

Crime prevention in the framework of community policing in practice, exemplified for the State of Saxony-Anhalt (Germany)

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General aspects of successful crime prevention on a municipal level

- Prevention measures can be directly applied in the place, where problems occured
- Measures of communal crime prevention require certain data on current municipal offences
 - → empirical data give reason for the need for prevention activities (e. g. criminological analysis of the region)
- Police is not in any case the appropriate authority and not an "agency for problem solutions"
 (e. g. matters of youth education)
 - → Sometimes it is better to have the role of the participant instead of being the "first one in the ring"

Formal basis for crime prevention on a municipal level in Saxony-Anhalt



- State Cabinet decision on an initiative to intensify communal crime prevention (April 2004)
 - Objectives:
 - ♦ The municipalities should become more aware of their role for crime development
 - ♦ The municipalities should attend to a higher degree to their duty as security authorities
 - ♦ The cooperation between police and municipalities should be improved

A project in the district of Wittenberg: "Safe to school by bus with pupil companions"



Need for action:

There are only few schools in the district, so that the pupils have to ride long distances by bus and become frustrated.

Consequence:

- ♦ Children an juveniles don't make use of the seats
- ♦ Problems while getting on/off the bus
- ♦ Vandalism
- **♦ Theft of emergency-hammers**
- **♦ Dirt**
- Scrapping



Objectives:

- ◆ Empowerment of selected pupils as bus companions with regards to social competencies and mediation (2 companions per bus)
- Daily school bus tours in the district have to become more safe and less stressful for the pupils
- ♦ The driver can concentrate on his actual duties

→ Aim: Project widening onto entire Saxony-Anhalt in case of further success



- Tasks of the trained bus companions:
 - ♦ responsible for looking after the pupils in the bus
 - contact for the headmaster, teachers and bus drivers in case of problems occuring
 - ♦ to call pupils to order at bus stops
 - function of a behaviour role model



- Contents of the bus companion-training:
 - ♦ legal basis (e. g. privilege of self-defence)
 - **♦** Communication aspects
 - ♦ Self-assertion in situations of apprehended escalation
 - strategies to ward off opponent's attack





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Project partners involved:

- **♦ Ministries**
- **♦ Transport services**
- ♦ Mayors
- Municipal school department
- ◆ Police department
- ♦ German Red Cross

- Prevention trainers
- **♦ All relevant schools**
- social workers at schools



- Controlling of lastingness:
 - ♦ A fortnight after the bus companion training a meeting with all participants takes place
 - ♦ Next meetings quarterly
 - ♦ Training contents can be completed by experienced bus companions
 - ◆ An evaluation of the bus companion training is being planned



Thank you very much for your attention!

If you want further information, don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail:

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