



Bundeskriminalamt

# 2005 ORGANISED CRIME SITUATION REPORT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY - PRESS-RELEASE SUMMARY -

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May 2006

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Situation Report on Organised Crime (OC) for the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundeslagebild Organisierte Kriminalität) contains information about the current situation and developments in the field of organised crime in a concise form.

The report is drawn up by the Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Criminal Police Office - BKA) in co-operation with the Landeskriminalämter (State Criminal Police Offices), the Bundespolizeidirektion (Federal Police Directorate) of Koblenz and the Zollkriminalamt (central office of the German Customs Investigation Service) of Cologne, on the basis of the definition of "organised crime"<sup>1</sup> adopted in May 1990 by the Working Party of Police and Judicial Authorities (AG Justiz/Polizei). Data on the OC investigations conducted during the year under review are compiled by applying the same set of criteria throughout the country.

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<sup>1</sup> See fig. 3.1.2.

## 2. STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

	<b>2005</b>	2004
<u>Number of investigations</u>	<b>650</b>	620
Initial reports	<b>345</b>	307
Investigations completed	<b>343</b>	315
<u>Total number of suspects</u>	<b>10,641</b>	11,380
Newly identified suspects	<b>5,580</b>	4,886
Total number of nationalities	<b>113</b>	109
Percentage of German suspects	<b>40.9 %</b>	37.1 %
Percentage of non-German suspects	<b>59.1 %</b>	62.9 %
including:		
• Turkish nationals	<b>8.8 %</b>	8.4 %
• Italian nationals	<b>4.4 %</b>	5.1 %
• Polish nationals	<b>4.3 %</b>	5.0 %
• Lithuanian nationals	<b>3.6 %</b>	4.1 %
• Nationals of Serbia and Montenegro	<b>2.5 %</b>	3.2 %
<u>Heterogeneous offender structures</u>	<b>80.6 %</b>	79.7 %
<u>Homogeneous offender structures</u>	<b>19.4 %</b>	20.3 %
<u>Armed suspects</u>	<b>3.3 %</b>	3.6 %
<u>Groups operating in more than one area of crime</u>	<b>21.5 %</b>	24.4 %
<u>Losses identified</u>	<b>688,025,684 €</b>	758,613,793 €
<u>Estimated profits</u>	<b>842,020,625 €</b>	1,337,360,125 €
<u>Provisionally seized assets</u>	<b>97,093,050 €</b>	68,205,586 €

	<b>2005</b>	2004
<u>International links</u>	<b>88.5 %</b>	84.2 %
<u>Fields of crime</u>		
• Drug trafficking and smuggling	<b>34.6 %</b>	32.1 %
• Property crime	<b>17.1 %</b>	16.8 %
• Crime associated with the business world	<b>13.7 %</b>	12.3 %
• Facilitation of illegal immigration	<b>8.0 %</b>	11.0 %
• Tax and customs offences	<b>7.7 %</b>	8.5 %
• Crime associated with nightlife	<b>6.9 %</b>	8.4 %
• Violent crime	<b>4.3 %</b>	3.9 %
• Counterfeiting/forgery	<b>4.3 %</b>	3.4 %
• Arms trafficking and smuggling	<b>1.4 %</b>	1.5 %
• Environmental crime	<b>0.3 %</b>	0.2 %
<u>Investigations including:</u>		
Money laundering acc. to section 261 German Penal Code	<b>189</b>	159
Witness protection measures	<b>74</b>	58
Confiscation of assets	<b>165</b>	150

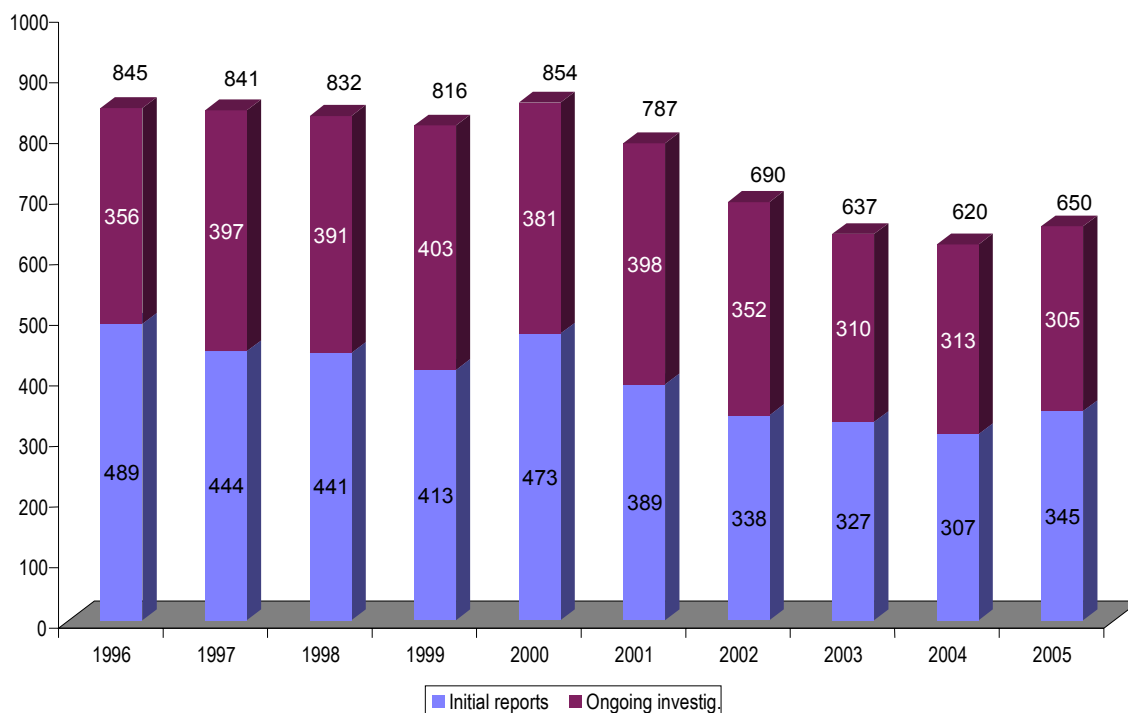
### 3. DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION

#### 3.1 Investigations

##### 3.1.1 Number of investigations

In the year under review, 650 OC investigations were conducted in Germany. 345 of these investigations were initiated in the year under review (initial reports) and 305 were ongoing investigations instituted in previous years. 343 investigations were completed during the period under review.

Number of OC investigations



Following a downward trend over four years, the number of reported OC investigations rose once again, the total number of investigations increasing by approx. 5 % (2004: minus 3 %) and the initial reports by approx. 12 % (2004: minus 6 %).

The table below illustrates the regional distribution of the OC investigations:<sup>2</sup>

	<b>State Criminal Police Office</b>	<b>Federal Criminal Police Office</b>	<b>Federal Police</b>	<b>Customs authorities</b>	<b>Total</b>
Berlin	74	4	6	11	<b>95</b>
North-Rhine/Westphalia	63	6	2	13	<b>84</b>
Bavaria	61	2	5	13	<b>81</b>
Lower Saxony	56	2	4	14	<b>76</b>
Baden-Wuerttemberg	53	1	2	13	<b>69</b>
Hesse	54	6	2	6	<b>68</b>
Hamburg	29	1	3	2	<b>35</b>
Saxony	22	0	0	5	<b>27</b>
Brandenburg	17	0	2	3	<b>22</b>
Rhineland-Palatinate	18	0	1	2	<b>21</b>
Schleswig-Holstein	14	0	5	1	<b>20</b>
Saxony-Anhalt	16	0	0	3	<b>19</b>
Mecklenburg-W. Pomerania	8	0	3	2	<b>13</b>
Saarland	10	0	0	2	<b>12</b>
Thuringia	5	1	0	0	<b>6</b>
Bremen	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>650</b>

### 3.1.2 OC relevance of the investigations

The working definition of "Organised Crime", adopted in May 1990 by the Working Party of Police and Judicial Authorities (AG Justiz/Polizei), serves as the basis for collecting data on organised crime investigations for the Federal OC Situation Report.

"Organised crime is the planned commission of criminal offences determined by the pursuit of profit and power which, individually or as a whole, are of considerable importance and involve more than two persons, each with his/her own assigned tasks, who collaborate for a prolonged or indefinite period of time

- a) by using commercial or business-like structures,
- b) by using force or other means of intimidation, or
- c) by exerting influence on politics, the media, public administration, judicial authorities or the business sector."

<sup>2</sup> The location of the public prosecutor's office in charge of the investigation is the criterion for the geographical distribution of Customs, Federal Police and BKA investigations.

All general characteristics and at least one of the specific characteristics listed under a) to c) of the OC definition must be fulfilled for criminal behaviour to be considered organised crime.

With regard to the specific characteristics given in the OC definition, the distribution in 2005 was as follows (multiple recording possible):

- 616 investigations: criterion a) applied
- 311 investigations: criterion b) applied
- 180 investigations: criterion c) applied

As in the previous years, the verifiable cases of exerting influence according to criterion c) were the smallest group with a share of 27.7 %.

### **3.1.3 Losses**

The total losses<sup>3</sup> reported for the period under review amounted to approx. € 688 million (compared to € 759 million in 2004). As in the previous years, the highest losses were caused by tax and customs offences (approx. € 332 million) and by crimes associated with the business world (approx. € 206 million).

### **3.1.4 Profits**

The profits<sup>4</sup> made by criminal organisations were estimated at approx. € 468 million (€ 1.337 billion in 2004). The considerable decline of profits compared to the previous year can be attributed to a decrease in the proceeds from crime associated with the business world.

According to the estimates, the largest profits were achieved by drug trafficking and smuggling (approx. € 355 million), by tax and customs offences (€ 240 million) as well as crimes in connection with the business world (approx. € 110 million).

As in previous years, OC groups dominated by German nationals again made the highest profits (€ 326 million), in particular by tax and customs offences as well as drug trafficking and smuggling. With an amount of approx. € 145 million, the profits recorded for groups dominated by Dutch nationals increased considerably, resulting from two major investigations conducted for trafficking in and smuggling of cocaine and synthetic drugs.

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<sup>3</sup> For 215 investigations, losses were recorded in accordance with the Police Crime Statistics guidelines. Losses as defined by the Police Crime Statistics guidelines are the illegally obtained monetary value (market value). For import duty and tax evasion and for subsidy fraud in connection with the marketing regulations of the European Union, losses are defined as the amount evaded or the unjustly received subsidies.

<sup>4</sup> Profits were estimated for 360 investigations.



### 3.1.5 Measures

#### Confiscation of assets

In the course of the investigations, assets totalling approx. € 97 million were provisionally confiscated (€ 68 million in 2004).<sup>5</sup>

The largest profits were provisionally secured in connection with investigations for drug trafficking and smuggling (approx. € 43 million), crimes in connection with the business world (approx. € 21 million) as well as tax and customs offences (approx. € 13 million).

#### Money laundering activities

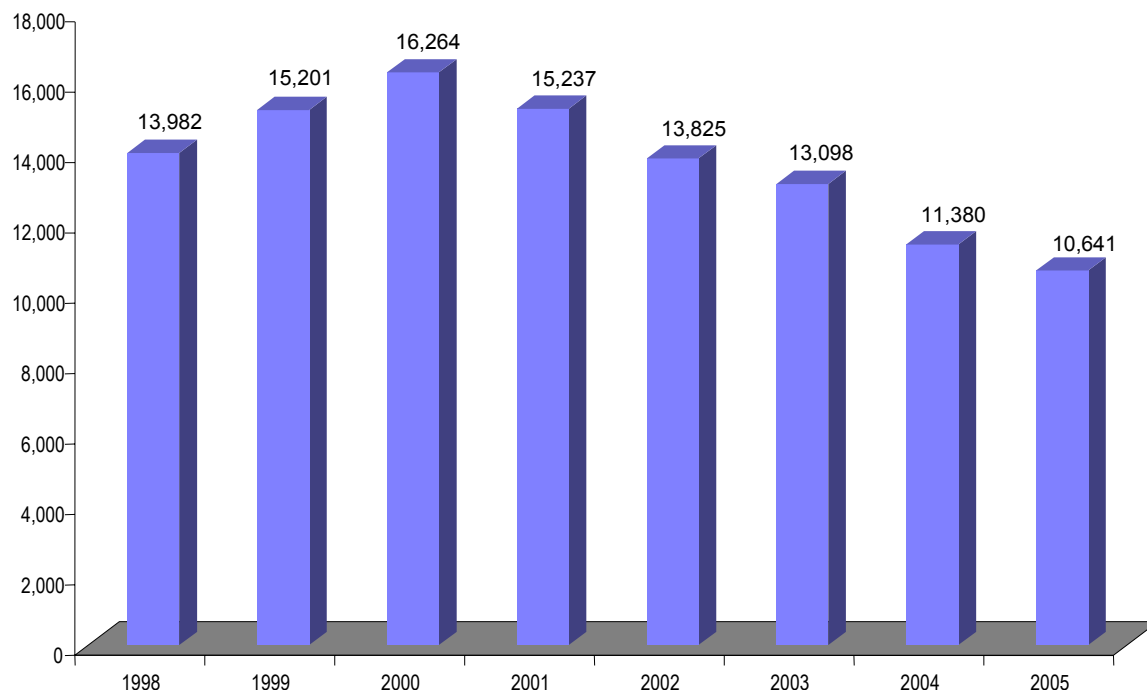
In 209 investigations, information was obtained relating to money laundering activities (in criminological terms).

### 3.2 Suspects

#### Total number of suspects

During the year under review, a total of 10,641 suspects were investigated (compared to 11,380 in 2004).<sup>6</sup>

**Development of the total number of suspects**



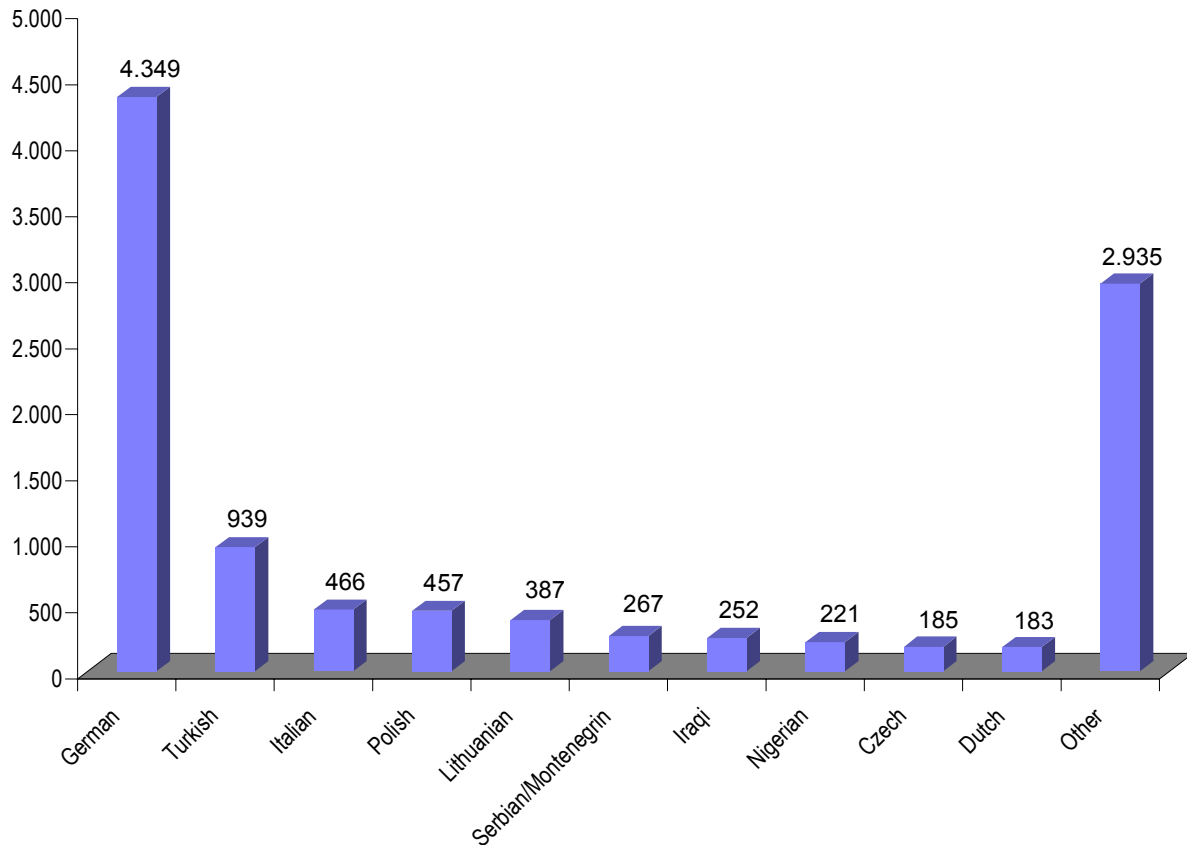

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<sup>5</sup> With regard to tax and customs offences, the tax assessment proceedings have not been taken into account.

<sup>6</sup> The total number of suspects in OC investigations has only been recorded since 1998.

Thus, the number of suspects in OC investigations decreased for the fifth year in succession. This decrease is even more significant because, by contrast, the total number of investigations increased by 5 % during the past year.

**Total number of suspects by nationality**

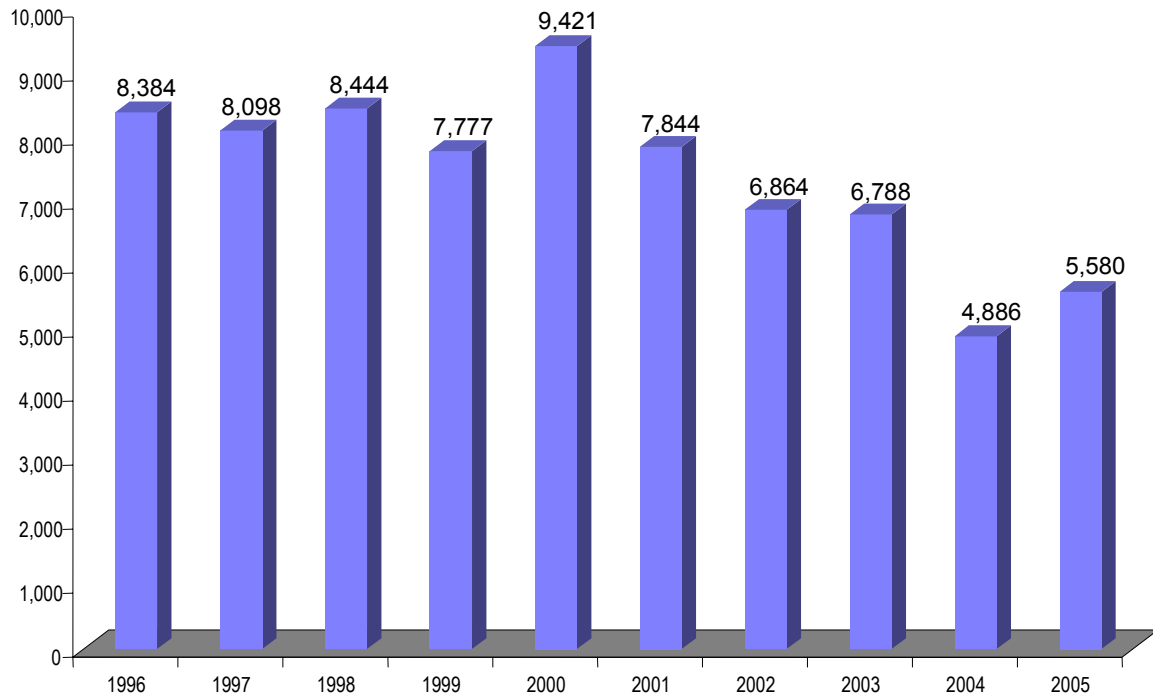


With 40.9 %, German nationals continued to make up the largest group among the total number of suspects (37.1 % in 2004). In this context, it should be taken into account that 18.5 % of the German suspects were nationals of a different country at birth. For the first time, Czech and Dutch suspects were among the nationalities most often recorded. However, the reason for this was not a significant increase in the number of suspects from these two nationalities, but rather the decrease among other non-German suspects.

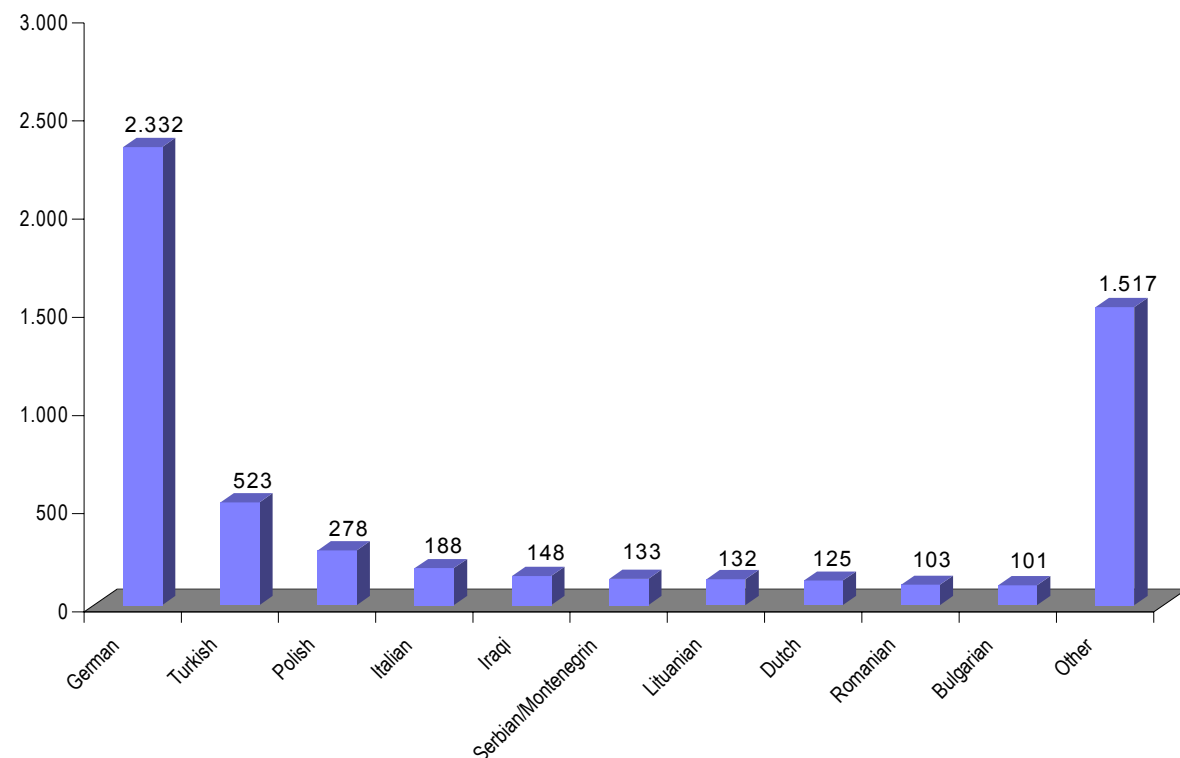
Newly identified suspects

The number of suspects recorded for the first time in the year under review increased slightly compared to the previous years. This increase could be due primarily to the higher number of investigations initiated.

**Development of the number of newly identified suspects**



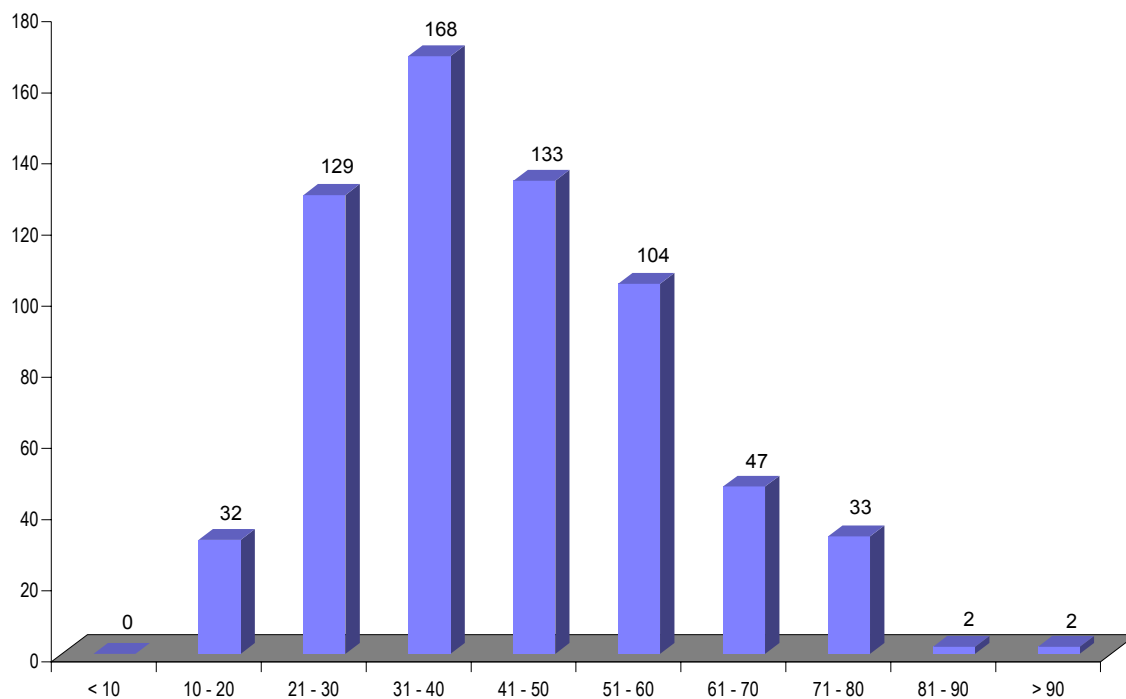
**Number of newly identified suspects by nationality**



### 3.3 OC potential of groups of perpetrators

In addition to checking all reported investigations for OC relevance, OC groups are assessed in terms of their level of organisation and professionalism, which is expressed by the so-called "OC potential". The OC potential is calculated in each case by counting and weighting the applicable indicators from the list of "General indicators for identifying OC-relevant cases". Among other things, the status and the duration of an investigation play a decisive role in identifying these indicators. For instance, investigations which are still in their initial stages often have a rather low OC potential.

**Classification of the 650 groups according to their OC potential:**



The average OC potential of all groups amounted to 42.3 points and was therefore only slightly higher than that of the previous years (41.3 points in 2004; 41.5 points in 2003). The distribution of the values among the different categories has also changed only slightly for years. Groups with a medium level of OC potential continue to make up the largest proportion by far. On the other hand, the percentage of the groups that had a comparatively high OC potential of more than 60 points has been relatively low for years, amounting to approx. 13 %.

### 3.4 Group structures

#### Composition of the groups of perpetrators

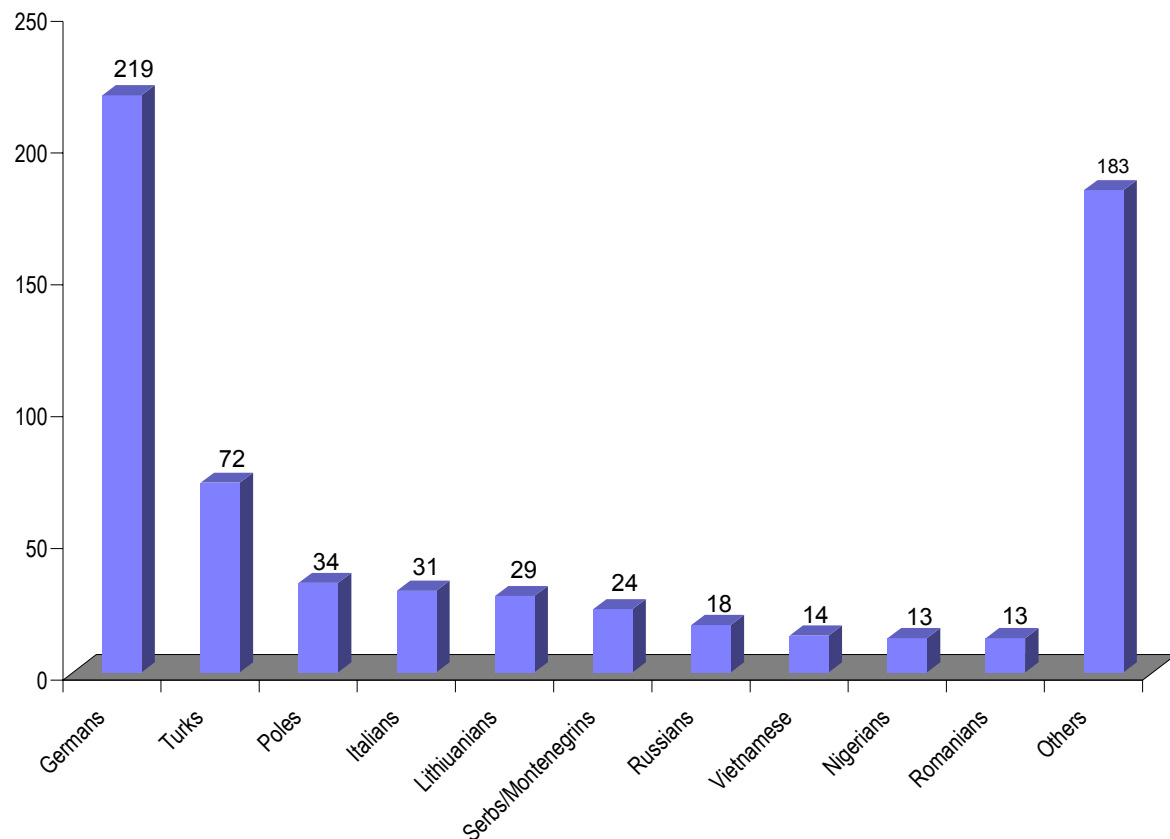
The average number of suspects per investigation was 16 persons. As in the previous years, the percentage of OC groups consisting of more than 50 suspects (30 groups in total, including seven groups with more than 100 suspects) was low (4.6 % in 2005; 5.5 % in 2004).

About one group in five comprised suspects of only one nationality (19.4 % in 2005; 20.3 % in 2004).

#### Predominant nationalities

The following chart illustrates the investigations into OC groups broken down by ethnic criteria. For classification purposes, the decisive ethnic group is the one that determines the criminal activity of the group without necessarily representing the majority of group members.

**Group structures**



As in the previous years, German OC groups dominated organised crime in Germany, followed by Turkish groups.

The following table provides an overview of the most important data concerning suspects and groups (figures for the previous year in brackets):

<b>Predominant nationality</b>	<b>Number of groups</b>	<b>OC potential</b>	<b>Total number of suspects</b>	<b>Percentage of the total number of all suspects</b>	<b>Newly identified suspects</b>
German	<b>219</b> (195)	<b>41.6</b> (39.8)	<b>4,349</b> (4,218)	<b>40.9 %</b> (37.1 %)	<b>2,332</b> (1,837)
Turkish	<b>72</b> (68)	<b>44.1</b> (43.9)	<b>939</b> (966)	<b>8.8 %</b> (8.5 %)	<b>555</b> (523)
Polish	<b>34</b> (38)	<b>44.0</b> (42.0)	<b>457</b> (584)	<b>4.3 %</b> (5.1 %)	<b>278</b> (170)
Italian	<b>31</b> (28)	<b>47.5</b> (48.1)	<b>466</b> (571)	<b>4.4 %</b> (5.0 %)	<b>188</b> (175)
Lithuanian	<b>29</b> (28)	<b>40.7</b> (40.1)	<b>387</b> (464)	<b>3.6 %</b> (4.1 %)	<b>132</b> (166)
Serbian/Montenegrin	<b>24</b> (23)	<b>40.1</b> (41.1)	<b>267</b> (360)	<b>2.5 %</b> (3.2 %)	<b>133</b> (165)
Russian	<b>18</b> (23)	<b>44.0</b> (48.6)	<b>165</b> (209)	<b>1.6 %</b> (1.8 %)	<b>87</b> (73)
Vietnamese	<b>14</b> (16)	<b>34.3</b> (34.8)	<b>153</b> (264)	<b>1.4 %</b> (2.3 %)	<b>72</b> (97)
Nigerian	<b>13</b> (16)	<b>52.6</b> (51.7)	<b>221</b> (253)	<b>2.1 %</b> (2.2 %)	<b>85</b> (112)
Romanian	<b>13</b> (11)	<b>43.8</b> (40.4)	<b>151</b> (150)	<b>1.4 %</b> (1.3 %)	<b>103</b> (75)
Bulgarian	<b>12</b> (12)	<b>32.3</b> (34.9)	<b>182</b> (174)	<b>1.7 %</b> (1.5 %)	<b>101</b> (66)
Lebanese	<b>11</b> (15)	<b>48.0</b> (43.2)	<b>177</b> (197)	<b>1.7 %</b> (1.7 %)	<b>24</b> (72)
Albanian	<b>11</b> (8)	<b>44.0</b> (36.1)	<b>150</b> (147)	<b>1.4 %</b> (1.3 %)	<b>98</b> (71)
Chinese	<b>11</b> (8)	<b>38.4</b> (34.2)	<b>91</b> (96)	<b>0.9 %</b> (0.8 %)	<b>37</b> (41)
Dutch	<b>9</b> (9)	<b>48.2</b> (35.4)	<b>183</b> (166)	<b>1.7 %</b> (1.5 %)	<b>125</b> (72)

### **3.4.1 OC groups dominated by German nationals**

Compared to the previous year, the percentage of German suspects increased from 37.1 % to 40.1 %, thus almost reaching the level of 2003 (41.3 %).

In the year under review, 805 German suspects (18.5 %) had been nationals of a different country at birth. Their percentage increased slightly in comparison to the previous year (17.4 % in 2004). As in the past years under review, the Russian Federation (with a percentage of 33.5 %), Kazakhstan (15.5 %), Poland (8.9 %) and Turkey (8.3 %) continued to be the most frequently recorded countries of origin of these suspects.

As in the previous years, OC groups dominated by Germans (219) were particularly active in the field of drug trafficking and smuggling (36 %), above all with regard to cocaine and cannabis. The relevant percentage increased from 27.2 % in the previous year to 35.6 %.

Other important fields of criminal activity of German OC groups were crimes associated with the business world (20 %) and property offences (12 %).

In a total of 13 investigations, links with the national and international rocker scene were established (2004: eleven investigations). Only one of these investigations, however, targeted a rocker group dominated by German nationals. As in the previous years, the most links existed to the Hell's Angels MC. As in the past years, the groups engaged primarily in the fields of drug trafficking and smuggling, pimping, trafficking in human beings, motor-vehicle related property offences and counterfeiting/forgery.

### **3.4.2 OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals**

As in the previous years, Turkish OC groups (72) were predominantly involved in drug trafficking and smuggling (62 %), with heroin trafficking and smuggling playing by far the most important role. As in previous years, heroin was smuggled into Germany mainly from Turkey via the Balkan route. Other fields of criminal activity were crime associated with nightlife (9 %) or the business world (6 %) as well as property crime (6 %).

### **3.4.3 OC groups dominated by Polish nationals**

As in the previous year, the main focus of Polish OC groups (34) was on property offences (52 %), in particular vehicle trafficking, as well as tax and customs offences (25 %). Polish OC groups continued to dominate the trafficking of motor vehicles from Germany to Poland and the successor states of the Soviet Union, particularly Ukraine and Lithuania, in the year under review. The investigations conducted for tax and customs offences exclusively concerned cigarette smuggling, in particular from Poland into Germany and the United Kingdom.

#### **3.4.4 OC groups dominated by Italian nationals**

With 29 % and 23 % respectively, property crime and drug-related crime made up the largest proportions of crime committed by Italian OC groups (31), as in the previous year, with the main focus being on motor-vehicle related property offences and smuggling of cocaine from the Netherlands. Compared to the previous year, the proportion of customs and tax offences declined sharply, whereas crimes associated with the business world (exclusive of fraud to the detriment of social insurances and social security institutions) and counterfeiting/forgery (forgeries of Euro banknotes and coins) increased. The percentage of groups active in more than one field of crime was relatively high (more than 40 %). In this connection, the combination of cocaine and arms trafficking was particularly striking. Five of the groups dominated by Italian nationals had links to the Cosa Nostra, three of them each to the Camorra and 'Ndrangheta, and two had connections to the Stidde.

#### **3.4.5 OC groups dominated by Lithuanian nationals**

As in previous years, the criminal activities of groups dominated by Lithuanian nationals (29) focussed on property crime, with a share of 48 % (in particular, trafficking of motor vehicles from Germany via Poland to Lithuania).

The trend recorded in the past few years towards increased activities of Lithuanian groups of perpetrators in the field of drug trafficking and smuggling (approx. 32 % in 2004) did not continue in the year under review (approx. 17 % in 2005). Only five investigations were conducted in the year under review (compared to nine in 2004). In addition to tax and customs offences, including above all the smuggling of cigarettes from Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine into the United Kingdom, the production and circulation of counterfeit currency played a certain role.

#### **3.4.6 OC groups dominated by nationals of Serbia and Montenegro**

As in the previous year, the activities of the 24 OC groups were concentrated in the field of drug trafficking and smuggling, especially cocaine, with a share of 46 % (39 % in 2004), as well as property offences (25 % in 2005; 30 % in 2004).

#### **3.4.7 OC groups dominated by Russian nationals**

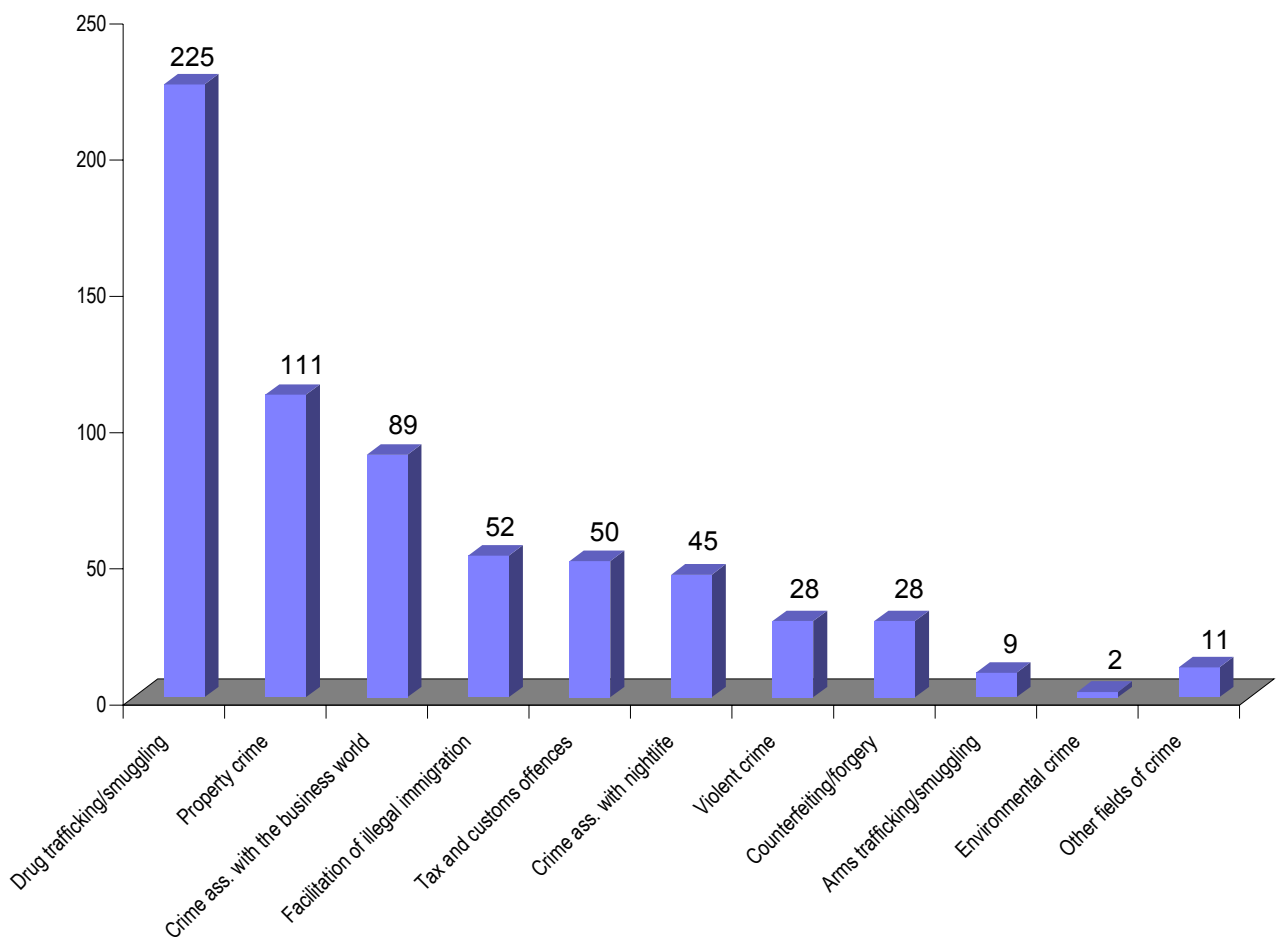
In comparison to previous years, the number of OC groups dominated by Russians dropped to 18 (23 in 2004). Compared to the previous year, the average OC potential dropped to 44 points, thus merely meeting the average of all OC groups examined. Russian groups were active in the most varied fields of criminal activity in 2005, ranging from motor vehicle-related property offences to money laundering and human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.



### 3.5 Fields of crime

The groups of perpetrators concentrated their criminal activities on the following fields of crime:

Fields of crime (number of investigations)



Drug trafficking and smuggling continued to make up the largest share of organised crime in Germany. This is probably not least due to the relatively extensive employment of police resources and the good access to information.

While an increase was recorded in the fields of property crime, crime associated with the business world, violent crime and counterfeiting/forgery, the number of investigations focussing on the facilitation of illegal immigration and crime associated with nightlife decreased. The other fields of crime were roughly at the same level as the previous year.

The following table provides an overview of the most important data concerning the different fields of crime (figures for the previous year in brackets):

Fields of crime	Number of groups	Percentage in relation to OC in total	OC potential of the groups
Drug trafficking and smuggling	<b>225</b> (199)	<b>34.6 %</b> (32.1 %)	<b>45.1</b> (42.8)
Property crime	<b>111</b> (104)	<b>17.1 %</b> (16.8 %)	<b>39.0</b> (39.3)
Crime associated with the business world	<b>89</b> (76)	<b>13.7 %</b> (12.3 %)	<b>45.8</b> (42.7)
Facilitation of illegal immigration	<b>52</b> (68)	<b>8.0 %</b> (11.0 %)	<b>37.0</b> (36.4)
Tax and customs offences	<b>50</b> (52)	<b>7.7 %</b> (8.4 %)	<b>46.0</b> (44.7)
Crime associated with nightlife	<b>45</b> (53)	<b>6.9 %</b> (8.5 %)	<b>40.3</b> (43.6)
Violent crime	<b>28</b> (24)	<b>4.3 %</b> (3.9 %)	<b>36.8</b> (42.2)
Counterfeiting/forgery	<b>28</b> (21)	<b>4.3 %</b> (3.4 %)	<b>35.2</b> (39.0)
Arms trafficking and smuggling	<b>9</b> (9)	<b>1.4 %</b> (1.5 %)	<b>38.9</b> (38.6)
Environmental crime	<b>2</b> (1)	<b>0.3 %</b> (0.2 %)	<b>42.6</b> (20.0)
Other fields of crime	<b>11</b> (13)	<b>1.7 %</b> (2.1 %)	<b>40.0</b> (33.0)

### Modi operandi

In the year under review, only about one in five groups of perpetrators (21.5 %) was active in more than one area of crime<sup>7</sup>. Almost 80 % of all groups of perpetrators had specialised in one area of crime. Groups active in more than one field of crime continued to display, on average, a higher OC potential (48.1 points compared to 40.7 points).

<sup>7</sup> Modi operandi are classified as involving more than one area of crime if a group of perpetrators intends to make profits in more than one field of crime or individual group members act in several crime areas in the group's interest.

575 (88.5 %) of the investigative proceedings analysed showed links to other countries, i.e. at least one crime scene was located outside Germany. In 55 investigations (8.5 %), there were supraregional links, while regional links were established in 20 investigations (3 %).

There were international connections to a total of 122 countries. The distribution by states was largely similar to that of the previous years. The modi operandi established involved above all the Netherlands (in 218 proceedings), Italy (130), Belgium (107), France (100), Poland (99), Spain (96) and the United Kingdom (94). The leading role played by the Netherlands appears to be connected with the predominance of drug-related crime in the field of OC investigations.

### **3.5.1 Drug trafficking and smuggling**

The focal point of criminal activities of OC groups in Germany remained on drug trafficking and smuggling, the proportion of which increased again to 34.6 % after a declining trend in the previous years (32.1 % in 2004; 33.3 % in 2003; 36.8 % in 2002).

The majority of groups concentrated on one market segment only. About 29 % of the groups were trafficking in several types of drugs. Trafficking in and smuggling of cocaine prevailed even more clearly than in the past years. Taking multiple recording into account, the number of investigations involving cannabis and/or synthetic drugs more than doubled in each case. The increasing figures with regard to cannabis and synthetic drugs reflect the overall development in drug-related crime.

Compared to the previous year, groups dominated by German nationals increased their share in drug trafficking and smuggling by 10 % to 35 %. In contrast to this, the respective percentages of groups dominated by Nigerians, Lebanese and Lithuanians decreased, while the percentages of other nationalities were virtually unchanged from the previous year.

With a share of 34 %, German OC groups were the most active with regard to cocaine trafficking and smuggling, followed by groups dominated by Turks (12 %), Serbs/Montenegrins (7 %), Italians and Nigerians (6 % each).

Turkish OC groups continued to dominate heroin trafficking and smuggling in Germany.

The trafficking in and smuggling of cannabis and synthetic drugs was also predominantly in the hands of German OC groups. Turkish groups of perpetrators played a certain role only with regard to cannabis trafficking.

### **3.5.2 Property crime**

As in previous years, property offences made up the second largest field of crime. With 17.1 %, their share was virtually unchanged from the year 2004 (16.08 %).

Motor vehicle-related property offences clearly prevailed, accounting for approximately 80 % of investigations in this field of crime. The lion's share of the vehicles were stolen in Germany and taken to Poland, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine. Furthermore, vehicles stolen

in Italy, Belgium, France and the Netherlands were marketed in Germany or trafficked to other countries via Germany.

About one quarter of all OC groups were dominated by Germans, followed by OC groups dominated by Poles (16 %) and Lithuanians (13 %). The latter were responsible for a disproportionately large share of international vehicle trafficking.

### **3.5.3 Crime associated with the business world**

With a share of 13.7 % of all OC investigations, crime associated with the business world was the third largest field of organised crime, the numbers being only slightly higher than in 2004. The most striking change in comparison to the previous year was the sharp decrease in the estimated profits from approximately € 600 million to approximately € 110 million. This can be attributed to two large-scale investigations conducted in 2004. Total losses in the year 2005 amounted to approximately € 205 million. There was, in particular, one investigation for investment fraud causing a loss of approximately € 75 million.

The crimes most commonly committed were financing offences (14 investigations, mainly credit fraud), investment offences (13 investigations, in particular investment or capital investment fraud) and offences in connection with labour (eleven investigations, predominantly fraud to the detriment of social insurances). As in the previous year, there was again a decrease in the number of financing offences recorded. On the other hand, the number of investigations for offences in connection with labour doubled. Other focal points were insolvency offences (ten investigations) as well as competition-related offences (eight investigations).

As before, *modi operandi* focussing on one specific area of crime dominated with regard to crime associated with the business world. The few activities involving more than one area of crime included primarily property crime, counterfeiting and drug offences. Also worthy of note is the high proportion (37 %) of activities limited to regional or supraregional levels recorded in this area in comparison to the other fields of crime.

Contrary to the increasing numbers recorded for the previous years, the percentage of German OC groups dropped to 49.4 % from 63.2 % in 2004.

### **3.5.4 Facilitation of illegal immigration**

The percentage of investigations focussing on the facilitation of illegal immigration dropped to 8 %, compared to 11 % in the previous year (2004).

Alien smuggling is characterised by a particular ethnic variety regarding the perpetrator groups, which can be attributed to the recruitment of potential illegal entrants in their home countries and activities in the transit countries.

Groups dominated by Chinese nationals were exclusively active in the field of alien smuggling (eleven investigations). On the whole, this confirms the increasing importance registered since 2003 of groups dominated by Chinese nationals in this area of crime.

Illegal entrants from Asian states (above all China with 16 investigations and Vietnam with eight investigations) as well as East and South East European states (Ukraine with eight and Albania with five investigations) played a major role in the investigations conducted for facilitation of illegal immigration.

### **3.5.5 Tax and customs offences**

The decrease in the number of investigations continued in 2005 (50 investigations in 2005, 52 in 2004, 56 in 2003). Tax and customs offences entail very large losses and profits, and the groups of perpetrators operating in this area of crime have a relatively high OC potential.

With a share of more than 80 %, cigarette smuggling continued to be the main activity of OC groups operating in this area. Tax carousel fraud ranked second in the year under review.

As in the years before, most of the groups smuggled cigarettes from Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania via Poland to Germany and partly on to the United Kingdom.

The percentage of German OC groups increased once again with regard to tax and customs offences. With approximately 36 %, they were the largest ethnic group, followed by Polish (16 %) and Lithuanian (10 %) groups. With 90 %, the proportion of groups operating in one specific field of crime was particularly high in the area of tax and customs offences (average for all fields of crime: 80 %).

### **3.5.6 Crime associated with nightlife**

The number of investigations for crimes associated with nightlife continued to decrease (45 investigations in 2005, 53 in 2004, 61 in 2003). Every second investigation was concentrated on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, followed by the exploitation of prostitutes and pimping. There was only one case of illegal gambling.

The majority of the women concerned came from Eastern Europe (in particular, the Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Ukraine and Poland). The most important transit countries were Poland and Austria.

The distribution of the criminal activities according to nationalities remained virtually unchanged. German OC groups accounted for the largest share (one third of the investigations), followed, by a wide margin in terms of numbers, by Turkish, Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian and Romanian dominated OC groups.

### **3.5.7 Counterfeiting/forgery**

The number of investigations in connection with counterfeiting/forgery increased compared to the previous years (28 in 2005, 21 in 2004, 21 in 2003). Their percentage in relation to organised crime in total, however, was only slightly higher than in the previous year.

20 investigations concerned the production and circulation of counterfeit currency (almost exclusively EUR counterfeits), followed by document forgery (especially identity and vehicle documents), accounting for six investigations. As in the previous years, Bulgaria was identified as the main country of origin of counterfeit currency, followed by Italy and Lithuania.

With regard to counterfeiting, approximately every third OC group was dominated by German nationals. As in the previous years, Italian, Bulgarian, Turkish and Lithuanian groups followed, they were, however, clearly less important in terms of numbers.

### **3.5.8 Violent crime**

In the year under review, 28 investigations were conducted in the field of violent crime, which represents an increase compared to the previous year (24 investigations in 2004). With approximately 37 points, the OC potential in the year 2005 was clearly lower than the mean of all OC investigations recorded (42.3 points). This can be attributed, among other things, to the fact that measures to avert danger must take priority over covert investigations in these cases and that it is frequently not possible to shed enough light on the group structures involved.

As in previous years, the offences registered most frequently were robberies - mostly to the detriment of banks - (twelve investigations) and crimes of extortion (11 investigations).

Although the percentage of German OC groups in the field of violent crime increased slightly compared to the previous year (21.4 % in 2005; 16.7 % in 2004), it was rather low in relation to the overall percentage of German groups (31.7 % in 2005). With 14.3 %, the figures for Vietnamese OC groups, on the other hand, were disproportionately high. The importance of OC groups dominated by Russians decreased significantly (only two groups in 2005).

### **3.5.9 Arms trafficking and smuggling**

The area "arms trafficking and smuggling" includes violations of the Weapons Act and the War Weapons Control Act. The number of investigations (nine) continued to be low. The investigations were mainly directed against German and Italian dominated OC groups (four and three investigations respectively).