Wolfgang Kastel
Die Helfer Wiens (The Helpers of Vienna)

- Manager of “Die Helfer Wiens” (“The Helpers of Vienna”)
- Previously, he worked as a police officer in public relations
- Implementation of many prevention projects for different target groups
1989 - 2019
30 years “K-Kreis“
(“K-Circle“)

Wolfgang Kastel
Die Helfer Wiens
(The Helpers of Vienna)
Contents of the presentation

• “Die Helfer Wiens“ (“The Helpers of Vienna“) (formerly known as Wiener Zivilschutzverband (Austrian Civil Defence Association))

• “K-Kreis“ (“K-Circle“):
  • The start of an idea
  • Currently: activities and structure
  • Future
“Die Helfer Wiens“ ("The Helpers of Vienna")

- Prevention facility of the City of Vienna (legal form: Association)
- Order given by the Chief Executive Office - Organisation and Safety
- Vienna Disaster Relief and Crisis Management Act (see § 8 W-KKG)
Tasks of the “Helfer Wiens“ ("The Helpers of Vienna")

- Information on “Correct behaviour in cases of emergency“
- Umbrella organisations for the “K-Kreis“ ("K-Circle“)
- Offers for volunteers
Approx. 320 activities of the “Helfer Wiens” (“The Helpers of Vienna“) (per year)

- **Vorträge**: 180 activities
- **Veranstaltungstage**: 100 activities
- **davon mit K-Kreis**: 40 activities

Additionally, approx. 700 lectures on resuscitation projects
The “K-Kreis“ (”K-Circle“) in 1989

Five organisations present themselves together *for the first time* at the Vienna Danube Island Festival:

- Vienna Police
- Arbeiter Samariter Bund (Workers’ Samaritan Federation)
- Austrian Rescue Dog Brigade
- Vienna Red Cross
- Vienna Civil Defence Association
How was this possible?

- Commitment
- Motivation
- Interconnected thinking
- Trust
- Ability to give and receive criticism
- Knowing one’s limits
- Friendship
- ........................................................

City of Vienna
Safety is a comprehensive term!

- Health
- Environment
- Social issues
The development of the “K-Kreis“ (“K-Circle“)

Year 1994
The development of the “K-Kreis“ ("K-Circle")

Year 2009
The “K-Kreis“ ("K-Circle") in 2019

• 41 voluntary and professional organisations form a safety network

“K“ stands for the initials of the following words:

• Katastrophenschutz (Disaster Protection)
• Katastrophenhilfe (Disaster Relief)
• Kompetenz (Competence), and
• Kommunikation (Communication)
The organisation of the “K-Kreis“ (“K-Circle“)

- “Die Helfer Wiens“ (“The Helpers of Vienna“) are a neutral hub
- Independence of employees
- No hierarchies
- No possibilities to give orders
- Voluntariness
- No contracts
- ........and it works 😊
How can it work?

- Commitment
- Motivation
- Interconnected way of thinking
- Trust
- Ability to give and receive criticism
- Knowing one’s limits
- Friendship
- ........................
Advantages for the City of Vienna

• We know each other!
• We speak one language!
• Short decision-making processes!
The Helfer Wiens ("Helpers of Vienna"
are the point of contact for...
... the implementation of projects:

- Platform “Freiwillig für Wien”
  ("Volunteer for Vienna")
- Resuscitation project
- Safety days for schools
- Island “Sicheres Wien“ ("Safe Vienna") at the Danube Island
  Festival
- Vienna Safety Festival
The Helfer Wiens ("Helpers of Vien"
are the point of contact for…

... the area of prevention:

• Events
• Lectures
• Joint performances
• Joint trainings
• Network meetings
Advantages for the City of Vienna

For deployment:

• Planning of large-scale demonstrations, sporting events, etc.
• Joint emergency exercises
• In case of spontaneous events
The “Helfer Wiens (Helpers of Vienna) Award“
Prize award ceremony “Celebration of the Helpers”
“Helpers of Vienna Barbecue Party”
Future

• Generation change
• Commitment
• Motivation
• Trust
• Interconnected thinking
• Knowing one’s limits
• Ability to give and receive criticism
• Friendship

……………………
Thank you for listening.

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!