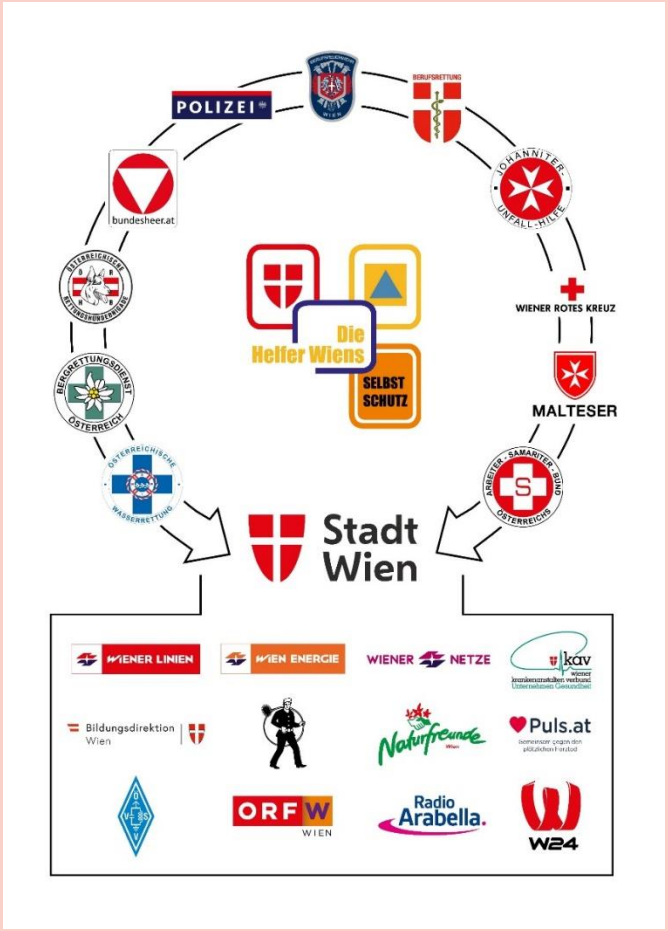
Wolfgang Kastel
Die Helfer Wiens (The Helpers of Vienna)

- 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 Vienn

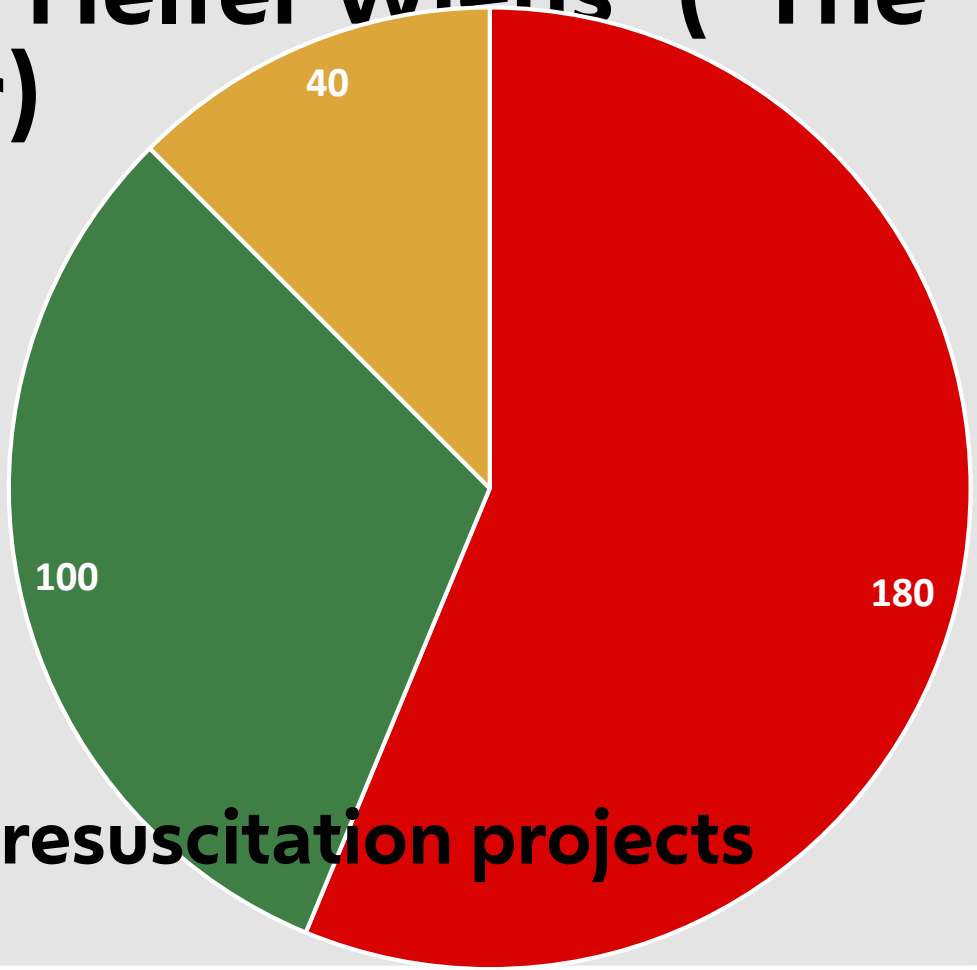
- Prevention facility of the City of Vienna (legal form: Association)
- Order given by the Chief Executive Office - Organisation and Safety
- Vienna Disaster Relief and Crisis Management Act (see § 8 W-KKG)

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
- Veranstaltungstage
- davon mit K-Kreis



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?

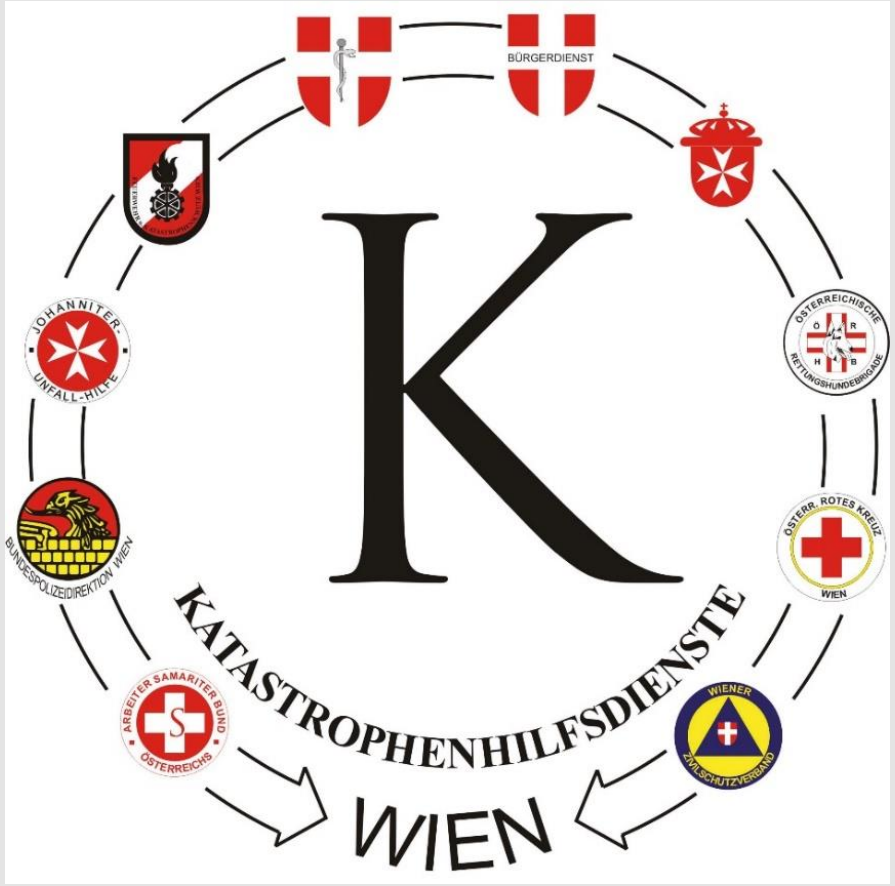
- Commitment
- Motivation
- Interconnected thinking
- Trust
- Ability to give and receive criticism
- Knowing one´s limits
- Friendship
- ……

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“)

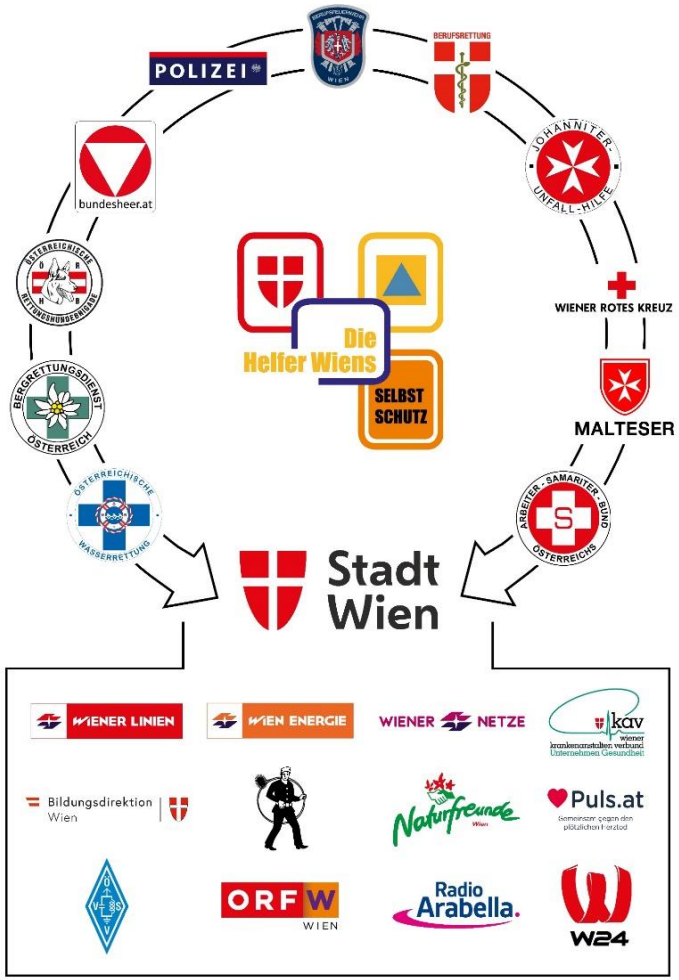
Year 2009

The “K-Kreis“ (“K-Circle“) in 2019

- 41 voluntary and professional organisations form a safety network

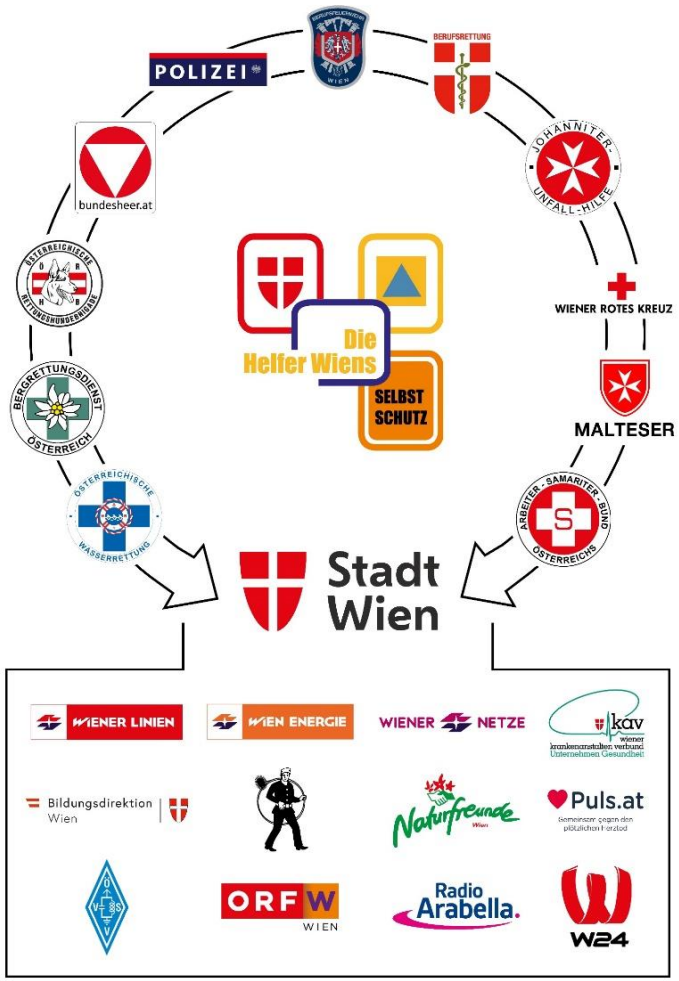
“K“ stands for the initials of the following words:

- Katastrophenschutz (Disaster Protection)
- Katastrophenhilfe (Disaster Relief)
- Kompetenz (Competence), and
- Kommunikation (Communication)



The organisation of the “K-Kreis“ (“K-Cirlce“)

- “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 ☺

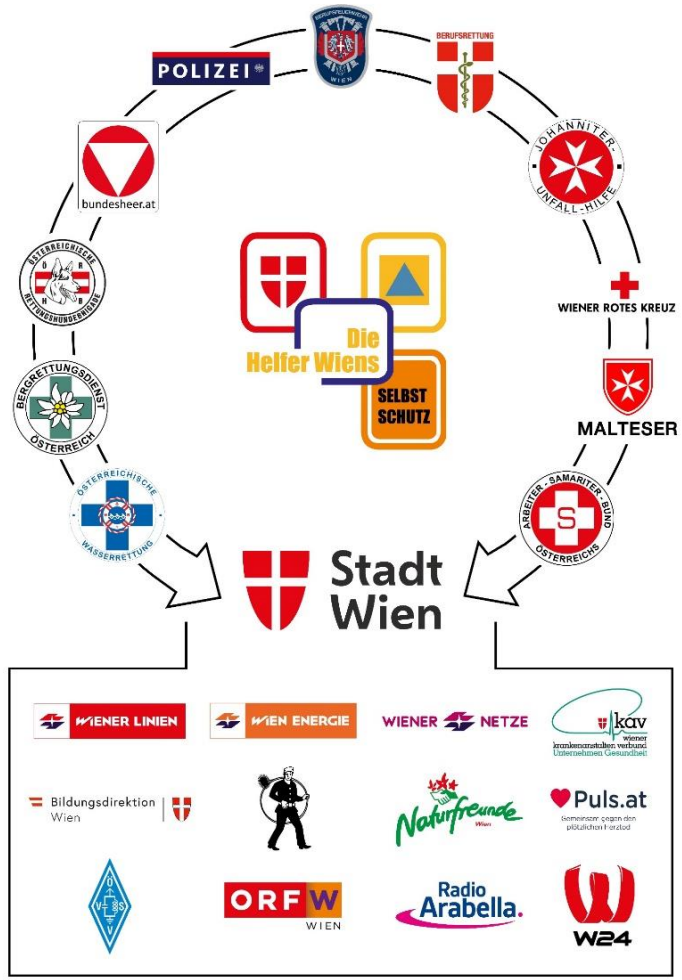


How can it work?

- Commitment
- Motivation
- Interconnected way of thinking
- Trust
- Ability to give and receive criticism
- Knowing one´s limits
- Friendship
- ……

Advantages for the City of Vienna

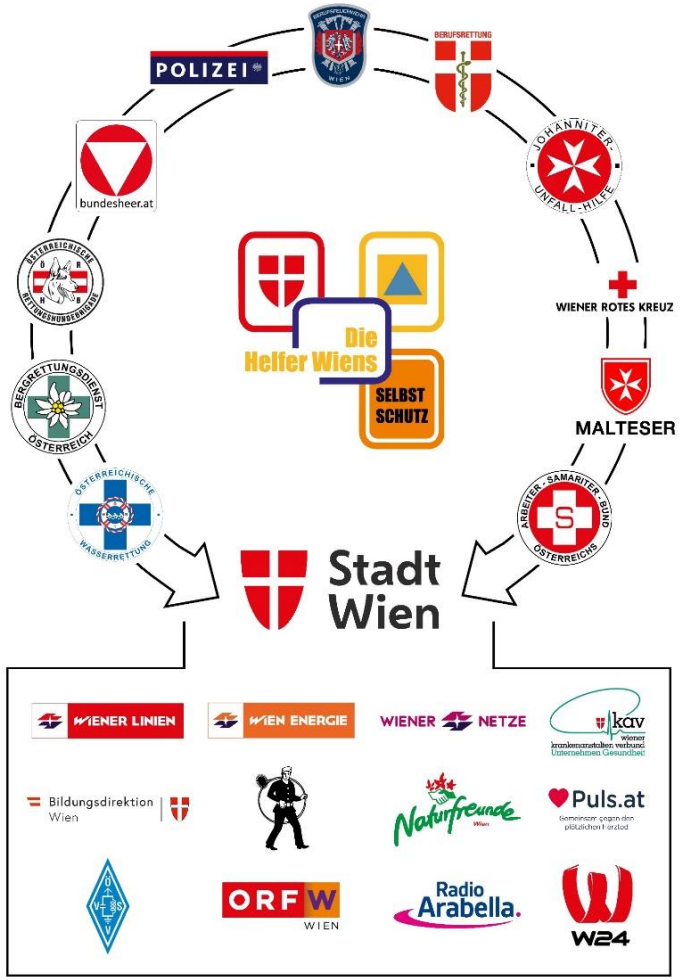
- We know each other!
- We speak one language!
- Short decision-making processes!



The Helfer Wiens ("Helpers of Vien are the point of contact for…

… the implementation of projects:

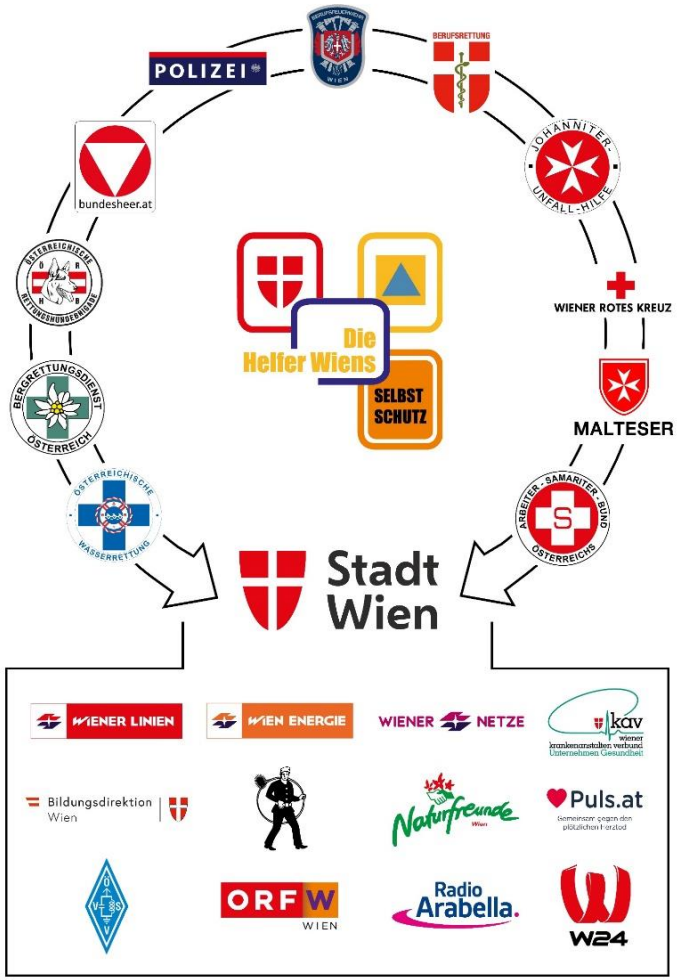
- Platform "Freiwillig für Wien" ("Volunteer for Vienna")
- Resuscitation project
- Safety days for schools
- Island "Sicheres Wien" ("Safe Vienna") at the Danube Island Festival
- Vienna Safety Festival



The Helfer Wiens ("Helpers of Vien are the point of contact for…

… the area of prevention:

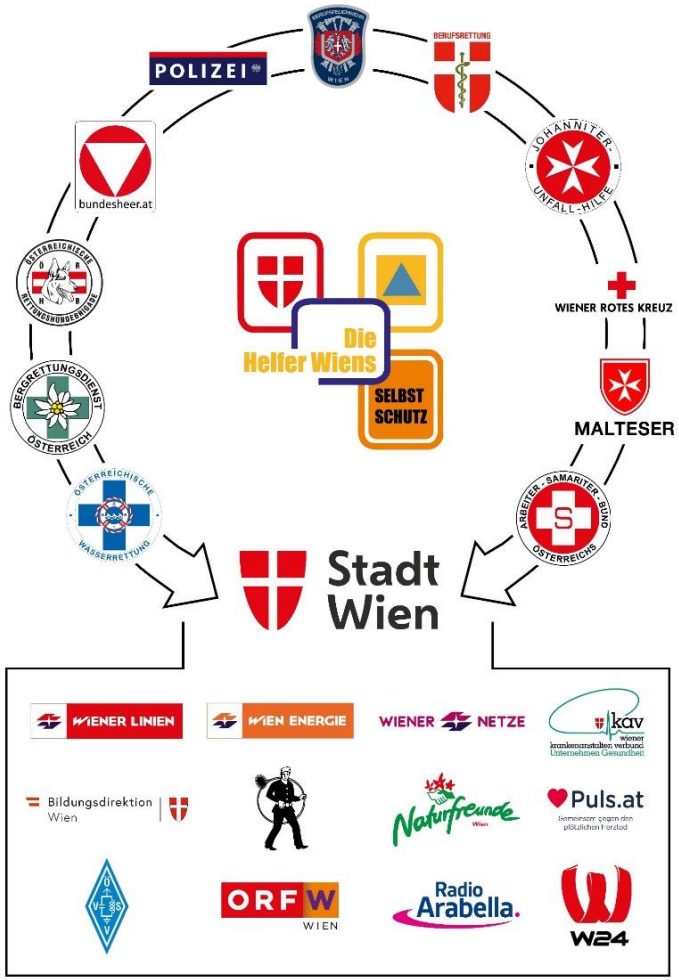
- Events
- Lectures
- Joint performances
- Joint trainings
- Network meetings



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!