

Webinars of the German Congress on Crime Prevention – Concept

Webinars – What are they?

Webinars are live seminars which are provided online for a specific group of persons. Once they have registered online, participants of a webinar receive an access code with which they log in via their web browser on a set date. The special Webinar Web environment allows for a division of the screen in different side-by-side and one beneath the other windows. One (big) window shows the speaker during the presentation. A second window shows the power point presentation. A host may be displayed via a third window. Parallel to this, another window holds a chat forum which can simultaneously be used by the participants to ask questions or post comments in written form for all to see.

The advantage of webinars compared to usual seminars is their independence of location: speaker as well as participants may access the webinar from their PC workplace. A thematically connected group of persons that is spatially distributed may hereby be relatively easily reached, directly informed and brought together in dialogue.

In opposite to a mere procurement of information via texts or videos, the webinar offers the further advantage of interaction. Many detailed questions may directly be answered in the chat via a thematically trained moderation. The moderation is moreover supportive in that it asks the speaker in aggregate form the questions posed during the presentation to stimulate a discussion at the end of the talk.

On the other hand, the speaker may as well address questions to the audience and, for example, ask who already has prior experience with the topic. This question is answered by the participants via their keyboard. The results appear in a condensed way on the speaker's screen (or on the participants' as well) and offers a direct feedback. The participants may also communicate with each other by reacting on chat contributions.

Webinars are therefore a way of presentation that does not offer the direct face-to-face contact of a lecture, but which nonetheless allows for mutual communication, and that over long distances. Due to video recording, the contents remain available even after the actual implementation of the presentation.

Webinars of the *DPT-i*

The overarching task and objective of the German Congress on Crime Prevention is to display and reinforce crime prevention and related fields of prevention in an interdisciplinary, interdepartmental and broad societal framework. This is primarily done in the context of the annual national congress. The lectures and projects presented are subsequently comprehensively documented on the websites of the GCOCP and partly published in form of a book. The event contents are thereby available independently of the congress itself.

The associated *DPT-Institute* for applied prevention research moreover wants to, among others, intensify the dialogue between science, politics, administration, organizations and civil society concerning the outcomes of prevention research with the target of a stronger foundation of knowledge about prevention. The instrument of the webinar seems suitable for providing knowledge and stimulating an exchange beyond the actual congress.

Definition of Objectives

The webinars' objective is to initiate an exchange about new insights into (prevention) research and successful prevention strategies. This offer should bring together the actors in the field of prevention work outside of the congress so that new insights, challenges and experiences may be effectively communicated.

Target group

The webinars principally address the professional audience of the GCOCP. This includes all authorities in the field of prevention from administrations, municipalities, cities and urban districts, healthcare, child and youth services, justice, churches, media, politics, police, prevention committees, projects, schools, sport, associations and organizations, science and all other interested parties.

Topics

The webinars of the *DPT-i* are principally designed as a platform for exchange, i.e. as a medium to use by national and international actors in the field of prevention work. There should not be a given programme or curriculum. Instead, proposals for topics should be communicated to the *DPT-i* in form of an application.