

Hier & Jetzt:



Concept to abolish the police in Germany

by Copwatch Leipzig in April 2021
English version 1.0

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1. Resources and means of the police of Saxony
2. What are the tasks of the police? What crime is there in Saxony?
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All Internet resources were last accessed on 23.04.2021.

First presented in the event: "here and now: solidarity instead of police" on 23.04.21.

1. Resources of the Saxony Police Force

a) Expenditures

The budget of the Saxon police increases every year. Not only because of inflation. The armament and the expansion of the so-called security apparatuses is a central goal of (CDU) politics. This can be observed not only in Saxony, but in the whole FRG and the EU.

Given the free time and patience for unnecessarily complicated illustrations, the exact costs can be read and added up in the budget for 21/22 from page 189:

https://www.finanzen.sachsen.de/download/EP03_RegE.pdf

aa) Total expenditure state police (Polizeivollzugsdienst)

real expenditure 2019 677.554,9 K €
target expenditure 2022 782.902,1 K € = 782.902.100,0 €

Thereof (exemplary):

Wages

Real 2019 427.774,0 K €
Target 2022 516,5 Mio €

Compensation pay for operations and exercises (Versorgung der Einsatzkräfte im Einsatz)
900 K € / Year (Target 2022)

Compensation of expenses for Sächsische Sicherheitswacht (Security Guard)
800 K € / Year (Target 2022)

Weapons and Equipment

Ammunition and Weapon Maintenance 10 K € (Target 2022)

Service Dogs (103)

250,0 K € / Year (Target 2022)
gibts auch bei LKA & BePo

Service Vehicles

3.600,0 K € / Year (Target 2022)

Law enforcement material expenses

12.000,0 K € / Year (Target 2022)
See image.

Titel	Zweckbestimmung	Soll 2020 Ist 2019	Soll 2021	Soll 2022
FKZ		T€		
noch zu 534 04			2021	2022
			T€	T€
1.	Blutentnahmen	400,0	450,0	450,0
2.	Blutalkoholbestimmungen	450,0	480,0	480,0
3.	Drogenuntersuchungen	1.300,0	1.400,0	1.400,0
4.	Sprachmittlerkosten	3.170,0	3.340,0	3.340,0
5.	Abschlepp- und Bergungskosten	1.150,0	1.200,0	1.200,0
6.	Gewahrsamskosten	100,0	100,0	100,0
7.	Technische Untersuchungen	400,0	400,0	400,0
8.	Ärztliche Gutachten	300,0	300,0	300,0
9.	Zeugenschädigungen	60,0	60,0	60,0
10.	Wohnungöffnungen	240,0	240,0	240,0
11.	Transport von Leichen	50,0	50,0	50,0
12.	Belohnungen/Auslobungen	20,0	20,0	20,0
13.	DNA-Analysen	3.000,0	3.100,0	3.100,0
14.	Sonstiges	860,0	860,0	860,0
	Summe		11.500,0	12.000,0

bb) Total Expenditure State Criminal Investigation Office

Real 2019 73.644,7
Target 2022 93.790,3 K €

Thereof (exemplary):

Salary State Criminal Investigation Office
Pay Grade B4: 9.161,83 € / Monat (2020)

Material expenses, Law enforcement and Investigation
600,0 K € / Year (Target 2022)
esp. Sprachmittlung und DNA-Analysen

Investigation of organised crime and drug related crime
170,0 K € / Year (Target 2022)
esp. rent for undercover investigation and witness protection measures

Equipment Acquisition
3.200 K € / Year (Target 2022)
construction of the Forensic Science/Technical Institute

Crime Prevention
130 K € / Year (Target 2022)
esp. education of the population and investigation of crime incidents

cc) Expenditure Police College

Real 2019 19.565,6 K €
Target 2022 28.217,9 K € / Year

Thereof (exemplary):

Recruitment
50 K € / Year (Target 2022)

dd) Expenditure Riot Police

Real 2019 115.669,1 K €
Target 2022 137.209,8 K € /Year

Thereof (exemplary):

Compensation pay for operations and exercises („Versorgung der Einsatzkräfte im Einsatz“)
1.200 K € / Year (Target 2022)

Acquisition and Upkeep of Police Horses
120,0 K € / Year (Target 2022)

Service Vehicle Upkeep
3.100,0 K € / Year (Target 2022)



- 3 Water Canons, 2 Armoured Vehicles
- 3 Helicopters (2.027,0 K €)
- Water Police Fleet

International Police Riding
Tournament

40 K € (in 2021; nicht jedes Year)

Recruitment

50 K € / Year (Target 2020)



Fotos: <https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/8755.htm> <https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/61868.htm>
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/Saxony_State_Police_Survivor_R_%282019%29.jpg

ee) Total Expenditure saxon Police

(excluding Municipal Police Departments and invoices from out-of-State Police departments)

28.217,9 + 137.209,8 + 93.790,3 + 782.902,1 = 1.042.120,1 K € = **1.042.120.100 € (Target 2022)**

ff) Revenue saxon police

Target 2022

3.946.700 €

PVD:

3.768 K € (mainly from fines)

LKA: 10, 5 K €

FH:

93,2 K €

BePo: 75 K €

b) Staff

There are 15,000 police officers in Saxony, and that for a little more than 4 million inhabitants. This means that the "police density" is higher than in any other state.

c) Office for the Protection of the Constitution

Total expenditure (Target 2022) = 20.468,4 K € = 20,5 Mio €
 staff (Target 2022) = 227

2. What are the tasks of the police? What is the crime rate in Saxony?

a) Crime and its social Causes

People are not "criminal" per se, they are deemed "criminal" by creating a criminal offense and prosecuting the person for a violation. Thus, what behaviour, or who, is "criminal" is a matter of socio-cultural context, political power relations in legislative bodies, and power (to define). Society (or a part of it) determines, on the one hand, the causes that lead to crime, and on the other hand, what is perceived as "harmful" and worthy of punishment in the first place.

Capitalism makes a few in our society very rich, but many very poor. This produces both "white collar" crime (e.g. Cum-Ex tax fraud) and poverty crime (e.g. shoplifting because a person is always broke at the end of the month). Furthermore, people are labeled "illegal" for not being allowed to stay in a country. The process of illegalization results in people being pushed into criminality because they cannot legally pursue a job or receive state minimum benefits.

In the following, we use the figures from the 2019 police crime statistics of the Police Saxony. Caution is required with the figures, as they do not give a statement about the actual crime, but only an impression of the populations reporting behaviour or an activity report by the police. Also, the numbers do not express whether someone was later convicted. However, they are sufficient for our purpose here.

b) Proportion of various offences in total offences

Overall, 271.796 Crimes were reported in Saxony, in 2019. ¹

Order of Precedence:

1. Theft 40,9%

2. Property offences and forgery 15 %

Fraud 11,3 % (75,4% of Property offences and forgery)

Misappropriation of Services 3,6%

3. Act of brutality / offense against personal liberty 12,1%

E.g. bodily injury without aggravating circumstances 5,5%

e.g. Duress (1,3%), Threatening (1,6%), Robbery (0,6%), Stalking (0,4%)

¹ PKS Sachsen Jahresüberblick 2019, Seite 4-6, unter:
<https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/dokumente/Landesportal/PKSXJahresXberblick2019-637211865241225172.pdf>

4. Property Damage 11,66 %

e.g. Vandalism 4 % (Graffiti)

5. Narcotics 5,9% (esp. Cannabis and Crystal Meth)

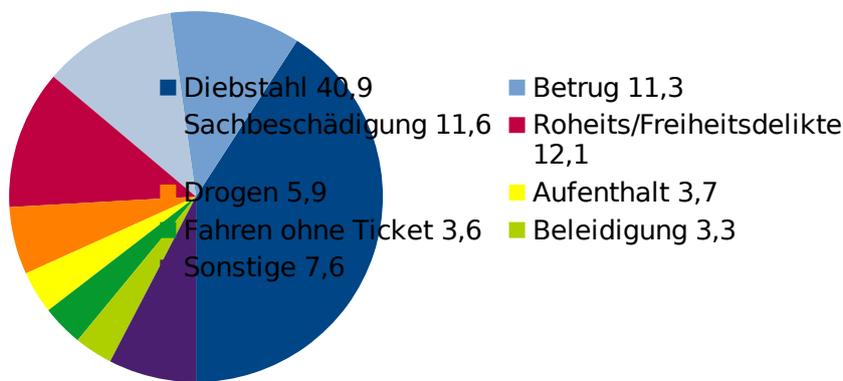
„Narcotics offences are rarely reported by citizens. Therefore, the number of reported cases does not nearly describe the actual extent of drug-related offences. It rather expresses the extent of the police measures.“²

13.012 (other drugs) + 3.007 (Crystal) = 16.019 von 271.796 → 5,9%

6. Violations of Asylum and Residency Laws 3,7 %

7. Defamation 3,3%

Kriminalität nach Deliktstypen



(crime in different types of offenses)

Theft 40,9

Fraud 11,3

Criminal/property damage 11,6

Act of brutality / offense against personal liberty 12,1

Narcotics 5,9

Violations of Asylum and residency rights 3,7

***300	Diebstahl von Fahrrädern einschließlich unbefugten Gebrauchs	21 021	7,7	515
*26*00	Ladendiebstahl	17 635	6,5	432
*40*00	Diebstahl in/aus Boden-, Kellerräumen und Waschküchen	16 273	6,0	399
224000	vorsätzliche einfache Körperverletzung	15 032	5,5	369
*50*00	Diebstahl an/aus Kraftfahrzeugen	11 893	4,4	292
674300	sonstige Sachbeschädigung auf Straßen, Wegen oder Plätzen	10 951	4,0	269
725000	Straftaten gegen das AufenthG, AsylG und FreizügG/EU	10 045	3,7	246
515000	Erschleichen von Leistungen	9 872	3,6	242
673000	Beleidigung	9 039	3,3	222
674100	Sachbeschädigung an Kfz	8 914	3,3	219
731800	allgem. Verstöße n. § 29 BtMG m. Cannabis u. Zubereitungen	6 309	2,3	155
***500	Diebstahl von unbaren Zahlungsmitteln	5 922	2,2	145
*10*00	Diebstahl in/aus Dienst-, Büro-, Fabrik-, Werkst.- und Lagerr.	5 836	2,1	143
511200	sonstiger Warenkreditbetrug	5 817	2,1	143
222000	gefährliche und schwere Körperverletzung	5 692	2,1	140
530000	Unterschlagung	5 269	1,9	129
*35*00	Diebstahl in/aus Wohnungen	5 246	1,9	129
622000	Hausfriedensbruch	4 738	1,7	116
232300	Bedrohung	4 215	1,6	103
511300	Warenbetrug	3 894	1,4	95
232200	Nötigung	3 568	1,3	87
540000	Urkundenfälschung	2 994	1,1	73
731702	allgem. Verstöße § 29 BtMG mit Methamphetamin/Crystal	2 464	0,9	60
*90*00	Taschendiebstahl	2 411	0,9	59
516000	Betrug bzw. CompB mittels rechtswidrig erlangter unbarer ZM	2 328	0,9	57
*45*00	Diebstahl in/aus überwiegend unbezogenen Neu- und Rohbauten, Baubuden und Baustellen	1 881	0,7	46

Extract of „Rangfolge ausgewählter

Straftatengruppen nach

dem Anteil an der

Gesamtzahl der

erfassten Fälle“

PKS Sachsen Jahresüberblick 2019, Seite 4

Violent Crime 2019³:

The Saxon police classify as "violent crime" the violent offences detected, excluding simple bodily harm (= 5.5%), negligent bodily harm and involuntary manslaughter (2019: 43) (less than 0.4%). Thus, it only includes intentional homicide & manslaughter, sexual / sexualised violence, grievous / dangerous bodily harm and robbery under this term.

Talking about this now, we do not want to trivialise any of the individual acts. Each one is one too many. Our aim is to show that the proportion of police work that most people think they need to do is very small. Again, the number does not represent the reality! Victims do not always go to the police to file a complaint, because perpetrators often have a personal relationship of proximity and possibly also a relationship of dependency. Many prefer to resolve conflicts "among themselves". Furthermore, there are many (good) reasons why victims do not go to the police. Leftists and those affected by discrimination (e.g. racism) are less likely to go to the police because of bad experiences, the risk of renewed repression or lack of trust. Illegalised persons are excluded from the possibility of seeking help from the police, because in most cases they would probably have to declare their illegal residence or work. The police are therefore of no help to a considerably large proportion of the population.

This is also made clear in the annual report of RAA Sachsen e.V.: "The proportion of cases [of right-wing motivated violence in 2019, editor's note] in which charges were filed is, as in previous years, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$, i.e. 172 of the attacks are known to the police, only 40 were not reported, in 14 it is not known. Of these 172 acts of violence known to the police, 100 cases are currently also officially classified as PMK right-wing, as far as this can be seen from the criminal offences in the phenomenon area "Politically motivated crime - right-wing" issued by the Ministry of the Interior in the course of monthly small enquiries in the Saxon state parliament."

A total of 7649 cases occurred in 2019, of which the clearance rate was 78.5%.

The proportion of 7649 out of 271,796 is 2.81%.

Thereof:

Crimes against sexual self-determination

3195 cases, Clearance rate 87,1%

3195 of 271.796 = **1,2 %**

3 PKS Sachsen Grafischer Überblick 2019, Seite 12,
<https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/dokumente/Landesportal/PraesentationXSMIXPKSXJahrX2019.pdf>

Crimes against Life⁴

Out of 125 Crimes processed in 2019 (which in turn were reported as happening 2015 - 2019), 57 were closed: 6 murders, 8 manslaughters, and 43 negligent killings.

The clearance rate for crimes against life is 94,4%. For all crimes, it is 54,6 %

125 of 271.796 = **0,05%**

Use of Firearms

„In 2019, 420 offences were registered in which the perpetrators used firearms. In 188 cases (44.8%) the weapon was used to threaten, in 232 cases (55.2%) it was fired.“⁵

420 von 271.796 = **0,15%**

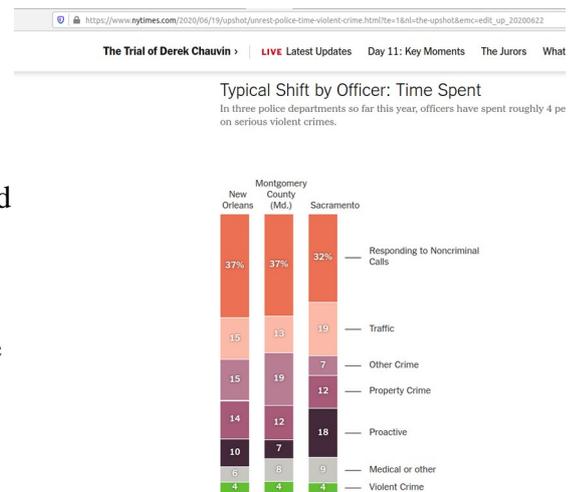
c) How do the police spend their time policing?

From the proportions of crime, it is therefore also possible to deduce quite a bit about how the police spend all their time and what their priorities are.

The adjacent chart from the New York Times article "How Do the Police Actually Spend Their Time?" shows how much time the police in three different US cities spend on which crime groups. Only 4% of their time was spent on violent crime, while they spent significantly more on non-criminal activity (e.g. disturbing the peace), medical emergencies, property crime or traffic. The amount of time the police spend "proactively", e.g. driving stiffs, is also not exactly low.

Even if the results of the study from the USA cannot simply be transferred to the situation in the Federal Republic of Germany, it shows once again that many of the things that the highly militarised and over-financed police do could also be done by civil organisations or social cooperatives.

Instead, Saxony continues to militarise. We will probably soon also give the public order offices (police authorities) batons, mace and new powers to use force.⁶



4 PKS Sachsen Jahresüberblick 2019, Seite 5,

<https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/dokumente/Landesportal/PKSXJahresXberblick2019-637211865241225172.pdf>

5 PKS Sachsen Jahresüberblick 2019, Seite 11,

<https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/dokumente/Landesportal/PKSXJahresXberblick2019-637211865241225172.pdf>

6 <https://www.saechsische.de/sachsen/reizgas-und-schlagstoেকে-fuer-buergermeister-5420480-plus.html>

d) What do we need police for?

What tasks would be left for the police if we were to tackle the social causes of "crime" instead of fighting people who violate a supposed norm of the majority society? Only by reflecting on the tasks and the accompanying power of the police can we ask whether we really need to spend over a billion € every year on the police in Saxony alone.

By materially securing people's livelihoods, an enormous amount of property crime could be avoided. After all, people rarely steal for fun, but out of poverty.

We urgently need to decriminalise. With regard to drugs, a harm reduction approach for consumers would be much more helpful. A better approach to addiction and substances would also lead to a significant reduction in certain crimes overall, as 9% of the crimes solved in Saxony in 2019 were committed under the influence of hard drugs and 5.8% under the influence of alcohol. Migration should not be criminal, which kills thousands every year at Europe's external borders. Instead, there should be an unconditional right to stay. Driving without a ticket should not be a criminal offence. Rather invest the costs of prosecuting people in free and climate-friendly public transport.

We need effective protection against violence, especially for children, LGBTQIA+ and those affected by discrimination, as well as solidarity-based support networks in communities. In addition, right-wing violence and hate crime must be eliminated through social change. This is only possible with a clear anti-fascist commitment and the fight against all forms of discrimination. This would enormously reduce violent crime (e.g. femicide, child abuse, racist or anti-Semitic attacks,...), especially in the personal sphere.

Many of the petty crimes lead to substitute prison sentences because of poverty (almost 10% of prison inmates in Germany⁷). "The number of prison places occupied by so-called substitute custodial sentences has risen by almost 25 per cent in Germany in the past ten years and causes costs of more than 200 million euros per year. "⁸ In most cases, reparation instead of punishment would be sufficient for those affected. This would also lead to a reduction in the "need for police". The prison system itself is another big question, but we will not go into it here.

⁷ <https://www1.wdr.de/daserste/monitor/sendungen/ersatzfreiheitsstrafen-100.html>

⁸ <https://www1.wdr.de/daserste/monitor/extras/pressemeldung-ersatzfreiheitsstrafen-100.html>

3. Alternative organisation for those affected

There are some project models to replace the police for the management of conflict situations in different cities. There are essentially 2 options for organisation. One is to set up a state-maintained organisation alongside the police and the medical emergency service, and the other is to be organised privately by volunteers from the respective neighbourhood.

a) CAHOOTS

Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets in Eugene & Springfield, USA send out a team consisting of a paramedic and a crisis worker in a van instead of the police. For all three services, the call number is the same, so the responders have a lot of responsibility in who they alert according to their assessment of the situation. The responders receive 500 hours of training, do not carry weapons, and have no legal authority to enforce laws. They try to resolve conflicts through mediation. In 2019, they responded to 24,000 calls, which is about 20% of all emergency calls in Eugene. Only less than 1% required police assistance because the situation was violent. Police costs \$90 million while CAHOOTS only needs \$2 million per year.

Based on this model, similar projects have been tried in many other us cities, for example the Mental Health Crisis Team in New York City or the Support Team Assistance Response (Star Van) in Denver, USA.⁹

b) PAM¹⁰

In Stockholm, Sweden, the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team, an ambulance service to reduce stigma of mental health problems, de-escalate potentially violent situations and prevent suicides, has been in place since 2015. This is also a state-established and maintained service.



c) Mental-Health First

In contrast, MH-First in Sacramento, USA is an "independent mental health crisis response service staffed by a team of volunteers trained to de-escalate confrontations and provide help and resources to those with potentially life-threatening mental health issues." ¹⁰ So far, they only work on weekends with about 30 volunteers in total, with many more still in training. They function independently and without the support or approval of the authorities.

⁹ <https://thecrimereport.org/2020/11/11/mental-health-crisis-teams-slated-to-replace-cops-in-nyc-pilot-program/>

¹⁰ <https://www.dailyscandinavian.com/successful-launch-worlds-first-mental-health-ambulance-stockholm/>

Acute help in Leipzig

There are also some support services in Germany. The following are a few numbers and institutions in Leipzig that you can contact if you need help but not the police.

Frauennotruf (Women's emergency hotline)

0341 47 98 17 9

0341 30 61 08 00

Girls and Women (FLINTA people) affected by sexualised violence can reach out to the “Frauennotruf”, a specialist department and helpline. In acute cases of crisis, you can call the “Frauennotruf“ 24 hours a day.¹¹

Sozialpsychiatrischer Dienst (Social psychiatric service)

0341 99 99 00 01

Monday to Friday from 07:00-19:00

psychosoziales Beratungstelefon (psychosocial counselling Hotline)

0341 99 99 00 00

Only on weekends and holidays from 08:00 - 18:00

Jugendnotdienst (Youth Emergency Service)

0341 41 12 13 0

Kindernotdienst (Child Emergency Service)

0341 41 20 92 0

<https://www.leipzig.de/jugend-familie-und-soziales/gesundheitspsychiatrie-und-psychosoziale-hilfe/>

<http://frauennotruf-leipzig.de/frauennotruf.html>

<https://bellis-leipzig.de/hilfe-beratung/>

Hilfebuss für obdachlose Menschen (Help Bus for the Unhoused or Homeless)

0152 034 329 03 (temporary number)

Accessible from 18.00 – 23.00 Uhr daily

<https://suchtzentrum.de/hilfebuss>

¹¹ <https://feministischerstreikleipzig.wordpress.com/hilfe-bei-hauslicher-oder-sexualisierter-gewalt/>

4. Do we need “the police”?

Feminist Postcolonial Abolitionism

Let's move on to the question of whether we really need the "police". Certainly not in the form in which we know it today. In this context, we must not forget the European torturing border police Frontex, which we can safely do without.

But abolishing the police must mean establishing security and justice differently. We need "a comprehensive social transformation and strengthening of institutions of social and political participation as well as social, intersectional and socio-economic justice"¹². That this is a longer social process, dependent on many other struggles, is obvious. "Abolish the Police" can only be done in an anti-capitalist way, and thus only in an anti-racist and feminist way, since police are needed primarily to secure property and protect the nation state. Nevertheless, in the following we try to present a quite concrete concept that contains some important milestones.

"Abolitionist and reformist aspirations are not necessarily mutually exclusive. There is a multitude of reforms that do not stand in the way of abolitionist approaches, but can, if necessary, be considered as stages."¹³ For such reforms, which are more than overdue, we gladly refer for example to a proposal of the Green Youth, which deals with education & anti-discrimination, much more social work, complaint offices, compulsory labelling, studies and much more.¹⁴ These are the first, mostly necessary, proposals that can be realised tomorrow, which will make the police a little "better" and at least break up the unbearable status quo. However, not too much time and especially not too much money should be invested in this!¹⁵ Most of the problems with the police are of a systemic and structural nature and to overcome them, "the police" must be fundamentally democratically restructured and deprived of power (tasks). This must even be done so profoundly that one can also speak of abolition.

However, there are situations that require the use of force in the form of self-defence to protect people. If this is not possible by the person(s) concerned themselves, an external institution would be required, which would also have to be available around the clock. We want to face this supposed contradiction and propose a solution with a "new institution". We do not want to exclude the possibility of other forms of self-defence or militant self-protection. This should be understood above all as a constructive proposal for discussion.

We are striving for this transformation in the medium term, which we imagine to be a period of about 5-10 years. Following on from what has already been said above, a description of the social preconditions ("if") and conditions for the "new institution" ("then") is chosen.

¹² Vanessa E. Thompson, <https://www.gender-blog.de/beitrag/abolitionismus-intersektionale-intervention>

¹³ Benjamin Derin und Michèle Winkler, <https://www.cilip.de/2021/04/11/polizeiproblem-abschaffen-einfuehrende-skizzen-zur-kritik-der-polizei/>

¹⁴ <https://gruene-jugend.de/polizei-neu-aufstellen/25>

¹⁵ http://criticalresistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CR_NoCops_reform_vs_abolition_REV2020.pdf

- social preconditions:
 - Decriminalisation (drugs, migration, driving without a ticket, ...)
 - material security (turning away from capitalist economy, no sanction-based basic security)
 - social education regarding different forms and intertwining of discrimination
 - more social work and specific contact points for conflict resolution
 - neighbourhood-based organisation to ensure safety in the village or city neighbourhood & communities
 - Strengthen psychiatric crisis response service
 - mediation-based processing of crimes instead of offender-oriented criminal proceedings
 - No replacement by private security service providers (no/barely any parliamentary or judicial control guaranteed).

→ Reduction of poverty/wealth crime

→ Reduction of violent crime along structural discrimination lines

→ (Social) security and (actual) justice through reparation instead of punishment.

- Conditions for the "new institution":
 - Occasion-related armed unit
 - no proactive police operations (patrols) and thus no possibility for suspicionless checks → comes only on request or emergency call
 - for very narrowly defined tasks for concrete dangerous situations
 - e.g. terrorist attacks, rampages, investigation of certain violent crimes
 - gets by with a small number of people and budget
 - Different name than "police" to draw a clear line under racist-classist-military tradition → "Institute for Crime Investigation and Self-Defence".
 - Examined by:
 - public through media & civil society organisations,
 - independent through its own institution (especially also scientific/ scholarly),
 - parliament
 - democratic organisation → election of superiors possible
 - Selection process with social competence, interdisciplinary training with focus on reflection of own power position and error culture