

INTERNATIONAL SAFE COMMUNITIES  
CERTIFYING CENTRE



*Delmenhorst Certifiers Evaluation Report  
on 2nd  
Re-designation as an International Safe Community  
November 2023*

**General introduction**

The city of Delmenhorst is in the federal state of Lower Saxony, immediately west of Bremen. Delmenhorst has 80 271 inhabitants (there of 70,492 German and 9,779 foreign). Delmenhorst received its town charter as early as 1371. Delmenhorst has been developed into a large industrial town and is now transformed to a modern service centre.

Today, Delmenhorst's economy is characterized by diverse sectors in the manufacturing industry, from internationally active companies in the food industry, to producers of internationally sought-after offshore, marine and underwater technology, suppliers to the flight industry and the latest Airbus production, to a solid cast of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with regional and national significance.

The superordinate goal for the community of Delmenhorst is the promotion of health of children and adolescents as well as of their families. The baseline of everyone involved is the assumption that reasonable prevention must involve every social group within the community starting as early as possible. The city of Delmenhorst prioritizes preventing accidental and violence-related injuries through targeted prevention, using specific precaution. Delmenhorst is engaged in Safe Community activities since 1998. After the successful application and certification, the activities were intensified by involving many citizens and organisations. The successful interdepartmental work and systematic cooperation remain as an important foundation. Prevention has been a long-term active strategy for many years. The actors in Delmenhorst learn from experiences in foreign communities and actively contribute to the international society with the own experiences.

An independent stakeholder, the "Delmenhorster Institut für Gesundheitsförderung" (Institute for Health Promotion, DIG) works as a coordinator, moderator and regulator as well as a consult concerning scientific questions.

**Indicator 1. Governance**

With the "Round table" as a heart of accident and injury prevention Delmenhorst has from the beginning established the Safe Community program in line with the ground pillars for the Safe Community movement. Cross-sector collaboration - all must collaborate and contribute with the knowledge and experience they have - is often mentioned as obvious to apply and easy to understand the importance of. As we also know cross-sector collaboration is very difficult and contains a lot of difficulties due to different culture in the sectors and also different views on how to

solve problems between different professionals such as engineers, physicians, social workers, lawyers, nurses etc. The different technical language also often causes misunderstandings and problem.

The "Round Table Accident Prevention" is integrated into the municipal developments of prevention and health promotion and has meetings four times a year within the framework of the Communal Prevention Council "KPR". Since summer 2015, the city has chosen to bring together accident, violence and crime prevention. All organizations represented in this framework are still represented and actively involved. It is the comprehensive approach for the whole life stage and injury mechanism.

We certifiers appreciate what is written in the application about Safety behaviour, safety awareness and risk perception among leaders, employees, enterprises, organizations and citizens. We propose that you also include indicators in order to evaluate and follow the changes by your surveillance system for the next application in five years.

#### **Certifiers comment:**

- The experience of "the Round Table" is important and your work and knowledge based on that are of great value to share with other communities.
- In the application the costs for prevention and promotion are emphasised as a problem for allocating money to such activities. The total costs for accident and injuries in a society are enormous. As the Mayor wrote in the Letter of Intent "Injuries caused by accidents, neglect and violence lead to substantial human harm and economic burdens at every stage of life." It is seldom cost- and benefit analyses are published, and we still have no common sense among different researchers about how to produce such studies when it comes to injuries. Trials that have been done shows different results and the costs are always astonishing high. One study - we in the movement - often refer to is a Swedish study made more than 10 years ago. It shows that in Sweden at that time the total costs in Sweden with around 10 million citizens was around 7 billion Euro. In Delmenhorst lives around 80 000. If we make a simple calculation and presume the same costs in Germany as in Sweden it will say that the costs for injuries in Delmenhorst is 56 million Euro. Of course, all accidents and injuries cannot be prevented in short time but your work here in Delmenhorst to prevent injuries results in around 25 % and it is 14 million Euro every year.
- About the negative effects of injuries, we must have in mind that when we measure different health problems as "Years of life lost" we lose more years by injuries than we lose by cancer and heart-diseases together.
- We also recommend to use DALY (Disability Adjusted Life Years) as a well-known indicator for showing the magnitude of Injuries.

#### **Indicator 2 Surveillance**

A national accident reporting system does not exist in Germany. The cause of death statistics of the Federal Statistical Office as well as the hospital diagnosis statistics are each based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). However, the important information about the causes of accidents are not recorded.

Traffic accident statistics is based on accidents reported to the police and only define the severity of injury according to light (outpatient) and heavy (inpatient) treatment.

Crime statistics for violent offenses do not record diagnoses. Data from emergency services are not collected.

Injuries in care facilities and educational institutions are recorded by the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV).

**Certifiers comments:**

According to the application surveillance is a weak point of scientific analysis due to the data protection laws in Germany. For prevention and promotion and for develop and evaluate different projects you need data to understand the injury panorama (status) and cause of injuries. The city has done a lot to compensate that. We appreciate very much what Delmenhorst has done and we want to know:

- How are the quality management of the data you use done. We recommend employing survey method when the surveillance system is not well developed. Moreover we recommend Capture-recapture method in order to control our data bases and estimate under-reporting.
- It is as we all know difficult to combine information from different sources how to avoid double-reporting and how to combine information from different sources and how to compensate for the under-reporting of accidents. We know for example that in the police statistics in other countries under-reporting is frequent and different for different kind of accidents. Serious accidents with cars involved are not under-reported as frequent as accidents with only bikes or pedestrians.
- Hidden injuries occur as we know in all countries when it comes to injuries from family violence. The result is that family violence is not often considered as such big problem as it is.
- It would be important to show a summary of the results, particularly the trends over time and also compared with national data and available data from other communities.

**Indicator 3 Comprehensiveness**

**Certifiers comment:**

There are a lot of interesting projects in the presentation, and it seems that all relevant local sectors are represented in the projects. It is also a good balance between focus on attitude and behaviour and focus on environment design in different projects.

Among unique projects are "Midnachtshalle" and projects for guidance immigrants into the German society.

It is written in page 13 that the suicide prevention was not a focus of the activities in the past. An EU project with focus on mental health and suicide prevention started last year. We recommend more explanation about this project on the next application in five years.

**Indicator 4. Vulnerable groups**

**Certifiers comment:**

Delmenhorst has not used the list of risk and vulnerable groups that ISCCC has published. A lot of good projects has been presented. It seems that all relevant sectors have been engaged. No comment has been made for following risk-groups: Individuals participating in unsafe sports and recreational activities and people at risk due to their religion, appearance, race, or sexual orientation. Obviously, there are, for example, some citizens with so called untraditional sexual orientation. We know that they are high in risk group for different kind of intentional injuries.

## **Indicator 5. Evaluation**

### **Certifiers' comment:**

The evaluation as presented is a part of the evaluation system within in Delmenhorst and as it is clear and logic.

We can find evaluation on Neighborhood project which is mentioned as best practice in P 15, and also about school based project with school nurses in the Land Brandenburg conducted by DIG (P 16). We recommend planning for outcome evaluation as well as process evaluation for the next five years. It is very interesting that in page 26 explained about WG Data Collection and IDB and also a special survey. We would like to discuss the possibilities of employing updated resources in the future. Figures (Table 30-31-32) in Page 28 and 29 can give a good summary of traffic injuries during past years, however it would be possible to enrich those information with more details in the next application in five years.

According to the application, the safety awareness and residents satisfaction are not evaluated.

### **Indicator 6. Networking.**

The application contains many good and advanced promotion and prevention projects. Also good governance with all relevant sectors and the citizen's associations. Delmenhorst has also a role as forerunner and trendsetter in Germany. We certifiers are convinced that Delmenhorst will both contribute with many good ideas and get good ideas from other Safe Communities in other countries in the future. There are needs of development in some areas and no community can develop all aspects of a Safe Community themselves therefore collaboration with other Safe Communities are important. We of that reason expect active participation in the national and international events in the field of Safe Communities, Safety promotion and injury prevention during next coming years.

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