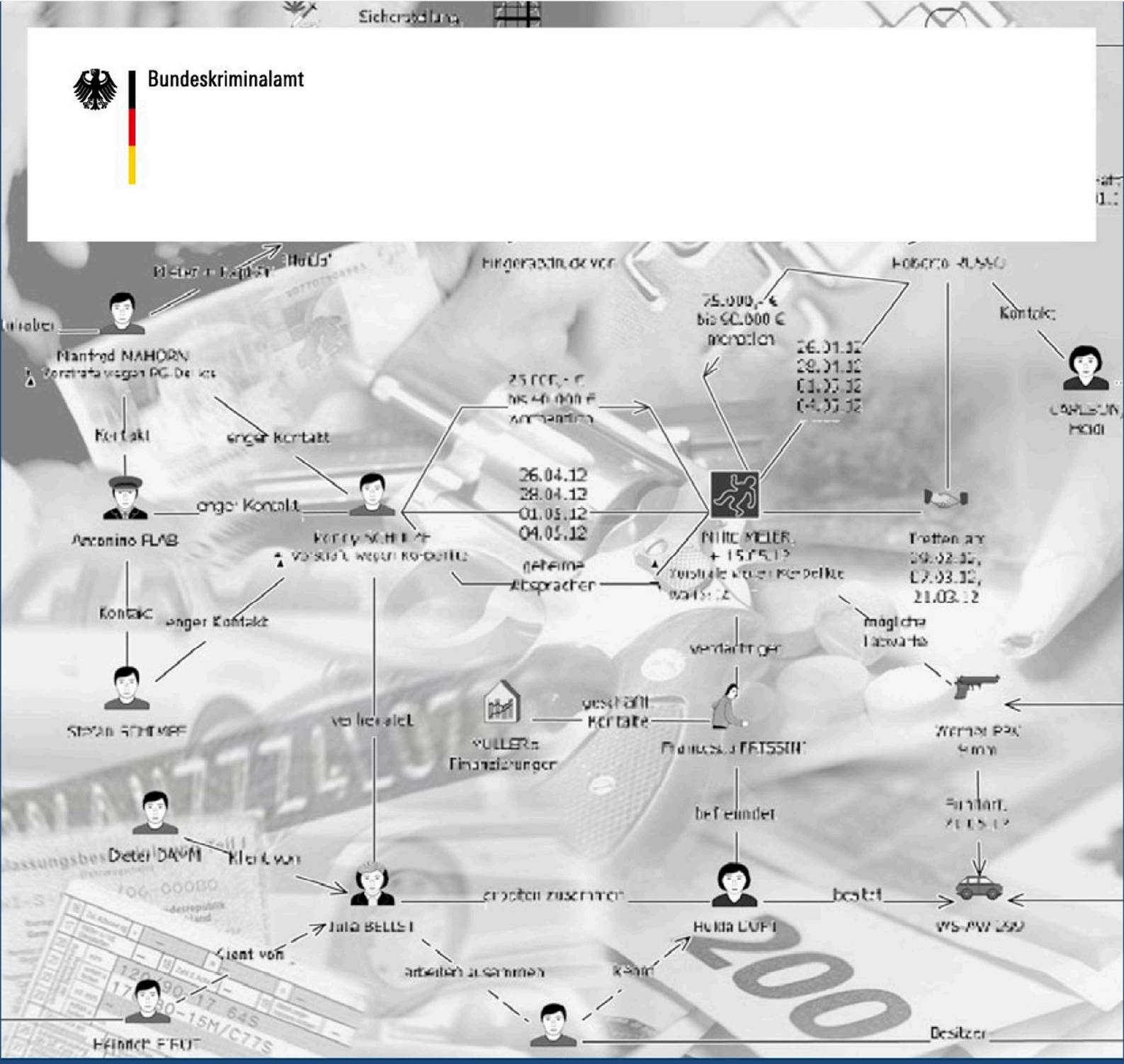
Bundeskriminalamt



Organised Crime

National Situation Report 2014

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1. Preliminary Remarks

The National Situation Report on Organised Crime contains information about the current situation and developments in the field of organised crime (OC). The report is drawn up by the Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Criminal Police Office – BKA) in co-operation with the Landeskriminalämter (Land Criminal Police Offices – LKAs), the Zollkriminalamt (Central Office of the German Customs Investigation Service – ZKA) and the Bundespolizeipräsidium (Federal Police Headquarters – BPOL) on the basis of the definition of "organised crime" formulated by the Working Party of Police and Judicial Authorities (AG Justiz/Polizei) in May 1990. Data on OC investigations conducted during the year under review are compiled by applying the same set of criteria throughout the country.

In a summarised form, the situation report mainly presents the results of law enforcement activities carried out in relation to crime detected by controls/ monitoring. It is a description of the recorded cases, i. e. the crime coming to police notice; a valid estimation of the possible type and extent of unreported crime cases cannot be deduced from the statistical data. Statements on the developments of OC are essentially based on the analysis of the development of individual indicators identified through (retrograde) long term monitoring.

2. Statistical Overview

Investigations	2014		2013	
Total number of investigations	**571**		580	
Initial reports	**299**	**(52.4 %)**	298	(51.4 %)
Investigations completed	**277**	**(48.5 %)**	282	(48.6 %)

Suspects				
Total number of suspects	**8,700**		9,155	
Newly identified suspects	**4,061**	**(46.7 %)**	4,933	(53.9 %)
Number of German suspects	**3,142**	**(36.1 %)**	3,711	(40.5 %)
Total number of non-German suspects	**5,450**	**(62.6 %)**	5,361	(58.6 %)
Lithuanian nationals	**946**	**(10.9 %)**	924	(10.1 %)
Turkish nationals	**897**	**(10.3 %)**	928	(10.1 %)
Number of suspects whose nationality is unclear, stateless suspects and suspects holding another European nationality[1]	**108**	**(1.2 %)**	83	(0.9 %)
Total number of nationalities[2]	**104**		100	
Number of armed suspects	**486**	**(5.6 %)**	444	(4.8 %)

Offender structures				
Heterogeneous offender structures	**405**	**(70.9 %)**	397	(68.4 %)
Homogeneous offender structures	**166**	**(29.1 %)**	183	(31.6 %)

Financial assets		
Financial losses	**€ 539 million**	€ 720 million
Criminal proceeds identified	**€ 335 million**	€ 638 million
Assets provisionally seized	**€ 90 million**	€ 85 million
Number of investigations resulting in the provisional seizure of assets	**151**	**(26.4 %)** 162 (27.9 %)
Number of investigations involving money laundering activities	**198**	**(34.7 %)** 203 (35.0 %)

[1] Since 2014, suspects holding another European nationality have been included.
[2] Since 2014, suspects whose nationality is unclear, stateless suspects and suspects holding another European nationality have not been included.

Main fields of crime	2014		2013	
Drug trafficking and smuggling	**188**	**(32.9 %)**	204	(35.2 %)
Property crime	**108**	**(18.9 %)**	93	(16.0 %)
Crime associated with the business world	**73**	**(12.8 %)**	76	(13.1 %)
Tax and customs offences	**52**	**(9.1 %)**	55	(9.5 %)
Facilitation of illegal immigration	**35**	**(6.1 %)**	29	(5.0 %)
Violent crime	**23**	**(4.0 %)**	26	(4.5 %)
Counterfeiting/forgery	**22**	**(3.9 %)**	25	(4.3 %)
Money laundering	**20**	**(3.5 %)**	17	(2.9 %)
Crime associated with nightlife	**19**	**(3.3 %)**	22	(3.8 %)
Cyber crime	**12**	**(2.1 %)**	6	(1.0 %)
Environmental crime	**6**	**(1.1 %)**	5	(0.9 %)
Arms trafficking and smuggling	**5**	**(0.9 %)**	11	(1.9 %)
Corruption	**2**	**(0.4 %)**	4	(0.7 %)
Other fields of crime	**6**	**(1.0 %)**	7	(1.2 %)

Average OC potential[3]		**41.5 pts**		42.1 pts
International crime	**458**	**(80.2 %)**	454	(78.3 %)
Offences involving more than one area of crime	**174**	**(30.5 %)**	163	(28.1 %)

[3] For details see page 13.

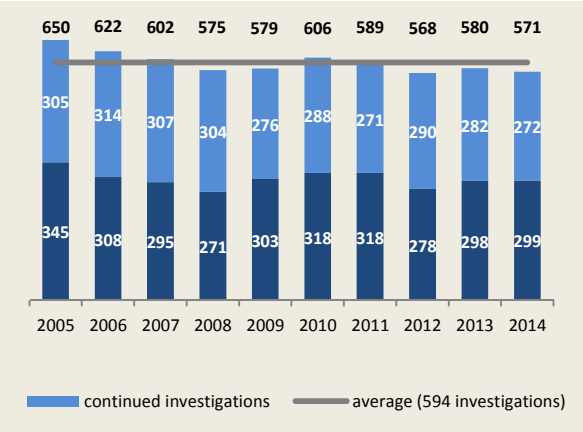
3. Crime Situation in Germany

3.1 General Data on Investigations

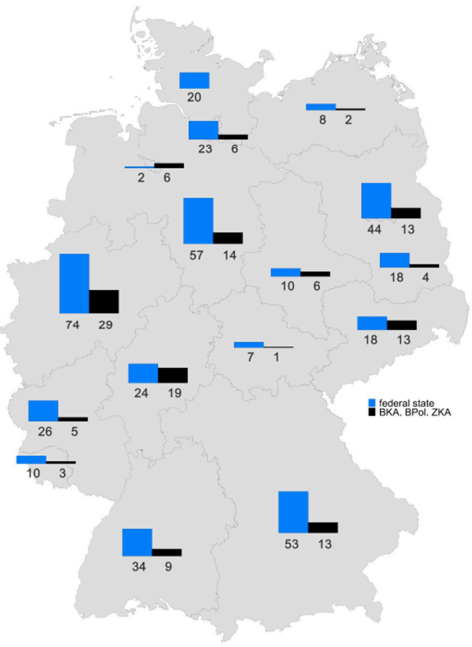
The total number of investigations has slightly decreased

The total number of investigations has slightly decreased from 580 to 571 (-1.6 %), the number of initial reports (concerning new OC cases in the year under review) has remained constant. A total of 277 investigations were completed in 2014 (2013: 282).

Development of the number of OC investigations (2005-2014)



Distribution of OC investigations per Land (German federal state)



The assignment of the investigations by the federal authorities to the Länder was based on the location of the public prosecutor's offices leading the respective investigations (figures of the previous year in brackets).

	fed. state	BKA	BPOL (Federal Police)	ZKA (Customs authorities)	Total (prev. year)
North Rhine-Westphalia[4]	74	6	3	20	103 (95)
Lower Saxony	57	2	2	10	71 (66)
Bavaria	53	1	9	3	66 (77)
Berlin[5]	44	1	5	7	57 (62)
Baden-Württemberg	34	0	6	3	43 (46)
Hesse	24	7	6	6	43 (49)
Rhineland-Palatinate	26	2	0	3	31 (25)
Saxony	18	3	6	4	31 (30)
Hamburg[6]	23	2	1	3	29 (32)
Brandenburg	18	0	1	3	22 (21)
Schleswig-Holstein	20	0	0	0	20 (19)
Saxony-Anhalt	10	1	0	5	16 (14)
Saarland	10	0	1	2	13 (12)
Mecklenburg West.Pomerania	8	0	1	1	10 (13)
Bremen	2	1	1	4	8 (11)
Thuringia	7	1	0	0	8 (8)
Total	428 (450)	27 (18)	42 (35)	74 (77)	571 (580)

[4] One investigation from North Rhine-Westphalia was conducted at a public prosecutor's office in Bavaria.
[5] One investigation from Berlin was conducted at a public prosecutor's office in Brandenburg.
[6] One investigation from Hamburg was conducted at a public prosecutor's office in Schleswig-Holstein.

OC mainly uses commercial or business-like structures

"Organised crime is the systematic commission of criminal offences motivated by the striving for profit or power which, individually or as a whole, are of considerable significance if more than two persons, each with his/her own assigned tasks, collaborate for a longer or indefinite period of time in the following way[7]:

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

All general characteristics and at least one of the specific characteristics listed under items A) to C) of the OC definition must be given for criminal conduct to be rated as organised crime. The distribution of the specific characteristics given in the OC definition was as follows in the year under review (multiple recording possible):

- 519 investigations: alternative A
- 259 investigations: alternative B
- 122 investigations: alternative C

In 63 investigations, all three alternatives were identified.

Distribution of the specific characteristics given in the OC definition

With a share of approximately 21.4 %, alternative C continued to be the least distinct alternative. The exertion of influence[8] by organised offenders was aimed at

- public administration in 83 investigations (29 in Germany only, 45 abroad only, 9 in Germany and abroad),
- judiciary in 44 investigations (15 in Germany, 26 abroad, 3 in Germany and abroad),
- politics in 22 investigations (4 in Germany, 16 abroad, 2 in Germany and abroad),
- the business sector in 18 investigations (14 in Germany, 2 abroad, 2 in Germany and abroad),
- the media in 12 investigations (9 in Germany, 2 abroad, 1 in Germany and abroad).

The strongest decrease (-9) was recorded in the number of investigations involving exertion of influence on the public administration. A slight increase (+2) was identified in the number of investigations involving exertion of influence on the business sector.

Alternative A – use of commercial or business-like structures:
In 261 investigations alternative A only
In 144 investigations alternatives A and B
In 51 investigations alternatives A and C
In 63 investigations alternatives A, B and C
(alternative A in **519** of 571 OC investigations)

Alternative B – use of violence or other means of intimidation:
In 44 investigations alternative B only
In 144 investigations alternatives B and A
In 8 investigations alternatives B and C
In 63 investigations alternatives B, A and C
(alternative B in **259** of 571 OC investigations)

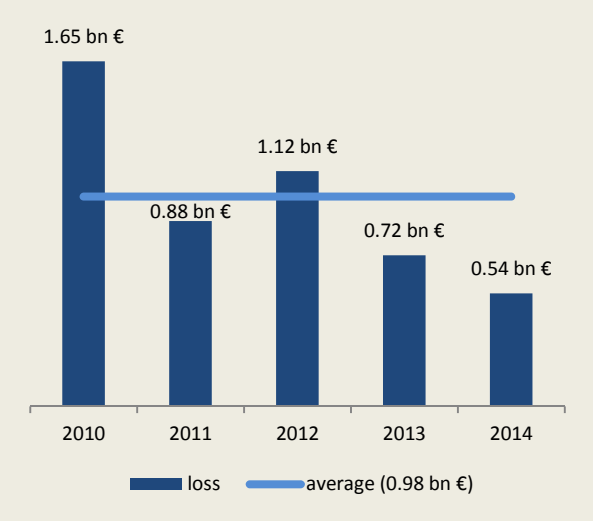
Alternative C – exerting influence on politics, the media, the public administration, the judiciary or the business sector:
In 0 investigations alternative C only
In 51 investigations alternatives C and A
In 8 investigations alternatives C and B
In 63 investigations alternatives C, A and B
(alternative C in **122** of 571 OC investigations)

[7] Working definition of "organised crime", which was adopted by the Working Party of the German Police and Judicial Authorities (GAG Justiz/Polizei) in May 1990 and serves as the basis for collecting data on organised crime.
[8] Multiple responses possible.

3.2 Financial Aspects

Losses identified on the decrease

Comparison of losses identified (2010-2014)



The total losses reported for the year under review, i. e. 2014, amounted to approx. EUR 540 million. Hence the losses reported for 2014 are again much lower than those reported for the previous year (EUR 720 million in 2013, -25 %).

In this context, we would like to point out that an investigation involving a particularly high loss (EUR 208 million), which was completed in 2013, had a strong effect on the total losses reported for 2013. In the year under review, i. e. 2014, no comparable investigation involving similar losses was recorded.

The highest losses were caused by crime associated with the business world, which accounts for about EUR 222 million and thus makes up a share of approx. 41 % of the total losses identified (2013: EUR 407 million, approx. 57 %), followed by tax and customs offences (EUR 63 million, approx. 12 %), property crime (EUR 48 million, approx. 9 %) and cyber crime (EUR 41 million, approx. 8 %).

The highest loss caused by an offender group, which accounted for approx. EUR 75 million, was recorded in the investigation of a crime associated with the business world (gang-type fraud on a commercial basis involving the sale of prize competitions and participation in lottery syndicates in connection with the running of call centres).

Significant decrease in criminal proceeds compared to the previous year

In 2014, proceeds totalling about EUR 335 million were identified in 232 investigations, i. e. approx. 41 % (2013: approx. 42 %); approx. 47 % less than in the previous year (2013: EUR 638 million).

This comparatively significant decrease of total proceeds in 2014 is based on the fact that in 2013 one investigation alone uncovered criminal proceeds in the amount of about EUR 208 million. For 2014, the year under review, no investigations involving similar criminal proceeds were reported.

As in previous years, the highest proceeds were generated by groups operating in the field of crime associated with the business world, i. e. approx. EUR 137 million, which corresponds to approx. 41 % of the total amount (2013: EUR 346 million, approx. 54 % of the total amount). This field of crime was followed by tax and customs offences with approx. EUR 53 million corresponding to approx. 16 % (2013: EUR 143 million) and by environmental crime with about EUR 48 million corresponding to approx. 14 %.

The comparatively high amount of proceeds in the field of environmental crime[9] can be attributed to two newly reported investigations involving the a/m amount.

Slight increase in the amount of provisionally confiscated assets

In 2014, the year under review, assets were confiscated in approx. 26 % of OC investigations (2013: 28 %), which roughly corresponds to the level of the previous year. The provisionally confiscated assets amounted to about EUR 90 million (2013: EUR 85 million) corresponding to an increase of approx. 6 % compared to the previous year.

Of the EUR 90 million about EUR 78 million (approx. 87 %) were confiscated in Germany.

The amount of assets confiscated abroad almost doubled from EUR 6.6 million in 2013 to EUR 12 million in 2014.

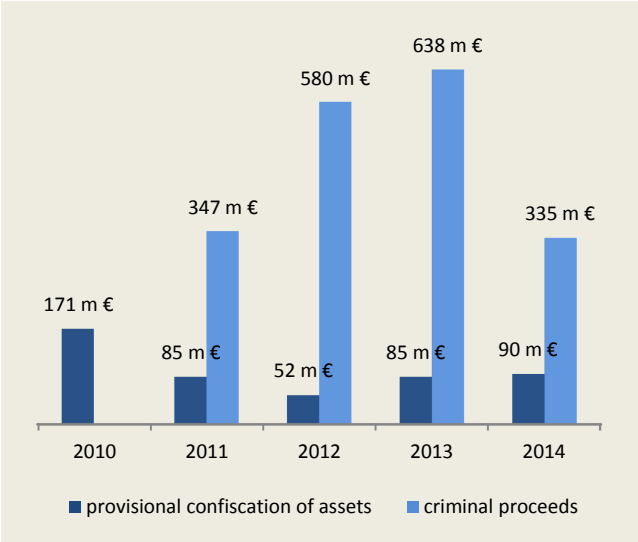
[9] 1x environmental crime and 1x pharmaceutical crime.

The highest amount of assets provisionally seized in a single investigation was about EUR 29 million) and originated from the field of crime associated with the business world (competition-related offences/bribes paid in relation to the granting of hereditary building rights). This amount alone accounts for one third of the total sum of provisionally confiscated assets.

The highest total amount of assets confiscated in a single investigation since its launch was about EUR 59 million. The investigation was conducted in the field of crime associated with the business world (investment fraud).

All in all, crimes associated with the business world, which were the source of about EUR 53 million in provisionally confiscated assets (approx. 59 % of the total sum of provisionally confiscated assets), ranked first, followed by environmental crime accounting for approx. EUR 19 million (21 %) and tax and customs offences accounting for about EUR 8 million (9 %).

Total amount of provisionally confiscated assets and criminal proceeds identified[10] (2010-2014)

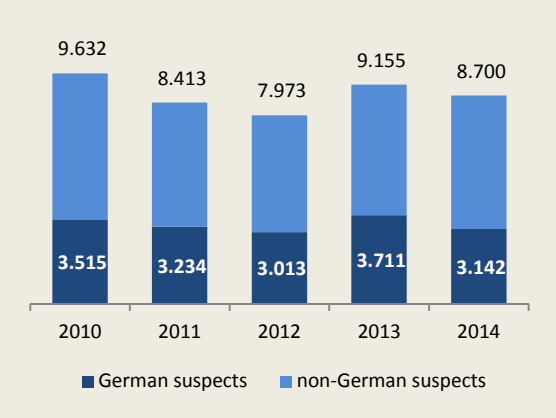


[10] In 2011, the collection of data on estimated profits of OC groups was for the first time replaced by the identification of criminal proceeds (obtained through the offence) as a result of financial investigations. Therefore, the proceeds can only be represented in the chart for the years from 2011 onwards.

3.3 Suspects

The majority of OC suspects are nationals from Germany, Lithuania and Turkey

Development of the total number of suspects and share of German suspects (2010-2014)



As in previous years, **German** nationals again made up the majority of suspects (2014: 3,142 suspects, 36.1 %). However, contrary to the previous year, their share decreased (2013: 3,711 suspects, 40.5 %). A total of 318 German suspects (10.1 %) had a different nationality at birth (2013: 342 suspects, 9.2 %). The following nationalities at birth prevailed:

- Russian (74 suspects)
- Turkish (53 suspects)
- Polish (43 suspects)
- Kazakh (32 suspects)
- Moroccan (17 suspects)
- Syrian (13 suspects)

Lithuanian nationals made up 10.9 % of the total number of suspects (2013: 10.1 %) and moved up to the second rank owing to the repeated increase in numbers. As in the previous two years, this high share of Lithuanian nationals in the total number of suspects can be attributed to a single investigation in the field of property crime (nuisance calls made to elderly people for fraudulent purposes[11]). The share of Lithuanian suspects is believed to decrease significantly after the investigation has been completed.

With a share of 10.3 % **Turkish** nationals ranked third in 2014 (2013: 10.1 %).

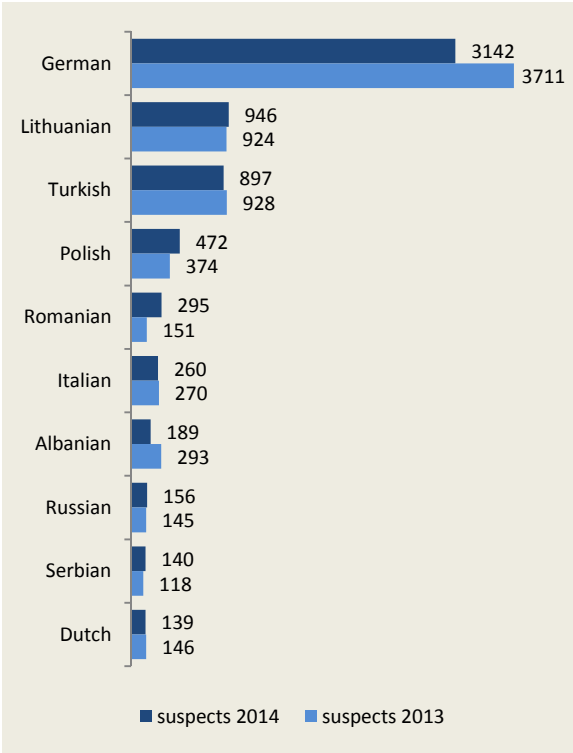
In the year under review, the share of **Polish** suspects increased to 5.4 % (2013: 4.1 %). Nearly half of all Polish suspects were found to have been investigated for vehicle offences.

The number of **Romanian** suspects almost doubled, which is due to the large number of newly identified suspects in OC investigations related to the field of property crime. Therefore, Romanian suspects made up a share of 3.4 % in the overall assessment (2013: 1.6 %).

The nationality of 1.2 % of all suspects remained unclear (2013: 0.9 %).[12]

The following chart illustrates an extract of the suspects reported in the year under review. For a list of all identified suspects please see the alphabetical overview[13].

Number of suspects by nationality (extract):



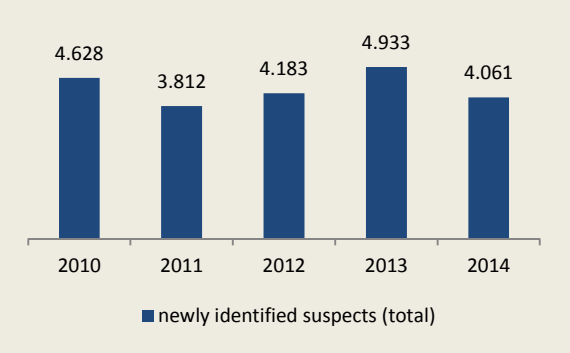
[11] Nuisance calls are mainly attributed to Russian-speaking suspects who, in most cases, call elderly victims stemming from the Russian-speaking area, pretend that a relative is in an emergency situation or has had an accident and thus prompt the victims to hand over an amount of money to an alleged "courier" at short notice in order to help their relative.

[12] The unclear nationalities include stateless suspects and persons from other European nationalities.

[13] Alphabetical overview: see page 22.

Significant increase in the number of newly identified Romanian and Georgian suspects

Development of the number of newly identified suspects (2010-2014):



With 35.6 % (2013: 40.6 %), **German** nationals continued to make up the largest group among all newly identified suspects.

With a share of 8.9 %, **Turkish** nationals ranked second among the newly identified suspects (2013: 10.1%).

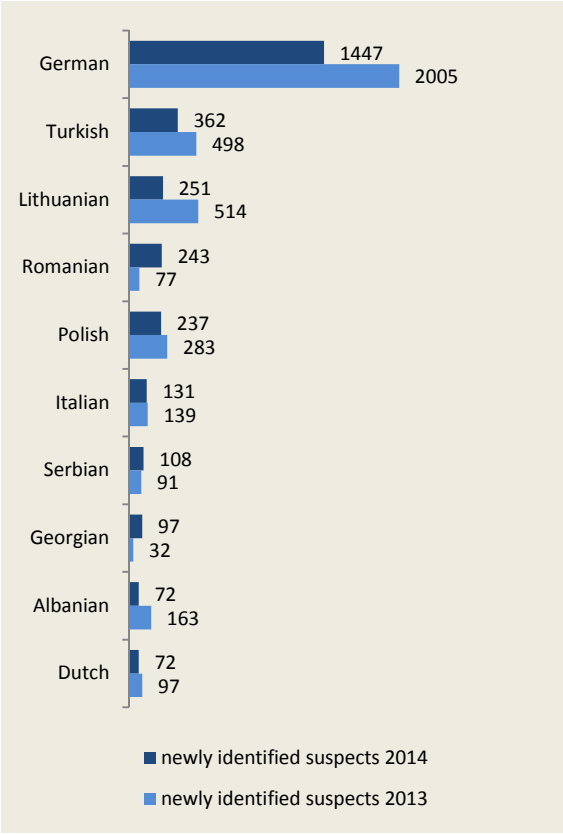
The share of newly identified **Lithuanian** suspects sank to 6.2 % (2013: 10.4 %). The decrease can be again explained by the nuisance calls-related investigation launched in 2012. In the previous year, 425 newly identified Lithuanian suspects were recorded with regard to this investigation, while this year only 154 were recorded.

The most significant increase in the number of newly identified suspects saw the **Romanian** nationals (approx. +216 %) and the **Georgian** nationals (approx. +203 %).

The nationality of 1.9 % of all newly identified suspects (2013: 0.8 %) is still unclear.[14]

The following chart shows an excerpt from the list of suspects newly identified in the year under review. They are listed by nationality. The alphabetic list gives an overview of all newly identified suspects.

Number of newly identified suspects by nationality (excerpt)



[14] The unclear nationalities include stateless suspects and persons from other European nationalities.

3.4 Group structures

OC groups mostly consist of up to ten suspects

Similar to the previous year, the number of suspects per group was approx. 15 persons on average (2013: 16). Groups of up to 10 suspects still prevailed (2014: 61.8 %, 2013: 60.7%). In 34.0 % of the investigations, 11 to 50 suspects were found to have banded together (2013: 35.5 %). In 4.2 % of the investigations (2013: 3.8 %), more than 50 suspects formed a group. In only 1.4 % of the investigations, the group consisted of more than 100 suspects (2013: 1.6 %).

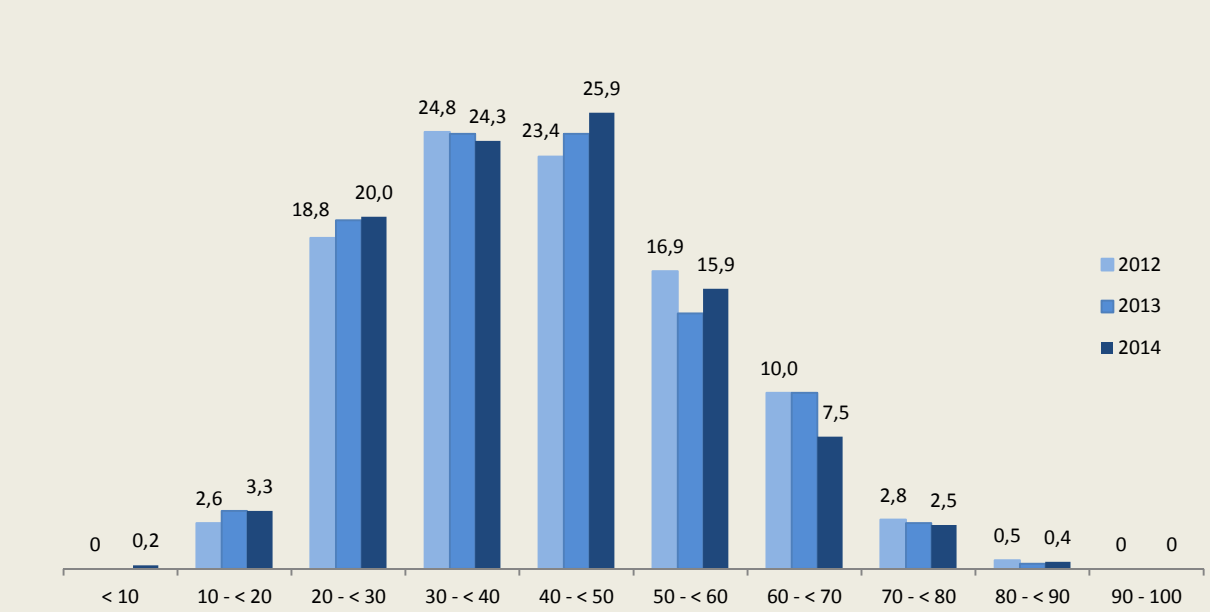
Average OC potential decreased

In addition to checking all reported investigations for OC relevance, OC groups were 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". In principle, the stages of the offence are evaluated, i. e. preparation and planning of the offence, commission of the offence and use of crime proceeds. The duration and staffing of an investigation play a decisive role in identifying these indicators. Therefore, a low OC potential does not necessarily imply a low degree of organisation and professionalism.

With a mean value of 41.5 points, the average OC potential decreased again compared to the previous year (2013: 42.1 points). This is the lowest value since 2004. It should be noted that there is still a small number of groups with either a very low or very high OC potential. Groups with an average OC potential made up the largest share, which is reflected in the mean value.

Percentage of the groups according to their OC potential (2012-2014)

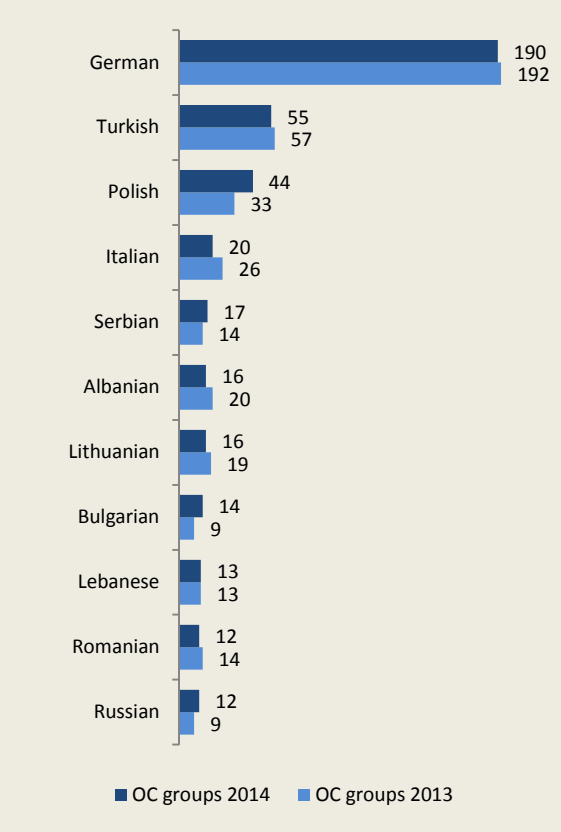


Number of OC groups dominated by Polish nationals increased again

With respect to the assignment to a group, the nationality of the persons, who held leading positions within the OC groups, is decisive. These persons do not necessarily have to represent the majority within the group.

The following chart is an extract of the prevailing nationalities identified in the year under review. The alphabetic list gives an overview of all groups identified.

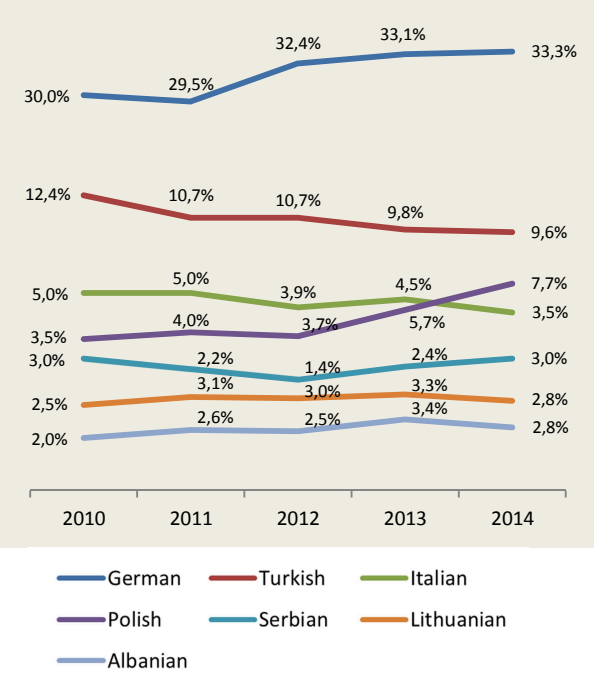
Number of groups listed by dominating nationality (extract):



Overview of further data of the groups dominated by the following nationalities (figures of the previous year in brackets):

Dominating nationality	Number of groups		Average OC potential in points[15]			Average time of collaboration in years[16]		
German	190	(192)	42.8	(43.5)	↘	3.6	(3.4)	↗
Turkish	55	(57)	42.8	(43.8)	↘	2.1	(2.5)	↓
Polish	44	(33)	37.9	(39.4)	↘	2.1	(1.7)	↑
Italian	20	(26)	47.8	(45.8)	↗	3.2	(3.0)	↗
Serbian	17	(14)	44.7	(41.9)	↗	3.1	(2.4)	↑
Albanian	16	(20)	46.4	(44.7)	↗	2.5	(1.9)	↑
Lithuanian	16	(19)	41.2	(44.0)	↘	1.6	(2.7)	↓
Bulgarian	14	(9)	35.0	(38.0)	↘	3.6	(4.6)	↓
Lebanese	13	(13)	44.4	(36.5)	↑	1.4	(1.3)	↗
Romanian	12	(14)	31.3	(35.7)	↓	1.8	(2.0)	↘
Russian	12	(9)	39.8	(40.3)	↘	3.1	(3.3)	↘
Georgian	10	(3)	42.5	(55.8)	↓	2.5	(3.5)	↓
Dutch	9	(16)	45.7	(42.5)	↗	3.3	(2.8)	↑
Vietnamese	9	(13)	37.9	(40.7)	↘	2.2	(3.1)	↓
Latvian	8	(7)	41.4	(37.3)	↑	1.3	(0.9)	↑

Development of significant dominating nationalities (2010-2014)



[15] The average OC potential of all OC groups amounted to 41.5 points (previous year: 42.1 points).
[16] The average time of collaboration amounted to 2.8 years (previous year: 2.7 years).

OC groups dominated by German nationals are increasingly active in drug trafficking and smuggling

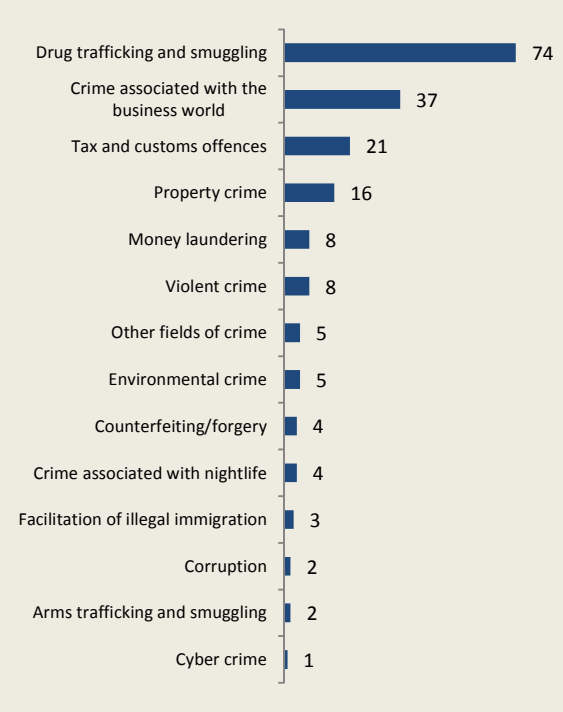
In the year under review, the number of identified OC groups dominated by German nationals (190) continued to be at a consistently high level (2013: 192, 2012: 184, 2011: 174, 2010:182). In the year under review, 35.8 % of these OC groups consisted exclusively of German nationals, i. e. their numbers decreased compared to 41 % in 2013.

In 2014, just a slight decrease was recorded in the number of OC groups operating in one specific field of crime (71.6 %, 136 groups) compared to 73.0 % (141 groups) in 2013 and 74.5 % (137 groups) in 2012. Compared to previous years (2013: 62.0 %, 119 groups, 2012: 70.7 %, 130 groups), the share of offences committed at international level increased significantly in 2014 (69.5 %, 132 groups).

Presenting a significant increase compared to the previous year, in 2014, offences in the fields of drug trafficking and smuggling prevailed in the identified OC groups dominated by German nationals (38.9 %, 74 groups) compared to 31.3 % (60 groups) in 2013, followed by 19.5 % (37 groups) in the field of crime associated with the business world compared to 22.4 % (43 groups) in 2013. As in the previous year, primarily cocaine from South America and cannabis from the Netherlands were smuggled to Germany.

The highest single financial loss caused by a group dominated by German nationals amounted to EUR 53 million in the year under review, thus accounting for 9.8 % of the total financial loss of EUR 539 million. This high single financial loss was detected in an investigation for tax and customs offences, in which cigarettes were illegally produced and imported to Germany.

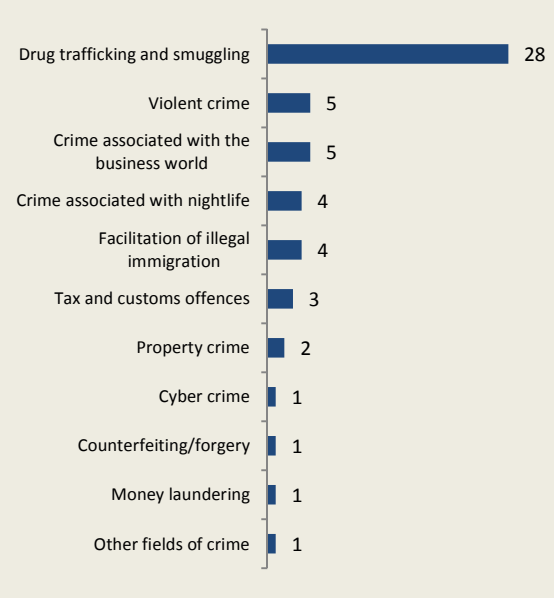
OC groups dominated by German nationals (190)



Number of OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals still on the decline

With 55 OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals recorded in 2014, the downward trend continued (2013: 57, 2012: 61, 2011: 64, 2010: 75). In the year under review, 14.5 % of the OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals consisted exclusively of Turkish nationals (2013: 26.0 %). Compared to 59.6 % in 2013, 69.1 % of the OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals focused their activities on a specific area of crime in 2014 – an increase of almost 10 %. As in 2013 (71.9 %), the majority of investigations identified international offences in 2014 (70.9 %). In the year under review, 50.9 % of the investigations were conducted for drug trafficking and smuggling (2013: 54.4 %). As in previous years, the activities of OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals focused on this field of crime. The perpetrators primarily dealt in and/or smuggled cannabis products. The lion's share of the cannabis products and the cocaine originated from the Netherlands and was destined for the German market.

OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals (55)



The number of OC groups dominated by Polish nationals continues to increase

The number of OC groups dominated by Polish nationals (44) increased significantly again compared to the previous years (2013: 33, 2012: 21, 2011: 23). About half of the OC groups (52.3 %) consisted exclusively of Polish nationals (2013: 66.7 %). In 97.7 % of the investigations (2013: 93.9 %) the offenders operated at international level, and 86.4 % of the OC groups focused their activities on a specific area of crime (2013: 84.8 %). In 2014, 27 of 44 investigations were related to property crime (2013: 22 investigations), of which more than three quarters were linked to motor vehicle-related property crime (20 investigations). Nine investigations were conducted for tax and customs offences.

OC groups dominated by Polish nationals (44)

OC groups dominated by Italian nationals continue to mainly deal in narcotic drugs

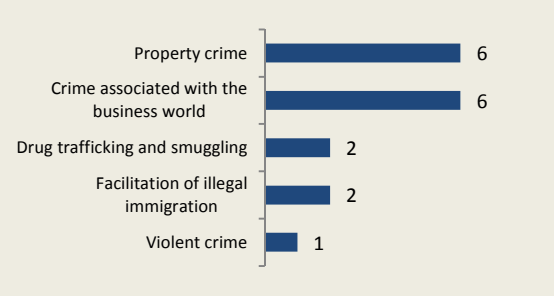
The number of OC groups dominated by Italian nationals (20) dropped compared to the previous year (2013: 26). In 2014, 45.0 % of these OC groups consisted exclusively of Italian nationals (2013: 30.8 %). Eight groups focused their activities on a specific area of crime, and 18 groups (90.0 %) operated at international level. As in previous years, the OC groups dominated by Italian nationals concentrated their activities on drug trafficking and smuggling. They primarily dealt in and/or smuggled cocaine. The focus of all their activities was located within Europe, mainly in Germany and Italy.

OC groups dominated by Italian nationals (20)

Increase in the number of property crime investigations involving OC groups dominated by Serbian nationals

All in all, the number of OC groups dominated by Serbian nationals increased from 14 in 2013 to 17 in 2014. As in the previous year, most of the OC groups consisted of offenders from different nationalities (heterogeneous group structures; 2014: 82.4 %, 2013: 92.9 %). In 2014, 70.6 % of the OC groups focused their activities on a specific area of crime (2013: 78.6 %), and 82.4 % of them operated at international level (2013: 85.7 %). Besides crimes associated with the business world accounting for 6 investigations in 2014, which continued to be the prevailing field of crime (2013: 5 investigations), the number of investigations conducted for property offences increased from 2 investigations in 2013 to 6 in 2014.

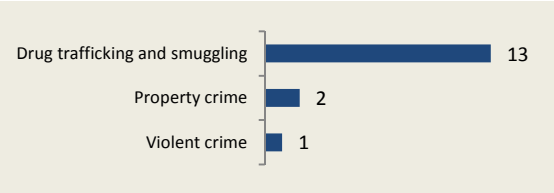
OC groups dominated by Serbian nationals (17)



OC groups dominated by Albanian nationals primarily operate internationally

Compared to the previous year (2013: 20), the number of OC groups dominated by Albanian nationals dropped to 16 in 2014. In 2014, 62.5 % of the investigations targeted OC groups consisting of offenders from different nationalities, which represents a significant decrease compared to the previous year (2013: 90.0 %). As in the previous year, 93.8 % of the offences were committed at international level (2013: 80.0 %), and 75.0 % of the offences were committed with the focus lying on one specific field of crime (2013: 70.0 %). In the year under review, 81.3 % of the offences were committed (by 13 OC groups) in the crime fields of drug trafficking and smuggling (2013: 85.0 %). Besides Albania, the narcotic drugs originated mainly from the Netherlands. As in the previous year, the narcotic drug predominantly smuggled to Germany was cocaine.

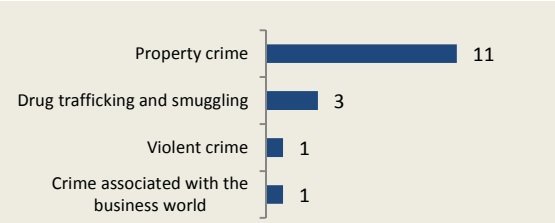
OC groups dominated by Albanian nationals (16)



Internationally organised vehicle crime continues to be the principal activity of OC groups dominated by Lithuanian nationals

The 16 OC groups dominated by Lithuanian nationals (2013: 19) mainly operated at international level (87.5 %, 2013: 94.7 %), and more than half of them (56.3 %) consisted exclusively of Lithuanian nationals (2013: 68.4 %). In 2014, 62.5 % of the groups focused their activities on one specific area of crime (2013: 68.4 %). As in the previous year, groups dominated by Lithuanian nationals were above all active in the field of property crime. Once again the majority of offences committed were thefts of motor vehicles in Germany, most of which were then transported to Lithuania. Furthermore, an investigation was conducted for nuisance calls – an investigation which had caught the attention of the authorities as early as 2012 owing to the high number of suspects. Meanwhile a total of 796 suspects were registered in connection with this investigation, 154 of whom were newly identified in the year under review.

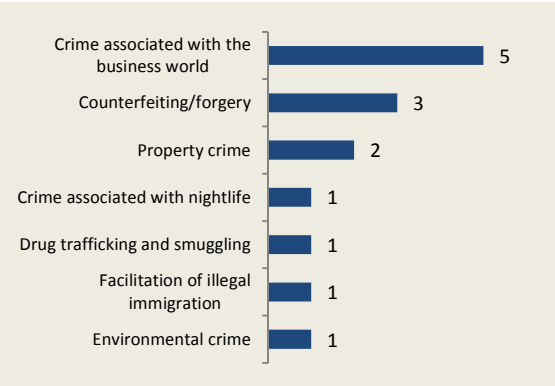
OC groups dominated by Lithuanian nationals (16)



Increase in the number of investigations conducted into OC groups dominated by Bulgarian nationals

After the number of OC groups dominated by Bulgarian nationals had dropped to 9 groups in 2013, their number increased by 55.6 % to 14 OC groups in 2014. Compared to 22.2 % in 2013, 42.9 % of the groups consisted exclusively of Bulgarian offenders and, as in the previous year, operated at international level without exception. Once again, in 2014, 71.4 % of the OC groups focused their activities on one type of crime (2013: 66.7 %). They were active in seven areas of crime, of which 35.7 % accounted for crime associated with the business world.

OC groups dominated by Bulgarian nationals (14)

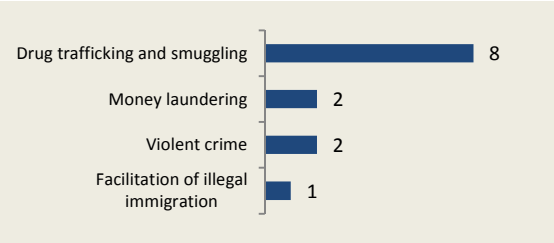


No change in the number of OC groups dominated by Lebanese nationals

Compared to 13 groups in 2013, the number of OC groups dominated by Lebanese nationals remained unchanged (13) in 2014. The composition of the groups was similarly heterogeneous (2014: 76.9 %,

2013: 69.2 %). In 69.2 % of the investigations the offenders operated at international level (2013: 61.5 %), and 69.2 % of the OC groups focused their activities on a specific area of crime (2013: 84.6 %). Almost two thirds of the investigations were conducted for drug trafficking and smuggling.

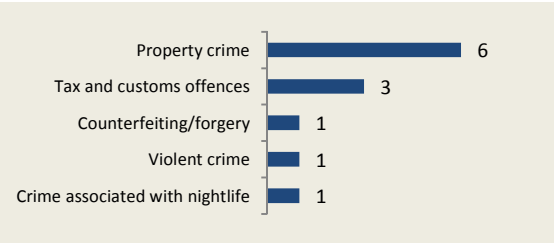
OC groups dominated by Lebanese nationals (13)



OC groups dominated by Romanian nationals continue to be mainly active in the field of property crime

OC groups dominated by Romanian nationals were the subject of 12 OC investigations (2013: 14, 2012: 19). In 2014, 41.7 % of the OC groups consisted exclusively of Romanian nationals (2013: 42.9 %). Furthermore, the suspects, with one exception, focused their activities on a specific area of crime. As in the previous year, their focus was on property crime.

OC groups dominated by Romanian nationals (12)



Slight increase in the number of Russian OC groups

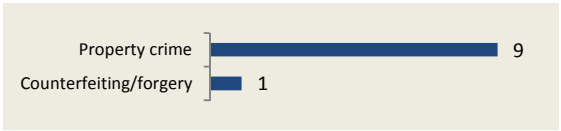
Contrary to the trend of previous years, the number of OC groups dominated by Russian nationals increased slightly in the year under review (2014: 12, 2013: 9, 2012: 18, 2011: 21). The OC groups dominated by Russian nationals, which were identified in the year under review, mostly consisted of offenders from different nationalities (2014: 91.7 %, 2013: 88.9 %). Seven OC groups were found to have joined up with German suspects. Contrary to the previous year, most of the suspects involved in the 12 investigations were Russian nationals. All groups operated at international level and in various fields of crime.

OC groups dominated by Russian nationals (12)

Number of OC groups dominated by Georgian nationals tripled

In the year under review, 10 OC groups dominated by Georgian nationals were identified (2013: 3), which can be attributed to 9 newly launched OC investigations. The suspects were almost exclusively identified in property crime investigations (2014: 9 investigations, 2013: 3 investigations). They came to notice for burglaries in particular. The OC groups dominated by Georgian nationals showed a high degree of heterogeneity in the offender structure. In a majority of the cases, the Georgian suspects formed OC groups with Russian nationals or persons from the successor states of the former Soviet Union.

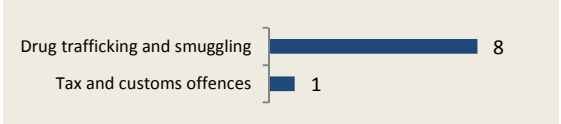
OC groups dominated by Georgian nationals (10)



Number of OC groups dominated by Dutch nationals decreased by almost 50% in 2014

In general, the Netherlands play a special role in drug trafficking and smuggling. The OC groups dominated by Dutch nationals almost always operated in these fields of crime (2014: 88.9 %, 2013: 81.3 %). However, compared to the previous year (2013: 16), the number of OC groups sank by almost by 50% (2014: 9). It was striking that all the groups had a heterogeneous offender structure. In 8 out of 9 investigations they were found to have associated with German nationals.

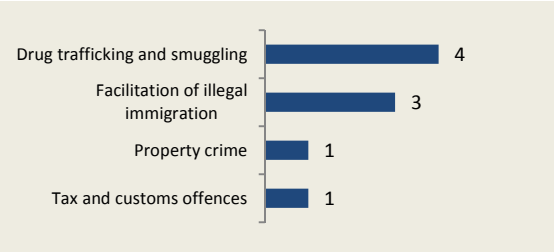
OC groups dominated by Dutch nationals (9)



Number of OC groups dominated by Vietnamese nationals continued to decrease

The number of OC groups dominated by Vietnamese nationals (9) continued to sink (2013: 13, 2012: 16, 2013: 13, 2012: 16, 2011: 24). In about one fifth of the investigations, the OC groups consisted exclusively of Vietnamese nationals. In 2014, 77.8 % of them operated at international level. They focused their activities on drug trafficking and smuggling (mainly running professional indoor cannabis plantations[17]) as well as people smuggling (smuggling of Vietnamese nationals to Germany).

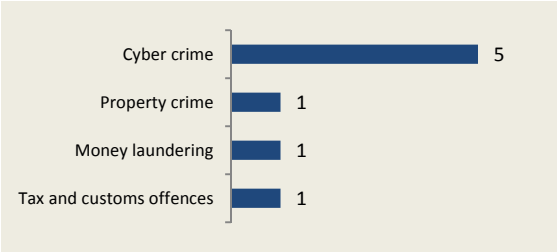
OC groups dominated by Vietnamese nationals (9)



OC groups dominated by Latvian nationals prevailed in the field of cyber crime

In the previous years, the number of investigations targeting OC groups dominated by Latvian nationals increased (2014: 8, 2013: 7, 2012: 6, 2011: 3). Most of the OC groups operated at international level (2014: 75.0 %, 2013: 85.7 %) and had a heterogeneous offender structure (2014: 62.5 %, 2013: 71.4 %). The majority of them (62.5%) were active in the field of cyber crime. In most of the cases, data required to access bank accounts were illegally obtained, which were then used to withdraw money from accounts.

OC groups dominated by Latvian nationals (8)



[17] The cannabis plantations were located inside buildings facilitating the cultivation of 1,000 plants and more.

3.5 Structural considerations

Information obtained through investigations, analyses and research related to OC groups proves that their members often join up for various reasons. Hereinafter, we will take a look at OC groups, which show common grounds of, for example, a socio-cultural or linguistic nature.

Significant increase in the number of investigations related to outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMCG)

One phenomenon, by which OC groups dominated by German nationals are characterized, is OC committed by members of outlaw motorcycle gangs. In 2014, 48 OC investigations (8.4 % of all OC investigations) targeted members of outlaw motorcycle gangs (2013: 32, 2012: 26, 2011: 32, 2010: 35): including:

- 22 investigations into members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (MC) (2013: 14)
- 10 investigations into members of the Bandidos MC (2013: 5)
- 4 investigations into members of the Gremium MC (2013: 4)
- 3 investigations into members of the Mongols MC (2013: 4)
- 9 investigations into members of other MCs (2013: 5)

The 48 groups were mainly dominated by German nationals. As in the previous year, the focus was on trafficking in and smuggling of drugs (30 investigations, mainly synthetic drugs), followed by violent crime (10 investigations, of which 4 investigations were conducted for offences against life).

Furthermore, 23 OC investigations, in which OC groups other than OMCG were investigated, showed links to outlaw motorcycle gangs.

In 2014, 71 OC investigations were conducted, which involved either members of outlaw motorcycle gangs directly (48 OC investigations) or OC groups with links to outlaw motorcycle gangs (23 OC investigations).

Investigations into OMCG-type groups

The tendency to form OMCG-type groups and the phenomenon of taking over fields of crime typical of OMCGs by OMCG-type groups are noticeable throughout Germany. Owing to the OC relevance of individual chapters, the National Situation Report includes OMCG-type groups for the first time.

"An OMCG-type group is an association of several persons sharing symbols, signs or names, whose public appearance creates an atmosphere of violence and intimidation. These groups have a hierarchical structure, a close personal relationship, and very limited willingness to co-operate with the police as well as self-made rules and regulations. Their fields of activity almost completely match those of the outlaw motorcycle gangs."[18]

Besides the above mentioned OC investigations into outlaw motorcycle gangs, in 2014, another 12 investigations were conducted into OMCG-type groups, including 3 investigations into the United Tribuns and 2 investigations into the Black Jackets.

Almost half of the investigations into OMCG-type groups showed links to outlaw motorcycle gangs, which illustrates the OMCG-type groups' proximity to outlaw motorcycle gangs.

'Ndrangheta remains the dominating Mafia group in Germany

In the year under review, 13 investigations (2013: 11) targeted the Italian Mafia groups. Eight of these investigations were directed against members of the `Ndrangheta (2013: 6), 2 against members of the Cosa Nostra (2013: none) and 2 against members of the Camorra (2013: 3). A further investigation was conducted against a group related to Italian organised crime (IOC), which could not definitely be linked to a specific organisation at the time of recording.

The main activities of these groups were to be found in different areas of crime, while, similar to the previous year, the focus was on trafficking in and smuggling of cocaine and money laundering.

[18] Report on the results of the project group jointly run by the Federation and the Länder entitled "Recording of criminal OMCG-type groups in the INPOL case application FUSION" dated 25/09/2012 (no. 2.1).

A total of 4 OC groups had links to members of Italian Mafia groups (2013: 12). In 2014, 3 groups were found to have links to the 'Ndrangheta, Stidda and Camorra respectively, while it was not clearly determined to which Mafia organisation the fourth group was linked at the time of recording.

Significant increase in the number of investigations into Russian-speaking OC groups

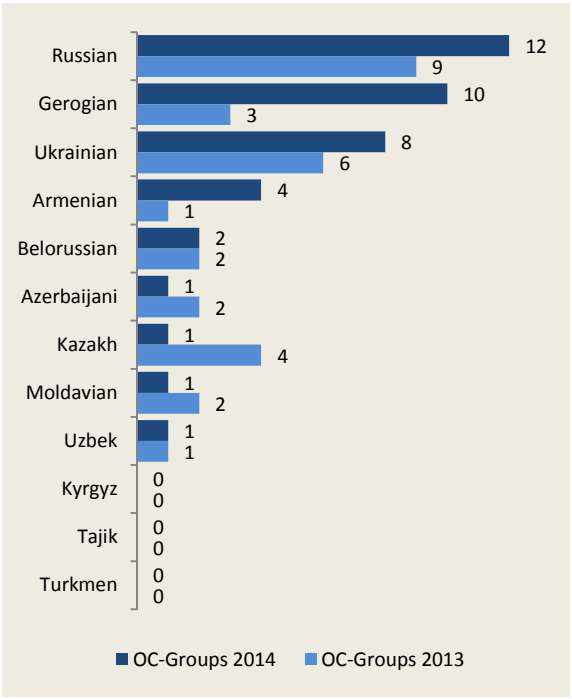
Besides the common cultural background, the Russian language is the unifying element of Russian-Eurasian Organized Crime (REOK). Consequently, all OC structures are taken into consideration which:

- are dominated by persons who were born in the successor states to the former Soviet Union and therefore have a corresponding cultural imprint,
- are dominated by persons who were born outside of a successor state to the former Soviet Union but consider themselves members of an ethnic group of one of the successor states of the former Soviet Union, due to their culture, history, language, traditions or ancestors.

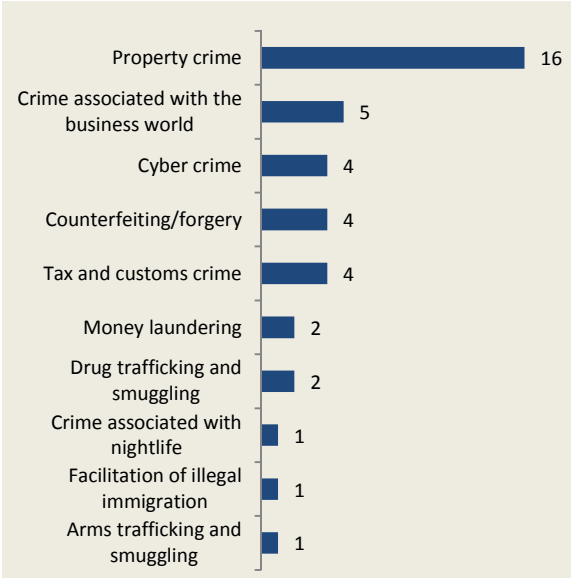
Against this background, a cumulated way of looking at Russian-Eurasian OC groups shows that in Germany in 2014, a total of 40 OC investigations (7.0 % of all OC investigations) were conducted into groups dominated by persons stemming from these countries (2013: 30 investigations, 5.2 % of all OC investigations). Nine newly launched investigations identified a sharp rise in the number of members of OC groups, in particular those dominated by Georgian nationals.

In the year under review, these groups were found to include 588 suspects in total (2013: 825). The decline in the number of suspects is due to a concluded investigation from the previous year, for which 463 suspects alone were recorded.

Groups dominated by nationals from the successor states to the Soviet Union (40)



Main fields of activity of OC groups dominated by nationals from the successor states to the Soviet Union



Alphabetical overview of all nationalities identified
(The order is based on the alphabetical order of the names of the states/countries in German)

Country	Dominating groups	Suspects	Suspects (new)
Afghanistan	1	10	6
Egypt	2	11	2
Albania	16	189	72
Argentina	1	4	4
Armenia	4	34	23
Azerbaijan	1	13	8
Ethiopia	0	2	2
Australia	0	2	1
Bangladesh	0	1	1
Belgium	1	26	7
Bolivia	0	2	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	57	44
Brazil	0	2	1
Bulgaria	14	104	56
Chile	1	8	8
China	3	24	19
Costa Rica	0	3	2
Denmark	2	13	2
Germany	190	3.142	1.447
Dominican Republic	0	3	1
Ecuador	0	6	1
El Salvador	0	2	2
Côte d'Ivoire	0	2	2
Eritrea	2	35	35
Estonia	0	24	13
Finland	0	6	6
France	1	28	5
Georgia	10	126	97

Country	Dominating groups	Suspects	Suspects (new)
Ghana	1	6	5
Greece	2	35	16
United Kingdom	3	63	8
Guinea	1	7	0
India	1	24	6
Indonesia	0	1	0
Iraq	4	53	42
Iran	5	20	9
Ireland	0	1	0
Iceland	0	2	0
Israel	0	6	2
Italy	20	260	131
Jordan	0	2	2
Cameroon	1	7	6
Canada	0	3	1
Kazakhstan	1	59	11
Kenya	1	6	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	0
Colombia	3	10	10
Republic of Congo	0	1	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	1	3	3
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	0	2	2
Kosovo	4	42	15
Croatia	5	54	21
Cuba	2	9	9
Latvia	8	108	58
Lebanon	13	116	59

Country	Dominating groups	Suspects	Suspects (new)
Liberia	0	2	1
Libya	0	3	3
Lithuania	16	946	251
Luxembourg	1	3	0
Malaysia	0	1	0
Malta	0	1	0
Morocco	4	48	32
Mauritius	0	1	0
Macedonia	6	30	20
Mexico	0	3	3
Republic of Moldova	1	21	11
Montenegro	1	2	1
Netherlands	9	139	72
Nigeria	8	42	9
Norway	0	1	0
Austria	3	49	14
Pakistan	2	9	3
Peru	0	3	3
Poland	44	472	237
Portugal	1	8	3
Romania	12	295	243
Russian Federation	12	156	69
San Marino	0	1	1
Sweden	0	3	1
Switzerland	0	56	4
Serbia	17	140	108
Serbia and Montenegro (obs.)	4	40	24
Sierra Leone	0	1	1

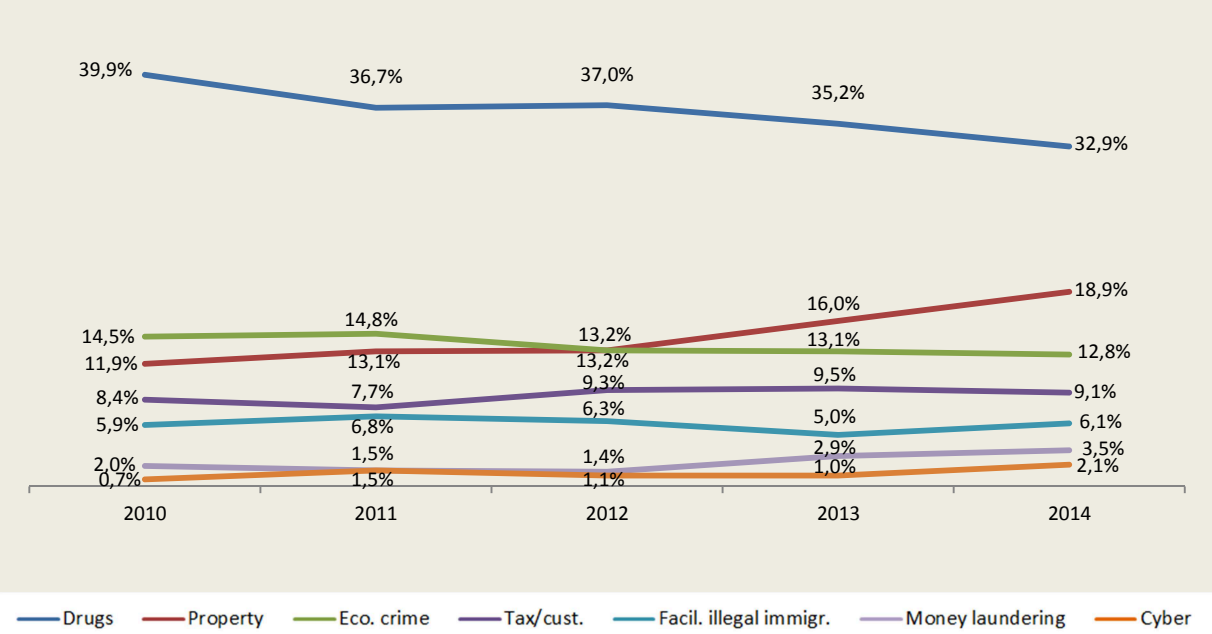
Country	Dominating groups	Suspects	Suspects (new)
Singapore	0	5	5
Slovakia	0	5	2
Slovenia	0	14	6
Spain	0	41	17
South Africa	0	1	0
Sudan	0	1	1
Syria	8	70	41
Tanzania	0	1	0
Thailand	1	6	1
Togo	0	1	0
Czech Republic	3	67	36
Tunisia	2	10	4
Turkey	55	897	362
Uganda	0	1	0
Ukraine	8	84	41
Hungary	2	18	6
USA	2	14	2
Uzbekistan	1	5	1
Vietnam	9	84	51
Belarus	2	8	7
Cyprus	0	2	2
Other European nationals	0	2	2
Not established	6	95	67
Stateless	0	11	7
Total	**571**	**8,700**	**4,061**

3.6 Main fields of crime

The following table provides a summarised overview of the most important data concerning the main fields of crime (figures of the previous year in brackets)

Main fields of crime	Number of groups		Percentage in relation to OC in total			Average OC potential in points		
Drug trafficking and smuggling	188	(204)	32.9 %	(35.2 %)	↘	44.1	(43.8)	→
Property crime	108	(93)	18.9 %	(16.0 %)	↑	40.1	(41.1)	↘
Crime associated with the business world	73	(76)	12.8 %	(13.1 %)	↘	42.3	(44.1)	↘
Tax and customs crime	52	(55)	9.1 %	(9.5 %)	↘	44.1	(43.0)	↗
Facilitation of illegal immigration	35	(29)	6.1 %	(5.0 %)	↑	33.8	(33.9)	→
Violent crime	23	(26)	4.0 %	(4.5 %)	↓	44.4	(46.9)	↘
Counterfeiting/forgery	22	(25)	3.9 %	(4.3 %)	↘	33.3	(34.4)	↘
Money laundering	20	(17)	3.5 %	(2.9 %)	↑	41.8	(41.6)	→
Crime associated with nightlife	19	(22)	3.3 %	(3.8 %)	↓	43.6	(42.6)	→
Cyber crime	12	(6)	2.1 %	(1.0 %)	↑	33.9	(36.8)	↘
Environmental crime	6	(5)	1.1 %	(0.9 %)	↑	35.1	(41.0)	↓
Arms trafficking and smuggling	5	(11)	0.9 %	(1.9 %)	↓	45.9	(41.9)	↗
Corruption	2	(4)	0.4 %	(0.7 %)	↓	18.9	(27.8)	↓
Other fields of crime	6	(7)	1.0 %	(1.2 %)	↘	32.7	(33.8)	↘

Significant increase in the number of investigations into property crime, cyber crime and facilitation of illegal immigration



Drug-related crime continued to be the OC groups' main field of activity. The development of property crime in previous years continued in 2014. This field of crime showed a marked increase of 16.1 % compared to 2013. From 2010, the number of investigations increased by 50.0 %. Furthermore, compared to the previous year, the number of investigations related to cyber crime increased from 6 to 12 (+100 %), and the number of investigations related to facilitation of illegal immigration rose from 29 to 35 (+20.7 %).

OC groups increasingly commit offences involving more than one area of crime and operate mainly at international level

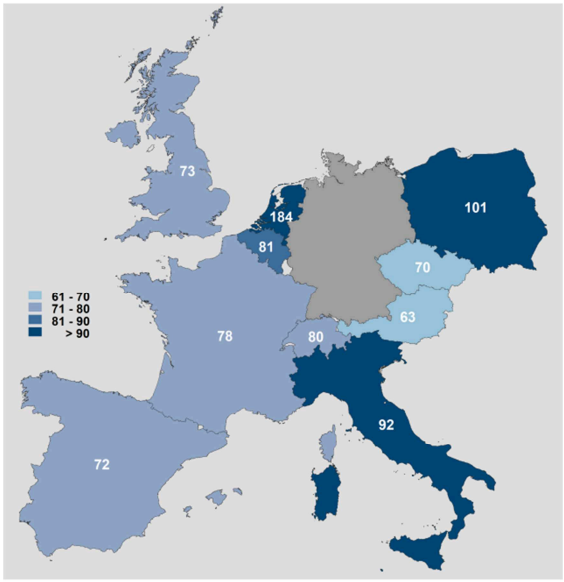
In the year under review, 30.5 % of the groups of offenders were active in more than one field of crime (2013: 28.1 %, 2012: 26.4 %). Groups active in more than one field of crime continued to display, on average, a higher OC potential than groups active in one field of crime only (47.5 points compared to 38.8 points).

In 2014, 458 investigations (80.2 %) were found to have international links to 124 countries (2013: 78.3 %). In the year under review, 79 investigations (13.8 %) showed supraregional links (2013: 14.7 %) and 34 investigations showed regional links (2013: 7.1 %).

As concerns transnational offences mainly links to European countries were identified: in or via the Netherlands (in 184 investigations), Poland (101), Italy (92), Belgium (81), Switzerland (80), France (78), United Kingdom (73), Spain (72), Czech Republic (70) and Austria (63).

As in previous years, the high number of investigations involving the Netherlands results from their particular role as transit country for drugs transported to Germany. With 101 investigations in 2014, the growing number of links to Poland (2013: 88, +14.8 %) primarily involved property crime. Thus, the increase in the number of investigations with links to Poland correlated with the increase in the number of OC investigations into OC groups dominated by Polish nationals and the growing number of property crime investigations.

International links



Mainly German groups identified in the field of drug-related crime

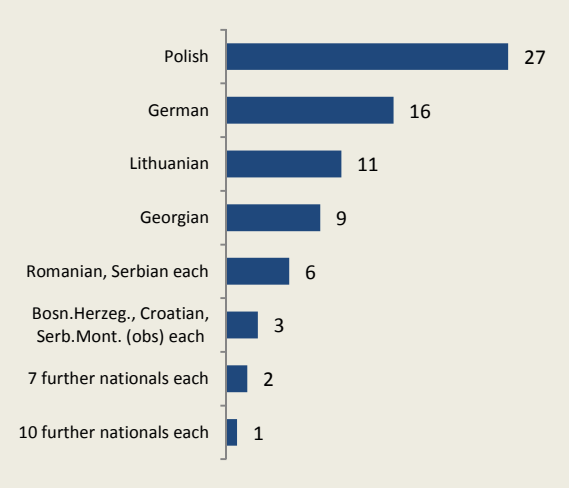
In the year under review, a total of 188 OC investigations (32.9 %) were reported in the field of drug trafficking and smuggling (2013: 204, 35.2 %). In 2014, 69.7 % of the drug-related OC groups were active in one area of crime. Once again, cocaine and cannabis products were the substances mainly trafficked or smuggled, followed by synthetic drugs and heroin. Again, OC groups dominated by either German and Turkish nationals played a decisive role in drug-related crime. In the year under review, 74 groups (39.4 %) were dominated by German nationals compared to 60 groups in 2013 (29.4 %), amounting to a significant increase by 23.3 %. With a share of 14.9 %, OC groups dominated by Turkish nationals still ranked second. However, as in previous years, their share continued to decrease (2013: 15.2 %, 2012: 18.1 %).

Drug trafficking and smuggling (188)

Property crime at highest level since 2006

With a share of 18.9 % (2013: 16.0 %), property crime was again the second largest field of crime. The number of investigations increased from 93 in 2013 to 108 in the year under review (+16.1 %); this was the highest number of investigations since 2006. Almost three quarters of the groups of offenders (74.1 %) operating in this field focused on one type of offence. In the area of property crime, most investigations were again conducted for motor vehicle-related property offences (48.1 %). Especially Polish and Lithuanian nationals dominated the criminal activities of the groups. These groups took vehicles to Poland, most of which had been stolen in Germany.

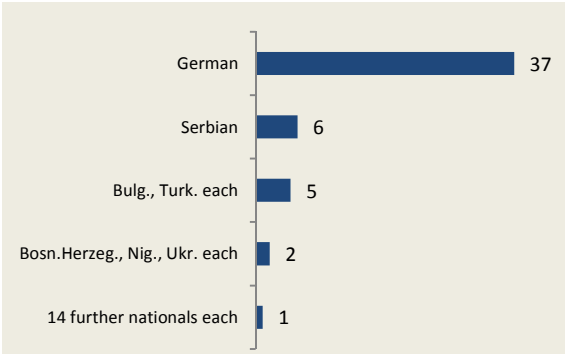
Property crime (108)



Economic crime continues to generate the highest losses and proceeds

In the year under review, 73 OC investigations were conducted in the field of crime associated with the business world (2013: 76). Thus crime associated with the business world continued to rank third among the main fields of OC crime (2014: 12.8 %, 2013: 13.1 %). The focus was on offences involving investments (14), competition (10) and financing (9). In 2014, losses totalling approx. EUR 222 million were caused by organised economic crime (2013: approx. EUR 407 million). A look at the total loss identified in all OC investigations shows that the losses caused by economic crime were very high (2014: approx. 41 %, 2013: approx. 57 %). Equally, the highest amount of criminal proceeds was recorded in investigations related to crime associated with the business world, i. e. approx. EUR 137 million in 2014 (about 41% of the total amount) compared to EUR 346 million in 2013 (about 54% of the total amount). The drop in the year under review compared to 2013 was owed to relatively high individual amounts of both losses and proceeds in a single investigation from 2013 (approx. EUR 208 million each). In the year under review, however, the highest single loss and the highest individual sum of criminal proceeds amounted to almost EUR 75 million each. In 79.5 % of the investigations the groups of offenders were found to have focused their activities on a specific area of crime (2013: 78 %) and worked together for 4.4 years on average (2013: 4.2 years). This time span considerably exceeds the average time of co-operation of all OC groups (2014: 2.8 years). Half of all the OC groups operating in this area of crime were dominated by German nationals (2014: 50.7 %, 2013: 56.6 %).

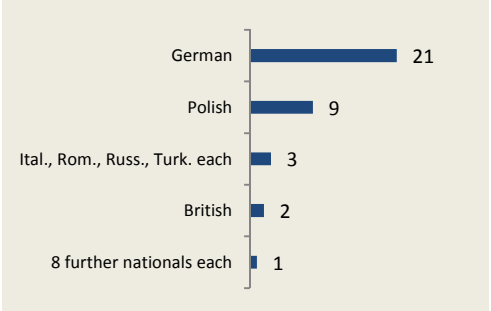
Crime associated with the business world (73)



Once more investigations involving considerable losses in the field of tax and customs crime

In the year under review, 52 investigations were conducted into OC groups engaging in tax and customs crime (2013: 55). Equally, the loss in the amount of approx. EUR 148 million, which accounts for 27.5 % of the total loss, remained on a similar level in 2014 (2013: EUR 231 million, approx. 32 % of the total loss). Once again, cigarette smuggling was the main activity of OC groups operating in the field of tax and customs crime. In this context, one investigation involving a loss of EUR 53 million stuck out, which was conducted for suspected illegal cigarette production and smuggling. In 2014, 76.9 % of the groups focused their activities on a specific area of crime (2013: 83.6 %).

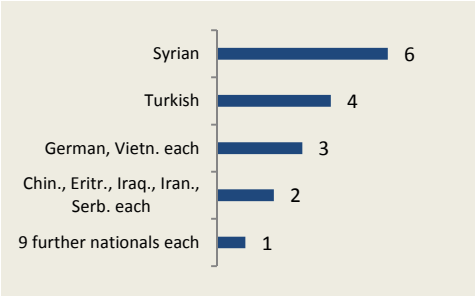
Tax and customs crime (52)



Increase in facilitation of illegal immigration

In the year under review, 35 OC groups (2013: 29) were investigated for facilitation of illegal immigration. These OC groups were mostly dominated by Syrian nationals or Turkish nationals, who took their victims to Germany. Most of the smuggled immigrants were Syrian nationals.

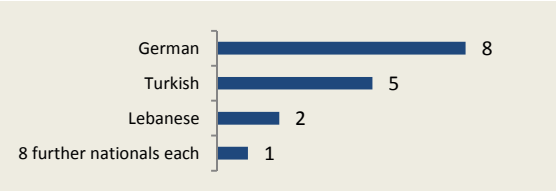
Facilitation of illegal immigration (35)



Almost 75 % of all investigations into violent offences revealed links to members of outlaw motorcycle clubs with considerably fewer OC groups being dominated by German nationals

In the year under review, 23 OC investigations were conducted into groups, whose main activities focused on violent crime (2013: 26). In 2014, 17 investigations (73.9 %) were directed against members of outlaw motorcycle clubs/OMCG-type groups or groups with links to members of outlaw motorcycle clubs/OMCG-type groups, compared to 19 investigations in 2013 (73.1 %). The groups of offenders mainly committed extortions and robberies as well as offences against life. In 17 investigations (73.9 %) the suspects were found to have been armed. Compared to the previous year, the group structure appeared to have undergone a significant change: In 2014, only 34.8 % of the investigations were conducted into OC groups dominated by German nationals, compared to 61.5 % in 2013.

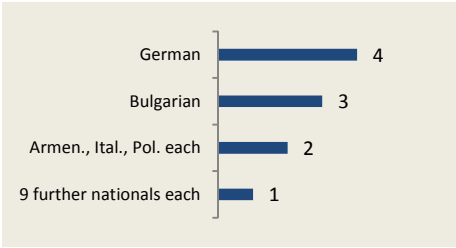
Violent crime (23)



Number of investigations in the field of counterfeiting/forgery remained on the same level

With 22 investigations in 2014, the number of OC investigations in the field of counterfeiting/forgery remained roughly on the same level compared to the previous year (2013: 25). The groups were primarily active in the field of counterfeiting/forgery of identity documents, driving licences and Euro banknotes, followed by crime involving payment cards (2014: 3 investigations, 2013: 4 investigations).

Counterfeiting/forgery (22)



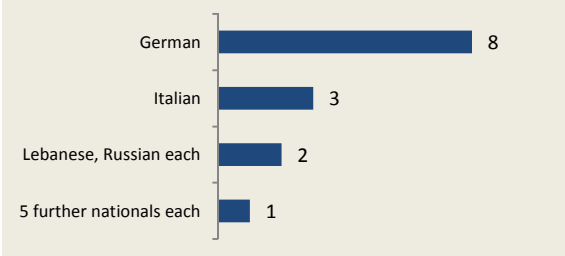
Increase in the number of investigations conducted for money laundering and the number of suspicious transaction reports filed

In 2014, 20 OC groups were investigated for money laundering (2013: 17). As in the previous year, all offences were primarily committed by OC groups dominated by Germany nationals operating at international level.

A look at the total number of OC investigations conducted in 2014 shows that leads suggesting money laundering activities were recorded in little more than one third of the investigations (2014: 198 investigations, 34.7 %, 2013: 203 investigations, 35.0 %). In one fourth of all investigations, inquiries into money laundering were made pursuant to section 261 of the German penal code (2014: 139 investigations, 2013: 139 investigations). Besides investigations focusing on money laundering only, especially investigations in the main crime fields of drug trafficking and smuggling (33 investigations), crime associated with the business world (27 investigations) and property crime (22 investigations) were conducted.

In 90 investigations, a total of 971 suspicious transaction reports were found to have been filed pursuant to section 11, subsection 1 of the German Money Laundering Act (2013: 95 investigations, 552 suspicious transaction reports).

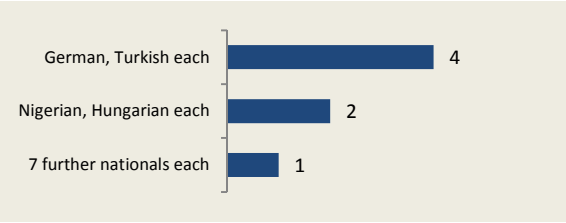
Money laundering (20)



Number of investigations in the field of crime associated with night life almost on the same level as in the previous year

The number of OC investigations in the field of crime associated with nightlife decreased slightly (2014: 19 investigations, 2013: 22 investigations). The focus was on investigations for trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation (12 investigations) and promoting prostitution (4 investigations). As in the previous year, most of the victims were Romanian nationals. As regards group structures, most of the offences were committed by OC groups dominated by either German or Turkish nationals.

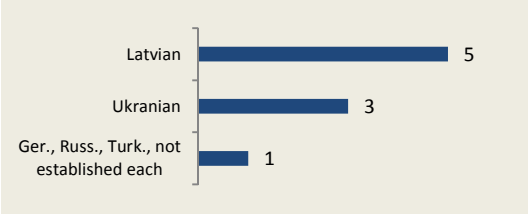
Crime associated with nightlife (19)



Number of cyber crime investigations involving a high share in the total loss doubled

Compared to the previous year (2013: 6 investigations), in 2014, the number of cyber crime-related OC investigations increased by 100 % to 12 investigations, including 7 newly reported ones. The upward trend is also mirrored clearly in the financial aspects. In 2014, the loss caused by OC groups involved in cyber crime amounted to EUR 41.1 million compared to EUR 15.1 million in 2013. This means an increase of 172 %. Even more significant was the increase in criminal proceeds. The criminal proceeds increased by 221 % from EUR 7.5 million in 2013 to EUR 24.1 million in 2014. The OC groups engaging in cyber crime were primarily dominated by Latvian nationals (5 groups, 41.7 %), followed by Ukrainian nationals (3 groups, 25.0 %). In 2014, both the OC groups dominated by Latvian nationals and those dominated by Ukrainian nationals significantly grew in numbers, while only one OC group was dominated by German nationals (2013: 2 groups). The majority of cyber crime-related investigations was conducted for data espionage and interception of data.

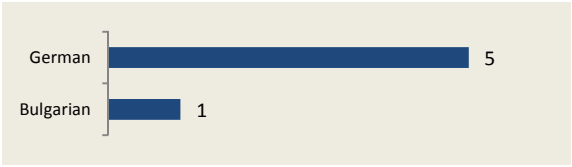
Cyber crime (12)



Severe losses caused by environmental crime and identified in 2 newly reported investigations

In 2014, 6 investigations were conducted into OC groups active in the field of environmental crime (2013: 5). Once again, the focus was on the illegal production and distribution of foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals (2014: 4 investigations, 2013: 4 investigations). Two newly reported investigations involved a total loss of EUR 62.5 million (2013: no loss reported). The loss which was the subject of the two newly reported investigations accounted for 11.6 % of the total loss identified in all OC investigations. Of the EUR 47.5 million in criminal proceeds (14.2 % of the total criminal proceeds) EUR 18.9 million were provisionally seized (21.0 % auf the total amount seized) in 2014. In the previous year, neither criminal proceeds nor seizures were recorded.

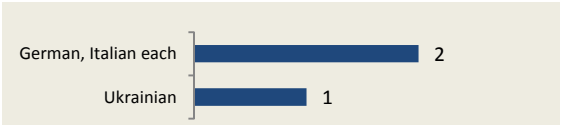
Environmental crime (6)



No newly launched investigations in the field of arms trafficking and smuggling

In the year under review, 5 OC investigations related to arms trafficking and smuggling were conducted (2013: 11 investigations), which were all continuing investigations. The investigations focused on the illegal trade in war weapons and firearms.

Arms trafficking and smuggling (5)



Number of corruption-related investigations on the decline

In 2014, 2 investigations were conducted into OC groups dominated by German nationals for corruption (2013: 4).

Corruption (2)

4. Conclusion

The total number of investigations conducted into OC groups in Germany in 2014 is roughly on the same level as in previous years.

The threat and loss potentials remain on a constantly high level, in particular due to the increasing expansion by OC groups into new fields of activity. This development is fostered by continuous technological progress in almost all areas of everyday life and the ever increasing significance of the internet as an instrument of crime and market place for illicit goods, etc.

Offenders engaging in organised crime are flexible and highly mobile. They increasingly operate in more than one area of crime.

Transnationality and internationality are still the main characteristics of organised crime. These two characteristics are mirrored in particular in the transnational operational areas, the origin of the offenders and the broad spectrum of their nationalities.

The dividing lines between suspected high-volume crime committed by organised network-like structures and the traditional forms of organised crime are increasingly becoming blurred.

The suppression of organised crime keeps playing a significant role in crime control to avert damage from society, the environment and the economy.

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