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Gemeinsame Koordinierungsstelle
Rhein-Wupper

GeKo Rhein-Wupper

When Municipalities Take the Initiative

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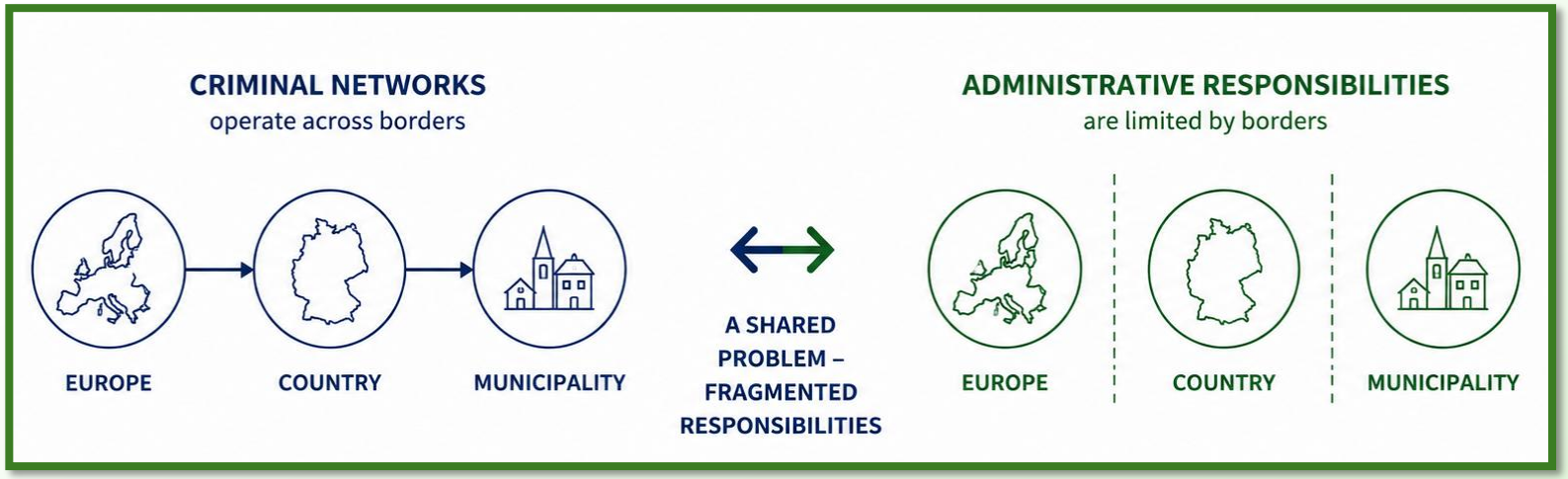
Organised crime does not stop at borders.

It does not stop at national borders – or at municipal borders.

Criminal networks operate across jurisdictions.

Our administrative responsibilities, however, remain largely bound by these borders.



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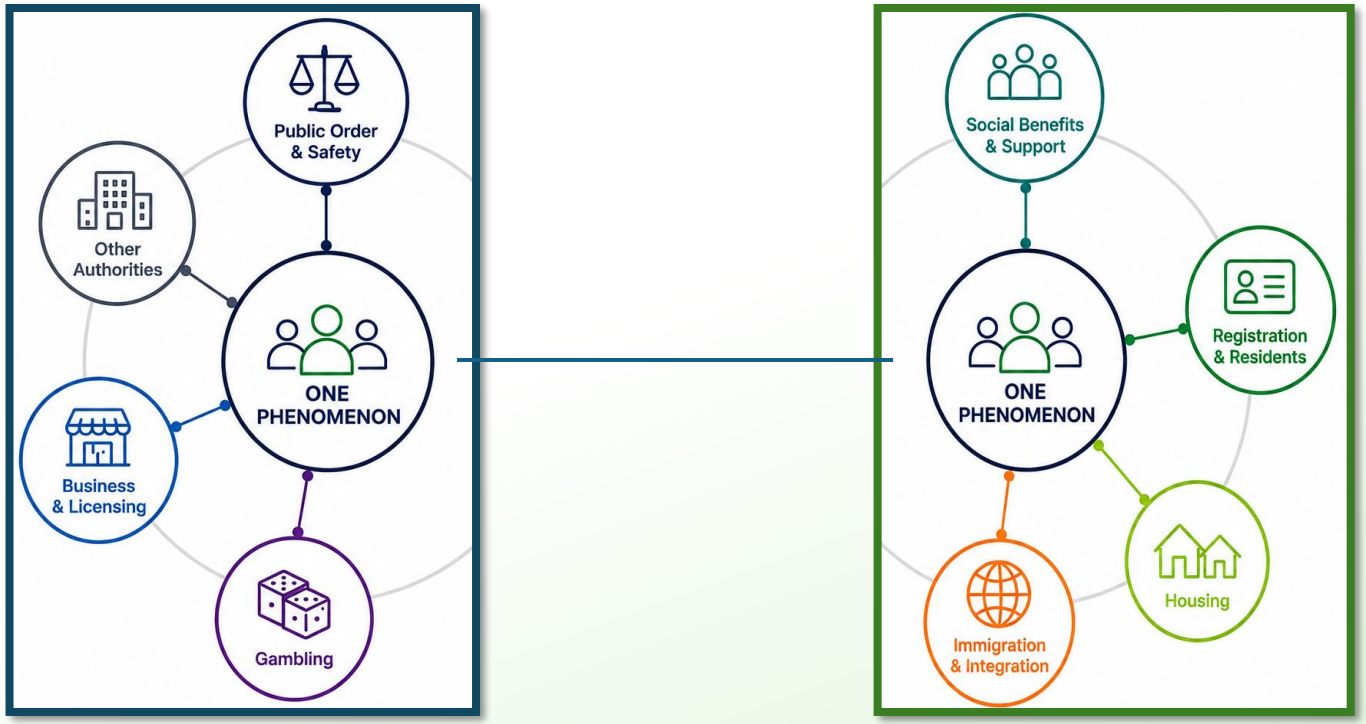
Five municipalities. One initiative.

We recognised a common problem.

We decided not to face it alone.

From individual perspectives to a shared picture

One phenomenon can have many administrative entry points.



The aim: to understand the problem from different perspectives before deciding how to act.

GeKo started with people, not technology

TODAY

People & trusted contacts

↕

Regular coordination meetings

↕

Telephone & e-mail

↕

Know who to ask - know who has the answer

NEXT STEP

Digital knowledge & contact network

↕

Database

↕

Make knowledge accessible and sustainable

Gold & Fur Businesses

How information sharing makes a phenomenon visible

One municipality’s observation can become another municipality’s starting point.

From information to action

Recognise. Share. Connect. Assess. Act.

1. RECOGNISE
Identify a phenomenon

2. SHARE
Share the observation

3. CONNECT
Bring the right people together

4. ASSESS
Look at the problem from different perspectives

5. ACT
Develop and implement a response

Information becomes useful when it reaches the right people.

Illegal Gambling

From shared experience to a common administrative approach

Our goal: We apply the law and legal framework consistently – so that there are **no avoidable gaps** that can be exploited.

1. THE GAP

- **Restaurant licence**
- **Suitability for gambling machines**

Different timing and practices can create loopholes.

2. OUR COMMON APPROACH

- **Common understanding**
- **Consistent application**

We agree on how to apply the legal framework.

3. THE RESULT

- **Less room for exploitation**
- **Greater consistency across municipalities**

The same legal framework. A more consistent application.

Coordinated control days (GeKo operations)

We agree on dates and focus areas (e.g. restaurants / suitability for gambling machines) and carry out control actions in our municipalities on the same day – each for its own area.

Same legal basis. Same understanding. Stronger together.

Less room for exploitation.
More protection for our communities.

What GeKo changes

From isolated observations to a shared understanding

1. SEE MORE

Different municipalities see different parts of the same phenomenon

2. CONNECT

Shared information connects these perspectives

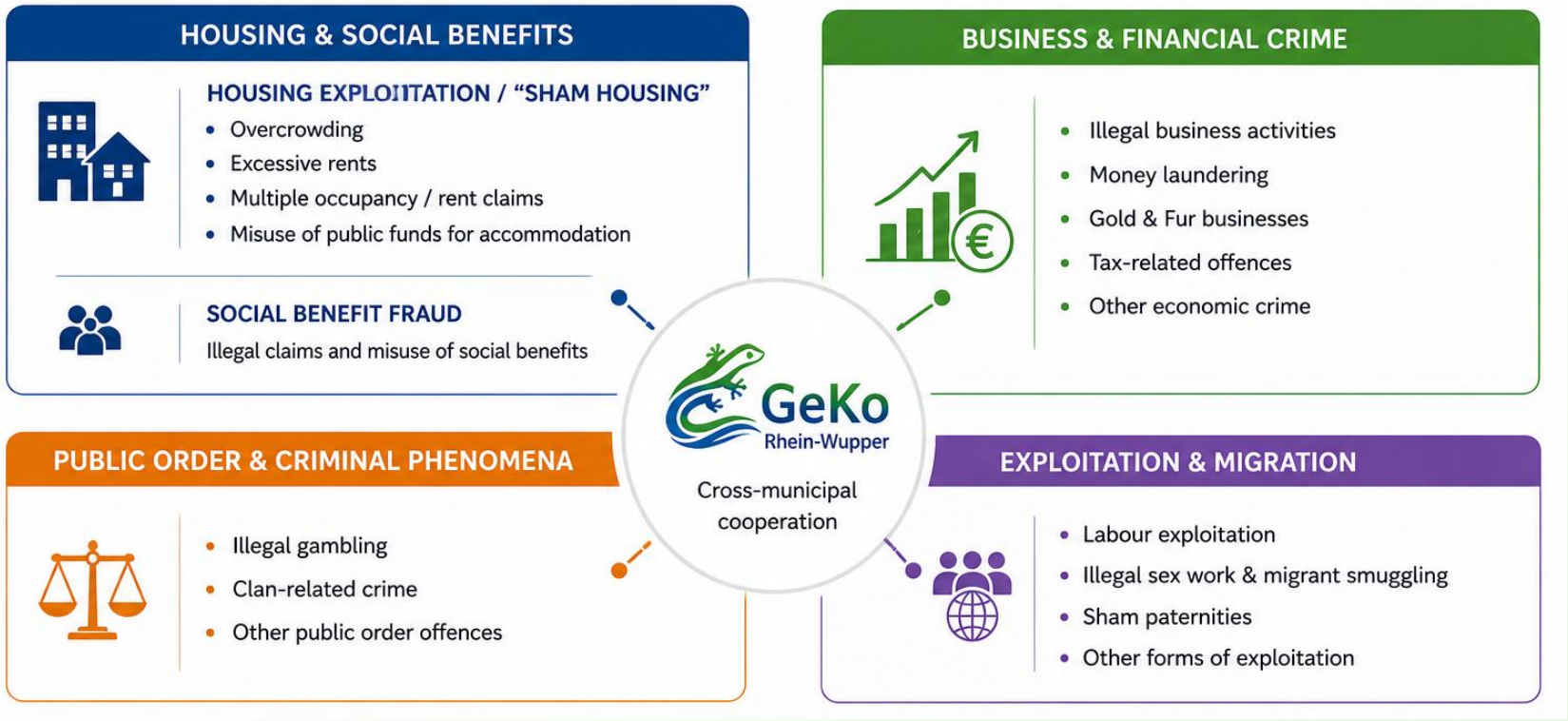
3. ACT TOGETHER

A common understanding leads to a more coordinated response

Five municipalities. One shared picture.

The phenomena we address

Different phenomena. One network.



ONE NETWORK. MANY PERSPECTIVES. STRONGER TOGETHER.

By combining knowledge and experience, we recognise patterns, close gaps and act more effectively.

A Multi-Agency Approach

GeKo connects municipal expertise with a wider network of authorities.

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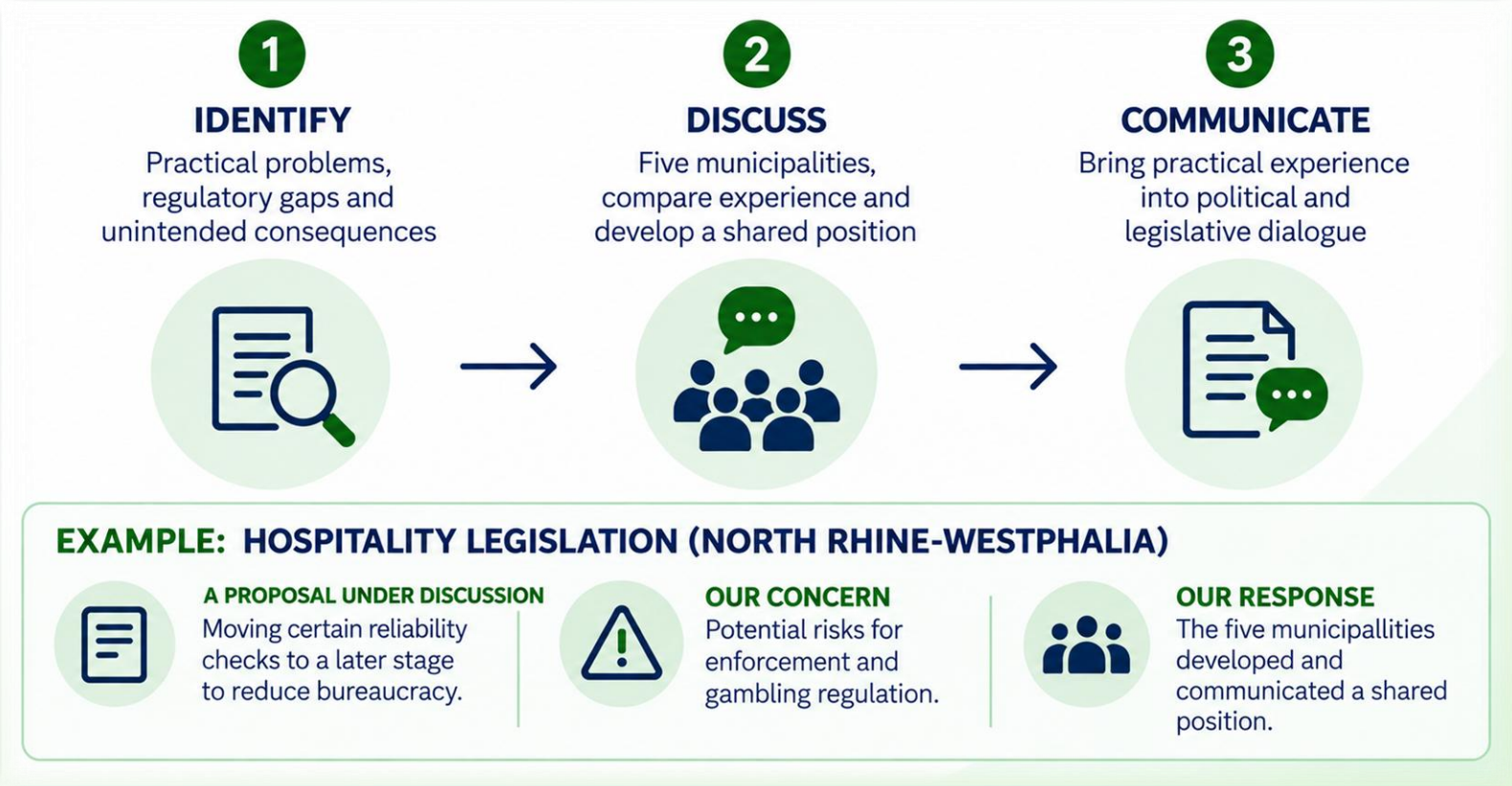
From local experience to political dialogue

Practical insights. A shared position. A strong voice.



FROM EXPERIENCE TO BEST PRACTICE

Learning from each other. Building for the future.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

1. **SHARE** Information and observations become more valuable when they are shared across municipal borders.

2. **LEARN** One municipality can learn from another municipality's experience and administrative practice.

3. **CONNECT** Knowing who has the right expertise is often as important as the information itself.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

- **KNOWLEDGE NETWORK** Make relevant experience and practical knowledge accessible across the network.

- **BEST PRACTICE** Identify and share approaches that work in practice.

- **DIGITAL ACCESS** Make the right contacts easier to find and knowledge easier to access.

The future of GeKo is not about replacing people with technology. It is about making our shared knowledge accessible to more people.

Thank you
for your attention.

I'll be happy to discuss any questions with you after the session.

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Let's stay connected.
Connect with me on LinkedIn