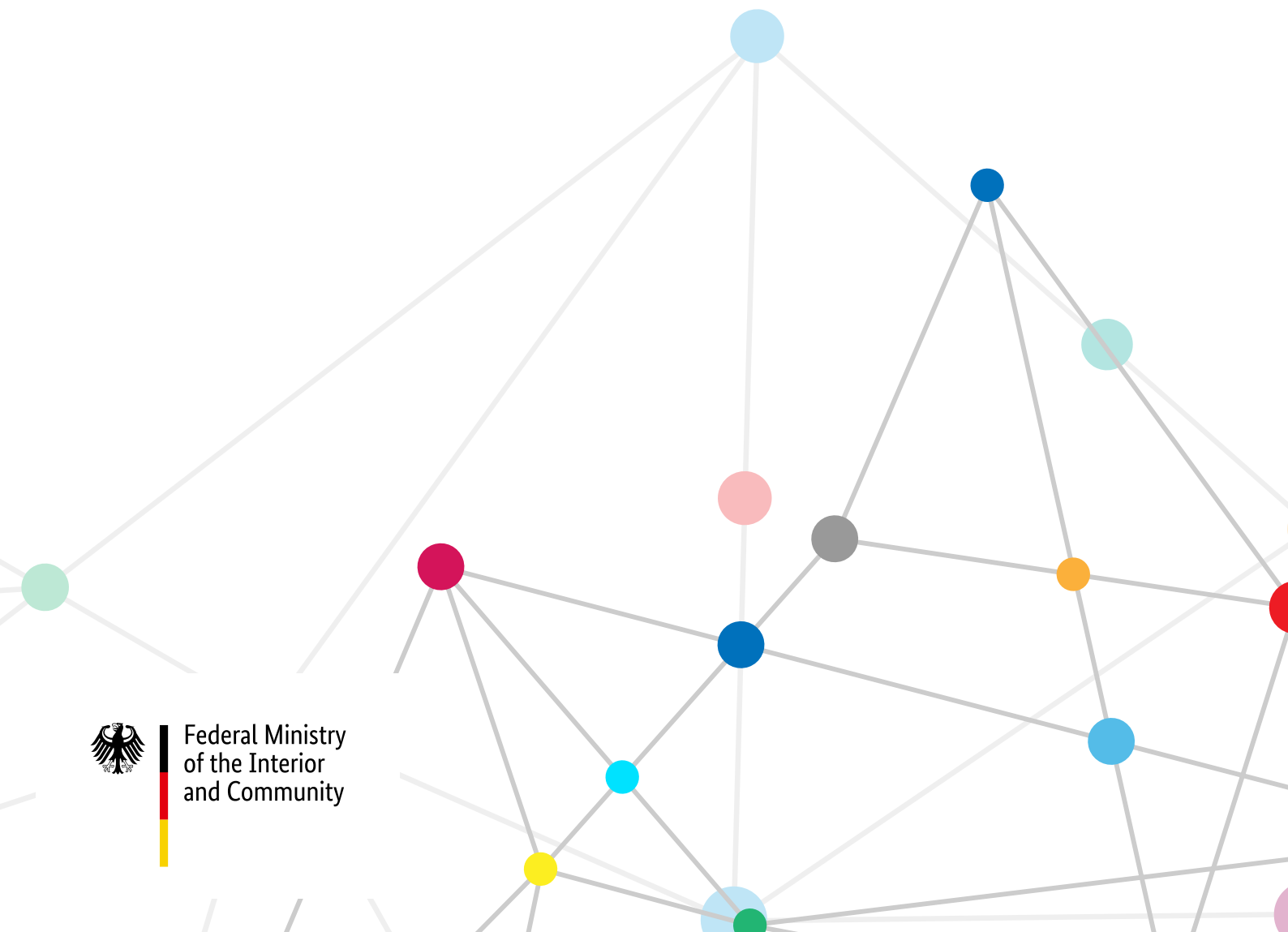*FINAL REPORT*

Model municipalities for deradicalisation "MoDeRad"

Final documentation with practical tips

Federal Ministry
of the Interior
and Community

Dear reader,

Germany is regarded as a global role model when it comes to extremism prevention and deradicalisation, in terms of both government-organised measures and wide-ranging, broad-based and professional civil-society efforts in this field. This plurality and diversity is invaluable, and it demonstrates our particular strength.

Fighting extremism is a challenge that we as a society must face together. In addition to preventing extremism, we must also work to reach those who already have extremist beliefs and reintegrate them into society. We must help them turn their backs on extremism. Deradicalisation is an integral part of a holistic approach to combating extremism.

The project "Model municipalities for deradicalisation", or MoDeRad for short, specifically focused on the key role municipalities can play, and the core objective of the MoDeRad project was to provide targeted support to different local initiatives that oppose radicalisation. Winning the fight against extremism means confronting it wherever it shows its ugly face. And this is particularly at the local level, in cities, towns and neighbourhoods. So I am very glad that so many municipalities are interested in the MoDeRad project. I find it very important to support their efforts to defend democracy against potentially violent elements opposed to our Constitution.

I would like to thank the model municipalities of Augsburg, Bamberg, Berlin, Essen, Heidelberg and Wolfsburg for their dedication: they have stepped up their deradicalisation work to an impressive extent in recent months and have had the courage to explore new avenues – despite the COVID-19 pandemic. This illustrates the nature of our work very well: extremism is constantly changing, always appearing in new guises, and our response must be equally flexible.

The experience of these model municipalities makes up the heart of this publication. I would like to thank them for their commitment and for sharing their experience with us.

I would also like to thank the members of the advisory council. They actively assisted both the model municipalities and the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community and significantly contributed to the success of the local projects and of the MoDeRad project as a whole.

MoDeRad demonstrated that municipalities are already taking advantage of many options for actively and bravely opposing extremism. We also learned that there are more areas where federal support can make a difference. For this reason, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community will continue to pay special attention to deradicalisation work at local level.

You have before you the final report on the project "Model municipalities for deradicalisation". I am certain that this report will make it easier for you to take action, and I strongly encourage you to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Faeser

Federal Minister of the Interior and Community

Content

Introduction

Deradicalisation work[1] can only be successful if it takes place where people live – in local communities. Supporting deradicalisation processes is a task which requires all members of society to pull in the same direction. The rural districts, towns and municipalities, authorities at state and federal level and civil society organisations must work together.

In 2021, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) supported six municipalities in trying new approaches for fighting extremism[2]. An advisory council with experts in various areas of deradicalisation work at local level assisted the BMI during this process (see chapter The advisory council). During the funding term, the model municipalities, the members of the advisory council and the BMI discussed the challenges and opportunities of local deradicalisation work.

This brochure provides you with the lessons learned by the six model municipalities. This collection is intended to offer suggestions and help municipalities throughout Germany to develop their own deradicalisation and prevention measures. The project's key recommendations for action and the lessons learned by the model municipalities and advisory council members are primarily directed at municipalities which also aim to implement or enhance deradicalisation measures[3].

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[1] "Deradicalisation work" means working with people who are already radicalised and who have, at least to some extent, developed an extremist worldview. It also includes working with their social environment. Deradicalisation work aims to help people permanently distance themselves from extremist thinking and action (Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, undated).

[2] "Extremism" refers to "activities ... which oppose our democratic constitutional state and its fundamental values, norms and rules, and aim to overthrow the liberal democratic order and replace it with one in line with the ideas of the respective group. Extremists often accept, promote and actually use violent means to achieve their goals" (Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, undated).

[3] The MoDeRad project made a distinction between prevention (preventing extremist attitudes) and deradicalisation (combating extremist attitudes). Public discussions often distinguish between three "levels" of prevention: primary prevention (universal prevention, e.g. through civic education), secondary prevention (selective prevention, e.g. directed at young people who spend a lot of time on extremist websites) and tertiary prevention (indicated prevention, e.g. directed at people with extremist convictions) (Hazim, undated). See also Greuel, 2020.

6

*model
municipalities*

- Islamist extremism
- Right-wing extremism
- Multiple types of extremism

*Municipalities applied
for approx.*

€ 67,000

in funding

Aims of the projects

- Building more efficient networks between local stakeholders
- Establishing local (referral) advisory services for radicalised individuals and their families
- Providing training for professionals, e.g. child and youth welfare workers or sports coaches
- Developing or improving local prevention strategies
- Listing local prevention and (de-) radicalisation structures

Key results

The project has shown that a wide range of municipalities aim to combat extremism and implement deradicalisation measures. Many of them would like to share ideas with other municipalities. The municipal projects also show how different the needs and approaches of the municipalities are. The project funding was based on a cross-cutting[4] perspective to allow the participants to gain a wide range of experience.

While the project "Model municipalities for deradicalisation" – or MoDeRad for short – explicitly focused on deradicalisation, it is not always easy to separate deradicalisation from prevention in real life.

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[4] "Cross-cutting" means that different forms of extremism were addressed. This is possible and sometimes helpful because different forms of extremism may have features in common (Jesse, 2002).
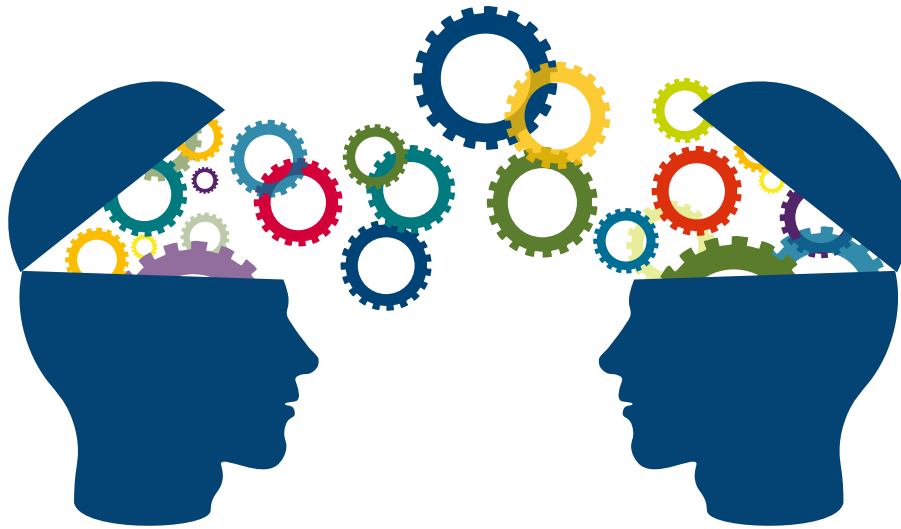
It was important to the BMI not to duplicate the work that is already done at state level but to add meaningful aspects at local level. MoDeRad has shown that municipalities have various options to do so, for example by

- *expanding networks* to raise the municipalities' awareness of radicalisation processes, possible interventions and contact persons or to involve specific occupational groups in deradicalisation work;
- *ensuring low-threshold[5] access to local contact persons and providing information on where to find further advice,* to assist people seeking advice on radicalisation and refer them to specialised advisory services if necessary; and by
- *offering training and organising information events* for occupational groups which come into contact with radicalisation in their daily work.

This brochure provides a comprehensive overview of the MoDeRad project. However, it cannot describe the project results right down to the last detail.

The BMI will be happy to answer any further questions you may have. Please send your questions to moderad@bmi.bund.de.

[5]   "Low-threshold" means that a specific service is easily accessible (e.g. because it is free of charge, available around the clock, accessible from the comfort of one's home, etc.) and that the emotional/social inhibition to use this service is low.

The model municipalities

Wolfsburg

Berlin

Essen

Bamberg

Heidelberg

Augsburg
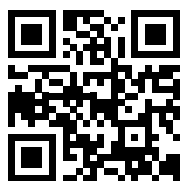
The model municipalities in the overview

The model municipalities wrote their own descriptions of themselves, and these descriptions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community.

Augsburg

MODERATION
Modulare Organisation der Deradikalisierung Extrem Rechter Ansichten – Task Force der Interventions-Orientierten Netzwerkarbeit (Modular organisation for deradicalising far-right views – task force for intervention-oriented networking activities)

1. Why did you apply? What did you want to achieve through this project?

Through this project, the City of Augsburg's office for local prevention work aimed firstly to offer low-threshold[6] counselling services and secondly to create structures for deradicalisation and prevention work in Augsburg which enable specific cases in the field of right-wing extremism to be handled as needed. The project's goal was to inform people in the social environment of individuals vulnerable to radicalisation about the signs of radicalisation and about the (deradicalisation) counselling services available.

Our society is in constant flux. In a world that seems to be growing ever more complex, where every person is expected to make numerous decisions each day, simple explanations can be particularly attractive. Casting blame and creating narratives of victimhood can make the social and political situation seem much simpler, drawing ever more people to right-wing populist groups. Such trends have been evident in Augsburg too, and remain so. At least since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on public life that it brought, we have noticed an uptick in *völkisch* nationalist and antidemocratic conspiracy theories.

[6]   See previous footnote.

Experts from European towns and cities who meet regularly as part of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) of the European Commission have noted two trends among right-wing extremists:

(1) An increasingly broad range of groups: this is evident among individuals considered right-wing extremists, while the traditional groups that dominated the far-right scene in the 1980s and 1990s are declining in relevance. Prevention and deradicalisation work faces the challenge of dealing with a heterogeneous array of groups.

(2) Changes in means of communication: in many cases, radicalisation no longer takes place exclusively through immediate personal contact with a group, but rather can transpire entirely online (social networks/forums/chat groups).

2. What have you achieved through this project? What experience have you gained through the project? What would you like to pass on to other municipalities?

The City of Augsburg's office for local prevention work has gained some new partners in the field of municipal work on radicalisation prevention. The key partners in this area are the Violence Prevention Network gGmbH (VPN), which serves as a cooperation partner; the Bavarian information unit for countering right-wing extremism (BIGE); and the Bavarian state coordinating unit to fight right-wing extremism (LKS). Through a media campaign and numerous workshops, the project also raised awareness citywide regarding the specific features of right-wing extremism and improved skills for dealing with radicalisation processes.

Cooperation between BIGE and VPN in the clearing procedure[7] is a unique feature of Augsburg's approach and was developed as part of the project support. Whether this approach can be established as a long-term casework structure remains to be seen – in the estimation of the office for local prevention work, it still needs to be tried out. In the first project phase, the project team made up of VPN and the City of Augsburg in cooperation with a variety of stakeholders

[7] In the context of social work, clearing generally means identifying the framework conditions for casework (e.g. what happened? Who is a part of the family? What other relatives are there? What institutions need to be brought in? etc.).

concluded that it was possible to build reliable relationships with clients beyond the project funding period (1 January to 31 December 2021). For this reason, we decided in close coordination with the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community to implement counselling for people in the social environment of those vulnerable to radicalisation (friends, family, etc.) in the form of a hotline.

The MoDeRad project was able to raise awareness of radicalisation processes in Augsburg and try out structures that considerably facilitate entry into deradicalisation casework. To develop deradicalisation work at the local level, it would be helpful to have a fixed state-level contact person for clearing[8], prevention and deradicalisation regarding right-wing extremism.

3. What do you wish you had known at the outset?

Because MoDeRad was scheduled to run for one year, it became clear quite quickly that there would be challenges in terms of what was feasible within this limited time.

It would certainly have been helpful to know from the outset how specifically the responsibilities for deradicalisation processes for right-wing extremism are currently being implemented by security authorities at the state level. This also affected the applicability of the Augsburg network of Islamist radicalisation prevention to right-wing extremism. At the same time, the experience gained can now contribute to further professionalisation of radicalisation prevention at the local level in Augsburg.

[8]   See previous footnote.

Bamberg
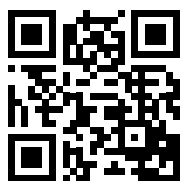
Bamberg Deradicalisation Network

1. Why did you apply? What did you want to achieve through this project?

The presence of many different extremist groups inspired us to expand our efforts to promote democracy and prevent extremism and to apply to MoDeRad with an approach applicable to different types of extremism.

Right-wing extremist groups such as Der III. Weg and the NPD[9] seek to draw attention to themselves and gain new supporters by regularly distributing flyers, setting up information stands and holding demonstrations in the City of Bamberg. In 2015, the police discovered that a section of the right-wing extremist Weisse Wölfe Terror Crew was planning attacks on the Upper Franconia AnkER centre for asylum seekers in Bamberg and prevented them from carrying out their plans. The groups known as *Reichsbürger* and

Selbstverwalter are also closely linked with right-wing extremism. In the Bamberg area, some 180 people are thought to belong to such groups.

Along with right-wing extremism, extremism by foreigners is also relevant to Bamberg, as a Graue Wölfe group is located here. Bamberg is also home to some local branches of organisations that are considered to be left-wing extremists or influenced by left-wing extremism and that are mentioned in the annual Report on the Protection of the Constitution. Beyond this, the arson attack on three Federal Police vehicles in 2020, which was found to have left-wing extremist motives, shows that in this area too there is potential for extremist activities in Bamberg.

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[9]   Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Verfassungsschutzbericht 2020 (2020 Report on the Protection of the Constitution), p. 86 ff.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a new movement took hold in Bamberg which falls within the newly defined category of "delegitimisation of the state relevant to the protection of the Constitution". This encompasses individuals who not only oppose the vaccination campaign and the public measures to protect against infection, but also spread antisemitism and conspiracy theories at their demonstrations. The chat groups used by such individuals also show their increasing radicalisation, which is cause for vigilance.

The aim of our project was to establish a permanent network which could give rise to forms of mutual support in deradicalisation work. The intention is for this network to develop over time and establish the broadest possible footing. The project sought to forge ties among the city administration, security authorities, the judiciary, religious communities, and representatives of the fields of education, academic research, culture, sport and business, as well as civil-society initiatives.

To implement the project, we also intended to create a contact point within the city administration that family members, teachers, employers, administrative staff, etc. can turn to when they see signs that a person in their immediate environment has undergone, or has begun to undergo, a radicalisation process. We planned to conduct the project in close cooperation with the Bavarian information unit for countering right-wing extremism (BIGE) and the Upper Franconia criminal police inspectorate (Z), with support from the Bavarian Criminal Police Office. We also sought to connect with other municipalities involved in deradicalisation work, in order to enter into exchange with these municipalities and to benefit from their experience.

2. What have you achieved through this project? What experience have you gained through the project? What would you like to pass on to other municipalities?

Participating in the MoDeRad project enabled us to engage more intensively with the topic of (de-)radicalisation. We successfully established a special point of contact in the city administration which enabled us to identify relevant actors and engage with them.

At our first informational and expert meeting, more than 70 participants from civil society, security authorities, religious communities, and the fields of social work and education came together to learn more about the project. Relevant specialist information from social work practitioners (Ufuq e.V.) and the research community (Department of General Psychology and Methodology of the University of Bamberg) was also included in the event. A moderated discussion also offered the opportunity for participants to share their expertise.

We established close ties with the relevant state-level authorities. Through these ties and through feedback from civil society, we were able to identify areas of action for deradicalisation work at the local level. This process has shown that in areas including education and social work, there is a need for awareness-raising and action regarding radicalisation and radicalisation processes.

This network-building also helped to strengthen civil society. It did so by bringing together the civil-society partnership Buntes Bamberg, which works against COVID denial and the radicalisation that arises from it, and the Chair of the Department of General Psychology and Methodology of the University of Bamberg, who provided the initiative with information about

the psychological context of conspiracy theories and their adherents.

We extensively promoted the contact point that is located in the city administration. It also became evident that considerably more time is needed before all those who could use this service are familiar with it and make use of it.

The factor of time should not be underestimated. For a municipality such as Bamberg, which has to date engaged with the issue of deradicalisation and radicalisation prevention only sporadically or not at all, it is important to provide sufficient time for building up structures. There should be an ongoing focus on what goals are being pursued through this engagement. It is indispensable to understand clearly what the limits of the municipality's capacities are and what tasks others are already doing or could take on. MoDeRad has helped us to recognise what options we as a municipality have to support deradicalisation work.

3. *What do you wish you had known at the outset?*

Over the course of the project it became clear that many individual actors had little if any notion of the concept of deradicalisation, and others defined it in varying ways. This makes it necessary to clarify this term at the outset and to frequently communicate one's own understanding of it.

Dos & Don'ts

Dos
- identify and include locally relevant actors
- specify one's own objectives
- provide enough timen

Don'ts
- compete with existing structures
- create unrealistic expectations for local deradicalisation work
- expect short-term results or "successes"

Berlin

Scan QR code to learn more on the model municipality's website:

www.trias-berlin.de

TRIAS Community

1. Why did you apply? What did you want to achieve through this project?

To date, there has been little awareness-raising about secondary and tertiary prevention or de-radicalisation work for health care professions[10] or active inclusion of them in such work.

In recent years, the idea that different approaches and services are necessary to reach radicalised people has become prevalent in disengagement and rehabilitation work[11]. Health care professionals can also contribute in this area. In the protected environment of contact with patients, they can encourage people to question their own lifestyle/life decisions, develop motivation to leave the right-wing extremist scene and set off on a new path in life.

2. What have you achieved through this project? What experience have you gained through the project? What would you like to pass on to other municipalities?

The Berlin project TRIAS Community by the Violence Prevention Network gGmbh offered advanced training and dialogue services to health care professionals. It was carried out as a sub-project of the psychotherapeutic support offered by TRIAS, which the Berlin state anti-violence commission (Landeskommission Berlin gegen Gewalt) supports as part of the state programme to prevent radicalisation.

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[10] This encompasses professions that engage with people's physiological and/or physical health, e.g. primary care physicians, specialist physicians, nursing staff, therapists, etc.

[11] Neither of these terms has a fixed definition. "Disengagement work" generally refers to support which members of various professions provide to individuals to turn away from extremist attitudes and the extremist scene. "Rehabilitation work" refers to support for their reintegration into mainstream society. This could take place, for example, after an individual is released from prison, after a lengthy illness or simply while they are a part of an ideologically isolated group.

As an initial step, TRIAS Community held discussions with disengagement and deradicalisation specialists to find out where, from their perspective, there are needs and opportunities for cooperation with health care professionals, as well as what the obstacles to such cooperation are. The following relevant professional groups with which networking and cooperation would be particularly advisable were then identified: psychiatrists and therapists – both those who work with adults and those who work with children and teenagers. These were the target audiences of our training and dialogue measures.

In 2021, TRIAS Community organised an event series comprised of three evening events with the topics "Children and families", "Religion and spirituality" and "Constructing gender". In conjunction with this series, TRIAS Community held workshops that dealt with substantive aspects of Salafist radicalisation and with psychotherapy concepts. Experts from a range of disciplines (e.g. culturally and religiously sensitive psychotherapy, sociology of law, and systems therapy) were invited to present brief assessments from their respective professional perspectives. This built bridges among the different perspectives and sparked discussions

Many psychotherapists and psychiatrists expressed interest, as did many specialists in prevention work and representatives of public agencies such as the police. Because more than 80 people expressed interest, we had to prioritise those who belonged to the actual target group of the events.

Four factors were particularly helpful for reaching these professional groups:

(1) the existing networks and knowledge regarding relevant structures and the contact people in the psychotherapy team of TRIAS Berlin;

(2) the possibility to have the events certified by the Berlin chamber of psychotherapists and to give the participants advanced training credits as an incentive for participating;

(3) holding the events in the evening, which made it possible for specialists to participate even if their working days in practices, clinics and institutes were busy and demanding;

(4) the selected lecture topics, which related concretely to psychotherapeutic and psychiatric work.

3.   *What do you wish you had known at the outset?*

For many participants, the impressions they gathered were too new for them to be able to discuss them in detail. In retrospect it would have been beneficial to open up all three events to non-therapists who are specialist practitioners in deradicalisation work. This would have made it possible for specialists to engage in discussion and dialogue that went beyond the expectations of advanced training.

Interdisciplinary[12] and cross-sector[13] professional exchange is greatly needed. This became evident at a larger dialogue event in Berlin on 28 September, where psychotherapists, psychiatrists, and representatives of public agencies, child protective services, the police and the justice system took part. The broad range of topics addressed gave us many ideas for our further work in 2022. This dialogue event made it possible to lay the groundwork for more intensive cooperation between TRIAS Berlin and professional groups in the field of psychotherapy and psychiatry. Numerous representatives of Berlin psychiatric and psychotherapy services are interested in advanced training and networking in this area.

Dos & Don'ts

1. When planning further training and dialogue events, it is important to identify precisely what the target groups of one's own work are. People and institutions that are part of these target groups can be incorporated into the planning.

2. Many people working in medical and care professions have long and unpredictable working hours. The planning and scheduling of events should be oriented to the realities of their work schedules.

3. Professional societies, publishers, regional institutions such as specialist clinics, university institutions, medical and therapy practices, and the responsible professional chambers can help you with planning.

[12] "Interdisciplinary" or multi-professional denotes a situation in which different professions deal with the same case or problem and engage in sharing to generate coordinated approaches that encompass a variety of perspectives.

[13] "Cross-sector" means that various sectors within the field of health care – for example, outpatient and inpatient care – are involved.

Essen
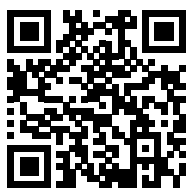
Scan QR code to learn more on the model municipality's website:

www.essen.de/moderad

dEASTrict21

1. Why did you apply? What did you want to achieve through this project?

In the Steele district of Essen, there is a group called the "Steeler Jungs", which has since 2020 been classified by the North Rhine-Westphalia Office for the Protection of the Constitution as a mixed milieu with right-wing extremist influence[14]s. We applied on the basis of the Essen municipal council's request for further prevention projects to be carried out in the field of right-wing extremism and for an action strategy for preventing extremism to be developed. In particular, district-level policy needs input and assistance regarding how to deal with this challenging local situation.

This mandate was based on a cross-party motion in the context of the situation in the Steele district of Essen.

On this basis, the youth welfare office and the municipal integration centre (Kommunale Integrationszentrum, KI) of the City of Essen developed the dEASTrict21 strategy together. The strategy's underlying principle is to approach those individuals who are interested in the group and the so-called "walks" its members take together.

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[14] The mixed milieu described by the state-level Office for the Protection of the Constitution is comprised of "organised right-wing extremists, members of the hooligan and rocker scenes and various disgruntled citizens" (North Rhine-Westphalia Office for the Protection of the Constitution, Verfassungsschutzbericht des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen 2020 [2020 State Report on the Protection of the Constitution], p. 126).

2. *What have you achieved through this project? What experience have you gained through the project? What would you like to pass on to other municipalities?*

The approach focused on three areas:

Approaching young people via sport

The field of sport offered many promising options for establishing contact: many sport clubs in Steele have a long tradition of playing **football**.

Martial arts: the idea was to develop a joint strategy together with the Essen police association which would offer an attractive alternative to the martial arts activities of the Steeler Jungs. This strategy was developed and presented. Implementing it and developing it further in the long term is the task for the coming months and years.

In **parkour**, the urban and natural landscape is used as a space for athletic training. This has enabled young people to express their appreciation and respect for one another and to notice the positive and appealing qualities of their neighbourhood. In stark contrast to the "walks" that the Steeler Jungs take, parkour accentuates togetherness and creativity.

Reaching out to parents

Because of the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the part of the project that involved reaching out to parents was implemented later than planned, beginning in autumn 2021. Nonetheless, it has become evident that reaching out to parents is important and will become even more important in future. Raising awareness among multipliers in institutions that educate children is the initial focus in this area. In the district, there is awareness that some members of the Steeler Jungs are parents, and that these parents' values are also present in educational institutions. This awareness is also growing in the institutions themselves.

Online outreach

After feedback from the MoDeRad advisory council, the project team adjusted the strategy to include research on activities of right-wing-extremist-oriented groups and joint reflection with young people on the internet as a site of radicalisation. We worked with the association Distanz e.V. in Weimar, which presented its "AHA" (anti-hate-bubble) approach to stakeholders in the City of Essen. Our project staff used this approach at the project days at a school in the Steele district of Essen, and the pupils were able to connect with it very well. Such an approach to prevention work is also being considered for the area of civic education for young people.

Action strategy on preventing extremism

We were not able to implement our work in the context of MoDeRad/dEASTrict21 as planned, because in recent months many approaches have developed in parallel in the district. We are, however, likely to be able to apply locally the experience gained through the practical approaches of our work.

In our view, the parkour project, which young people took part in in public spaces, was a success. It provided many opportunities for conversations with members of the public, who enjoyed watching the activity in public spaces in the district and welcomed the group's positive presence. The conceptual work done by an employee of the youth welfare office and a representative of the police sports club was a success. Unfortunately, due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to initiate a general discussion with the sport clubs on the topic of right-wing extremism in sports. The municipal integration centre and the youth welfare office will address this topic further.

An action day on sports in diversity and diversity in sports (Sport in Vielfalt – Vielfalt im Sport) showed us how difficult it is to engage this target group. We will also take these experiences into account in evaluating the project together with our cooperation partners.

3. What do you wish you had known at the outset?

The project ran for one year, which was very short. Nonetheless, in the City of Essen we were able to make very good use of the possibilities that MoDeRad offered us. What we experienced as helpful was not only the financial support and the opportunity to dedicate additional project staff members to this area and make use of their documentation of their work on it, but also the networking meetings that were held. By engaging in exchange with people responsible for such work in other cities and other federal states, we were able to gather ideas and impressions, incorporate their advice regarding approaches, and in some cases apply these approaches constructively. The exchange with experts through the project's advisory council was very positive and expanded our own local network.

In our view, dEASTrict21 met the requirements of the model project. We took on a lot of tasks, perhaps too many. The COVID-19 pandemic impeded many plans. But the fact of having to implement the project as one task among many others also prevented us from implementing some further steps. We will continue to work on this topic and will incorporate our experience with the model project into our future work.

Heidelberg
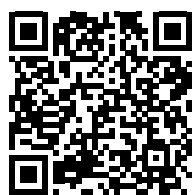
Deradikalisierung weiter gedacht – Heidelberg macht sich stark! (Going further with deradicalisation – Heidelberg steps up!)

1. Why did you apply? What did you want to achieve through this project?

The municipal and public order office of the City of Heidelberg implemented the model project Deradikalisierung weiter gedacht – Heidelberg macht sich stark! (Going further with deradicalisation – Heidelberg steps up!) together with the civil-society organisation Mosaik Deutschland e.V. We pursued the goal of linking existing local networks in the field of prevention and anti-discrimination work[15] with one another and including those active in deradicalisation work at the federal and state levels in local efforts. The application grew out of many years of successful prevention work in Heidelberg in cooperation with civil society, security authorities and the city administration.

2. What have you achieved through this project? What experience have you gained through the project? What would you like to pass on to other municipalities?

Along with network-building, spaces were created to raise awareness of (de-)radicalisation processes affecting young people across different types of extremism and to discuss methodological approaches in an interdisciplinary way. The project boosted skills for actively dealing with radicalisation and extremism and sought responses to current challenges. The way the project linked interdisciplinary perspectives from the fields of antidiscrimination, prevention and deradicalisation is a model that could be applied elsewhere throughout Germany. Underlying this approach is the assumption that familiarity with different theoretical and methodological approaches from different fields makes it possible to work with young people and multipliers in a comprehensive way that can be applied to

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[15] The term "anti-discrimination" denotes efforts and demands for systematic equal treatment. In academic discourse, it is used at multiple levels: to raise societal awareness of the problem and introduce legal sanctions; to introduce anti-discrimination strategies in institutions and organisations; to empower those affected by discrimination (Scherr, 2016).

different types of extremism, discrimination and violence. Shared thinking across different areas of activity generates synergy effects for practical work. These effects were harnessed, for example, in two workshop discussions with the working group on preventing extremism, discrimination and hate-based violence, which also included the Heidelberg anti-discrimination network. This included members of the city administration (Office for Equal Opportunities, Office for Schools and Education), civil society (WEISSER RING, PLUS e. V), security authorities (Mannheim police headquarters), the research community (Heidelberg College of Education) and educational organisations (LuCa e.V.). Institutions working with children and young people in and beyond schools were also included.

A variety of perspectives and needs were brought together in interdisciplinary small groups, where the following issues were discussed:
•   the potential of prevention work in terms of hate-based violence[16] and extremism;
•   interfaces and boundaries between anti-discrimination work, extremism prevention and deradicalisation;
•   challenges faced by the City of Heidelberg regarding radicalisation.

A key outcome from the project year is that we are to continue intensifying our methodological approaches and think about them together. In Heidelberg, exchange is ensured through the working groups on prevention and anti-discrimination. This shows that we have already succeeded in addressing prevention as a cross-cutting topic in many fields of social policy. The work of the police, the administration, the

research community and youth services is oriented to the long term and to working together.

Engaging critically with the foundations of anti-discrimination work, extremism prevention and deradicalisation work in terms of their methodology and substance can
•   ideally expand this work
•   and provide a comprehensive perspective,
•   but it can also reveal limitations. Awareness of this was frequently brought into play in the process.

Incorporating (de-)radicalisation into the working groups on prevention and anti-discrimination work and into the cooperation among different areas gave rise to the following questions on this interlinking:
•   What role do issues such as (de-)radicalisation play for stakeholders in primary prevention and anti-discrimination in the City of Heidelberg, and what role do these stakeholders play in these issues?
•   Why are a comprehensive perspective and the inclusion of different disciplines necessary?
•   Where is there potential for building bridges? Where is clear delineation needed?

Many of those active in prevention and anti-discrimination work have no contact with the topic of (de-)radicalisation. Due to lack of clarity about terms and concepts, people perceive their own tasks and activities as separate from processes of radicalisation, deradicalisation work and the associated interventions. This can also lead to hesitation, which makes it all the more important to start by establishing a common basic understanding of assumptions and structures,

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[16]   "Hate-based violence" here designates acts of violence that people commit on the basis of prejudices. Victims of such violence include but are not limited to immigrants and those perceived as immigrants, homeless people, elected officials, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

to remain in ongoing contact, and to avoid cordoning off (de-)radicalisation from the broader prevention landscape. This can help to reduce reservations, expand knowledge and generate synergies.

The project also identified topics of focus and needs of the local landscape of actors. Including current developments was clearly beneficial for the municipality. Key topics included but were not limited to:

- hatred, incitement and conspiracy theories (in digital media) as challenges for youth work;
- the growing loss of trust in our social and political system, which creates conditions conducive to radicalisation;
- ways to strengthen social cohesion to counteract growing polarisation;
- ways to avoid reproducing racism and discrimination in prevention and deradicalisation work.

Local actors also frequently mentioned the need for transparency about responsibilities. For this reason, support services are published on a **digital map** that includes prevention offerings in the City of Heidelberg and the Rhine/Neckar region as well as statewide and national actors in deradicalisation and distancing work. This map gives experts and multipliers as well as the general public an easily accessible overview of points of contact that they can turn to when facing issues related to hate-based violence, radicalisation or extremism. This boosts people's ability to act and helps to reduce uncertainty about these issues.

3. What do you wish you had known at the outset?

(1) Interdisciplinary professional exchange and bringing together different perspectives are beneficial for all sides and should continue beyond the end of the model project.

(2) Specialist terms and concepts (e.g. prevention, deradicalisation, group-focused enmity, criticising racism) must be translated into local structures and practical activities. Many actors are facing the same challenges, such that professional exchange and discussion of terms and concepts should be done in a way that is applicable in practice.

(3) Knowledge of and about one another is crucial. It enhances our capacity for action to counter extremism and hate-based violence.

(4) Successful local prevention work must be oriented to actual needs.

(5) It is necessary to overcome simplistic perpetrator-victim dichotomies and to boost civic courage and social cohesion.

The key insight gained is that prevention can only succeed if it is comprehensive. Bringing together all participating actors and all cross-cutting issues and providing moderation among them is essential. Changing attitudes takes time.

Wolfsburg

Scan QR code to learn more on
the model municipality's website:

www.wolfsburg.de/dialogstelle

Youth services in the context of Salafism/Islamism Developing suitable youth services in the context of Salafism/Islamism

1. Why did you apply? What did you want to achieve through this project? What have you achieved through this project?

In 2014, a large number of people from Wolfsburg travelled abroad to join the Islamic State (IS). As one response to this, in 2015 the City of Wolfsburg established an advisory service for extremism prevention in its youth department to pool local prevention work in a targeted way. Since then, women who had joined the Islamic State have been returning to Wolfsburg with their children, which has created other challenges for us. The region lacked specialised outpatient and inpatient youth services to work with the specific family environment of Salafist families. Across Germany, there are few examples of past experience with such work. Sustainable reintegration into society requires coordinated action among professionals in multiple fields. This is to be achieved together with privately run youth services which tackle the overall problem in a shared development process. In addition, the City of Wolfsburg wants to take effective action to achieve long-term resocialisation of families, also in order to prevent future waves of radicalisation and to protect younger generations from radicalisation.

The aim is to empower youth services to offer sufficient parenting and family support to children, young people and families who have contact with religious extremism. Developing effective outpatient and inpatient youth services for affected children of "returnee" families and their relatives, as well as for children from Salafist or Islamist families, should supplement other measures and contribute to resocialisation. This also means connecting youth services with existing prevention networks and services.

The City of Wolfsburg has acquired two private youth services partners for cooperation in and beyond the MoDeRad project: the Remenhof gGmbH Braunschweig and the youth and family services of the Arbeiterwohlfahrt-Bezirksverband Braunschweig e. V. A project group was established which was comprised of executives and staff of the local prevention work office, general social services, and the two private youth services partners.

The project group worked on the role of youth services in terms of relationship-building and multi-perspective support with a focus on the target group of extremist families, also taking into account conflicting goals in dealing with security authorities. It also dealt specifically with issues concerning communication channels, cooperation within networks, and the best interests of the child, and derived communication measures from this. This led to a strategy that serves as a foundation for the structure and content of further cooperation between the City of Wolfsburg and the two private youth services partners. An approach that can be applied to different kinds of extremism is also envisaged for the future.

2. *What experience have you gained through the project? What would you like to pass on to other municipalities?*

Carrying out the project under the conditions of the pandemic required careful planning and preparation, especially regarding the project start and the initial phase in the first months, which took place in an entirely digital form. Carrying out specialist training on the issues in the initial months and examining a broad spectrum of issues related to Salafism/Islamism from a pedagogical perspective proved to be an effective approach. The project group was able to familiarise itself with the issues well through the workshops and delve deeper into the material through in-person meetings beginning in June 2021.

The cooperation between security authorities, youth services and prevention work can be effective if communication takes place on an equal footing and the participants maintain their separate roles and tasks, Practical experience has shown that communication with security authorities should be led by supervisors. This can help avoid conflicting roles and protect relationships of trust in work with families.

The aim is to orient the process to the long term and not to view it as a temporary project, but rather to implement it as a regular family support[17] measure. We therefore focused on establishing cooperation structures, identifying interfaces, and making binding forms of cooperation possible, for example through cooperation agreements and coordinated workflows.

Prevention work should not remain limited to just one target group. A cross-cutting perspective should always be kept in mind.

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[17] "Family support" here designates a range of statutory measures for assistance in child-rearing, to which persons having the right of care and custody (generally parents) are legally entitled under section 27 of the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch) Book VIII. The specific measures included in this support are described in sections 28 to 35 of the Social Code Book VIII and include, for example, parenting counselling (section 28 of the Social Code Book VIII) and residential care (section 34 of the Social Code Book VIII).

3. What do you wish you had known at the outset?

A larger number of active youth services cases relating to Salafism would have helped us to draw more conclusions from our pedagogical analysis. This would have enabled us to discuss more comparisons in the case analysis. Nonetheless, we were able to implement structures and standards for our strategy and gather valuable experience.

Dos & Don'ts

Dos
- Cooperation on an equal footing: every project partner offers equally valuable expertise of their own. The tasks and goals of project partners should be transparent, and so too should their potential limitations.
- Social work is not a substitute for the academic study of Islam or for specialist prevention work. As part of youth and family services, social work plays an important role in the personal development of affected individuals and their ability to manage crises, which is helpful for deradicalisation work. That is why social education workers need to be supported in their role in the field of deradicalisation work.
- Create structures that incorporate youth services into networks of local prevention worn.

Don'ts
- The work of interpretation in case analysis should not be left solely to the security authorities. Representatives of all roles, tasks and fields of expertise should participate in case analysis on an equal footing.
- In the interest of preventing conflicting roles and conflicts related to data protection, in cooperation with security authorities, communication should not take place at the level of case processing/specific client relationships. Communication should be coordinated in compliance with data protection principles and be conducted via supervisors.
- Future cooperation should be able to be funded and implemented for the long term so that its success is not solely contingent on staff and financial resources.

The following tips are intended in particular for local governments that are either active in deradicalisation work themselves or wish to promote such work. They are meant as suggestions.

If you want to incorporate them into your deradicalisation efforts, please keep in mind that local conditions may vary significantly. You are best placed to judge whether the suggestions apply to the situation in your municipality

When planning and implementing your own measures, also consider consulting stakeholders who already work on a specific topic. Seeking out and consulting with partners is important in every phase. Partners include other municipalities, whose experience may be valuable for you, and in particular coordinating bodies and advisory services for deradicalisation and disengagement in the federal states. By coordinating with these bodies at state level, you can create synergies and avoid offering the same services twice.

The tips address the following three project phases: planning, execution and monitoring. This is the ideal workflow. In practice, it may not be possible to separate the individual phases and suggestions as distinctly from one another. You should also provide for an evaluation of the results if your project has a clear end point. However, in the MoDeRad project we have not collected feedback on experience in this regard.

Following the three phases, we will focus on two topics: data protection and public relations.

The tips emerged from experience gained by model municipalities and the BMI during the MoDeRad project, and the advisory council also contributed its extensive expertise.

Step 1: Planning

Getting an overview

When planning local deradicalisation measures, explore the situation – in the municipality and on your part. What could you use? Which approaches and stakeholders does the municipality already have? What is missing? This information is important to calculate and plan your budget and to apply for funding.

Analyse the situation in the municipality.
Look into the local issues and needs related to extremism and discuss them with people, authorities and initiatives that already know a lot about them or would like to address them as well. Solicit different perspectives from stakeholders and consider different dimensions that may play a role: is there anything special about the radicalisation cases, e.g. do they occur unusually often? Can they be attributed to a specific type of extremism (e.g. Islamism or right-wing extremism)? Are there extremist

groups or individuals in the municipality, and do they actively seek to recruit and radicalise others? Are there groups that (might) reject your project? Can you sufficiently support those who participate?

Based on these insights, you might be able to develop an initial hypothesis of why radicalisation happens and how it could be prevented and reversed.

Explore the skills and knowledge needed by potential target groups.
Discuss specific needs with the (potential) target groups. Do they need general knowledge about radicalisation processes or about specific types of extremism? Which skills do they already have, i.e. which skills could be used? Do local government staff or teachers need specific practical skills? Or do they want to promote or create a certain (advisory) service, e.g. for family members of radicalised individuals?

Clarify your task and the interests of stakeholders.
Take into account the activities and interests of various stakeholders in the area of extremism. This will help you map out more or less detailed tasks and approaches. What might be the objectives of your external funding provider?

Tip: Analysing local needs

Solicit expert knowledge from social workers, teachers, youth workers, civil-society organisations, (local) police and perhaps the federal state's domestic intelligence agency to understand the local situation and challenges.

You can also use or conduct scientific surveys on the local situation.

How do they align with your goals for the municipality? Have local policy-makers initiated deradicalisation work and assigned concrete tasks? Do all stakeholders in the local government and/or other funding providers share your needs assessment? Are stakeholders pursuing different (sub-)goals? If so, which ones? Are they part of your current mandate?

Practical example: Cooperation between different stakeholders

Wolfsburg:
The *Dialogstelle*: providing support and shaping policies to prevent extremism
Cooperation in Wolfsburg's steering group on crime prevention is a success story. The group discusses strategies and objectives of crime prevention and specifies quality standards and responsibilities for prevention projects. Members come from different authorities, including city councillors responsible for security and order, youth, education and integration as well as heads of police authorities and the local court. Executive agencies, including citizen services, youth services, the local public order agency and schools, are represented in the group as well. Although the individual stakeholders in the steering group have different objectives and practices, they agreed on common goals and preserved their specific roles.

The network of representatives from different levels and institutions helps the *Dialogstelle* gain a more complete picture of the current situation in Wolfsburg and promote the continued updating of the prevention strategy. The work of the *Dialogstelle* rests on many shoulders and is considered important. Over the past five years, the monitoring committee for the "Live Democracy!" federal programme has been chaired by Wolfburg's current member of the Bundestag, which underscores the importance of the committee.

Explore which services and resources are available.
Find out which services your municipality already offers and whether you could use services outside of your municipality (e.g. at state or federal level). Services available at local, state and federal level should be part of your plans. You should also start networking and reaching out to people and contact points who might be valuable for your work. Find out which personnel and financial resources are available: are staff available or do you have to hire new staff? What is your budget? Are there groups in your municipality which address similar topics (e.g. local prevention councils)?

Local government tasks

Article 28 of the Basic Law grants municipalities the right to regulate all local affairs on their own. There are two categories of tasks:[1]

1. Self-government tasks
Self-government tasks include mandatory tasks required by law and voluntary tasks. Municipalities decide at their own discretion how to fulfil the mandatory tasks.

2. Delegated tasks
Delegated tasks must be fulfilled in accordance with instructions given by a higher government level, i.e. they are mandatory.

This means that municipalities have four types of tasks[2]:
A) Voluntary (self-government) tasks: the municipalities decide whether and how to fulfil the task, e.g. culture and sport.
B) Mandatory self-government tasks: municipalities must fulfil these tasks but are free to decide how, e.g. youth services, gender equality. Often, they must comply with defined quality standards.
C) Mandatory tasks to be fulfilled upon instruction: municipalities must fulfil these tasks in a pre-scribed way, e.g. police, forest office.
D) Delegated tasks: municipalities serve as the lowest level of (federal state) administration, e.g. elections, registry office.

Rural districts fulfil tasks which municipalities cannot manage, e.g. public transport, hospitals[3].

Municipalities receive revenues from taxes, fees and charges (e.g. entry to swimming pools, wedding fees) and federal and state grants, each with a share of about one-third[4].In times of budget consolidation, voluntary tasks are often reduced or completely given up[5].

[1,3] Pötzsch, 2009;   [4] ibid.;   [2,5] Heinrich Böll Stiftung, undated.

Tip: Role of policy-makers

Policy-makers are involved in the planning process to varying degrees.

There are advantages and disadvantages to both low and high levels of involvement: a clear vision can help you set up new projects as it allows you to plan each step of execution in detail, having a clear-cut goal ahead. With more abstract task descriptions, however, it is easier for you to include different perspectives and perceptions when planning and executing your project.

When talking to (political) decision-makers and other stakeholders, you should consider how each of them views your project. Make sure to present your perspective clearly so that the person you are talking to can support you.

To receive support from policy-makers, you might want to talk about your work also outside formal events. This way, you make your work visible and help others better understand who you are and what you do.

Questions to ask when planning your project
As soon as you have a good grasp of the situation, you should answer some essential questions about where you are headed. Your answer will depend on or at least be influenced by the situation you encountered.

Define your target group(s).
To define the goals and purpose of your deradicalisation measure, you should know who your target groups are. You may pursue different goals depending on the target group. For teachers, for example, your goal might be to raise their awareness of extremist ways of thinking and acting and to empower them in the classroom. For family members of radicalised individuals, you might want to recommend a specific advisory service. Also think about whom you will not reach or do not want to reach.

With all of this in mind, define the goals and purpose of your project.
When planning local deradicalisation work, you may come up with different goals such as informing local government authorities about radicalisation processes and creating a central point of contact in the municipality. From your analysis of the local situation you learned which types of extremism are present. Now you decide which of them you will address.

Tip: Focusing on one or more types of extremism

Whether your measures should focus on only one or rather several types of extremism depends on the local situation and policy priorities as well as on the needs of your target group. You can also base your decision on whether and how to address a certain type of extremism on the level of prevention (primary, secondary or tertiary prevention; see p. 7).

One argument in favour of including more than one type (e.g. Islamist and right-wing extremism) is that radicalisation processes may be very similar. Radicalisation is generally preceded by a personal crisis. Adopting extremist attitudes, carrying out extremist actions or joining extremist movements may seem like a viable solution in such a situation. The assistance offered may therefore be similar as well.

At the same time, remember that prevention requires specialised knowledge about each type of extremism, not least to be able to assess radicalisation as accurately as possible. Still, professional skills, e.g. from social work or psychology, may well be applicable to different types of extremism. Moreover, different networks may address different types of extremism.

When planning your deradicalisation work, take into account local needs, resources and networks of contact points, e.g. when referring cases.

Depending on the situation, you should write down the purpose and the specific goals of your planned measure(s). Spelling out your goals will help you measure your progress and account for your success when executing your project. We know from experience that various individuals and institutions may define extremism differently. You should ask the stakeholders how they define the different types of extremism. Also share your definition so that everyone is on the same page.

Set specific goals and define criteria for measuring success.

You should word your goals in such a way that you can easily track what you have already achieved and what your next concrete steps will be. You can set interim goals which make it easier for you to identify and take the next step. Make sure that your goals are realistic given the possibilities and resources you have. You should also distinguish between short-term and long-term goals. A popular tool to define your goals is the SMART[18] method. It helps you develop key indicators for your measure's success. Indicators might include the number of information events and surveys on professionals' ability to act.

Allow for quality management.[19]

Now that you know what your goals are and how you want to achieve them, you can specify criteria for measuring the success of your project (see "Tip: Setting goals"). This will allow you to check whether you are still on track. Keeping quality management in mind during planning and throughout the process has many benefits, including when setting a budget. Depending on your needs and possibilities, quality management may have different components, e.g. self-evaluation or external evaluation[20], accompanying research or systematic monitoring[21] of the measures.

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[18] The President of the Bundesrechnungshof as Federal Commissioner for Efficiency in Public Administration, 2016.

[19] "Quality management" means that you ask yourself from time to time whether the measure is working out as planned or whether you should change or modify things or develop/try a new solution.

[20] "Evaluation" means taking the time to assess what worked and what did not.

[21] "Monitoring" means regularly stopping to look at how your measure has recently developed and how to proceed from there.

Tip: Setting goals

Using the SMART method, you can set specific goals. This makes it easier to measure success and creates a common understanding of where you want to go. If you are able to precisely describe your goals, you will most certainly have deeply thought about needs, target groups and the effects of your measure.

A goal is SMART if it is
- specific (concrete, clear, precise and unambiguous);
- measurable (verifiable criteria);
- appropriate (meets needs);
- realistic (achievable in a certain amount of time with available resources); and
- time-bound (clear deadlines).

Practical example: Bamberg
[specific]
Identifying potential network partners and making them aware of the planned project.

[measurable]
Identifying at least three partners each from the city administration, security authorities and religious communities as well as at least two partners each from the areas of education, culture, sport and other civil-society groups.

[appropriate]
Providing the identified partners with detailed information about the project and asking them whether they would like to cooperate.

[realistic]
Identifying partners based on previous experience and by involving the city administration ...

[time-bound]
... at the beginning of the first quarter of 2021.

Practical example: Quality assurance (evaluation, accompanying research, monitoring)

Bamberg: Self-evaluation after an event

The aim was to gather feedback on how participants perceived the planning and delivery of the event (programme/schedule). To do this, Bamberg sent out an evaluation form. Despite the low response rate, the city was able to extract valuable information from the feedback.

The evaluation offered participants the opportunity to influence the topics and organisation of future events. For example, participants suggested
- inviting speakers from the region or federal state;
- focusing on one major topic instead of many individual topics; and
- discussing questions with participants in the plenary session.

Bamberg will use its evaluation method also for future events and will fine-tune it accordingly. By doing this, the city can align coming events with the interests of network partners, in terms of both programme and organisation.

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (FoPraTEx) network for the transfer of knowledge between researchers and practitioners in the area of Islamist extremism

From 2019 to 2021 the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) funded the FoPraTEx network of research fellows. FoPraTEx is an acronym for *Forschung-Praxis-Transfer im Phänomenbereich islamistischer Extremismus*. Most research fellows were employed by civil-society and government advisory services for those in the immediate social environment of people potentially becoming radicalised as Islamist extremists. Thanks to their local connections, the research fellows were able to identify areas in the practitioners' daily work that required further research and to help develop suitable advisory services by contributing research findings that matched practical needs. New findings were shared within the FoPraTEx networks during regular meetings. Through conferences and publications, the findings were made available to other advisory services and experts as well as the interested public.

The advisory services found great value in the work of the researchers they employed in their local offices. At the same time, however, working with the researchers required advisory services to invest a lot of time and effort, e.g. for interviews carried out to collect data, even though additional staff had been hired. This should be taken into account when establishing accompanying research and calculating the necessary resources. More challenges and good practices will be described in the second FoPraTEx publication.

Talk with your internal and external partners about your tasks and the limits of your own work.

You should discuss which tasks your local measure(s) will or will not include. As a rule, the activities of the state advisory services for deradicalisation and preventing extremism define what can be done in the municipality. Your work will also affect the work of the police, youth services, integration services and many more, each having their own mandates and tasks. A new prevention service should fit in and fill a gap, so let these partners in on your plans.

You should communicate your task(s) – inside and outside of public administration - clearly and with your interlocutor in mind to avoid misunderstandings. If you are clear about your tasks, you can easily adapt your task description to the way other experts think and communicate. For example, security authorities and social workers may mean different things when talking about "threats". What social workers understand by threats to oneself and others is not entirely the same as what the police understand by that term.

Choose a suitable way to carry out your measure, make arrangements in your municipality and ensure clarity.

Civil-society services or the responsible city administration may carry out your measure. It is also possible to have civil-society services and local government staff work together as a team. In any case, you should be clear about responsibilities, communication channels and processes. The lead local authority should also specify and clearly communicate the rules for civil-society engagement to avoid misunderstandings. Agree to share information regularly.

Potential and limits of local deradicalisation work

Local deradicalisation work has its limits where federal or state authorities fulfil the related tasks. Many federal states have their own advisory and coordination services for deradicalisation. They are at the centre of sustainable deradicalisation work and therefore essential network partners. You should consult with them closely.

Practical examples see following page.

Practical example I: Heidelberg

Before its pilot project started, the City of Heidelberg took the Competence Centre against Extremism in Baden-Württemberg (konex) on board as a key network partner for project planning. The project made the responsibilities of local and state stakeholders more transparent and promoted synergies. For example, local cooperation with a civil-society service helped overcome reservations by civil society and experts about deradicalisation work of the state government. At the same time, the state authority benefits from networking with the municipality, which is valuable for guiding people through disengagement processes in their own social space.

Practical example II: Bamberg

In Bavaria, deradicalisation work in a narrower sense is carried out by security authorities at state level, namely the Bavarian Criminal Police Office and the Bavarian Information Centre against Extremism (BIGE). The City of Bamberg supports their work through a local administration contact point which responds to requests about the local situation, mediates between security authorities and the city administration, and refers requests to partners from the local deradicalisation network. The contact point also helps those noticing that someone they know is becoming radicalised find the right advisory service, e.g. at state level.

In addition, the contact point organises awareness-raising events for public service staff, teachers and other relevant groups in cooperation with state authorities.

Practical example III: Wolfsburg

The City of Wolfsburg coordinates with prevention stakeholders working at a supraregional and state level in a working group (Arbeitsgruppe Kommunikationsmodell). The working group discusses current issues and developments in Wolfsburg related to extremism. Meetings take place twice a year. Members of the working group include state organisations such as the Lower Saxony Criminal Police Office, the Returnee Coordination project[22], the Lower Saxony domestic intelligence agency, the Prevention Council, the beRATen advisory service as well as local organisations such as the Regional State Office for Schools and Education, the Wolfsburg police, the youth department (advisory service for extremism prevention; general social services), the schools department and other departments depending on what is needed, and youth welfare services in the context of Salafism/Islamism.

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[22] "Returnee Coordination": When people return from the former territories of the so-called Islamic State to Germany, various government and civil-society organisations take action. In six federal states, the BAMF established services to keep track of the overall process and to coordinate cooperation between authorities (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), 2020).

Tip: Public authority or civil society

Anchoring deradicalisation work in the city administration allows for faster access to local contact persons and makes them aware of the issue. However, this may (often) require creating new tasks, increasing the workload for staff. You should consider this and clearly assign responsibilities in the municipality. Also take into account the local organisational and work culture. One option might be to assign the task to a specific unit in the city administration.

Cooperation with civil-society organisations may also have many benefits. It could make it easier to try out different approaches through projects. Civil-society stakeholders may also have better access to the target group since the threshold for contacting them is usually lower than for contacting public authorities. However, make sure that structures and communication remain independent from civil-society organisations.

Practical example: Heidelberg

The Heidelberg pilot project was managed by the municipal and public order office and executed by the civil-society organisation Mosaik Deutschland e. V., creating access to both networks. Through these networks, the project team was able to communicate the project's significance and agenda to both local stakeholders and political bodies.

Deradicalisation is a complex process. It requires a strong and diverse network of local policy-makers and civil society. If coordinated well, this network can be a stabilising element and build trust among those living in the municipality. Moreover, the strong involvement of the civil-society organisation is a manifestation of the idea of public participation.

"Conclusion: Tapping into the networks of the municipal and public order office and of Mosaik Deutschland e. V. was beneficial to the project."

Joint statement by Doris Ratz-Selzer and Jana Aslan-Moor
(project managers in Heidelberg)

Deradicalisation structures can be built through projects (i.e. temporarily and outside the regular organisational structure) or within regular local government bodies. You should decide on this in the planning phase and clarify responsibilities.

Tip: Deradicalisation work as a project

Trying things out in a project setting has the advantage of not interfering too much with existing structures. This could make deradicalisation work more agile and involving relevant stakeholders more flexible.

Anchoring deradicalisation work within existing local government structures, however, may increase its impact as long as tasks and cooperation within the regular structures are well-coordinated. If your measure is a voluntary task, the greater creativity this allows may come with a struggle for recognition.

Step 2: Execution

After planning comes execution. You will most likely have to adjust your schedule and planning here and there for various reasons.

Build confidence and trust.
Task descriptions and agreements make those involved more confident about what to do. However, for your planned measure to succeed, it is still crucial that stakeholders get to know each other and build trust. This might take a while. Seeking opportunities for personal contact can be helpful here.

Factor in some teething problems when implementing new ideas together, even if you have cooperated before.
You can and should draw on existing work relationships, e.g. in the city administration or with civil-society stakeholders. You may have to find new ways of working together or modify existing processes, for example because tasks and goals have changed. Such adjustments may create uncertainty among stakeholders. Be outspoken, transparent and pragmatic about uncertainties related to roles, tasks and responsibilities – your own or those of other stakeholders.

Take into account the specific skills and needs of experts in local institutions and associations.
Social workers, mental-health professionals and educators have a lot of specialised knowledge and skills that may be useful for prevention and deradicalisation work. These experts are therefore a valuable resource. As they are not likely to encounter radicalisation and extremism on a regular basis in their daily work, you can offer ways to increase professional confidence when executing your project. Advanced training, peer consulting and working groups may help convey expert knowledge, find the right contact persons and create mutual understanding of each other's roles. You may be able to use existing infrastructure (governmental or non-governmental bodies; a popular youth club; an advisory service; or a popular social media channel) for your new measure.

Practical example: Developing a specific action plan for professionals

Wolfsburg: Involving child and youth services in the context of Salafism

In the past, a large number of persons travelling to join IS came from the City of Wolfsburg. This means that Wolfsburg has recently had to deal increasingly with those returning from IS and their children. Specialised youth services in and outside of youth welfare institutions were lacking until recently. In order to (re-)integrate these families into society and to prevent them from becoming radicalised again, the City of Wolfsburg and non-governmental providers of youth welfare services have developed a programme which creates and regulates links between child and youth services and prevention. The aim is to enable the providers of youth welfare services to offer this target group adequate family support.

In this context, the stakeholders involved addressed questions regarding communication channels, cooperation networks and child welfare aspects and developed appropriate communication measures. This evaluation showed that the child and youth services may pursue goals that conflict with those of the security authorities, in particular with regard to building relationships and providing multi-perspective support. These conflicting goals must be addressed and reconciled. The cooperation between child and youth services (providers of youth welfare services and youth welfare offices), prevention stakeholders at state level and security authorities can succeed if they communicate as equal partners. At the same time, the different roles and tasks of all stakeholders must be respected and taken into account. According to the experience gained over the course of the project, communication between child and youth services and security authorities should be led by the supervisory staff of youth welfare institutions to prevent conflicting roles and to ensure that the General Social Services (*Allgemeiner Sozialer Dienst*, ASD) staff and non-governmental providers can maintain their clients' confidence.

Expert dialogue format

The City of Wolfsburg has developed a dialogue format, *Expert*innendialog*, to enable professionals from different institutions and departments to share information on all types of extremism and the development of local expertise in what is known as "multi-professional" exchange. The forum aims to raise the participants' awareness of extremism and to discuss potential developments of this phenomenon in Wolfsburg. Furthermore, the advisory office for extremism prevention (*Dialogstelle Extremismusprävention*) uses the forum to present radicalisation cases in anonymised form and provide practical recommendations for action. By promoting the topics and role of the advisory office for extremism prevention, the participants serve as multipliers and provide their teams with expert suggestions. The forum is intended to raise their awareness and ultimately enable them in the long term to hold a dialogue in conflict situations within clearly communicated personal and professional limits with regard to values and norms.

Describe your work to potential partners and affected stakeholders.

Experience shows that those working in the area of prevention/deradicalisation may have differing perspectives and levels of background knowledge. Be prepared for this and use conversations about your projects to explain the needs, your understanding of prevention/deradicalisation, and your approaches and expectations regarding the impact of your measures. This applies to conversations within the institution where you work and with other stakeholders in public order/security authorities, in civil society, and at local, state or federal level. Please also keep in mind that, depending on your target group, you want to address people who might not have come into contact with extremism yet. Think about how you can explain to the person you are talking to what you do and what your goals are.

Try to promote your work.

Also bear in mind that dealing with radicalised individuals may only be one among many relevant topics for your target group. It is therefore possible that certain stakeholders have little interest in extremism prevention and deradicalisation and/or expert advice. However, this does not mean that this topic is less important.

To understand the structures they are using and their ways of thinking and acting, it may be helpful to put yourself in the position of the person you are talking to. This will allow you to clearly identify and tailor your project to the specific needs and interests of different occupational groups (e.g. with regard to the orientation, format, wording and duration of your project).

Tip: Dealing with relativising attitudes/a lack of interest from potential network partners

It may occur that potential local network partners relativise and play down the situation. In this case, you should try to find "allies" who might already be actively involved in the local community. This could help you to strengthen your position and maybe to find alternative partners or a new basis for cooperation with your original network partner.

Potential "allies" could be stakeholders at state level or individuals affected by extremism (e.g. persons affected by racist or antisemitic violence). It can also be worthwhile to reach out to representatives of civil-society partnerships even if – or because – they often view the situation from another perspective. If your project addresses topics that are relevant at local level (e.g. public security), this might already come into conflict with extremist strategies which seek the favour of the public and thus also of potential network partners who might be working in other areas than direct extremism prevention.

Addressing certain target groups (e.g. radicalised individuals) can be difficult or problematic for funding providers and authorities, for example if you address a specific topic on a website or if your target group considers your text very provocative. You should therefore think very carefully about how you can attract and maintain the

attention of your target group. For example, you should consider and consciously decide whether to use the funding provider's logo or not.

Be prepared for resistance and criticism because radicalisation in particular can become a controversial issue for municipalities.

Stay flexible. Expect change and deviations.
A good plan is important, but you cannot anticipate everything. Depending on the current local situation, you may have to identify a new target group or adjust, develop or restructure the way in which you address your target group completely or in part after launching your project. Clearly inform stakeholders involved about necessary changes, involve funding providers

and policy-makers if necessary and adjust your public relations work accordingly.

Careful preparation is needed to make your project a lasting, integral part of municipal structures.
The workload and diversity of tasks your staff has to deal with can render it difficult to make deradicalisation work an integral part of locally responsible authorities and agencies. Complications can also arise if you want to integrate projects into the local administration, as this will generate new tasks. Clearly define the specific responsibilities of everyone involved. You should consider the specific formal and hierarchical aspects and structures of the specific areas such as child and youth welfare services when you try to find solutions. Also take into account the organisational culture, i.e. the unwritten laws, norms, goals and rules.

Practical example: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Contacting the respective target groups was difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with regard to outreach work. It was often impossible to develop digital formats quickly, and/or they do not have the same effect as personal interaction and local confidence-building measures. It is difficult to overcome this challenge. If it cannot be mastered, the resulting capacities could only be used to develop new approaches.

Expert discussions with local stakeholders ((primary) schools, child day-care centres, advisory services, the local public order agency, state security, teachers, socio-psychological services, refugee assistance services, etc.) help to provide new inspiration and to identify the special needs caused by changed conditions.

Step 3: Project monitoring

To be able to regularly check whether your project is going well and whether new goals are needed or the original goals should be reformulated, and to make necessary adjustments, you should already plan quality assurance measures during the development phase of your project. There are different quality assurance options which may include involving scientific expertise, for example in the form of evaluations. Use the options that work best for you.

Do not be afraid of having your work evaluated.
Do not be deterred by terms such as "evaluation" or "scientific monitoring". These terms sound complex and like a lot of work; however, some quality assurance measures require fewer resources than you would expect. These measures can also improve the quality of your project. Think about what you can do locally with the resources and knowledge you already have. For example, if you host or attend an event, you could ask the participants questions at the end of the event or you could conduct needs assessments as part of a university seminar.

Define your goal indicators.
You have already done the work of clearly defining your goals and the necessary steps to reach these goals. Based on this work, you can now define goal indicators – values you can measure to check whether you have achieved your goals or milestones. This will help you to actually achieve what you set out to achieve and will also prove your progress to other people and promote your project based on these values.

Use academic expertise to understand the local situation and needs.

Many academic institutions and civil-society initiatives address the local situation in one way or another. Do they already have the data you require, information on a potential target group or specific knowledge, for example on the wishes of the people living in a given neighbourhood? Cooperating with these institutions and initiatives could provide a scholarly underpinning for the (further) development of your project and help you to identify synergies. Local higher education institutions (universities or universities of applied sciences) often have this expertise. For example, students taking part in a research project could conduct surveys for the benefit of both the research community and practitioners.

Practical example: Using academic expertise

Bamberg: University cooperation
The city of Bamberg aims to involve the local university in deradicalisation work at local level to provide the relevant stakeholders (e.g. from the areas of law enforcement, youth work or other social services) with the scientific findings that can be helpful for practitioners.
For example, the head of the Department of General Psychology and Methodology provided the Bamberg deradicalisation network with input on psychological aspects of conspiracy theories and the people who believe in them.

Evaluation is a permanent process you should perform regularly. This gives you the opportunity to intervene and to respond to new methods and information on your target group, etc.[23]

Use quality assurance as a permanent, productive process.
You should regularly repeat whichever form of quality assurance you want to carry out. The results will help you to derive conclusions for your work and to decide whether or how you should change certain elements of your project.

Focus topic: Data exchange in case handling

Issues related to sharing data have an impact on cooperation in the field of deradicalisation. If you discuss specific cases verbally or in writing with someone else and mention personal data (e.g. discussing individual cases, sending data to other advisory agencies, etc.), cooperation between the different stakeholders is governed by data exchange regulations. Knowing the existing data protection regulations can reduce uncertainties when sharing personal data[24]. Addressing individual cases from a holistic perspective, which allows for the exchange of data, generally has a positive effect on deradicalisation work.
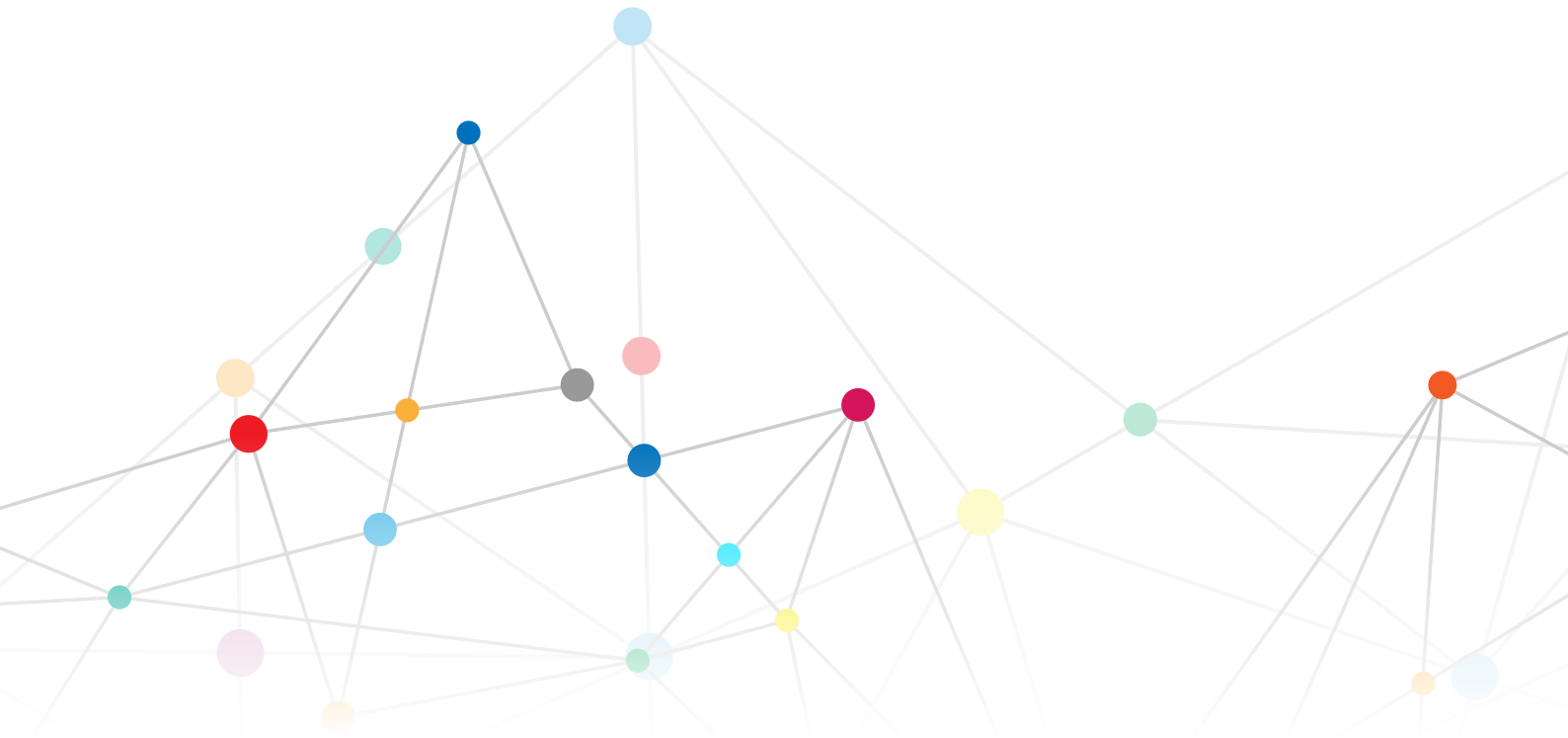
[23] The PrEval platform (available in German only) provides a systematic overview of existing evaluation capacities in extremism prevention. An interactive map shows which organisations and institutions are currently conducting evaluations of internal or external projects: preval.hsfk.de/preval-plattform.

[24] "Personal data is any information that relates to an identified or identifiable living individual. Different pieces of information, which collected together can lead to the identification of a particular person, also constitute personal data" (European Commission, no date). Examples are names and surnames, age, address, contact information, physical characteristics, reference numbers, special biographic characteristics (e.g. imprisonment, stay abroad, move, participation in deradicalisation measures, etc.), etc.

In general, data protection only applies when personal data are shared. If you talk about individual cases and the data have not been rendered anonymous, you are bound to secrecy. This means that you must not disclose these data. Data protection, penal and employment provisions can include the obligation of secrecy.

Data protection issues

Different data protection regulations apply to civil-society organisations and government agencies. The directly applicable regulation is the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In addition, federal and state data protection regulations (e.g. the Federal Data Protection Act) as well as supplementary laws for specific areas apply.

Article 5 of the GDPR contains data protection principles relating to the processing[25] of data which must be respected by civil-society organisations and government agencies.

These principles are

- *lawfulness*, this means that data processing is generally prohibited and must be permitted by law ("prohibition subject to permission");[26]
- *purpose limitation*: this means that personal data may only be collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a way that is incompatible with those purposes;[27]
- additional principles are *fairness* (the interests of the person whose data is processed are respected), *transparency* (the person affected knows which data are used and how they are used), *data minimisation* (only necessary data are collected), *accuracy* (the data must be accurate and kept up to date, inaccurate data must be erased), *storage limitation* (anonymisation and erasure of data after a certain amount of time), *integrity and confidentiality* (the data are protected against unlawful processing, destruction or damage) and *accountability* (compliance with these principles must be demonstrated upon request).

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25   Article 4 (2) GDPR regarding the collection, recording, storage, retrieval, alteration, transmission and erasure of data.
26   Article 5 (1) (a) GDPR.
27   Article 5 (1) (b) GDPR.

Data protection provisions for civil-society organisations

The provisions of Article 6 (1) (a) to (d) and (f) GDPR apply to the processing of personal data in non-governmental organisations.

Highly sensitive data – for example data revealing racial[28] and ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs are considered special categories of personal data[29]. Processing these special data categories is only permitted if one of the prerequisites stipulated in Article 9 (2) GDPR – in conjunction with section 22 (1) no. 1 (a) to (d) of the German Federal

Data Protection Act (BDSG) where appropriate – is met.

Article 9 (2) (g) GDPR in conjunction with section 22 (1) no. 1 (d) BDSG stipulate the prerequisites for data processing that apply to civil-society advisory centres in the field of extremism prevention.

In summary, personal data can only be exchanged if one of the exceptions to the prohibition of processing applies to the individual case (i.e. processing is permitted by law) and if the processing is compatible with the original purpose for which the data were collected.

Article 9 GDPR: Processing of special categories of personal data

(1) Processing of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

(2) Paragraph 1 shall not apply if one of the following applies:
   [...]
   g) processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest, on the basis of Union or Member State law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject;
   [...]

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj, accessed on 29 March 2022.

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[28] This wording is taken from the text of the law (see info box).
[29] Article 9 (1) GDPR

In addition, the disclosure of personal data entails certain obligations or rights, in particular in the following situations:

- imminence of specific serious criminal offences, obligation to report offences under section 138 of the German Criminal Code (StGB);
- substantiated concern that a child is endangered, authority under section 4 of the German Act on Co-operation and Information for Child Protection Enhancement (KKG) to transmit relevant data

- in criminal proceedings, witnesses have the duty to testify in their examination unless they have the right to refuse to testify. More specifically, they have the duty to testify
  - before the judge, section 48 (1) sentence 2 of the German Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO);
  - before the public prosecutor, section 161a (1) sentence 1 StPO; and
  - before the police if the summons was issued on behalf of the public prosecutor, section 163 (3) sentence 1 StPO;
- there is a legal basis for the processing of data for a purpose other than the one for which the data were collected, for example when data are transmitted to prevent threats to public security, section 24 (1) no. 1 BDSG[30]

Section 22 BDSG: Processing of special categories of personal data

(1) By derogation from Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the processing of special categories of personal data as referred to in Article 9 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 shall be permitted
   1. by public and private bodies if
      [...]
      d) processing is urgently necessary for reasons of substantial public interest;
      [...]
      and as far as the interests of the controller in data processing in the cases of no. 1 (d) and no. 2 outweigh the interests of the data subject.

https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_bdsg/, accessed on 29 March 2022.

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[30] Other requirements apply to the protection of social security data. The protection of social security data applies primarily to government agencies. It only applies to non-governmental organisations if they perform tasks on behalf of the government and if the delegating authority has delegated the obligation to protect social security data to the non-governmental organisation. Social security data are personal data, i.e. any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject') that are processed by one of the agencies listed in section 35 of the German Social Code, Book I (SGB I) with regard to their duties under the SGB (Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, 2020, p. 13).

Data protection provisions for government agencies

There are numerous state laws on data protection which often apply in combination with other provisions for specific areas. Therefore, no general statements can be made regarding the legal basis for the processing of personal data by state or local authorities.

In principle, it can be said that public authorities can exchange personal data

if this is permitted by law and

if the data transmission is compatible with the purpose for which the data were collected and

if the transmission is necessary in order for the authority to perform the respective task (within its own competence or in the exercise of official authority).[31]

The obligation to report offences under section 138 StGB and the authority to transmit relevant data under section 4 KKG when there is substantiated concern that a child is endangered also apply to government agencies. The obligation of witnesses to testify in criminal proceedings also applies to public service staff but is subject to the employer's permission to testify.[32]

Criminal law aspects

In addition to the duty of secrecy under data protection regulations, advisers with specific professional backgrounds (e.g. state-recognised social workers and social education workers[33]) and public employees **are prohibited by criminal law from disclosing secrets**.[34]

This means that these groups of persons commit an offence if they disclose another person's secret which was revealed or otherwise made known to them in their professional capacity. Other persons' secrets also include personal information.

However, the disclosure of another person's secret can be permitted in the following situations (because the penal provision only mentions the *unlawful* disclosure):

- The groups of persons listed in section 203 (1) or (2) StGB are subject to the obligation to report offences under section 138 StGB or the obligation to testify in criminal proceedings.
- Under section 4 KKG, they may also disclose another person's secret if there is substantiated concern that a child is endangered.
- If there is necessity as justification as referred to in section 34 StGB[35].

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[31] Article 6 (1) sentence 1 (e) GDPR, section 3 BDSG (similar provisions to section 3 BDSG can be found in state legislation). However, Article 6 GDPR/section 3 BDSG do not legitimise the processing of sensitive data. In this case, Article 9 GDPR/ section 3 BDSG applies.

[32] Section 54 StPO.

[33] For further occupational groups see section 203 (1) StGB.

[34] Section 203 (1) StGB or section 203 (2) StGB and section 353b StGB.

[35] This is the case if the secret is disclosed to avert danger to life, limb, liberty, honour, property or another legal interest which cannot otherwise be averted and if, upon weighing the conflicting interests, in particular the affected legal interests and the degree of the danger facing them, the protected interest substantially outweighs the one interfered with. In addition, the data transmission must be an adequate means to avert the danger.

Practical information

Stakeholders should inform each other about their possibilities and limitations. Some stakeholders might interpret the rights to transmit information differently or might be hesitant to share information, as they know that their counterparts are equally hesitant. Irrespective of data protection aspects, the success of this exchange and cooperation depends not only on legal issues but also on actual cooperation.

If there is no legal basis permitting the exchange of personal data, the data subject can approve the exchange. To do this, the data subject must give his or her consent.[36] This consent must be given freely.[37] It signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her. The consent should be given as a written declaration because you must be able to demonstrate that the data subject has consented to the processing of his or her personal data.[38]

The consent to share specific information (which information should be disclosed is usually specified, e.g. information about health status) can also be given to individuals who are prohibited from disclosing secrets under section 203 StGB ("release from the duty of confidentiality"). If the disclosure of another person's secret, i.e. the transmission of personal data, is covered by such a declaration, the persons affected do not commit an offence.
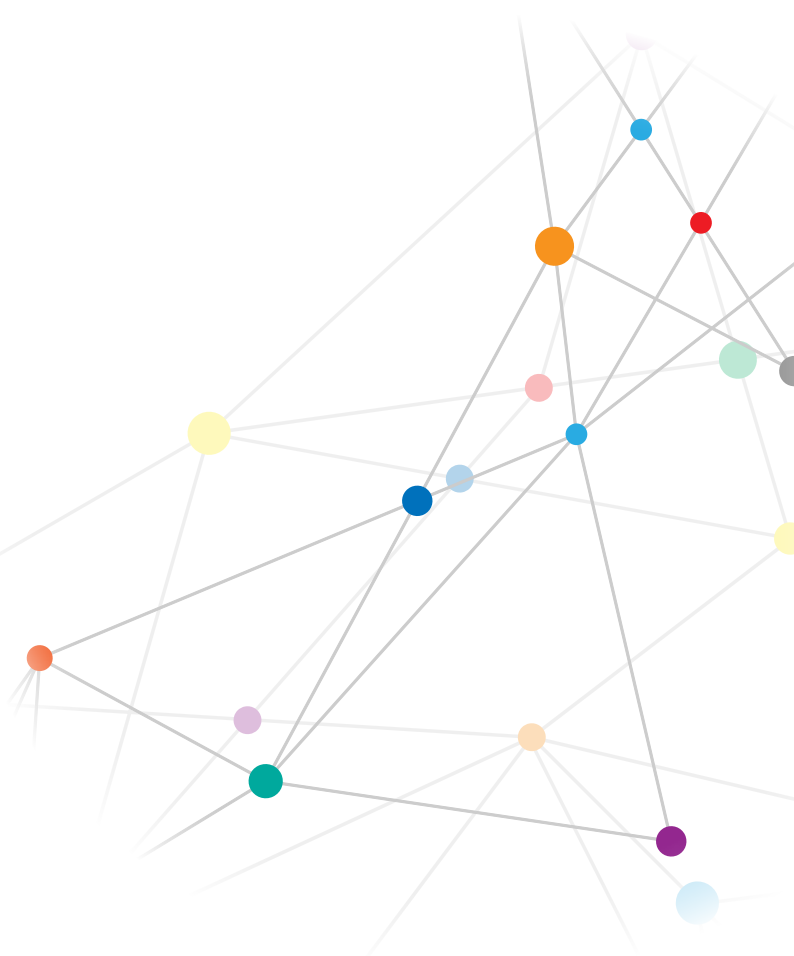
Sometimes it is not possible to exchange personal data because it is not permitted by law or because the partners do not consider each other trustworthy enough (yet). In this case, discussions about individual cases using anonymised data can be a way to respect the rights of the data subject and to remain capable of acting on your own.

The legal situation is complex, as are the individual cases, in particular those in which there may be an obligation or authority to transmit data. It is therefore advisable to reach out to the persons responsible for data protection in your municipality.

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[36]   Article 6 (1) (a) or Article 9 (2) (a) GDPR.
[37]   Article 4 no. 11 GDPR.
[38]   Article 7 (1) GDPR

Focus topic: Public relations work

Public relations work can help you to reach the target group(s) of your project and potential additional stakeholders, gain support from public actors and policy-makers and promote specific services. No matter the mission and goal of your public relations work for your project – it should be well planned.

Let's look at an example: advisory services are often not widely known, which leads to gaps in the provision of such services. These gaps can be reduced through comprehensive public relations campaigns.

Maybe you have already identified certain aspects during the planning phase of your project which you would like to promote. However, you should first consider the goals, impact and potential side effects (e.g. stigmatisation) of your project and think about which format (e.g. press release, distribution of flyers, social media) you can and want to use in which way. Furthermore, you should keep in mind the requirements of your funding providers with regard to public relations work (for example, you should agree with them on the use of their logo).

Public relations work must be coordinated between project staff, the public information office(s) and policy-makers. These people may have different perspectives and priorities and may want to send out different messages.

It is therefore worthwhile to reach out to the staff of the public information office in time so that you can publish press releases and other public relations formats as planned. In principle, it is necessary to get to know and accept the interests of the people involved and to engage openly with them. It is advisable to coordinate the wording and quotes of policy-makers or those responsible for the project. Statements of policy-makers or a funding institution's image can have an impact on the willingness of stakeholders from civil society and other areas to become involved. These are aspects you should consider during the coordination process.

As soon as your project is mentioned in the media, there might be opposing reactions which, for example, play down certain extremist attitudes, especially online. You should keep an eye on the public debate so that you are prepared for (media) enquiries regarding your project.

MoDeRad has shown that the media can be interested in all projects carried out in a region, even if they are similar in nature. It can thus be helpful to coordinate your public relations work with the other municipalities in your region and to share information with each other.
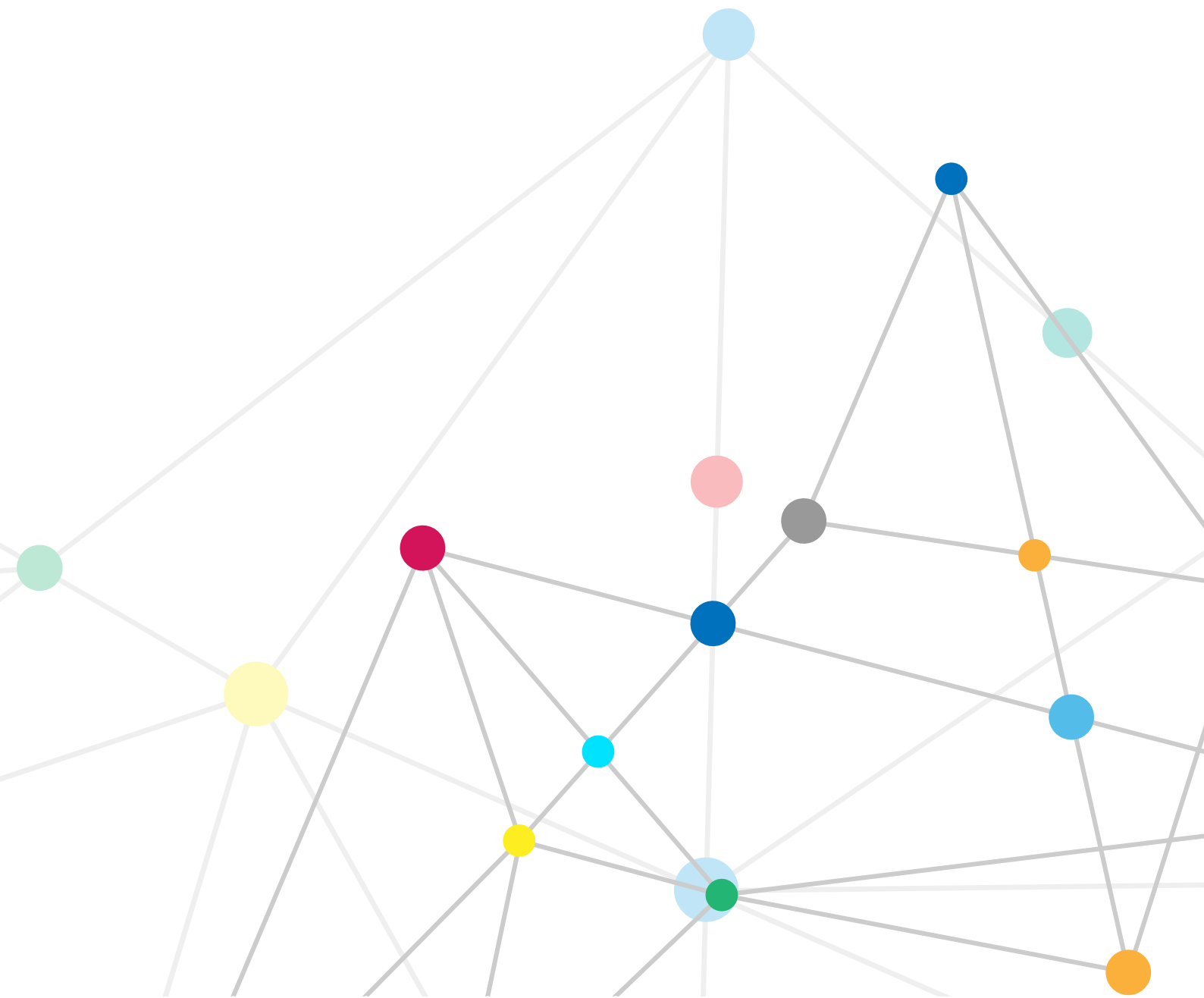
The threat extremism poses to democracy and an open, pluralist society is obvious: not only extremist and physical attacks, but also hatred on the internet, threatening and intimidating behaviour, discrimination and the aggressive rejection of democratic positions put our peaceful coexistence at risk.

However, extremist activities cannot be countered with punitive measures alone. Prevention and deradicalisation measures[39] are therefore an integral part of Germany's comprehensive approach to fighting terrorism. Other European countries have also involved local authorities in prevention and deradicalisation measures.

The local level is particularly important in prevention and deradicalisation. Local stakeholders can often recognise change processes in their neighbourhoods earlier than specialised advisory bodies at state level. Furthermore, schools, the youth welfare office, the employment office, organisations and other groups play an active role in the local community and are in direct contact with radicalised individuals. It is important to ensure that the municipalities are not left without support when dealing with radicalised individuals.

Deradicalisation work across various levels and its local dimension

In recent years, the Federal Government has launched several programmes to counter extremism and promote democracy, for example the federal programmes "Live Democracy!" (Demokratie leben!) and "Cohesion through participation" (Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe) and the National Programme to Prevent Islamist Extremism (Nationales Präventionsprogramm gegen islamistischen Extremismus). At the same time, the federal states have developed extremism prevention measures and launched their own funding programmes at state level. This has led to an extensive and strong network[40] in which the Federal Government, the federal states, security authorities and other government institutions (e.g. social welfare authorities) and

[39] While prevention generally aims to prevent extremist attitudes and actions at an early stage, deradicalisation work is a more specific topic. Deradicalisation is also described as tertiary or indicated prevention.

[40] For the prevention of Islamist extremism in Germany, see for example Halbach, Reinhold, Kärgel & Saßmannshausen (2020): Islamismusprävention in Deutschland. Akteure und Strukturen in Bund und Ländern (Preventing Islamist extremism: actors and structures at federal and state level; in German only) and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (2020): "Unser Netzwerk" (Our network; in German only).

civil-society organisations work closely together to coordinate their strategies.

In addition to the authorities which must be informed about the planning of a serious criminal offence (as referred to in section 138 StGB[41]) if there is credible information[42] (usually the police and the authorities for the protection of the Constitution), all federal states provide specialised advisory services. Depending on the federal state, these advisory services are provided by government or civil-society institutions. Their professional advisory teams serve radicalised individuals and their friends and families as best as they can.

These teams consist of social workers and psychologists, violence prevention coaches, social scientists and, depending on the type of radicalisation, religious experts. If necessary, the advisory services involve additional stakeholders. In addition, local networks (e.g. working groups, associations, etc.) and advisory centres can provide support on a number of topics. Cooperation will be smoother if communication channels and coordination processes are agreed on beforehand. These coordination processes and networks improve deradicalisation measures because they help to identify and refer clients to support services. This allows the providers to match the different services and competences in the best possible way. Strong networks make it easier for the providers to share information and bring the responsible stakeholders and those with the relevant expertise together, in particular in complex cases.[43]

The term "deradicalisation work" refers to work with radicalised individuals and the people in their social environment. Family, friends, teachers or other persons close to them tend to be the first to notice signs of radicalisation. They can play an important role in stopping or reversing this process.[44] **Deradicalisation work** aims to help people make the long-term and credible move away from extremist thinking and action.[45] It goes beyond mere disengagement, i.e. convincing people to turn away from extremist action and from radical individuals and groups.[46]

The process of radicalisation differs for every individual. It is not universal, although there are behavioural patterns which may be similar for some people.[47] In order to adequately respond to the individual psychosocial and group-related radicalisation factors, deradicalisation support and advisory services must be tailored to the needs of the individual person. This means that, depending on the individual case, a number of stakeholders (e.g. school representatives, the youth welfare office, etc.) must come together to provide the best possible support.

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[41] "Failure to report planned offences".
[42] See Allroggen, Heimgartner, Rau & Fegert, 2021: pp. 86ff.
[43] For further information see Uhlmann, 2021, p. 14f.
[44] Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, undated; see also Kemmesies, 2020, pp. 33 ff.
[45] El Difraoui & Trautmann, 2021, p. 67.
[46] Ibid.
[47] Sold, 2020, p. 1f.

In particular, the municipalities mentioned right-wing extremism and Islamist extremism in their applications.

Left-wing extremism and extremism related to other countries also pose a threat to our free democratic basic order. The municipalities rarely mentioned these types of extremism in their project proposals, and where they did, they did not regard them as an extraordinary challenge.

Islamist extremism

Despite the territorial defeat of the so-called Islamic State (IS), the threat posed by Islamist extremism remained considerable in 2020[1]. After the terror attack at Berlin's Breitscheidplatz in 2016, this became painfully clear again in 2020 during the attacks in Dresden and Vienna and on the city motorway in Berlin. Salafism in particular still provides the ideological basis for violent Jihadism which should not be underestimated. Although the number of Salafists has recently remained at the same level, the total number of Islamists has increased[2].

Germany and countries around the world place a particular focus on IS returnees. Since the outbreak of the civil war in Syria and the rise of the IS in Syria and Iraq, over 1,150 German Islamists have left Germany to travel to Syria and/or Iraq to fight for or otherwise support the IS or other terrorist groups. As of October 2021, more than a third of these persons had returned to Germany. All stakeholders involved in deradicalisation must be prepared for the return of additional people. Even though the majority of the returnees do not pose any threat, they need support to (re-)integrate into society. The stakeholders involved should therefore establish ways to cooperate and share information. Children and young people will also return or have already returned to Germany. They are primarily victims and need special support.

[1] Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, 2021, p. 189; [2] Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, 2021, p. 197.

Right-wing extremism

After the racist arson attacks in Mölln, Solingen and Rostock-Lichtenhagen in the 1990s and the series of murders committed by the so-called National Socialist Underground (NSU), further evidence of the tangible threat right-wing extremism poses to our security was provided by the murder of Walter Lübcke, regional commissioner for the state of Hesse, in 2019 and the attacks in Halle and Hanau in 2019 and 2020. The right-wing extremist scene has continuously grown over the last four years.[1]

In 2020 and 2021, right-wing extremists also tried to join protests against the coronavirus prevention measures. The spread of anti-democratic conspiracy theories regarding the coronavirus pandemic has raised the question whether this can be considered a new form of extremism. In this context, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) introduced a new category to deal with this phenomenon, entitled "Delegitimisation of the state relevant to the protection of the Constitution".[2] The applicants and, later, the model municipalities also had to deal repeatedly with anti-democratic conspiracy narratives during the project period; however, these were not the focus of the six model projects.

[1] Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, 2021, p. 53; [2] Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, 2021.

National experience with prevention and deradicalisation work at local level

In Germany, a number of federal states promote contact points or network offices at local level. One example is the local projects (*Wegweiser*) in North Rhine-Westphalia aimed at protecting young people from Islamism. Under this project, staff from local advisory centres assess suspected cases of radicalisation and develop individual support strategies as needed.[48] The federal state of Hesse supports local prevention measures through its centres for promoting democracy and preventing all types of extremism (DEXT). The DEXT centres aim to establish local networks involving the relevant stakeholders, to coordinate advanced and continuing training, to provide initial advice and referrals and to promote smaller projects.[49]

Deradicalisation work is also closely related to universal (extremism) prevention measures which are often considered in the context of democracy promotion. An example for such measures at local level is the Partnerships for Democracy funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) under its "Live Democracy!" programme. The funded projects promote democracy and diversity in urban communities.

[48]   North Rhine-Westphalia Office for the Protection of the Constitution, 2020, p. 8.
[49]   Ministry of the Interior and for Sport of the federal state of Hesse, undated.

Another aim of the partnerships is to prevent extremism.[50] Partnerships for Democracy also exist in all six model municipalities with different levels of cooperation with the respective deradicalisation projects.

Before being selected to participate in the MoDeRad project, some model municipalities were already engaged to varying degrees in extremism prevention, for example in the context of the federal "Live Democracy!" programme and other projects. Some of them had also worked on individual cases. For example, the City of Wolfsburg set up the *Dialogstelle Extremismusprävention* in 2015 as a central contact and advisory office for Islamism and Salafism prevention.[51] The City of Augsburg had been planning to develop deradicalisation approaches and structures in the field of right-wing extremism to complement the local structures that already existed for the prevention of Islamist extremism. In Berlin, individual deradicalisation work is already being carried out by the PREVENT Advice Centre Berlin and the overarching TRIAS Berlin project funded by the federal state of Berlin.

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International experience with local deradicalisation work

Other European countries have involved local authorities to varying degrees in prevention and deradicalisation work. For example, the local government plays a major role in what is known as the Aarhus Model from Denmark.[52] This model, which was developed in the Aarhus municipality on Denmark's east coast, is targeted at radicalisation prevention. The local government, the local police, Aarhus University, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Danish Intelligence and Security Service all cooperate in this project. An element of this project is the InfoHouse which brings together social service experts, school representatives and the police to discuss and assess potential cases of radicalisation. The participants raise public awareness of radicalisation and cooperation with local communities. The assessment of individual cases includes risk evaluations and expert advice for radicalised individuals and their families. Specific measures are taken in cases where risk factors of radicalisation or sympathy for violent extremism have been identified. The Aarhus model also includes an exit programme providing support for individuals who wish to abandon the scene and for returnees during their reintegration into society.[53]
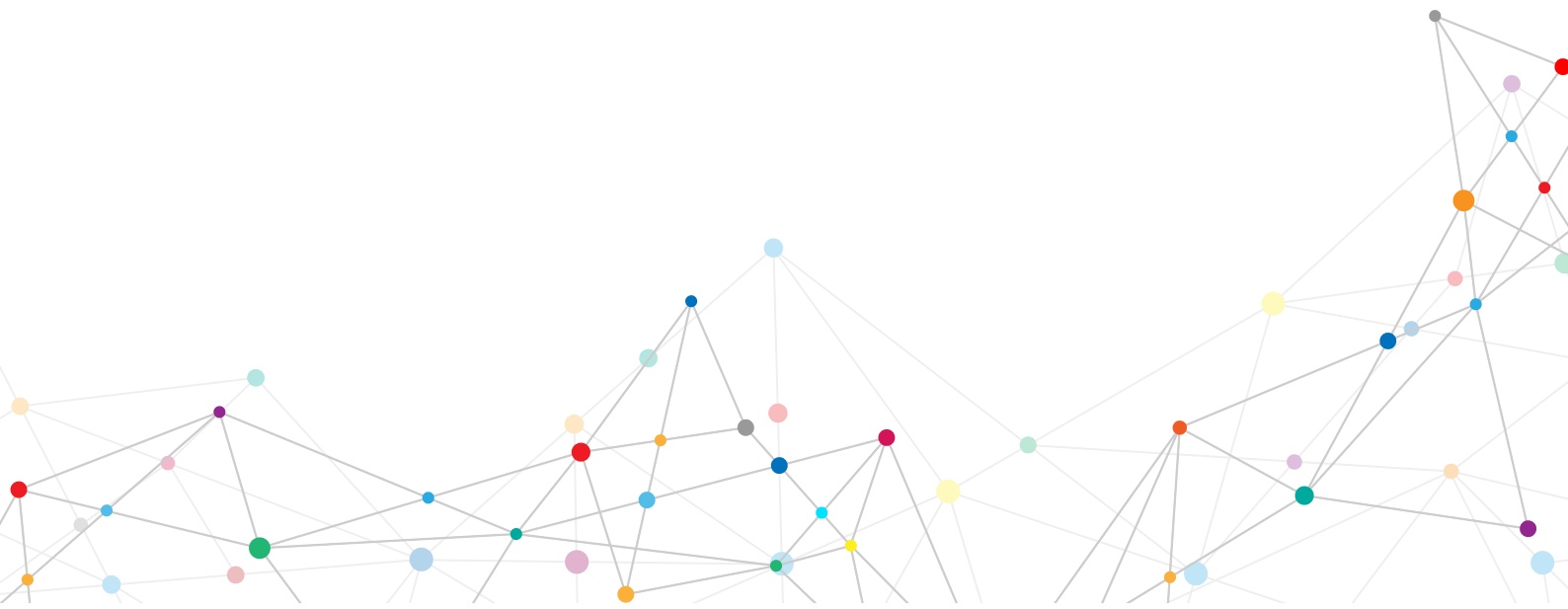
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[50]   Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, 2020, p. 6.
[51]   City of Wolfsburg, 2020; Bothe, Herrfurth, & Guta, 2020.
[52]   Aarhus Municipality, 2021.
[53]   European Commission, undated.

The local level also plays an important role in the British government's Prevent strategy[54], which has been the subject of controversy. For example, staff of the locally responsible authorities and agencies regularly receive prevention training. Municipal authorities, schools and other educational institutions, health-care facilities, prisons and probation staff and the police are instructed to consider safeguarding approaches when dealing with individuals at risk of radicalisation. To do this, different institutions come together at local level and coordinate their measures when risks of radicalisation have been identified. In addition, local prevention coordinators establish partnerships in the municipalities, monitor the implementation of local action plans, respond to radicalisation risks and cooperate with partners to take individual measures. By bringing together the stakeholders involved, the municipalities also play a vital role in ensuring further

support for individuals who have already become radicalised.[55] The British government has also provided a toolkit[56] to help municipalities implement the Prevent strategy. It contains practical information and best practice examples to support the deradicalisation work of local actors and thus prevent radicalisation.

Another example for cooperation at local level is the Local authorities Working Group of the European Commission's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN LOCAL).[57]

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54   Thomas, 2018.
55   HM Government, 2018, pp. 34 ff.
56   Home Office, undated.
57   European Commission, undated.

The objective

The BMI launched the MoDeRad project to provide municipalities with financial support for their deradicalisation measures. By funding six model projects in 2021, the BMI wanted to gain experience and information and identify approaches and success factors of local deradicalisation work and make this information available to the public. The aim is to provide municipalities with suggestions, ideas and expertise in the field of deradicalisation work at local level. This final report contains the recommendations derived from the MoDeRad project. They are intended to help to create, develop and support local deradicalisation measures.

The MoDeRad project is not intended to duplicate existing governmental and non-governmental measures at federal and state level but rather to add meaningful aspects at local level. The project has also shown that municipalities that support and want to advance this work at local level have various options for doing so, some of which are related to universal or specific prevention. These options include support for networking activities, measures to raise awareness of radicalisation processes and possible interventions, and the creation of low-threshold points of contact and offices providing information for people seeking advice on suspected cases of radicalisation and refer them to specific support services if needed.

All municipalities that aimed to create or further develop their local deradicalisation measures and were willing to establish networks with other municipalities and discuss challenges and possible solutions within the networks and with the advisory council and the BMI were eligible to apply.
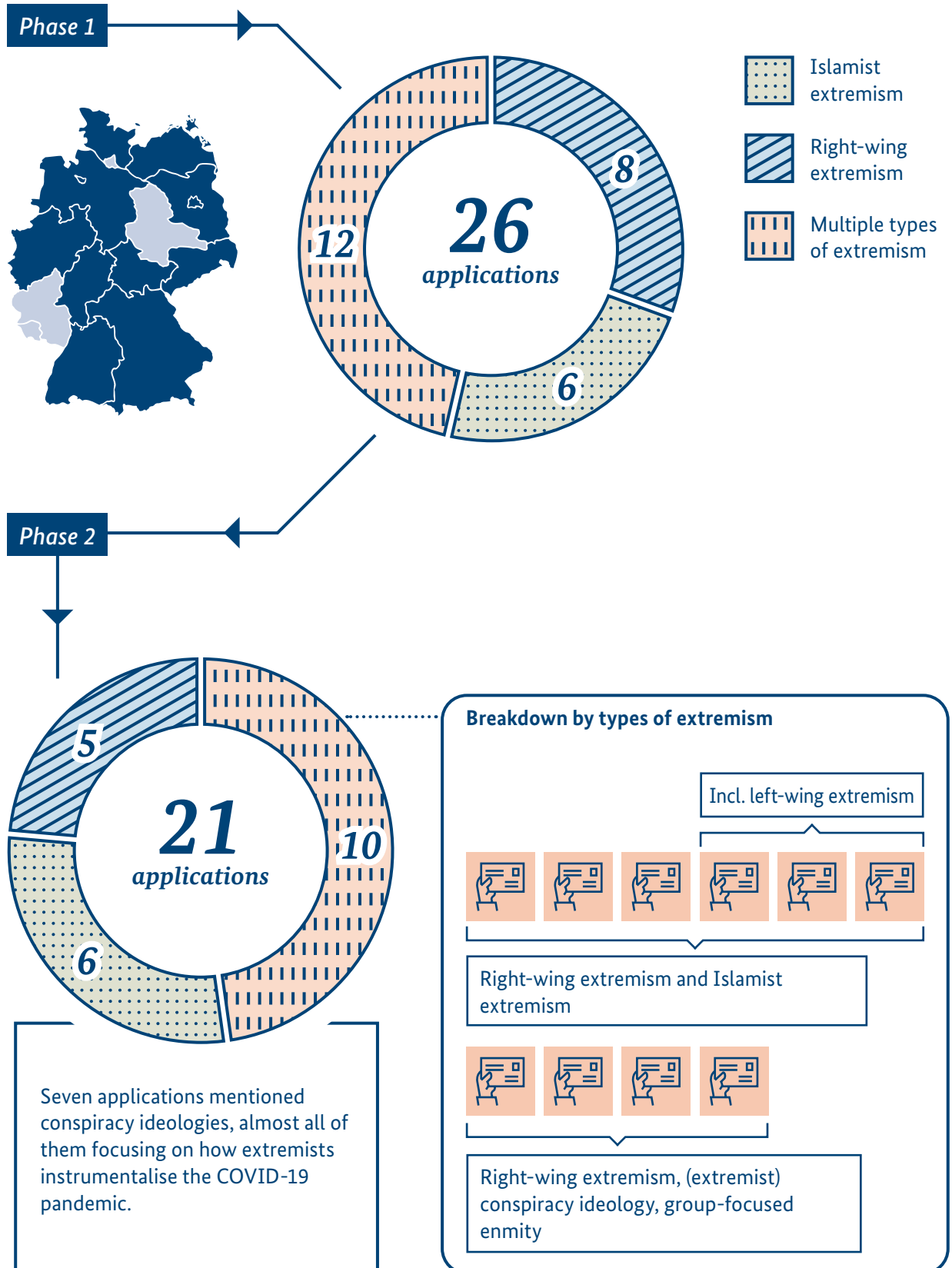
Depending on their needs and resources, municipalities applying to participate in the project had the option to involve civil-society organisations in the project and to apply for full funding. Funding of between 30,000 and 100,000 euros was available to each successful applicant.

The application procedure consisted of two phases. The key questions addressed in phase 1 were related to the following areas:
- approaches to deradicalisation efforts;
- network and cooperation;
- theory and methodology; and
- quality assurance and options for dissemination.

The call for applications was published via several channels on 24 August 2020, for example in a press release and tweet by the BMI, by the national associations of local authorities and by multipliers from expert circles and the federal states.

Focus of applicants

Phase 1

26 applications

8

6

12

- Islamist extremism
- Right-wing extremism
- Multiple types of extremism

Phase 2

21 applications

5

6

10

Seven applications mentioned conspiracy ideologies, almost all of them focusing on how extremists instrumentalise the COVID-19 pandemic.

Breakdown by types of extremism

Incl. left-wing extremism

Right-wing extremism and Islamist extremism

Right-wing extremism, (extremist) conspiracy ideology, group-focused enmity

The selection procedure

The BMI evaluated the applications received based on a previously developed assessment matrix. At the same time, each member of the advisory council was asked to examine the application documents of three municipalities. Each representative from the three national associations of local authorities received seven applications to examine. Each application was therefore evaluated by two to three advisory council members.

Using a form created by the BMI, the members of the advisory council assessed the applications based on the following four areas:

- approaches to deradicalisation efforts;
- network and cooperation;
- theory and methodology; and
- quality assurance and options for dissemination.

The BMI then combined the results of its own evaluation with those of the advisory council to obtain an overall evaluation.

The projects were then selected based on the overall evaluation and the resources available. The projects selected varied in terms of method-ological and practical approaches and priorities. None of the projects focused solely on tertiary prevention, i.e. on deradicalisation measures only.

Course of the project

During the funding period, the BMI organised several network meetings to share information and ideas. The results and discussions were incorporated into the recommendations for action. Due to the pandemic, the majority of meetings were held virtually.

January 2021:
Kick-off event
The model municipalities presented their projects and ideas. They also expressed their wish to discuss the project details with the advisory council experts. As the project continued, the members of the advisory council provided the municipalities with their expertise during a number of events and in bilateral conversations.

May 2021/October 2021
Network meeting and experience-sharing on local deradicalisation work
The model municipalities and the participating advisory council members came together in network meetings in May and October to discuss their experience so far. The municipalities reported on the current status of their projects and discussed joint challenges such as dealing with radicalisation/hate speech on the internet and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the projects.
Representatives of other interested municipalities also participated in this exchange of experience. More than 20 participants had registered for each network meeting. The model municipalities presented different topics related to their projects, which provided the basis for the discussions.

2020
2020 | 2020
2021
2022 | 2021

December 2020:
Advisory council get-together
This meeting enabled the advisory council members to get to know each other and their different perspectives on MoDeRad and to identify potential priorities. The advisory council underlined the importance of networks and the long-term viability of the funded projects and discussed the tasks and objectives of local deradicalisation work.

April/September 2021
Focus groups
The BMI set up three focus groups which held two virtual meetings each during the project term. Interested model municipalities and advisory council members had the opportunity to meet in the focus groups to discuss specific questions in a smaller format. This allowed them to address specific issues in greater detail than in the larger meetings. The focus groups dealt with the following topics:

- examination of individual cases and information on where to find further services, including defining and reaching target groups;
- tasks, aims and limits of deradicalisation at local level; evaluation and quality assurance;
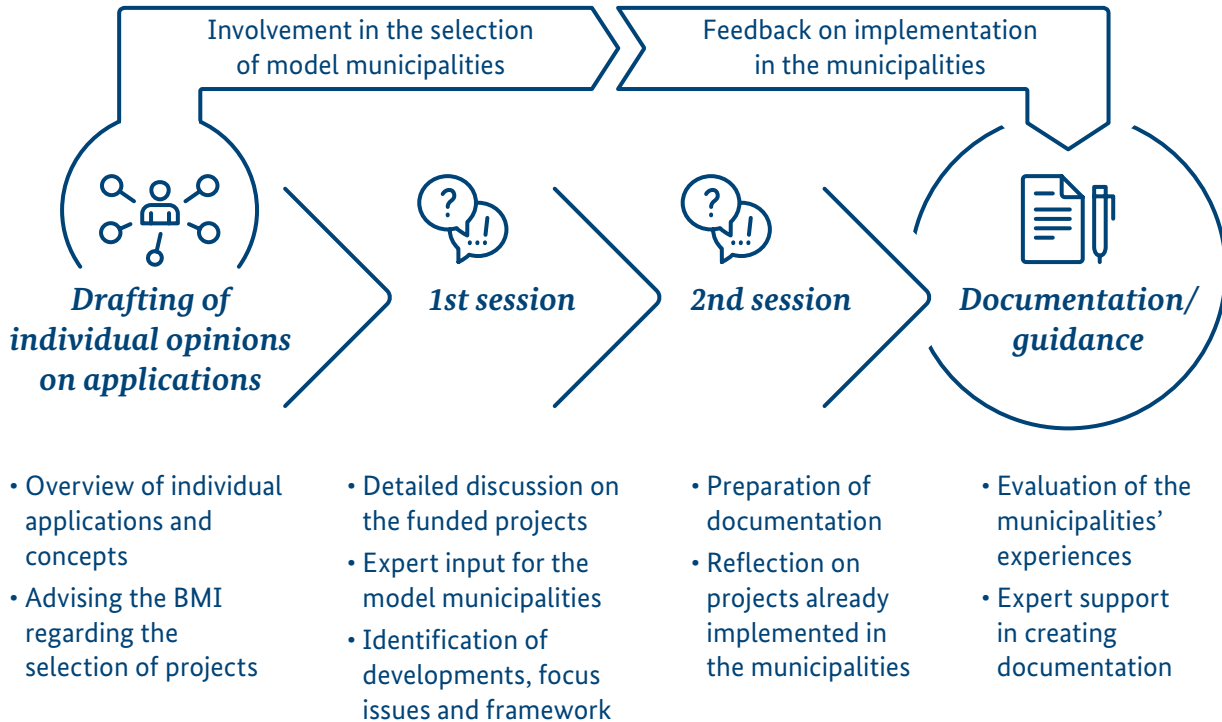- communication and networking with specific multiplier groups

October 2021
Second advisory council meeting
The advisory council members came together in a second meeting at the end of October to discuss their observations with regard to the projects and the requirements for the final documentation.

The advisory council

| Involvement in the selection of model municipalities | Feedback on implementation in the municipalities |

Drafting of individual opinions on applications

1st session

2nd session

Documentation/ guidance

- Overview of individual applications and concepts
- Advising the BMI regarding the selection of projects

- Detailed discussion on the funded projects
- Expert input for the model municipalities
- Identification of developments, focus issues and framework

- Preparation of documentation
- Reflection on projects already implemented in the municipalities

- Evaluation of the municipalities' experiences
- Expert support in creating documentation

At the beginning of the project term, the BMI set up an advisory council made up of 11 experts representing different perspectives on deradicalisation measures and the work at local level. The advisory council members are experts with many years of professional experience in the fields of research, prevention, deradicalisation and public administration.

They were involved in the entire project funding process, from selecting the model municipalities to drafting the final documentation, and they provided expert advice to the municipalities and the BMI.
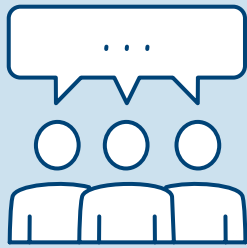
The members

Mo Asumang,

The daughter of a German mother and Ghanaian father, Mo Asumang was sent to a children's home when she was only five weeks old. She was raised by foster parents and her German grandmother who had worked for the SS. In 1996, Mo Asumang became Germany's first Afro-German TV presenter (rbb, Pro7, Viva). The all-rounder has since worked as a director, producer, bestselling author, actor, moderator, artist and speaker. At schools and universities worldwide (including Yale), she talked about her award-winning documentary "The Aryans". In 2019, she received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for her efforts to oppose right-wing extremism.

Janusz Biene

Janusz Biene is a research fellow at the Legato advisory service in Osnabrück and co-leader of the model project of a clearing house for radicalisation prevention (*Clearingstelle Radikalisierungsprävention an den Schnittstellen des SGB VIII*). After graduating in political science, communication studies, and peace and conflict studies, he worked at the Goethe University in Frankfurt and at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt on the subjects of political violence, radicalisation and radicalisation prevention. From 2016 to 2019 he coordinated the local project Pro Prävention at the Offenbach integration office.

Lamya Kaddor

Lamya Kaddor is a scholar in Islamic studies and religious education and has published widely on these topics. She has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2021. She initiated the first Koran translation for children and the first textbook for Islamic religious education. At the University of Duisburg-Essen, she does research on antisemitism and hostility towards Islam and Muslims among young people. At the same time, she teaches Islamic religion in Duisburg. Her work on radicalisation and her commitment to peaceful coexistence have earned her many honours .

Marcel Komarek

Marcel Komarek has been a policy officer at the advice centre on radicalisation at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees since 2019. During this time, he has worked with many innovative model projects on deradicalisation and prevention in the context of Islamism across Germany. In addition, he addresses the legal framework of advisory work in this area. In 2016, he earned a law degree from Leipzig University, and in 2018 passed his second state examination after his practical legal training in Regensburg.

Miriam Marnich

Miriam Marnich is head of division at the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB) responsible for refugee/asylum policy, integration policy, crime prevention, hate crime and anti-discrimination. She is a lawyer, was born in Berlin on 21 October 1983, is married and has a son. She studied law in Trier and Salamanca (2003–2009) and in 2011 completed her second state examination in Rhineland-Palatinate. In 2011, she joined the DStGB, und until 2018 was an editor of the magazine Kommunaljurist for legal practitioners at municipal level.

Marije Meines

Marije Meines is an expert on strategic extremism and terrorism prevention and is senior adviser at RadarAdvies in Amsterdam. From 2004 to 2009 she was the senior policy officer for the Dutch National Coordinator on Counter-Terrorism, working on the subject of radicalisation. She advises governments, municipalities and NGOs inside and outside Europe on these topics, and since 2020 has led the team of experts responsible for implementing all measures of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN).

Dr Alex Mommert

Dr Alex Mommert graduated in psychology and obtained a PhD in social and political psychology, focusing on social recognition and motivation. He then coordinated interprofessional teaching and student admissions in medicine. Since 2019, he has been a policy officer at the Association of German Cities, where he is responsible for sports policy, adult education centres and universities, and for combating extremism.

Sebastian Reißig

Sebastian Reißig has a degree in social management and is the director of Aktion Zivilcourage e.V., which he founded in Saxony in 1998. He has headed the association, which is well known beyond the state borders, since 2001. Currently, the association has over 160 members and 36 full-time staff. Networking and encouraging commitment to democracy in rural areas is at the heart of the organisation's work.

Dr Klaus Ritgen

After completing his practical legal training and receiving his doctorate in law, Dr Klaus Ritgen worked as a research associate at the Department of Constitutional Law (Prof. Dr Fritz Ossenbühl) of the Institute of Public Law, University of Bonn. In the following years, he was a research associate of Prof. Dr Thomas von Danwitz at the Institute for Media Law and at the Institute of Public and Administrative Law of the University of Cologne. Since 2006, he has been a staff consultant at the Association of German Counties in Berlin. He has authored numerous publications on constitutional, administrative, local government and refugee law.

Fabian Wichmann

Fabian Wichmann is responsible for case management and public relations work at EXIT-Germany, an initiative providing practical and theoretical expertise in radicalisation and deradicalisation processes. It focuses specifically on analyses, interventions and exit counselling. Fabian Wichmann is responsible for the campaigns "Nazis against Nazis" (*Rechts gegen Rechts*) and "Donate the Hate" (*#HassHilft*) and the Operation Trojan T-Shirt and is co-chair of the Communication and Narratives Working Group of the European Commission's Radicalisation Awareness Network.

Prof. Dr Andreas Zick

Prof. Dr Andreas Zick is the head of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research of Conflict and Violence and professor for socialisation and conflict studies at Bielefeld University. In 2016, he received the Communicator Award of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) and the Donors' Association for the Promotion of Sciences and Humanities in Germany (*Stifterverband*). His research focuses on radicalisation in the field of extremism, societal prejudices and acculturation processes.

Conclusion and outlook

*MoDeRad was the **first project to receive funding from the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) in the field of local-level deradicalisation work**.*

*The **BMI's goal was to collect and publish municipalities' experiences and findings** in order to support interested municipalities throughout Germany by offering them practical ideas for implementing their own projects. Because MoDeRad incorporated many different perspectives from the advisory council, the model municipalities and the federal and state levels, it was able to address all types of extremism effectively.*

Findings

The many applications for project funding and registrations for experience-sharing on local deradicalisation work that we received show that **municipalities in Germany have a high level of interest in getting involved with deradicalisation work**.

The advisory council noted that municipalities **can implement measures at every level of prevention** and are well-suited **for approaches addressing different types of extremism**. The directly noticeable effects in the model municipalities of **new anti-democratic forms of protest** that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic made this all the clearer. **Municipalities can do deradicalisation work in various ways**, especially by:

- establishing advice hotlines that can offer an initial assessment of a situation and direct advice-seekers to specific services;
- making relevant professionals and those in the social environment of people potentially vulnerable to radicalisation (e.g. parents) aware of local contact people and services, and publicising these contacts and services;
- taking charge of important (local) networking activities; bringing together specialised (state-level) counselling services with local actors and communicating their working practices to each other;
- supporting the professionalisation of certain vocational groups, for example by offering networking and information-sharing opportunities, coordinating and implementing specific strategies for action in the field, and providing advanced training and awareness-raising measures for professionals. The municipal level can effectively orient its services to local needs, as it generally has a good sense of these needs.

Close coordination among the local, state and in some cases federal levels from an early stage has proven productive here, especially with state-level and federal counselling agencies. This makes it possible to avoid duplicate structures and unclear responsibilities, and to take full advantage of synergies. Many federal states and municipalities also work together with civil-society organisations in the field of deradicalisation. Society's overall task of fighting extremism would be inconceivable without them.

Federal expert support for municipalities is beneficial, especially because it represents an alternative to direct financial support. For legal reasons, such support is possible only to a limited extent, e.g. in the form of model projects such as MoDeRad.

Sharing experience and knowledge is another way for the federal level to support municipalities in their deradicalisation work. Several of the model municipalities found regular experience-sharing on deradicalisation and prevention at the local level to be helpful. The advisory council also found knowledge-sharing and professional **support through exchange formats** to be useful. Beyond this, from the experts' perspective municipalities can also benefit from **assistance with legal and administrative aspects of grant-writing** and with **funding application procedures**.

Outlook

MoDeRad has also shown that processes which have been initiated should be designed for the long term to the greatest extent possible. This is not a novel idea: short-term project funding can mean that motivated employees are lost to other projects, which in turn means that their knowledge is lost. Longer funding periods, where the law governing grants allows for them, can avoid this problem. Because the legal options for federal funding of the local level are very limited, this was not possible for MoDeRad.

The question of how **knowledge can none-theless be preserved and passed on** remained unanswered in the context of MoDeRad.

The sharing of experience with local derad-icalisation work that was part of MoDeRad could be developed further in future so that **municipalities can continue to benefit from the opportunity to network and to learn from each other**. Such sharing could focus on practical issues that arise in the concrete implementation of local measures; such issues could be discussed together as needed. This could also ensure the needed exchange and knowledge-sharing be-tween the fields of extremism prevention and deradicalisation work.

No rural districts received funding from MoDeRad. In future, the field of deradicalisation should also **focus on the role of rural districts** and their interaction with other local authorities such as city administrations. Attention should also be paid to rural regions. Differences among municipalities' structures and requirements should be sufficiently taken into account not only in developing local structures but also in distributing funding. Attention should also be paid to the different perspectives on extremism, radicalisation and prevention that exist within each municipality.

MoDeRad was able to initiate some **important processes** that advance the field of deradicalisation work beyond the realm of project funding::

- MoDeRad initiated an exchange between municipalities and the federal level on de-radicalisation work, strengthening the BMI's understanding of municipal concerns in this specific field.
- The funding enhanced coordination and ne-gotiation processes within the municipalities as well as between the municipalities and the state level, which will (hopefully) also facili-tate future deradicalisation work.
- Not least, MoDeRad has drawn attention to local deradicalisation work, lending impor-tant further momentum.

MoDeRad has confirmed that societal trends have a tangible impact on municipalities. That is why municipal actors have an important role in the fight against extremist ideas. The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community will therefore continue to support municipalities in their deradicalisation work.

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Publication data

Model municipalities
for deradicalisation

Model municipalities for deradicalisation (MoDeRad) was the first project to receive funding from the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) in the field of local-level deradicalisation work.
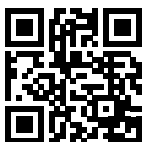
The BMI's goal was to collect and publish municipalities' experiences and findings regarding different types of extremism in order to support interested municipalities throughout Germany by offering them practical ideas for implementing their own projects.

In Chapter 1, the model municipalities present their projects and show examples of different municipal approaches to deradicalisation.

Chapter 2 reports the key findings and recommendations for action.

Chapter 3 summarises why deradicalisation work is so important, and Chapter 4 presents MoDeRad's goals and purpose, its advisory council and the details of the selection process.

Finally, the last chapter summarises the MoDeRad project and offers recommendations for local deradicalisation work.