



2006 ORGANISED CRIME SITUATION REPORT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY - PRESS-RELEASE SUMMARY -

Serious and Organised Crime Division

June 2007



2006

ORGANISED CRIME SITUATION REPORT

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

OFFICE IN CHARGE: Bundeskriminalamt

CONTACT: Serious and Organised Crime Division (SO)

Section SO 51

Centralised situation analysis, early detection and
OC analysis

65173 Wiesbaden, Germany

e-mail: so51@bka.bund.de

Bundeskriminalamt in Wiesbaden in co-operation with the Landeskriminalämter, the Bundespolizeidirektion of Koblenz and the Zollkriminalamt of Cologne

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	5
2.	STATISTICAL OVERVIEW	6
3.	DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION	8
3.1	Investigations	8
3.1.1	Number of investigations	8
3.1.2	OC relevance of the investigations	9
3.1.3	Conduct of investigations	10
3.1.4	Losses	11
3.1.5	Profits	11
3.1.6	Measures	12
3.2	Suspects	13
3.3	Group structures	16
3.3.1	OC groups dominated by German nationals	19
3.3.2	OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals	19
3.3.3	OC groups dominated by Polish nationals	19
3.3.4	OC groups dominated by Russian nationals	20
3.3.5	OC groups dominated by Italian nationals	20
3.3.6	OC groups dominated by nationals of Serbia and Montenegro	20
3.4	Fields of crime	21
3.4.1	Drug trafficking and smuggling	23
3.4.2	Property crime	23
3.4.3	Crime associated with the business world	24
3.4.4	Facilitation of illegal immigration	25
3.4.5	Tax and customs offences	25
3.4.6	Violent crime	25
3.4.7	Crime associated with nightlife	25
3.4.8	Counterfeiting/forgery	26
3.4.9	Arms trafficking and smuggling	26

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"¹ 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.

¹ {0>Siehe Nr. 3.1.2.<}75{>See No. 3.1.2.

2. STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

	2006	2005
<u>Number of investigations</u>	622	650
Initial reports	308	345
Investigations completed	325	343
<u>Officers assigned to the investigations</u>	2,730	2,785
<u>Total number of suspects</u>	10,244	10,641
Newly identified suspects	5,485	5,580
Total number of nationalities	100	113
Percentage of German suspects	42.3 %	40.9 %
Percentage of non-German suspects	57.7 %	59.1 %
including:		
• Turkish nationals	9.5 %	8.8 %
• Polish nationals	4.5 %	4.3 %
• Italian nationals	3.5 %	4.4 %
• Nationals of Serbia and Montenegro	3.0 %	2.5 %
 <u>Heterogeneous offender structures</u>	 81.8 %	 80.6 %
<u>Homogeneous offender structures</u>	18.2 %	19.4 %
<u>Armed suspects</u>	3.1 %	3.3 %
<u>Groups operating in more than one area of crime</u>	24.6 %	21.5 %
 <u>Losses identified</u>	 1,363,919,688 €	 688,025,684 €
<u>Estimated profits</u>	1,814,823,869 €	842,020,625 €
 <u>Provisionally seized assets</u>	 59,827,623 €	 97,093,050 €

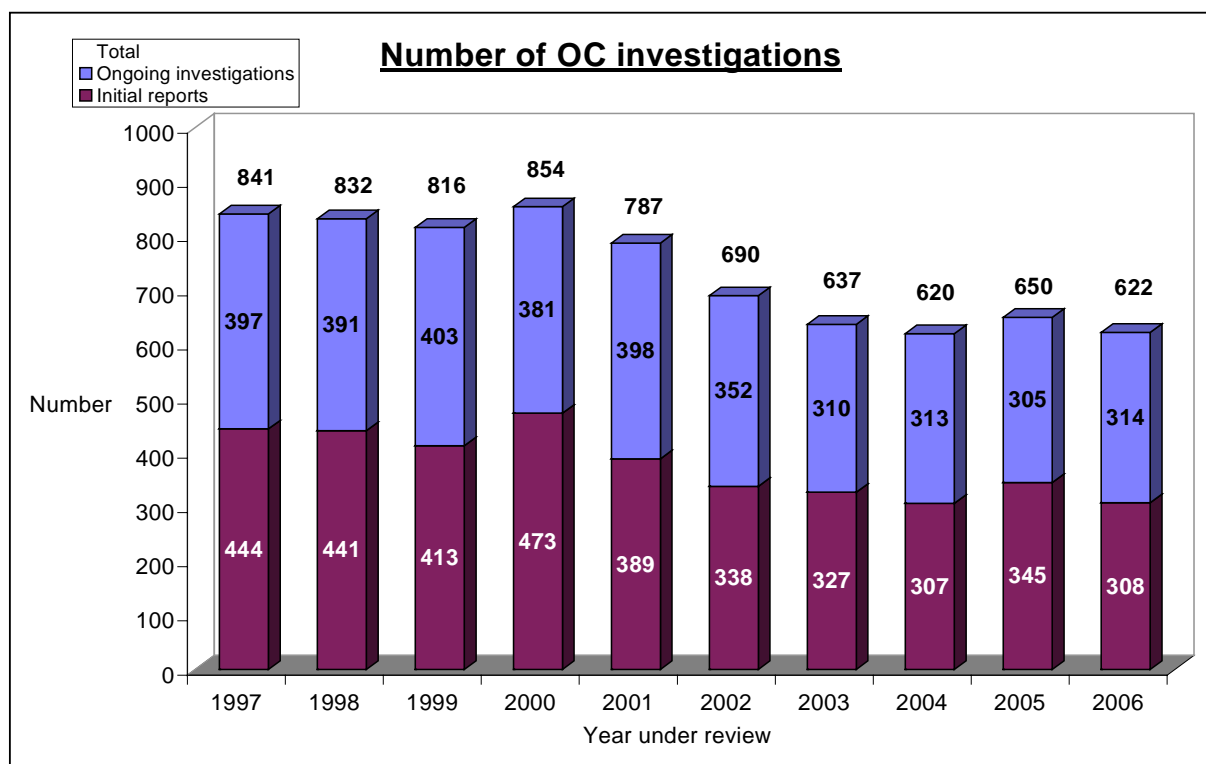
	2006	2005
<u>International links</u>	87.3 %	88.5 %
<u>Fields of crime</u>		
• Drug trafficking and smuggling	35.2 %	34.6 %
• Property crime	17.0 %	17.1 %
• Crime associated with the business world	15.1 %	13.7 %
• Facilitation of illegal immigration	8.2 %	8.0 %
• Tax and customs offences	7.6 %	7.7 %
• Violent crime	5.0 %	4.3 %
• Crime associated with nightlife	4.5 %	6.9 %
• Counterfeiting/forgery	3.7 %	4.3 %
• Arms trafficking and smuggling	1.0 %	1.4 %
• Environmental crime	0.3 %	0.3 %
<u>Investigations including:</u>		
Money laundering acc. to section 261 German Penal Code	174	189
Witness protection measures	48	74
Confiscation of assets	161	165

3. DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION

3.1 Investigations

3.1.1 Number of investigations

622 OC investigations were conducted in Germany in 2006. 308 of these investigations were initiated in the year under review (initial reports) and 314 were ongoing investigations instituted in previous years. 325 investigations were completed during 2006.



Thus the total number of OC investigations dropped by 4.3 % compared to the previous year. The number of newly initiated investigations decreased by 10.7 % in 2006.

The table below illustrates the regional distribution of the OC investigations:²

	State Criminal Police Office	Federal Criminal Police Office	Federal Police	Customs authorities	Total
North-Rhine/Westphalia	66	7	0	13	86
Bavaria	66	5	4	10	85
Berlin	61	3	2	9	75
Hesse	46	10	7	5	68
Lower Saxony	49	3	1	14	67
Baden-Württemberg	49	1	3	13	66
Hamburg	30	1	3	1	35
Saxony	15	0	7	7	29
Rhineland-Palatinate	24	0	1	2	27
Brandenburg	16	0	2	6	24
Schleswig-Holstein	15	0	5	0	20
Saxony-Anhalt	10	0	0	3	13
Saarland	9	0	1	0	10
Mecklenburg-W. Pomerania	5	0	1	3	9
Bremen	4	1	0	0	5
Thuringia	2	1	0	0	3
Total	467	32	37	86	622

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."

² 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 was as follows in 2006 (multiple recording possible):

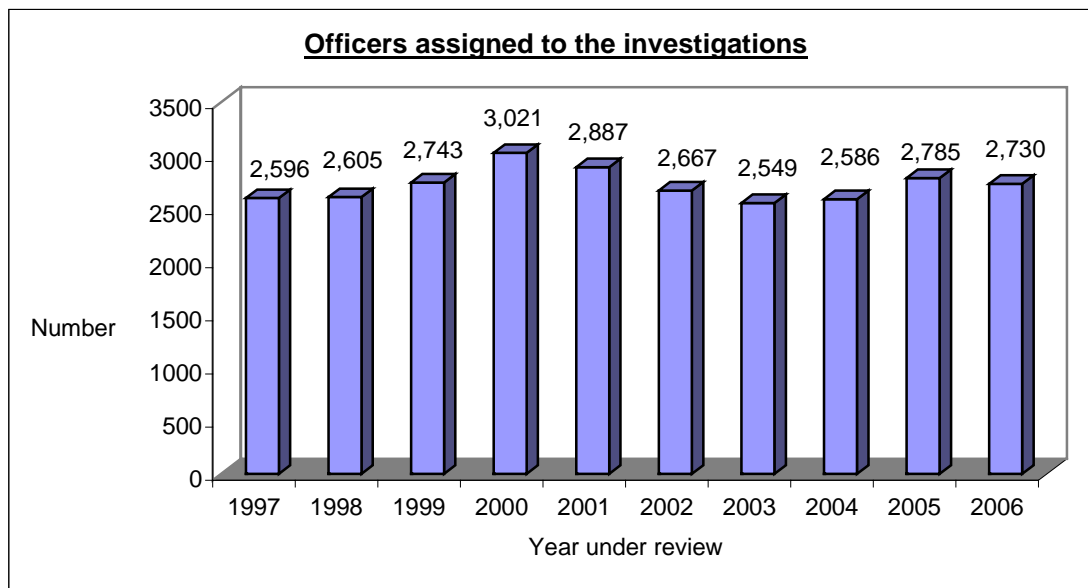
- 593 investigations: criterion a) applied
- 292 investigations: criterion b) applied
- 173 investigations: criterion c) applied

As in the previous years, the cases falling under c) were the smallest group with a share of 27.8 %.

3.1.3 Conduct of investigations

Officers assigned to the investigations

The number of staff employed to handle the OC investigations in 2006 decreased only by about 2 % compared to the previous year, thus remaining virtually constant.³



³ Special and support staff who are not permanently working on these cases are not included in the statistics.

Investigating authorities

Of the 622 investigations reported in 2006, 315 were conducted by specialised OC offices, 187 by other specialised offices and 69 by joint investigative groups (e.g. customs/police), while 51 investigations were handled by special investigation teams set up to deal with specific cases. This distribution does not show any significant changes in comparison to the previous year. As regards judicial authorities, 426 investigations (68.5 %) were conducted by specialised prosecutor's offices that focus on OC and/or persons in charge of special OC departments (as compared to 70.0 % in 2005).

Length of investigations

A total of 324 investigations were completed during the year under review. The average length of the investigations was 18.3 months. Thus the duration of the investigations has been increasing continually since 2002 (18.1 months in 2005; 17.5 in 2004; 16.9 in 2003; 16.1 in 2002), which can be regarded as proof of the growing complexity and difficulty associated with conducting investigations and producing evidence.

3.1.4 Losses

The total losses⁴ reported for 2006 amounted to approx. €1.36 billion (compared to €688 million in 2005). As in the previous years, the highest losses were caused by crimes associated with the business world (approx. €920 million) and by tax and customs offences (approx. €260 million). The significant increase in comparison to the previous year can be attributed to two investigations in connection with economic crime, where losses amounting to €350 million and €189 million were recorded.

3.1.5 Profits

The profits⁵ made by criminal organisations in 2006 were estimated at approx. €1.8 billion (€842 million in 2005).

The largest profits were achieved by crimes associated with the business world (approx. €1.4 billion), by tax and customs offences (€156 million) as well as drug trafficking and smuggling (approx. €112 million). The very high amount with regard to economic crime – also compared to the previous year – is mainly due to the two aforementioned cases where the profits made by the OC groups were estimated at €752 million and €350 million.

As in previous years, OC groups dominated by German nationals again made the highest profits (approx. €1.4 billion), in particular in the field of economic crime. The profits achieved by Turkish OC groups mainly through drug trafficking and smuggling were estimated at approx. €68 million.

⁴ For 227 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).

⁵ Profits were estimated for 332 investigations.

3.1.6 Measures

Arrests and arrest warrants

In 2006, a total of 1,669 suspects were arrested throughout Germany (as compared to 2,204 in 2005).⁶ Arrest warrants were issued for 1,595 suspects.

Financial investigations

Financial investigations were conducted in 524 OC-related cases (as in the previous year, approx. 84 % of all investigations). Special units for financial investigations were involved in about 77 % of these cases.

Confiscation of assets

With 25.9 %, the percentage of cases where measures to secure assets were taken was almost identical to the previous years (25.4 % in 2005, 24.2 % in 2004, 25.3 % in 2003). The total value of provisionally confiscated assets amounted to approx. €60 million (€97 million in 2005).⁷ The largest assets were provisionally secured in connection with investigations for crimes associated with the business world (approx. €28 million).

Money laundering activities

In 201 investigations, information was obtained relating to money laundering activities (in criminological terms). In 174 cases, there were investigations for money laundering pursuant to section 261 of the German Penal Code. In 94 investigations, a total of 506 suspicious transaction reports were filed pursuant to section 11 subsection 1 of the Money Laundering Act.

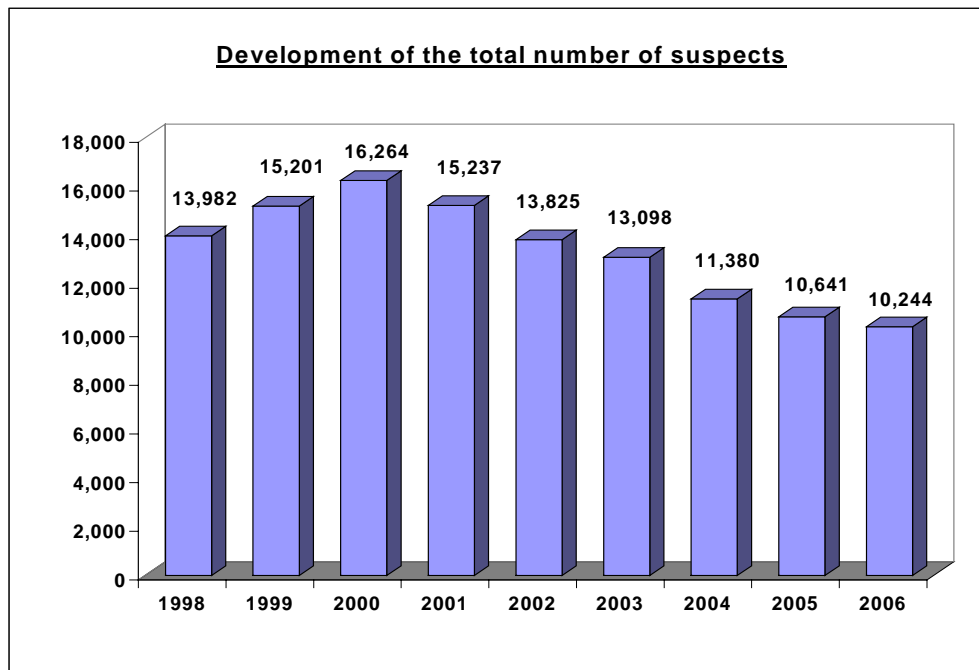
⁶ These figures include all provisional arrests (pursuant to section 127 of the German Code of Criminal Procedure) in addition to arrests made on the basis of outstanding arrest warrants.

⁷ With regard to tax and customs offences, the tax assessment proceedings have not been taken into account.

3.2 Suspects

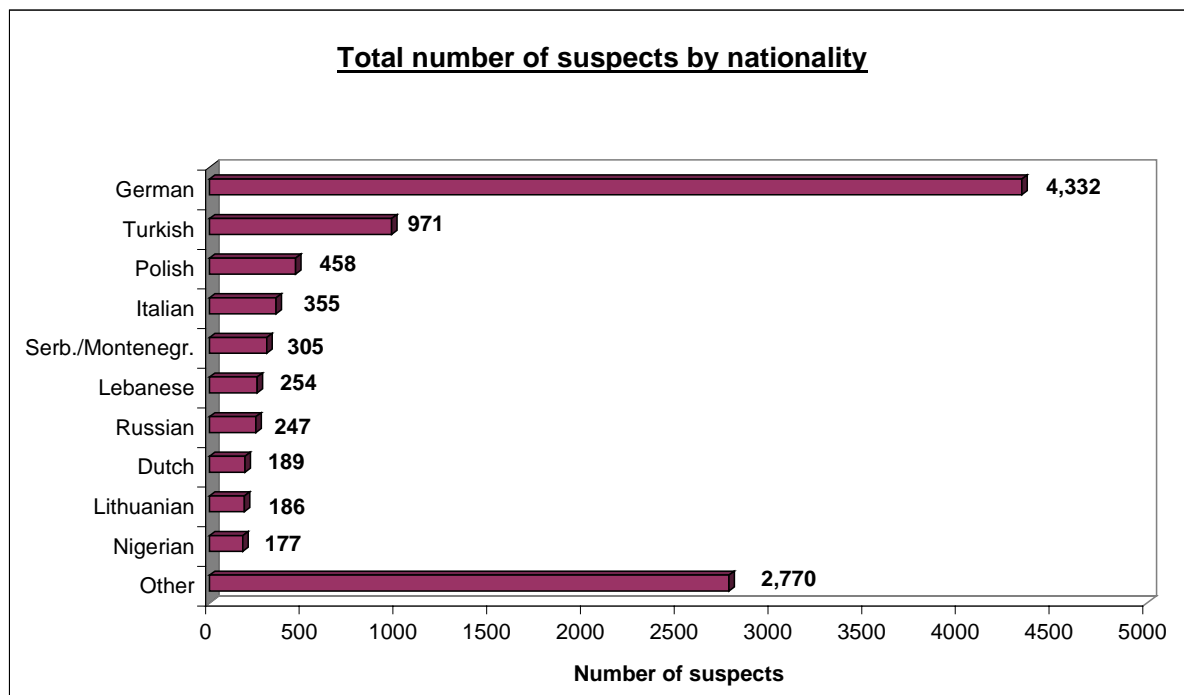
Total number of suspects

In 2006, a total of 10,244 suspects were investigated in connection with OC-related cases (compared to 10,641 in 2005).⁸



Thus the number of suspects in OC investigations decreased for the sixth year in succession. This decrease of 3.7 % in 2006 compared to the previous year largely corresponds to the decline in the number of OC investigations (4.3 %).

⁸ The total number of suspects in OC investigations has been recorded since 1998.



With 42.3 %, German nationals continued to make up the largest group among the total number of suspects (40.9 % in 2005). 16.8 % of the German suspects were, however, nationals of a different country at birth (18.5 % in 2005). Their main countries of origin were the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Poland and Turkey.

While the proportion of Turkish, Polish, Italian and Serbian-Montenegrin nationals was almost identical to the previous year, considerable changes were observed regarding the following groups of suspects:

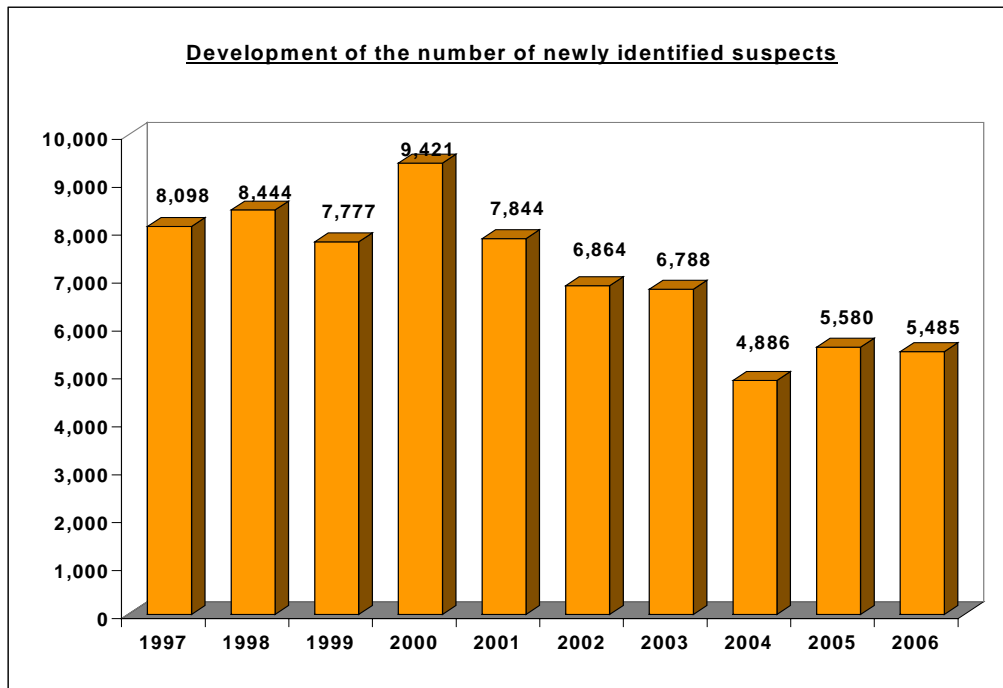
- The number of Lebanese suspects rose from 177 to 254.
- The number of Russian suspects rose from 165 to 247.
- The number of Lithuanian suspects dropped from 387 to 186.

Weapons

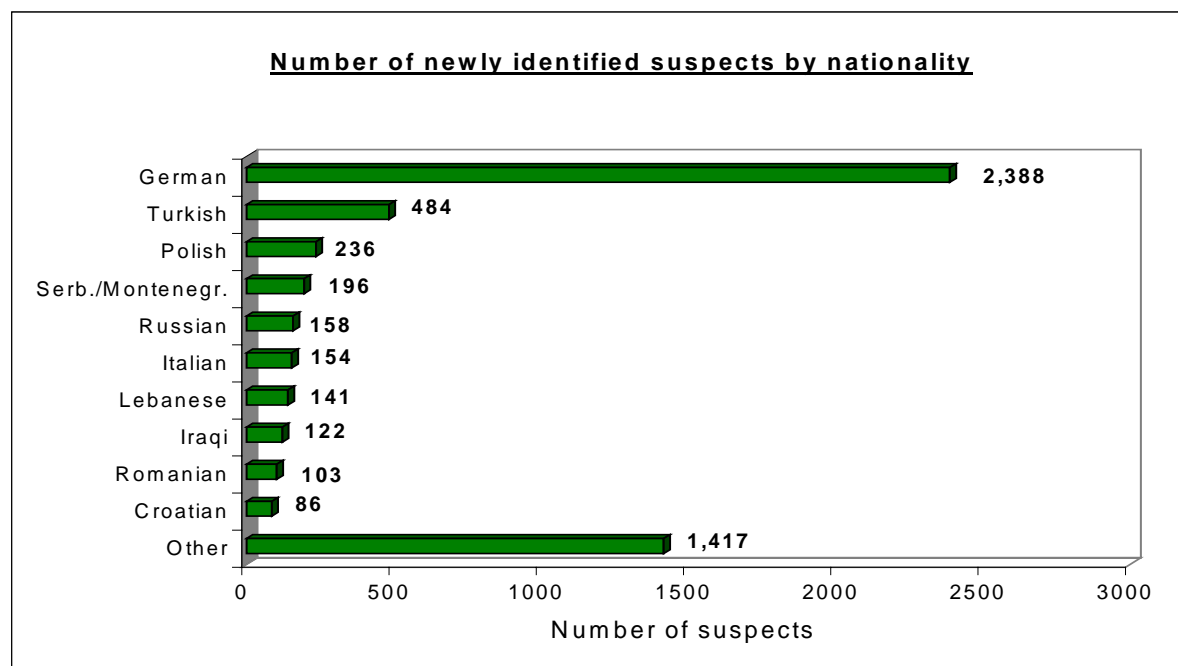
Only 314 of the OC suspects identified (3.1 %) were proved to have been armed.

Newly identified suspects

The number of suspects identified for the first time in 2006 decreased slightly compared to the previous year (-1.7 %).

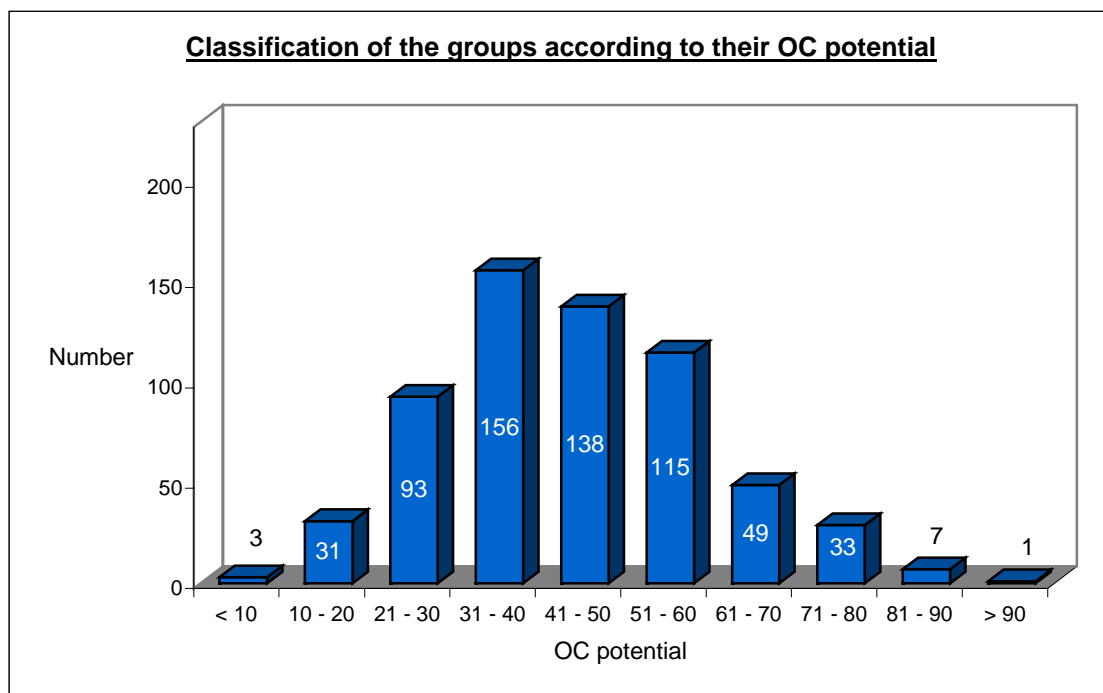


The downward trend in the number of newly identified suspects is the logical consequence of the decline in the number of investigations.



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 and assessing these indicators. For instance, investigations which are still in their initial stages often have a rather low OC potential.



The average OC potential of all groups amounted to 42.9 points and was therefore only slightly higher than that of the previous years (42.3 points in 2005; 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 groups having a comparatively high OC potential has been relatively low for years.

In particular Italian, Serbian-Montenegrin, Lebanese, Russian and Polish OC groups had an above average OC potential in 2006.

The fact that the OC potential has been roughly at the same level for years clearly suggests that the security risk situation created by organised crime in Germany has remained constant. The parameter "OC potential" cannot be used to deduce information on new and, above all, potentially dangerous or harmful developments in the field of organised crime.

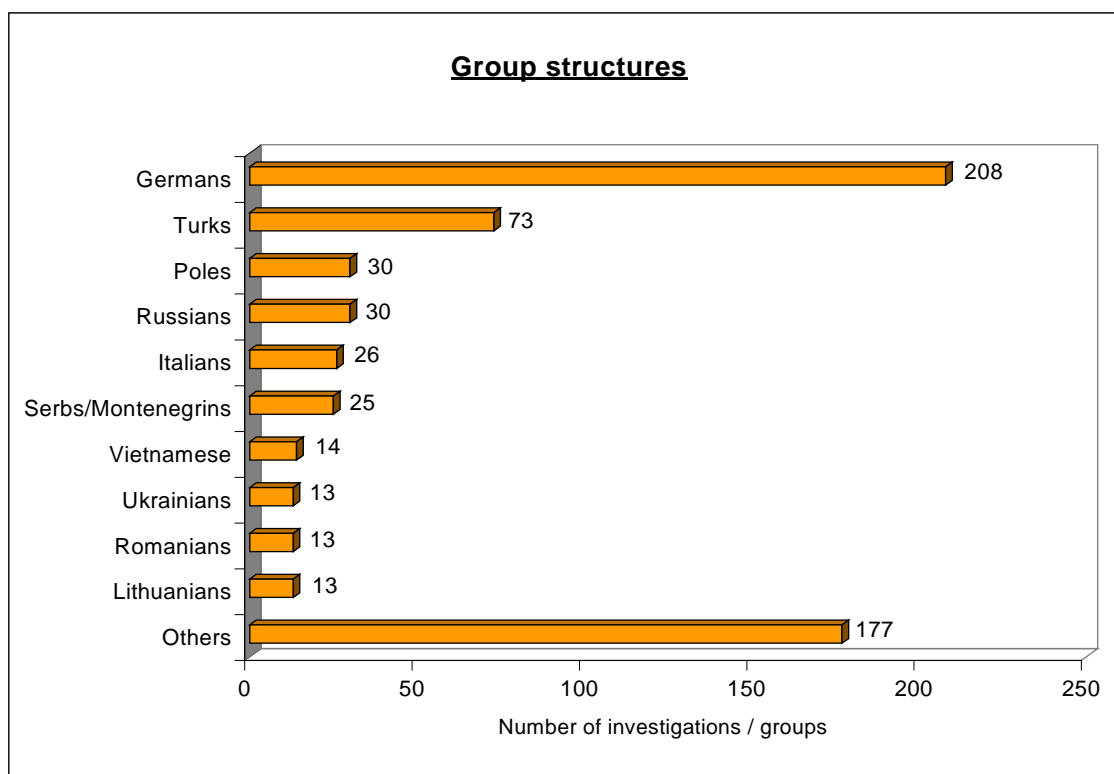
3.3 Group structures

Composition of the groups of perpetrators

As in the preceding year, the number of suspects per group / investigation averaged 16 persons in 2006. As in the previous years, the proportion of OC groups consisting of more than 50 suspects (31 groups in total, including nine groups with more than 100 suspects) was approximately 5 %.

Predominant nationalities

In the following chart, the OC investigations are classified according to the ethnic group that determines the criminal activity of an organisation without necessarily representing the majority of its members.



In 2006, as in the previous years, German OC groups dominated organised crime in Germany, followed by Turkish groups. Russian OC groups played a larger role in 2006 than in 2005 (18 groups). The number of Lithuanian groups, on the other hand, dropped considerably (29 in 2005). No significant changes were recorded with regard to the other nationalities.

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

Predominant nationality	Number of groups	OC potential	Total number of suspects	Percentage of the total number of all suspects	Newly identified suspects
German	208 (219)	43.2 (41.6)	4,332 (4,349)	42.3 % (40.9 %)	2,388 (2,332)
Turkish	73 (72)	43.5 (44.1)	971 (939)	9.5 % (8.8 %)	484 (555)
Polish	30 (34)	45.7 (44.0)	458 (457)	4.5 % (4.3 %)	236 (278)
Russian	30 (18)	45.7 (44.0)	247 (165)	2.4 % (1.6 %)	158 (87)
Italian	26 (31)	47.8 (47.5)	355 (466)	3.5 % (4.4 %)	154 (188)
Serbian/Montenegrin	25 (24)	46.5 (40.1)	305 (267)	3.0 % (2.5 %)	196 (133)
Vietnamese	14 (14)	35.3 (34.3)	151 (153)	1.5 % (1.4 %)	54 (72)
Lithuanian	13 (29)	43.7 (40.7)	186 (387)	1.8 % (3.6 %)	67 (132)
Ukrainian	13 (9)	39.9 (37.7)	94 (95)	0.9 % (0.9 %)	74 (39)
Romanian	13 (13)	38.8 (43.8)	152 (151)	1.5 % (1.4 %)	103 (103)
Nigerian	11 (13)	42.8 (52.6)	177 (221)	1.7 % (2.1 %)	49 (85)
Dutch	11 (8)	38.4 (34.2)	91 (96)	0.9 % (0.8 %)	37 (41)
Lebanese	10 (11)	46.5 (48.0)	254 (177)	2.5 % (1.7 %)	141 (24)
Albanian	9 (11)	42.0 (44.0)	99 (150)	1.0 % (1.4 %)	45 (98)
Chinese	8 (11)	38.8 (38.4)	101 (91)	1.0 % (0.9 %)	74 (37)

3.3.1 OC groups dominated by German nationals

German suspects continued to dominate organised crime in Germany. Their percentage increased slightly from 40.1 % in the previous year to 42.3 % in 2006. 726 German suspects (16.8 %) were nationals of a different country at birth. Thus their proportion was at the same level as in the previous years. Their countries of origin were above all the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Poland and Turkey.

As in the previous years, OC groups dominated by German suspects (208) came to notice above all in connection with drug trafficking and smuggling (mainly cocaine and cannabis) as well as crime associated with the business world and property crime. The distribution according to the fields of crime remained virtually unchanged from the previous year. With 43.2, the OC potential of German OC groups was only slightly above average.

Links with rocker groups were established in 18 investigations (compared to 13 investigations in 2005 and 11 in 2004). As in the past years, these links existed primarily in the fields of drug trafficking and smuggling (cocaine and cannabis), crime associated with nightlife, economic crime (credit fraud, offences against the Lottery Act), violent crime (extortion) and arms trafficking.

3.3.2 OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals

971 Turkish suspects were under investigation in 2006. Their percentage increased from 8.8 % in the previous year to 9.5 % in 2006. As in previous years, the criminal activities of Turkish OC groups (73) were very clearly focussed on drug trafficking and smuggling. Heroin trafficking and smuggling, predominantly from Turkey to Germany via the Balkan route, played the most important role. The proportions of Turkish OC groups in relation to other fields of crime showed no notable changes. With 43.5, the OC potential of Turkish OC groups was only slightly above average.

3.3.3 OC groups dominated by Polish nationals

458 Polish suspects were under investigation in 2006. With 4.5 %, their proportion remained virtually unchanged. As in the previous year, Polish OC groups (30) were primarily active in the fields of property crime as well as tax and customs offences. As in past years, Polish OC groups were responsible for the trafficking of motor vehicles from Germany into Poland and the successor states to the Soviet Union. Most of the OC investigations conducted for tax and customs offences concerned cigarette smuggling, in particular from Poland and the Czech Republic into Germany, France and the United Kingdom. The OC potential of Polish OC groups was quite high, amounting to 45.7.

3.3.4 OC groups dominated by Russian nationals

247 Russian suspects were investigated in 2006. Their percentage increased from 1.6 % in the previous year to 2.4 %. In comparison to the previous year, the number of OC groups dominated by Russian suspects also increased (from 18 in 2005 to 30). In contrast to other groups, Russian OC groups have no clear priorities concerning types of crime but were active in the most varied fields of crime. The OC potential of Russian OC groups was quite high, amounting to 45.7.

3.3.5 OC groups dominated by Italian nationals

355 Italian suspects were under investigation in 2006. Their percentage dropped from 4.4 % in the previous year to 3.5 %. As in the previous year, property crime and drug-related crime made up the largest proportions of crime committed by Italian OC groups (26). The main focus was on vehicle trafficking and cocaine smuggling. Italian OC groups had the highest OC potential, amounting to 47.8.

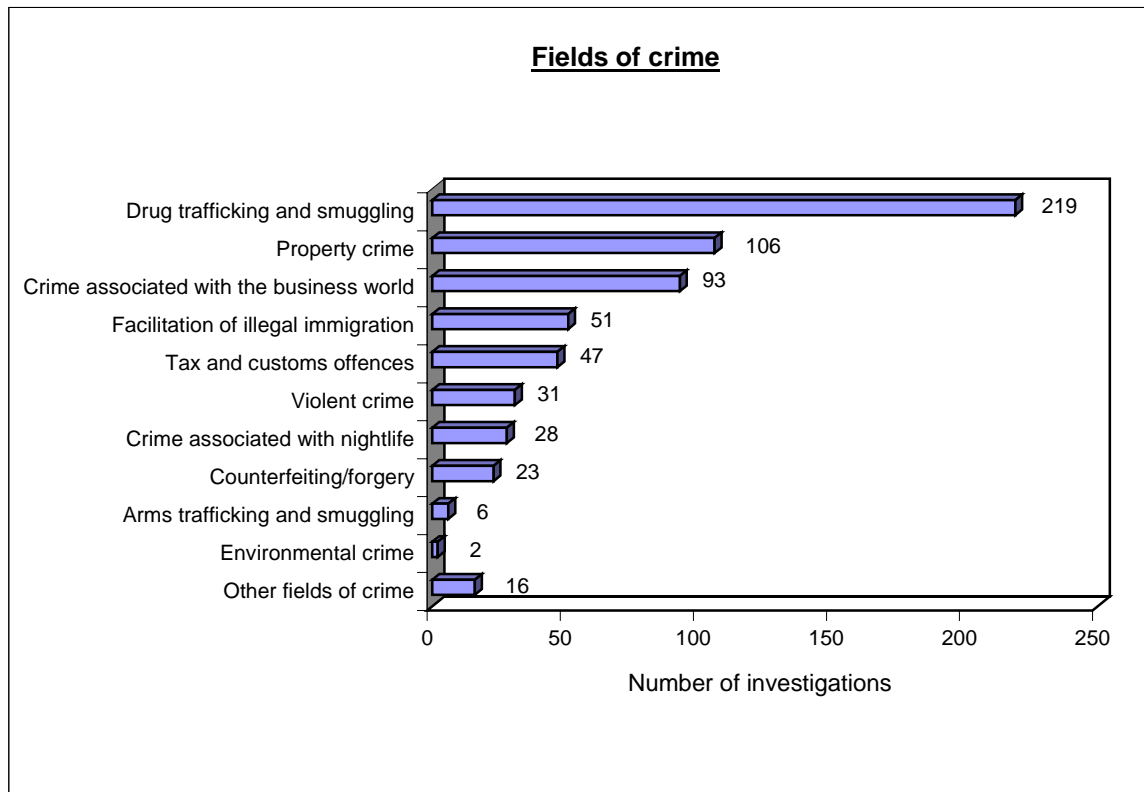
Five of the Italian groups had links to the Cosa Nostra, five to the 'Ndrangheta, three to the Camorra and two to the Stidde.

3.3.6 OC groups dominated by nationals of Serbia and Montenegro

305 Serbian-Montenegrin suspects were under investigation in 2006. Their percentage increased from 2.5 % in 2005 to 3.0 %. As in the previous year, the 25 Serbian-Montenegrin OC groups came to notice mainly in connection with drug trafficking and smuggling (especially cocaine and heroin). In addition, vehicle crime and fraud offences played a role.

3.4 Fields of crime

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



Drug trafficking and smuggling continued to make up the largest share of organised crime in Germany.

There was again a notable decline in 2006 with regard to crime associated with nightlife. This decline corresponds to the general development in the field of counterfeit currency and appears to be due, among other things, to the dismantling of illegal print shops in 2006. All other fields of crime were roughly at the same level as the previous year.

A high OC potential was recorded above all for OC groups operating in the fields of drug-related crime or economic crime.

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	219 (225)	35.2 % (34.6 %)	45.8 (45.1)
Property crime	106 (111)	17.0 % (17.1 %)	41.8 (39.0)
Crime associated with the business world	93 (89)	15.0 % (13.7 %)	45.3 (45.8)
Facilitation of illegal immigration	51 (52)	8.2 % (8.0 %)	31.0 (37.0)
Tax and customs offences	47 (50)	7.6 % (7.7 %)	43.4 (46.0)
Violent crime	31 (28)	5.0 % (4.3 %)	44.0 (36.8)
Crime associated with nightlife	28 (45)	4.5 % (6.9 %)	39.6 (40.3)
Counterfeiting/forgery	23 (28)	3.7 % (4.3 %)	37.5 (35.2)
Arms trafficking and smuggling	6 (9)	1.0 % (1.4 %)	40.5 (38.9)
Environmental crime	2 (2)	0.3 % (0.3 %)	52.6 (42.6)
Other fields of crime	16 (11)	2.6 % (1.7 %)	45.6 (40.0)

Modi operandi

In 2006, 24.6 % of the groups of perpetrators were active in more than one area of crime. This represents a slight increase in comparison to the previous year (21.5 %)⁹. Groups active in more than one field of crime again displayed, on average, a higher OC potential (49.2 points) than those focussing on one area of crime only (40.9 points).

543 (87.3 %) of the investigations analysed showed links to other countries, i.e. at least one crime scene was located outside Germany. There were supraregional links in 59 investigations (9.5 %), while regional links were established in 20 investigations (3.2 %). There were international connections to a total of 119 countries. The distribution by states was largely similar to that of the previous years, the main countries being: the Netherlands (203 investigations), Italy (116), Poland (99), Spain (86), Turkey (86), Switzerland (84), Belgium (84), the United Kingdom (79) and France (74). The top position of the Netherlands results from the importance of this country with regard to drug-related crime in conjunction with the high proportion of OC investigations in this field of criminal activity.

3.4.1 Drug trafficking and smuggling

As in previous years, police investigations continued to be focussed on OC groups active in the field of drug trafficking and smuggling. Following a decline in the years 2002 to 2004, the proportion of OC investigations in connection with drug-related crime increased again in the past two years, with 219 OC groups being investigated.

The majority of groups concentrated on *one* market segment in their criminal activities. About 31 % of the groups (29 % in 2005) were trafficking in *several* types of drugs. As in the previous year, the trafficking in and smuggling of cocaine clearly prevailed. The number of investigations where heroin played a role increased slightly. Cannabis and synthetic drugs were roughly at the same level as the previous year.

Drug trafficking and smuggling was dominated by German and Turkish OC groups. Cocaine trafficking and smuggling was mainly in the hands of German OC groups (with a share of 31.1 %), followed by Turkish (16.7 %) and Italian (7.8 %) OC groups. Heroin trafficking and smuggling, on the other hand, was dominated by Turkish OC groups (38.8 %). German groups had a share of 16.4 %, while Serbian-Montenegrin groups accounted for 9.0 %. German OC groups also dominated the trafficking in and smuggling of cannabis and synthetic drugs.

⁹ 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.

3.4.2 Property crime

As in the previous year, property offences made up the second largest field of crime in 2006. With 17 %, their share was virtually unchanged from the years 2005 (17.1 %) and 2004 (16.08 %).

Motor vehicle-related property offences prevailed, accounting for 76 % of the cases. Vehicles were predominantly stolen in Germany and taken to Poland or through Poland to Ukraine, Russia or Lithuania by the respective OC groups.

The field of property crime was dominated by German and Polish OC groups. In contrast to the previous year, Lithuanian groups were of no relevance in 2006. The percentages of Italian, Russian and Serbian-Montenegrin OC groups remained more or less unchanged.

3.4.3 Crime associated with the business world

With a share of 15 % of all OC investigations, crime associated with the business world was the third largest field of organised crime, the numbers being slightly higher than in 2005 (13.7 %).

With approx. €1.4 billion, the profits recorded in 2006 were considerably higher than in the previous years (€110 million in 2005 and €600 million in 2004). This amount was due to two cases where the profits obtained by the OC groups were estimated at €752 million and €350 million respectively.

Total losses amounted to approx. €920 million in 2006 (compared to approx. €205 million in 2005). There were, in particular, two investigations causing losses of approx. €189 million and €350 million.

As in the previous year, the investigations targeted above all financing offences (16 investigations in 2006; 14 in 2005), investment offences (10 in 2006; 13 in 2005), insolvency offences (8 in 2006; 10 in 2005) as well as offences in connection with labour, mostly social insurance fraud (6 in 2006; 11 in 2005). Eight investigations concerned breach of trust, and three investigations were each conducted for computer fraud and for account opening fraud.

Modi operandi focussing on one specific area of crime dominated with regard to crime associated with the business world, amounting to 77.4 %. Activities involving more than one area of crime included primarily property crime, counterfeiting and money laundering.

In the year under review, German OC groups continued to play the most important role in investigations conducted for economic crime. However, their percentage dropped from 49.4 % in 2005 to 45.2 % in 2006. In 2004, the share of German OC groups still amounted to 63.2 %. The importance of Turkish OC groups increased slightly.

3.4.4 Facilitation of illegal immigration

51 OC investigations focussing on the facilitation of illegal immigration were carried out in 2006. This represents a share of 8.2 % of all OC investigations (8 % in 2005). The suspects in the OC investigations for facilitation of illegal immigration were characterised by a striking ethnic variety.

OC groups dominated by Chinese nationals were almost exclusively active in the field of alien smuggling. Most of the illegal entrants identified during the investigations came from Asian states (China: 10 investigations; Vietnam: 9 investigations) as well as East and South East European states (Ukraine: 6 investigations; Bulgaria: 4 investigations). Illegal entrants from Iraq, Iran, Albania, Turkey and Russia also played a role in this field of crime.

3.4.5 Tax and customs offences

A total of 47 OC investigations were conducted in the field of tax and customs offences in 2006, amounting to a share of 7.6 % of all OC investigations. The numbers continued to decline slightly.

With a share of approximately 72 %, cigarette smuggling continued to be the main activity of OC groups identified in this area. Tax carousel fraud accounted for 6.4 %.

As in the years before, the investigations concerned above all cigarette smuggling from Russia and Poland to Germany and partly via Germany to France and the United Kingdom.

In the field of tax and customs offences, the percentage of German OC groups (36.2 %) was virtually unchanged from the previous year (36.0 %). Besides, Polish (14.9 %), Russian (8.5 %) and Vietnamese (6.4 %) groups played a major role. Lithuanian suspects were of no significance in 2006.

With approximately 87 %, the proportion of groups focussing on one specific type of crime was very high, similar to the previous year (90 % in 2005).

3.4.6 Violent crime

In the field of violent crime, the number of investigations conducted increased to 31 in 2006, as compared to 28 investigations in 2005 and 24 cases in 2004. This corresponds to a share of 5.0 % of all OC investigations. Crimes of extortion, in particular protection racketeering (11 cases), robberies, mostly to the detriment of banks and jewellers (9 cases) and offences against life (5 cases) formed a focal point in OC investigations in this area.

The percentage of German OC groups increased again considerably in comparison to the previous years (29.0 % in 2006, 21.4 % in 2005, 16.7 % in 2004). In addition, Turkish OC groups (16.1 %) as well as Russian and Vietnamese groups (9.7 % each) played a major role.

3.4.7 Crime associated with nightlife

In 2006, 28 OC investigations were conducted in the area of crime associated with nightlife. This represents a share of 4.5 % of all OC investigations. The number of investigations in this area declined sharply over the past years (45 investigations in 2005, 53 in 2004, 61 in 2003). This trend could be the result of an increasing deficit of information in this area.

The investigations were concentrated on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation (16 cases), followed by the exploitation of prostitutes (6 cases) and pimping (4 cases).

The female victims identified in the course of the investigations came from a total of 17 states, predominantly from Romania, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. Other major countries of origin were Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Belarus and Latvia.

With 42.9 %, German OC groups dominated the investigations conducted in the area of crime associated with nightlife, followed, by a wide margin in terms of numbers, by Romanian, Turkish and Bulgarian OC groups.

3.4.8 Counterfeiting/forgery

The number of OC investigations in the field of counterfeiting/forgery decreased in 2006 (23 cases in 2006 and 28 in 2005). With 4.0 %, their percentage in relation to organised crime in total was slightly lower than in the previous year (4.3 % in 2005).

About half of the investigations (11) targeted German groups of perpetrators. Italian groups were of considerably lower importance (3 investigations).

A total of 12 investigations (20 in 2005) concerned the production and circulation of counterfeit currency (almost exclusively EUR and USD counterfeits) coming from Italy. Only in one case were the counterfeits produced in Bulgaria, which had been identified as the main country of origin in the previous year. Lithuania played no role in this respect in 2006.

Three investigations were conducted for offences involving payment cards. The counterfeit cards in these cases originated in the United States.

3.4.9 Arms trafficking and smuggling

The number of OC investigations conducted for arms trafficking and smuggling decreased again in 2006 (six cases compared to nine cases in 2005). Most of the investigations were directed against German OC groups (four investigations).