “Monsterkids”!).’

That gives rise to ‘[legal] initiatives on crime policy and proposals on the way in which politicians want to master the “problem”.’ Inversely, there is ‘criminological knowledge that describes the “problem” beyond political and media nervousness, analysing it and bringing legitimate statistics to the fore—also in the aim of confining oneself to the facts—, but which are not sufficient for establishing [early enough] individual prognoses and proposing adapted interventions and reactions.’ We also find ‘the youth assistance field players, police and justice, which take care of, more or less directly and with highly variable viewpoints, possibilities and constraints, the “problem” of “re-offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes”, and that with more or less success—but who are subject to criticism by the public [media], especially in the case where success does not materialise.’ And that is where it’s like trying to square the circle.<sup>1</sup>

But it is important to be aware of the fundamental problem in the formulation of forms of prevention, and not only to elude the risk of giving in prematurely to the wish expressed by the public and part of the political world: providing miracle solutions for something practically intangible. It is a matter of the previously-described phenomenon: we will never know whether a young person would have become a criminal or not without these measures. Generally, only one thing is known: there is a problem and causes related to it. Prevention can only attempt to attack these causes whilst hoping that it will allow for resolving part of the problem. This is why it is also quite difficult to compare certain measures according to their probability or their success rate.

Holthusen and Lüders talk about a trap when trying to analyse and compare existing prevention projects according to their results:

“The trap lies in the fact that, in the most favourable case, it is possible to observe real effects, but that no one is really capable of providing information based on what caused, provoked, incited or favoured the effects observed, especially as uncontrollable coincidences,

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<sup>1</sup> This circle, described in 2003, characterises quite well a very lively public debate during an electoral campaign in the *Land* of Hesse at the beginning of this year. Following the brutal mugging of a pensioner committed by two young people in the Munich underground, a toughening of juvenile criminal law and restricting rights of foreigners were immediately demanded. Harsher sentencing was adamantly called for, particularly animated discussions took place on the issue of knowing whether immigrants lapse into crime more often than young Germans, and a few projects were created aimed at bringing young re-offenders more strictly into step in order to ‘bring them back to reason’. This public debate led to an effort of cohesion amongst professionals (Mainz declaration) of the criminology sphere, field players and judges, in order to take the heat out of the discussion concerning criminal law of minors and the migratory context of the young delinquents. (*see* <http://criminologia.de/?p=78>)

contingencies and parameters cannot be excluded on principle.” (B. Holthusen and C. Lüders, 2003, pp. 22 *sq.*)

The sole known solution “consists not of focussing on the observation and summative evaluation of effects, as well as considering the structures and processes of the projects and programmes themselves, their interaction, the favourable and unfavourable conditions along with the cause and effect relationship and the more or less close effects that result from it.” (*ibid.*, p. 23)

These structures and processes, which are the framework of the prevention offers, are precisely the object of in-depth discussions that have imposed themselves since the ‘90s and continue up to the present day. The discussions are closely connected to the issue of municipal responsibility as regards crime prevention. That concerns the question or observation according to which crime prevention can only be successful when integrated into the environment in which most crimes are committed.

“Approximately 70% of the crimes registered by the police are committed at the perpetrator’s home or in the immediate surroundings [...] It remains to be noted that, for crime in all its forms, it is a phenomenon that is primarily local and that the causes and conditions of the development of crime must be identified and eliminated in the very place where crime occurs, i.e., on the spot, at the municipal level!” (T. Müller, 2004, p. 1)

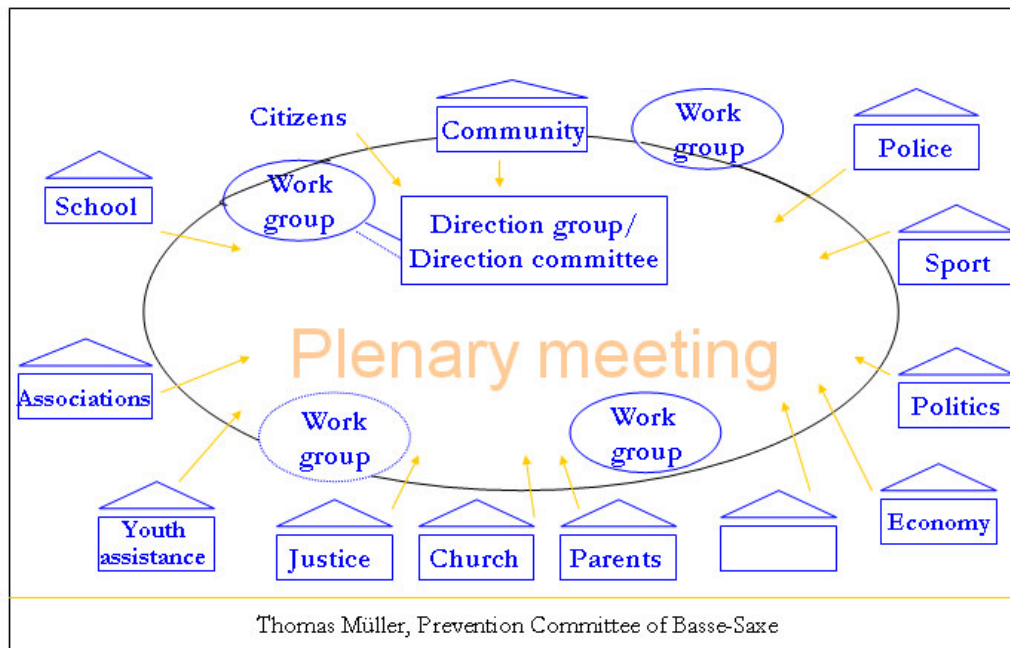
This observation, combined with the one stating that crime can only be prevented by police and legal measures led to the launching of initiatives in the ‘90s in favour of establishing what are called ‘community prevention committees’ in most of the *Länder*.

Approximately one hundred of these prevention committees had been created by the year 2000, and this figure has [since] practically doubled. (T. Müller, 2004, p. 1)

The members of these committees generally agree on the fact that prevention, whether it concerns acts of re-offenders or first offences, is possible above all thanks to judicious cooperation between different departments—especially between the police and youth workers—, as well as between schools, youth assistance, leisure institutions and the police.

The following graph illustrates a typical structure of municipal prevention committees. However, we should underscore the fact that the structures may differ from one place to another, “... the local givens, such as the size and particularities of the town or city [must] be taken into account...” (T. Müller, 2004, p. 7).

## Structure of Municipal Prevention Committees



“In small towns or districts, the prevention committee as such is sometimes made up of only a dozen or so people [...] In medium-sized and large cities, more than 100 people may sometimes be involved in the various areas of work within the prevention committee.” (T. Müller, 2004, p. 7)

Given the fact that these committees bring together representatives of very different institutions and that quite divergent points of view are thereby represented therein, their effectiveness has long been questioned. Numerous discussions, as well as the attempt at defining quality criteria have allowed for bringing out certain conditions for the success of the prevention committees. On the one hand, they must not have only an *ad hoc* reaction to certain events, but be planned to last; they must have a broad mission, an official direction, and those municipal officials in the administration and politics must widely encourage prevention work. (*see* T. Müller, 2004, pp. 8 *sq.*)

From the content point of view, the municipal prevention committees are not specialised in the question of prevention of risks of re-offending by young delinquents already known. They only symbolise a debate that, over the past twenty years, has concentrated increasingly on the question of municipal competences.

The experiments at cooperation within municipal prevention committees have allowed for developing a series of thorough discussions on the topic of successful collaboration, in particular between police and juvenile assistance.

On this subject, Holthusen states:

“Even though, as has already been mentioned, cooperation has for years represented a recognised prevention principle implemented in the committees, nonetheless, a few points remain problematic at the present time. Even though relations between juvenile assistance and the police have improved considerably over the past 15 years, cooperation remains difficult. Collaboration between youth assistance and the family affairs courts, which generally intervenes only in the cases of child-custody law, is another example. Broad areas of the capacities of family courts [...] remain unused. Child psychiatry, which has closed places at its disposal, sometimes serves as a way to put on hold cases for which child welfare services have no further solutions. Rather than establishing cooperation between child welfare services and psychiatry, children are shunted about between the two. Integrating the school into these co-operations is—if need be—carried out rather in “bilateral” form: “School and police” or “School and child welfare”. Furthermore, the more difficult the cases, the less the work administration is involved.”(B. Holthusen, 2005, p. 23)

All these difficulties revolve around different dimensions of the problem. Along with the general difficulty of finding a way to act adapted for young delinquents, these are primarily questions of the formal responsibility of a particular case, work structures that are barely compatible mutually, etc. The problem of knowing who is responsible for the schemes of a young person is always linked to the financial issue: Who is going to pay and for which measures? Without wishing to refer prematurely to the description of the BASIS project<sup>2</sup>, this project is nonetheless mentioned by way of example for illustrating one of the problems. With the young participants in the BASIS project who are still in prison, we are beginning to elaborate concrete future prospects and this well before they have finished serving their time. Concrete steps are undertaken during the final six months of detention such as, for example, looking for appropriate housing. But since, from a formal point of view, prisons are still responsible for housing, when the young person is not in a position to pay rent; numerous municipalities see no reason to put money at the disposal of a person for whom they are not responsible just so the individual might rent a flat. But there are also numerous other problems making cooperation difficult such as the protection of data, to mention just one.

As concerns the debate over the most promising prevention measures in Germany, the following section refers to an overall view that was drawn up for the conference of minister-presidents of the *Länder* of the German Forum for Crime Prevention (*Deutsche Forum für Kriminalprävention*, or DFK), of the German Youth Institute (*Deutsches Jugendinstitut*, DJI) and the police crime prevention of the *Länder*. Granted, it provides violence-prevention strategies in six different spheres of intervention but, as concerns strategies for child welfare and in the area of legal and police prevention, it is possible to find numerous parallels with crime prevention. (*Arbeitsstelle Kinder- und Jugendkriminalitätsprävention* (Ed.): *Strategien der Gewaltprävention im Kindes- und Jugendalter. Ein Zwischenbilanz in sechs Handlungsfeldern*. Munich, 2007)

In the description of child welfare strategies, Holthusen and Schäfer make the distinction between strategies aimed at potentially violent young people and those concentrating on work with young people who have already transgressed. Given the scope of the project on the prevention of young delinquents’ re-offending, only the latest trends must be presented here:

“Generally speaking, the institutional reactions, in the case of violent young delinquents, as well as all young delinquents, are marked by three principles:

- a) help has priority over the punishment;
- b) an informal procedure is applied before the formal procedure; and

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<sup>2</sup> see Chapter 3, example 3.

c) “ambulatory” procedures have priority in relation to stationary measures.’ (B. Holthusen and H. Schäfer, 2007, p. 151)

To apply these principles, all solutions are sought to avoid detention of young people and to take family and social conditions into account in order to find solutions to existing problems. Instead of prison sentences or prior to formal sentencing, first of all offers are proposed, such as classes in social behaviour, individual training in the socio-cognitive domain or finally anti-aggressiveness training. These classes are reserved primarily for young people who have committed crimes of medium importance.

“They must be confronted with themselves and their situation, their relation to violence and drugs, problems within the family, at school, in the workplace or with their partner. The classes in social behaviour are incorporated into the world of young people and are now well accepted in specialised circles as an alternative to community service, fines and placing minors under arrest.” (*ibid.*, pp. 151 *sq.*)

The possibility of putting young suspects up in specialised juvenile welfare establishments constitutes another form of substitution or shortening of prison sentences (see *ibid.* p. 153):

“In establishments allowing for avoiding being remanded in custody, specialists can work with the young people on their conflictual behaviour; they can guarantee compensation to victims or forming contacts with support networks for parents or young people. Help in organising daily life prepares young people for the future demands they will have to face in their training and in the professional world. The positive developments for young people triggered in these establishments can be taken into account by the juvenile court. There is thus a chance, even after serious acts of violence, for young people to avoid facing heavy penalties for which the high rates of re-offending have been calculated.” (*ibid.*, p. 151)

The third area in which re-offending prevention activities are carried out is work with young people sentenced to detention. Strategies of this type must begin sufficiently soon during detention in order to progressively organise the transition from detention to freedom (*ibid.*, p. 154).

Holthusen and Schäfer summarise the fact that the strategies and approaches regarding prevention in the area of juvenile welfare have increased considerably whilst diversifying.

“School, the police and justice have accepted youth welfare in the prevention against violence (as well as beyond) as an undeniable cooperation partner—even if this is not always easy. Youth assistance is “not always simple” at first glance for it considers violence amongst children and young people during their growth as an indicator of difficulties. It differs from public representations and perceptions mainly by the fact that, especially with incidents that make the front page, one separates crimes and the growth of minors from the environment and conditions in which the delinquents have grown up, which almost goes unmentioned. In the future [...] it will be important to no longer treat these areas separately but to bring them together into a single entity. Certain conditions, which, at the present time, still remain somewhat marginal, must be taken into account more intensively: the sex of the individual and his or her cultural origin.” (*ibid.*, p. 164)

But the fact that the aforementioned strategies generally intervene only in the form of pilot projects, whereas continuity would be necessary, is often considered problematical.

From the police point of view, numerous approaches relate first to general prevention work, in particular with schools. But also for this work with re-offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes, there are certain work approaches that can contribute to preventing re-offending. In that case, strategies evolve ‘here between prevention and repression, between the work of community policing with young people (*Jugendkontaktarbeit*) and the work of the CID with young people (*Jugendsachbearbeitung*) [...]’ (W. Steffen and R. Hepp, 2007, p. 187)

The work of community policing with young people, organised in a preventive way, tries to exploit the potential for ‘decisive significance [...] of the preventive use of the “crisis of being outstripped”.’ (*ibid.*) That means that the police try to point out to young delinquents, with reactions as fast and coherent as possible, the consequences of their acts in order to obtain a dissuasive effect. “The significance of a rapid, coherent police reaction during infractions of the rules as well as the type of contact between the police and children/young people are significant and lasting for future behaviour, as is shown by surveys conducted among young people on the effects of the first contact with the police”. (*ibid.*)

The ‘educational police interview’ was introduced in some *Länder* as a form of community-policing work with young people. During this interview, young people learn not only what the consequences of a crime they have committed will be but also discover the repercussions of other crimes.

The CID’s work with young people corresponds to a targeted application of police measures guaranteeing a balance between the necessary work of explaining the committed crimes, recourse to justice and the pedagogical concepts of dealing with problems. In some *Länder*, the police can also already initiate alternative sentences (see *ibid.* p. 188).

This overall view of current trends in prevention work strategies brings the second chapter of the report on the state of Germany to a close; it is followed by the description of three examples of concrete projects.

### 3. Concrete examples

This section is devoted to the description of three concrete projects representing part of the prevention programme aimed at young delinquents. In the first, the target group is made up of young people who have already lapsed into crime and are known by the police and justice without, for all that, having (yet) been sentenced to prison. In the second project, the target group is not made up of young delinquents but of the institutions in charge of them. In the framework of a pilot project, the institutions involved have examined the possibilities of improved cooperation for exploiting their prevention possibilities more effectively. The third is the BASIS project, which was created in Göttingen; it is aimed at preparing and accompanying young prisoners in the transitional phase towards freedom so as to reduce the probability of re-offending.

#### Example 1:

<b>Name of the project/activity:</b> Measures for learning social behaviour
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**Target group**

The measures for learning social behaviour are 'ambulant' group-teaching measures aimed at delinquent minors and young adults, pronounced by the juvenile court (in keeping with § 10, al.1, phrase 3, DPM No. 6). The classes in social behaviour are useful for groups of young people who frequently have relational difficulties amongst themselves and with others (difficulties expressing themselves often even through the crime they committed) and to whom can be offered an appropriate terrain of studies with group social work. Even though there are also classes in social behaviours suitable for all forms of detention, their acceptance in this context is that of an instrument meant for young people who have not (yet) served their prison service.

**Players:**

- Generally private juvenile-welfare organisms

These measures are applied in all large and medium-sized German cities and represent a common prevention instrument.

**Fundamental idea**

- The measures for learning social behaviour are one of the standard instruments allowing for avoiding prison sentences. They represent the basic principle of juvenile legal protection: 'help has priority over the punishment'. They are an attempt at avoiding the destructive effects of prison sentences whilst guiding young delinquents to begin work on themselves and their problems.

Participation in these measures is not voluntary and is ordered by the court.

**Objectives**

- The aim of group social work with young people in danger is to increase social aptitudes at all levels.
- Examination of the offence
- Thinking about one's own behaviour
- Learning strategies adapted to conflict resolution
- Reinforcement of tolerance towards frustration and endurance
- Development of taking responsibilities and the capacity to integrate into the community

**Description of concrete activities**

- The duration of participation is generally four to six months and includes 10 group evenings that take place once a week, an appointment on Saturday, as well as preliminary and concluding interviews.
- Six to ten minors/young adults can participate in the social behaviours classes.
- The class is run by teaching specialists.
- Depending on needs and necessities, additional individual interviews can take place during the course, with the young people as well as the parents.

**Sources of information:**

## Example 2

<b>Name of the project/activity:</b> Pilot project: cooperation in the case of young 're-offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes' <sup>3</sup>
<b>Target group</b> In this case, the target group has not been young delinquents but the establishments that work with them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the police</li><li>• justice</li><li>• juvenile welfare,</li><li>• schools</li><li>• child psychiatry</li><li>• training organisms</li><li>• job centres</li><li>• providers of basic insurance according to SGB II</li></ul>
<b>Players</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scientific accompaniment by the German Youth Institute (<i>Deutsche Jugendinstitut, DJI</i>)</li><li>• Representatives of the various establishments</li></ul>
<b>Fundamental idea</b> The pilot project is based on the fundamental notion according to which specific individual cooperation can allow for reducing the potential risk of developing a criminal career or, <i>a contrario</i> , the institutions and their actions have an influence on the development of young delinquents. Given the obvious difficulties in cooperation, it is advisable for the 'difficult cases', to determine, with the help of retrospective reconsideration of cases, where errors were committed in the cooperation by the establishments or where problems occurred, in order to establish a basis for the conception of optimisation solutions.
<b>Description of concrete activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In an initial phase, scientific accompaniment established an analysis of the weak points specific to the case concerned in the local institutional collaboration, in which bothersome factors and problems on the cooperation level were given prominence in particular. For that, particularly difficult cases of young re-offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes, considered failures since prevention was unable to avoid an ever-increasing number of later offences, were analysed retrospectively.</li><li>• For the analysis of weak points, all case files from the institutions involved were analysed. The results were presented to the representatives of the practical action in order to discuss with them as to the validity of the problems brought out.</li><li>• Subsequently, solutions were sought on the basis of the analysis on the local level—with the support of the <i>Land</i>—in hopes of avoiding, in the future, the problems detected thanks to concrete agreements and improved procedures.</li><li>• The implementation of the solutions mentioned is conceived in the form of an open process that has lasted beyond the end of the project's period.</li><li>• New solutions were developed for various points that posed problems such as, for example, attempts at an 'early warning system', determining the responsible establishment when several establishments are involved, etc.</li></ul>

<sup>3</sup> All the information on this project comes from Holthusen, 2004

**Sources of information:** B. Holthusen: *Modellprojekt: Kooperation im Fall von jugendlichen „Mehrfach- und Intensivtätern“*. Abschlussbericht der wissenschaftlichen Begleitung December 2004. Available at: [www.dji.de/jugendkriminalitaet](http://www.dji.de/jugendkriminalitaet)

### Example 3

**Name of the project/activity:**

BASIS - Integrative accompaniment on the release of young delinquents

**Target group**

The target group of the BASIS project is made up of young delinquents detained in open prison who take part in the project approximately one week before their release

**Players:**

- In charge of the project: cooperative project from the psychological care unit of Rosdorf Prison—department of the open prison for young people—and the recognised Göttingen youth assistance association
- Assistance personnel at the juvenile detention centre,
- On the sites where the young people return, competent interlocutors (e.g., training company, youth welfare service, job centre, social security bureau, juvenile legal protection, probation committee)

**Fundamental idea**

The project's fundamental idea is to help young delinquents organise the transition from the moment they finish serving their time to when they go back to a life of freedom. The concept is based on the hypothesis that most re-offending is committed during the first year following release and linked to the fact that young people, upon their release from prison, generally return to their social networks from before serving their time. As a general rule, these social networks are either the cause of the young people's problem or not stable enough to provide them sufficient support in access to the world of work, training, etc.

Consequently, help in accompanying this transition is necessary for allowing access to structures of assistance, references outside the previous personal network.

**Description of concrete activities**

- During their detention, young people are already housed in their future domicile and, for the time being, an assistance and reference personnel (collaborator from the juvenile detention centre) accompanies them.

During their detention, one still strives, if possible, to make them complete their studies. In the transition period to freedom, possibilities of adapted housing are jointly sought with the young people, and they are helped in finding important interlocutors. Contacts leading to a solid, steady relationship are formed jointly with competent interlocutors in the field (e.g. training company, child welfare service, job centre, social security office, legal protection of young people, probation committee). Over the long term, BASIS pursues the objective of creating systematic transversal networking. The early cooperation of all interested parties in the release improves the chances of lasting stabilisation and allows for using financial means advisedly.

- Up until now, the project has been implemented for approximately 100 young people and currently includes some 20 participants.

Sources of information: [www.jugendhilfe-goettingen.de/](http://www.jugendhilfe-goettingen.de/)

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