

WWP

European
Network

NATIONAL REPORT

Country: Germany

Focal Point name, affiliation, contact data:

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit Häusliche Gewalt – BAG TäHG e.V.

(National Association for the Work with Perpetrators Domestic Violence)

<http://www.bag-taeterarbeit.de/>

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76829 Landau

1) **Organisation/programme** (max 3000 characters)

▪ *Do You conduct any programme(s) for the domestic violence perpetrators at the moment? If yes, please describe it/them briefly. If not, please explain why*

The BAG is the umbrella organization for the organizations in Germany that work with perpetrators dv according to our standards that lay emphasize on inter-institutional intervention and victim safety (cf. http://www.bag-taeterarbeit.de/images/pdf/BAG-THG-Standards_english_V.pdf)

Our currently 49 member organizations run programs for perpetrators of domestic violence. Most organizations are welfare or voluntary, there are a few probation services.

▪ *What type of (other) activities regarding preventing domestic violence have You conducted within last four years?*

The BAG promotes the cooperative approach in work with perpetrators of dv.

The BAG fosters the exchange between the member organizations. It continually develops the standards in exchange with local alliances against domestic violence. It supports its member organization to realize their work according to the standards.

For these purposes it runs several work groups: quality assurance and certification, diagnostics and evaluation, stalking in cases of separation (closed), further development of the standards.

The BAG offers a continuous training program on work with perpetrators of dv according to the BAG's standards.

▪ *What would you define as your most significant success regarding violence prevention within the last four years?*

The most important successes as a national umbrella organization promoting high standards in the work with perpetrators of dv are:

- quality assurance procedures and the internal structures of the umbrella organization could be improved thanks to a financial support by the German Ministry (Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth). To assure the quality of work with perpetrators of dv the umbrella organization currently develops a certification procedure which allows to make funding and court orders subject to the fulfillment of the standards

- the umbrella organization has been newly involved into the official working group concerned with domestic violence that coordinates the Federal government and the State governments competences (Federal-State-Working Group, see <http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/gleichstellung,did=73006.html>)

- the development of standardized procedures of diagnostics, evaluation and documentation is pursued

- the greatest success of the last years is the establishment of the professional training program under the umbrella of the BAG (since 2012) which currently goes into the second run

▪ *What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention in your organisation within the last four years?*

The main obstacle remains the lack of constant institutional financing of the BAG (currently only on project basis). The work is still be done unpaid or on overtime basis. Therefore the activities has to be focused on most pressing ones.

On political level the biggest obstacle arises from German federalism. The 16 Federal States have their own jurisdiction, therefore there exist no common judicial rules and procedures regarding referrals of perpetrators of dv. Also the Federal States establish or support differing structures of work with perpetrators that result in different conditions of

cooperation between the relevant institutions. “The heterogeneity of approaches, conditions and structures in the work with perpetrators of dv in Germany is as wide as it is in Europe” (S. Burger, BAG). This complicates the implementation of common quality standards.

Since 2002 Germany has a law that improves the protection of persons against violence and stalking under civil law and that facilitates the allocation of a shared home to one of the partners in cases of separation (Protection against Violence Act). Unfortunately the work with perpetrators as an elementary part of prevention is not embedded in this law.)

2) **Country** (max 1800 characters)

▪ The overview of general situation in Your country regarding work with perpetrators (e.g. What has change in your country legislation within the last 4 years? Most important legal and policy measures implementation; In which way they helped?)

The most important improvement in legislation and policy of public authorities is the new “Law on Strengthening Perpetrators Responsibility” in November 2012. This new law significantly improved the legal options for court referrals to perpetrator programs (“social training courses”). It also improved the possibilities and constitutes the legal basis for forwarding the necessary data (of perpetrator and - subject to the approval - of victim) to the perpetrator program.

The new law can lead to a growing acknowledgement of perpetrator programs. Subsequently in several Federal States perpetrator programs received public financing for the first time (such as in the Federal States Baden-Wuerttemberg and Niedersachsen).

▪ *Do You know any other organisations/programmes in your country which deal with domestic violence prevention mostly by work with perpetrators? If yes please point them out*

Please refer to the list of our member organisations: <http://www.bag-taeterarbeit.de/beratungsstellen/beratungsstellen-suchen/>

3) **Best practices** (max 1800 characters)

▪ *Point out the best practices in work with perpetrators existing in your organisation/country*

We see intervention projects that fulfill the complete 'intervention chain' as the best practice so far. In Germany there are some intervention projects that correlate best the Vienna model which implement this approach exemplary.

For a list of intervention projects see: <http://www.big-berlin.info/node/157>

- *Can they be implemented in other organizations/countries? If yes – how? If no – why?*

Theoretically they can be implemented everywhere but it needs a couple of preconditions:

- the political will to fund such a program and push all relevant institutions to cooperate in these networks
- establishing the legal framework (see point 2)
- the existence of partners (women) support organizations that are willing to cooperate
- the existence of a work with perpetrators that is willing to cooperate.

4) **Needs and recommendations** (max 1800 characters)

- *What has to be done in regard to prevent domestic violence in your country (mostly regarding to work with perpetrators)?*

A considerable increase of funding the work with perpetrators of dv by public authorities (here particularly by the Federal States) is the most pressing issue in preventing recidivism of perpetrators. This increase must not take place at the expense of victims support. The BAG would also like to see an increased commitment of the Federal Ministry of Justice and an allocation of resources to the work with perpetrators, up to now only the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth supports this field of activity although it is not their true responsibility.

To increase victim safety it is important that judges know which organizations work with perpetrators in compliance to the BAG's standards. In order to achieve this a procedure of certification and clear labeling is necessary, furthermore a harmonization of working standards and a procedure of ongoing quality assurance.

- Point out the most urgent, most important and most promising tasks and steps that should be focused on