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Child Safeguarding in Sport

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Title of the practice	Initiative to promote the implementation of prevention concepts against sexual violence in institutional settings and organisations for children and youth – “Kein Raum für Missbrauch” – “No room for abuse”
Country	Germany
Organisation(s) responsible	Independent Commissioner for Child Sex Abuse Issues of the Federal German Government
Main topic addressed	Prevention and Intervention, Safeguarding Principles
Type of resource/practice	Awareness-raising initiatives
Target group(s)	Personnel in charge of sports institutions and organisations, coaches, Safeguarding Officers, parents
Timing	In 2013, the Independent Commissioner for Child Sex Abuse Issues launched a campaign that aimed to convey the principles of prevention and intervention concepts to all institutions and organisations in charge of minors in Germany. In the years since, the campaign has been focusing on a variety of sectors, mainly schools but continuously addressing sports organisations.
Language	German
Brief description of the practice	<p>The initiative raises awareness of child sex abuse within society and the role organisations such as sport clubs play in preventing it. It educates organisations about the implementation of comprehensive prevention concepts and safeguarding principles in an effort to create safe environments for minors.</p> <p>The initiative is based on a network of partners from civil society including relevant sport associations at state and federal level.</p>
Context and objectives	Holistic prevention concepts are a unique German approach in the fight against child sex abuse and are increasingly accepted in institutions and organisations. These concepts are designed to prevent abuse from occurring within the organisations and – more importantly – to help children and youth who are victims of abuse within their circle of trust or online. The objective is to implement prevention concepts in their entirety for more than 90,000 sport clubs in Germany. In many cases the concepts have become mandatory for those who receive public funding.
Steps/activities of the practice	<p>Prevention and intervention concepts include elements like a risk analysis of an organisation such as a sport club, code of conduct, education on child sex abuse, prevention and empowerment training for minors, collaboration with expert councillors, mandatory provision of an extended certificate of good conduct/police clearance certificate by all staff, installing a complaints officer etc.</p> <p>The campaign provides materials such as flyers, brochures, posters, roll ups and videos explaining the core idea of prevention concepts and advises on first steps. They are aimed at key personnel in sport clubs. They can be ordered free of charge in an online shop.</p>

Resources required	Prevention concepts need to be tailored individually to each organisation. It is therefore difficult to give a general estimate regarding cost. Resources include human resources for the development, implementation and ongoing review of these concepts as well as the working time required by a complaints officer. A concept needs to be developed using outside expert guidance.
Achievements and outcomes	The initiative is ongoing and supports the Deutsche Sportjugend's comprehensive programmes on the prevention of child sex abuse in sports in Germany. https://www.dsj.de/index.php?id=440 The campaign to date has not been evaluated.
Challenges and limitations	The development of a prevention concept requires an entire organisation's commitment over a lengthy period. Its development is a complex process. Post implementation needs to be assessed and adapted regularly. Prevention concepts are met with people's general inhibitions, suspicions and fears that accompany child sex abuse issues in general. Overcoming these and a lack of knowledge about child sex abuse with both professional and volunteer staff appear to be the biggest obstacles.
Follow-up ideas and future plans	Prevention concepts need to be further developed taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the heightened vulnerability of children and youth with disabilities • aspects including the increasing sexual abuse via digital media • the need to provide materials in languages other than German The number of sport clubs with prevention concepts needs to increase. To that end, measures need to be developed such as making these concepts mandatory.
Further information	Website: https://www.kein-raum-fuer-missbrauch.de/schutzkonzepte/sport-und-freizeit Flyer: https://store.kein-raum-fuer-missbrauch.de/ubk/UserEditPrinting.aspx Spot: https://www.kein-raum-fuer-missbrauch.de/schutzkonzepte/sport-und-freizeit/spot-fuer-den-sport Information on the office of the Independent Commissioner can be found here: https://beauftragter-missbrauch.de/en/the-commissioner/the-office