

ICDP Germany Annual Report 2024



The year 2024 was dedicated to preparing the first facilitator training in Germany. In January, I received confirmation that the AEWB (Association of Adult Education Centres in Lower Saxony) would organize the first ICDP training leading to the qualification of facilitators in Germany. With my cooperating partners AEWB and Nifbe (Lower Saxony Institute for Early Childhood Education and Development), I held various events to publicize the training, including a nationwide online workshop in March. I also gave workshops at two major daycare conferences, which Nifbe helped organize.

All of these seminars and workshops were centred around the Headline "Emotionally Healthy Daycare with ICDP." The slogan originated at an event in 2019 when I presented ICDP to a large daycare provider, and a professional said: "Rita—then ICDP is a tool for emotionally healthy daycare!" Nifbe found the term "emotionally healthy daycare" very apt in the context of its initiative on the topic of "Health and Well-being in Daycare Centres." Thus, it became the motto for our joint initiative to inspire people to participate in Germany's first facilitator training. Despite all efforts, the required number of participants was not reached, so the start of the training had to be postponed from August 2024 to February 2025. Currently (April 2025), the trainees are in the phase between Module 2 and Module 3 of the training and are about to begin their trial training sessions.

Thanks to my long-standing collaboration with professional associations, I had the opportunity to present the ICDP programme at the BG congress, held under the motto "Safe and Healthy in Educational Work." At the conferences in Dresden (June 2024) and Ulm (November 2024), I was able to deliver a keynote speech to a large audience about ICDP's relationship- and resource-oriented approach. I made many new contacts and got to know a large daycare provider in North Rhine-Westphalia that has its own health management system.

I am currently (April 2025) conducting preliminary discussions with its director, Johanna Eilebrecht, about a pilot project for the "Emotionally Healthy Daycare with ICDP." The provider has around 3,500 employees who together care for over 16,000 children and is one of the largest daycare providers in Germany. In November 2024, we conducted a joint workshop to present the ICDP approach to the management of the provider. The response was very positive, and there is a great willingness at management level to use the ICDP approach to strengthen daycare-teams in turbulent times. We are currently (April 2025) in discussions with a professor of work ability who would like to provide academic support for the project.

Furthermore, in 2024, I conducted a total of ten workshops, five study days, and six lectures at various institutions: in daycare centres run by various providers, in a secondary school, in the Department of Integration Assistance of the City of Hanover, and at a provider of disability services. And in March 2024, I repeated my two-day mini-training on relationship-oriented resilience promotion for employees of the municipal senior and nursing homes, again with very positive feedback.

A highlight of 2024 was my visit to Strobl on the beautiful Wolfgangsee as a speaker at the Austrian guidance counsellors' survey in October. The ICDP approach was received with great interest, and there is a willingness to continue working together.

Also in October, in cooperation with Nifbe, I conducted a workshop for daycare centre directors entitled "Leading with Feeling," which again referred to the Emotionally Healthy Daycare with ICDP.

At the end of the year, I contacted the Early Childhood Education Officer at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Education to draw her attention to the ICDP approach. After I was able to answer her question about scientific validation of the program by referring to numerous international studies, she promised to explore the possibilities of collaboration.

Overall, in 2024 many doors opened for ICDP in Germany, partnerships deepened, and new opportunities for cooperation emerged, so I look forward to future developments with confidence. After all, the joint efforts with my partners have led to me being able to start my first facilitator training at AEWB in 2025. I'm excited about our journey together—and happy that more and more people in Germany are coming into contact with the wonderful world of the ICDP.

Rita Crecelius
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