



„Crime in Germany under the influence of global crises and conflicts?“

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Crime development from a regional perspective – current hot spots and how to cope with them
Using the example of Duisburg

Abstract

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Over the years, Duisburg, which was once a flourishing coal and steel city in the Ruhr area, has changed to a "migration metropolis" with just under 500,000 inhabitants from over 140 nations and with a constant unemployment rate of approx. 13 per cent.

Roughly one third of all Duisburg inhabitants have a migrant background; in some parts of the city the proportion of foreigners is even up to 75 per cent. A considerable part of these people are economic migrants who have moved into problem buildings/areas.

The number of Duisburg's social hot spots has increased, above all due to the migrants who have arrived from South-Eastern Europe since 2007 as a result of freedom of movement granted to EU citizens.

A conflict-ridden situation has emerged in the field of tension involving uncontrolled influx, the red-light scene, delinquent clans, disrespectful street corner societies and various outlaw motorcycle gangs coupled with the adverse conditions of a Ruhr metropolis which has been stuck in structural changes.

The various hot spots entail a large variety of problematic regulatory fields of action which the local police face and handle with immense effort and different strategies. Contrary to various reports in the media, Duisburg police have never allowed any "no go areas" to develop despite numerous turmoils.

For example, an integrated action strategy has been implemented successfully which is based on holistic policing in co-operation with the city administration. The strategy aims, inter alia, at an open presence at hot spots and joint operations with the city of Duisburg as well as rigorous measures of investigation and prosecution of criminal conduct.

However, Duisburg police do not only take repressive action but also conduct successful prevention projects with the initiatives "Kurve kriegen" ("get things right") and "Klarkommen!" (aimed at more integration and less criminality).