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## POLICE ORGANISATION IN GERMANY

Since law enforcement in Germany is the responsibility of the 16 states (*Bundesländer* or *Länder*), there are some differences among them. Every state police agency has a website where citizens can interact with the police and get information. The typical link is [www.polizei.statename.de](http://www.polizei.statename.de) (as in [www.polizei.bayern.de](http://www.polizei.bayern.de) for the Bavarian police).

Generally, the local and regional police (*die Polizei*) in Germany are divided into two main types. Serious crimes such as assault, murder, rape or grand theft are dealt with by the *Kripo* (short for *Kriminalpolizei*). *Kripo* officials (detectives) usually do not wear a uniform. Traffic offenses and minor disturbances of the peace are handled by the *Schupo* (*Schutzpolizei*), more like the officer on the beat or uniformed police in the US. The city police usually fall under the control of each *Land*, but in some states there are also city police departments. Darmstadt (*Kommunalpolizei Darmstadt*) in Hesse and Frankfurt am Main (*Stadtpolizei Frankfurt*), both in the state of Hesse, are two examples [1].

The two-tier career system with respect to the German civil service system, which also applies to the police force, there are four career groups:

- The lower level of the service involves performing basic tasks, which can be carried out after a six-month training period by people with only minimum schooling.
- The intermediate level of the service, which involves carrying out tasks under supervision, a precondition being a minimum of two years training and average school qualifications.
- The upper level of the service, in which administrative work is carried out independently and is accessible to graduates of universities of applied sciences, and
- The higher service level, in which leadership and specialized duties are performed, requires a university degree or similar qualification [2].

At the federal level, there are two main agencies: (1) The *Bundeskriminalamt* (BKA) and (2) the *Bundespolizei* (BPOL),

Federal Police). The BKA is modeled after the American FBI and has its headquarters in Wiesbaden. The BKA handles counterfeiting, bank robbery, kidnapping, and other serious federal crimes. At the state level, there is also the *Landeskriminalamt* (LKA), which deals with criminal activities within each state.

Today the Federal Police have about 30,000 officers and another 10,000 support personnel. There is a Federal Police Academy (*Bundespolizeiakademie*, BPOLAK) in Lübeck that trains current and future officers.

A third federal police agency, the *Polizei beim Deutschen Bundestag* (Polizei DBT, Parliamentary Police, informally the *Parlamentspolizei*) is responsible for policing in and around the German parliament (*Bundestag*) building in Berlin. It is the only agency with police powers in and around the federal legislative building [3].

At present the district police authorities direct their work at safety programmes specifically developed by the authorities. These are based on an analysis of the local security situation in regard to crime prevention, fulfilling tasks, reducing traffic accidents and fighting crime, for which locally relevant strategic goals are formulated. Regarding the control of target achievement within the core areas of police work, the interior ministry as well as specialists from the police, have described the general factors crucial to success and detached from the local conditions. These indicators no longer concentrate mainly on the intended effects ("outcome"), but on areas which the police can verifiably influence (e.g. safe-guarding the accessibility for the citizens, taking fingerprints)

- 1) The success factors are indexed, ranked nationally, evaluated by the supervisory authorities and if necessary discussed with the district police authorities

- 2) At the end of the process the district police authorities compile a security assessment for their area on the basis of an output/effect examination. (What did they want to achieve? What was achieved? What are the consequences?) [2].

In the next few years, the police will be under strong pressure to make changes, the reasons for which have to do with both the general political and organizational conditions, as well as the changing security situation. Some of the challenges are already

apparent, while others can just be assumed. Time will tell if the previous assumptions prove to be true.

#### Reference list

1. <http://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/germany/the-police/>
2. <http://www.spaef.com/file.php?id=1136>
3. <http://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/germany/the-police/>