

"Straffälligenhilfe unter Veränderungsdruck"
(Care of Offenders and Prisoners under pressure for change)

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1. The aim of this research project was to assess the influence of recent penal and social policies on non-profit, private aid organisations for offenders/prisoners (called thereafter "Private offender aid") and to interpret its significance. Based on actual field research, the sometimes divergent development tendencies needed to be highlighted in order to obtain a reliable picture of the present situation. The layout of this study consisted essentially of

- 5 case studies of existing local networks of the Private offender-aid sector,
- a field investigation during which all such known organisations were contacted by means of a detailed questionnaire and the replies computed.

2. Basic questions and aim of the survey

The main task of the Private offender aid - the rehabilitation of delinquents/prisoners - has been queried more and more in recent years, because, undeniably, the general trend goes towards more and harsher punishment. Due to their weak legal and social position, the private organisations are affected by this general change of mood too. The situation has worsened also through the gradual reorganisation and reduction of the Welfare State through the implementation of new control models imposed by the Administration, the trend towards more economical considerations in social work and the discussions on reorientation and privatisation of state care for delinquents.

3 basic questions were at the beginning of the theoretical and practical investigation:

- a) In view of the changed general conditions, is the Private offender aid still able to accomplish its task of rehabilitating delinquents?
- b) Does the discussion around the importance of rehabilitation in any way change the traditional activities and the image the Private offender-aid organisations have of themselves? A question which needed to be asked was: within the organisations what is presently the proportion between the actual work and the time spent to satisfy the imposed administrative control. And beyond that, what is the fundamental role and function of the Private offender aid within the German Criminal Justice System?
- c) Can divergent developments within the Private offender-aid sector be detected according to the different types of social welfare associations, their organisational forms and traditions?

The Private offender-aid sector is not a carefully balanced subsystem of the German Welfare state. The lack of common financial resources, definition of precise tasks and the weak legal status have as a consequence given rise to a very diversified pattern of organisations. The range of activities depends very much on the existing local and regional conditions as well as on the link with or integration into bigger organisational entities. Due to this complexity, very few empirical studies have been attempted on the subject of Private offender aid in the past. Therefore, it was necessary to allow considerable space for an experience-based assessment of the situation in order to arrive at a more accurate picture. Right from the start it was agreed that the study should comprise typical patterns and divergent tendencies according to structural

features in order to obtain an overall picture which would illustrate the extent of the changes in the Private offender-aid sector.

The analysis of both parts of the investigation (the 5 case studies and the computation of the questionnaire results) focused on 4 areas

- Changes in the tasks and activities of the Private offender-aid sector,
- Changes in the relationships of the organisations concerned among themselves,
- Changes in their work pattern,
- Changes in the image these private organisations have of themselves and their traditional ideals.

3. Methods and organisation of the project

A - In the 5 study cases, the local networks of the Private offender-aid organisations in Stuttgart, Bielefeld, Würzburg, Neurupping and Rheinbach were investigated in detail. These random case studies show the diversity with regard to their independence from the Justice System and the big welfare agencies, the degree of "professionalisation" and specialisation, and the solidity of the general social aid network in which the Private offender-assistance organisations are embedded.

For these 5 case studies, all known local organisations were contacted. They included the offender-specialized organisations and public social work agencies as well as general welfare agencies which offer specific help to the delinquents, prisoners and their families. In addition, the complete local network of these organisations was analysed as, for example, their relationship with the private and public employers, sponsors, co-operating partners, competitors, etc.

B - To assess the evolution, the survey was conducted in the whole of Germany and covered not only the present situation, but the requested information went back to the year 2000. The 17-page questionnaire (which can be consulted on internet) asked for detailed information concerning, for example:

- activity and performance of the organisation,
- its financial means and administration,
- its networking and work sharing with other actors for helping offenders, prisoners and their families,
- the internal work organisation, including staff,
- the development of the voluntary member sector, etc.

The aim of the project was a complete survey of all organisations involved in the German Private offender-aid sector. To that effect, all independent institutions, organisations, initiatives and associations were contacted which claimed to be working within the Private offender aid and which care for their clients during incarceration, release from prison and in the after-care phase. First, an inventory of all the organisations was drawn up on the basis of registers available from BAG-S, the Länder Federations of offender care organisations, the State Welfare Agencies and the very complete, but not up-to-date "Directory of Social Welfare and Criminal Justice" of 1995. Through verification by phone, internet and information from the known associations in the field, altogether 760 addresses of private associations were found of which, after thorough verification, 542 were proved to be still active and to which the questionnaire was sent. For whatever reason, 178 of them did not reply and 21 organisations were deemed to be not directly involved in private and voluntary care for delinquents and their families. In the end 358 organisations remained on whose detailed replies the statistical evaluation was based. Because of

very indiscernible demarcation criteria between help to the general public and specific aid to delinquents/prisoners active in "addiction", "work integration" and "accommodation for the homeless", these three areas were excluded from the enquiry altogether. The sampling of 64 % (358 replies) of all active organisations and additional lengthy clarifications by phone was deemed to represent a fairly representative picture of the sector.

4. Results

4.1. 5 Study Cases of the private aid sector for delinquents and their families

a) Bielefeld - 6 voluntary organisations form a network of professional and private actors of different size and traditions (Christian organisations, some closely linked to the Justice Administration and those critical of it). The offer of the Private offender aid is very complete which has to do with the numerous prisons in and around the town. The co-operation between the organisations is fairly formalised in writing (example: there are common quality standards for counselling of prisoners). The co-ordinating working group is the "Zentrale Beratungsstellen für Straffällige - central advice offices for delinquents" in which all local organisations are represented. The Justice Ministry of the Land finances such out-patient service centres the funding of which represents between 50 and 90 % of the annual income for the private associations. They are financed in addition by "fines" and their "own funds". Temporary lodgings (and this is true for most of the accommodation for delinquents and former prisoners) are usually financed by the local or regional social agencies.. The relationship between the public welfare agencies and the private organisations is based on written agreements, whereas the contact is less formalised with the social services of municipalities. The reduction of financial allowances from the Ministry of Justice causes considerable cost pressure which, however, has not yet led to a reduction of the services offered, because the reduced income from the state could be partly compensated by the associations' own funds.

b) Stuttgart - This big town has a well-developed network of Private offender-aid organisations. However, the professional organisations and those closely linked with the Justice Administration dominate the scene. The division between the 2 main actors runs along the lines of the delinquents on probation and the ex-convicts. Through the recent transfer of the State Probation and Court Assistance to an experienced private company (Neustart), the local Private prison assistance sector has been thoroughly shaken up. As a consequence, the traditional local organisations had to look for new areas of activity to compensate for the lost state funding. Most of the income for the out-patient services comes from the Stuttgart town social services and from "fines". Town hall is not only vital for financial reasons, but there is close co-operation in other areas too, such as for temporary emergency accommodation and debt counselling.

c) Würzburg - 3 of the 4 principal private organisations are closely linked with the Church. The different types of co-operation and competences are little formalised with the administration and there is no central steering committee. The organisations are separated along the lines of gender (men/women) and age (youths/adults). Pro-Church Private prison associations have a long tradition in this cathedral town which has resulted in a close local network and a high degree of commitment by the local community. The extension of the regional prison capacity led, in spite of less public money, to an increase of the local offender-aid activity. Contrary to the other study cases, the Würzburg Penitentiary Administration provides not only the clients for the Private care organisations; it also distributes public funding (mainly from fines) for the advisory activities inside and outside prison through the "Association for prisoners' care" which has close ties with the local prison administration.

d) Rheinbach - (26.000 inhabitants). The main local association is completely independent of bigger federations and the Justice System. It is run exclusively by volunteers. Apart from general advice and group activities, this association also offers accommodation for ex-convicts. Other services for delinquents are offered by the town social services. This all-volunteer type of working is typical for many small towns where professionalisation and specialisation are less required due to the smaller number of clients. Although the Rheinbach prison is big, the Justice Administration plays, contrary to Würzburg, a more minor role with regard to financing and co-operation with the Private offender aid organisations. The co-operation of the local association with other private and voluntary organisations is little developed.

e) Neuruppin - (38.000 inhabitants in Eastern Germany). There is no Private offender-aid organisation. Help for the inmates of the Neuruppin-Wulkow prison comes from the regionally active prison aid agencies. They are financed essentially by the European Union and subsidies from the Ministry of Justice of the Land. The range of help for delinquents is minimal. Prison Volunteer organisations are little developed which seems to be due to lack of tradition in this field and the high unemployment in the region.

4.2. Variety in private aid for delinquents and their families.

This first representative survey of the Private offender-aid organisations reflects its variety and permits a fairly accurate assessment of the general situation:

- 80 % (286 of 358) of the organisations are located in West-Germany, 20 % in East-Germany. All East-German organisations were founded after the reunification in 1989; as were 25 % of those in West-Germany. About 50 % of all West-German associations were founded between 1970 and 1990. Only 5 % of all organisations go back to before 1946.
- 80 % of all Private offender-aid organisations are non-profit-making, registered associations, 8 % are corporations (i.e. purpose-founded associations, religious organisations or parishes), 7 % non-profit making companies; 5 % companies with limited liabilities (GMBH) or "private initiatives".
- 80 % of all the organisations working in the field of Private offender care are linked with a bigger organisational structure (35 % with the Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband, 23 % with the protestant Diakonie, 17 % with Caritas, 5 % with the Arbeiterwohlfahrt - the workers' welfare association). About 25 % are part of a "Landesverband" (Federation on Länder-Level), as the "Baden Landesverband for social justice" or the "Association for Criminal Justice for the Land of Hesse".
- Apart from general aid for delinquents and prisoners, most of the organisations contacted offer "special" services for their clients. Only in 10 % of the cases are the delinquents/prisoners cared for within the general social service offer. 30 % of all organisations work exclusively for delinquents, prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. 80 % of the organisations deal both with men and women clients.
- In 2008 the 358 Private offender-care organisations employed 1500 full or part-time staff, 200 occasional employees, 350 voluntary staff and 3100 volunteers. 333 (93 %) of the 358 questioned institutions worked outside prison with offenders and released prisoners and 243 (68 %) organisations were also active inside prison.

- Services most frequently offered by the private organisations inside prison: 53 % work for release preparation and after-care, 51 % offer "general advice for inmates" and 30 % "accompanied temporary leave and day paroles".
- Outside prison 66 % of the organisations offer "general advice to offenders and ex-convicts". Next follows with 49 % the relatively new activity of "community work to prevent a custody sentence". 41 % offer "procurement of accommodation", 38 % "debt advice", 36 % "residential care living" and 33 % "social training courses".

4.3. Inconsistent ways of funding

Asked which were the 3 most important financial sources, about 50 % of the organisations answered "fines". Then followed "subsidies from the Justice Ministry of the Land" (37 %) and "one's own resources" (37 %).

But funding is very different according to the type of services offered. "Advice to prisoners" and "Community work" are paid for mainly by the organisations themselves, money from the Ministry and from fines. "Assisted accommodation", on the other hand, is financed generally by the Social Benefit Office, regional welfare agencies and the Youth Welfare Office. "Debt counselling" is usually financed with organisation-internal money, fines and the allocations from the local Social Security Office. "Social training courses" for youths and adolescents are normally sponsored by the town youth welfare services or through fines.

The difference in financial resources to which the organisations have access is considerable according to the Länder. Whereas in Baden-Württemberg "fines" are one of the three most important financial sources for the Private aid organisations, they account in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (East-Germany) for only 17 %. In Bremen, 57 % of the Private offender-aid organisations indicate that the subsidies from the Ministry of Justice constitute the most important source of income, whereas this is true only of 8 % in Rheinland-Pfalz (Palatinate). Donations are most important in Saarland (57 %), but not at all in Sachsen-Anhalt (zero %). "One's own resources" are indicated by 50 % of the private organisations in Nordrhein-Westphalia as one of the 3 most important sources of income, but only by 10 % in Hamburg. Money from the European Union is essential for the associations in Brandenburg (44 %) and Sachsen-Anhalt (38 % - both in East Germany), whereas European money is insignificant for the total income in all the other Länder.

4.4. Extension of the Service Offer

In addition to the assessment of the present situation, one aim of the project was to define trends in the private offender-aid sector. The central question was whether the generally observed diminishing public commitment to rehabilitate offenders on one side and the significant cuts in social subsidies on the other, would entail a reduction of the service offers on behalf of the Private offender-aid organisations.

The reply was that 33 % of them had not changed their offers since the year 2000. 50 % indicated that they had increased their activities in some areas, reduced in others. Only in isolated cases had they generally reduced their offer. 20 % said that they had increased their activities.

How had their work inside prison changed ?

- 69 organisations (20 %) had increased and 19 (5 %) reduced their activities for the release of prisoners and their after-care,
- 42 organisation (12 %) did more "advice work" for prisoners and 21 (6 %) had reduced their engagement in this sector or had given up altogether.

Outside prison the development was as follows:

- 79 organisations (22 %) had increased their "community work",
- 66 " (18 %) " the "anti-violence training",
- 53 " (15 %) " the "social training courses",
- 52 " (15 %) " the "assisted accommodation" activity
- 50 " (14 %) " "general advice work"
- 44 " (12 %) " "debt counselling"
- 21 " 6 %) had decreased their "general advice activities",
- 12 " (3 %) " their "social training courses"
- 11 " (3 %) " their offer of "Community work".

In view of the above figures, it is not surprising that only 9 % of the 358 organisations indicated that they had to reduce their service offers due to the diminished or cancelled public funding. 35 % of the questioned organisations said that the diversification of their offer was motivated by "changed requirements by the Justice administration" and 34 % because of "altered problem areas - veränderte Problemlage".

Many private offender-aid associations have considerably extended their range of activities not only in traditional counselling of prisoners and ex-convicts, debt counselling and assisted accommodation, but also in new areas, such as "avoidance of incarceration through alternative execution of sentences through community work, anti-violence training, out-patient therapies for sex offenders, restorative justice, projects for intervention in case of domestic violence, court assistance for crime victims". 75 % of the Private organisations have added at least one of the above new activities to their service offers. The widely held opinion that the self-image of the Private organisations had changed through the addition of new activities and the subsequent additional paper work for control and reporting, could not be proved. With regard to the changes in the self-perception of the Private organisations (example "service provider to the justice system" or "advocates of the prisoners"), it appears that the actual range of activities is less important than the degree of specialisation or the traditional self-perception of the organisation.

All in all, the staff of the Private organisations has increased since 2000. Thus, the part-time employees have increased per organisation from 1,7 in 2000 to 2,3 in 2008, whereas full-time personnel went from 2,8 to 2,9 only. Here again are considerable differences, because 33 % of the organisations had more staff in 2008, whereas 25 % have had to reduce the numbers since 2000 and in 40 % of the associations there was no change.

In spite of the discussion around the regression of the welfare state and the diminishing public commitment in recent years to rehabilitate offenders, the service offer of the Private organisations has increased in Germany. This positive trend contradicts the supposed worsening of the care conditions put forward by many who are active in this field. The reason for this perception is the reduction of traditional activities in certain areas, the worsening financial situation due to the reduction of state funding or the increased volume of expenditure with simultaneous stagnation of income. The extension of the range of services is one way of reacting to the reduced revenue. Other ways are increasing the efficiency of the administration and of work performance - or accepting less favourable working conditions. However, the increase of the private offender-aid sector must be put in perspective, because the number of prisoners and offenders on probation (the main clientele of the private organisations) not only increased considerably in the 90s, but by an additional 15 % since the year 2000.

4.5. Cost pressure and cost savings

The financial development of the private organisations was generally not very positive recently. Only 10 % of them said that their finances had improved and that they had not suffered income reductions. 48 % recorded revenue cuts, but these were being compensated through work in other areas. 42 % were unable to make up for such losses. 10 % were stagnant. The itemisation of financial income shows that 26 % of the organisations registered a reduction in income from "fines", 22 % from the Ministry of Justice and there was 12 % less income from donations. These income reductions hit the organisations differently dependent not only on the amounts, but on the proportions of their financial resources for the total revenue.

And, of course, there are considerable differences according to the Länder. 66 % of the organisations say that there is considerable pressure from the public funding agencies to reduce cost. Quite a number of institutions said that they had to offload the cost pressure on to the staff by worsening their working conditions. 75 % replied that they had asked the staff to work more. 50 % of the associations with full-time staff approved the affirmation: "new employees are paid below TVÖD" (Salary scheme for the public sector per agreement of 2005 with the Unions). 42 % of the organisations said that open-ended work contracts were replaced now more often by temporary work agreements. However, except for 12 %, it was thought that there is little probability that full-time staff would be replaced by volunteers in future.

4.6. Professionalisation

3 main aspects were addressed to shed light on the long continuing discussion of the "professionalisation" of the Private offender-aid sector: i.e. quality assurance measures, networking with other local and regional organisations and the development of the volunteer sector.

The persistent discussion about "quality" must have been effective, because only 11 % of all contacted organisations indicated that they had introduced no quality assurance measures at all. Types and depth of such measures are different: they reach from simple further-education courses (25 % of all institutions) to quality circles with an appointed quality assurance representative (17 %). 54 % of all institutions had introduced between 2 and 4 quality assurance improvements, 17 % seven and more. The rule is, the more full and part-time staff are employed, the more quality assurance measures have been introduced. The fear that more quality assurance introduced in an organisation would take away time from the actual work with the clients, was at least partly affirmed. 30 % of the organisations agreed with the statement that "Written reporting is becoming ever more elaborate and time-consuming", whereas 29 % did not agree with such a statement. The survey showed a similar percentage for the statement: "the proportion of effective work vs. additional documentation moves clearly in the direction of documentation".

In 2008 only 11 % of the organisations were managed exclusively by volunteers. They usually concentrate on advising and caring for inmates, leisure and discussion groups inside prisons. But it is true to say that many all-volunteers organisations offer also a rather complete range of services. More than 50 % of the 358 organisations are "mixed" which means that volunteers and professional staff work together. Many associations use volunteers in general administration and the boards of management usually incorporate honorary members too. 3100 volunteers worked in 192 organisations. In 70 % of the institutions the integration of new volunteers is done by experienced personnel, 38 % offer periodic further education programs and 20 % are assisted by in-house professionals.

Part and full-time staff have increased in the last 8 years, but the number of volunteers has grown even faster. In 44 % of the organisations the number of volunteers has grown "slightly to a lot", 42 % indicate a stagnation and only 14 % have registered a "slight to important" drop in the volunteer activity. Since 2000 the average number of volunteers went from 12 to 16 per organisation. In spite of the stronger volunteer engagement, only a minority of organisations detect a competitive situation between the two groups. The fear that volunteers would gradually replace full-time employees is expressed only by 20 % of the questioned organisations.

58 % of them confirm that in their local or regional area of competence a working or co-ordinating group for the care of delinquents exists. Most of the private organisations participate regularly in such circles. Apart from delegates of the private organisations, such working groups are attended mainly by representatives of the public criminal Justice administration. Most of the private organisations participate regularly in such circles. Apart from delegates of the private organisations, such working groups are attended mainly by representatives of the public criminal Justice administration. Most frequently present are the Probation Services (63 %), social workers of the penitentiary system (43 %) and the Assistance in juvenile Courts (41 %). Rarely present are the Social Security/benefit agencies (14 %). Most private organisations qualify the co-operation with other actors in this field as "very good to good". 75 % said that their contact with the Probation Service was "very good to good". Similar high approval rates were attributed to the Juvenile Court Assistance (67 %) and other voluntary organisations (64 %). Badly marked were the Social Benefit Office and the Employment Agency (25 %).

Other co-ordination circles with participation by the private organisations are "Accommodation/homelessness", "Youth aide services", "Work integration" and "Debt counselling". 75 % of the organisations are participating in working circles as above. Nevertheless, when asked about existing shortcomings in the local delinquency assistance, 26 % said that insufficient networking was their biggest problem, followed by lack of funding (20 %), lack of affordable housing (13 %) and work integration (9 %).

4.7. Privatisation

Since early 2005, two Länder districts and since 2007 all of the State Probation and Court Assistance activities in Baden-Württemberg have been "privatised", i.e. entrusted to the Austrian "Neustart" (non-profit-making company with limited responsibility - GMBH). With an annual budget of 6.000.000 Euros from the Government and 300 employees, Neustart has become by far the biggest actor in the Private offender-care sector in Baden-Württemberg. However, the initial fear of many organisations working in this field, that Neustart would obtain not only the exclusive rights for State Probation and Court Assistance, but offer services which were in the domain of the local Private offender-care groups, seems to be unjustified. The Probation/Court Assistance activities are financed by the Land, whereas most of the services offered by the Private Agencies are supported financially by the municipalities and Social Services. Through a contract with the Ministry of Justice, Neustart was prevented from benefiting from "fines". This means that this essential source of income will remain exclusive to the Private offender-care organisations in Baden-Württemberg. The guaranteed financial independence of this sector has somehow diminished the fear of the monopolistic status which Neustart had obtained. The relationship between Neustart and the existing actors of the Private organisations, the attribution of clients and the transfer of care cases by Neustart have been agreed in a way which in most cases did not change the situation from what it was before Neustart obtained the exclusivity. Through the withdrawal of the State from offender care, only the restorative justice activities for adults (which were in Baden-Württemberg traditionally part of general court aid) were allocated to Neustart. The local private aid organisations, on the other hand, recuperated new types of

activities which were so far provided for by the State Probation Services, for example "Anti-Violence training" and "Community work".

A competitive situation developed between the traditional private offender-care organisations and Neustart in the fields of "donations" and "Volunteers". The latter represent an important factor for the local private organisations and are also vital to Neustart for their long-term engagement. It is not clear how the local Private Probation and Court Assistance associations will cope with the fact that the State Probation Officers will no longer be available for them in future, because the competitive situation of Neustart with the private organisations of this sector excludes the professional Probation Officers from co-operating in a significant way with the local private care organisations. Therefore, it is uncertain at this point whether this unfavourable situation for the private organisation will lead in future to a general reduction of their service offer. Through the introduction of the standardisation of processes and work flows for the entire Justice administration in Baden-Württemberg, it may be that activities resulting from the past redistribution of specific tasks between the State and the private sector, will be simply dropped altogether. For example, there is a controversy at present whether "debt counselling" is an inherent part of "Probation and Court Assistance" (and, therefore, should be exercised by Neustart) or whether the municipalities should be dealing with all social service to prisoners/delinquents.

4.8. Co-operation and competition among the organisations

The arrival of Neustart and its projected self images as "professionals" has had as a consequence not only that the traditional offender-care organisations had to innovate their own presentation and service offers, it led to a closer co-operation among themselves too. Confronted with the competition from Neustart, they developed several new, common initiatives as, for example, "Nachsorge für Straffällige - after-care for delinquents" and "Schwitzen statt sitzen" which could be translated as "it is better to work and sweat than to be behind bars and idle". These joint projects covering all of Baden-Württemberg, were supported financially with millions of Euros by the government and the Länder Foundation.

In spite of better networking, the changed conditions led to a competitive situation among the established private organisations, as they tried to extend their territories and range of activities. This was the case mainly in the areas of Community Work, Social Training Courses, Assisted Accommodation and the more general Advice for Prisoners. It is a fact that such a competitive situation is not favourable for the development of better networking, as trust among these independent organisations with similar interests is at the heart of good co-operation. Cost pressure in this competitive environment adds to an already difficult situation.

5. Sum-up of the main results

1. The German Private offender-aid sector is organised according to the traditionally grown local and regional requirements as well as the links with and the integration into larger organisational structures. The consequence is a very differentiated pattern of the Private offender-aid sector.

2. In spite of the discussion in recent years around the reduction of the Social Welfare State and the diminishing public commitment to rehabilitate delinquents, the Private offender-care organisations have extended their offer of services. This expansion is confirmed too by the increase in the number of full-/half-time employees and volunteers.

3. However, this positive picture must be put in perspective, because the number of prisoners and delinquents under probation not only increased in the 90s considerably, but by an additional 15 % since the year 2000.
4. The enlargement of the service offer is for the Private offender-care organisations a logical reaction to the increasing cost pressure. More diversity opens new financial resources and more security for the associations.
5. The extension of activities has happened not only in the traditional areas of caring for prisoners and ex-convicts, but in new areas too, such as "alternative sentencing through Community work", "Anti-violence training", "out-patient therapies for sex offenders", "reconciliation/mediation of victim-offenders", projects of intervention in "domestic violence" and "court assistance for victims". 75 % of the Private offenders-care organisations have added at least one of the above activities to their traditional service offer.
6. The assumption that adopting such new activities, which entail more administrative control and reporting, would have changed the self-image of the private organisations, cannot be confirmed. The alteration of how the organisations see themselves (example "provider to the Justice System" or "Advocates of the prisoners") depend less on the activity profile, but more on the degree of specialisation and the traditional perception of themselves.
7. Although the number of volunteers has increased faster than the full-/part time staff, only a minority of the questioned organisations detected some form of competition among the Professionals and Volunteers. Only 20 % of the institutions fear that volunteers could replace gradually professionals in future.
8. 75 % of all Private offender-aid organisations participate in local working groups and networking which deal with "aid to offenders and prisoners". Nevertheless, asked about the main shortcomings, 26 % of these associations said that insufficient networking was the biggest handicap, followed by financial problems (20 %), insufficient availability of affordable accommodation (13 %) and unsatisfactory work integration (9 %).
9. Because of the privatisation of State care for offenders and the transfer of new activities to the private aid sector (and therefore the opening of new financial resources), new organisations have appeared in this field. This leads to competition and "market-like" conditions in the offender-care sector.
10. The privatisation of the State Probation and Court Assistance services does not eliminate existing Private offender-care organisations, but leads to a reorientation of traditional work-sharing and financial allocations.

6. Data bank of "Private Offender Care organisations"

A by-product of the conducted representative survey is the establishment an inventory of the addresses and activities of the 358 organisations which participated in this project. The data base in German can be consulted under (<http://www.ifk.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/projekte/-straffaellingshilfe/einrichtungen.html>).

7. The complete Survey "Offender Care under pressure for change"

It is written in German only and can be consulted under (<http://www.ifk.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/projekte/straffaellingshilfe/index.html>). It also contains the 17-page questionnaire. As the project advanced, presentations to different panels and audiences were given by several members of the Tübingen "Institute for Criminology" on specific aspects of the survey. 8 of these presentations can be consulted on this website.

(Free summary and translation by Erich Schöps - 14.2.2009)