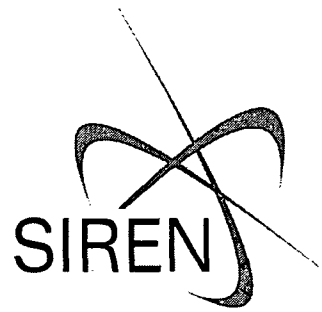

RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST ATTITUDES IN GERMANY

Implications of Neoliberalism and Competitive Nationalism

Gudrun Hentges, Malte Meyer

Seminar für Sozialwissenschaften, Abteilung für Politikwissenschaft, Universität zu Köln

A report from the project „Socio-economic Change, Individual Reactions, and the Appeal of the Extreme Right" (Deliverable 2)

CONTENTS

1. Introduction: The country background ... 1

2. Methodological aspects of qualitative research ... 4

3. Privatisation and large scale restructuring: Socio-economic change in selected sectors ... 8

3.1. Main trends in former state owned firms and the consequences of liberalisation and privatisation ... 8

4. Views on socio-economic change ... 17

4.1. Advancement: Perceptions/interpretation of socio-economic change and of working and employment conditions ... 17

4.2. (Threat of) Decline. Perceptions/interpretation of socio-economic change and of working and employment conditions ... 25

4.3. Precarisation. Perceptions/interpretation of socio-economic change and of working and employment conditions ... 32

4.4. Summary on perceptions of socio-economic change, employment/working conditions and coping strategies ... 41

5. Views on politics: The relation between socio-economic change and right-wing extremism and populism ... 45

5.1. Introduction: General background ... 45

5.2. Impact of socio-economic change on political orientations ... 47

5.2.1. Advancement ... 47

5.2.2. Threat of decline ... 49

5.2.3. Precariousness ... 52

5.3. Limitations of this explanation (RWE caused by SEC) and alternative reasons for the attractiveness of RWE ... 57

5.4. Typology of receptiveness for RWE ... 62

5.4.1. Socio-economic expectations and latent interest conflicts within right-wing populism ... 65

5.5. Summary: Transformations of right-wing extremism under conditions of socio-economic change ... 69

6. Summary of national report: Neoliberalism's Reactionary Forces ... 71

7. Interview Reports

7.1. Interview with Mr. Amann ... 75

7.2. Interview with Mr. Bertram ... 79

7.3. Interview with Ms. Kahrfeld ... 82

7.4. *Interview with Mr. Kammer* 87
7.5. *Interview with Mr. Krüger* 91
7.6. *Interview with Mr. Meiner* 95
7.7. *Interview with Mr. Müller* 97
7.8. *Interview with Mr. Reinhard* 101
7.9. *Interview with Ms. Renger* 105
7.10. *Interview with Ms. Renz* 110
7.11. *Interview with Mr. Zimmer* 115
8. *Bibliography* 119