



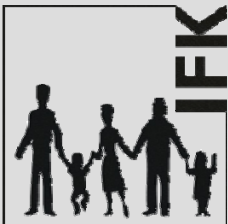
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BRANDENBURG  
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## **Socio-spatial Analysis and the Development of Community-based Strategies against Extremism in the State of Brandenburg/Germany**

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# Agenda

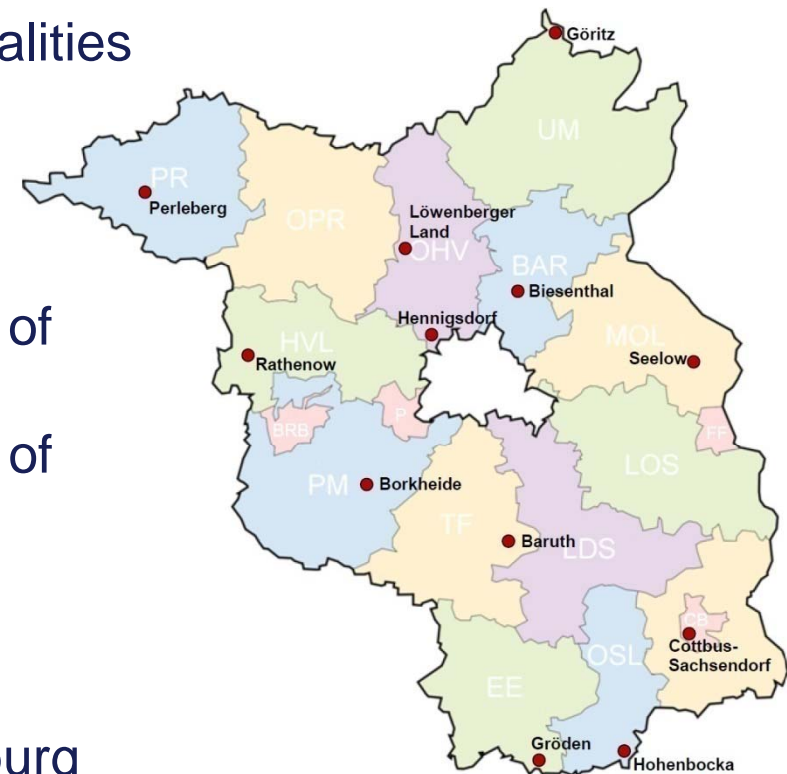
- 1. Project overview**
- 2. Socio-spatial Analysis**
- 3. Strategies of recruiting**
- 4. Profiles and careers of extremist delinquents**
- 5. Early warning system for radicalisation processes in municipalities**
- 6. Best practices for deradicalisation in municipalities**



# 1. Project overview

## 1.1. Main objectives and framework

- **Main objectives:**
  - Comparative Socio-spatial Analysis of local extremist phenomena, municipal context features and prevention efforts
  - Provision of research findings for municipalities to improve their prevention strategies
- **Partners:**
  - 12 municipalities
  - Association of Towns and Municipalities of Brandenburg
  - State Criminal Police Office of Brandenburg
  - Mobile Consulting Teams
- **Project time:** May 2009 till December 2011
- **Funding:** Ministry of the Interior of Brandenburg



# 1. Project overview

## 1.2. Focal points of the project

- **„Socio-spatial Analysis“**
- **„Strategies of Recruiting“**
- **„Profiles and Careers of Extremist Delinquents“**
- **„Early Warning System“**
- **„(De-)Stigmatisation“**
- **„Best Practices“**



## 2. Socio-spatial Analysis (1)

### 2.1. Procedure

- **Definition „Socio-spatial Analysis“ (SSA):**

- „Research-based analysis and planning instrument for the prevention of extremism“

- **Procedure for each municipality:**

- Finding indicators for extremism and radicalisation processes, municipal context features and activities for prevention

- Integrated data analysis concerning risks for extremism and resources of coping

- Discussion of results and improvement of measures (partly in public)



## 2. Socio-spatial Analysis (2)

### 2.2. Results: Example „Anyvillage“

- **Municipal context features:**

- Rural area, high emigration
- Low municipality budget
- No public instituts / infrastructures
- No full-time staff in administration and social services



## 2. Socio-spatial Analysis (3)

### 2.2. Results: Example „Anyvillage“

- **Municipal context features:**

- No local roots and no activities of democratic political parties
- Many votes for right-wing extremist parties, many invalid votes
- High political frustration, feeling to be left alone with their problems
- High popularity of National Socialism in the 1930s, no accounting for the past



## 2. Socio-spatial Analysis (4)

### 2.2. Results: Example „Anyvillage“

- „Anyvillage“ – Extremism and radicalisation:
  - Right-wing activists and activities for recruiting in youth clubs
  - Infiltration of clubs (e. g. sports clubs)
  - Concerts of right-wing extremist bands
  - Signs in public space (see pictures) ...





## 2. Socio-spatial Analysis (5)

### 2.2. Results: Example „Anyvillage“

- „Anyvillage“ – Prevention efforts:

- Low awareness of right-wing extremist risks (except for the mayor)
- No professional youth work
- No specific prevention activities



## 2. Socio-spatial Analysis (6)

### 2.3. Feedback

- **Discussion of results and improvement of measures (partly in public):**
  - Presentation and discussion of results during a session of the municipal council
  - Illustration of connections between specific municipal context features and extremist phenomena
  - Supporting the municipalities by developing an awareness of right-wing extremism risks and problems
  - Suggestions for interventions including realisation recommendations and financing options



## 2. Socio-spatial Analysis (7)

### 2.4. Benefits and conclusion

- **The Socio-spatial Analysis is a valuable research-based analysis and planning instrument for the prevention of extremism:**
  - This analysis raises the awareness of problems by convincing results (authentic and empirically-based).
  - This analysis provides a kind of capacity building by mobilising local actors and promoting their cooperation.
  - By using this analysis, it is possible to work out specific measures for municipalities.



# 3. Strategies of recruiting (1)

## 3.1. Media

Media

Online presence

School magazine

Computer games

Music

Social commitment

Comics

Sport



## 3. Strategies of recruiting (2)

### 3.1. Media

- **Strategies of recruiting ...**
  - ... are at an increasing rate individualised and designed to specifically attract young people.
  - ... make use of popular trends in youth culture.
  - ... keep pace with technical innovations in media communication.
  - ... are designed in a professional manner.



# 3. Strategies of recruiting (3)

## 3.2. Recruiting process

- **A typical recruiting process involves:**
  - Personal addressing by friends or by unknown persons in leisure time
  - Building up a new social network and emotional attachment („comradeship“)
  - Concealing of right-wing extremist ideology at first
  - Detachment from previous social contacts and ties
  - Ideologic reinterpretation of personal experiences and failures of the past



## 4. Profiles and careers of extremist delinquents (1)

- **Similarities of right-wing delinquents:**

- Male (14 of 15 delinquents)

- Start heavy drinking at early age (13 of 15 delinquents)

- Right-wing extremist influence of peers (13 of 15 delinquents)



- **Differences between right-wing delinquents:**

- **Profile 1 „Desintegration Type“ (8 of 15 delinquents)**

- **Profile 2 „Short-time Extremist“ (4 of 15 delinquents)**

- **Profile 3 „Offspring Extremist“ (3 of 15 delinquents)**

## 4. Profiles and careers of extremist delinquents (2)

- **The probability of exiting extremist milieus is highest ...**
  - ... if social relations (e. g. to family members, friends, a partner) work against radicalisation.
  - ... if access to the scene is blocked and recruiting strategies are inhibited.
  - ... if prospects of integration to social life (on the job, at leisure) is at hand.
  - ... if the social network criticises right-wing attitudes and seeks conversation.





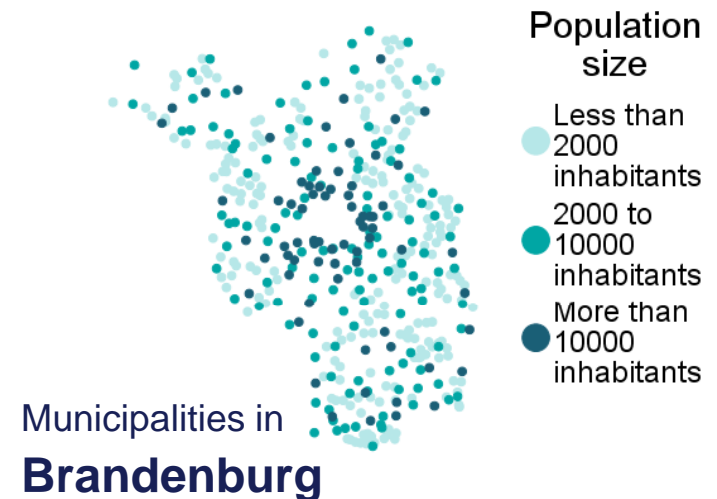
## 5. Early warning system for radicalisation processes in municipalities (1)

- **Method:**

→ Statistical data of all 419 municipalities of Brandenburg were analysed by using multivariate methods

- **Objective:**

→ Finding predicting variables for the (among municipalities) varying rates of political motivated crime incidents (in relation to population size)



## 5. Early warning system for radicalisation processes in municipalities (2)

- **Results:**

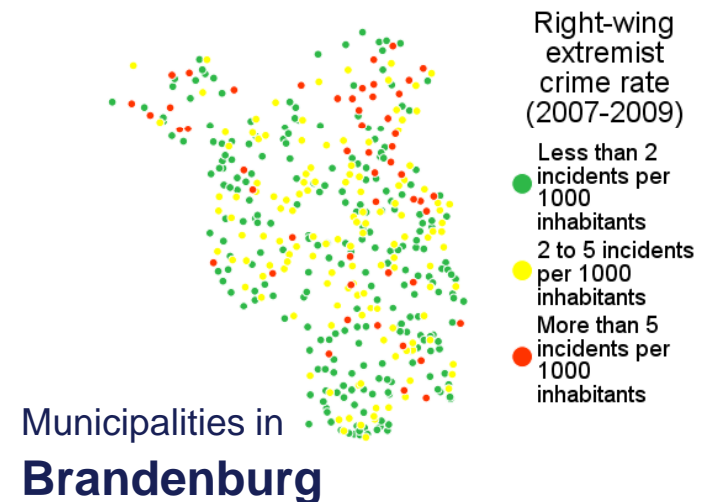
→ Different right-wing extremist crime rates relate to differences concerning:

- Urban features (e. g. high proportion of multi-family houses, railroad station)

- Proportions of right-wing extremist votes in elections

- Unemployment rates

→ The statistical effects are small, but consistent with other findings (e. g. interview studies with right-wing delinquents).



## 6. Best practices for deradicalisation in municipalities (1)

- **Problems in „Anytown“:**

- Restructuring of the economy following the political turnaround in 1989 led to large-scale unemployment, frustration and a breeding ground for ultra-nationalist political concepts



- Skin-head violence (even murder) against migrants, street battles between right-wing and left-wing orientated gangs during the 1990s

- Foundation of two well organised right-wing extremist groups

- In the last decade there has been a shift of right-wing strategies from violence towards political work

- Foundation of a chapter of the NPD (right-wing extremist party)

## 6. Best practices for deradicalisation in municipalities (2)

- **Intervention efforts in „Anytown“:**
  - **Ministry of the Interior:** banned 2005 the two right-wing extremist comradeships
  - **Administration:** founded the Municipal Board against Extremism
  - **Police:** increased the continuous pressure against extremist perpetrators and the public communication about politically motivated crimes
  - **Civil society:** founded the Coalition for Action „Anytown doesn't avert the eyes – „Anytown shows colours“
  - **School:** reinforced education about right-wing extremism; participation in activities against extremism
  - **Youth work:** founded Youth Parliament, employment of 3 streetworkers to implement a change of youth culture
  - **Exchange of informations and tight networking of all actors**

