

Thorsten Koch, MA, PgDip

– An Overview*



Glimpse

[Thorsten Koch, MA, PgDip](#) is involved in several organizations and ventures. He is the founder of [Policyinstitute.net](#), a non-profit organization which focuses on soft counter-extremism, on efforts against hate speech, against disinformation, as well as on capacity building in the Sahel region. Through his background as a journalist, researcher, and NGO manager, Koch provides solutions in media and communications.

Koch has founded [de-news.net](#), a journalistic service delivering news about Germany in English and French. The website is based on open-source information and features periodic articles regarding Germany's economy and main political events.

Koch's background as a journalist, researcher, and NGO manager equips him tackle complex issues effectively. Whether it is solving academic questions or providing solutions-based content, Koch has made a measurable impact. His experience and dedication to working towards a positive change position him as a valuable resource in media, communications, and the social sciences. In a nutshell, Koch's focus areas span from journalism to countering extremism up to promoting human rights.

Audiences in Focus

Thorsten Koch, with his academic qualifications – Master's degree in Mass Communications (Leicester), Postgraduate Diploma in Islamic Studies (University of Wales TSD) and advanced studies in Migration and Society (University of Mainz) –, has a diverse background as a journalist, social science researcher, author, and not-for-profit NGO manager. His work has a multifaceted influence on politics.

The following passage contains some ways in which Koch helps shape public spaces.

1. Expert Analysis and Reporting:

As a journalist and media expert, Koch provides insightful analyses of political events and developments. His reporting helps inform the public, experts, and policymakers,

shaping opinions and influencing political discourse. By providing international audiences with accurate and non-partisan information, he contributes to a broader understanding questions of security and political matters...

2. Policy Advocacy:

Through his NGO, Policyinstitute.net, Koch actively engages in policy discussions. He advocates for evidence-based policies, addressing societal challenges such as extremism, but also human rights.

3. Capacity Building:

Koch's work on the Sahara-Sahel region focuses on capacity building, strengthening institutions, and promoting stability in this conflict-affected area.

4. Thought Leadership:

The articles, research, and commentary that Koch shares on [LinkedIn](#) contribute to thought leadership. Policymakers, academics and decision-makers often refer to his work when shaping political strategies. His expertise, advocacy, and commitment to informed dialogue play a significant role in influencing politics.

Topical Emphases

Koch focuses on several critical policy areas. Here are some of the key domains where his expertise and influence come into play...

1. Soft Counter-Extremism:

Koch actively engages in efforts against radicalization, extremism, and hate speech. His work aims to promote tolerance, understanding, and dialogue, as effective tools in countering extremist ideologies, mainly through agenda setting.

2. Political Analyses:

As the founder of Policyinstitute.net, Koch disseminates strategic analyses related to political affairs. His insights contribute to informed decision-making by policymakers and stakeholders.

3. Media and Communications:

As a journalist and media expert, Koch influences policy discussions through accurate reporting and analysis. His coverage of political events in Germany shapes public opinion.

4. Human Rights Advocacy:

Koch's commitment to human rights extends to policy advocacy. He works to safeguard fundamental rights and address human rights violations.

Professional Background

Koch has made a significant impact in the field of journalism. His career spans various domains, including regional reporting, IT, financial news, and political reporting. As a journalist, he has honed his skills in delivering accurate and timely information to the public...

1. Policyinstitute.net:

Koch has founded [Policyinstitute.net](https://www.policyinstitute.net/), a non-profit organization which aims to create positive change by addressing societal challenges and which focuses on several critical areas:

- The promotion of Soft Counter-Extremism
- The prevention of hate speech
- Analyses concerning disinformation
- Capacity Building in the Sahel

2. de-news.net:

Koch is also the founder of [de-news.net](https://www.de-news.net/), a service that delivers news about Germany in English and French. This platform keeps readers informed about Germany's economy and major political events. By providing news in multiple languages, Koch ensures that interested audience can access relevant information.

3. Human Rights Advocacy:

Koch's commitment to human rights is evident through his work. He used to actively engage in promoting human rights, especially in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Soft Counter-Extremism

Koch has a high level of expertise in soft counter-extremism efforts. He focuses on soft approaches to counter radicalization and extremism. Soft counter-extremism (or non-kinetic counter-terrorism) emphasizes prevention, education, and community engagement rather than relying on law enforcement or military measures. In the next passage, his approach is highlighted...

Professional Involvement:

- Monitoring: identifying media content on early signs of radicalization and extremist behavior and similar issues.
- Education: raising awareness about the dangers of extremism and promoting tolerance.
- Community Building: strengthening community bonds to prevent isolation and radicalization through mediatization.
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Linkedin:

- Koch shares valuable insights on countering extremism and hate speech
- through his posts on the social media network [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/policyinstitute/).

- These resources include both theoretical analyses and practical guidance for individuals and organizations concerned by the issues at hand.

Approaches

In his approach of soft counter-extremism, Koch focuses on the following strategies...

1. Monitoring and Early Detection:

- Koch emphasizes subjects such as early signs of radicalization and means of countering extremist behavior.
- By closely monitoring online and offline activities, authorities and communities can intervene before radicalization escalates.

2. Education and Awareness:

- Education plays a crucial role in countering radicalization and extremism, according to Koch.
- He supports awareness campaigns, workshops, and other educational programs to inform individuals about the dangers of extremism.
- Koch promotes tolerance, critical thinking, and media literacy which can be helpful in preventing radicalization.

2. Community Engagement:

- Building strong community bonds is essential.
- Koch may advocate for community-based initiatives that foster dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among diverse groups.
- Engaged communities are more resilient to extremist ideologies.

3. Media and Communications Strategies:

- Given Koch's expertise in media and communications, he emphasizes effective messaging.
- Crafting narratives that counter extremist propaganda and promote positive values is crucial, in Koch's eyes.
- Media outlets can play a role in shaping public opinion and countering extremist narratives.

4. Collaboration with NGOs:

- Koch's work as an NGO manager shows his collaboration and activity regarding organizations and human-rights negotiations with government agencies.
- Coordinated efforts across sectors can enhance the impact of counter-extremism strategies.

Policyinstitute.net

The think tank [Policyinstitute.net](https://www.policyinstitute.net) saw the light in 2017. Its focus lies in the fields of counter-extremism and strategy. The institute plays a crucial role in promoting soft counter-extremism, providing resources, and contributing to strategic efforts. Here are some key points about the institute:

1. Soft Counter-Extremism:

Policyinstitute.net actively engages in soft counter-extremism efforts. The organization aims to address these issues through providing information on the latest research, analyses, and practical solutions.

2. Projects and Initiatives:

- counter-terrorism.org: Policyinstitute.net maintains a platform providing free resources related to countering extremism and hate speech. It includes curated lists of the most popular LinkedIn resources on these topics, as posted on LinkedIn.
- preventhate.org: another project by Policyinstitute.net, i.e. preventhate.org, focuses on countering hateful expressions. The organization actively works to combat hate speech and promote tolerance and understanding
- sahara-sahel.org: the organization features reports on capacity building in the Sahara-Sahel region, an area facing challenges related to security, development, and extremism, and Policyinstitute.net aims to address these issues.
- strategism.org: The think tank also contributes to strategism.org, a project providing additional resources related to countering extremism and hate speech.

de-news.net

The news service de-news.net covers a wide range of topics related to Germany, including politics, economy, and social issues. The content is destined specifically to inform English- and French-speaking audiences, making it accessible and valuable. de-news.net consists of the following websites:

- GermanPolicy.com
- germancorrespondent.com
- journal-allemand.com

Here are some specific areas which the focus on de-news.net is placed on...

1. Politics:

Political occurrences that shape public debate in Germany often take center stage on the platforms under the umbrella of de-news.net.

2. Business and the Economy:

Economic trends, business developments, and trade agreements are covered.

3. Society:

de-news.net provides occasional insights into societal developments in Germany.

4. Science and Technology:

The platform to some extent discusses scientific advancements and technological innovations within Germany.

5. Environment and Sustainability:

de-news.net at times reports on environmental issues and sustainability initiatives in Germany.

6. Medical subjects:

Health-related news, medical advancements, public health campaigns have been part of the de-news.net coverage, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.



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