



## Annual Report 2023



**BUNDESPOLIZEI**  
FEDERAL POLICE





# Table of contents

4 Welcome address by the Federal Minister of the Interior and Community	44 VISA Information Centre
6 Preface by the President of the Federal Police Headquarters	44 Passenger Name Records
<b>8 Duties of the Federal Police</b>	45 Country-specific Information System
10 The Federal Police – We Secure Safety	45 Humanitarian Admissions
14 Dimensions	46 Migration
16 The Federal Police in figures	48 Aviation Security Checks
18 Organisational chart	49 Returns
<b>20 Summary</b>	50 Assignments abroad
22 Offences	<b>58 Review of the year 2023</b>
24 Violence against law enforcement officers	<b>74 Human Resources and Equipment</b>
26 Super Recognisers	76 Federal Police Human Resources
26 Locating Criminals	77 Human Resources Budget
28 SIS 3.0 – Expansion of the Schengen Information System	77 Budget
30 Background and security checks	78 Administration
31 Deployment in hazardous CBRN situations	78 Law enforcement officers
32 Forensic Science	80 Recruitment
34 Serious and Organised Crime	82 Training
35 Politically Motivated Crime	83 Careers in the Federal Police
35 International Investigations	84 Job Titles and Service Ranks of the Federal Police
36 Federal Police Smart Borders project group	86 Support for top-class sports
37 Combating violent crime on the rail network	88 Medical and Safety-Related Personnel
38 Prevention and Victim Protection	91 Pastoral care in the Federal Police
40 Formed Police Units of the Federal Police	92 Command and Operational Equipment
42 Football	<b>98 List of abbreviations</b>



## Welcome address

**Dear reader,**

The Federal Police is and will continue to be a vital force in ensuring the safety of the people of Germany. This is reflected in the impressive performance figures from 2023. In total, its officers were able to enforce in excess of 21,000 open arrest warrants – a new record. There were links to politically motivated crime in more than one hundred cases, almost two thirds of which had a right-wing extremist background. This is an important contribution to protecting our democracy.

The officers of the Federal Police are on duty every day to protect our borders, avert danger and thwart criminal activities. They are there for us, at airports and railway stations, on land and at sea, in Air Support, in special units and specialised services. They do a job that often involves danger to life and limb. This dependable and dedicated

service to our society is priceless! I thank them from the bottom of my heart!

And that is precisely why it is important to me that the Federal Police have all the legal powers and material resources at their disposal to continue their excellent work. The safety of the nation must come first – starting with the security authorities themselves.

It is also important to me that the Federal Police will continue to be an attractive employer. The training and recruitment drive that the federal police have been pursuing for several years is bearing fruit. New and highly motivated colleagues, who are among our current 55,800 employees, will help to keep our country safe in the future as part of the Federal Police. It all starts with training. We are working tirelessly to make our training appealing and modern. Since 2023, for example, the Federal Police Department for Maritime

Security has its own training ship for the first time in the form of the converted BP 26 Eschwege patrol vessel so that it can meet the increasing demands on specialist maritime personnel.

Last year, the Federal Police once again showed that our country can rely on them at all times. Each and every employee has made a contribution to this. You have my thanks and my deep respect!

I hope you enjoy reading the Federal Police's annual report.

Yours faithfully

Nancy Faeser

Federal Minister of the Interior and Community



## Preface

Dear reader,

2023 was another challenging year for the Federal Police. It included one of the longest and most important operations in our 73-year history. Controls at the land borders with Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland were temporarily reintroduced on 16 October in addition to the internal border controls with Austria, which have been in place since 2015. This measure was necessary by the sharp rise in the number of illegal migrants entering the Federal Republic of Germany.

The subsequent significant drop in the number of illegal migrants, the almost 12,000 people apprehended and approximately 2,000 arrest warrants executed, as

well as the 440 human traffickers apprehended by the end of the year in these four border sections alone show the value of these measures.

In addition to the instrumentalized people smuggling via Belarus, the so-called “container smuggling” remains an unmistakable indicator of the lack of humanity of human traffickers. Imagine people being crammed together and transported for days in vehicles under the worst conditions, for example through Eastern Europe, across a multitude of borders and into Germany. A people smuggling case in Bavaria on 13 October 2023 comes to mind: when the smuggler tried to flee from the Federal

Police at high speed, his van overturned. Seven people died, including a six-year-old child. 16 People were injured, some of them seriously.

For you, dear reader, one thing is certain: The Federal Police is and will remain the reliable partner for your security!

I hope this report makes an interesting read.



Dr. Dieter Romann

President of the Federal Police Headquarters







## Duties of the Federal Police





# The Federal Police – We Secure Safety

The Federal Police is not just an integral part of the German security architecture, but also a trusted pillar of policing in Europe and beyond. In addition to its key role in border protection, the Federal Police also helps to ensure the safety of people at railway facilities and airports as well as within German coastal waters. The day-to-day work also includes protecting constitutional organs, nationwide operations at major events and participation in international police missions. The Federal Police offers specialised expertise for maintaining security in Germany, ranging from criminal investigations to counter-terrorism: on land, at sea and in the air.



## Border protection

The Federal Police is responsible for border police tasks and emergency response in a 30-kilometre-wide strip along Germany's 3,831-kilometre-long land border. The border area along the 888-kilometre-long German sea border in the North Sea and Baltic Sea is 50 kilometres wide. The Federal Police monitors, tracks down and investigates cross-border crime. It conducts border police checks at many airports and seaports, as well as measures to prevent entry and remove individuals who are in the country illegally. Unless permanent border controls are temporarily reintroduced, the Federal Police carries out random border checks at our internal borders without meeting the threshold of border controls.



## Railway police

Preventing threats to public safety or public order on the railway network in Germany is another core duty of the Federal Police. This especially applies to protecting passengers and ensuring that railway operations run as smoothly as possible in accordance with railway police criteria. This also includes crime control. Another priority of security provision for companies and the state is the protection of railway facilities, which are also part of the country's critical infrastructure. The railway facilities of the German federal railway network encompass 5,697 stations and stops along 33,464 kilometres of track.



## Airport security

The Federal Police performs security duties at a total of 13 airports in Germany. Specially trained airport security screeners use state-of-the-art security equipment to inspect passengers and their luggage for dangerous and prohibited items. The Federal Police also provides protection against attacks on civil aviation by patrolling airport premises and providing armed protection for airport security checkpoints.



## Protection of government bodies

At the request of and in accordance with the federal states, the Federal Police protects constitutional bodies and federal ministries that are exposed to an increased threat. These include the Office of the German President, the Chancellery, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, the Federal Constitutional Court and the headquarters of the German Central Bank. It provides security for events as well as domestic and foreign visits and ensures the functioning of these bodies by preventing and defending against attacks.



## Duties at sea

The Federal Police is part of the Maritime Safety and Security Centre (MSSC) and therefore part of the joint network of federal and coastal state forces operating at sea. It deploys operational vessels as well as surveillance and patrol boats in the North and Baltic Sea and as part of the Frontex commitment in the eastern Mediterranean. The Federal Police protects the EU's external sea border, monitors maritime traffic and critical infrastructure, combats maritime crime and investigates environmental offenses. Specially trained federal police officers carry out prevention work for German shipping companies against piracy and hijacking all over the world.



## Fighting crime

The Federal Police's crime control is notable for its specialist investigative skills. Priority is given to prosecuting offences involving smuggling, violence and property crime. Police activities to prevent crime and minimise the risk of politically motivated crime are also part of crime control. Police processing of data is the foundation for carrying out these functions successfully.





## International mission

The international mission of the German Federal Police also indirectly supports its domestic activities. Specially trained staff such as document and visa advisors, liaison officers, border police support officers abroad and Frontex team members are deployed to protect the EU's external borders. We also participate in peacekeeping missions organised by the European Union and the United Nations. Including the Federal Police Protection of Diplomatic Missions, the Federal Police deploys more than 1,000 officers abroad every year. Police training and equipment assistance serve to facilitate security policy cooperation in third countries.



## Mobile Search Units

The Mobile Search Units (MFE) and their undercover operatives represent a vital capability in the system of combating crime. Their main duties are surveillance, undercover reconnaissance and manhunts in pursuit of serious and organised criminals. The MFE also supports the police forces of Germany's federal states, the Federal Criminal Police Office and customs on request. Thanks to their specialised equipment and high level of training, these units are also prepared to deal with threat and attack scenarios, particularly when locating criminals, but also as access and intervention forces. They reinforce the ability of other special forces and the Federal Police Special Forces GSG 9 to react to and withstand attacks.



## 9 Federal Police Special Forces GSG 9

The GSG 9 is the federal police's specialised force in the fight against serious violent crime and international terrorism. It is deployed at home and abroad. The special capabilities of its operational units include parachuting, diving and the ability to deploy quickly in urban terrain. It is in constant communication with its international partner units as regards technical innovations and tactical approaches and therefore also makes its contribution to global security. The GSG 9 was founded in 1972 after the terrorist attacks on the Olympic Games in Munich.



## Federal Police Air Support

The Air Support assists the Federal Police and other national and international agencies with security operations. With 94 helicopters, it is the second largest operator of civilian aircraft in Germany, second only to the company Lufthansa and one of the largest police air services in the world.



## Diplomatic Security Service

The three pillars of the Federal Police Protection of Diplomatic Missions are providing personal protection for embassy staff in high-risk areas, providing physical security for more than 80 diplomatic missions worldwide and offering security advice.



## Federal Police In-Flight Security Unit

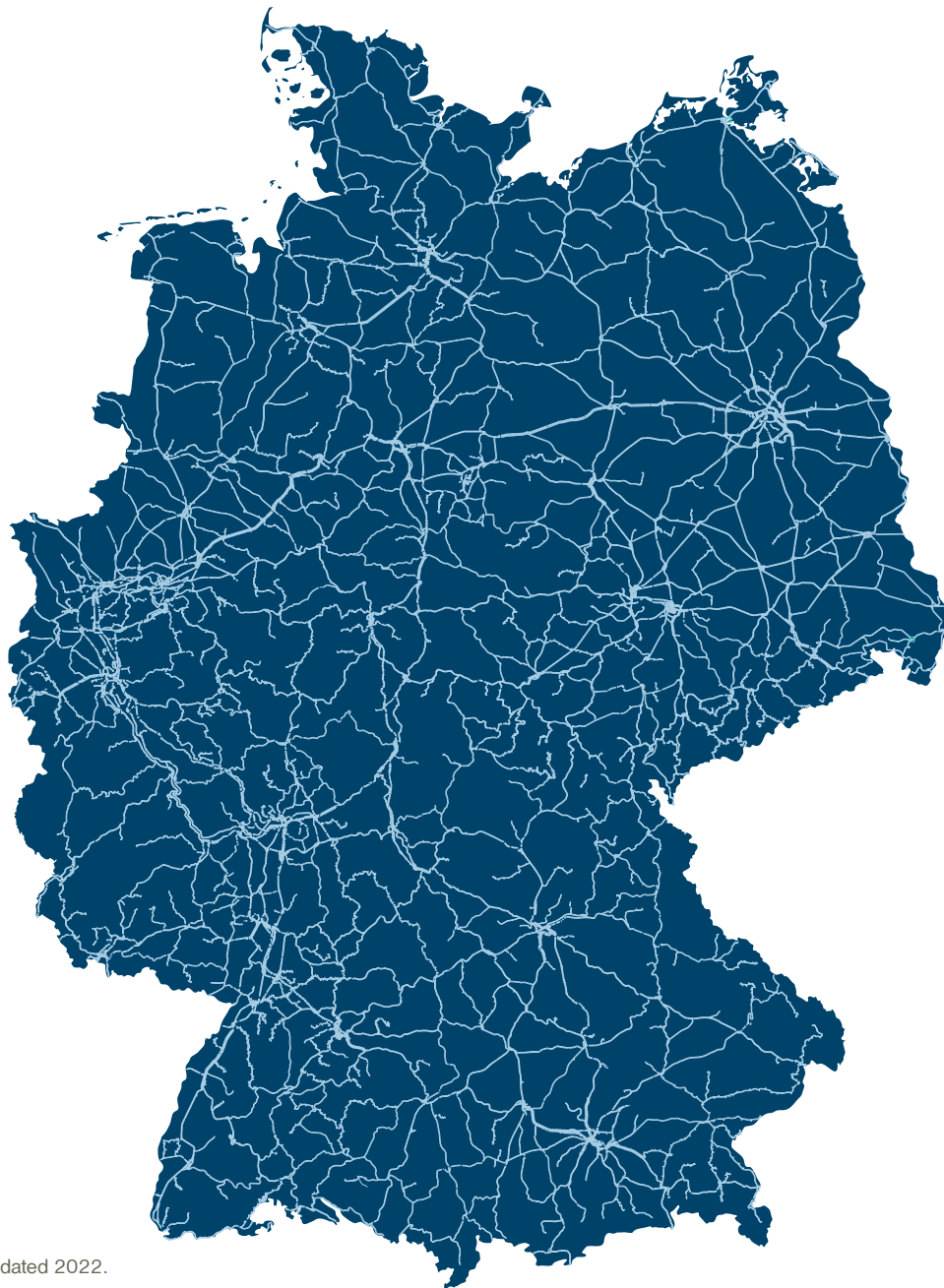
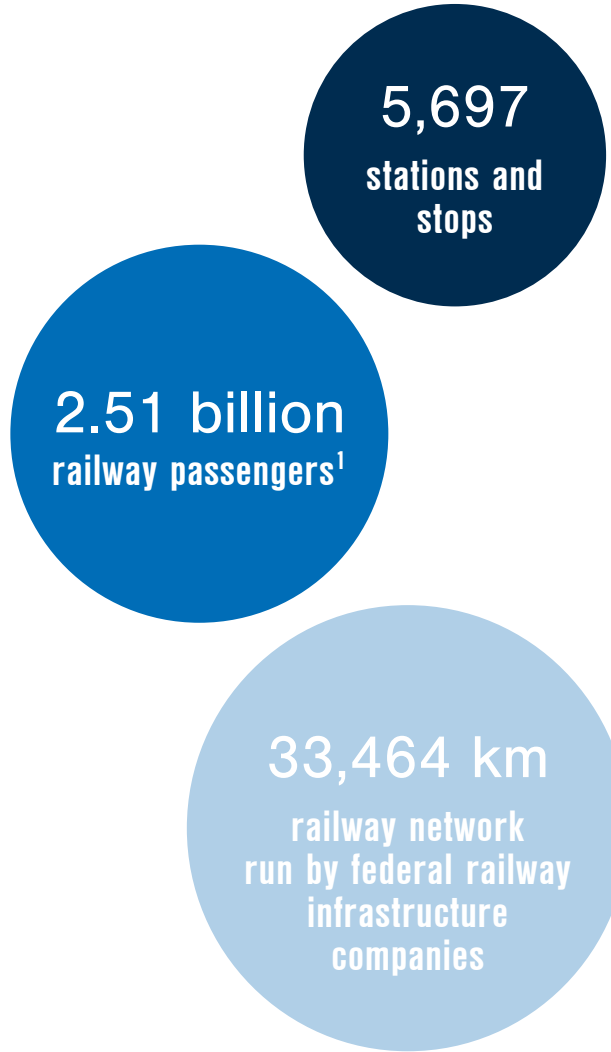
Specially trained officers from the Federal Police's In-Flight Security Unit („Sky Marshals“) are deployed on board German aircraft in order to counter the high level of risk to air traffic. Their remit is to maintain or restore safety and prevent the misuse of an aircraft as a weapon.



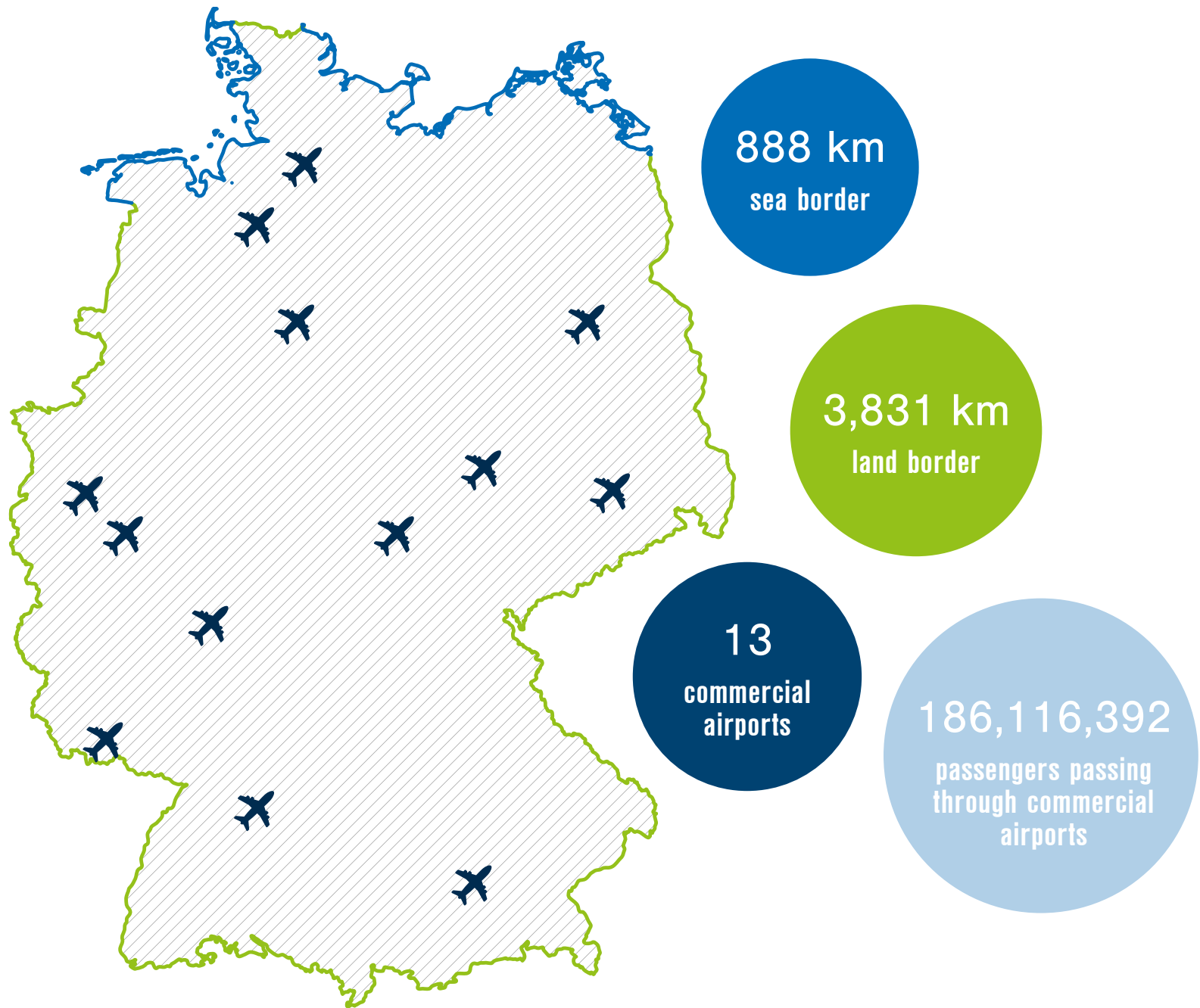
## Operational and Investigative Support

The special forces of the Operational and Investigative Support Unit combine the organisation's operational, technical and digital forensic expertise. They are involved in operations and investigations that entail particular technical challenges. They use special technology to monitor objects, people or vehicles covertly and analyse data carriers. The information obtained this way can provide valuable findings and form the basis for further operational measures. In the digital age, being able to adapt quickly and develop skills continuously is the top priority.

## Dimensions



<sup>1</sup> Source: Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, last updated 2022.  
Figures for 2023 were not yet available at the time of publication.





# The Federal Police in figures



1

Federal Police  
Headquarters



11

Federal Police  
Directorates



10

Federal Police  
Battalions



81

Federal Police  
District Offices,  
of which



9

Federal Police  
District Offices  
for Crime  
Control



143

Federal Police  
Stations



1

Federal Police  
Special Forces  
GSG 9



1

Federal Police  
Air Support



1

Federal Police  
Diplomatic  
Security  
Service



1

Federal Police  
In-Flight  
Security Unit



1

Federal Police  
Operational and  
Investigative  
Support



1

Federal Police  
Explosives  
Disposal  
Service



1

Federal Police  
Academy



7

Federal Police Cen-  
tres for Basic and  
Advanced Training



2

Federal Police  
Sports Colleges



1

Federal Police  
Mountain Training  
Centre



2

Service Dog  
Schools



1

Federal Police  
Maritime Department



45

Police Medical  
Services



8

Regional Section  
Workshops



3

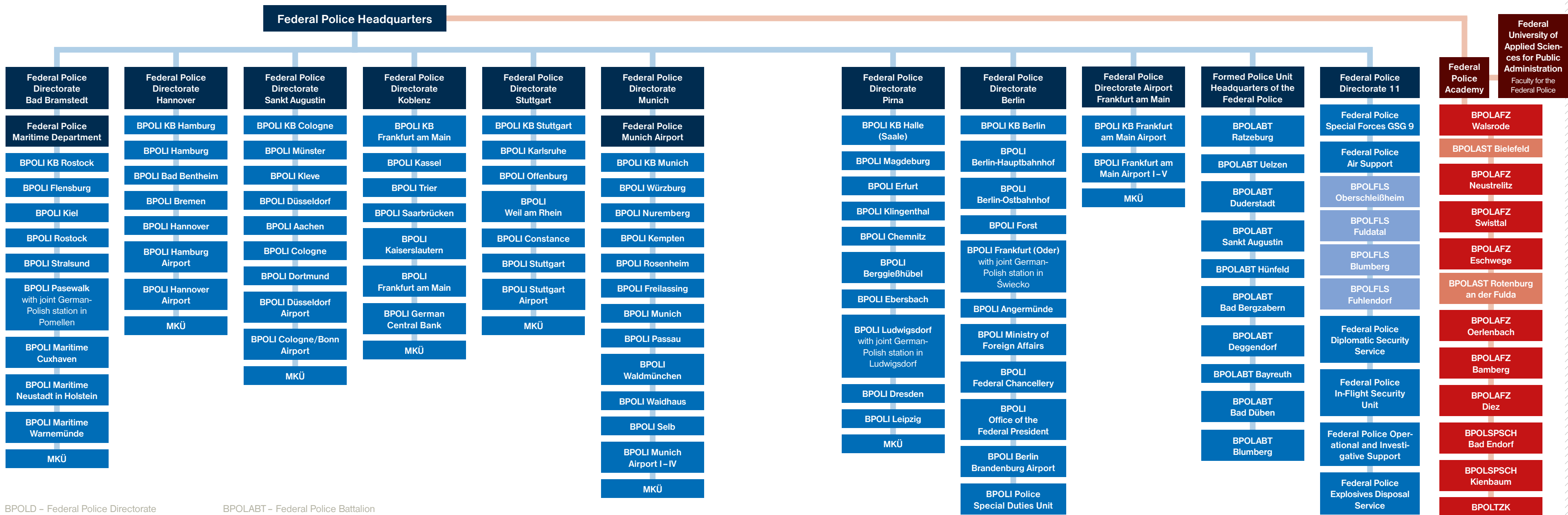
Federal Police  
Orchestras



1

Mounted  
Division





BPOLD – Federal Police Directorate  
BPOLI – Federal Police District Office  
KB – Crime control  
MKÜ – Mobile Control and Surveillance Unit

BPOLABT – Federal Police Battalion  
BPOLFLS – Federal Police Helicopter Squadron  
BPOLAFZ – Federal Police Training Centre  
BPOLAST – Federal Police Training Facility

BPOLSPSCH – Federal Police Sport College  
BPOLTZK – Federal Police Mountain Training Centre, Kühroinhaus

A map of Federal Police locations can be found at [www.bundespolizei.de/standorte](http://www.bundespolizei.de/standorte).

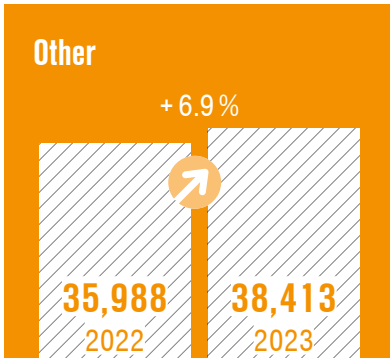
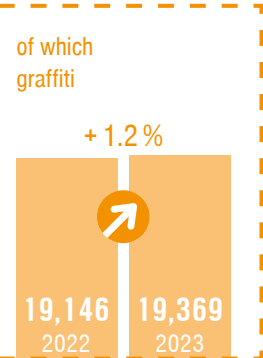
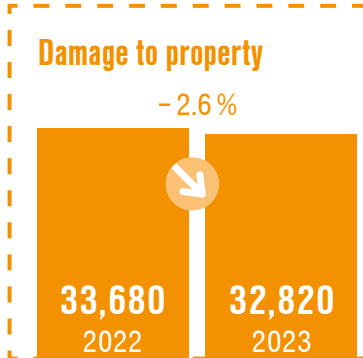
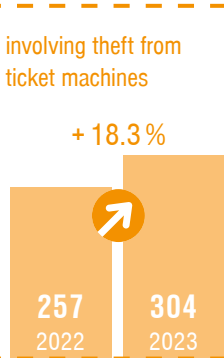
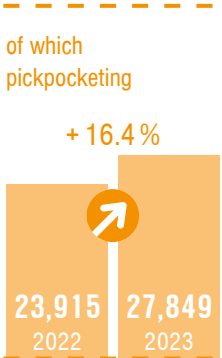
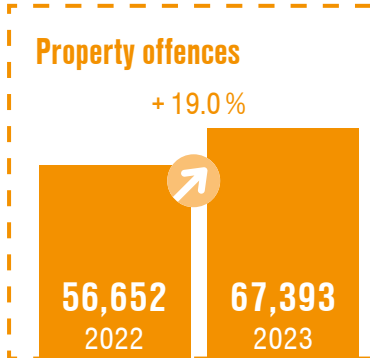
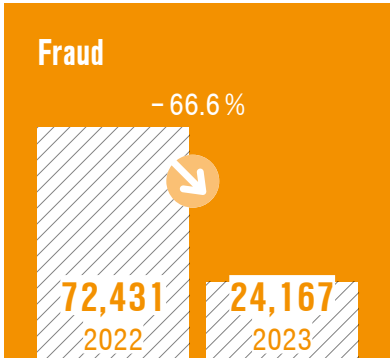
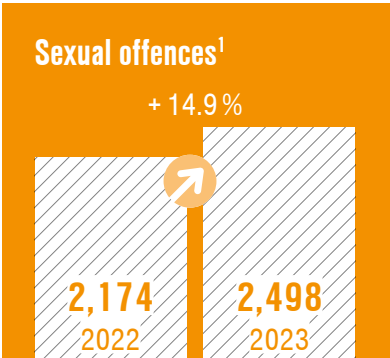
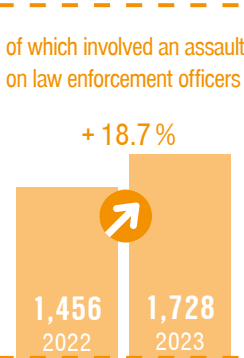
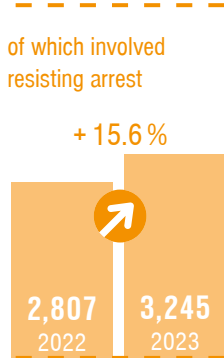
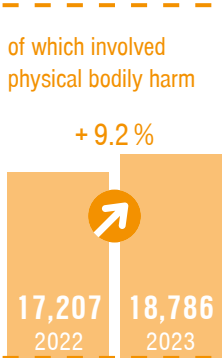
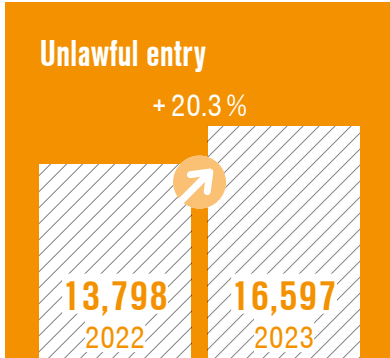
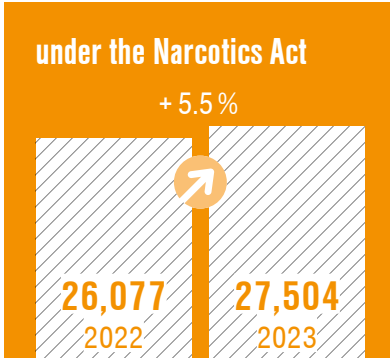
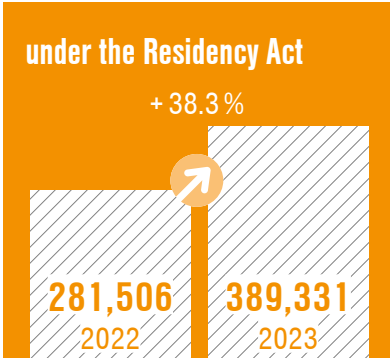
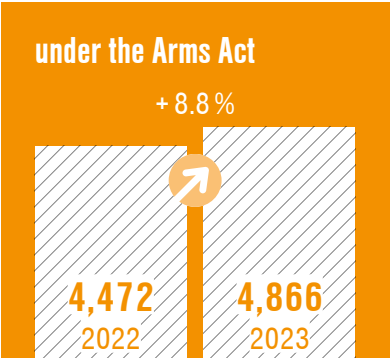
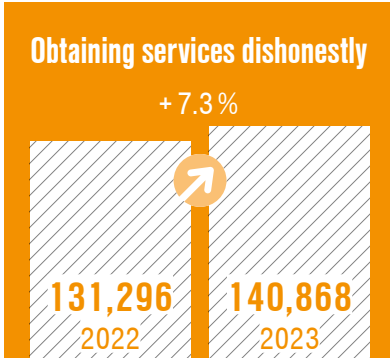




## Summary



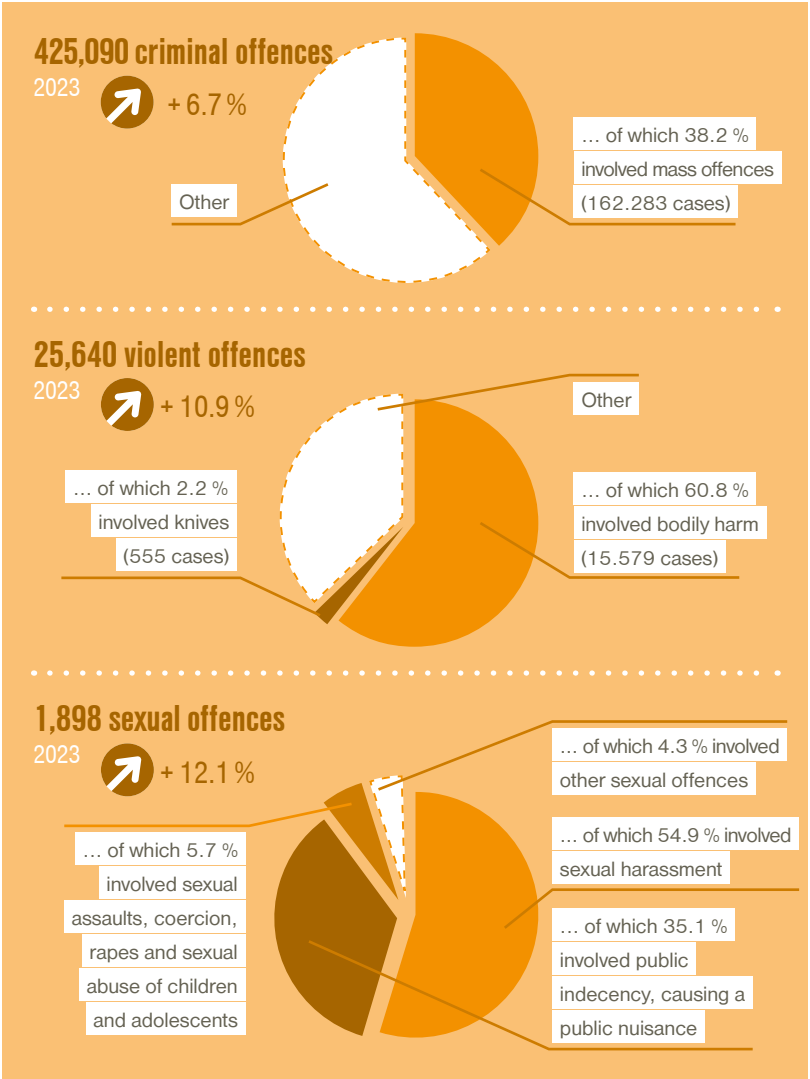
Offences



Source: Police Entry Data (PES) in the Federal Police. This unit collects statistical data within the remit of the Federal Police based on the declaratory principle. It is not possible to compare data from the PES with data from Police Criminal Statistics owing to different recognition criteria.

<sup>1</sup> According to Section 13 of the German penal code (StGB) on incident assaults (§§ 173-184I)

Offences on railway facilities and in trains





# Violence against law enforcement officers

A total of 2,979 Federal Police officers were attacked in 2023, representing the largest number of attacks recorded since the statistical survey was introduced in 2001. In addition to the large-scale operation in Lützerath in January 2023, which resulted in attacks on a total of 145 law enforcement officers, an increasing number of individual cases in particular led to this worrying increase.

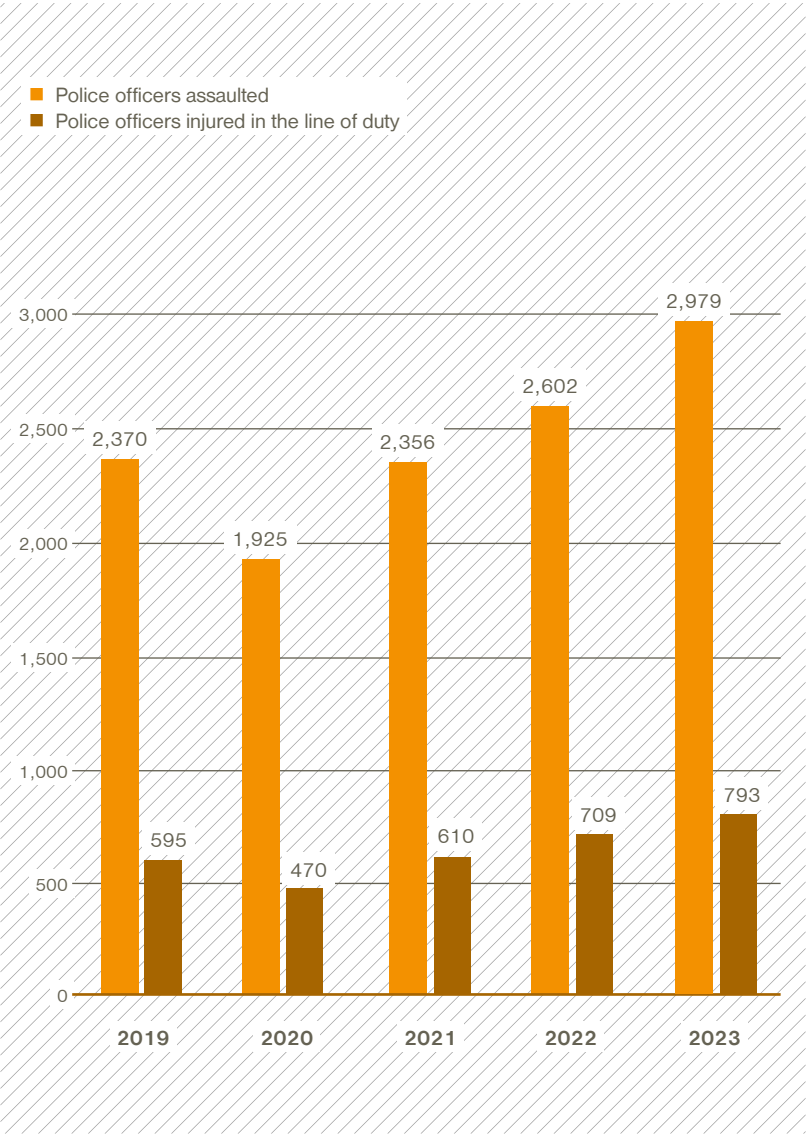
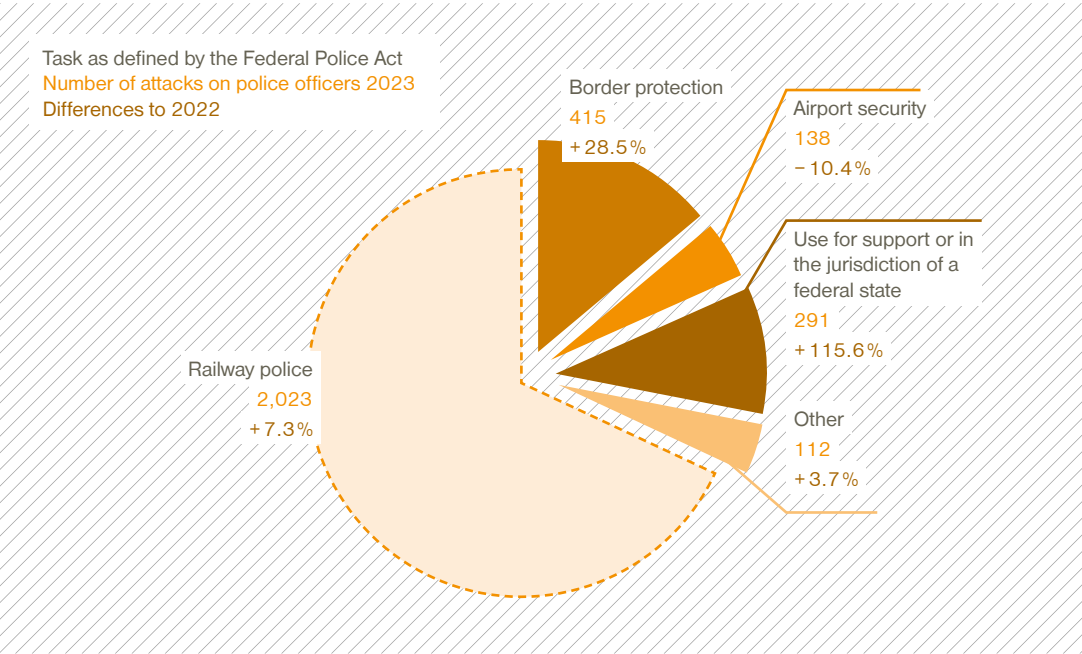
The attacks were almost always carried out by using physical violence. However, kicks, punches, spitting, biting as well as head and body blows were also used in one in seven attacks. Bottles, stones and everyday objects were the most frequently used weapons. A particularly dangerous but not uncommon occurrence were attacks involving vehicles, for example by forcing a police vehicle off the road or driving towards a Federal Police officer. Furthermore, in 22 cases, members of the Federal Police were threatened with firearms, including dummy and gas guns. In one case, officers were even targeted with a long firearm.

Attacks occurred most frequently during the day-to-day duties of the Federal Police, predominantly during patrols, criminal investigations or while escorting returns. There were also attacks at events and football matches. A total of 291 Federal Police officers were attacked while deployed to support the police forces of various federal states.

15% of the Federal Police officers affected were female and 85% male. 4% were police officers in training. One in four of them was equipped with a bodycam for video recording. 27% of those attacked were injured (793), which is also the highest figure since the start of this data collection. 11% of those injured were consequently unfit for work (88).

The perpetrators were 33 years old on average and 78% of them were male. Almost half were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (49%). 60% had previously been arrested by the police. Almost a quarter of them (24%) were

multiple or prolific offenders. Around half (49%) of the attackers identified were German nationals.



# Super Recognisers

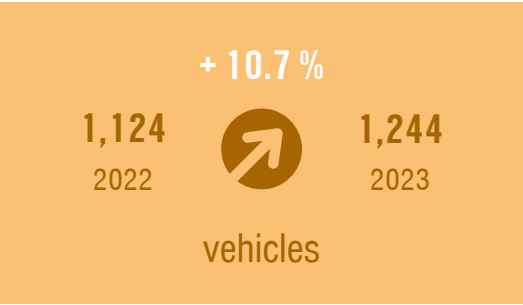
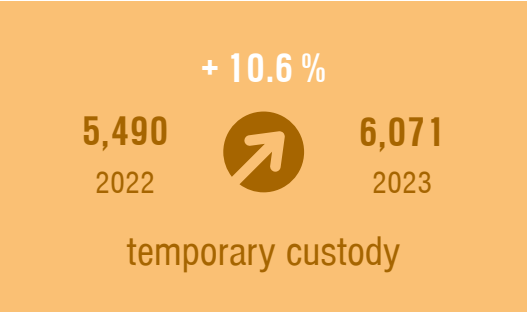
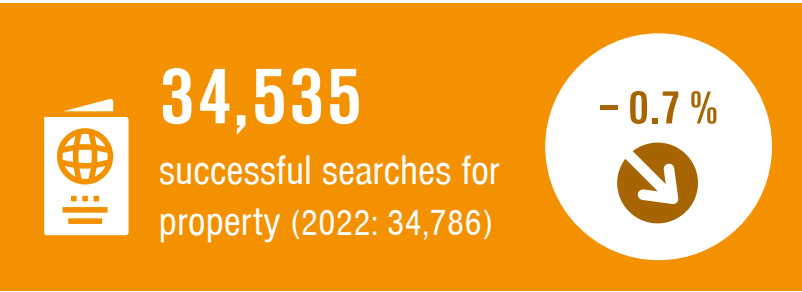
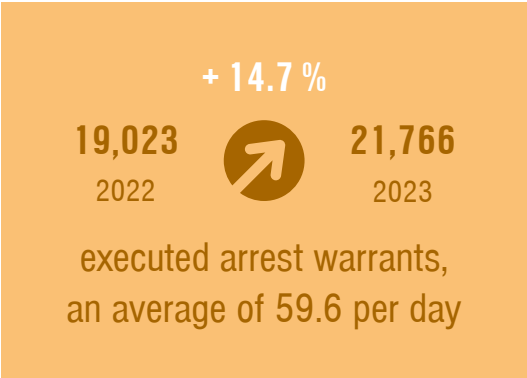
The Federal Police has already certified 115 super-recognisers in its own ranks. These are employees who have an above-average ability to memorize faces and recognize them even after a long time and under challenging circumstances. Statistically speaking, only one in fifty people in Germany has this ability. The super-recognisers of the Federal Police are deployed nationwide in day-to-day service and in special situations to increase the Federal Police's search expertise. The successful partnership with the University of Greenwich to identify these talented individuals will be continued. 2023 saw the start of the second voluntary procedure for all Federal Police employees.

# Locating Criminals

Police searches for criminals are a key component of the Federal Police's efforts to combat crime. They are also very important when it comes to averting threats, especially in the Federal Police's border police activities. Regional, supra-regional and international search measures are used to identify dangerous criminals and other individuals in order to bring them to justice or to avert danger to others.

As in previous years, the Federal Police recorded an increase in searches in 2023. There was a further increase of 14.7% compared to the previous year. Statistics show that the Federal Police recorded around 740 people and property searches every day.

The Federal Police were able to execute a total of 21,766 open arrest warrants. This is once again the highest figure ever recorded and accounts for 9.2% of all person searches in 2023. 109 of the executed arrest warrants were related to politically motivated crime; almost two thirds concerned suspects belonging to the right-wing political spectrum.



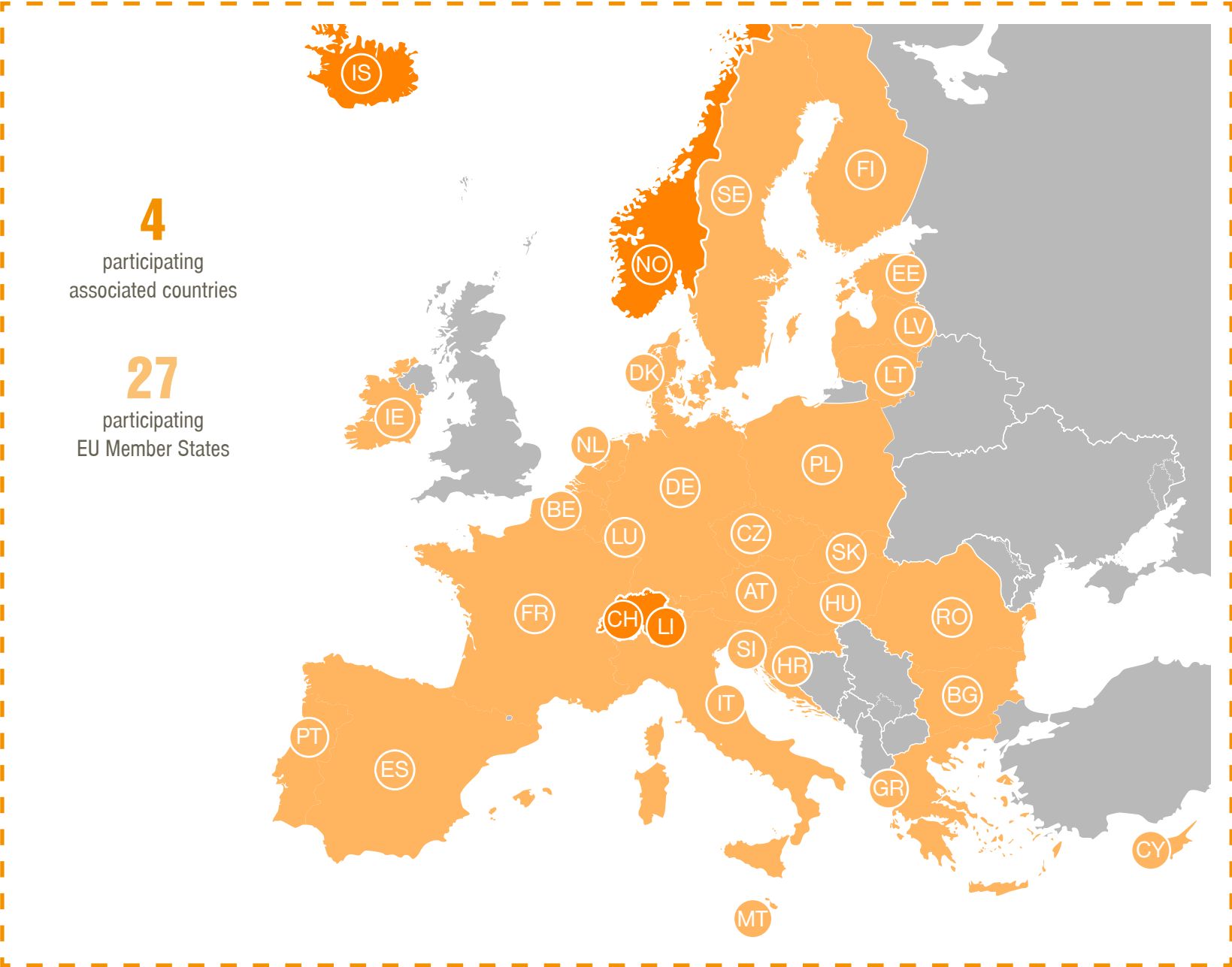


# SIS 3.0 – Expansion of the Schengen Information System

The Schengen Information System (SIS) is a joint system for searches and retrieving information with regard to persons and wanted property, shared among the member states of the Schengen area. It is also used by Europol and Frontex. The SIS, which saw its last comprehensive expansion in March 2023, is a key element of the European security structure. At the end of 2023, more than 90 million alerts were stored in the SIS, of which around 73 million related to issued documents.

Operation and use of the expanded SIS were implemented on 7 March 2023 by three EU regulations covering measures relating to border controls, the return of unlawfully residing third-country nationals and police and judicial cooperation. The federal and state police forces, the public prosecutor's offices and upwards of 2,000 other authorities, including more than 600 immigration authorities and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, have direct access to the SIS. This gives them the possibility to read the entries and the opportunity to enter migration-related alerts in the SIS and to exchange information relevant to the law on residence with the authorities of other countries. The new technical and legal requirements are also being implemented by the Federal Police in its role as the main user of the system and are enhancing search and alert capabilities. The added alert categories such as technical items, forged documents and banknotes or the ability to search for third-country nationals who are obliged to leave the country, vulnerable persons or unknown persons – if necessary using crime scene evidence – make a valuable contribution to security in Europe. In addition, new search options were created for automated border control systems using biometric components.

The centralised national management of the new SIS was transferred to the Federal Criminal Police Office. The corresponding necessary adaptations for the Federal Police were accompanied by a specially established project group "SIS 3.0 – BPOL". In 2022 and 2023, employees of the Federal Police were trained for the expansion of the SIS.



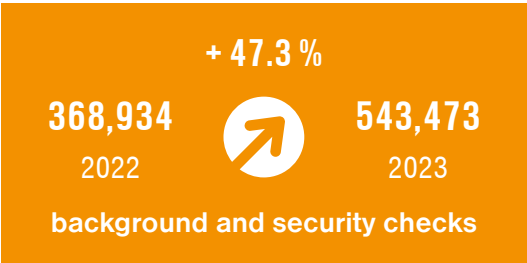
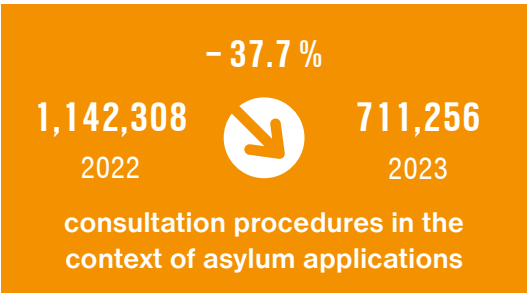
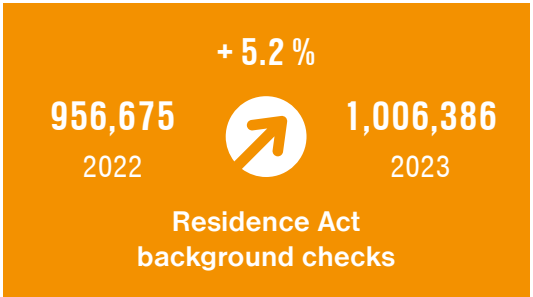
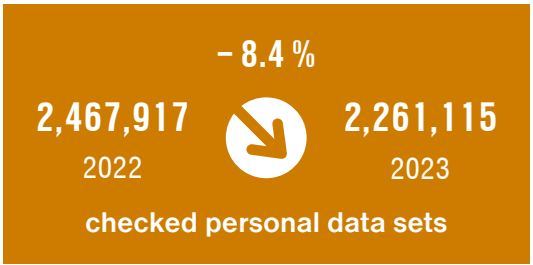
## Background and security checks

Federal and state laws provide for background and security checks (ZSÜ) for people who wish to work in security-sensitive roles such as in public authorities or at airports for example, or who are applying for residency, naturalisation or authorisation to acquire and carry weapons or explosives.

Security-relevant information held by the Federal Police is incorporated into review processes conducted by other agencies. In 2023, the Federal Police itself checked a total of 2,261,115 personal data sets.

The consultation procedure in the context of asylum applications (AsylKon) in accordance with § 73, Para. 1a of the Residence Act allows for the data sets of asylum seekers and persons who have entered the country without authorisation to be subjected to an immediate automated check in the Central Register of Foreign Nationals after (initial) registration. Background checks for the purposes of residency (AZP) in accordance with § 73, Para. 2 of the Residence Act are carried out for the immigration authorities to establish grounds for refusal or on the basis of possible security concerns before issuing or renewing various residence permits.

The Federal Police also carry out ZSÜ checks in accordance with the Security Clearance Act and other legal requirements.



## Deployment in hazardous CBRN situations

The Federal Police has mobile, self-sufficient and rapid response resources and highly specialised personnel at its disposal to deal with police emergencies involving chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) hazardous substances. Equipment and specialised teams both can be deployed flexibly in the Federal Police as well as to support domestic and foreign agencies.

The key activities of these personnel include detecting and measuring possible CBRN hazards for the purpose of investigating hazardous areas, as well as decontamination and initial medical care for forces deployed.

**CBRN Support Network (UVB-CBRN)**  
The Federal Ministries of the Interior and Community, Defense, Health and the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety set up the CBRN Support Network (UVB-CBRN) back in 2021. It pools the expertise of the Federal Criminal Police Office, the Federal Office for Radiation Protection, the Robert Koch Institute, the Bundeswehr’s NBC Defence Command and the Bundeswehr’s Scientific Institute for Protection Technologies – NBC Protection (WIS) with that of the Federal Police. Its purpose is to deal with threats or attacks involving chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear substances. This includes capabilities in detection and analysis, intervention, information gathering and disarmament as well as decontamination and crime scene work.

The Federal Police is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day operations of the UVB-CBRN and managing the network during operations. The network is available to federal, state and, on a case by case basis, foreign authorities at their request.

**Project rescEU-CBRN-DECON-Germany**  
The European Union is strengthening its expertise in combating CBRN hazards with the “rescEU-CBRN-DECON” project, in particular with a view to improving the technical capacities of the Member States. Together with the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK), various operational units at the THW and the Federal Police have been upgraded since 2022 to facilitate the decontamination of people, infrastructure and equipment. These capabilities are used to provide operational support if the capacities available at national level are not sufficient.

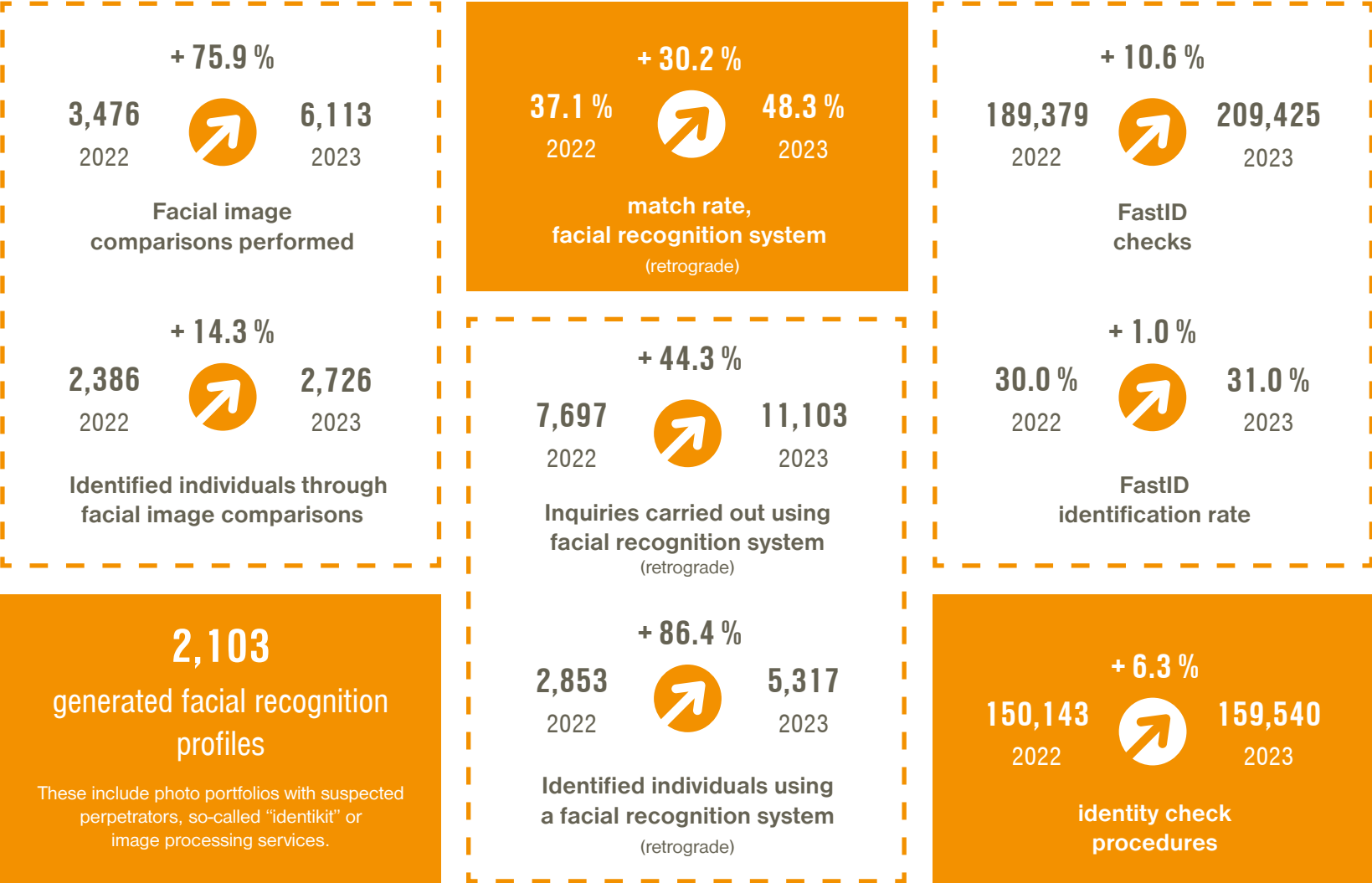
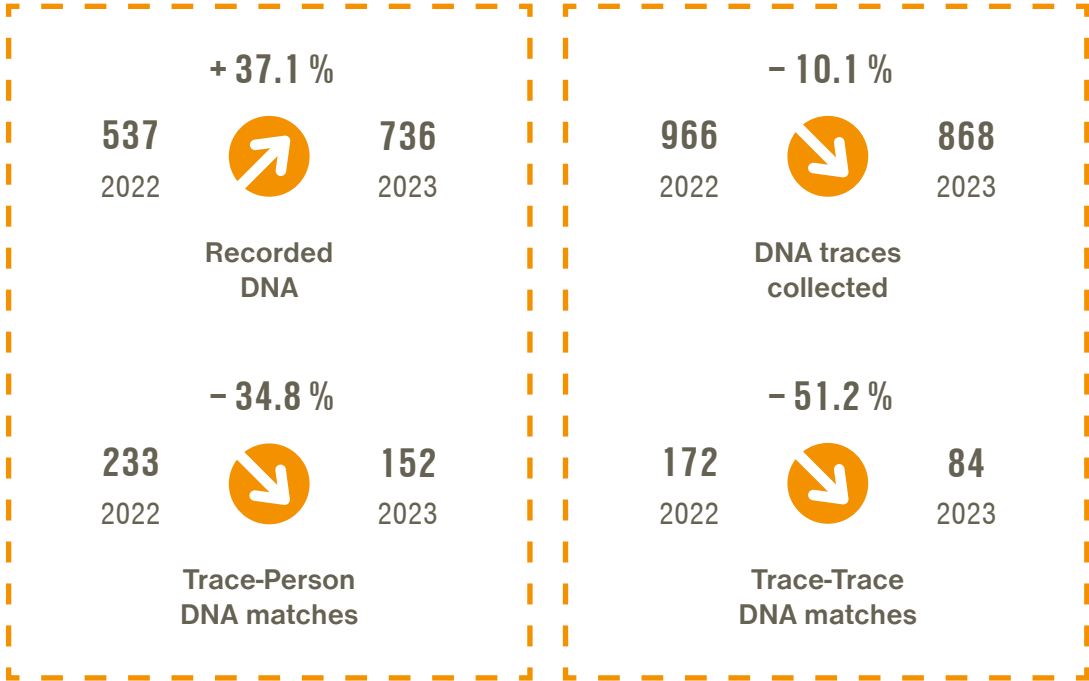
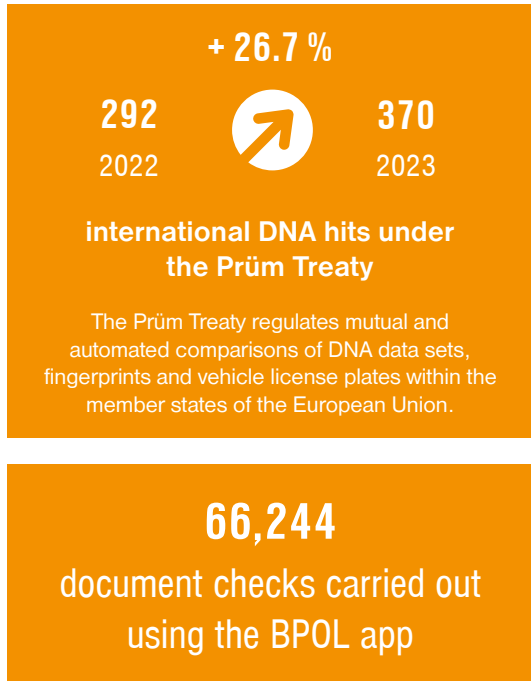
The Federal Police is contributing its operational experience to the project, in particular its expertise in decontamination. The focus here is on logistics and maintenance as well as the training of all emergency personnel. Other “rescEU projects” are underway in Spain and Croatia. The EU is to receive additional and specialised technical and personnel capacities that are equipped and prepared to combat CBRN threats by the end of the project in 2026.

The project partners have a total budget of €37.5 million at their disposal, all of it provided by the EU.



# Forensic Science

The forensic services of the Federal Police play a key role in investigating criminals and reconstructing events at crime scenes. Using the latest forensic methods to secure evidence on site and more in-depth investigations in the forensics laboratories, they make a significant contribution to gathering evidence. They are deployed nationwide and support the work of the Federal Criminal Police Office or the police authorities of individual federal states as required.



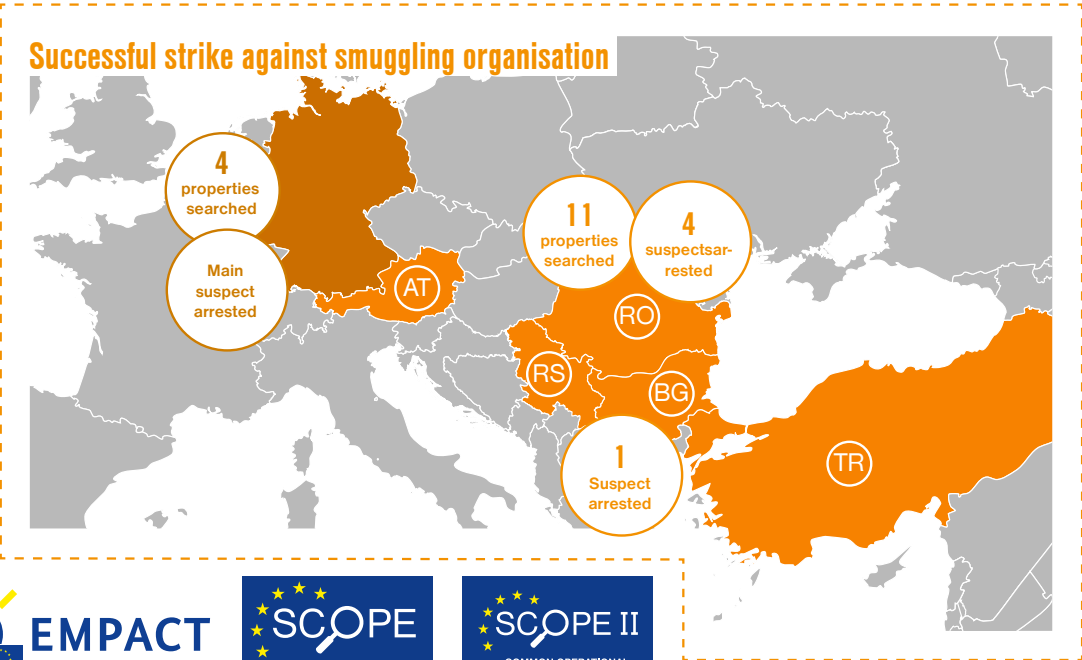
# Serious and Organised Crime

In 2023, the Federal Police conducted numerous investigations into organised crime and its preliminary stages. Particular emphasis was placed on combating **people smuggling**. The nine Federal Police Departments for Combatting Crime and the Central Investigation Service of the Federal Police Headquarters formed the backbone of the investigation. Working closely with national and international partners and Europol is vital in this respect. Over the course of 2023, the Federal Police was involved in a total of 15 temporary or permanent joint investigation teams (JITs) with the the State Offices of Criminal Investigation or the Federal Customs Service.

The Federal Police also represents Germany in EMPACT with regard to the priority issue of migrant smuggling. It took over the overall management of Europe-wide coordination on 1 January 2022 for a period of four years. In 2023, the Federal Police led two EMPACT operations focussing on combating life-threatening container smuggling and identifying forged or misused travel documents.

**Case study: the “Yolcu” investigation**  
The enquiries conducted by the Federal Police were directed against an internationally active smuggling organisation. The group has allegedly smuggled large numbers of mainly Turkish and Syrian nationals to Germany and other Western European countries via the Balkan route since October 2021. A total of 79 cases with at least 860 smuggled persons (internationally up to 1,100) are attributed to it.<sup>1</sup> People wishing to make the journey paid the human traffickers between €6,000 and €13,000.

In order to shape the investigations efficiently and to be able to take action against parts of the organisation abroad, the investigations were conducted jointly with law enforcement authorities in Romania and Serbia and in close cooperation with Turkey and Austria. Four house searches were carried out in Germany on 7 June 2023. The arrest warrant for the main suspect was executed. Eleven properties were searched in Romania. Four suspects in the Romanian-led proceedings were arrested. One suspect was also arrested on behalf of the Romanian authorities in Bulgaria.



<sup>1</sup> Data as of 31/12/2023

# Politically Motivated Crime

In the fight against politically motivated crime (PMC), the Federal Police, in cooperation with national and international partners, make a significant contribution to averting danger and ensuring law enforcement. The Federal Police have a wide range of options for countering PMC. These include, in particular, refusal of entry or measures to terminate residence, up to and including the suggestion of arrest under the Federal Police’s own jurisdiction. At the end of 31 December 2023, the Federal Police had issued alerts for almost 49,000 people to be refused entry. Of these, more than 26,000 people had a connection to terrorism.

In the past, right-wing extremist events abroad have been major attraction poles for the relevant international scene in order to spread their ideas and promote international networking. The participation of right-wing and left-wing extremists with German citizenship regularly creates the risk of tarnishing the reputation of the Federal Republic of Germany, especially if there are violent clashes between the two camps or with the police.

The Federal Police organises surveillance and search measures in connection with such events. The emphasis is on checking travel bans and preventing prohibited or dangerous objects from being brought into Germany on the return journey. These particularly include weapons and propaganda material. As a result, the Federal Police banned a total of 82 people from leaving the country in 2023.

# International Investigations

The Federal Police work closely with other countries around the world in the fight against crime. This cross-border cooperation in the form of international legal assistance in matters of criminal law has developed rapidly since the 1990s. The Federal Police actively support ongoing or planned investigations and operational measures in the participating countries. Information is exchanged between the European security authorities primarily via the SIENA (Secure Information Exchange Network Application) messaging system provided by Europol. The Federal Police Headquarters functions as the competent checking and approving authority for the Federal Police and decides on incoming and outgoing requests for criminal cases. It also assumes technical responsibility for extradition and transit as well as for transferring prisoners.

**35% more requests for legal assistance**  
Since 2009, the number of requests between the Federal Police and external partners has risen steadily. A total of more than 18,000 international legal assistance cases were handled by the Federal Police in 2023. This was another increase of around a quarter compared to the previous year. The number of requests for legal assistance submitted by the Federal Police to foreign countries and requests from abroad amounted to more than 8,600 cases and increased by more than a third in 2023 compared to the year before.

**European police projects SCOPE and SCOPE II**

The SCOPE project (Fighting Migrant Smuggling by establishing Common Operational Partnerships in Europe with Third States), which has been running since 2021 is funded by the EU. It aims to combat migrant smuggling on the main migration routes into the EU and Germany by establishing lasting partnerships between police investigation departments. It provides for cooperation with partner authorities in Turkey and the countries of the Western Balkans. The focus is on preventing container smuggling and prosecuting criminal offences. The project will end in 2024 and be replaced by the SCOPE II project, which will also be funded by the EU.



# Federal Police Smart Borders project group

As part of the Smart Borders agenda, European external border protection is being digitised in order to update border controls and improve their effectiveness. With the introduction of the Entry/Exit System (EES), the first step will be to replace manual stamps and add an electronic dossier with biometric data (facial image and fingerprint data) as well as entry and exit details. Innovative technical and administrative solutions are being developed in collaboration with industry partners.

**Entry/Exit System (EES)**  
The technological progress made at European level suggests that the EES will be introduced in 2024. With regard to national integration, the Federal Police initiated efforts to further develop the integrated border control application and introduce self-service systems in 2023. Initially, 250 of these systems were installed at various airports. Following the introduction of the self-service systems, travellers should be able to enter their data themselves, thereby reducing the overall processing times at manual border control points. The Federal Police is working intensively with the aviation industry to prepare travellers for the new border control procedures.

**Interoperability (IO)**  
The Federal Police has intensified integration into existing systems to enable interoperable linking of European databases. This included international participation in the development of an EU communication tool that will enable the authorities of the member states to share information.



**Visa Information System (VIS)**

The Federal Police have been helping to develop the future processes for issuing visa since autumn 2023, based on the business requirements that need to be met and the recorded business process models.

**European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)**

The current European timetable foresees the introduction of the ETIAS in 2025. The introductory phases (transitional periods), during which visa-exempt third-country nationals must have a travel authorisation to cross the border, will begin from this date. In preparation for the expected introduction of ETIAS in 2025, the Federal Police reached a milestone in 2023 with regard to process design and the creation of the national ETIAS Centre.

**User group expansion – EasyPASS**

EasyPASS is the (partially) automated border control system that has been established in Germany for many years and was projected to be used by 22.7 million travellers in 2023. It helps to reduce waiting times at border control at many airports. Previously, the use of EasyPASS systems was restricted to nationals of EU member states, the European Economic Area and Switzerland. The expansion of the user group introduced in mid-2023 to include third-country nationals with a German national residence permit and travellers with a German visa for a longer-term stay on departure means that a larger group of people can now choose the fast track route through border control. This enabled the Federal Police to reduce waiting times at manual border checkpoints.

# Combating violent crime on the rail network

The number of violent offences on federal railway property has risen steadily in recent years. In 2023, 25,640 offences were recorded in this category and 23,110 offences in 2022. This is an increase of 11% and compared to the pre-pandemic year 2019 a rise of 42%. As in previous years, railway stations in major cities are the main sites affected by violent offences. However, more and more serious offences are also being committed in small towns or rural areas and on trains. One example is the fatal knife attack on 25 January 2023 on a regional train in Brokstedt (Schleswig-Holstein). This generated a great deal of media attention and led to further joint security measures being implemented by the federal and state governments and even closer coordination of operational measures.

Violent crimes are particularly likely to have a lasting impact on travellers' feeling of safety.

**Safety research and visibility**

In partnership with Deutsche Bahn AG, the Federal Police is investing in social science safety research to increase objective and subjective safety. A baseline study was able to identify triggers for safety-critical situations for people in specific socially problematic situations and derive effective preventative measures. In future, station attendants could point out existing rules at certain railway stations and moderate conflict situations.

The Federal Police carry out numerous inter-connected measures to combat violent crime on the railway infrastructure of the federal railway network. These measures are based on an ongoing police assessment of the situation. In 2023, for example, this included around 800 "priority operations", increased presence at hotspots, contact with people posing a threat, banning orders, arrests and the introduction of refusals to transport and entry bans in cooperation with rail transport companies. Furthermore, the Federal Police issued situation-specific and time-limited general orders banning the carrying of dangerous objects, such as knives, in particularly high-risk areas of the federal railway network. There were 48 such general orders in 2023 compared with 9 in 2022. This led to numerous detections of prohibited objects as defined by the Weapons Act, such as switch-blade knives and brass knuckles.

In addition, the federal states have set up permanent weapons ban zones in and around train stations, for example in Hamburg. The Federal Police supports the enforcement of these zones as part of its duties. Another important element in reducing violent crime is raising public awareness as part of ongoing crime prevention public relations work, including on how to behave appropriately and courageously in dangerous situations and how to be a careful witness and of assistance. To increase security, Deutsche Bahn AG and the Federal Police are joining forces to expand the use of video technology at railway stations. As

of 31 December 2023, around 9,000 cameras were in use. This number is set to increase to 11,000 by the end of 2024.

Ultimately, safety at federal railway facilities can only be guaranteed if all the authorities, for example local authorities (public order services/social services), state police forces and railway companies coordinate their measures. The Federal Police works closely and on a basis of trust with all partners concerned.





# Prevention and Victim Protection



### Appropriate behaviour at railway stations

Children and teenagers in particular often underestimate the dangers with regard to rail travel. Recklessness and overconfidence, paying insufficient attention and poor judgement can endanger one's own life or the lives of others. Numerous accidents could be prevented simply by paying attention to the signs and observing simple rules of conduct. For this reason, the Federal Police are working with Deutsche Bahn AG and other stakeholders to provide wide-ranging information on how to behave when using the rail network. In 2023, the Federal Police published the “Sei sicher unterwegs” (Be safe when travelling) campaign, the key principles of which are as follows: “Do not walk on the railway tracks! There is no room for fun wherever trains run. Taking a selfie on the tracks or a shortcut across the rails could put your life in danger. Climbing onto stationed trains is often fatal due to the voltage flashover from the overhead wire.” The campaign raises awareness for an appropriate behaviour in railway stations and on railway facilities through information campaigns at stations, in schools and on social media.

Further information:



[bundespolizei.de/sicher-auf-bahnanlagen](https://www.bundespolizei.de/sicher-auf-bahnanlagen)



### Support for victims of crime and serious accidents

The Federal Police employs 89 qualified victim protection officers to minimise the consequences for victims and injured parties of criminal offences. They support victims of criminal offences in the unfamiliar situation of criminal proceedings. They help victims to exercise their legal rights and refer them to appropriate services. The victim protection officers are also the point of contact for victim support organisations and they train other federal police officers in how to interact with victims in a caring manner when on patrol.



Further information:



[www.bundespolizei.de/opferschutz](https://www.bundespolizei.de/opferschutz)



### Moral courage while using public transport

The Federal Police and security personnel employed by the railway companies ensure security on trains and in stations throughout Germany. Despite all the precautions taken, harassment, threatening situations or even physical attacks can still occur. The younger the affected person is, the more severe and far-reaching the physical and psychological stress after an event can be. Each and every person using public transport should know how to protect themselves from conflict and help others without putting themselves in danger. Working together with the Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences - Braunschweig/Wolfenbüttel University of Applied Sciences – the Federal Police developed a moral courage training programme based on socio-psychological findings for pupils in school classes 9 and 10. Qualified moral courage trainers from the Federal Police teach young people who regularly travel by train in their free time or on their way to school. The teaching involves simulating dangerous situations and developing skills.

Further information:



[www.bundespolizei.de/zivilcourage](https://www.bundespolizei.de/zivilcourage)

# Formed Police Units of the Federal Police

The formed police units comprise more than 6,000 operational personnel. They provide mobile and flexible support to the Federal Police Departments, particularly during special operations. They are also regularly requested by federal and state authorities, such as the state police forces, Customs Authority and the Federal Criminal Police Office. The units demonstrate their potential above all at major events and gatherings, during executive measures in investigations and when providing internal and external protection during state visits.

### Wide-ranging deployments all year round

The Formed Police Units once again supported the police forces of the federal states in a large number of operations. Examples include the Last Generation protests and the evacuation of the lignite mining site in Lützerath. On several occasions, the Formed Police Units also supported the police in the Netherlands with water cannons at high-risk football matches, demonstrations and various operations at the turn of the year. The Federal Criminal Police Office and various customs investigation offices were assisted in search and enforcement measures against money laundering, illegal labour, drug smuggling and human trafficking.

Furthermore, the ongoing migration situation and the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls in October 2023 demanded a great deal from the operational forces of the Formed Police Unit. They provided continuous support to the federal police stations on the southern and eastern borders of Germany.

### Effective and flexible thanks to specialist skills

The Formed Police Units are divided into ten battalions all over Germany. Thanks to a large number of specialist personnel, it can respond appropriately to a variety of situations. The evidence and arrest units (BFE) are deployed to deal with violent confrontations and to arrest serious offenders. The BFE+ can also support the Federal Police Special Forces GSG 9, for example, during interventions in connection with terrorist attacks and life-threatening scenarios. Technical units provide support with water cannons and special vehicle units.

They deploy specially trained emergency crews to rescue people from heights and depths, help open doors or locked containers and remove technical blockages.

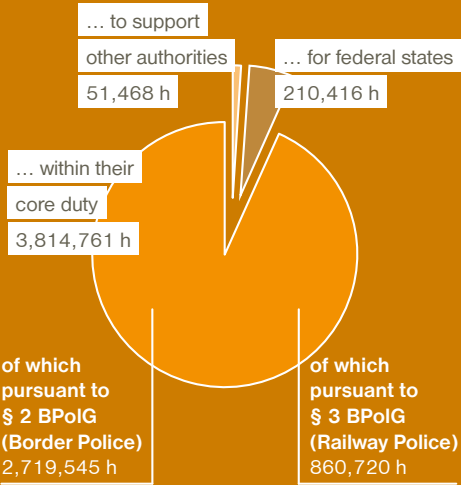
The Evidence and Documentation Unit and the Reconnaissance Unit use video and photographic technology to avert danger and enforce the law, for example to identify suspects and document the course of a police operation. Emergency medical care is provided in all Federal Police Battalions by the police medical services. Among their other duties, the support units ensure that the police officers are provided for through field kitchens and flexible logistics.

### International cooperation

The International Operations Unit (IEE) is attached to the Formed Police Units and is staffed with qualified officers who have completed additional training specialising in international cooperation. The IEE can be deployed abroad, in particular to work with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), when called upon to do so and in compliance with its professional obligations. The Formed Police Units also operate the Franco-German Operational Unit (DFEE). The DFEE is used reciprocally in both countries, particularly for cross-border searches.

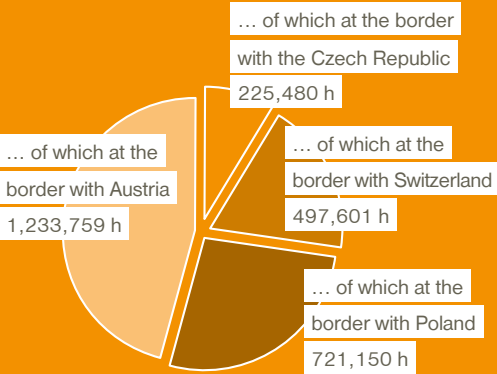


**4,076,645**  
hours worked by the  
Formed Police Units  
22.6 % more than  
2022 (3,325,177)

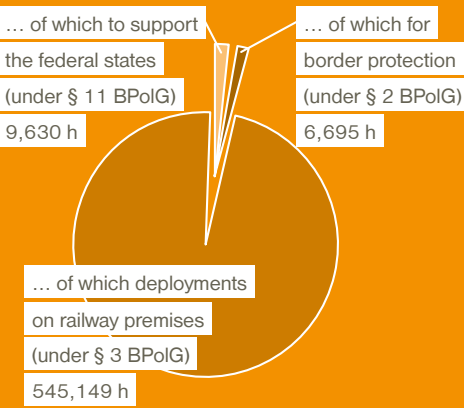


### Selected deployment situations in 2023

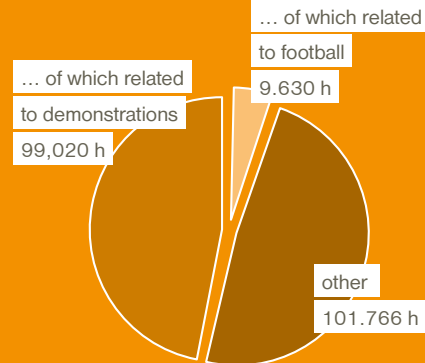
**2,677,990 h migration-related**  
110.9% more than in 2022 (1,270,025 h)



**561,474 h football**



**210,416 h support for the federal states (§ 11 BPolG)**



**209,387 h**  
in relation to demonstrations total

**80,698 h**  
clearance of Garzweiler open-cast lignite mine (Lützerath)

**40,382 h**  
protection of military transports



# Football

In 2023, football matches were able to take place once again without restrictions for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. This was reflected in a significant increase in the Federal Police’s deployment statistics.

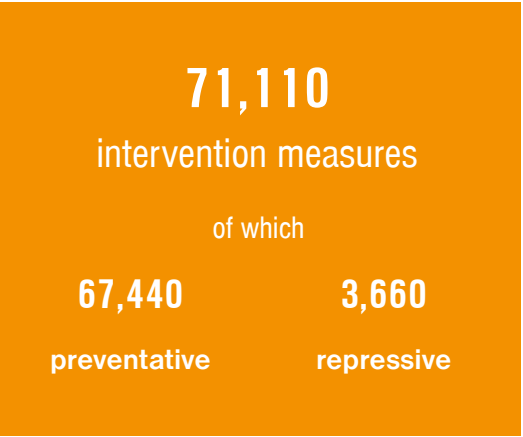
Trains operated by railway companies continued to be an attractive and popular means of travel for supporters of various clubs, particularly the three professional soccer leagues. Compared to the previous year, the number of fans traveling by train increased by 54% to 4,521,647 passengers. The federal police deployed a total of 105,739 officers (+ 38%), including 42,126 members of the Formed Police Units, to deal with and monitor rail-based and cross-border football fan traffic.

There are currently 275 Federal Police officers working as “fan group experts”. They were deployed on 1,309 out of 1,796 occasions. They advised senior leadership on assessing situations, monitored high-risk groups and provided support in identifying suspected offenders.

In 2023, the Federal Police registered 1,585 crimes in connection with football fan travel. This corresponds to an increase of 40.3%. Of these, 628 were violent crimes (assault, breach of the peace, robbery, assault on law enforcement officers and resistance), which corresponds to an increase of 40.2%. As in the previous year, violent offences accounted for 39.6% of the total number of offences in connection with football fan travel. This is also

reflected in the increase in the number of measures that were taken. The Federal Police had to implement 37% more preventive and 83% more repressive measures.

Despite the increase in incidents, the number of injuries fell slightly by 1% to 239. As in 2022, one in five of the injured parties was a member of the Federal Police.



## VISA Information Centre



The VISA Information Centre (ASt VISA) is the Federal Police's centralised early warning system against the unlawful obtainment or use of residence permits. The ASt VISA evaluates information, coordinates findings and, if necessary, initiates investigative proceedings. It advises the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, German diplomatic missions abroad, members of the Federal Police deployed abroad and its own offices on visa fraud. Falsified or incorrectly issued visas once again assumed greater importance in illegal migration in 2023. German diplomatic missions abroad provide training and advice on combating this type of document misuse.

## Passenger Name Records

The purpose of processing passenger name record (PNR) data is to prevent, detect and prosecute terrorist offences and serious crime. It is performed on the basis of the Passenger Name Record Act and the European Directive (EU) 2016/681.

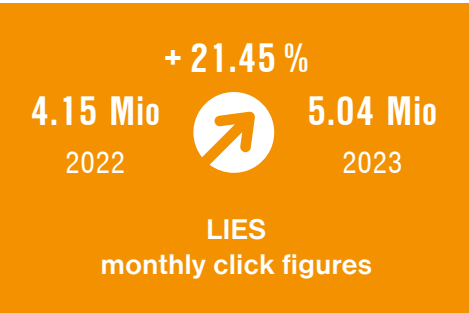
In 2023, the Federal Criminal Police Office referred a total of 77,782 PNR follow-up measures for 27 German airports to the PNR Control Centre at the Federal Police Headquarters. This represents a decrease of 16% compared to the previous year (2022: 92,601). The modifications made following the ECJ ruling C817/19 in 2022, and in particular the resulting removal of around 70% of all EU flight routes from the PNR system, are the main reason for this. Nevertheless, the Federal Police executed 1,611 arrest warrants on the basis of PNR follow-up measures last year, 376 of them in intra-Schengen air traffic.

In 955 cases, Border Police Support Officers Abroad (GUA) and Document and Visa Advisors (DVB) of the Federal Police were able to advise the transport companies to ultimately refuse the transport on the basis of PNR follow-up measures and in doing so prevented smuggling by air transport. Internal Schengen traffic was the main focus of these detections, accounting for 76% of the total.

The Federal Police's continued increasing use of the PNR pattern function is particularly noteworthy. This allows for an automated comparison of passenger data for certain indicators (patterns). The aim of it is to uncover previously undetected crimes involving documents and smuggling offences. The activated Federal Police patterns generated a total of 1,386 relevant PNR matches in 2023, of which 826 cases led to a refusal of carriage.

## Country-Specific Information System

The Country-Specific Information System (LIES) is an information portal developed specifically for border control. All the available information about a travel document can be requested through this system. LIES is organised by country, contains up-to-date warnings and shows in just a few clicks which entry requirements the person being checked must fulfil. The tool is not only useful for screening people at airports, but also for users who require clearly organised information for border checks. The centralised processing and concise provision of information on countries and documents makes monitoring much more efficient. In 2023, LIES recorded an average use of 5.04 million times per month. This represents an increase of around 21.5% compared to 2022 (2022: 4.15 million requests/month).



## Humanitarian Admissions

Germany organised the admission on humanitarian grounds of people in need of protection from Lebanon, Niger, Egypt, Kenya, Jordan and Gaza (via Egypt).

This was carried out under federal admission procedures, state admission procedures and continued under the European Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism from Italy, Spain and Cyprus. In order to increase the level of security in these procedures, the Federal Police conducted on-site interviews together with the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the Federal Criminal Police Office. With the participation of the Federal Police, 3,439 people were admitted to Germany as part of these humanitarian admission procedures.

### Admission of individuals in need of protection from Afghanistan

Germany has been offering asylum to people in need of protection from Afghanistan and helping them to leave the country since the Taliban took power in 2021. In 2023, additional security interviews were organised for these admission procedures from Afghanistan (via Pakistan). The security authorities involved have conducted a total of 2,033 interviews as part of these procedures since June 2023.



# Migration

The migration situation once again presented the Federal Police with major challenges in 2023. Global developments and political crises were reflected in increasing migration pressure on Europe and Germany in particular. The Federal Police continued to meet these challenges in 2023 with targeted measures, such as flexible border controls in terms of time and location as well as open and covert searches, all of which made a significant contribution to Germany's internal security.

The 127,549 unauthorised border crossings recorded were the most in one year since 2016. This represents an increase of around 39% relative to the previous year.

On 16 October 2023, internal border controls were temporarily reintroduced at the land borders of the Federal Republic of Germany with Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland and continued with Austria. A summary of this measure until the end of 2023/beginning of 2024 is on page 70.

Germany is one of the main target countries for illegal migration to Europe and is therefore particularly affected by the increasing migratory pressure on Europe's external borders. According to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex, the member states counted around 380,000 unauthorised crossings of the EU's external borders in 2023. This is an increase of around 15% compared to the 330,000 unauthorised border crossings in 2022.

## Balkan region still part of the main land route

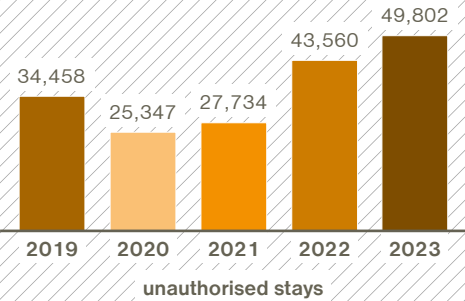
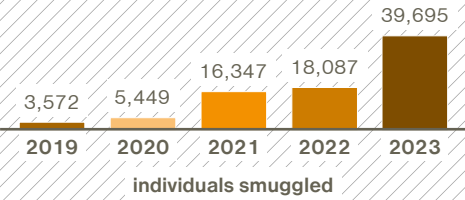
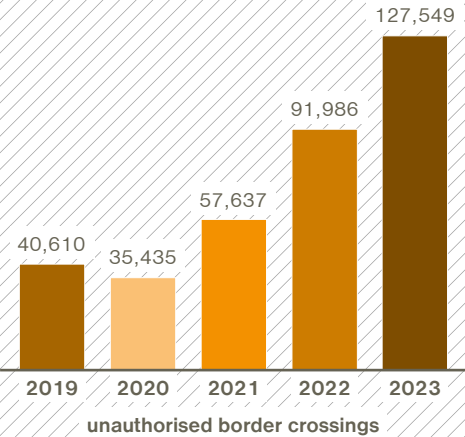
Illegal migration via the Balkan states was again of particular relevance for Germany. In addition to nationals from Syria and Afghanistan, the number of nationals from especially Turkey also increased. Turkish nationals often travelled visa-free by air to Serbia or Bosnia and Herzegovina first and then, with the help of smuggling organisations, overland and into the Schengen Area, in particular to Germany.

## Arrivals on the eastern border exceeded previous year's level

In addition to the migration routes through the Balkan region, unauthorised border crossings to Europe via the Russian Federation and Belarus once again had an impact on the national migration situation and Germany's eastern borders. As a result of increased border protection measures in conjunction with the expansion of physical barriers at the EU's external borders, there was a decline in the monthly number of unauthorised entries involving Belarus from the middle of the year onwards. Nevertheless, the total number of 11,932 people detected crossing the German border significantly exceeded the previous year's level (2022: 8,760) by around 36%.

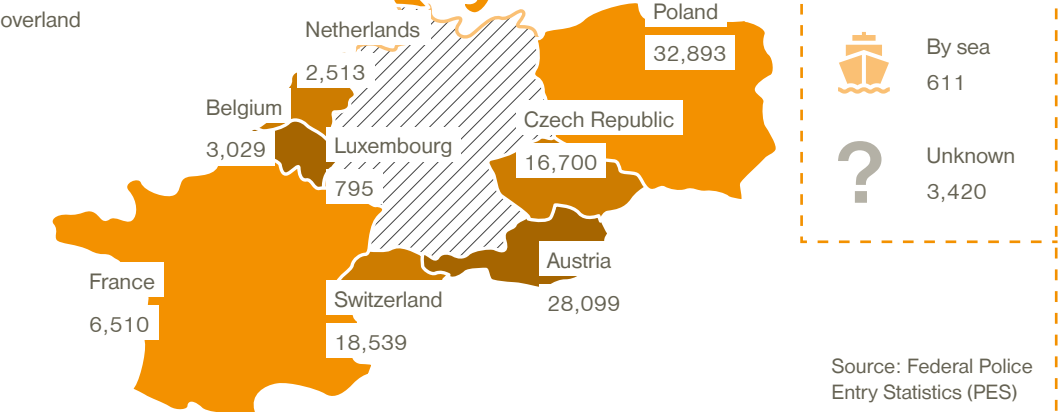
The number of unauthorised entries detected in Germany rose sharply over the course of the year, reaching a high of 21,375 people in September. After an initial slight decline in October with 20,073 arrivals, the number fell

## Unauthorised entries<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> External borders of the FRG, incl. airports and seaports

## Detected unauthorised arrivals in 2023 by border



significantly in the following months to 7,497 arrivals in December.

The distribution of the pressure at Germany's borders was very dynamic over the course of the year. While the number of arrivals in the south at the borders with Austria and Switzerland was higher in the months of January to March, between April and October there was a shift to the eastern borders with Poland and the Czech Republic. From November onwards, the largest number of arrivals were again detected at the southern borders.

## Successful flexible border controls

Countering illegal migration by intensifying border searches and ensuring sufficient processing capacity was not only a particular challenge for the local federal police forces. It also required the deployment of the Formed Police Units and other Federal Police depart-

ments not directly involved and underlined their exceptional flexibility.

This was successfully demonstrated in particular since the temporary reintroduction of controls at the borders with Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland from 16 October 2023. In addition to maintaining border controls at the German-Austrian land border for a further six months, the Federal Police were faced with an additional personnel and logistical challenge. The sharp decline in the number of arrests of human traffickers and illegal entries at the eastern borders at the beginning of November underlines the contribution of the Federal Police to ensuring internal security. This effect was reinforced by the temporary reintroduction of border controls in some neighbouring countries in south-eastern Europe and, in particular, by the police measures taken against smuggling groups in northern Serbia since the end of October 2023.



## Container smuggling investigations

Second to smuggling by sea, container smuggling is the type of human trafficking with the most known serious injuries and fatalities towards and into Europe.

The Federal Police is working with 26 participating states and Europol, Frontex and Eurojust to combat container smuggling on the routes along the Balkan region towards Central Europe.

Some case studies from 2023 are summarised on page 64.

# Aviation Security Checks



In 2023, the number of passengers increased by around 35 million compared to 2022 to around 186.1 million. In total, around 41.5 million passengers underwent an aviation security check before boarding their flight. The checks were carried out by aviation security assistants employed by private security providers on behalf of the Federal Police. A total of 571,745 dangerous items or items prohibited under the Aviation Security Act were found in passengers' hand luggage or hold luggage. This again represents an increase on the previous year (33.7%).

 **419**  
Firearms

 **1,416**  
Replica firearms

 **46,106**  
Ammunition and pyrotechnical products

**41,536,912**  
aviation security checks completed

**571,745**  
Prohibited objects found during searches

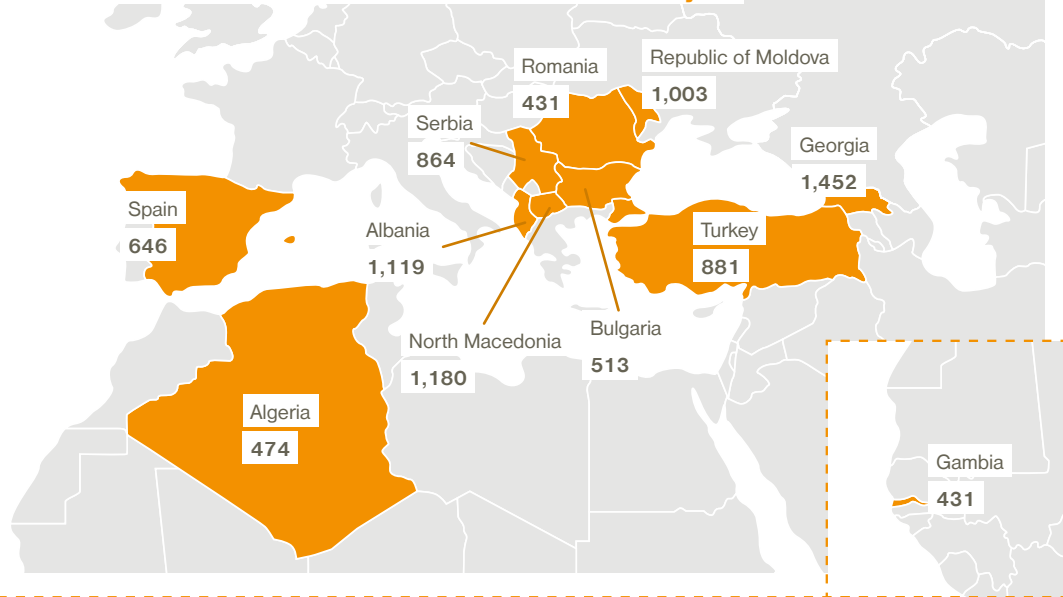
 of which **396,152**  
in hand luggage

 of which **173,738**  
in hold luggage

 of which **1,855**  
on individuals

# Returns

The 10 most common destination countries for returns by air



In 2023, 52,976 people were scheduled to be returned by way of expulsion or rejection to other European countries or third countries. In practice, 21,206 people were returned by land, air or sea. This involved 16,430 expulsions and 4,776 rejections. The main reason for the discrepancy between the planned and actual returns in 2023 was again that, for a variety of reasons, individuals who were scheduled for return were not handed over to the Federal Police on the day of the flight. There were 15,719 returns at the instigation of the federal states and 5,487 under the jurisdiction of the Federal Police. Of the 16,430 expulsions, 8,695 were accom-

panied and 7,735 were unaccompanied. Of the 4,776 rejections, 148 were accompanied and 4,628 were unaccompanied. A total of 11,862 Federal Police officers were deployed in 2023 to prepare and implement these measures. At the end of 2023, the Federal Police had 2,220 Flight Escorts on duty for the accompaniment of persons to be repatriated by air.

Returns  
**52,976**  
planned

**21,206**  
completed

of which **15,719** on behalf of the federal states  
of which **5,487** for the Federal Police

**12,945** 2022  **16,430** 2023  
Expulsions

**5,149** 2022  **4,776** 2023  
Rejections

**2,000** 2022  **2,200** 2023  
Flight Escorts

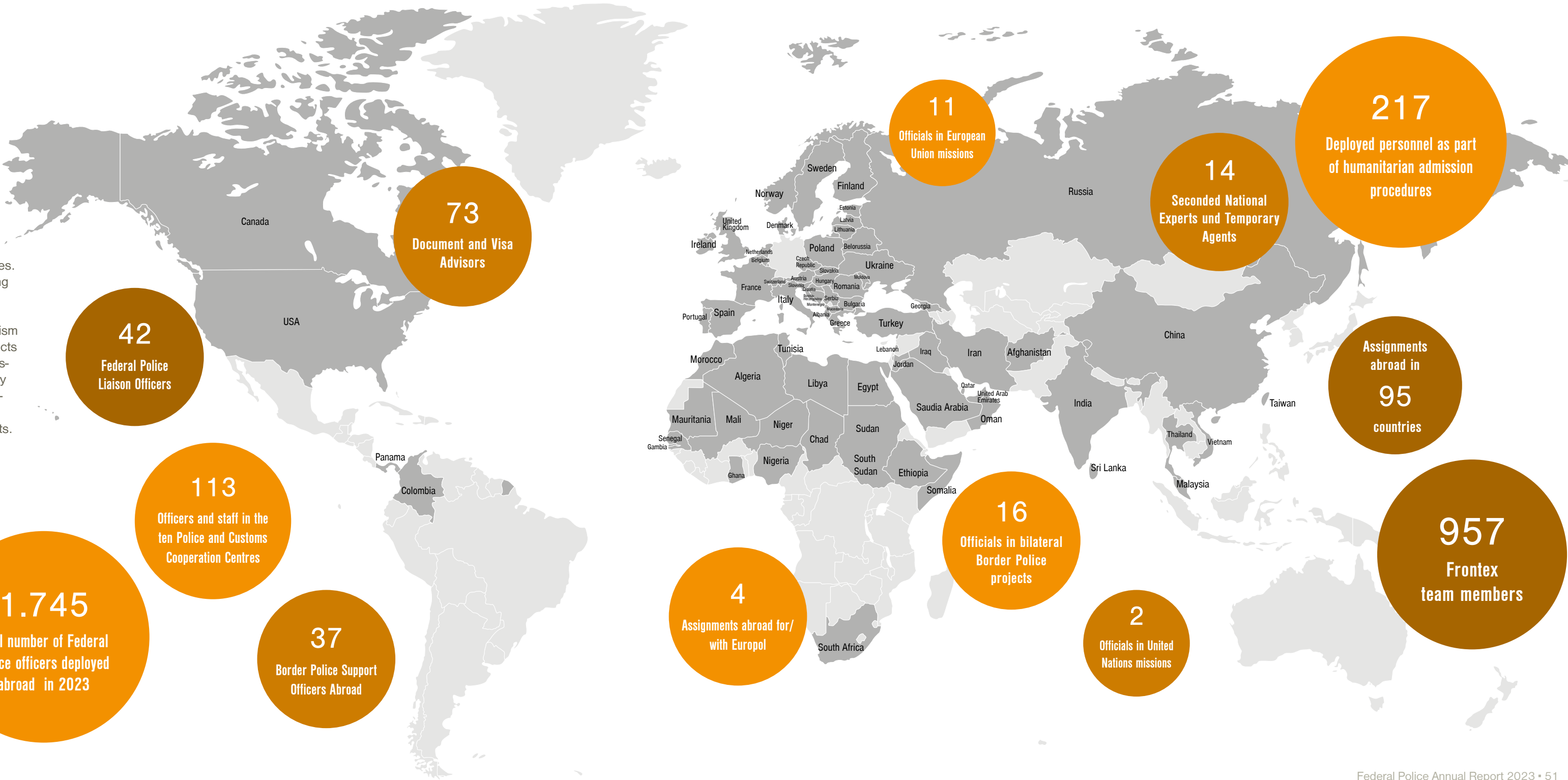


## Assignments abroad

Assignments and deployments abroad are oriented towards the duties of the Federal Police. In particular, they complement national border police measures to prevent illegal entry and migration.

Training programmes and equipment are used to empower and equip partner authorities along the main migration routes. This enables them to make a direct contribution to stabilising the migration situation on the ground.

Crises and state instability can foster crime and even terrorism and lead to waves of migration. Bilateral development projects and participation in European Union and United Nations missions are intended, among other things, to put local security authorities back in a position to fulfil their mandate independently and in accordance with the rule of law, as well as to promote a democratic framework that respects human rights.

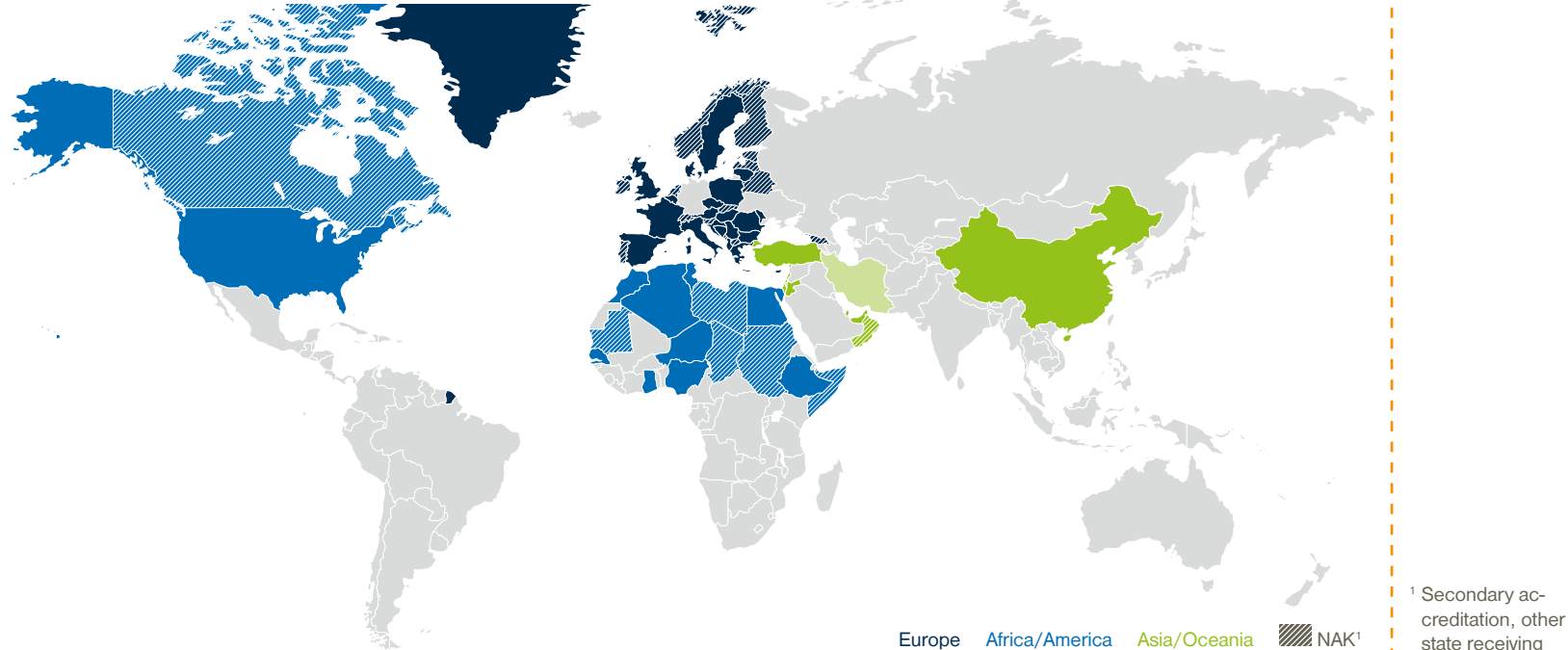


## Federal Police Liaison Officers

Federal Police Liaison Officers (VB BPOL) ensure that information is shared at a strategic and operational level. They coordinate the repatriation of people who have entered Germany illegally to their countries of origin, provide advice and support in airport security, police cooperation and police training and equipment assistance. In 2023, 42 Federal Police Liaison Officers were deployed in 65 countries. Federal Police Liaison Officers and Document and Visa Advisors (DVB) were supported by a total of 54 local officers.



## Operating locations of Federal Police Liaison Officers

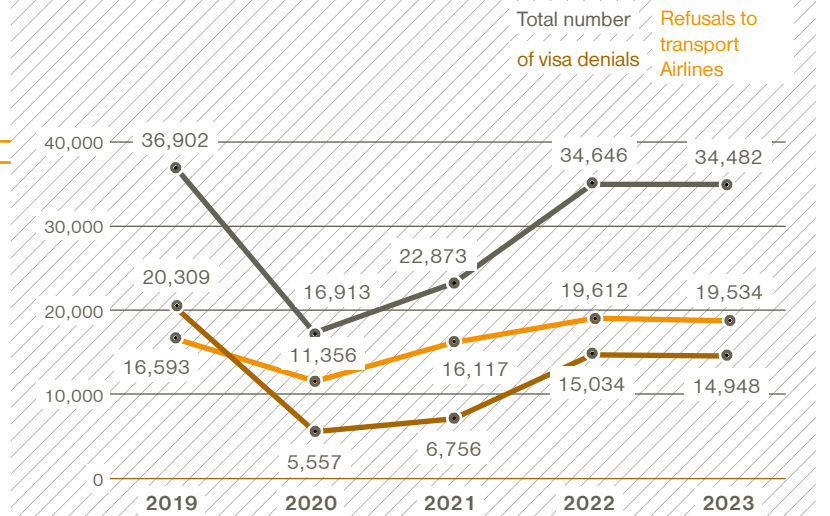


## Document and Visa Advisors

Document and Visa Advisors (DVB) work in third countries to prevent illegal entry into Germany and the Schengen Area. They specialise in detecting forged documents in particular and play an important part in the pre-departure screening strategy to combat illegal migration. In 2023, 73 Advisors prevented a total of 34,482 unauthorised entries at 30 locations in 25 countries. To this end, 64,747 advisories were issued to authorities and organisations at foreign airports and 41,094 visa checks were carried out. As a result, 19,534 refusals of transport were issued and 14,948 visa denials were issued. Training was provided to 8,966 employees of various airlines and visa centres.



## Unauthorised entries prevented by Document and Visa Advisors



## Police and Customs Cooperation Centres

Gathering information and sharing it directly with neighbouring police, customs and border authorities is crucial in the fight against cross-border crime. More than 100 members of the Federal Police are deployed in a total of ten liaison offices and joint Police and Customs Cooperation Centres for the purpose of gathering, processing and forwarding information. The cooperation between the Cooperation Centres and the partner authorities is crucial for all of the Federal Police's fields of activity. Cooperation Centres form an important link between Germany and its neighbouring countries.



### Border Police Support Officers Abroad

In 2023, 37 members of the Federal Police were deployed as Border Police Support Officers Abroad at important airports and seaports in Greece, Italy, France, Spain and Croatia. Their tasks in the context of bilateral cooperation with the security authorities of the respective countries and various airlines include stopping secondary migration to Germany and tackling document and vehicle offences. The success of the Support Officers was also clearly reflected in the figures for 2023. At airports in Greece in particular, Support Officers were directly involved in a total of 7,094 refusals to transport (including 3,734 on flights to Germany). In the course of their work, 48 smugglers and 7,382 illegal documents were identified. An additional 1,939 people were reported to the German airport authorities in connection with secondary immigration (suspected illegal entry). In connection with the conflict in the Middle East, a double-digit number of Support Officers were sent to the German diplomatic mission in Cyprus for several weeks at the request of the Federal Foreign Office to assist with identity checks during any evacuation measures.



### Peacekeeping Missions

An average of 51 federal and state police officers as well as members of the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Customs Administration took part in 13 peace missions in 2023. These included three missions organised by the United Nations and ten by the European Union. The missions goals are, among others, to protect the civilian population and to establish and expand the structures of the local security authorities, therefore helping to stabilise crisis regions. This also highly contributed to combating the causes of flight.



**FRONTEX**  
EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

### European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex

Germany's cooperation with Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, makes a significant contribution to maintaining the security of Europe's external borders. It works with other national units to assist with border controls and security measures to ensure effective monitoring and protection of the EU's borders.

The Federal Police is the largest contingent provider of the member states, providing personnel, ships, helicopters and other technical equipment to Frontex. The police officers are also deployed outside the EU, for example in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Albania, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and North Macedonia.

In 2023, 957 officers were deployed to a total of 28 countries on long-term and short-term assignments under the remit of Frontex.

### European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA)

The European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA) is a non-executive, non-armed civilian mission under the umbrella of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). At the beginning of 2023, the EU launched a new mission on Armenian territory along the international border, headed by a high-ranking official from the Federal Police and with active support from Germany. By maintaining an impartial presence and talking to people on the ground, the EUMA aims to ensure greater stability on both sides of the border. The political situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains tense due to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. There are repeated exchanges of fire between armed forces, particularly in the border region with Azerbaijan. There is a considerable interest in the mission by the member states of the EU. Numerous high-ranking government delegations have already visited the EUMA. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock travelled to Armenia on 4 November 2023 and took part in a patrol in the border region with Azerbaijan. Germany currently has 10 federal and state police officers and 6 civilian experts deployed to the EUMA. The EU has decided to increase the number of EUMA staff from 103 to a total of 209 in the near future in order to strengthen the mission's operational capabilities.

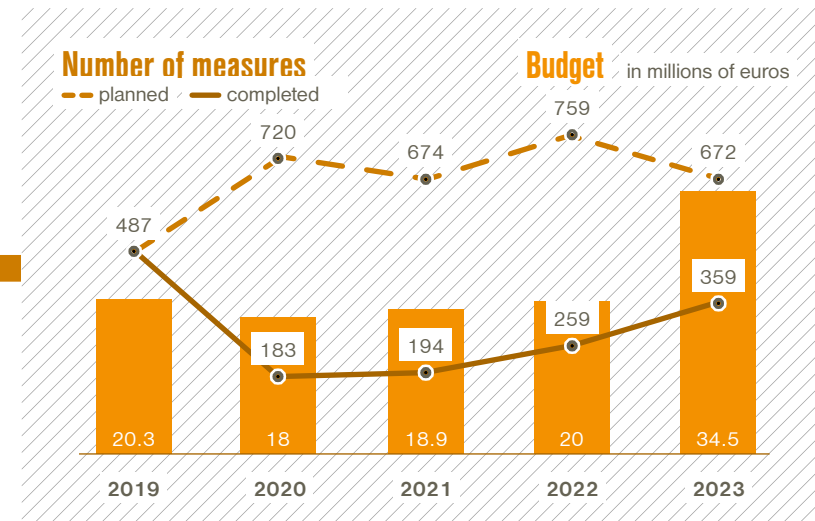


## Police Equipment & Training Assistance/Police Cooperation

Police Reconstruction Assistance (PAH) and Cooperation (PKO) function as instruments of international cooperation in the Federal Police's pre-departure screening strategy, particularly in the fight against illegal migration and smuggling of migrants. Averting threats to international air traffic, terrorism and piracy, among other things, are also key aspects. This is how the Federal Police contributes to the Federal Government's interdepartmental strategy for security sector reform (SSR) in third countries. The commitment also helps to bring EU applicant countries (particularly in the Western Balkans region) closer to the standards of the European Union. The Federal Police always adheres to its basic democratic and constitutional principles, with a particular focus on human rights. The PAH and PKO of the Federal Police therefore make a measurable and indispensable contribution to German security and foreign policy.

In 2023, PAH and PKO measures were carried out in 64 countries, mainly as part of border police operations, maritime security and airport security activities. The geographical focus in 2023 was on the countries of the Western Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East region. This international involvement is based on geopolitical developments and their impact on the performance of the Federal Police's duties. The commitment to supporting Ukraine's border police and partner authorities in Israel should be emphasised in this context. The Federal Police runs project offices in the Republic of Tunisia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The experts deployed in the PAH and the PKO share Federal Police expertise with foreign partner authorities in accordance with the "train-the-trainer principle". They facilitate the exchange of information and experience as well as policing skills. The training assistance is supplemented by customised equipment support. These include essential command and operational resources.



## Support measures for Ukraine

Ukrainian border authorities are currently facing major challenges. The Federal Police has been providing assistance to support the Ukrainian Border Force since the start of the war in 2022. One aspect of these extensive support measures implemented by the Federal Government is the Police Reconstruction Assistance (PAH) provided by the Federal Police. The support provided by the German Federal Police has made it possible to equip the Ukrainian border force with emergency vehicles, medical equipment and personal protective equipment.



Funded by the  
European Union

## European Union funding instruments

### Decentralised funding

During the European funding period of the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021–2027, the European Union is providing Germany with around €160 million to implement measures relating to border and visa management through the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI). These funds are administered at the Federal Police Headquarters by the BMVI Administrative Authority and distributed to the Federal Foreign Office and various federal and state authorities in accordance with European funding criteria. Representing an important investment in the security architecture of integrated border management, the funding measures focus

on information technology for Smart Borders with approximately €100 million, of which the Federal Police alone will receive almost €60 million for the Entry/Exit System (EES), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and the EUROSUR border surveillance system. Postings of document and visa consultants to third countries are subsidised with more than €21 million.

### Centralised funding

In addition to EU funding, which is administered nationally in the member states, the European Commission also awards funding directly and subsidises selected projects. In this context,

various federal police authorities carry out what are known as Union Actions in conjunction with European partners. These are co-financed with funding from the Internal Security Fund (ISF) or the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), for instance. This enables the Federal Police to support the information of international investigation teams, bringing European Union candidate countries closer to border police co-operation and the use of police information systems, police reconstruction assistance in third countries and cross-border co-operation between security authorities.



## Bilateral police project in Tunisia

The Federal Police launched a pilot project for Police Equipment & Training Assistance/Police Cooperation (PAH) in North Africa back in 2015. Since then, the project office in Tunisia has been a manifestation of the Federal Police's (border) policing focus in North Africa and its commitment to security sector reform. The PAH there supports the Tunisian National Guard and the local border and immigration police in their efforts to combat cross-border crime and terrorism. An integral part of the work is teaching democratic principles, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Tunisia is receiving support in border protection, document and certificate security as well as in education and training. The Federal Police is also involved in the roll-out of the EU-funded project to bolster the Tunisian coastguard.





Review of the Year 2023



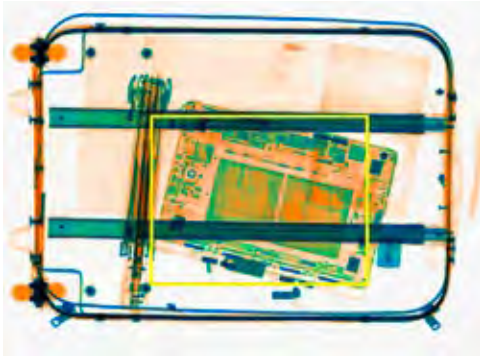


# The Year 2023

January 2023

## Computer tomography for aviation security checks

The Federal Police introduced computerised tomography in regular aviation security checks in January 2023. This was preceded by two years of testing of the technology. Computer tomography makes it possible to create three-dimensional images of passengers' hand luggage during the screening process. This will significantly reduce the time needed for checks, as it will no longer be necessary to remove electronic items and liquids from hand luggage. In future, computer tomographs will be used nationwide at every major commercial airport in Germany.



January 2023

## Support operation

The clearance of the occupied former village of Lützerath on the "Garzweiler II" open-cast mining site began on 11 January 2023. The Federal Police supported the police of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia with police officers and technical equipment.



January

February

March



January 2023

## "All Cops Are Beautiful" billboard

The Federal Police is aiming to reach new target groups with unusual advertising campaigns and communicate that the police profession is an appealing and meaningful occupation. The giant poster with the slogan "All Cops Are Beautiful" at Alexanderplatz in Berlin and the social media campaign of the same title drew young people's attention to the Federal Police and its wide-ranging fields of employment. The slogan deliberately invited a critical examination of the well-known, derogatory abbreviation "A.C.A.B."



March 2023

## Official inauguration of the "Daniel Nivel" Franco-German Operational Unit

On 14 March 2023, the "Daniel Nivel" Franco-German Operational Unit (DFEE) was officially inaugurated with a formal ceremony. The event had to be postponed several times due to the pandemic. The DFEE is an important pillar of police cooperation between France and Germany and has established itself as a successful force since it was founded in 2019. The addition of the name „Daniel Nivel“ was chosen in honour of the French gendarme who was beaten into a coma by German football hooligans at the 1998 World Cup in Lens and is still suffering from the consequences today.



March 2023

### Smartphone with “shocking” feature

An unusual smartphone was found during an aviation security check at Frankfurt am Main Airport. The Explosives Disposal Unit identified the object, which resembled an iPhone and had previously been categorised as a dangerous object, as a stun gun. The electric shock can be triggered by pressing a slide switch at the same time as the volume button. This object could have been used to incapacitate a person to the point of being unable to move. The device was confiscated. Investigation proceedings were initiated against the traveller.



April 2023

### Facial recognition system catches offenders

Federal Police investigators were able to identify the perpetrator of an assault offence at a railway station in Frankfurt. He was recorded by security cameras during the attack. Composite sketches were uploaded to a facial recognition system, possible matches made by the software were analysed and compared several times with image databases. This made it possible to identify the previously unknown suspect. A warrant to search the flat was issued and not only the accused but also his conspicuous clothing was found.



April



April 2023

### Evacuation from Sudan

In April 2023, a conflict between state forces and a paramilitary group escalated in the Sudanese capital Khartoum. The Federal Police's Diplomatic Security Service (PSA BPOL), which is responsible for protecting German missions abroad, provided ongoing technical police support to the security advisor at the mission in Khartoum. The Personal Protection Command (PSK) of the PSA BPOL was alerted and a Crisis Support Team (KUT) was formed with the involvement of the Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces). Together, they evacuated 700 people from 30 nations, including 170 German citizens, from neighbouring Jordan during a ceasefire.

May



May 2023

### Rallye Rejviz international police and rescue service competition

In May 2023, officers from the Federal Police took part in the international police and rescue service competition called “Rallye Rejviz” in the Czech Republic. The 27 teams had to complete challenging exercises in the “Police” and “Rescue Service” disciplines. The very realistic scenarios were based on events from the recent past. Slovakia came out on top. The Federal Police team from Germany took 2nd place, followed by their Polish colleagues in 3rd place.



2023

## Container smuggling – The fight against an inhumane business model

According to the EU border protection agency Frontex, in 2023, Europe recorded the highest number of unauthorised arrivals since 2015. Last year, the Federal Police detected 127,549 people who entered Germany without authorisation. This represents an increase of around 39 % compared to 2022.

Detecting container smuggling is a particular focus of border control<sup>1</sup> activities. In 2023, more than 1,200 cases involving a total of around 17,500 smuggled individuals were detected nationwide. This is double the number of cases compared to the previous year. The number of smuggling victims rose almost fivefold.

The term container smuggling describes the inhumane transport of people in vehicles in a manner not intended for passenger transport. This results in life-threatening situations for the people being smuggled caused by a lack of oxygen, dehydration, hypothermia and an increased risk of injury in the event of accidents. In most cases, the smuggled individuals set off on their journey unaware of these conditions. International organised crime groups hide the migrants in trucks or vans between the cargo. In some cases, conventional cars are also loaded with up to a dozen people. They then endure journeys lasting hours or even days until they arrive at their destination – without a seat and without food, let alone seatbelts or bathroom breaks.

<sup>1</sup> On 16 October 2023, temporary internal border controls were introduced at the land borders of the Federal Republic of Germany with Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland. These were ordered by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) and previously notified by the European Commission.

### Large-scale smuggling with fatal consequences

On 13 October 2023, Federal Police officers attempted to inspect a van with an Austrian license plate near Töging am Inn (Bavaria). The driver, a 24-year-old stateless Palestinian, tried to avoid the checkpoint. He lost control of the vehicle on a motorway exit at a very high speed – with no regard for the 23 migrants in the vehicle. It rolled over several times. Officers immediately administered first aid at the scene of the accident and were able to save one person's life. Seven people died, including a 6-year-old child. All the other victims were taken to hospital. Psychosocial emergency response teams from various emergency services attended to the people deployed at the scene. The Traunstein public prosecutor's office obtained a warrant for the driver's arrest on charges including murder. No verdict had been reached by the time of publication.

### Smuggler convicted of murder

13 July 2023, Saxony, Autobahn 17, near the border with the Czech Republic: Officers of the Federal Police attempted to stop a van. However, the driver tried to escape at high speed across a field and crashed. The vehicle overturned several times. Eight people – including a child – were trapped in the van's cargo area, some of them suffering serious injuries. A 25-year-old woman died at the scene of the accident. The driver, a 22-year-old Georgian, was apprehended by Federal Police officers with the help of a police helicopter after briefly escaping on foot. He is known to the police and has previously served a six-month prison sentence for smuggling offenses.

In March 2024, the Georgian was sentenced to life imprisonment by Dresden Regional Court for one count of murder, seven counts of attempted murder, seven counts of grievous bodily harm, one count of smuggling of foreign nationals resulting in death and five counts of gang and commercial smuggling of foreign nationals. The court upheld the plea of the public prosecutor's office. The court found that by leaving the injured persons in the vehicle involved in the accident and fleeing, this confirmed the conclusion that murder was the appropriate charge. Moreover, the accused had accepted the court proceedings without any emotion or conscience, and even appeared bored. The joint work of several Federal Police District Offices provided valuable evidence for the trial in the "Trafic" investigation conducted by the Federal Police. Analysis of seized smartphones, facial recognition searches and witness interviews were incorporated into the meticulous presentation of evidence and enabled a verdict to be reached within six months.





June 2023

#### Renewed fighting of forest fires from the air

In response to requests from individual federal states, the helicopters of the Federal Police once again helped to fight forest fires from the air. Together with numerous (volunteer) fire departments, aid organizations and the German Armed Forces, Federal Police helicopters were deployed in various regions of Germany in June 2023 to fight forest fires. The helicopter crews dropped a total of around 711,000 litres of extinguishing water in the course of 395 overflights.



July 2023

#### No summer let-up in manhunts

In July 2023, Federal Police searches resulted in three successful arrests. Firstly, a Cameroonian national wanted for computer fraud and money laundering was arrested in Strasbourg in conjunction with the French authorities. A short time later, an arrest warrant was executed in Darmstadt against a fugitive Syrian people and drug smuggler, who was later sentenced to a total of six years' imprisonment by the Kassel Regional Court. Finally, the Federal Police's longest-running manhunt to date was concluded in Vienna with the execution of the arrest warrant for an Iranian smuggler who was responsible for the deaths of several victims of smuggling, and her extradition to Germany was completed.

June

July



June 2023

#### Special Olympics World Games 2023

The opening ceremony of the Special Olympics World Games 2023 took place on 17 June 2023 in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. Some 3,000 athletes travelled to and from their accommodation in the surrounding area on four special S-Bahn trains from Berlin Ostbahnhof to the Olympic Stadium and back. The Federal Police ensured the safe arrival and departure of the athletes to and from this major event on a daily basis. The majority of the athletes departed from Berlin-Brandenburg Airport on 26 June 2023. In order to ensure a seamless event, the Federal Police worked with the process partners to streamline operations and ensure the smooth departure of the participants and their accompanying persons. Given the variety and size of the sports equipment being transported, every interface from check-in to departure was coordinated.

July 2023

#### New official patch in the Federal Police – MED

The role designation “MED” – for “medicine” – was introduced to make it easier to recognise members of the Police Medical Services (PÄD). PÄD officers can now be recognised by a patch on the right sleeve of their uniform and on their emergency rucksack. This means that medical care can be provided even faster in emergency situations if necessary.





August 2023

### Super-recognisers score matches during Bundesliga game

Super-recognisers from the Federal Police supported the Bremen State Police at the opening match of the Bundesliga season. The aim of the operation was to recognise and identify suspects after numerous violations of the Explosives Act during a previous match. Several suspects were identified. The state police then established the identities of the suspects for subsequent investigation work.

August

September

September 2023

### 15 years of the Diplomatic Security Service

In April 2008, the Federal Ministry of the Interior mandated the Federal Police to provide personal protection for ambassadors in crisis areas. This was the birth of what is now the Diplomatic Security Service (PSA). On 6 September 2023, the Federal Police celebrated the Unit's 15th anniversary with a ceremony in front of around 200 invited guests. The demands placed on the PSA BPOL have grown over time. The range of duties that its officers perform has also broadened. What began as a personal protection service in areas with a heightened police threat level and was later supplemented by the Building Security and Property Protection Service has developed into a service with a holistic approach based on the guiding principle of "security from a single source".

August 2023

### 20 people locked in a van

Another unscrupulous smuggler was caught by the Federal Police in Burghausen (Bavaria) on 21 August 2023. The officers inspected a van with Hungarian licence plates near the border with Austria. The driver, a 28-year-old Syrian, was able to provide proper identification with his Syrian passport and a Swedish residence permit. A total of 20 women, men and children of Syrian origin were discovered crammed into the cargo area of the vehicle. The Federal Police initiated criminal proceedings against the driver for smuggling of foreign nationals under life-threatening circumstances. The accused was brought before a judge, who decided to keep him in custody. The investigation was still ongoing at the time of publication.



September 2023

### Nordic Medic Week

Between 11 and 15 September, the Federal Police Special Forces GSG 9 trained with Scandinavian special units as part of Nordic Medic Week. Specialist units from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden take part in the annual training programme. These meetings are intended to promote joint training, development and evaluation of medical deployment procedures. They focus on performing evacuations from difficult terrain, decontaminating casualties and extending casualty care right through to hospitalisation.

September 2023

### 468 illegal border crossings in 24 hours

On 13 September 2023, officers from the Pirna Federal Police Directorate (Saxony) apprehended a total of 468 people who had entered the country unlawfully during inspections in their jurisdiction. The majority (378 people) were Syrian nationals. This is the highest number of detentions within a 24-hour period to date.





October 2023

## Temporary reintroduction of internal border controls

Internal border controls have been temporarily reintroduced at the land borders of the Federal Republic of Germany with Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland since 16 October 2023 – in addition to the controls already in place at the land border with Austria since September 2015.<sup>1</sup> These were ordered by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) and previously notified by the European Commission. This was prompted by the sharp rise in migration figures at the eastern and southern borders of the country and the associated threats to public safety and order.

These temporarily reintroduced internal border controls are generally carried out in a flexible manner in terms of time and location. They are also accompanied by random police checks conducted by both the Federal Police and the police authorities of the respective federal states.

### Balance sheet until 31 December 2023

In the period between 16 October and 31 December 2023, the Federal Police detected a total of 18,930 unauthorised border crossings along the four border sectors. Of these, 9,626 people were subject to measures to prevent entry into the country or to terminate their stay in Germany. A total of 440 smugglers were also identified.

Federal Police officers deployed at the four borders were also able to match 11,721 wanted persons following the introduction of these border controls. A total of 1,966 open arrest warrants were executed in the process. The police forces also matched 1,237 wanted items of property. These included passports and vehicles that had been reported stolen. In addition, numerous offences against the Narcotics Act and the Explosives and Weapons Act were detected.

440

Smugglers identified<sup>2</sup>

1,966

open arrest warrants executed<sup>2</sup>

1,237

Property recovered<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> By the time of publication (31 March 2024)

<sup>2</sup> 16 October – 31 December 2023







September 2023

#### Modernised video technology at railway stations

On 16 September 2023, around 800 supporters of the football clubs Borussia Dortmund and Hamburger SV, including 420 high-risk individuals, came into direct contact with each other at Mannheim Central Station on their way to a football match. After recognising each other, both camps spontaneously used the encounter for a large-scale physical altercation. As part of the investigation, the Federal Police were able to recognise 240 suspects and identify 163 people (as of 18 March 2024) thanks to the high quality of the images recorded by the video surveillance system at the station.

November 2023

#### Democratic Resilience Coordination Unit

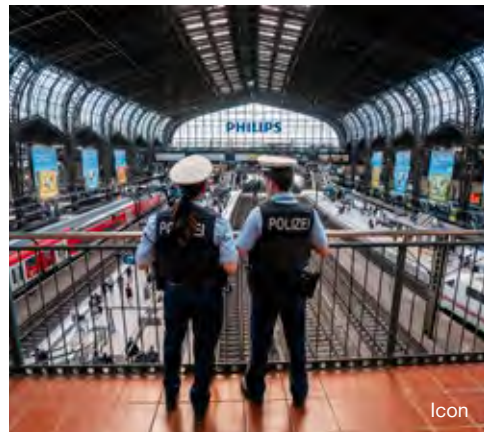
The ongoing trend towards social polarisation and extremist tendencies poses a steadily growing challenge to the free democratic basic order. The Democratic Resilience Coordination Unit was established at the Federal Police Headquarters on 1 November 2023 with the aim of consolidating and strengthening democratic principles within the Federal Police. It is the main point of contact for this issue at the Federal Police Headquarters and works with the relevant organisational units and other authorities to provide an overview of the approaches and measures and facilitate consistent, coordinated monitoring of the issue.

November 2023

#### CCICON23 cybersecurity conference

The protection of critical digital infrastructure is becoming increasingly important. The Federal Police is meeting this challenge through knowledge sharing, cooperation and innovation. In November 2023, the subject of cyber security brought together numerous security-related authorities at the Cyber Counter Intelligence Conference 2023 at the Federal Police Training Facility in Swisttal. The event was attended by more than 100 guests from international security authorities, research and corporate partners, representing a broad spectrum of experts. The conference provided a platform for sharing knowledge and discussing best practices, current challenges and innovative solutions.

October



October 2023

#### German Unity Day

At the beginning of October 2023, the city of Hamburg organised two days of celebrations to mark German Unity Day. A public festival involving more than 700,000 visitors was organised around the Binnenalster lake. The Federal Police deployed 1,200 officers to ensure the safety of rail travellers.

October 2023

#### Hamas attack on Israel

The attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 by the radical Islamist organisation Hamas, which is designated as a terrorist organisation, marked the outbreak of another armed conflict with far-reaching consequences in the Middle East. The crisis support teams deployed for the evacuation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Defence were supported by Federal Police officers in Beirut, Larnaca, Tel Aviv, Amman, Cairo and Rafah. The Federal Police is also supporting its Israeli partner units with protective equipment and specialised medical equipment, among other things.

November



December 2023

#### Visit by the Federal Chancellor to the Mounted Division

On 4 December 2023, Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, representing the German Bundestag, paid a visit to the Mounted Division of the Federal Police in Stahnsdorf (Brandenburg). To mark the occasion, Chancellor Scholz agreed to sponsor a service horse and sealed the occasion by “christening” the animal with the name Pacey. The Mounted Division is deployed nationwide in a range of different situations. Thanks to its expertise in police work with horses, the Division is a highly regarded international partner and regularly welcomes visitors seeking advice.





## Human Resources and Equipment





# Federal Police Human Resources

54,723 Employees

39,089  
police officers

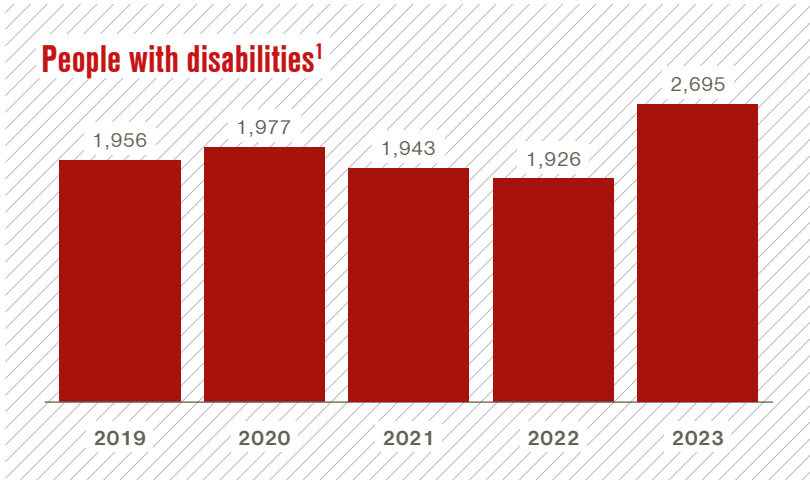
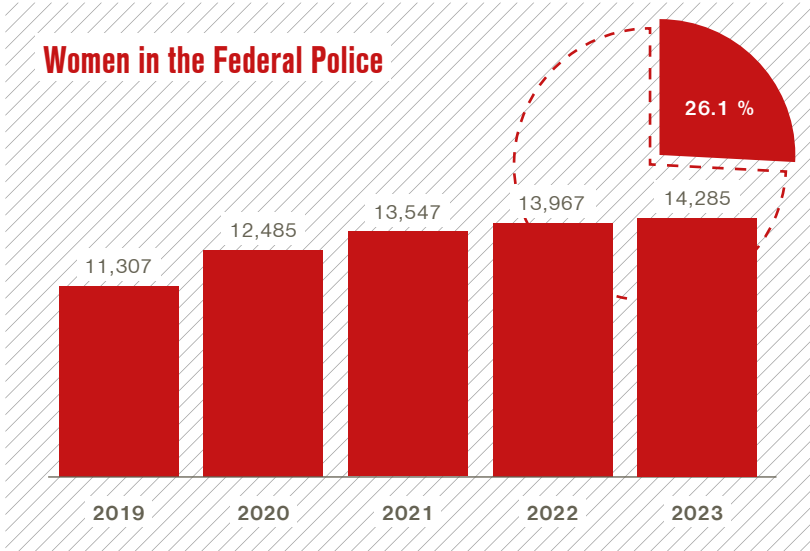
2,543  
administrative officers

6,030  
civil employees

6,796  
police officers in training

265  
apprentices

Reporting date 31.12.2023

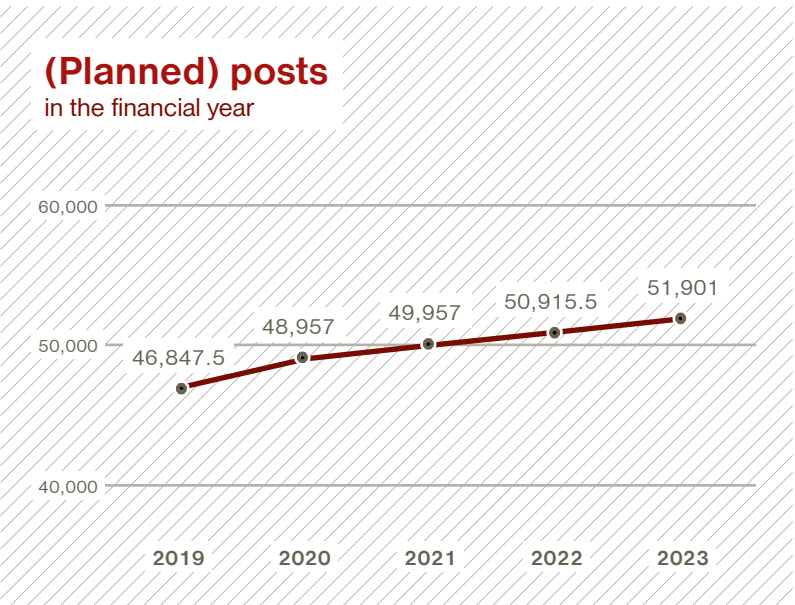


<sup>1</sup> 2019 - 2022 pursuant to Section 163 II SGB IX; 2023 pursuant to Section 2 Framework Inclusion Agreement of the Federal Police.

# Human Resources Budget

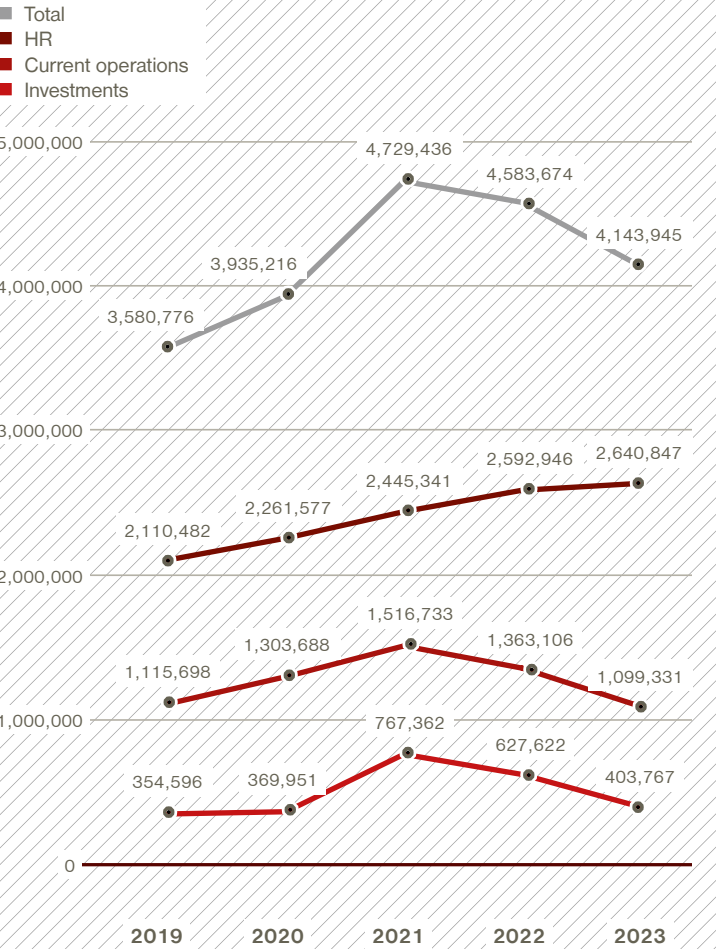
## Recruiting to the Formed Police Units of the Federal Police

The importance of the Formed Police Unit as a highly flexible element of the Federal Police is particularly reflected in the large number of hours that they are deployed for. Not only has the total number of deployment hours increased by 32% since 2021, the proportion of officers that have been deployed to reinforce Germany's Federal Police authorities has also risen. As a result, the Federal Police received additional budgeted positions in order to set up new units. As a consequence, six new police units were established in 2023. Around 850 graduates have now been appointed as probationary officers after successfully completing their training. This resulted in a rapid increase in the number of personnel. At the same time, the creation of new operational units has strengthened the capabilities of the Formed Police Units.



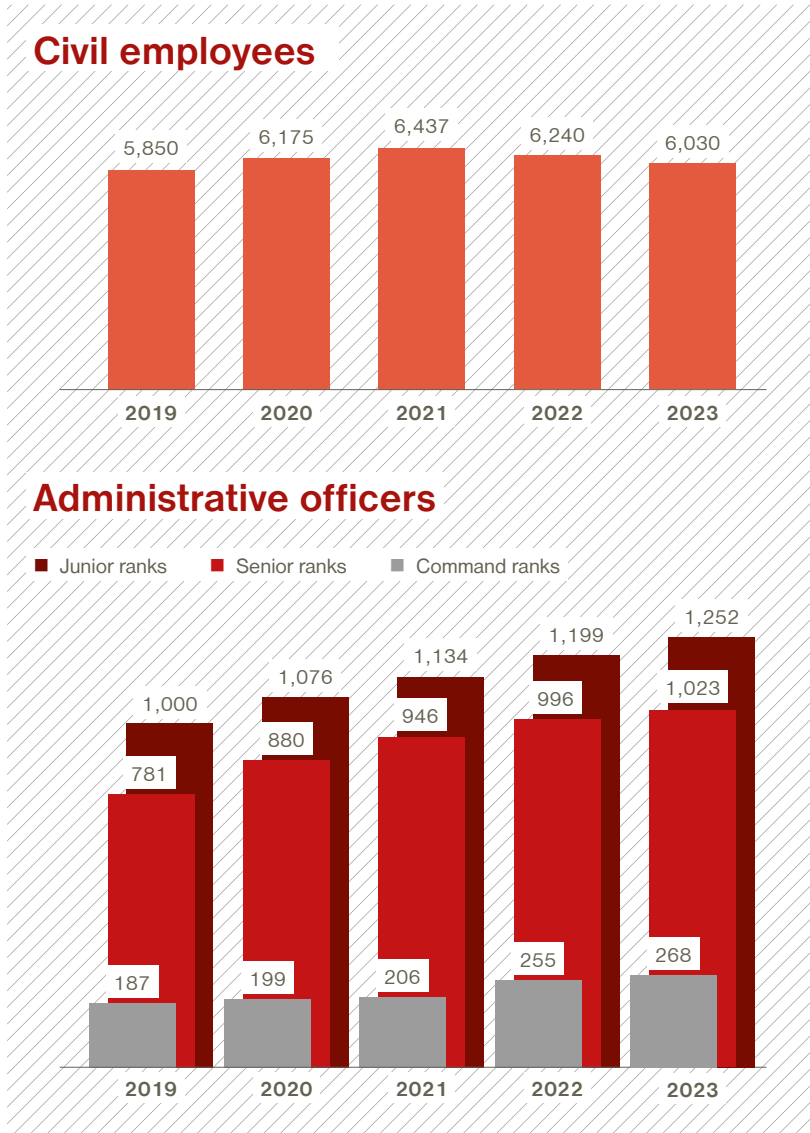
# Budget

## Budget trends for the Federal Police (in thousands of euros)

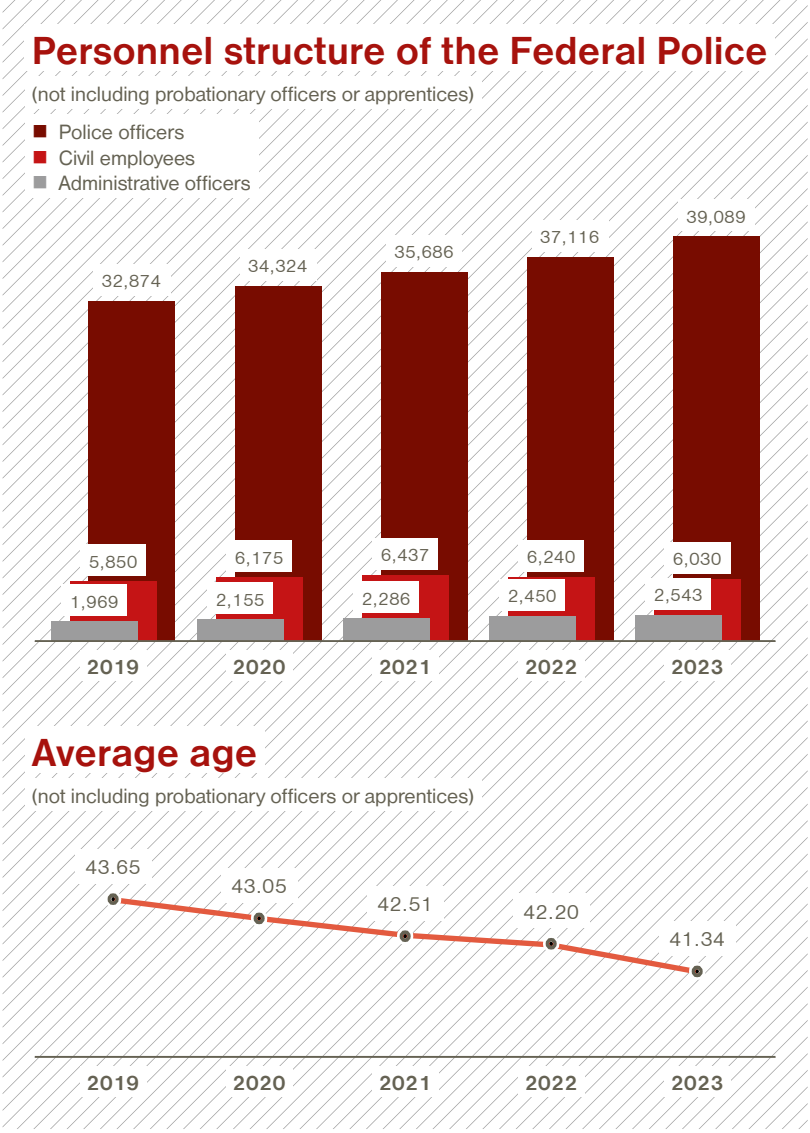
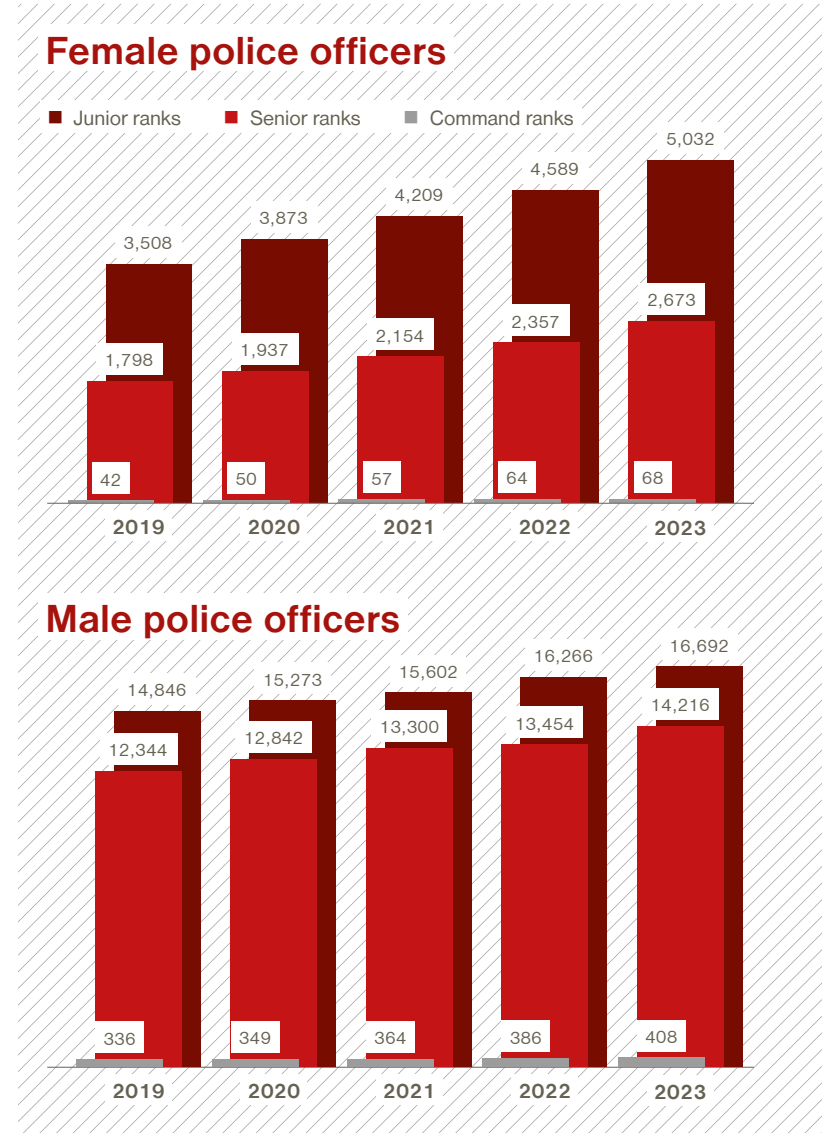




# Administration



# Law enforcement officers



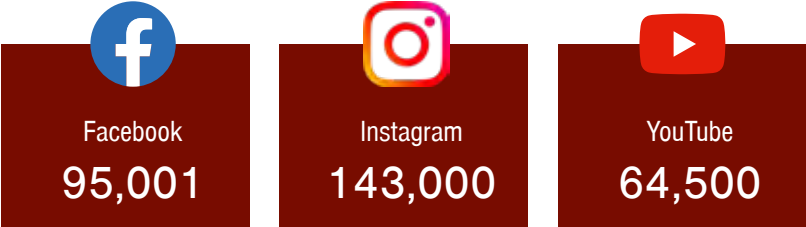
# Recruitment

An unusual advertising campaign by the German Federal Police to promote the diversity of the policing profession received overwhelmingly positive reviews in the German press and on social media. It has also been commended on an international level by various European police authorities. In January 2023, coinciding with Fashion Week, a large billboard was displayed for a fortnight on Alexanderplatz in Berlin and showed seven members of the Federal Police as “models”. The slogan “All Cops Are Beautiful” was used to emphasise the appeal of the various roles in the Federal Police. The slogan deliberately invited a critical examination of the well-known, derogatory abbreviation “A.C.A.B.”.

The Federal Police X-Perience Tour, which celebrated its premiere in 2022, was stepped up in 2023 and expanded from six to eleven stations. VR goggles were used to bring Federal Police deployment scenarios to life in virtual and three-dimensional form. They attracted lots of interested people at every event, who took home not only an impression of what the police force is like, but also information about working in the Federal Police.

Sharing the daily work of the Federal Police through social media channels continues to play an important role in recruiting young talent. The many and varied roles in the Federal Police are presented here in a target group-orientated way and reinforced by a personal approach. The social media editorial team was able to further increase the number of followers on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Another milestone was the launch of the Federal Police’s own career app. The structure of the young talent campaign allows interested parties to find out about the career paths and prepare for their own selection process directly online and offline with dictation, quiz questions and illustrative exercises for the physical fitness test.



Mit Sicherheit vielfältig.  
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Willkommen bei der  
**Bundespolizei**  
Karriere App!

Infos & Training für deinen  
Karrierestart.  
Komm in unser Team!

FÜR WELCHE LAUFBAHN  
INTERESSIERST DU DICH?

**MITTLERER**  
Polizeivollzugsdienst  
Mehr Infos

**GEHOBENER**  
Polizeivollzugsdienst  
Mehr Infos

“Federal Police Career” app

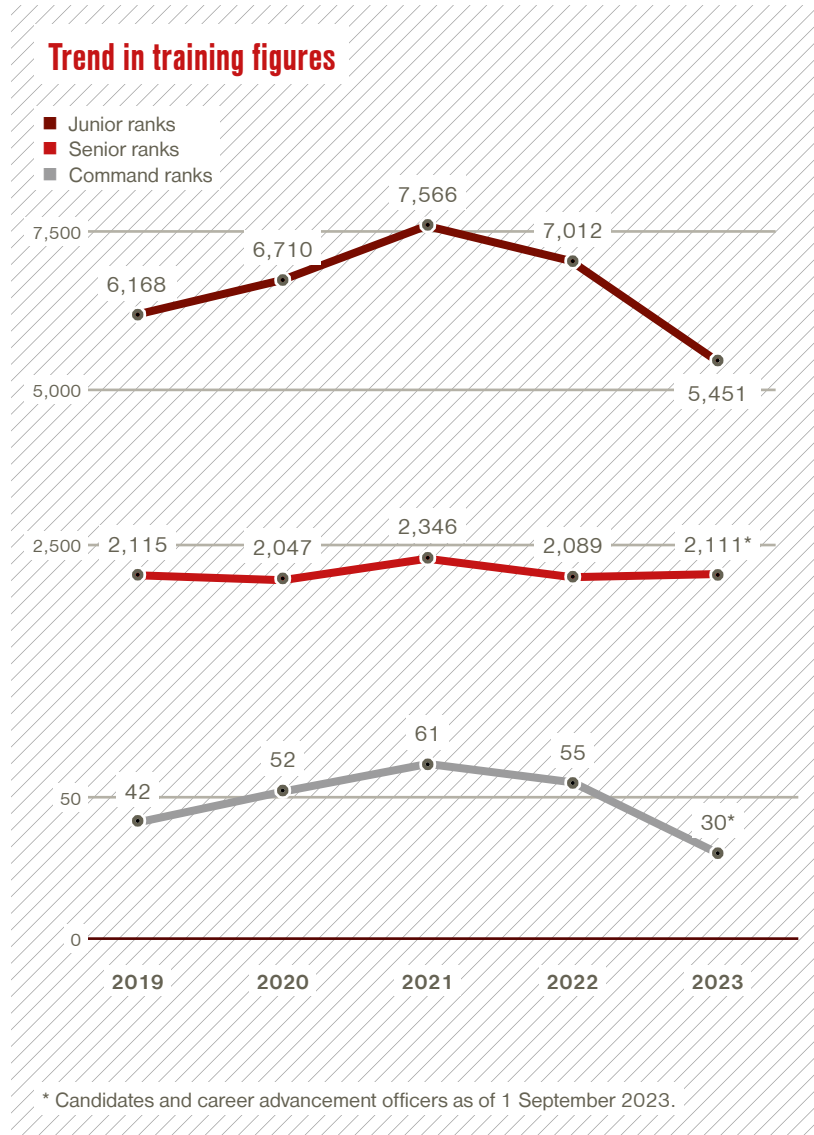
Google Play (Android)

App Store (iOS)





# Training



The Federal Parliament (Bundestag), the Federal Government and the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community have planned a total increase of around 17,500 additional posts and positions for the Federal Police between 2015 and 2026. Approximately 11,000 new employees will be hired to offset retirements and other staff losses. During this period, the Federal Police will recruit around 28,500 young men and women. Between 2015 and 2030, the Federal Police plans to recruit more than 41,000 men and women into junior and senior policing ranks.

This unique training initiative has required the support of the operational branch of the police organisation in the past and will continue to do so in the coming years in order to successfully train police trainees. The operational units and departments support the training programme by having experienced police officers take on teaching duties and introduce the candidates to real-life police work during their practical training.

The Federal Police's recruitment campaign continues to be successful. Between 2018 and 2023, around 13,700 junior police officers successfully completed their entry examinations to become Police Constables at the Federal Police Training Facilities in Bamberg, Diez, Neustrelitz, Eschwege, Walsrode, Oerlenbach and Swisttal and the Federal Police Training Facilities in Rotenburg an der Fulda and Bielefeld, as well as Inspectors at the Federal Police Academy in Lübeck. The graduates have been reinforcing the Federal Police Directorates ever since. These new colleagues are now helping to ensure security in the Federal Police's jurisdiction as part of a total of around 55,000 employees.

As of 1 September 2023, a total of 6,980 candidates were in training. Of these, 5,451 were training to become junior ranking police officers, 1,517 were training to become senior ranking police officers and 12 were training to become command rank police officers. A further 612 officers were in training for the next step up the career ladder.

# Careers in the Federal Police



## Junior Law enforcement officers

Basic training  
12 months

Further training  
including a 5-month  
internship  
12 months

Apprenticeship  
6 months

## Senior Law enforcement officers

Basic training  
4 months

Foundation course  
6 months

Main study programme,  
alternating practical training  
phases and individual  
internships  
26 months




## Command Law enforcement officers



1. Study period  
12 months

2. Study period  
12 months








# Job Titles and Service Ranks of the Federal Police

### Junior Law Enforcement Officers









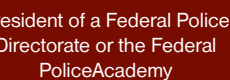

 Probationary Police Constable	 Support Officer
 Police Constable	 Senior Police Constable
 Police Sergeant	 Police Sergeant

<b>Promotion course for Senior Ranks</b>	<b>Promotion course for Command Ranks</b>
 here: Senior Police Constable	 here: Chief Inspector

### Senior Law Enforcement Officers

 Probationary Inspector	 Junior Inspector
 Inspector	 Senior Inspector
 Chief Inspector I	 Senior Chief Inspector
 Senior Chief Inspector	<i>Federal Maritime Police</i> <i>Federal Police, general</i>

### Command Ranks

 Probationary Superintendent	 Superintendent
 Chief Superintendent	 Senior Chief Superintendent
 Assistant Chief Constable	 Vice-President of a Federal Police Directorate or the Federal Police Academy
 Vice-President of the Federal Police Headquarters	 Federal Police Division Chief
 President of a Federal Police Directorate or the Federal Police Academy	 President of the Federal Police Headquarter

### Other areas

**Medical Personnel**

 Medical Officer	 Chief Medical Officer	 Medical Director
 Chief Medical Director	 Director attached to the Federal Police Headquarters	

**Administrative roles**

 Junior ranks	 Senior ranks	 Command ranks
--	--	---

**Federal Police Orchestra**

 Member	 Director
---	---

**Pastoral care in the Federal Police**

 (Senior) pastor	 Dean of the Federal Police
--	---



# Support for top-class sports

## Federal Police Sports College, Bad Endorf and Federal Police Sports School, Kienbaum

The Federal Police's two sports colleges offer top-class athletes ideal conditions to pursue their sporting careers alongside their police careers. In 2023, Federal Police athletes once again defended their leading positions at global competitions and celebrated some fantastic results.

### The 2023 sporting year

The 2023 sporting year was notable for a number of world championships for the 165 athletes of the German Federal Police. They won a total of 52 medals, of which 15 were gold, 11 silver and 6 bronze. At the Under 23, Junior and Youth World Championships, they won 8 gold, 9 silver and 3 bronze medals.

The third edition of the European Games took place in Poland from 21 June to 2 July 2023 in Krakow, the Lesser Poland and Isk regions. These were an important stepping stone for Team Germany on the road to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Many disciplines were held as European Championships or were considered qualifiers for the Olympic Games. A total of twelve Federal Police athletes were represented in five of the organised sports, half of whom made it onto the podium.

## Training and continued development at the Federal Police Sports Colleges

Since the introduction of the Dual Career Programme, the Federal Police has helped 736<sup>1</sup> top athletes competing in Olympic sports and trained them as junior ranking police officers. The training programme is adapted to the needs of world-class athletes and allows them to alternate seamlessly between police training, their periods of sports training and competitions.

Both of the Federal Police Sports College locations offer excellent conditions including state-of-the-art training facilities, comfortable accommodation and excellent facilities. After completing their police training, the athletes are almost completely released from policing duties for the duration of their sporting careers. The athletes keep their policing skills up-to-date by completing annual internships in an administrative office or Federal Police station.

In 2020, a shortened career advancement procedure was introduced to enable career development and increase the appeal of the dual training programme. So far, 38<sup>1</sup> former top athletes have taken advantage of this opportunity and successfully transitioned from junior to senior ranking police officers.



Lea Sophie Friedrich

## Medal table from the European Games in Poland 2023 (in alphabetical order)



### Gold

Timo Trummer Canoe Slalom, C1 Team (Men)



### Silver

Erik Abramov Judo, Team (Mixed)  
Miriam Butkerei Judo, Team (Mixed)  
Losseni Kone Judo, Team (Mixed)



### Bronze

Henrik Janssen Athletics, Team  
Michelle Kroppen Archery, Recurve Team (Mixed)

<sup>1</sup> Correct as of 31.12.2023

## Successes at the 2023 World Championships (in alphabetical order)<sup>2</sup>



### Gold

Sascha Benecken Luge: doubles, doubles/sprint, team relay  
Jessica Degenhardt Luge: doubles, doubles/sprint  
Francesco Friedrich 4-man bobsleigh  
Lea Sophie Friedrich Track cycling: teamsprint  
Tim Hecker Canoe racing: C2 500 m  
Peter Kretschmer Canoe racing: C2 500 m  
Michelle Kroppen Archery: Recurve Team  
Felix Loch Luge: Monobob/sprint  
Max Rendschmidt Canoe racing: K4 500 m  
Anna Rupprecht Ski jumping: Team (normal hill)  
Alexander Schüller 4-man bobsleigh  
Charline Schwarz Archery: Recurve Team



### Silver

Moritz Adam Canoe racing: C2 1000 m  
Tobias Arlt Luge: doubles, doubles/sprint  
Sebastian Brendel Canoe racing: C1 5000 m  
Pia Fink Cross-country skiing: Relay team 4 x 5 km  
Francesco Friedrich 2-man bobsleigh  
Lea Sophie Friedrich Track cycling: Sprint  
Lisa Jahn Canoe racing: C4 500 m  
Michelle Kroppen Archery: Recurved Team (Mixed)  
Kira Lipperheide 2-man bobsleigh  
Alexander Schüller 2-man bobsleigh



### Bronze

Sebastian Brendel Canoe racing: C1 1000 m  
Lea Sophie Friedrich Track cycling: Keirin, 500 m time trial  
Lisa Jahn Canoe racing: C2 200 m  
Albert Kuchler Cross-country skiing: Relay team 4 x 10 km  
Karl Schulze Rowing: Beach sprint/single

<sup>2</sup> Excluding Under 23, Junior and Youth World Championships.



Anna Rupprecht



Peter Kretschmer (l.) and Tim Hecker



# Medical and Safety Personnel



### Police Medical Services Team

Coordinates the provision of emergency medical services nationwide. Defines binding principles and parameters for the provision of medical care from first aid to (emergency) medical care and aftercare.

### Occupational Health Service

Occupational health and safety is an expression of the employer's duty of care. The Occupational Health Department provides nationwide care for all police employees in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act.



### Social Sciences Service

Contributes to the well-being and productivity of all employees through its activities and services in the fields of psychosocial support, mediation, operational support and empirical research.

### Occupational Health Management

Occupational health management refers to the design, management and development of company structures and processes in order to make the organisation and behaviour in the workplace more favourable to health. It is intended to benefit employees and employers alike.

### Workplace Safety Service

Workplace safety specialists are tasked with supporting the heads of divisions in all matters relating to occupational health and safety, including ensuring that work is designed in an appropriate manner.

### Medical Care Team

Processes applications for benefits from those entitled to medical care, handles the settlement of medical benefits and ensures that medical records are stored for all law enforcement officers of the Federal Police.



### Addiction and Social Counselling

Point of contact within the Federal Police for a variety of social concerns and issues. Its responsibilities include advising and supporting employees and managers.

### Police Medical Services Training

Is responsible for basic and advanced medical training in the Federal Police and ensures curative and occupational medical care at the facilities of the Federal Police Academy. In 2023, 3,383 selection examinations of candidates for the police service and 36 medical training courses with 474 participants were carried out.



### Social Medical Service

The Social Medical Service provides expert opinions on all official examinations relating to recruitment, lifetime appointment and potential incapacity to work.



603

personnel in the medical, workplace safety and social science services

MED

63

police doctors

126

medical specialists

220

police paramedics

28

workplace safety specialists

7

physiotherapists

44

personnel in the Medical Care Team

26

members of staff in the Social Sciences Services

2023

1,611

deployments

Police doctors were deployed in **363** of these cases.

32,972

hours worked

1,067

treatments





## Pastoral care in the Federal Police

28 federal police chaplains are available throughout Germany for the almost 55,000 members of the Federal Police, regardless of their religion, denomination or ideology. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – even at Christmas and Easter.

Pastoral care means being available when someone needs a person to talk to. Pastoral care draws on the many years of experience that its practitioners have gained from supporting people in a wide range of life's crises. Pastoral care is extremely discreet. Confidentiality and the seal of confession guarantee that confidentiality is permanently and unbreakably maintained.

With its wide range of conference programmes, the Federal Police Chaplaincy regularly offers events that focus on personal strength and guidance in everyday or particularly challenging work.

The chaplains of the Federal Police are already involved in training courses for police officers. Teaching professional ethics is a prerequisite for ensuring that police work can be carried out in a well-founded and responsible manner.

Federal Police chaplains are on hand to provide flexible support to those affected, especially when an operation is likely to become particularly stressful.





# Command and Operational Equipment



93  
pneumatic  
tents



28  
service horses



434  
service dogs



101,920,587  
kilometres driven



3,266  
cars



of which 35 with  
alternative propulsion



126  
buses



1,777  
operational vehicles of  
the Formed Police Units



15  
water cannons



166  
motorcycles



635  
bicycles



4  
segways



2  
snowmobiles



92  
rescue  
vehicles

# Helicopters



21,349  
Flight hours



24  
reconnaissance  
and observation  
helicopters



19  
light transport  
helicopters



23  
medium-sized  
transport helicopters



10  
single-engine  
training helicopters



18  
civil defence  
helicopters

The Federal Police operated 94 helicopters of various types in 2023. 76 of them were used for day-to-day Federal Police tasks. A continuous standby service allows for rapid deployment in emergency situations, for example for the Federal Police Special Forces GSG 9. Helicopters can also be deployed to provide disaster support at the request of individual federal states, for example in the event of flooding or forest fires. Federal Police helicopters are predominantly maintained by our own specialised personnel at five locations across Germany. There are also 18 federal civil defence helicopters, which are flown by Federal Police pilots and maintained by Federal Police aircraft mechanic technicians.





# Ships



163,064  
Nautical miles travelled



7  
ocean-going  
deployment  
vessels



5  
control boats,  
2 of which currently  
deployed abroad



29,589  
deployment  
hours at sea

The Federal Maritime Police performs police duties in the North Sea and Baltic Sea. These include border surveillance, combatting crime, intervening in the event of acts of violence or terrorist attacks, environmental police and customs tasks, as well as supporting the Federal Central Command for Maritime Emergencies and the five coastal states in the context of maritime emergency response. To this end, the Federal Maritime Police have four Potsdam Class (Type P86) ocean-going patrol vessels. The newest ship, the BP 84 “Neustadt”, was launched in summer 2023. The fleet also includes two of the Bad Bramstedt Class (Type P66). The Federal Police has five control boats for use in coastal areas. These were built or put into service between 2006 and 2008.

**Federal Police to have its own training ship**  
The launch of the BP 84 has resulted in increased training and professional development requirements. The demands on maritime specialists are increasing. The decision was therefore taken to convert the BP 26 Eschwege into a multi-purpose training ship. Extensive maintenance and modernisation measures have been underway since August 2023 to prepare the ship for its future use as a training vessel. This means that the Federal Maritime Police will have a training ship suitable for the high seas for the first time from 2024.

**Frontex Mission: Operation Poseidon**  
The German Federal Police have been supporting the Greek authorities in patrolling the EU’s external border in the Aegean Sea in the eastern Mediterranean since 2016. Two control boats operated by the German Federal Police are part of the “Frontex Joint Operation Poseidon”. Their crews’ main objectives are to prevent illegal migration and combat cross-border smuggling. The two units have been given a new base after more than seven years of operation. They were relocated from the Greek island of Samos to the island of Leros, around 70 kilometres to the south-east, when the German contingent was transferred at the end of March 2023.





## Voice and radio data transmission

### Mission: to create the strongest mobile radio network in Germany

A powerful radio network is extremely important for communication during operations. The Federal Police uses an extremely fail-safe, powerful and tap-proof BOS digital radio network. This is also used by the police forces of the federal states, the fire services, ambulance services and other federal and state security authorities. The operator of this network is the Federal Agency for Public Safety Digital Radio (BDBOS). BOS digital radio has been significantly expanded in recent years to guarantee reliable communication even in the most remote areas – including places such as large wooded areas, underground railway tunnels or buildings with poor conditions for conventional radio communication.

### Radio Monitoring Service: the signal booster

Communications must function reliably during operations, even under extreme conditions. The Federal Police's Radio Monitoring Service monitors the stability and performance of radio coverage in a specific operational area as and when required. This means that technical measures can be instigated in poorly covered areas and the necessary operational communication requirements can be met. This service is also provided to other authorities. Law enforcement officers benefit from these tests in the course of their regular duties, but above all in exceptional operational situations. These include large-scale events.



1,741  
overt vests



50,693  
covert vests



57,901  
P30 BPOL



12.190  
MP5



922  
Special  
weapons



64  
Stun guns  
(in trial stage)

## Individual service equipment

Undergarment waist-  
coat with ballistic  
protection (here in  
its tactical version)

Pepper spray

Spare magazine

First aid pouch

Radio set

Bodycam

Smartphone

Service weapon  
with safety holster

Torch

Handcuffs

Baton, short,  
extendable

Service belt



List of abbreviations

BFE	Evidence and Arrest Unit	Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
BOS	Authorities and organisations with security remits	GSG 9 BPOL	Federal Police Special Forces GSG 9
BPOL	Federal Police	GUA	Border Police Support Officers Abroad
BPOLABT	Federal Police Battalion	gZ	Higher grade (senior rank pay supplement)
BPOLAFZ	Federal Police Centres for Basic and Advanced Training	GZ	Police and Customs Cooperation Centre
		h	Hours
BPOLAST	Federal Police Basic Training Facility	IT	Information technology
BPOLD	Federal Police Directorate	KB	Crime control
BPOLFLS	Federal Police Helicopter Squadron	kg	Kilogramme
BPoIG	Federal Police Act	km	Kilometre
BPOLI	Federal Police District Office	LIES	Country-Specific Information System
BPOLSPSCH	Federal Police Sports College	MFE	Mobile Search Unit
BPOLTZK	Federal Police Mountain Training Centre, K�hroinhaus	M	Million
		m	metre
COVID-19	Infectious disease SARS-CoV-2 – coronavirus	MK�	Mobile Surveillance and Monitoring Unit
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid	B	Billion
DVB	Document and Visa Advisors	mZ	Middle grade (junior rank pay supplement)
ED	Records Department	OWi	Administrative offence
ETIAS	European Travel Information and Authorisation System	PES	Police Entry Data
		PNR	Passenger Name Record
EU	European Union	PSA BPOL	Diplomatic Security Service
Europol	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation	VB BPOL	Federal Police Liaison Officers
		WC	World Championship



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