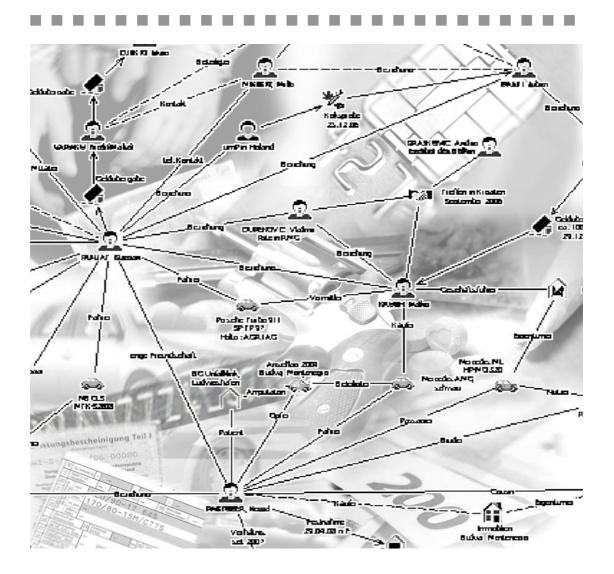


# **ORGANISED CRIME**

# 2007 National Situation Report

- Press-Release Summary -





BUNDESKRIMINALAMT

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2007 National Situation Report

- Press-Release Summary -

Bundeskriminalamt

65173 Wiesbaden info@bka.de www.bka.de

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#### 1. PRELIMINARY REMARK

The National Situation Report on Organised Crime (OC) 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 - LKAs), the Zollkriminalamt (central office of the German Customs Investigation Service - ZKA) and the Bundespolizeipräsidium (Federal Police Headquarters), on the basis of the definition of "organised crime" (see 3.1.2) formulated by the Working Party of Police and Judicial Authorities (AG Justiz/Polizei) in May 1990. 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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# 2. STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

	2007	2006
Number of investigations	602	622
Initial reports	295	308
Investigations completed	289	325
Total number of suspects	10,356	10,244
Newly identified suspects	4,630	5,485
Total number of nationalities	113	100
Percentage of German suspects	42.1 %	42.3 %
Percentage of non-German suspects	57.9 %	57.7 %
including:		
⇒ Turkish nationals	10.0 %	9.5 %
⇒ Polish nationals	4.6 %	4.5 %
Heterogeneous offender structures	79.4 %	81.8 %
Homogeneous offender structures	20.6 %	18.2 %
Armed suspects	3.0 %	3.1 %
Groups operating in more than one area of crime	31.9 %	24.6 %
Losses identified	€ 457.5m	€ 1,364m
Estimated profits	€ 480.6m	€ 1,815m
Provisionally seized assets	€ 38.5m	€ 59.8m

	2007	2006
International links	85.2 %	87.3 %
Fields of crime		
⇒ Drug trafficking and smuggling	37.0 %	35.2 %
⇒ Property crime	16.6 %	17.0 %
⇒ Crime associated with the business world	15.4 %	15.1 %
⇒ Facilitation of illegal immigration	7.0 %	8.2 %
⇒ Tax and customs offences	6.1 %	7.6 %
⇒ Crime associated with nightlife	4.7 %	4.5 %
⇒ Counterfeiting/forgery	4.7 %	3.7 %
⇒ Violent crime	4.2 %	5.0 %
⇒ Arms trafficking and smuggling	0.7 %	1.0 %
⇒ Environmental crime	0.5 %	0.3 %
⇒ Others	3.1 %	2.4%
Investigations including:		
Money laundering acc. to section 261 German Penal Code	172	174
Witness protection measures	47	48
Confiscation of assets	175	161

# 3. THE CRIME SITUATION IN GERMANY

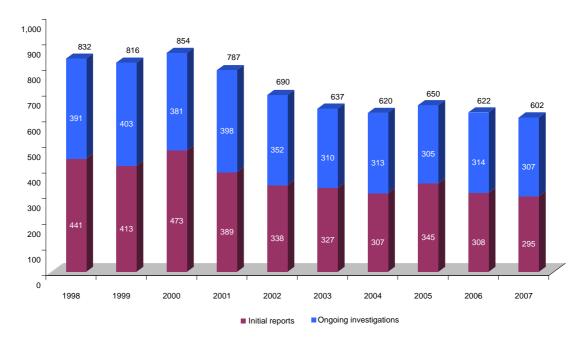
## 3.1 Investigations

# 3.1.1 Number of investigations

In the year under review, 602 OC investigations were conducted in Germany. A total of 295 of these investigations were initiated in the year under review (initial reports) and 307 were ongoing investigations instituted in previous years. In the period under review, 289 investigations were completed.

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# **Number of OC investigations**



In comparison to the previous year, the number of OC investigations decreased by 3.2 %. The decline in the number of initial reports (4.2 %) was more significant.

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The table below illustrates the regional distribution of the OC investigations. Assignment of the investigations by the federal authorities to the federal states is based on the location of the respective public prosecutor's office.

	Fed. State	BKA	Fed. Pol.	Cust.	Total
North Rhine-Westphalia	69	14	0	9	92
Bavaria	74	4	2	9	89
Berlin	56	1	1	10	68
Baden-Württemberg	52	1	2	7	62
Hesse	42	13	3	4	62
Lower Saxony	44	5	1	9	59
Hamburg	30	0	1	3	34
Brandenburg	16	0	1	7	24
Saxony	10	2	5	7	24
Rhineland-Palatinate	21	0	0	1	22
Schleswig-Holstein	17	0	4	0	21
Mecklenburg-West. Pom.	7	0	3	4	14
Saarland	10	1	1	0	12
Saxony-Anhalt	8	0	0	3	11
Bremen	4	0	0	0	4
Thuringia	3	0	0	1	4
Total	463	41	24	74	602

In comparison to the previous year, the changes in the figures of the federal states and the federal authorities varied. While there was a significant increase in the number of investigations conducted in Bavaria and by the BKA, the number of investigations carried out by the Federal Police, Customs and in several federal states dropped.

## 3.1.2 OC relevance of the investigations

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

"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 if more than two persons, each with his/her own assigned tasks, collaborate for a prolonged or indefinite period of time,

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- 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".

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 2007 (multiple recording possible):

- ⇒ 573 investigations: alternative a) applied
- ⇒ 281 investigations: alternative b) applied
- ⇒ 180 investigations: alternative c) applied

As in previous years, the verifiable cases of exerting influence according to alternative c) were the smallest group with a proportion of 29.9 %. The exertion of influence by organised offender groups was aimed at

- $\Rightarrow$  the public administration in 135 investigations (77 in Germany, 77 abroad),
- ⇒ judicial authorities in 44 investigations (22 in Germany, 22 abroad),
- ⇒ politics in 42 investigations (13 in Germany, 31 abroad),
- ⇒ the business sector in 27 investigations (18 in Germany, 13 abroad),
- $\Rightarrow$  the media in 18 investigations (13 in Germany, 8 abroad).

The distribution was largely similar to that of the previous years.

#### 3.1.3 Losses

The total losses reported for the period under review amounted to approx. EUR 457 million (EUR 1.36 billion in 2006). As in previous years, the highest losses were caused by crimes associated with the business world (about EUR 327 million). The significant decline in comparison to the previous year is due to the fact that in the previous year, losses in the amount of EUR 350 million and EUR 189 million respectively were reported for two fraud investigations alone.

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#### 3.1.4 Profits

The profits made by criminal organisations were estimated at about EUR 480 million (EUR 1.8 billion in 2006).

The largest profits were yielded by crimes associated with the business world (about EUR 235 million) as well as by drug trafficking and smuggling (about EUR 137 million). The decline in profits can be explained by the fact that the vast sum yielded by crimes associated with the business world in the previous year mainly resulted from two fraud investigations, in which the profits of the OC groups were estimated at EUR 752 million and EUR 350 million respectively.

German OC groups yielded the highest profits (approx. EUR 189 million), in particular by economic crimes. The profits made by Turkish OC groups were estimated at approx. EUR 73 million, mainly by drug trafficking and smuggling as well as economic crimes.

#### 3.1.5 Confiscation of assets

With approx. 29 % in the year under review, the percentage of investigations where measures to secure assets were taken was slightly higher than the percentage in previous years (25.9 % in 2006, 25.4 % in 2005, 24.2 % in 2004, 25.3 % in 2003). In 2007, the total value of provisionally confiscated assets amounted to about EUR 38.5 million (EUR 60 million in 2006).

The largest assets were provisionally secured in connection with investigations for crimes associated with the business world (approx. EUR 17.7 million).

#### 3.1.6 Money laundering activities

In 216 investigations, information was obtained relating to money laundering activities (in criminological terms). In 172 cases, there were investigations for money laundering pursuant to section 261 of the German Penal Code. In 93 investigations, a total of 614 suspicious transaction reports were filed pursuant to section 11 subsection 1 of the Money Laundering Act.

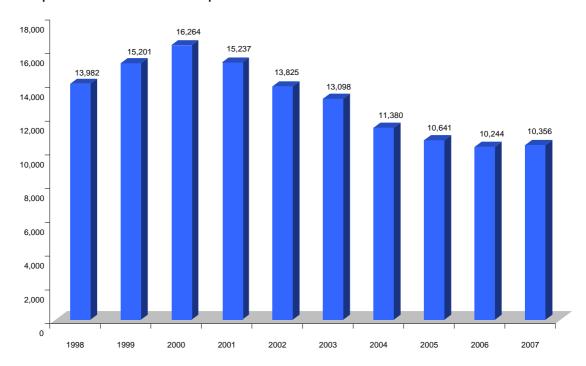
# 3.2 Suspects

## Total number of suspects

A total of 10,356 suspects were investigated in the year under review (10,244 suspects in 2006).

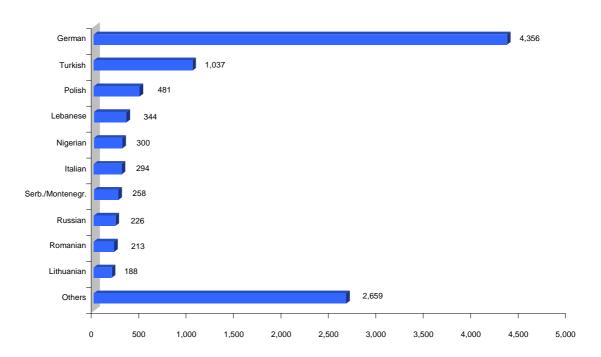
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# Development of the total number of suspects



The number of suspects in OC investigations slightly increased (1.1 %) for the first time after a six-year-period of decline.

#### Total number of suspects by nationality



As in previous years, with 42.1 %, German nationals continued to make up the largest group among all suspects (42.3 % in 2006). A total of 18.4 % of the German suspects (16.8 % in 2006) were born in a country other than Germany.

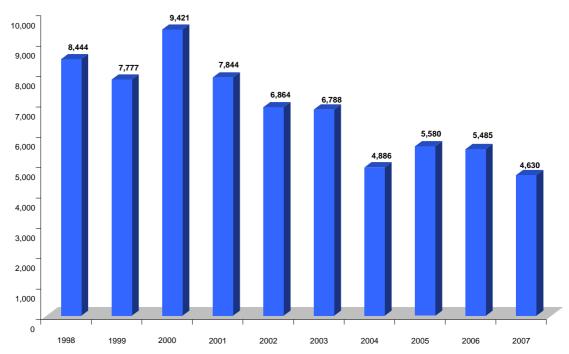
While the number of Turkish, Polish, Russian and Lithuanian nationals was almost identical to that of the previous year, considerable changes were observed regarding the following groups of suspects:

- ⇒ The number of Lebanese suspects increased (again) from 254 in 2006 (177 in 2005) to 344 in 2007.
- $\Rightarrow$  The number of Nigerian suspects rose from 177 to 300.
- ⇒ The number of Romanian suspects rose from 152 to 213.
- ⇒ The number of Italian suspects dropped from 355 to 294.

## Newly identified suspects

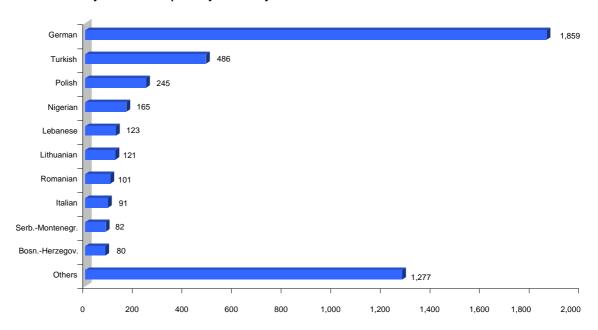
The number of suspects identified for the first time in 2007 dropped sharply compared to the previous year (minus 15.6 %).

#### Development of the number of newly identified suspects



A decline in the number of suspects identified for the first time was recorded particularly for German (from 2,388 to 1,859), Italian (from 154 to 91), Serbo-Montenegrin (from 196 to 82) and Russian (from 158 to 63) suspects. On the other hand, the number of Nigerian suspects rose considerably from 49 to 165.

#### Number of newly identified suspects by nationality



#### 3.3 Group structures

#### Composition of the groups of perpetrators

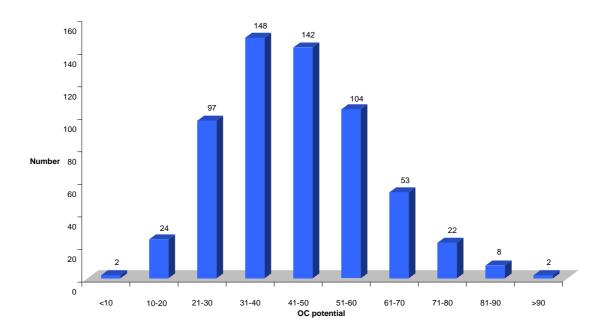
The average number of suspects per group was 17 persons. As in previous years, the proportion of OC groups consisting of more than 50 suspects (35 groups in total, including 11 groups with more than 100 suspects) was relatively small (approx. 6 %).

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#### 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 by counting and weighting the applicable indicators taken from the list of "General indicators for identifying OC-relevant cases".

#### Classification of the groups according to their OC potential

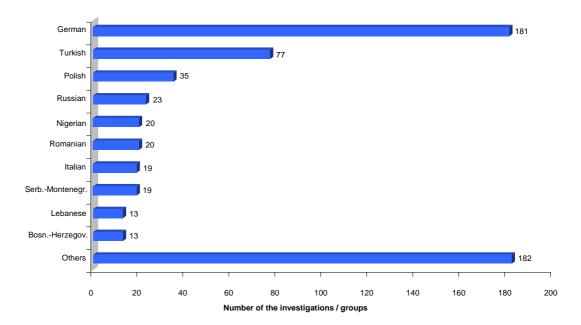


The average OC potential of all groups amounted to 43.3 points and was therefore only slightly higher than that of the previous years (42.9 points in 2006, 42.3 points in 2005, 41.3 points in 2004, 41.5 points in 2003). Likewise, the distribution of the values among the different categories has only changed 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 with a comparatively high OC potential has been relatively low for years.

### **Dominating ethnicities**

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

#### **Group structures**



As in previous years, organised crime in Germany is dominated by German and Turkish OC groups. The ranking order of the other nationalities, on the other hand, is subject to constant change.

In the year under review, the number of Polish (30 groups in 2006), Romanian (13 groups in 2006) as well as in particular Nigerian (11 groups in 2006) and Bosnian-Herzegovinian (four groups in 2006) OC groups rose, while the number of Russian (30 groups in 2006) and Italian (26 groups in 2006) OC groups dropped. Moreover, the number of Lithuanian groups decreased again (29 groups in 2005, 13 groups in 2006, 10 groups in 2007).

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

Dominating nationality		ber of oups	_	C ntial	Total number of suspects				Newly identified suspects	
German	181	(208)	42.9	(43.2)	4,356 (	(4,332)	42.1	<b>%</b> (42.3 %)	1,859	(2,388)
Turkish	77	(73)	43.2	(43.5)	1,037	(971)	10.0	<b>%</b> (9.5 %)	486	(484)
Polish	35	(30)	43.3	(45.7)	481	(458)	4.6	<b>%</b> (4.5 %)	245	(236)
Russian	23	(30)	47.5	(45.7)	226	(247)	2.2	<b>%</b> (2.4 %)	63	(158)
Nigerian	20	(11)	44.7	(42.8)	300	(177)	2.9	<b>%</b> (1.7 %)	165	(49)
Romanian	20	(13)	40.4	(38.8)	213	(152)	2.1	<b>%</b> (1.5 %)	101	(103)
Italian	19	(26)	49.3	(47.8)	294	(355)	2.8	<b>%</b> (3.5 %)	91	(154)
Serbian-Montenegr.	19	(25)	52.8	(46.5)	258	(305)	2.5	<b>%</b> (3.0 %)	82	(196)
Lebanese	13	(10)	45.0	(46.5)	344	(254)	3.3	<b>%</b> (2.5 %)	123	(141)
Bosnian-Herzegov.	13	(4)	46.7	(50.8)	125	(65)	1.2	<b>%</b> (0.6 %)	80	(40)
Vietnamese	11	(14)	41.2	(35.3)	95	(151)	0.9	<b>%</b> (1.5 %)	56	(54)
Lithuanian	10	(13)	41.8	(43.7)	188	(186)	1.8	<b>%</b> (1.8 %)	121	(67)
Ukrainian	9	(13)	42.6	(39.9)	79	(94)	0.8	<b>%</b> (0.9 %)	61	(74)
Albanian	9	(9)	40.1	(42.0)	75	(99)	0.7	<b>%</b> (1.0 %)	42	(45)
Macedonian	9	(5)	39.3	(39.8)	99	(79)	1.0	<b>%</b> (0.8 %)	57	(20)

## 3.3.1 OC groups dominated by German nationals

The proportion of German suspects (42.1 %) remained almost the same as in the previous year. When considering the percentage of German nationals involved in organised crime, it has to be taken into account that, at birth, a substantial number of German suspects were nationals of a country other than Germany.

In the year under review, 797 German suspects (18.4 %) had a different nationality when born. Their percentage remained virtually unchanged compared to the previous year. As in the past years under review, the Russian Federation, Poland, Kazakhstan and Turkey continued to be the most important countries of origin of these suspects.

As in previous years, OC groups dominated by German nationals (181) were involved in drug trafficking and smuggling in particular. Furthermore, crime associated with the business world played an important role.

Links with biker gangs were established in 19 investigations (compared to 18 investigations in 2006, 13 investigations in 2005 and 11 investigations in 2004). Nine OC investigations were directly aimed at biker gangs. These links with biker gangs existed mainly in connection with drug trafficking and smuggling (cocaine and heroin) and with offences associated with nightlife (trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation).

## 3.3.2 OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals

As in previous years, the criminal activities of Turkish OC groups (77) were focused on drug trafficking and smuggling. Their main field of activity was heroin trafficking and smuggling, followed by cocaine trafficking and smuggling. Heroin was mainly smuggled to Germany from Turkey via the Balkan route but also from the Netherlands. The smuggling of cocaine from the Netherlands to Germany was also of importance.

## 3.3.3 OC groups dominated by Polish nationals

As in the previous year, Polish OC groups (35) were primarily active in property offences, in particular motor vehicle offences, as well as tax and customs offences. They continue to account for the trafficking in stolen vehicles from Germany to Eastern Europe. The tax and customs offences consist above all of the smuggling of cigarettes from Russia and Poland to Germany and the United Kingdom.

## 3.3.4 OC groups dominated by Russian nationals

Following an increase in the previous year (18 groups in 2005, 30 groups in 2006) the number of OC groups dominated by Russian nationals has dropped to 23 groups. In the period under review, too, the Russian groups were active in the most varied fields of crime, in particular drug trafficking and smuggling. Furthermore, money laundering cases were of significance.

#### 3.3.5 OC groups dominated by Nigerian nationals

A total of 20 Nigerian OC groups were under investigation in the year under review (compared to 11 groups in 2006). Their criminal activities were mainly focused on drug trafficking and smuggling (especially cocaine). Furthermore, Nigerian suspects figure in the trafficking in human beings.

## 3.3.6 OC groups dominated by Romanian nationals

In the year under review, there was an increase in the number of OC groups dominated by Romanian nationals (20 groups in 2007 compared to 13 groups in 2006). Their criminal activities mainly included offences involving payment cards and property-related offences (theft, smash-and-grab burglary, etc.).

## 3.3.7 OC groups dominated by Italian nationals

The number of OC groups dominated by Italian nationals (19) dropped compared to the previous year (26 groups). Their main criminal activities were cocaine trafficking and smuggling as well as trafficking in stolen vehicles. Twelve of the OC groups dominated by Italian nationals showed links to the Italian Mafia (five were linked to the 'Ndrangheta, three to the Cosa Nostra, three to the Camorra and one to the Stidda).

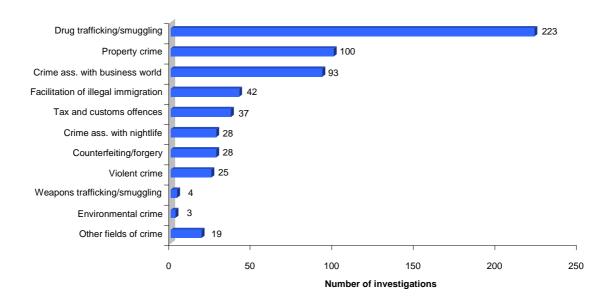
## 3.3.8 OC groups dominated by nationals of Serbia and Montenegro

As in previous years, OC groups dominated by nationals of Serbia and Montenegro (19) were smuggling and trafficking in narcotic drugs, in particular cocaine and heroin. What is noteworthy, however, is the relatively high OC potential of OC groups dominated by nationals of Serbia and Montenegro (approx. 53 points).

#### 3.4 Fields of crime

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

#### Fields of crime



Drug trafficking and smuggling continued to make up the largest share of organised crime in Germany. Apart from drug trafficking and smuggling, property-related offences and economic offences are of particular importance.

The importance of the other fields of crime is largely similar to the distribution of previous years. What is noteworthy, however, is the particularly low relevance of weapons trafficking and smuggling as an associated crime (in 18 investigations), primarily accompanying the main fields of crime, i.e. drug trafficking and violent crime. This explanation, however, does not apply to organised environmental crime, which is an absolutely secondary sector of organised crime in Germany.

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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	OC percentage	OC potential of groups
Drug trafficking/smuggling	<b>223</b> (219)	<b>37.0 %</b> (35.2 %)	<b>44.0</b> (45.8)
Property crime	<b>100</b> (106)	<b>16.6 %</b> (17.0 %)	<b>41.7</b> (41.8)
Crime associated with the business world	<b>93</b> (93)	<b>15.4 %</b> (15.0 %)	<b>44.3</b> (45.3)
Facilitation of illegal immigration	<b>42</b> (51)	<b>7.0 %</b> (8.2 %)	<b>36.3</b> (31.0)
Tax and customs offences	<b>37</b> (47)	<b>6.1 %</b> (7.6 %)	<b>44.8</b> (43.4)
Crime associated with nightlife	<b>28</b> 28	<b>4.7 %</b> (4.5 %)	<b>48.3</b> (39.6)
Counterfeiting/forgery	<b>28</b> (23)	<b>4,7 %</b> (3.7 %)	<b>36,1</b> (37.5)
Violent crime	<b>25</b> (31)	<b>4.2 %</b> (5.0 %)	<b>46.1</b> (44.0)
Weapons trafficking/smuggling	<b>4</b> (6)	<b>0.7 %</b> (1.0 %)	<b>39.8</b> (40.5)
Environmental crime	<b>3</b> (2)	<b>0.5 %</b> (0.3 %)	<b>56.6</b> (52.6)
Other fields of crime	<b>19</b> (16)	<b>3.2 %</b> (2.6 %)	<b>49.0</b> (45.6)

# Modi operandi

In the year under review, 31.9 % of the groups of perpetrators were active in more than one field of crime. Thus, there was an increase compared to the previous year (24.6 %).

Groups active in more than one field of crime continued to display, on average, a higher OC potential than groups active in only one field of crime (49.6 points compared to 40.3 points).

A total of 513 (85.2 %) 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 69 investigations (11.5 %), while merely regional links were established in 20 investigations (3.3 %).

There were international links to a total of 119 countries. The modi operandi established involved above all the Netherlands (198 investigations), Italy (108 investigations), Poland (102 investigations), Spain (92 investigations), Belgium (87 investigations), Switzerland (84 investigations), Turkey (82 investigations), France (73 investigations) and the United Kingdom (67 investigations). The high number of investigations involving the Netherlands results from the particular role the Netherlands play in drug crime.

# 3.4.1 Drug trafficking and smuggling

As in previous years, the OC groups in Germany were mainly active in the field of drug trafficking and smuggling, the proportion of which continued to increase over the past years (32.1 % in 2004, 34.6 % in 2005, 35.2 % in 2006 and 37.0 % in 2007).

The majority of groups continued to concentrate on *one* market segment only. About 33 % of the groups (31% in 2006, 29 % in 2005) were trafficking in several types of drugs. As in previous years, the trafficking in and smuggling of cocaine clearly prevailed. The number of investigations involving heroin and/or synthetic drugs remained the same as in the previous year. On the other hand, the number of investigations involving the trafficking in and smuggling of cannabis products dropped.

Drug trafficking and smuggling are still dominated by German and Turkish OC groups, although compared to the previous year (34.4 %), the proportion of groups dominated by German nationals has dropped slightly.

OC groups dominated by German nationals (23.6 %) and by Turkish nationals (14.2 %) were mainly active in the trafficking in and smuggling of cocaine. What is noteworthy is the relatively high importance of Nigerian OC groups (11.3 %), whereas the importance of Italian OC groups regarding the trafficking in cocaine (3.8 % in 2007, four investigations; 7.8 % in 2006, seven investigations) decreased.

Heroin trafficking and smuggling in Germany was dominated by Turkish OC groups (43.9 %). Furthermore, OC groups dominated by German, Serbo-Montenegrin and Macedonian nationals were of importance.

German OC groups also dominated the trafficking in synthetic drugs as well as the trafficking in and smuggling of cannabis. OC groups dominated by Dutch and Moroccan nationals also played a role in cannabis trafficking.

#### 3.4.2 Property crime

With a proportion of almost 17.0 % property crime still is the second largest field of crime. The main emphasis is placed on motor vehicle-related property offences (62 out of 100 investigations). In most cases vehicles were stolen in Germany and transported to the Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Lithuania via Poland and Austria.

In seven investigations the criminal activities were mainly focused on the theft of cash or cash dispensers. Four investigations centred on the theft of non-ferrous metal.

German (21.0 %) and Polish (14.0 %) OC groups were of particular importance in the field of property crime.

#### 3.4.3 Crime associated with the business world

In the year under review, the third largest field of crime was the crime associated with the business world (15.4 % of all OC investigations).

In the period under review, the losses amounted to approx. EUR 327 million (EUR 920 million in 2006). The profits were estimated at approx. EUR 235 million (EUR 1.4 billion in 2006). The main offences committed were financing offences (16 investigations), investment offences (14 investigations) and bankruptcy offences (eight investigations). Furthermore, computer fraud (five investigations), labour offences (four investigations) and competition-related offences (three investigations) were of importance. Offence-specific modi operandi are still dominant (approx. 72 % of the investigations).

Contrary to the declining trend in previous years, the high proportion of OC groups dominated by German nationals (47.3 %) increased slightly again (compared to 45.2 % in 2006).

#### 3.4.4 Facilitation of illegal immigration

In the year under review, 42 groups whose main activity was facilitation of illegal immigration were under investigation (compared to 51 groups in 2006). This field of crime is characterised by a special ethnic diversity, which is linked to the activities of the groups of facilitators in the source and transit countries.

The illegal entrants involved in the investigations relevant for the year under review were mainly from Vietnam and Iraq. China figured as the source country of illegal entrants only in three investigations (compared to 10 investigations in 2006). A part of the illegal entrants were smuggled through Germany to other European countries, in particular to Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom. The main destination for illegal entrants from Iraq was Sweden.

#### 3.4.5 Tax and customs offences

In 2007, a total of 37 OC investigations were carried out in the field of tax and customs offences. Cigarette smuggling (24 investigations) continued to be the main activity of OC groups identified in this area. The investigations concerned above all cigarette smuggling from Russia and Poland to Germany and partly via Germany to the United Kingdom. Further modi operandi involved petroleum tax offences, tax evasion by making out invoices for sums lower than the actual amounts and violations of the Foreign Trade and Payments Act. Alcohol smuggling and tax carousel fraud, on the other hand, played a minor role in the year under review. With approx. 92 %, the proportion of groups focusing on one specific type of crime was very high, as in the previous years. In particular, OC groups dominated by German, Polish, Vietnamese and Russian nationals respectively were of importance.

## 3.4.6 Crime associated with nightlife

In 2007, 28 OC investigations were conducted in the area of "crime associated with nightlife". The investigations were focused on trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation. The female victims identified in the course of the investigations were mainly from Romania, Poland and the Ukraine. Furthermore, especially the Czech Republic and Bulgaria figured as source countries. German OC groups dominated the crime associated with nightlife, followed, by a wide margin in terms of number, by Romanian, Turkish, Polish and Nigerian OC groups.

## 3.4.7 Counterfeiting/forgery

The number of OC investigations in the field of counterfeiting/forgery (28) remained the same as in previous years. A total of eight investigations (12 investigations in 2006 and 20 investigations in 2005) concerned the production and circulation of counterfeit currency (Euro and USD counterfeits). The counterfeit banknotes predominantly originated from Italy and Bulgaria. On the other hand, there was a significant increase in the number of offences in the field of payment cards crime, which was the main activity of offender groups in 11 OC investigations (three investigations in 2006). Payment cards crime is dominated by Romanian OC groups.

### 3.4.8 Violent crime

In 2007, 25 OC investigations were carried out in the field of violent crime. The investigations centred on extortion offences - in particular protection racketeering - (11 investigations), robbery (nine investigations) and offences against life (three investigations).

With regard to group structures, German groups figured prominently, followed by Turkish, Russian and Italian groups.

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