

Introduction

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Introduction

The German Congress on Crime Prevention is an annual event that takes place since 1995 in different German cities and targets all areas of crime prevention: Administration, the health system, youth welfare, the judiciary, churches, local authorities, the media, politics, the police, crime prevention committees, projects, schools, organizations, associations and science. The desired effect is to present and strengthen crime prevention within a broad societal framework. Thus it contributes to crime reduction as well as to the prevention and the reduced risk of becoming a victim as well as fear of crime. The main objectives of the congress are:

1. Presenting and exchanging current and basic questions of crime prevention and its effectiveness.
2. Bringing together partners within the field of crime prevention.
3. Functioning as a forum for the practice, and fostering the exchange of experiences.
4. Helping to get contacts at an international level and to exchange information.
5. Discussing implementation strategies.
6. Developing and disseminating recommendations for practice, politics, administration and research.

Since its foundation the German Congress on Crime Prevention has been opened to an international audience with a growing number of non-German speaking participants joining. Because prevention is more than a national concern and should be focused internationally this step seemed crucial. Bringing together not only German scientists and practitioners but also international experts in crime prevention and therefore developing a transnational forum to foster the exchange of knowledge and experience constitutes the main focus of this approach. To give the international guests a discussion forum, the Annual International Forum within the German Congress on Crime Prevention was established in 2007. For non-German guests this event offers lectures in English language as well as other activities within the German Congress on Crime Prevention that are translated simultaneously. International guests are able to play an active role by presenting poster or displaying information within the exhibition.

This eighth edition of “International Perspectives of Crime Prevention” includes the outcomes of the 9th Annual International Forum which took place within the 20th German Congress on Crime Prevention on the 8th and 9th of June 2015 in Frankfurt/Main and gathered together about 3.000 people from the field of crime prevention in Germany and worldwide. The main topic of this congress was on the economics of crime prevention. We publish a short version of the Congress-expertise, written by Prof. Dr. Stephan L. Thomsen, in this book, as well as the concluding “Frankfurt Declaration”.

The GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) was very much engaged in this Congress. Deputy Director General Sectoral Department Karin Kortmann contributed to the opening panel with a short overview about the challenges for the work on prevention worldwide. Several initiatives of German development cooperation presented their activities in the frame of violence prevention. Examples of the use of (social) media in this field provided new insights and impulses. We thank the GIZ for their inputs and for providing us with English print versions of their sessions, which are included here.

We would also like to thank the Glen Mills Academie Deutschland e.V. for their cooperation and for again inviting prominent speakers informing the Congress-audience about the exemplified US-Juvenile Justice Reform. Two articles of this book are dedicated to this topic.

All articles in this book reflect worldwide views on crime prevention as well as the current status, discussion and research in crime prevention from different countries.

We hope to find a broad audience, interested in the upcoming events of the Annual International Forum as well as the German Congress on Crime Prevention. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.goocp.org>.

Claudia Heinzemann and Erich Marks

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