



Federal Police's 2020 activity report

Home

I present to you the 2020 Federal Police's annual report, again only in digital form, visually elaborated and structured around the same four parts:

- security;
- information management;
- the Federal Police, an organisation;
- the police as an employer.



Of course, the year 2020 requires an additional chapter on the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on our operations. We handled that impact very well and this deserves a huge compliment for every staff member of our corps.

Enjoy your reading."

FIRST CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MARC DE MESMAEKER
General Commissioner of the Federal Police

[The Integrated Police faced with the health crisis](#)

The health situation has affected various aspects of the functioning of our organisation, both the police missions in the field and the internal functioning.



[Security](#)

Our mission: to contribute to security and liveability in society. Every day, our people do their utmost to achieve this goal. Here are the figures of our activities for your safety.

[Information management](#)

Information is the basis for police action. Its effective management is essential to ensure safety. In this field, digital transformation is a challenge that we are gradually taking up.





[The Federal Police, an organisation](#)

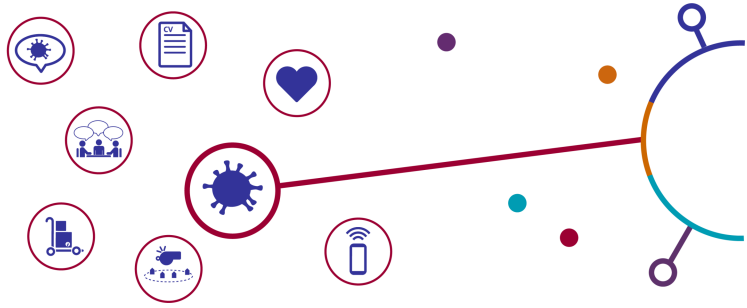
Human, financial, logistical and ICT resources are essential to our smooth operation. We can see that the New Way of Working is gaining momentum at the Federal Police.

[The police as an employer](#)

Recruiting the right profiles, the right people, training them sustainably to the best of their ability remains a permanent challenge. An overview of our actions in these areas over the past year.



The Integrated Police faced with the health crisis



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- The health situation has had an impact on various aspects of the functioning of our organisation, ...
- ... both on police missions in the field and on the internal functioning.
- Tools have been developed to carry out the various missions and to ensure their implementation under the responsibility of the Federal Police.

“Proud of the resilience shown”

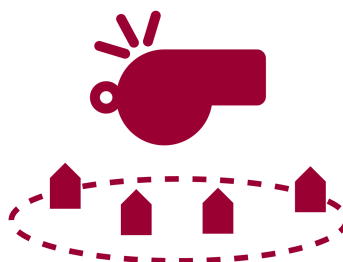
"2020 will go down in history as the year when all our habits suddenly changed drastically due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. In trying to control this virus, an important role was given to police as enforcers of the new corona measures. A role that came on top of the challenge to also organise regular police work 'covid-proof'. During the management of this crisis, the establishment of the COVID-19 Task Force proved to be a powerful form of cooperation. But above all, we can be proud of the resilience shown by all our employees, which allowed the population to continue to count on our services at all times."



CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ANKE Stakenborg
President of the COVID-19 Task Force Integrated Police



[COVID-19 Task Force for the Integrated Police](#)



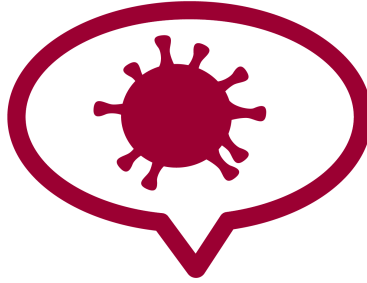
[Public order missions in the context of the enforcement of the corona measures](#)



[Accelerated digital transformation](#)



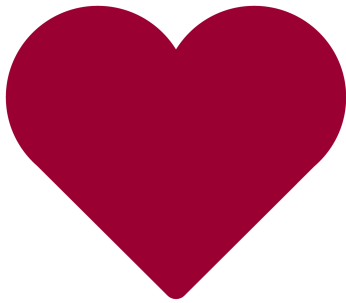
The logistical challenge



Communication in times of corona:
all hands on deck



Recruitment and selection: good
results, despite COVID-19



Staff and well-being

COVID-19 Task Force for the Integrated Police

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CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ANKE STAKENBORG

President of the COVID-19 Task Force Integrated Police

On 12 March 2020, the Task Force of the Federal Police was set up to enable rapid management and immediate implementation of the rules laid down by the government. On 16 March, it was expanded into a COVID-19 Task Force for the Integrated Police (TF GPI).

The aim is to be able to monitor decisions in real time, to provide guidelines as a decision-making body, but also to act as a central contact point for information, documentation and questions. Representatives of the TF GPI also participated in the meetings of the various strategic bodies, allowing it to play an active role in the decision-making processes.

The creation of the GPI Task Force and the publication of the ministerial circulars GPI 94 and GPI 94bis on the guidelines with regard to the measures taken to combat the COVID-19 virus have facilitated and strengthened the integrated police management of this crisis. The structure and working method proved effective in responding to the various challenges.



Ministerial visit to the General Commissioner's Office of the Federal Police during a meeting of the GPI Task Force held online.

To enable continuous service, all services have developed their own Business Continuity Plan (BCP). These plans provide an overview of the minimum services to be ensured. These BCPs are activated as soon as the number of absent staff members becomes problematic. In addition, police entities must alert the GPI Task Force as soon as they activate their BCP, so that the necessary arrangements can be made to strengthen certain services in order to guarantee the minimum service.

The following guiding principles were put forward for the BCPs:

- determining what the most 'critical' or 'essential' tasks are within each service/directorate;
- identifying the processes related to these tasks and the actors needed to perform them or to act in the event of interruption or disruption;
- assessing the impact on the resources to be made available or the working methods to be used.



COVID-19 co-ordinators for coronavirus measures at the office

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Integrated Police made full use of remote working in a concerted effort to combat the virus.

However, there are many roles within the police force that simply cannot be performed from home. For those who had to be at the office, efforts were made to ensure that everything could be done there as safely as possible and in accordance with the COVID-19 measures.

In view of the multitude of measures and their adjustments, the General Directorate of Resource Management and Information (DGR) proposed appointing a COVID-19 co-ordinator for each directorate. These co-ordinators saw to it that the rules were observed, but they were also the point of contact for colleagues who had questions about the COVID-19 situation or measures.

“All the covid coordinators did a fantastic job.”

“If we forgot to put on our masks or if we forgot to clean the photocopier, for example, they kindly reminded us. And rightly so. I thank them for that. At times when the number of covid patients increased, we very much needed everyone who could help us to stay safe and healthy.”



FIRST ADVISOR VAN RYCKEGHEM DOMINIQUE
*Acting General Director of Resource Management and Information
(DGR)*

Public order missions in the context of the enforcement of the corona measures

Regardless of the crisis, the Federal Police is obliged to continue fulfilling its essential missions, taking into account the health measures in force and their evolution, in order to ensure the safety of society.

As a result of the health crisis and government decisions, the police have indeed been given additional tasks, such as:

- monitoring compliance with the ban on gathering;
- controlling the mandatory wearing of a mouth mask;
- controlling non-essential movements, including at border crossings;
- monitoring compliance with social distancing rules;
- controlling the closure of non-essential commercial and catering premises;
- controlling the ban on fireworks;
- monitoring observance of the curfew;
- securing warehouses and the transport of vaccines;
- controlling the mandatory completion of the PLF form for returning residents or a negative test result for foreigners;
- controlling quarantine and testing;
- the control of not attending/organising a lockdown party;
- monitoring the ban on alcohol consumption on public roads;
- etc.

The new missions related to corona enforcement were rather atypical and almost unnatural for the police: they suddenly had to turn to citizens and fine them for making non-essential movements, because they had gathered with more than four people standing outside, or for not wearing a mask. Tasks that sometimes have a negative impact on the relationship between the police and citizens.

Number of official reports registered for COVID-19 offences

Number of offences	2020
'Public health' offence	29 139
Non-compliance with ban on gathering	58 652
Non-compliance with travel ban	57 411
Non-compliance with mask rules	25 604
Non-compliance with social distancing rules	10 001
Non-compliance with closure order	1 204
Non-compliance with alcohol rules	769
Non-observance opening hours	685

Number of offences	2020
Non-compliance with prevention and hygiene rules (professionals)	565
Non-compliance with rules on group/participant limitation	246
Non-compliance with ban on the use of water pipes	214
Non-compliance with terms by customers	200
Non-compliance with rules on registration of personal details	194
Non-observance ban on eating/drinking	193
Non-observance ban on attending an illegal party	146
Non-compliance with Passenger Locator Form rules	129
Non-compliance with other COVID-19 measures	254
Other offences with Public Prosecutor's Office index 62 (public health)	6 082
Total	191 688



Success Story

Airport Police assist with land border inspections

During the first wave of coronavirus measures, non-essential journeys were banned, as well as access to the territory for anyone without a valid reason for travelling.

Support was soon requested for carrying out border checks on motorways. From 24 March, members of the Airport Police were on standby to assist colleagues at the Federal Highway Police in this challenging task. A few weeks later, colleagues from local police zones bordering the Netherlands also asked for extra support. And so it came to pass that, right up until the end of May, the Airport Police supplied several teams every day to check the national borders for compliance with the restrictive coronavirus measures.

A fine example of collaboration at the service of society and public health.

"An extraordinary year"

"Needless to say, 2020 was an extraordinary year. Covid has upset all plans. The whole country has gone through various restriction and relaxation phases. This had a great impact on our activity. Even though some figures have fallen sharply, such as the number of traffic accidents or the number of events requiring a police presence, we also had to reinvent ourselves. For example, the Federal Highway Police (DAH) has had to set up border controls on the motorways, reinforced by a large number of staff from other directorates of the General Directorate of Administrative Police (DGA). At the height of the crisis, we organised ourselves to be able to provide reinforcements and anticipate requests at any time. I would like to thank all DGA staff, who have demonstrated in the best possible way that availability and flexibility are not empty words. Thanks also to the staff of the Directorate of Administrative Police Operations (DAO) who took care of planning and organising the staff, an almost impossible task in such circumstances!"



FIRST CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ANDRÉ DESENFANTS

General Director of Administrative Police (DGA)

Accelerated digital transformation

The government measures have had a major impact on the internal functioning of the Federal Police. Various arrangements had to be made to be able to continue to perform the various functions while observing health measures.

The necessary ICT equipment and licences were expanded to facilitate teleworking. This should enable staff to continue their professional activities and have access to police information.

Investments have indeed been made in ICT equipment, such as laptops adapted for certain services (e.g. interception of telephone calls/IP) for the mobility of tactical data, accessories (headsets compatible with certain applications), equipment for video conferencing (screens, cameras, microphones, etc. to equip the meeting rooms). Investments have also been made in expanding licences for computer programmes such as BeSecure, Tokens (for multi-factor authentication). This will allow staff to carry out their professional activities and access police information, wherever they are and in complete security.



Success Story

Helping to achieve police missions: CROSS COVID, in the battle against the pandemic

The teams at the Directorate of Police Information and ICT Resources (DRI) developed the ANG/CROSS-COVID application at record speed. It provides police officers with support in enforcing government decisions in the event of infringements. The aim of this application is to facilitate the recording of infringements of measures taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

On the one hand, the application allows for the immediate payment of an amicable settlement in the event of non-compliance with the health measures. On the other, it also allows for the management of data related to reoffending.

After all, ANG/CROSS-COVID allows for direct querying of the General National Database (ANG) before the infringement is recorded in the application.

Help for the population: the digital counter

[Police On Web](#) is the platform that has enabled citizens to report and file a complaint online since 2007.

In April 2020, the Federal Police, in cooperation with the Local Police, made the 'Temporary Digital Counter' form available to citizens in response to the health situation related to the coronavirus. It makes it possible to avoid physical travel as much as possible.



The digital counter in a few figures:

- In 2020, 45 481 reports were filed through Police On Web, which is twice as many as in 2019, when the number was 21 989;
- Since the opening of the temporary digital counter in April 2020, the Local Police has received 28 197 reports through this channel.

Help for staff: BeSecure

BeSecure has been a trusted solution for the use of mobile ISLP (Information System for Local Police) services in the field for several years. It allows them to use police applications wherever they are.

Since last year, BeSecure has also been rolled out within the Federal Police to replace other solutions and to support teleworking measures. After all, during the corona pandemic, teleworking gained tremendous importance. At the end of 2020, 3 657 employees of the Federal Police were using BeSecure.



Accelerated transition to working from home with Teams

During the COVID-19 period, Teams has become the communication tool of choice for Integrated Police staff. The figures speak for themselves: in 2020, the figure at the Integrated Police reached 42,037 active users of Teams.

The efforts of the Directorate of Police Information and ICT Resources (DRI) at the Federal Police and its New Way of Working ambassadors have borne fruit: Teams has become a 'normal' way of working for the Integrated Police. By comparison, in January 2019, 'only' 8,000 employees had found their way to Teams.

Thanks to Teams, police officers, whether they are working from home or at an office, can meet with colleagues and external partners from a very safe distance, hold discussions and work on cases together. The slogan any time, any place, any device has thus becomes more meaningful than ever.

The logistical challenge

The Federal Police had to mobilise considerable resources to meet the challenges of the health crisis. To enable its employees to carry out their tasks as well as possible and in complete safety, it was necessary, among other things, to provide them with appropriate equipment.

Personal protection equipment:

- Masks
- Disposable gloves
- Safety glasses
- Face shields
- Alcohol gel
- Overalls
- Thermometers
- Plexiglas
- Care, cleaning and disinfection products for rooms, clothing, masks, etc., fumigants (disinfection of service vehicles), disinfection wipes
- Disinfection material: disposable mops and wipes, dustbins and bin liners

Thanks to the work and creativity of the logistics services, the shortage of protective equipment such as masks, plexiglas, etc. that the police faced at the beginning of the crisis could be quickly overcome.



Success Story

Logistical support: creativity, innovation and solidarity

The health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has given a boost to the services provided by the Directorate of Logistics (DRL) at the Federal Police. It has demonstrated creativity, innovation and solidarity, which have been repeatedly praised. DRL mobilised all its forces to make it possible to organise logistical support for border inspections (particularly the shelters, see below), the cleaning and disinfection of premises, the manufacture of COVID-19 kits and individual protection kits, the search for, purchase and distribution of protective equipment, alcohol gel and cleaning products. It also set up a production line for fabric masks. Based on kits prepared, delivered and retrieved by DRL services, 300 volunteers made 35,000 masks. The manufactured masks were checked and individually packaged to be distributed as close as possible to the defined priority level.

Also worthy of mention is the production, in record time and mainly using recycled materials, of twenty polycarbonate shelters, which were delivered to Federal Highway Police (DAH) staff, responsible for border inspections in this country. As there was no alternative available and accessible in the private sector, the shelters were manufactured at the Centre for Competence in Materials in Uccle (CCMU), in close collaboration with DAH. They are designed to accommodate one person and protect them from wind, rain and sun. This allowed the Highway Police to check passing vehicles effectively. Six members of the CCMU worked hard to build the first five shelters in just two days. The fifteen others followed at the same pace.

Finally, the CCMU has started to manufacture wooden and polycarbonate screens for the Recruitment and Selection Service (DPRS) and the protection of recruiters and candidates. Subsequently, several units requested the production or adaptation of the first model according to their specific needs (reception,

interrogation of arrestees, protection among colleagues, etc.). In total, the CCMU manufactured and supplied no less than 800 screens, in 3 standard sizes and tailor-made, to the Federal Police's units in 2020.

♥ Staff and well-being

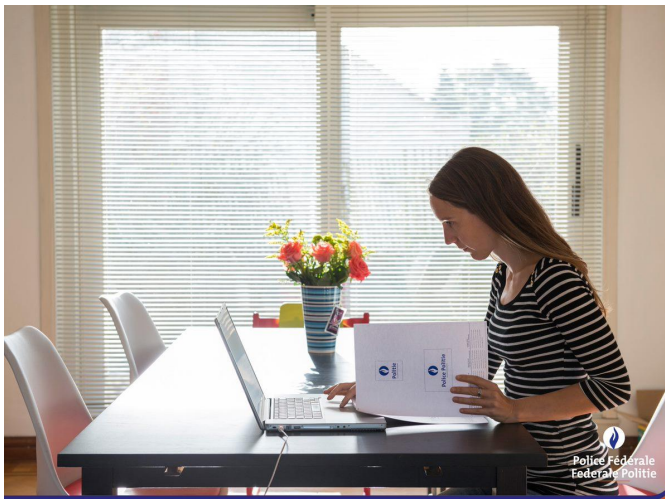
Our organisation constantly monitors the well-being of our staff, but during the crisis the follow-up was intensified. All services of the Directorate of Internal Prevention and Protection at Work (CGWB) were indeed often called upon during this pandemic.

They had to act quickly and effectively within the possibilities of their knowledge of the evolution of the virus. CGWB has issued numerous recommendations and risk analyses on the health of members of the police force, both in terms of training, operations and leadership. The different services of the Directorate have been strongly involved in a large number of communication actions (posters, videos, articles, etc.) on health and safety, aimed at the staff members of the Integrated Police. Video clips were used to contribute to the preventive approach to employee well-being.

In order to comply with government measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, some activities of the service were temporarily halted, such as workplace visits and certain periodic medical examinations. Teleworking had an impact on the handling of informal and formal procedures of the psychosocial service.

Although it was a very intense period due to the switch to new working methods and the teleworking obligation, the CGWB teams made the necessary efforts to provide quality tips and advice.

Many positive points can be remembered from this special period, such as the good cooperation within and between services and the smooth functioning of remote working.



Communication in times of corona: all hands on deck

In terms of communication, the organisation faced an enormous challenge. Each time the authorities announced new or adjusted corona measures, and at the instigation of the COVID-19 Task Force of the Integrated Police, these measures had to be translated into clear, distinct and up-to-date guidelines for the police officers in the field. Furthermore, it was necessary to communicate succinctly and transparently to the police staff about the internal management of the corona situation: about the logistical support, the HR guidelines, the psychosocial support offered to staff members, etc.

Synergy and cooperation were the leitmotifs to accomplish all this within tight deadlines. The Directorate of Communication (CGC) of the Federal Police played a key role in organising communication, in close consultation with the Local Police Standing Committee. Many directorates and services contributed from their area of expertise, including the Legal Service, the General Directorate of Resource Management and Information (DGR), the Directorate of Internal Prevention and Protection at Work (CGWB), etc.

The spearhead of the corona communication was a complementary triptych:

- **the COVID-19 information portal**, the all-encompassing thematic site with the intervention manual for the enforcement of the corona measures, internal guidelines, official documents (decrees, notes, etc.), a FAQ Well-being COVID-19, videos, awareness material, etc. This information portal can be accessed from any device, anywhere and at any time.
In 2020, 38 137 staff members of the Integrated Police visited the COVID-19 information portal. On a total staff of about 53 000 staff members, this corresponds to 72 % of the staff of the Integrated Police. These unique visitors had visited the information portal 942 680 times in total by the end of 2020;
- **a thematic newsletter GPI News COVID-19** with news and important updates linked to the COVID-19 information portal. In 2020, 50 editions were distributed to all staff members of the Integrated Police. For the managers of the Integrated Police there is an additional more frequent mailing;
- **the COVID-19 Contact Center**.

With regard to external communication, the Federal Police has aligned itself with the communication strategy of the National Crisis Center, i.e. to inform and make the population aware of the importance of complying with the corona measures. On social media, also in cooperation with the Local Police Standing Committee and above all by means of visuals and videos, the '11 million reasons' campaign was participated in.

Finally, the webcare team within the Directorate of Communication was reinforced during the corona period to react (and interact) appropriately in case of reactions and questions via social media.



Success Story

The COVID-19 Contact Center

The Federal Police established a Contact Centre for the entire Integrated Police on 9 March 2020 to provide rapid tracking of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or are in quarantine. The COVID-19 Contact Centre remains operational and assists Integrated Police personnel by phone and e-mail with their questions and concerns about COVID-19, including in relation to the coronavirus measures and their impact on the regulations, logistics, etc.

In 2020, about 75% of the questions concerned personnel issues such as working from home in the event of quarantine, the regulations after contact with an infected colleague, annual leave, people at risk, medical certificates, etc. About 21% of the questions concerned operational aspects and 2.2% logistics.

Furthermore, the Contact Centre was responsible for recording and reporting suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 so that the COVID-19 GPI Task Force could determine the impact of the pandemic on Integrated Police personnel capacity on a daily basis.

- 5,830 people suspected to be ill were recorded.
- 3,473 confirmed coronavirus cases were recorded.
- 5,433 persons were subjected to mandatory quarantine.

Finally, the COVID-19 Contact Centre provides a substantive contribution to the COVID-19 information portal based on frequently asked questions (FAQ) and refers things on to, for example, the Directorate of Administrative Police Operations (DAO) or the Crisis Center.

Recruitment and selection: good results, despite COVID-19

It was no easy task to keep our recruitment and selection going during the common fight against the COVID-19 virus. The selection tests were stopped at the end of March, beginning of April 2020, but thanks to the efforts of the Directorate of Logistics (DRL) and the Recruitment and Selection Service (DPRS), they could be resumed quickly. They provided corona-safe regulations and protective equipment, which allowed the suspension to be limited to three weeks.

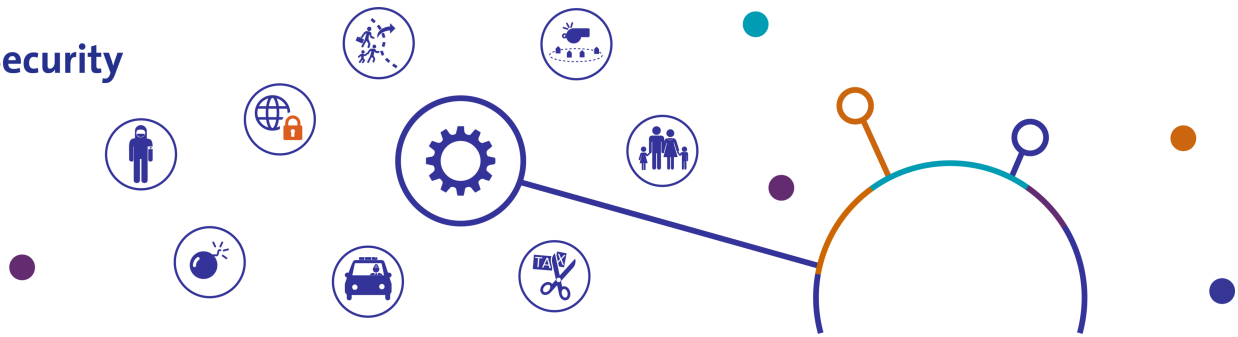
In addition, this health crisis has prompted us to restructure our way of campaigning. We have managed to achieve our goals by digitising recruitment activities and shortening selection activities. Physical events and fairs have been replaced by online info sessions and info days. In addition, dynamic material was created for online recruitment campaigns such as short videos with testimonials and images.

Furthermore, both the infrastructure and the reception of candidates have been adapted. The rooms in which the tests are organised are equipped to be covid-safe (with plexiglass walls, mouth masks, ventilation and disinfectants). A covid-safe sports test was also introduced (Léger test or 'beep test') instead of the functional course.

In short, candidates during the pandemic in 2020 were extensively informed and guided through all available digital or physical channels, taking into account safety regulations.

For more details on the selection and recruitment activities in 2020, please refer to the chapter [The police as an employer - Recruitment and selection](#)

Security



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- As a component of the Integrated Police and a link in the security chain, the Federal Police contributes to security and quality of life in society.
- The members of the Federal Police carry out their missions with remarkable professionalism in various fields: road safety, public order, fight against violence, terrorism, illegal trafficking, human trade, exploitation, fraud...
- To carry out these missions, they attach great importance to partnership, exchange of information and international cooperation.



[Migration and human smuggling/trafficking of goods](#)



[Road safety](#)



[Specialised teams](#)



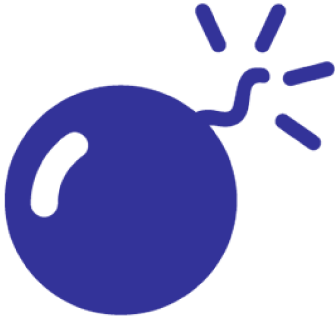
[Police and citizens' security](#)



[Negotiated management of public space/a>](#)



[Online safety](#)



[Terrorism, extremism, radicalism](#)



[Economic and social security](#)

[International partnership: the key to success](#)

Migration and human smuggling/trafficking of goods

- The coronavirus, which started spreading in our country and the rest of Europe since March 2020, has had an impact on crime. A number of crime phenomena decreased significantly during the year.
- Unfortunately, the situation is different when it comes to human trafficking and smuggling. The routes seem to be shifting and an increase in the violence used by smugglers is being observed.
- Drug trafficking also continued to flourish in 2020.

Meeting the great challenge to the security of our fellow citizens



The year 2020 was in many ways a special year, since the beginning of spring marked by a health crisis that literally shook our lifestyle.

Although they are often less visible and exposed than their 'front line colleagues' of the Local Police or the General Directorate of Administrative Police, the members of the Federal Judicial Police have done what is necessary to ensure the continuity of the service, and much more besides. The figures in this report only give a partial picture of the activities and the impressive results that were achieved thanks to the efforts of all the members of the Federal Judicial Police.

A society disturbed in its daily functioning necessarily leads to adjustments in the modus operandi of organised crime. That is why we very quickly set up customised monitoring in order to be able to notice and detect these changes better and, if possible, anticipate them and prevent them.

Tensions have regularly arisen in the criminal environment. Numerous investigations into intimidation, settlements and even kidnappings are concrete evidence of this.

In addition, despite the fact that society had come to a halt, international cocaine trafficking has never flourished more, human traffickers have continued their sordid activities and fraud of all kinds is rampant on the Internet. These three areas are unfortunately just a few examples of the fact that organised crime is flexible and constantly adapting.

In order to remain the driving force in this fight in our country, the Federal Judicial Police must also demonstrate adaptability. In addition to managing operations, 2020 was also the year in which we refined the DGJ3.0 project. It is more than just a vision, it is a coherent set of short- and medium-term actions aimed at further developing and professionalising our activities, at making the Belgian Federal Judicial Police (again) a specialised judicial police force that is a reference in Europe, and at continuing to meet the major challenge to the security of our fellow citizens posed by organised crime and terrorism."

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ERIC SNOECK

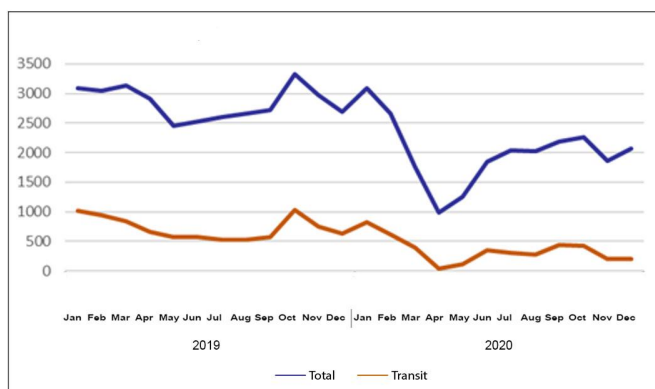
General Director of the Federal Judicial Police

Interceptions of illegal residents

The police services regularly intercept persons staying illegally in Belgium. These are people who are suspected during a check of not meeting the conditions to stay or travel legally in Belgium.

On the basis of different criteria, the Aliens Office determines whether an illegal resident is also a transit migrant.

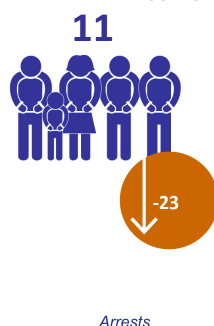
Since 2016, a specific service of the Directorate of Administrative Police Operations (DAO/Migration) has followed up this phenomenon.



The restrictive measures in the management of the COVID-19 situation have certainly led to a decrease in the number of interceptions. During the first lockdown in March and April, the number of interceptions plunged, not only in Belgium but in the whole of Europe. Traffic within the European Union (and on a global scale) was restricted, which meant that migrants were also trapped in the countries where they were located at that time.

Illegal migration – contribution of the Airport Police (LPA)

Arrests in the context of human smuggling



	2018	2019	2020
Arrests in the context of human smuggling	23	34	11

Removals

Due to the corona pandemic, removals could not always take place because of the limited flight offer and travel restrictions.

	2018	2019	2020
Refoulements*	2 399	2 377	848
Repatriations**	3 509	3 119	1 615

*Refoulement: whenever a person arrives at the border without valid papers, he/she may not cross the border and is returned to the country where he/she comes from.

**Repatriation: whenever a person is found in an illegal situation on the territory, he/she must be repatriated to his/her home country or the last country through which he/she transited.

Illegal immigration - contribution of the Railway Police (SPC) in Brussels-South (Eurostar)

Illegal residents intercepted

	2018	2019	2020
Illegal residents intercepted	186	130	102

Illegal residents intercepted

	2018	2019	2020
Illegal residents intercepted by SPN (in regular operation and during targeted actions)	4 256	2 951	2 612
• by means of the CO ₂ detector	901	573	3*
• thanks to the immigration control dogs	1 457	1 497	908**
Judicial arrests (confirmed by the magistrate) in the context of illegal migration (human smuggling and transit migration)	3	15	3
Targeted actions	216	215	327

* The decrease in CO₂ detection is due to the fact that a private security company has taken over this task.

** The decrease in detection by dogs is due to the fact that this task is now shared between the Dog Support Unit of the Federal Police and private security companies.



Border management

Due to the restrictive measures taken to stop the spread of the coronavirus, which have, in fact, greatly reduced the number of cross-border movements in 2020, there has been a general decline in the figures for the past year. On the other hand, the police forces were given specific tasks just to enforce these restrictive corona measures (more on this

in the section '[The Integrated Police faced with the health crisis](#)'. For the police services operating at the borders (especially the Federal Highway Police, Airport Police, Railway Police and Maritime and River Police), this included: the control of the ban on non-essential travel, the control of the use of the obligatory Passenger Locator Form (PLF) for people travelling to Belgium, etc.

Border control by the Airport Police (LPA) at airports

Passengers coming from a country outside the Schengen zone are subject to border control. If a problem occurs at the border checkpoint or at the "box" (entry requirements are not met, the passenger is the subject of an alert, an additional document check is required, etc.), the passenger is then directed to the second line for further control. In this way, the flow of passengers at the checkpoint is not interrupted or delayed.

If a passenger does not meet the entry requirements, then the Aliens Office must be contacted, which will make a decision. This can range from the issuance of a visa, a special passage permit ... to a refusal. In the latter case, the passenger must return to the airport of origin.

Border controls	2018	2019	2020
Second line controls	39 185	41 939	16 820
Reports to the Aliens Office	7 054	7 560	3 795
Refusals	2 940	3 026	1 132

A file is opened whenever a false, forged or fraudulently used document, or a document subject to an alert, is discovered, or in case of an impostor. Several documents can be seized per file (for example, a false passport, a false driver's license, a false identity card, etc.).

False and forged ID documents	2018	2019	2020
Cases	3 648	3 645	1 280
Seized documents	1 637	2 002	1 422
Impostors*	249	465	191
False documents**	620	863	561
Forged documents***	768	667	276

* An impostor uses an original and valid document for fraudulent purposes (usually through appearance).

** A false document is completely fake.

*** A forged document is an original document that has been altered. For example, a picture on an ID document, a date on a visa, a new identity page in an existing passport.

At Brussels Airport, EU citizens travelling to/from a non-Schengen country can have their identity digitally checked at automated border checkpoints (e-gates). There are 24 e-gates at Brussels Airport.

e-gates	2018	2019	2020
Checks	3 142 108	3 047 019	470 639*

* E-gates were used much less because they cannot be used to check the Passenger Locator Form (PLF). The PLF is a measure to contain the risk of the spread of the coronavirus during international travel.

Airport Police show versatility for additional border control tasks due to coronavirus measures



The coronavirus pandemic has presented everyone with new challenges. The Airport Police (LPA) was faced with a sharp decline in passenger traffic at the airports. There may have been fewer passengers, but border control itself was given different things to think about. When the Passenger Locator Form (PLF) was introduced, for example, additional checks had to be made to ensure that the form was in possession when entering the territory. Whenever travel conditions changed during the coronavirus crisis, the Airport Police always managed to enforce these constantly changing conditions in practice at the airports at very short notice. For example, on extra-Schengen flights, 100% of passengers are checked to ensure they have a valid PLF form. On intra-Schengen flights, too, where normally no border control takes place, the target of checking about half of the passengers for possession of a PLF has been achieved. If necessary, an official report was drawn up.

Controls on international trains (Paris, Amsterdam, etc.) by the Railway Police (SPC)

	2018	2019	2020
Controlled trains	374	250	191
Official reports	143	89	23
Judicial arrests	79	30	6
Persons brought before (judicial) authorities	4	2	1
Administrative arrests	63	58	11



Border controls by the Maritime and River Police (SPN) at seaports

Border controls	2018	2019	2020
Administrative controls of crew members	634 178	651 341	487 850
Physical controls of passengers	457 111	522 617	86 263
Individual visas granted	4 347	4 953	4 817
Stowaways intercepted	28	71	116

International collaboration, including on the inland waterways



Success Story

waterways

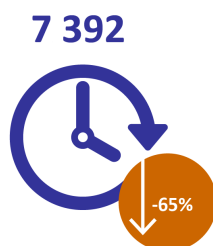
On 13 and 14 June 2020, the Maritime and River Police (SPN) organised a large-scale inspection campaign on traffic on the waterways in Limburg, mainly on pleasure boats. Along with colleagues from the Dutch police, they patrolled the common Meuse near Kinrooi and Maaseik and the Maasplassen Heerenlaak and Spaanjerd, where the border lies in the middle of the water. There is a special treaty for this common Meuse, which means that the regulations are the same in the two countries and SPN has the power of determination on the Dutch side of the water, while the Netherlands has it on the Belgian side.

The Maritime and River Police, along with the Dutch colleagues, fully checked 41 vessels and administratively checked 27 vessels (screening). They filed 7 reports, issued 8 warnings and had to assist one vessel in distress.

Frontex

Frontex missions are control missions (identity, documents, etc.) at the external borders of the European Union.

The table below shows the contribution to the Frontex missions (in particular to the international joint operations) in number of hours worked.



Hours worked

Number of hours worked	2018	2019	2020
Railway Police	575	1 175	204
Maritime and River Police	5 031	5 955	1 566
Airport Police	8 505	10 967	4 827
Highway Police	280	1 108	244
Directorate of Administrative Police Operations	2 027	1 886	349
Directorate of Infrastructure Security*	/	/	202
Total	16 418	21 091 (+28 %)	7 392 (-64,95 %)
Coordination and Support Directorates	/	/	556
Local Police	/	/	423
Directorate of Judicial Police Operations	/	/	377
Federal Judicial Police	/	/	866

*Counting from 2020 onwards

Human trafficking and human smuggling

In the context of the fight against human smuggling and human trafficking, the investigators of the Federal Judicial Police (FJP) performed 202 461.46 hours, or 7 % of the federal investigative capacity (total = 2 961, 38.91 hours), which is in line with the previous year.

Number of investigation files started by the Federal Judicial Police:	2019	2020
Human smuggling	212	350
Sexual exploitation	134	127
Economic exploitation	48	60

Drug trafficking

In the fight against drug trafficking, Federal Judicial Police investigators worked 521 722 hours last year, or 17.6 % of the investigative capacity. In 2019, it was 428 756 hours, or 15.9 % of federal investigative capacity.

The focus was on tackling:

- the professional and commercial production of cannabis;
- the production and trafficking of synthetic drugs, including precursors;
- the local narcotics market;
- the import and export of cocaine.

International police cooperation is an important link in effectively tackling this phenomenon. The Federal Police is involved in various international forums.



Success Story

Hidden spaces: shared expertise in the battle against drug trafficking

Sharing knowledge is the cornerstone of developing common expertise. The decentralised directorates of the Federal Police are building up expertise in certain fields, as some phenomena are more common than others in their district. In the battle against drug trafficking, a recurring phenomenon faced by CSD Antwerp, specific expertise has been developed in detecting hidden compartments in vehicles.

Thanks to this method, some forty secret storage spaces in vehicles were discovered. With a view to a mutual exchange of knowledge, a further group of experts on 'hidden spaces' was set up under the leadership of the Federal Judicial Police, i.e. the Directorate for Combatting Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC). The Vehicles section of the Antwerp Federal Judicial Police shared its experiences with this group, which among other things led to the development of a training module.



'Étoile' against drug tourism

The Étoile actions are the result of a collaboration between the Federal Police, the Local Police and the General Customs and Excise Administration . The focus is on drug trafficking and especially drug tourism in the border regions.

In 2020, police services and customs checked 4 347 people and more than 3 011 vehicles during three action days. Thirty-four trains and 18 coaches of low-cost companies were checked. Overall, the actions led to the arrest of 52 persons and the seizure of 30 weapons and a sum of money of 40 160 euros.

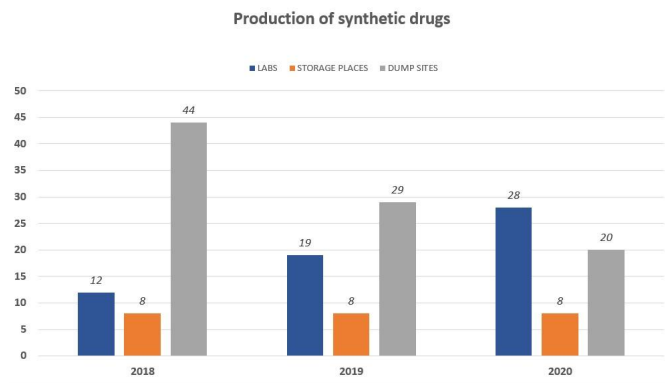
Due to the corona pandemic, two action days unfortunately had to be cancelled in the spring of 2020.



Drugs seized as part of the Étoile actions	2018	2019	2020
Marihuana	12,5 kg	39,5 kg	14 kg
Hashish	8 kg	1 kg	1 kg
Heroin	5 kg	0,2 kg	3 kg
Cocaine	2,5 kg	4,8 kg	11,4 kg
Amphetamines	1,5 kg	0,4 kg	0,15 kg
XTC	2 019 pills	1 168 pills	2 571 pills

Synthetic drugs

Production of synthetic drugs



Synthetic drugs seizures 2020:

- Amphetamines: 16 seizures for a total of 164 kg (+984.5 litres of amphetamine oil to produce amphetamine)
- XTC: 61 seizures for a total of 348 549 pills
- Ketamine: 31 seizures for a total of 110 kg
- MDMA: 1 seizure of 113 kg
- Methamphetamines: 4 seizures for a total of 4 kg

Hashish trafficking

13 seizures yielded a total of 13 909 kilos of hashish. There was one seizure of 11.5 tonnes!

Cocaine trafficking

Sea ports are links in the trafficking of cocaine from South America to Western Europe. The Federal Police is increasingly involved in the fight against cocaine trafficking by collaborating with police services in countries of origin and transit in South America (Colombia, [Brazil](#), etc.).

Maritime cocaine seizure (kg)	2018	2019	2020
in Antwerp	49 881	61 796	65 443
to Antwerp	53 082	76 986	67 780
in Belgium, excluding Antwerp	2 928	1 877	2 451
Total (kg)	105 892	140 660	135 675



Success Story

Limburg investigation leads to record cocaine seizure

The record seizure dates from 27 October: the Federal Police found 11.5 tons of cocaine hidden in scrap containers at the port of Antwerp. The seizure is part of an investigation by detectives from the Limburg Federal Judicial Police.

In this investigation, led by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, the Limburg Federal Judicial Police (FJP) uncovered large-scale international cocaine trafficking via the port of Antwerp. The drugs-traffickers had links with both the law-abiding world (including shipping offices, storage areas and transport firms) and various other criminal organisations, each of which took on some of this criminal organisation's activities. The operation included the arrest of 22 people and the confiscation of 3 million euros.

In summary, thanks to this investigation, the police and judiciary were able to withdraw 14,950 kilogrammes of pure cocaine from the criminal organisation within a year. The numbers involved are mind-blowing. Assuming an average wholesale price of 30,000 euros per kilogramme, the value of seizures is close to 450 million euros. The street value after cutting could quickly amount to double that.

Fight against environmental crime

In April last year, the sections 'Environment' and 'Hormones' were merged into one new department within the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC).

The merging of the two sections into one central service 'Public Health and Environment' offers substantial added value to DJSOC in covering a range of specific crime phenomena. The increasing concern of the population with regard to our environment and our public health in general, but also with regard to our food safety, required an appropriate response in order to make the police intervention more effective and efficient.

The merger of the two 'small' sections into one was the obvious solution. After all, both sections had the same functionalities: expertise, imaging, targeted intelligence gathering and management, investigation coordination, support to the units in the field and international involvement. All this was done in a structured, multidisciplinary cooperation with external partners (the federal and regional competent administrative control and supervisory services).

The creation of a single point of contact (both within and outside the police) within the Federal Judicial Police for the forms of crime within the special regulations is not only a demand by the various external partners, expressed in the Framework Memorandum on Integral Security, but also provides more clarity regarding the position of the Federal Police in this matter, which is sensitive for the population (including serious forms of food crime such as the Fipronil case).

Moreover, the collection of the specific expertise and knowledge in one central service provides added value in terms of the uniformity of approach to the phenomena in question and the efficiency of the resources deployed.

By establishing this new service, the Federal Police is not only sending a clear signal to the population and policymakers, but also to other (local) police services and external partners. The Federal Police takes its role seriously when it comes to the criminal approach to serious crime with regard to public health and the environment.

The new service can be recognised by its emblem with the English abbreviation FUPHEC, which stands for Federal Unit Public Health and Environmental Crime.



Police and citizens' security

- Last year, the Federal Judicial Police arrested 3 108 persons suspected of being involved in various crime phenomena.
- The Fugitive Active Search Team (FAST) tracked down and arrested 58 fugitive criminals in Belgium in 2020.
- The use of the Information and Investigation Bulletin within the Integrated Police increased dramatically to 19 000 unique visitors. Thanks to this investigation tool, more than 900 perpetrators could be identified!

Combating crime phenomena

Investigative capacity broken down by phenomenon

Phenomena	2018	2019	2020
Economic and financial crime	13,50 %	23,00 %	21,5 %
Drugs	12,00 %	17,00 %	17,5 %
Violence (murder, manslaughter ...)	10,00 %	16,00 %	15 %
Thefts	5,50 %	14,00 %	12 %
Terrorism	9,00 %	10,00 %	7 %
Human trafficking/smuggling	7,00 %	8,00 %	7 %
Other	43 %	12 %	20 %
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %

Arrests*

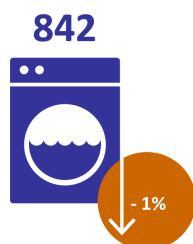
Phenomena	2018	2019	2020
Drugs	751	906	881
Thefts	418	772	624
Ecofin	235	387	352
Violence – murders and manslaughter	223	451	441
Human trafficking/smuggling	171	265	235
Unknown (arrests not linked to a phenomenon)	1 497	176	236
Terrorism	112	98	62
Forgery	/	82	41
Special cases	/	21	19
Environment	/	10	/
Medication fraud (and fraud related to food supplements)	/	8	/

Phenomena	2018	2019	2020
ICT	/	/	26
Other phenomena	/	88	60
Total	3 407	3 264	3 108

* 'Arrest' is to be understood as any person identified as a suspect deprived of his/her liberty by law, in accordance with the Saldutz legislation (category IV).

Money laundering cases

Money laundering is a specific part of the Ecofin phenomenon. It is defined as the concealment or disguise of the movement of (financial) income from any criminal activity (main offence) committed in Belgium or abroad and/or the disguise of the illegal origin of pecuniary advantages or profits.



Current money laundering investigations

FAST tracks down fugitive criminals

Since 2019, the use of additional special investigation methods and other investigation techniques to search for fugitives is authorised (law of 5 May 2019).

In 2020, 294 fugitive criminals were arrested, roughly a status quo from the 314 arrests in 2019. 90 of them were arrested in Belgium, 58 of them by FAST (Fugitive Active Search Team) itself (increase of 38 % compared to 2019).



Fugitive criminals arrested

Some significant facts and figures:

- The department was reinforced with five new colleagues, bringing the team to sixteen people.
- 554 new cases were started, 148 (26 %) of which were closed in the same year.
- Nearly 1 900 cases remain open at the FAST level.
- In the week that the list of sex offenders was published, FAST was able to arrest Luxembourg's Most Wanted EU 2020!

Fugitive arrested thanks to a wonderful partnership



Success Story

The armed Oualid Sekkaki escaped on 19 December 2019 from Turnhout prison, where he was serving a sentence for, among other things, a shooting in the summer of 2015. He climbed over the six-foot-high prison wall during the evening walk. All manner of resources were deployed to recapture him. The extensive new investigative capabilities for tracking fugitives were deployed for the first time, ultimately leading to his arrest on 3 September 2020 by the Lummen Federal Highway Police.



Detection and alert

Wanted notices in the media: an added value



wanted notices published in the media

	2018	2019	2020
Wanted notices in the media: an added value	418	444	396
Clearance rate	60 %	69 %	72 %

The clearance rate highlights the added value of wanted notices and calls for witnesses in the media.

- 24 cases (35 %) were solved or led to concrete information thanks to the television programme FAROEK, which produced 69 reports;
- 22 crime clips were made in-house, of which 7 led to the identification of the perpetrators.

‘Foot Man’ collared



Success Story

Thanks to FAROEK's report, the perpetrator in the 'Foot Man' case who has been plaguing Ghent since 2006 has been arrested. This man chased girls around Overpoort for years to their dorm rooms to ... smell their feet. As a result of the dispatch, a tip-off enabled the perpetrator to be identified. Following interrogation, he confessed to the crime.

The Information and Investigation Bulletin reaches high peaks

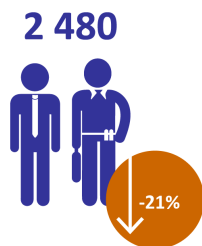
The Information and Investigation Bulletin aims to facilitate the identification of perpetrators. This instrument has been developed for all members of the Integrated Police, and in particular for field police officers. Thanks to a secure SharePoint site, they can see the wanted notices anywhere, anytime and on any device (PC, laptop, smartphone ...) and react immediately.

In 2020, the use of the Information and Investigation Bulletin increased by a spectacular 83 % to an average of 19 000 unique visitors. Thanks to the Information and Investigation Bulletin, more than 900 offenders were identified (increase of 8 % compared to 2019).

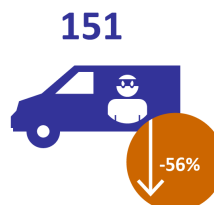
Protection and security missions

Protection missions

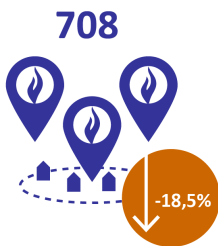
In general, the number of missions of the Directorate of Protection (DAP) has fallen sharply over the past year due to the restrictive corona measures. The decline in National Bank of Belgium (NBB) escort missions is explained by the closure of the decentralised branches as well as the printing office.



VIP missions* of which 83**
abroad in 2020, 282 in 2019 and
105 in 2018



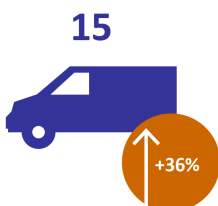
Transfers of dangerous
prisoners***



Escorting transport of valuables
(intercity/intracity)****



National Bank of Belgium (NBB)
escort missions



*Other types of transport
(diamonds, works of art and
nuclear material)*

* 1 mission = protecting one VIP per day. Decrease of 55 % for visits by foreign delegations and 70 % fewer trips abroad.

** This large increase is due to the permanent protection of two additional VIPs who travel a lot and benefit from this protection even when travelling abroad.

*** 1 mission = protecting one prisoner per day.

**** 1 escort mission = protecting one cash transport vehicle per day.



Flexible deployment for protection missions during European summit

As part of the European summit that took place in July 2020, several teams from the Directorate of Protection (DAP) were deployed to ensure the protection of a number of VIPs, more specifically French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Two protective mechanisms were used for each. The former Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès was also present for several days during this European summit. She too was accompanied by a team from DAP.

Initially, this European summit was to last two days. Due to the difficult negotiations, the DAP teams worked virtually non-stop for six days. Thanks to the professionalism, motivation and commitment from colleagues, these assignments were brought to a successful conclusion.



The Directorate of Infrastructure Security keeps growing

The Directorate of Infrastructure Security (DAB) is expanding, slowly but surely becoming more important in the police landscape. DAB had 988 staff members in 2019 and 1 173 staff members at the end of 2020. Among other things, it is in charge of the police of courts and tribunals and the security of nuclear sites and critical infrastructures.

In 2020, DAB transferred 37 419 adult prisoners and 1 552 underage prisoners.



Solid protection of concreting operations

For the Tihange nuclear power plant, the year 2020 was marked by two large-scale concreting operations. On 28 and 29 August 2020 and 27 and 28 November 2020, more than 2,500m³ of concrete were poured for some 20 hours per operation, all in one go. These operations were supervised by the Tihange

Directorate of Security (DAB), the Coordination and Support Directorates (CSDs) of Liège and Namur, the Liège and Namur Federal Highway Police (WPR) units and four police zones.

DAB Tihange in some figures in 2020:

- 188 information notes in ISLP justified by the identification of persons during interventions;
- 28 reports concerning traffic;
- 2 reports for traffic accidents;
- 21 judicial reports.



Wonderful partnerships at the national airport

At Brussels Airport, the various Federal Police units continued their partnership despite reduced activity due to the ban on non-essential travel. In 2020, the security of the El Al Israel Airlines flights in collaboration with the Airport Police and Dog Support – and requiring heightened security mechanisms – provided about 311 hours and 40 minutes of work for the Directorate of Infrastructure Security teams.

The partnership in a few figures

- Support European Summit: 1 003 hrs 27 min.
- Support Open Gate: 320 hrs 44 min.
- Support judicial action: 275 hrs 31 min.
- Support local PZ: 47 hrs 35 min.
- Border support: 138 hrs 40 min.
- Support intervention LPA: 670 hrs 25 min.
- Support intervention BAC: 14 hrs 45 min.
- Support transport of valuables: 1 998 hrs 19 min.



Preparation of an extensive trial

The trial for the Brussels attacks will not take place until 2022 in the former NATO complex renamed 'Justicia'. However, a general rehearsal (procedural rules of the court) in the presence of the Brussels Capital Ixelles police zone, the

Directorate of Infrastructure Security (DAB), the Directorate of Protection (DAP) and the Intervention Corps (CIK) took place as early as late 2020. A partnership that involved a significant effort and a successful outcome.

The 'Gold Commander', the person in charge of the public order mission, did not fail to point out the quality of the services provided by the Directorate of Infrastructure Security and to congratulate it on this: "The staff are highly professional. Their dedication and their impeccable uniform on the site certainly served as an example. Truly impressive... Their work is outstanding, in terms of both preparation and execution."

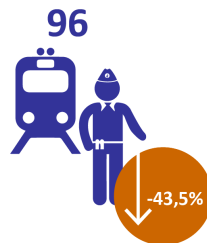
The directorate, which is still in its early days, was delighted with this. It will continue to emphasise rigour and professionalism in carrying out its missions.



The trespassing phenomenon

Trespassing consists in crossing railway tracks when it is not authorised and very dangerous.

	2018	2019	2020
Reports drawn up by the Railway Police	137	226	96



Reports drawn up by the Railway
Police

Missing persons

Last year, the Missing Persons Unit was contacted for 785 worrying disappearances. That is a decrease of 17 % compared to the previous year. 745 cases were closed (94.9 %), of which 658 missing persons were found alive.

In addition, the Unit was also deployed 48 times as a result of finding unidentified bodies or body parts, 28 of which were identified.

A total of 38 searches were conducted in the water, marking 106 interesting search locations, where 69 vehicles and 10 bodies of missing persons were eventually found.



Disappearance of 12-year-old solved after intensive detective work

On 17 September 2020, Ilias Chahdi, a twelve-year-old boy from Mortsels, disappeared after he left for school on his bike. After 77 hours of intensive investigation, in which the Missing Persons Unit, along with other local and federal police services and Child Focus joined forces, the boy was found in good health.

Administrative approach to crime

In the fight against organised crime and security phenomena, a proactive administrative approach exists alongside the reactive criminal approach. The concept of administrative approach aims to undermine organised crime by using an additional pillar (in addition to the traditional judicial, the police and the financial pillars), i.e. the administrative pillar.

Three district expertise and information centres (ARIEC Antwerp, ARIEC Limburg and PAALCO for Namur) work with this approach, through which various initiatives are carried out. Here are some achievements to be proud of:

ARIEC Antwerp - Raising awareness for criminal 'benefactors' in the catering industry

ARIEC Antwerp drew up an information sheet for the local and police authorities on criminal 'benefactors' who try to gain a foothold in the local hotel and catering industry. The health crisis has made this sector even more vulnerable because of the long closures, the restrictions on (temporary) restarting, etc. The criminal 'benefactors' want to 'lend a helping hand' or take over businesses in difficulty. The aim is money laundering, gaining better control of the local market ...

ARIEC Antwerp has also designed a poster that local authorities can distribute within their own sector to inform traders and guide them on how to guard themselves against this phenomenon. A local entrepreneur, approached by criminal "benefactors", does not always know how to react and sometimes does not see the danger of a 'little push'.

PAALCO Namur - Information and awareness-raising session on the fight against slumlording

On 28 September, an information session dedicated to the study of housing and human exploitation: slumlords, took place in Namur, respecting the health measures in place at the time. That seminar morning was a partnership between the Federal Police and the governor of the province of Namur and was supported by the Namur Capitale police zone. In total, more than one hundred people from the police, the public prosecutor's office, inspection services, municipalities, etc. attended the event.

The participants had the opportunity to discover the work of different actors and possible collaborations in order to fight the problem in an integrated and integral way.

On the occasion of the awareness day, PAALCO Namur designed and distributed an awareness-raising brochure containing indicators on slumlording.

ARIEC Limburg - Flex controls against exploitation of seasonal workers

In 2020, eight "flex controls" were organised in various security areas. In a "flex control", a tailor-made search is made for abuse in a certain sector, such as health food shops (hemp), hand carwash companies, pizza deliveries, hairdressing salons, fruit pickers, campsites, snack bars, etc. As a result of these checks, one health food shop and one hand carwash had to close their doors.

In 2020, special attention was paid to the growing problem of fruit pickers in Limburg. Coordinated controls took place in Alken and Borgloon following reports of poor quality and safety of the accommodation. When the situation on the ground was identified (risk of explosion and electrocution, overcrowding, risk of CO poisoning, etc.), 47 Romanian and 20 Bulgarian fruit pickers had to be relocated (the costs were borne by the exploiters).

Road safety

- The pandemic and the government measures to fight it have led to a shift in the capacity of the Federal Highway Police resulting in a decrease in the number of proactive actions.
- The travel restrictions resulted in a decrease in the number of accidents and traffic accident victims.
- However, the number of speeding offences continues to increase.

COVID-19 and its impact on the detected offences and major actions

The year 2020 was marked by the pandemic and the government measures taken to fight it. Many measures (closure of catering and commercial establishments, cancellation of events, compulsory teleworking, curfew, etc.) had an impact on traffic in general and various aspects in particular. For example, last year there were fewer movements, fewer traffic jams and proportionally more freight traffic. This, and its impact on road user behaviour, is an important consideration when comparing the number of offences detected with previous years.

The measures against COVID-19 have also led to a shift in the capacity of the Federal Highway Police. For instance, special attention was paid to cross-border movements, and there was a decrease in the number of proactive actions.

There were, however, 50 large-scale actions involving both the Federal Police and the Local Police: 20 actions initiated by the expert networks of the police services (Centrex Road Traffic), 13 NAWAY actions (actions at national level in the priority field of action of the Federal Highway Police focusing on road safety priorities), 5 GPI actions (actions at the level of the Integrated Police including the BOB actions, the weekends without alcohol and the speed camera marathons) and 12 Roadpol actions (network of European traffic police services).

Speeding offences detected by speed radars and cameras

2 710 357



Speeding violations processed by the so-called regional processing centres (CRTs/GVCs) and technical sections of the Federal Highway Police:

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs*

108 787



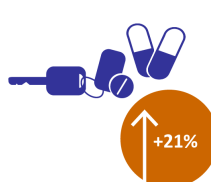
Number of breath tests performed

1 658



*Number of alcohol-related offences recorded***

466



Number of drug-related offences recorded

**Alert + positive + refusal + possible blood tests

* Figures (2019 and 2020) updated on the basis of the most recent closing date (24-03-2021).



Success Story

BOB campaign: the fight against drink-driving remains a priority

Since the coronavirus disrupted our daily lives, alcohol checks are no longer conducted in the same way. For example, it was not possible to organise a 'BOB summer campaign' in the summer of 2020. To make it clear that road safety remains important, the Federal Police and the Local Police nonetheless stepped up checks during the summer months aimed at driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. After all, these remain a priority. The figures are alarming: out of a total of 119,813 tests, 5,146 were positive. This means that 4.30% of the drivers checked were under the influence.

Belt and child seat

5 312



Offence

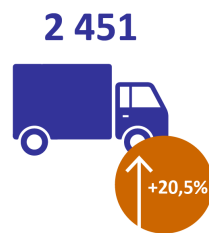
The use of a mobile phone while driving

12 568



Offence

Heavy goods vehicles



Number of tachograph fraud cases recorded



Number of offences recorded in relation to driving and rest periods

Number of fatal accidents and accidents with injuries reported on motorways and similar roads by the Federal Highway Police

The number of accidents with injuries recorded in the Federal Highway Police's priority field of action fell by 29 % between 2019 and 2020. The number of deaths at the scene of the accident decreased by 18 % in 2020 (compared to 2019). This decrease in the number of accidents and traffic victims is due to the travel restriction measures taken as part of the COVID-19 pandemic (compulsory teleworking, curfew, ban on non-essential travel in April 2020, etc.).

	2018	2019	2020
Accidents with injuries*	3 122	3 095	2 186
Fatal accidents*	94	99	81
Fatalities**	100	105	79
Seriously injured victims	361	384	241
Minor injuries	4 403	4 164	2 836

* During an accident, several persons can get seriously or slightly injured. The same holds for fatal accidents.

** Number of deaths on site. The victims who did not die on the spot and who die within a period of 30 days are not mentioned here.



Zikki makes his debut in Wallonia

The Federal Highway Police is offering young victims or witnesses of a road accident a little comfort through a teddy bear campaign. After all, Zikki, a plush turtle, can comfort a child by forming a bubble around him or her, drawing his or her attention to this toy rather than to what is going on around him or her. This campaign, which has been widespread in Flanders for several years, made its debut in Wallonia in 2020. For some traffic posts, this is the start of a new campaign; for others, it is the continuation of a project that has been running for several years.



VIP escorts and European summits

The Federal Police contributes to maintaining order and security at European summits and other events, particularly in Brussels, in partnership with the Bruxelles-Capitale/Ixelles police zone. In addition to the involvement of several entities and directorates, including the Directorate of Protection (DAP), the Federal Highway Police provides escorts for Heads of State, Heads of Government and other VIPs.

In 2020, three European summits with physical presence took place (two of them extraordinary). These events required the commitment of considerable forces and important organisational and coordination efforts.

Three formal summits were converted into virtual summits due to the corona pandemic (this led to the cancellation of many escort missions between 18 March and 5 June 2020).

In 2020, the Federal Highway Police worked **27 881** hours during escort missions (compared to 32 888 hours in 2019).

Besides these large-scale events with the presence of many VIPs requiring several police escorts, Belgium received the "one-day visits" of 98 VIPs from 44 different countries, who were protected and escorted by the Federal Highway Police. The average duration of these missions was 2 days, for a total of 187 "one-day" VIP escorts.





Negotiated management of public space

- The Directorate of Public Security (DAS) provides specialised support to the police zones in the field of public security.
- Due to the health crisis, the mounted police were deployed more than ever.
- The federal reserve for interventions in case of unforeseen events (unforeseen demonstrations, floods ...) was deployed to provide non-specialised support.

Reinforcements for the local police zones

In order to organise the order missions to manage different events (football matches, festivals ...), a local police zone can request non-specialised reinforcements from:

- other local police zones: in police language, this is called HyCap, which stands for capacité hypothéquée/gehypothekeerde capaciteit;
- the Federal Police, through the Intervention Corps (CIK) of the decentralised Coordination and Support Directorates and the Directorate of Public Security (DAS) which together constitute the Federal Intervention Reserve.

In 2020, 40.5 % of reinforcements for police zones were provided by other police zones (50 % in 2019) and 59.5 % by the Federal Police (50 % in 2019).

Managing the unpredictable: support in the field of public security

The Directorate of Public Security (DAS) provides specialised support to police zones to prevent or resolve violent and/or potentially dangerous situations in terms of public safety. To this end, the directorate can deploy mounted police, water cannons, video teams to spot and identify troublemakers, and even lock-on teams to detach demonstrators who attach themselves to rails or buildings, for example.

Both specialised and non-specialised support provided by DAS required the deployment of **486 staff members** (compared to 478 in 2019) for all these missions.

This slight increase is due to the decrease in 'classic' events because of the corona crisis. DAS was asked to increase its reserve capacity.

Deployment of resources

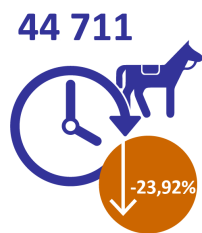
Federal reserve for interventions in case of unforeseen events (non-specialised support)

333 178



Hours worked

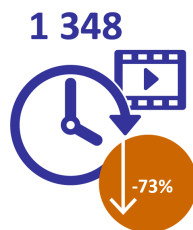
Mounted police public order missions



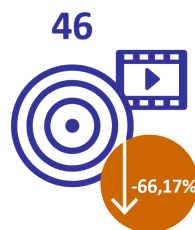
Hours worked*

* The number of mounted police public order missions (demonstrations, events, etc.) decreased to make way for the patrols related to COVID-19.

Video team

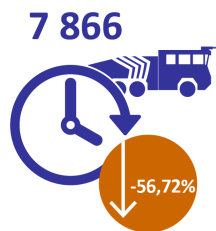


Hours worked:

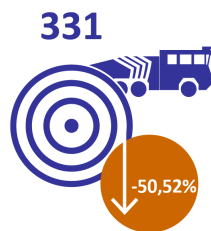


Missions:

Water cannons



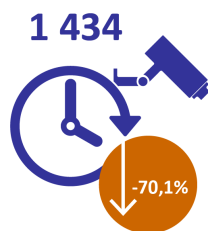
Hours worked:



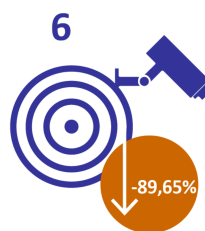
Missions

Fixed temporary cameras (ARGOS)

Renamed ARGOS, from the name of this Greek giant with a hundred eyes spread over the head and body, this technical support has proven its added value and effectiveness since it was put into operation in 2018. ARGOS is also mainly used for large-scale events, which explains the decrease in 2020.



Hours worked



Missions*

* Spread over 33 days

Mounted police deployed more than ever

The health crisis is an exceptional situation and is having an immense impact on the whole of society. Yet, more than ever, the pandemic is positively highlighting the (added value of) mounted police in terms of communication with the



Success Story

the (added value of) mounted police in terms of communication with the population, prevention and deterrent.

Despite the fact that the number of police services has dropped dramatically since March 2020 due to the cancellation of various events (no festivals, no football matches with the public, no carnivals, etc.), the police have continued to ride out on horseback. After all, they are deployed to provide support in informing the population of coronavirus safety measures and enforcing these in places where motorised police surveillance is less appropriate or less suitable, such as in parks, forests, dunes, nature reserves, on footpaths and towpaths, as well as on squares and in city centres. This has led to a whopping 174% increase in support by mounted police to the benefit of local police zones and other federal entities.

BePad: sharing information for the sake of public order

BePad is a computer application for managing events, individuals, groups and phenomena being (possibly) of importance for or representing a (potential) danger to public order (public security, peace, health and public cleanliness).

BePad centralises all administrative information of the Federal Police and the Local Police and makes it available for everyone. The aim is that all users work with one and the same programme, so that the information is entered, managed and shared in an identical manner. That way, double entries can be avoided. In principle, all police officers have access to this application.

	2018	2019	2020
New created events	47 536	46 166	33 748
Total number of events	151 036	197 202	230 950

The helicopter, an asset in the air

Air support (DAFA) is also used for public order missions. From above, valuable information is transmitted in real time to the ground teams. Many actions were cancelled due to the pandemic, resulting in a sharp drop in the number of hours worked. The same goes for the use of drones: the number of missions fell from 88 in 2019 to 55 in 2020. This corresponds to 60 flight hours (-36 % compared to 2019).

	2018		2019		2020	
Helicopter missions	Numbers	Hours worked	Numbers	Hours worked	Numbers	Hours worked
Football	56	157	56	134	5	15
Mass events (festivals ...)	64	114	58	127	16	52
Support to fire brigades and the Civil Protection in the event of disaster (fire ...)	28	19	10	11	41*	39
Demonstrations	35	62	36	60	57	82
VIP protection (European summits ...)	65	113	40	56	23	27
Total	248	465	200	388	142	215

* A remarkable increase due to dry and warm spring and summer months. There were more calls for assistance from DAFA with the 'Bambi-bucket' to fight fires.



Specialised teams

- Although the corona measures over the past year have made both training and missions much more difficult, the specialised teams of the Federal Police were present.
- In general, the number of missions for the specialised teams fell sharply. The exception are the Special Units (DSU), which were once again frequently called on to perform Fort Chabrol interventions (person, most often armed, entrenched in a building) and enhanced searches.
- The helicopter air support continues to demonstrate its enormous added value, even in corona times.

Special Units

Specialities	Actions launched in 2019*	Actions launched in 2020
Observations	144	584
Technical operational support (NTSU)	294	105
Undercover Team	40	28
Real-time interceptions (telephone and data tapping) in the context of judicial investigations	8 839	7 724
Real-time observations (metadata) in the context of judicial investigations	1 193	2 142

* No comparison possible with 2018 due to the use of different units of measurement.

Crisis situations	2018	2019	2020
Fort Chabrol interventions	37	41	58
Hostage takings	5	3	3
Abductions	7	8	12
Extortions	5	4	3
Enhanced searches	174	185	209



Air support

Helicopter (RAGO)	2018	2019	2020
Arrests and arrests after pursuit	160	179	79
Recovered stolen vehicles	1	6	1
Infrared targets scanned	348	407	422
Positive infrared scans	84	106	147
Laser incidents	9	5	3
Control assistance	284	243	135
Search assistance	432	511	464
Photos	139	117	173
Videos	200	264	211
Image transmission	496	534	380

Drones	2018	2019	2020
Operational missions	80	88*	55**

* The 88 missions with drones correspond to approximately 95 flight hours.

** This number of missions with drones corresponds to approximately 60 flight hours (-36 % compared to 2019).

Jessie Gevaert, the very first female Tactical Flight Officer

When inspector Jessie Gevaert (33) still worked for the intervention service of the ViMa police zone (Vilvoorde/Machelen), she looked up as often to planes taking off as to suspicious vehicles on the street.

Before joining the police force, Jessie earned her bachelor's degree in aviation with trainee-airline pilot as her major. After graduating, she realised that civil aviation was not for her. She looked for a new challenge and found it in the police, with the air support (DAFA) of the Federal Police in mind. So it finally happened...

On 1 October 2019, Inspector Gevaert started her training as a Tactical Flight Officer (TFO). On board the helicopter, a TFO controls and operates the camera, directs the pilot using the aeronautical IT systems and communicates with the teams in the field and the Communication and Information Centres (CICs).

Theoretical lessons were first scheduled for one and a half months. Theory was followed by practice. After each part of the training - so after the theory and after the navigation flights - Jessie had an exam. She then passed her practical flight, learning to operate the camera and radio procedures. After her very last test, where all the tasks of a TFO come together, Jessie became the first female TFO in the Federal Police's air support unit!



Drones: the federal family is growing!

Using its experience with the Limburg drone team, the Limburg Coordination and Support Directorate (DCA) was able to develop a fully-fledged drone team by purchasing a drone itself. Thanks to this initiative, the Limburg DCA can further emphasise its support role and supralocal missions.

Six pilots/operators of the Limburg Intervention Corps were trained in the handling of the aircraft. The drone team is primarily available to all police and rescue services in Limburg, but it can also carry out missions for services outside the province. The experience gained will also be used to further evaluate the future development of drone teams in the operation of the DCA.

Support/reinforcements during searches

The Directorate of Protection (DGA/DAP) can support high-risk searches carried out by the Federal Judicial Police.

- In 2020, 20 missions of this type were carried out (-13 % compared to 2019).

The flair of our police dogs

The Directorate of Dog Support (DACH) and its 148 police dogs (as of 31 December 2020) carried out a large number of specialised interventions.

Number of interventions	2018	2019	2020
Tracker dog teams	1 441	1 375	1 552
Drug dog teams (active + cash and passive)	3 221	3 290	2 009
Human remains detection dog teams	74	51	44
Seat of fire detection dog teams	408	386	288
Immigration control dog teams	59	57	44
Explosive detection dog teams	4 301	4 716	3 502

The decrease in the number of interventions of certain dog disciplines compared to previous years can be explained by the corona crisis.

It is also worth noting that the amounts of cash found are increasing every year. For example, during their searches in 2020, drug dog handlers found a total of EUR 4 315 289, GBP 24 980 and CHF 22 000 in drug money. Seventeen lives were saved thanks to the intervention of the tracker dog teams. And the certification and expertise centre of the Directorate of Dog Support (DACH) started a test project for training covid dogs. Meanwhile, two teams for the Federal Police, three for the Civil Protection and three for Defence have been trained.



Technical support for the Maritime and River Police

The technical facilities of the Maritime and River Police (SPN) are implemented by specially trained staff, included in a specific section called TST (Technical Support Team).

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the figures are lower than in previous years because many actions could not and/or were not allowed to take place.

Number of actions	2018	2019	2020
Side Scan Sonar	142	108	55
CO ₂ detector	337	329	280
Other detection means:	184	87	56
• Videoscope	21	14	13
• Metal detector	36	17	13
• Camera	2	3	1
• Mobile trace	63	53	20
• Stabilised night vision device	9	0	1

Technical facilities and expertise supporting investigations

Behavioural analysis

On the basis of their scientific expertise (psychology, sociology, etc.), the behavioural analysts (GAC) of the Federal Police offer support to investigators through three main missions:

- expertise in hearings;
- analyses (profiles, threats, etc.);
- assessments in cases requiring a multidisciplinary approach in partnership with the Directorate of Judicial Police Operations (DJO).

Number of cases in which behavioural analysts provided support	2019	2020
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Number of cases in which behavioural analysts provided support	2019	2020
Expertise in hearings	155	131
Analyses	39	21
Assessment interviews	9	2
Total	203	154

Lie detection

A team of experts is specialised in hearing techniques, particularly those conducted with a polygraph or lie detector. In 2020, they carried out significantly fewer tests than in the previous year as a result of the restrictive corona measures.

	2019	2020
Number of polygraph tests	271	77
Number of untruthful results	104	15
Number of confessions	33	1

Audiovisual hearing techniques for minor victims or witnesses of offences (TAM)

The main task of a team from the Directorate of Technical and Scientific Police (DJT) is to standardise hearings of minors, which are very specific. To this end, the team has developed the TAM network, which operates at the tactical and operational levels. The missions of the TAM team can be divided into three main activities:

- the management of specialised hearing equipment within deconcentrated hearing rooms;
- the organisation of training courses for TAM interrogators;
- the follow-up of the TAM network through research and development.

TAM network for audiovisual hearing of minors:

	2020
Number of TAM interviewers within the Integrated Police	723
Number of hearings*	5 206
• hearings on 'voyeurism, indecency and violence'	3 054
• hearings on 'unintentionally inflicted bodily injuries'	1 528
• hearings on 'child pornography' and 'indecency'	134

* Remarkable observations regarding the hearings:

- 4 259 victims (81 %), 390 witnesses (7 %) and 64 suspects (1.2 %);
- twice as many women as men were interviewed;
- not all victims are minors; among them also 136 vulnerable adults.

Analysis of sex offences

A team specialised in the analysis of sex offences (ZAM, formerly known as the ViCLAS Service) establishes links between different sex offence files, i.e. sexual or violent offences.

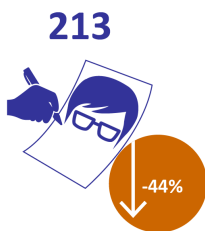
To this end, it uses the ViCLAS (Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System) tool, among others. By means of this database, 56 sex offence analyses were carried out in 2020 (compared to 69 the year before), uncovering 66 links to other offences and files.

Face comparisons and facial reconstructions

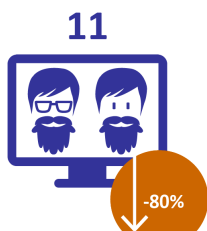
The Facial department (formerly Robot) has portraitists who, in addition to producing composition drawings, master other biometric techniques such as face comparison and facial reconstruction. The portraitists now use high-performance tools to produce a digital version of the composition drawing.

Last year, the Facial Service handled a total of 234 requests (compared to 444 in 2019), including:

- 213 composite sketches (compared to 386 in 2019);
- 11 anatomical and morphological comparisons (compared to 57 facial comparisons in 2019);
- 5 post-mortem drawings;
- 5 facial reconstructions.



Composite drawings



Face comparison

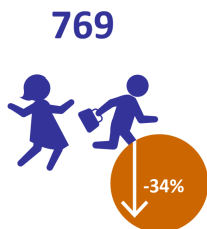


Technical and forensic police laboratories

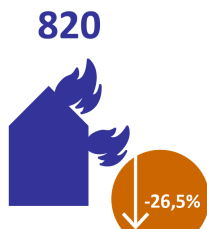
The technical and forensic police laboratories provide specialised support to the investigation services of the Local Police and the Federal Police (trace sampling, analysis and comparison of traces).



Thefts



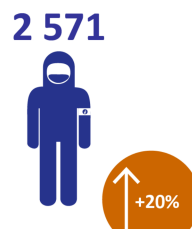
Robberies and other types of violent thefts



Fires (arson and accidental fires)



Murders and homicides

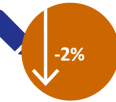


366



akii

1 358



182



Other (drugs, road accidents, false documents, etc.)

apart from directors, the DVI Team (Director: victim identification, also interventions in victim identification in general and takes up new challenges such as necrosearch (forensic archaeology) and MTD (Difficult Terrain) in order to find solutions in case of difficult identification of deceased victims.

Suicides

Suspicious deaths

Sex offences

The DVI consists of a permanent core within the Directorate of Technical and Scientific Police (DJT) and a DVI pool with staff spread throughout the country.

In 2020, the DVI team made 149 interventions (compared to 192 in 2019), of which 93 led to identification (compared to 120 in 2019).

Partnership is a key element for the DVI. Indeed, the professional approach in the field requires careful organisation and cooperation. In order to effectively coordinate this cooperation, realistic exercises are organised every year. However, due to the corona pandemic, no exercises could take place.



Success Story

Expansion of collaboration between DVI and partners

Since 2009, a protocol agreement has been in place between the Directorate-General Civil Security of the FPS Home Affairs and the Federal Police, covering the following fields:

- the exchange of knowledge and skills during training and operations;
- the pooling of equipment and human resources by the two parties concerned;
- mutual support in terms of knowledge, infrastructure, equipment and human resources.

In recent years, the collaboration between the DVI and Civil Protection has not only increased, but has also been extended to new areas of competence. The two parties have decided to formalise the terms of this collaboration. In 2020, the 2009 Protocol Agreement (subsequently called the 'Framework Protocol') continued to apply. The 'DVI/Civil Protection Collaboration' working group decided to add to this by adding three additional protocols (known as 'annexes') regarding the specific areas of collaboration and mutual support between DVI and Civil Protection.

This approach allows for a degree of flexibility, since these annexes can be drawn up and signed without having to touch the framework protocol.

These three annexes cover the following areas:

Infrastructure

- deployment of the DVI team in an existing infrastructure on the Civil Protection sites in Brasschaat and Crisnée;
- deployment of the DVI team in an infrastructure outside the Civil Protection sites on Belgian territory or abroad;
- deployment in the context of other extreme situations requiring specific support.

IBIS teams

Its members are trained by the DVI team and carry out necrosearch operations at its request. This means that they locate and exhume buried or hidden victims of murder or manslaughter, both in Belgium and abroad.

Reconnaissance and intervention in a hazardous environment (GRIMP/MTD)

- Search and recovery operations for inaccessible bodies, without knowledge or specialist resources;
- Victimless judicial searches for the purpose of searching in a dangerous environment for items of evidence, objects, traces and clues.

These three additional protocols also include other types of support, such as Technical Assistance and Support Teams (TAST), divers, or Flood Rescue Using Boats (FRUB).



Identity fraud and counterfeiting

The Federal Judicial Police has a team specialised in counterfeiting and identity fraud using false documents. To this end, this team maintains contacts with national and international partners.

False documents

The expert team analysed a total of 36 096 identity or travel documents for identity fraud (compared to 34 542 in 2019). 22 520 documents were analysed as part of the [European fraud prevention procedure](#), 278 of which were found to be false (compared to 277 in 2019).

6 543 driving licences were also checked (compared to 8 231 in 2019), of which 245 were found to be false and invalidated after analysis (compared to 304 in 2019).

The remaining 7 033 documents analysed were from border controls and from seizures from forgers.

Counterfeiting

Number of counterfeit banknotes detected	2019	2020
Euro	46 088	56 968
Foreign currency	515	1 497

Online safety

- The number of fraud cases in which internet investigators of the *Internet Referral Unit* (i2-IRU) intervened increased significantly.
- 2020 was also a special year for the Federal Computer Crime Unit (FCCU). The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on its international operations, support files and training, among other things.
- Under the umbrella of the European Police College CEPOL, FCCU experts developed a new advanced training module on the *dark web* for European police forces.

Internet investigations

The i2-IRU section (Internet Referral Unit) of the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC) carries out various missions:

- Internet investigations;
- blocking websites and/or content (in cooperation with providers and web platforms);
- prevention communication;
- training, information and sharing of expertise;
- participation in Europol activities.

For terrorist files (terrorist propaganda and related violent extremist activities on the Internet) i2/IRU cooperates with the Internet Referral Unit set up by Europol (IRU EU). Europol has an automated tool to make detected propaganda inaccessible. Files with a link to Belgium are further handled by i2/IRU.

i2-IRU provided support to the units in 1 099 files in 2020. That is an increase of 88 cases compared to 2019 (1 011). The remarkable increase for a number of phenomena is linked to Covid-19: the illegal sale of products (fraud), the call for disobedience (public order) and the fake news regarding vaccines and false remedies for the fight against Covid-19.

1 099



Cases

Phenomena	2019	2020
Terrorism	314	244
Information	132	151
Fraud	118	194
Thefts	91	32
Attempt suicide	66	69
Child abuse	54	53

Phenomena	2019	2020
Trafficking in human beings	47	35
Drugs	40	57
Public order	40	97
Online hate	37	47
Cybercrimes	31	37
Weapons	26	20
Disappearances	/	23
Hormones	13	15
Murders	2	16
Patrimony	/	6
Fake news	/	2
Revenge porn	/	1
Total	1 011	1 099

Federal Computer Crime Unit

The mission of the Federal Computer Crime Unit (FCCU) is to combat complex and organised forms of cybercrime, especially those affecting critical infrastructure or providers of essential services. In addition, the FCCU develops expertise in certain high-tech areas and provides specialised support to the central investigation services and the inspection services (AIG/Committee P) in the examination of digital data carriers. Finally, together with the Directorate of Communication (CGC), FCCU also contributes to informing and raising the awareness of the population about cybersecurity, current digital threats and online safety, among others through the social media channels of the Federal Police.

2020 was a special year; the corona pandemic had a major impact on international operations, support files and training, among other things.

Nevertheless, FCCU's effective capacity increased by 22 % in 2020 (from 23 to 28 staff members). Quite a performance, given that ICT specialists are in great demand on the labour market. The focus is mainly on improving the internal processes and services to our partners.

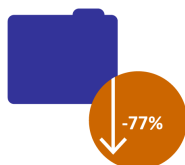
In terms of international cooperation, FCCU is still the pilot for an EMPACT project regarding the development of a thorough dark web training module. The previous training package was very well received.

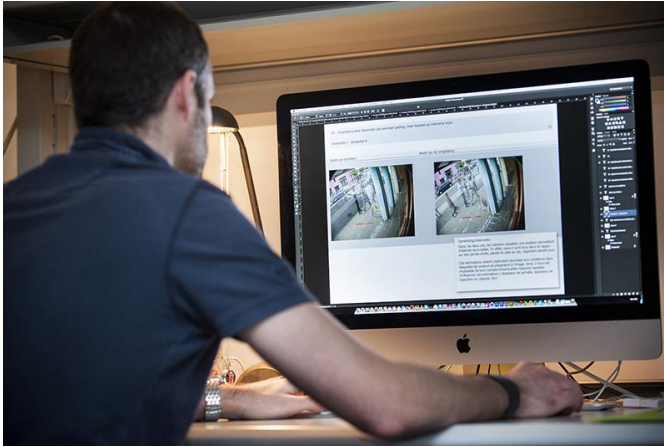
In 2020, FCCU:

- handled 28 of its own cases (compared to 121 in 2019, including support assignments for other units);
- received 50 notifications in the ransomware web application (compared to 171 in 2019). However, this decline is mainly due to underreporting (both internal and external) as ransomware is still rampant.

The "ransomware" modus operandi consists of fraudulently installing a virus on a device without the knowledge of its owner. The malware keeps the device and the files "hostage" (encrypted) and the blackmailers demand a ransom.

28





Convictions in major child abuse case

In one of the biggest child abuse cases ever in Belgium, five suspects were sentenced to prison terms by the Criminal Court of East Flanders, Dendermonde Division, on 31 March 2020. But this was not the end. The amount of footage seized was unprecedented and led to the identification of dozens of victims and perpetrators worldwide. The case is a good example of collaboration between the Federal Police, the Local Police, Europol and Interpol.

The ball got rolling in 2015 with the arrest of a man who was taking pictures of naked children playing on the beach. The police zone VLAS (Kortrijk/Kuurne/Lendelede) started an investigation and found digital images of child abuse. The investigators also established that the suspect had been in contact with a man from Wetteren in East Flanders, with whom he exchanged images. The public prosecutor and the East Flanders Federal Judicial Police (FJP) started an investigation into this man. By order of the investigating judge in Dendermonde, a house search was carried out, which resulted in the seizure of about 15 terabytes (TB) of imagery! Extensive investigation has allowed three more suspects to be identified.

Given the enormous amount of files and the many contacts in closed circles via the **dark web**, it was necessary to expand the investigation team and begin international collaboration. Support was provided by the Computer Crime Unit, the Federal Police's central Child Abuse Unit, FJP West Flanders and police zone VLAS. At an international level, Europol contributed to the analysis of the data. Interpol carried the messages to colleagues outside Europe.

The intensive collaboration between the investigation team and Europol led to the identification of more than 110 victims and 90 suspects worldwide. In more than 40 countries, investigations were started or the information was able to contribute to an ongoing investigation. This led to arrests and convictions worldwide. A great many investigations are still ongoing.

Terrorism, extremism and radicalism

- The Federal Judicial Police puts part of its capacity (15.5 %) at the disposal of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. In this context, 119 424 hours were spent in the fight against terrorism.
- Besides the Airport and Railway Police, more and more units, both federal and local, are training their staff in detecting suspicious behaviour at the external borders, at events and in public spaces.
- The BELFI project in Brussels, with its focus on fraud with a link to radicalism and terrorism, drug trafficking, false documents or weapons, had a more than satisfactory result.

Federal files

The Federal Judicial Police puts part of its capacity (15.5 %) at the disposal of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. In 2020, about 428 982 hours of investigation were commissioned by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, including 119 424 hours in the fight against terrorism. The terrorist threat has decreased in recent years, which has led to a reassignment of the capacity.

Phenomena	2018		2019		2020	
	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%
Terrorism	236 881	60	174 016	45	119 424	28
Non-terrorism	159 423	40	213 102	55	309 558	72
Total	396 304	100	387 118	100	428 982	100

Behaviour Detecting Officers

The task of Behaviour Detecting Officers (BDOs) is to recognise any unusual or deviant behaviour on the basis of a number of indicators. Following the wave of terrorist attacks in Belgium and our neighbouring countries, the demand for training in this technique, which can be used to detect (potential) terrorists, among other things, increased.

At the end of 2020, 1 957 staff members of the Integrated Police were trained in BDO (with a certificate), 137 of whom are active trainers. A total of 1 213 BDOs are members of the Federal Police, mainly in the Airport Police (LPA), the Railway Police (SPC), the Directorate of Public Security (DAS) and the Intervention Corps (CIK).

At the Airport Police more than 80 % is trained in the technique, partly because it was permanently embedded in the training 'Airport Police' required for LPA. The BDO training is also still being followed by staff members who have already obtained the Airport Police Certificate in the past.

In addition, before joining the Directorate of Infrastructure Security (DAB), all security officers and security assistants received a three-day training course in behaviour detection. They are able to perform BDO tasks, but are not required to hold a certificate in this field. As of 3 December 2020, a total of 147 DAB members had successfully completed the basic training, including the three-day BDO training course.

The Terrorism Department of the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC) also provides its expertise on BDO to the platform Stop Ethnic Profiling directed by CG-Integrity.



Success Story

The Airport Police launch AERIS

The Airport Police at Brussels Airport have launched the AERIS project. AERIS is Latin for 'air' and is an acronym for Actions in line with Excellent police care with Respect for Information-driven Synergy.

There are many partners present at an airport who are responsible for a safe airport environment on both the passenger and cargo sides. This makes collaborative synergy necessary. The AERIS project started from traffic-related problems in and around the cargo area of the airport. Even during the coronavirus period, actions were regularly organised that involved various partners and always yielded good results. The cargo area of the airport often remains underexposed, but is and remains susceptible to airport-related crime phenomena. The AERIS project will shift up a gear as soon as the health situation permits. This is in order to organise innovative actions time and again, in which different partners are involved, so that all the information can flow smoothly in an integrated manner. In addition to traffic-related issues, the focus will be expanded to include judicial work.

BELFI: multidisciplinary approach continues to bear fruit

The Brussels Federal Judicial Police (FJP) continued its efforts within the framework of the Canal Plan, both in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism and against the phenomena that support them.

This approach is largely project-based and goes hand in hand with thorough imaging and a multidisciplinary approach in cooperation with the Brussels police zones and numerous public and private partners.

The BELFI project, part of the Canal Plan with a focus on fraud by natural and legal persons linked to radicalism and terrorism, drug trafficking, false documents and weapons, still had a very satisfying result despite the many actions cancelled due to COVID-19. In 2020, 142 entities across the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal of Brussels were checked during 23 operations. These included 26 non-profit organisations and 116 commercial companies.

- These controls led to the arrest of 31 illegal residents.
- 21 cases of social fraud, 6 cases of narcotics and 5 cases of false documents were identified.
- 31 persons were administratively arrested, 7 persons were judicially arrested.
- In 36 cases this led to a 'removal from the register' and 18 companies were dissolved.
- EUR 41 315 was confiscated, EUR 22 900 was paid in bail and the total of administrative and criminal fines amounted to EUR 549 000.

Screening

Security notices and certificates

A *screening* consists in a security check for the purpose of issuing a security notice or certificate. The aim is to give certain persons access to *sensitive* locations in order to perform a specific job or task.

Notices and certificates	2018	2019	2020
Airports	20 625	20 068	15 491
National Security Authority (NSA)	13 278	6 569	5 507
Miscellaneous	6 200	6 488	3 368
Military	5 000	4 993	7 337
Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (FANC)	5 822	4 994	4 519
Recruitments Integrated Police	4 845	5 916	3 437
Support to police zones	1 000	578	295
Honours	17 368	20 207	13 181
Total	74 138	69 813	53 135

The decrease in the number of security checks for the year 2020 is due to the health crisis. This is certainly the case in the airport sector due to travel restrictions.

Security clearances

Staff members of the Federal Police and the Local Police who, on account of their position, (must) have access to classified information or rooms, meetings, etc., need to hold a specific clearance. The purpose of these "security clearances" is to protect sensitive information by limiting its availability.

Since 2018, we note that the number of screenings for security clearance is relatively stable.

Granted security clearances	2018	2019	2020
Confidential	19	10	76
Secret	735	753	713
Top secret	147	195	247
Total	901	958	1 036

80 % of the applications for (the renewal of) a clearance came from members of the Federal Police in 2020.

Civilian crisis management at international level

The Federal Police provided an additional anti-terrorism expert to the European External Action Service. In addition to the three Belgian policemen already working at the European Union delegations in Bosnia-Herzegovina (EUDEL Sarajevo), Libya (EUDEL Tripoli) and Indonesia (EUDEL Jakarta), a fourth Belgian expert was assigned to the European Union delegation in Lebanon (EUDEL Beirut).

In addition, the Integrated Police - through the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) - deployed a total of ten staff members (including nine from the Federal Police) for EU civilian crisis management missions in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger), Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali), Iraq (EUAM Iraq), Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine) and the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS).

By taking part in these missions, Belgium intends to help local authorities deal with, among other things, the terrorist threat in these regions.

For the same reason, the Integrated Police continued to carry out projects of the Belgian Development Agency ENABEL to strengthen the security services in Burkina Faso and Benin.

Economic and social security

- In order to disrupt crime as much as possible, we must ensure that crime does NOT pay.
- The Federal Judicial Police seized a total amount of 340 372 125 euros.
- Despite the exceptional COVID-19 situation, the approach to sports fraud was actively pursued.

Joint investigation teams against social fraud

The Federal Police joins forces with five social inspection services to combat social dumping, undeclared work, bogus self-employment and organised bankruptcies by criminal gangs.

These joint investigation teams (MOTEM) tackle social fraud in the same way in all judicial districts. An investigation plan is drawn up at the opening of each case, in consultation with the competent inspection services.

The aim of this initiative is not to tackle isolated cases of social fraud, but to combat organised social fraud, with a view to recovering illegally acquired property.



Success Story

MOTEM: more than one success story

The results, since the launch of the mixed research teams (MOTEM) in November 2019, were not long in the coming. Despite the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, which undoubtedly had a strong impact on the phenomenon of organised social fraud, 78 cases were launched by the decentralised directorates of the Federal Judicial Police, representing an average of 40,000 hours of capacity.

Although economic activity has been significantly reduced and international journeys have been restricted, the phenomenon of social dumping, mainly in the transport and construction sectors, still accounts for about half of the cases opened.

The collaboration with the inspection services on the basis of punctual support or in a mixed investigation team has been a success. In almost half of the cases, there has been collaboration with one or more inspection services, mainly with the social inspection services (National Social Security Office, Federal Public Service ELSD, etc.).

Moreover, in a quarter of the cases, excellent results were achieved in terms of criminal investigation in addition to the regularisations carried out by the inspection services.

This method of collaboration is bearing fruit. For the future, this opens up the prospect of an even more professional and multi-disciplinary approach to the battle against organised social fraud.

Greater focus on sports fraud

Even in a corona pandemic, a lot was achieved in the fight against sports fraud, both structurally within the Federal Police and externally by participating in (inter)national networks, organisations, projects and forums.

Creation of the Sports Fraud Team

In 2020, a new four-member team was established within the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC): the Sports Fraud Team. This team conducts investigations into match fixing, social and financial fraud in the sports world, etc. For broader investigations, other teams of DJSOC and of the Federal Judicial Police can be called upon.



Introduction of DRUPAL reporting form

In cooperation with the Directorate of Police Information & ICT (DRI), the sports fraud reporting form was updated and made GDPR-compliant. The new European Directive (2019/1937) on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law (the 'Whistleblower Directive') has also already been taken into account by allowing anonymous reports by citizens, although this directive has not yet been transposed into Belgian law. The report form is available in the three national languages and in English, the latter to reflect the international nature of sports fraud.

Educational and preventive work with sports federations and academies

The Sports Fraud Team also focuses on education and prevention, among other things by participating in university research (with UGent and KUL) and in international projects such as the workshops of the Copenhagen Group within the framework of the Macolin Convention (Council of Europe). In order to gain and share knowledge and expertise, the Federal Police also participates through the Sports Fraud Team in the annual Panathlon conference and the webinars of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on sports fraud.

Start-up and follow-up of judicial cases

The most notable case in 2020 was the ORYAN case. This investigation into match fixing in the tennis world was launched by the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC) and continued by the East Flanders Federal Judicial Police (FJP) in cooperation with Europol. In this investigation, it became clear that the initiative to rig a

match was mainly taken by the tennis players themselves; they offered their tennis match to the criminal betting network, which then checked whether the tennis match was interesting enough to gamble on. Worldwide, 182 tennis players, the majority American and South American, and more than 9 million dollars in bribes could be linked to this criminal Armenian gambling network. Evidence and/or indications were found of 376 rigged tennis matches. The case has not yet come before court.

Furthermore, in addition to the 'Propere Handen' (clean hands) case, various investigations into football agents have been launched and are still ongoing.

Engagements with Europol and Interpol

Sports fraud is an international phenomenon, with international players and international events. It therefore requires an international approach. Efforts were made to confirm Belgium's participation in anti-corruption programmes at Europol and Interpol. This has already led to a fruitful exchange of information and contacts.

International partnership: the key to success

- Police cooperation with Albania in tackling drug trafficking and human smuggling has been strengthened.
- The Federal Police is taking up the challenge of better harmonising European information systems and databases.
- The Schengen Evaluation Committee praises various projects and initiatives with an international dimension within the Federal Police.

Bilateral and multilateral agreements

On 7 July 2020, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom signed a new treaty on international rail traffic through the Channel Tunnel. The Federal Police took an active part in negotiating this treaty, together with the Federal Public Service (FPS) Interior.

The Federal Police also played an important role in the negotiations led by the FPS Foreign Affairs on the Preclearance agreement with the United States, which was signed on 28 September 2020. Once ratified, this agreement will allow US Customs and Border Protection officials to conduct immigration, customs and agricultural inspections of international passengers not only upon arrival in the United States, but prior to departure in Brussels. As a result, the flight is treated at the destination airport as if it were a domestic flight and the passengers no longer have to undergo controls on US territory.



Enhanced police cooperation with Albania

The General Commissioner and the Director of International Police Cooperation of the Federal Police paid a working visit to Albania in early March. They made various concrete agreements to strengthen police cooperation between Belgium and Albania, mainly in the area of drugs and human smuggling. After all, Albanian criminal organisations are playing an increasing role in the cocaine traffic via the port of Antwerp and in the smuggling of people to the United Kingdom via our country.

Arrests for drug trafficking in Albania

In February, 25 suspects linked to an Albanian organised crime gang were arrested as part of a simultaneous operation in Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and France. The investigation, led by the Antwerp Local Police,



revealed that the drugs had been hidden in containers and smuggled into Belgium. From there, they were distributed throughout Europe using vehicles equipped with built-in hiding places.

The success of this Europol cross-border operation is the result of excellent collaboration between police organisations from different countries. The role of the Single Point of Operational Contact (SPOC) at the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) also contributed to this by facilitating optimum exchange of information. From the beginning to the end of the case, the SPOC, on behalf of the Belgian investigators and their foreign counterparts, ensured the transfer of information to the right recipient, the quality of the information and follow-up, the issuing of arrest reports and the extradition of suspects to Belgium.

Implementation of new EU regulations

The Federal Police has prepared the implementation of several European Union (EU) regulations that will have to be implemented systematically from 2022 onwards, such as the *Entry Exit System*, interoperability and the new SIS Regulations (on the use of the Schengen Information System). These preparations take place within a multidisciplinary implementation mechanism and aim, among other things, to better coordinate the different European information systems and to enable the exchange between databases.

With regard to the new SIS regulations, seven thematic working groups and an umbrella coordination working group have been launched. At technical level, efforts were made to significantly modernise the *Schengen Information System*. A thorough legal impact analysis was also carried out, and the necessary steps for further implementation were carefully mapped out and planned on a project basis.

Schengen evaluations

In 2020, the Integrated Police would again be subject to Schengen evaluations with regard to police cooperation and the functioning of the SIS/SIRENE systems. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these have been partially postponed.

In preparation, the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) visited several local and federal police services. The findings were compiled and analysed per service. To address a number of persistent difficulties with regard to international alerts, an information kit was compiled: a handy reminder with tips, flowcharts and summary tables. A number of flowcharts and visuals were compiled in a poster and distributed to all services of the Integrated Police.



Good 'Schengen practices' at the Federal Police

Two projects at the Airport Police (LPA) and an achievement by the Directorate of Police Information and ICT (DRI) were labelled as 'good practice' by the Schengen Evaluation Committee.

The **Avia (Air Border Surveillance)** project by the Airport Police focuses on the detection and determination of infringements to do with entering or leaving the Schengen area via non-authorised air borders (in Belgium, this concerns 46 airfields and 93 heliports). No infringements were detected in 2020, compared to 14 in 2019. Avia enables the active daily monitoring of all flight plans in General Aviation (General Aviation is the collective name for general civil aviation, business aviation and private chartered aviation, as well as tourism, educational and training aviation). These flight plans are transmitted digitally. The Airport Police then performs a preliminary check for (border-related) types of crime.

Aerotask General Declaration is the application of the API principle (*Advanced Passenger Information*) for non-commercial aviation (including business flights) to all arriving and departing extra-Schengen traffic. For inspection purposes, having passenger data in advance is a great added value.

In terms of '*data protection*', the **national copy of the Schengen Information System (N-SIS)** came into the picture for the Schengen Evaluation Committee. The **police security plan** comprises both technical and organisational measures to guarantee the availability, integrity and confidentiality of information. This plan is regularly evaluated and, if necessary, updated by the Directorate of Police Information and ICT (DRI) at the Federal Police. It was listed as 'good practice' in the final report from the Schengen Evaluation Committee.



Police cooperation at and across borders

In addition, during the past year, the Federal Police has made preparations to be able to send the obligatory number of seconded police staff to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex for the first time. In concrete terms, this concerns 63 staff members of the Integrated Police, including 58 from the Federal Police. This implementation will require monitoring and structural capacity in the coming years.

Furthermore, the Federal Police, together with the Local Police, provided initial input with regard to the proposals of the European Commission (more specifically the revision of the Europol Regulation, the police-relevant parts of the new EU Pact on Asylum and Immigration), and cooperated in the preliminary studies for proposals of the European Commission which will be published in the course of 2021 (the *EU Police/Law Enforcement Code* which, in addition to an expansion of the Prüm Council Decisions, will also contain a modernisation of the current possibilities for cross-border police cooperation).



Success Story

Knowledge of international police cooperation bundled on WiKiPol

Since the summer of 2020, it has been possible to consult the agreements negotiated by the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) at a European or international level on WiKiPol, the digital and online knowledge platform for police services. Regular changes concerning international developments that are important to the missions of police officers in the field are also published on WiKiPol and announced via newsletters.

This way, up-to-date information and knowledge of international police cooperation can quickly be made available to police officers in the field at all times. This offers added value, in particular for police operations and activities in border regions and in tackling cross-border crime phenomena.



- On 31 December 2020, the Federal Police employed a total of 13 493 people, including 10 394 operational staff (Ops) and 3 099 civilian staff (CALog).
- Kazerne Dossin and the Integrated Police reinforced their partnership by signing a renewed cooperation agreement.
- The Westakkers site, covering an area of 50 hectares, can be used by the Integrated Police as a training site for negotiated management of public space and other violence control training sessions.



Our values

- The RESPECT internal awareness-raising campaign continued with two new themes: mutual respect, regardless of rank or level, and respect for everyone, regardless of gender.
- Kazerne Dossin and the Integrated Police reinforced their partnership by signing a renewed cooperation agreement.
- The Federal Police further strengthened its visual identity. An important achievement was the uniformisation of emblems. These emblems stand for professional pride, a shared responsibility, a visible sense of belonging, a graphically represented we-feeling.

A Mission Statement based on values

The values that the Federal Police emphasises in its [Mission Statement](#) are:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Open-mindedness
- Flexibility
- Service-mindedness
- Pride

The Federal Police takes initiatives to raise awareness of these values among its staff (e.g. 'Human Rights and Kazerne Dossin' training, Value Compass) and to draw their attention to the various areas of application in this respect (e.g. RESPECT campaign). Furthermore, it intends to continue building a working environment for its staff that promotes solidarity and diversity, where workers feel respected and see their professional commitment recognised.

New leadership tool: Value Compass

The Federal Police values were translated into a compass with ten attitudes, linked to specific behavioural indicators. This compass was designed to guide conversations about behaviour, attitudes and values.

The aim is to increase support to and by managers and to promote a feedback culture. The Value Compass can help managers and staff members concretely discuss values and their areas of application and to make mutual arrangements.

The General Directorate of Resource Management and Information (DGR) created this tool to support managers at all levels. It was launched in November 2020 and made available to all Integrated Police managers.



RESPECT for everyone

The RESPECT campaign is the result of a solid partnership between the Diversity Service, the Integrity Service of the General Commissioner's Office (CG/Integrity) and the Directorate of Communication (CGC) of the Federal Police. It targets seven themes: respect for sexual orientation, gender, disability, differences in age, rank, level, multiculturality and different statuses.

The goal of this awareness-raising campaign launched in May 2019: to stimulate reflection on the values of our organisation and remind us of the rights and duties that underlie it. Each theme is accompanied by a poster campaign, the publication of testimonials and good practices and, where available, a training offer.

Last year, the RESPECT internal communication campaign of the Federal Police continued with a focus on two themes: mutual respect, regardless of rank or level, and respect for everyone, regardless of gender.

International thematic days are levers to raise awareness among staff about RESPECT campaign themes. In 2020, the 'disability inclusion' theme was highlighted in the margins of the International Day of People with Disabilities. By showing how inclusion strengthens our organisation, the importance of integrating disabled people is stressed. However, there is still some work to be done. A royal decree stipulates that every federal organisation has to employ 3 % disabled workers. For the Federal Police, this only applies to civilian staff (CAlLog). With 0.16 % disabled people in 2019 and 2020, that goal has not been reached yet.

In order to have an up-to-date overview of all the disabled workers within the Federal Police, the Diversity Service of the General Directorate of Resource Management and Information (DGR/DRP/Diversity) carried out an online survey. In total, 3 002 people responded to this survey, mainly operational staff (71 %). 8 % of the respondents, i.e. 254 persons, indicated having a disability, especially a motor (48 %) or hearing (11 %) disability. This survey also showed that we have to listen to them and make the necessary adjustments, particularly ergonomic and logistic adjustments.



Stop Ethnic Profiling Platform

'Ethnic profiling' is profiling exclusively based on race, skin colour, language, religion, nationality or national/ethnic origin. It is a form of discrimination that is neither ethical nor legally acceptable. As protectors of rights and freedoms, police services play an important role in the fight against this phenomenon. This should also reflect in their actions, in particular police checks.

In 2020, the General Commissioner of the Federal Police had a meeting with the directors of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within the framework of the [Stop Ethnic Profiling](#) Platform. Subsequently, under the direction of the CG/Integrity Service, a working group was established, composed of the Diversity Service of the General Directorate of Resource Management and Information (DGR), BDO (Behaviour Detection Officer) and CoPPRa (prevention of radicalisation and terrorism) experts from the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC), Kazerne Dossin and the Local Police Standing Committee (CPPL-VCLP). People invited to participate in this working group include:

- the experts of Amnesty International, MRAX (Movement against Racism, anti-Semitism and Xenophobia), *Ligue des droits humains - Liga voor Mensenrechten* (Human Rights League), etc. in order to explain their recommendations to police services within the framework of discriminatory profiling;
- the representatives and inventor of the 'carrying out controls professionally' action framework of the Dutch National Police;
- the diversity coordinators of the Bruxelles-Nord, Mechelen-Willebroek, Ghent and Antwerp police zones who are adapting the action framework to Belgian police zones.

On the basis of these meetings that took place in 2020, the CG/Integrity Service has launched additional initiatives within the framework of 'carrying out controls professionally'.

Integrated Police and Kazerne Dossin renew cooperation agreement

On 10 December 2020, International Human Rights Day, Kazerne Dossin and the Integrated Police reinforced their partnership by signing a [renewed cooperation agreement](#).

In 2014, Kazerne Dossin and the Integrated Police signed their first cooperation agreement. In this agreement, both parties expressed their desire to cooperate closely and to set up a ('Holocaust, Police and Human Rights') training course for police officers. Six years later, all parties thought it was time to re-examine and renew this cooperation agreement.

Since 2014, cooperation between the police and Kazerne Dossin has only increased. The 'Holocaust, Police and Human Rights' training consists of four different sessions:

- Guide – Holocaust, Police and Human Rights
- Holocaust, Police and Human Rights (Dealing with dilemmas)
- Holocaust, Police and Human Rights for managers. Concretely dealing with integrity in my service
- Polarisation: threat or opportunity for the police?

The renewed agreement further develops the cooperation that has grown organically through the years. It describes why and how the police and Kazerne Dossin wish to join forces and provides for an annual structured dialogue. The agreement will be accompanied by a multi-annual policy plan in order to further concretise this cooperation.



“Learning to analyse critically and autonomously”

"Our aim is that young trainees and police staff (of all ranks and levels) with years of experience learn from the behaviour of others. Learn from mechanisms such as group aggression and group pressure. Learn that as an individual you are able to analyse certain events and behaviour critically and autonomously and that you can go against the group."



FIRST CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MARC DE MESMAEKER
General Commissioner of the Federal Police

'Holocaust, Police and Human Rights' training

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the organisation of this training. On the one hand, training sessions were limited by the measures imposed on police schools and, on the other hand, by the measures imposed on the cultural sector. However, 40 sessions took place with 530 participants in total.

Since the launch of the project, 11 308 staff members of the Integrated Police have already participated in this training, as a trainee during basic training or later in their careers to improve their knowledge.

Sessions	2018	2019	2020
Users	93	129	40
Managers	2	1	/

People trained	2018	2019	2020
Users	1 636*	2 390**	530***
Managers	23	8	/

* Including 804 trainees who followed basic training.

** Including 992 trainees who followed basic training.

*** Including 180 trainees who followed basic training.



'Polarisation: threat or opportunity for the police?' training

In the wake of the attacks in Belgium, a training course on dealing with polarisation was developed at the request of the General Commissioner and the General Directorate of Resource Management and Information (DGR). This training was developed for the Integrated Police in cooperation with the Diversity Service. The one-day training course focuses on understanding the mechanisms of polarisation and on recognising this phenomenon in society and the police organisation. In the second part of the training, participants put theory into practice using examples.

After a series of test sessions in 2019 and its integration in the management certificate curriculum during the same year, the training was included in the Federal Police training offer in 2020. The corona crisis also had a big impact on the organisation of sessions, since a number of them were cancelled in the spring. However, in a later phase, the focus was entirely on online sessions, requiring great adaptability from both trainers and participants.

This made it possible to train 227 Integrated Police staff members in 2020.

Visual identity: uniform emblems

In 2020, the Federal Police further strengthened its visual identity. An important achievement was the uniformisation of emblems.

An emblem is much more than a penstroke or a drawing. It stands for a function, a common desire, professional pride, a shared responsibility, a graphically represented we-feeling, etc. It is the result of a subtle balance between a sense of belonging to the organisation and the need to identify with a smaller group.

In order to uniformise emblems in accordance with our visual identity, we developed a specific template and validation procedure. The approach adopted thus meets the objectives of internal cohesion, identity and team spirit described in the mission letter of the General Commissioner, the expectations of many managers and a recommendation of the Committee P (Standing Police Monitoring Committee).

The new emblems symbolise various functions: Intervention Corps, information and communication, police victim relief, security, navigation, railways, protection, fight against corruption, environment and hormones, victim identification, medical support, etc.

Other initiatives in the field of visual identity include: regulating the use of logos, creating photo packs to decorate the reception desk of the buildings and developing new corporate templates and screen wallpapers for the new digital tools.

The aim of visual identity, based on our basic colours blue and ochre, is to make the Federal Police visible and recognisable in the blink of an eye. A strong visual identity will boost the image of our organisation as an attractive employer, among other things.



Transparency and accountability: parliamentary questions

In its oversight role, the Parliament has, inter alia, the possibility of putting questions – written or oral – to members of the government.

For questions relating to the functioning of the Federal Police or the Integrated Police, the responsible ministers receive our support in preparing answers via the Administrative and Technical Secretariats (SAT-ATS). In 2020, 1 190 oral and written questions were addressed to the responsible ministers.

Our staff

- On 31 December 2020, the Federal Police employed a total of 13 493 people, including 10 394 operational staff (Ops) and 3 099 civilian staff (CALog).
- The HRMob tool, enabling members of the Integrated Police to apply for a job through mobility, yielded excellent results in its first full operating year!
- Despite the complex health situation, trade union relations within the Federal Police were maintained.

Federal Police workforce

An analysis of the number of Federal Police staff on 31 December 2020 compared with 31 December 2019 shows that the shortfall (shortfall of staff in relation to planned capacity) of operational staff remains relatively stable (15.93 % in 2019 compared with 15.49 % in 2020). The shortfall of administrative and logistic staff also remains stable (9.82 % in 2019 compared with 9.53 % in 2020).

	Men			Women			Total		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Operational staff									
Chief superintendent	183	160	175	20	16	23	203	176	198
Superintendent	979	927	858	119	129	137	1 089	1 056	995
Chief inspector	2 368	2 328	2 331	372	409	414	2 740	2 737	2 745
Inspector	4 089	4 125	4 208	1 082	1 161	1 221	5 171	5 286	5 429
Constable	10	9	8	15	14	14	25	23	22
Protection assistant	42	37	29	/	/	/	42	37	29
Security constable	148	401	522	23	71	91	171	472	613
Security assistant	/	332	311	/	49	48	/	381	359
Security coordinator	/	4	4	/	/	/	/	4	4
Administrative and logistic staff									
A level	261	263	260	454	518	531	798	715	708
B level	344	362	364	454	518	531	798	880	895
C level	402	417	427	671	710	699	1 073	1 127	1 126
D level	238	228	219	162	158	151	400	386	370
Total	9 064	9 593	9 716	3 343	3 687	3 777	12 407	13 280	13 493
Difference	Men: +1,28 %			Women: +2,4 %			Total: +1,60 %		

These figures represent, as on 31 December 2020, the staff of the three general directorates and the General Commissioner's Office of the Federal Police, excluding staff recruited using the Road Safety Fund credits, as well as trainee security constables who did not successfully complete their training and have been seconded while awaiting a new training session. These figures also do not include: persons to whom alternative financing applies (such as staff seconded to the Standing Police Monitoring Committee and the Belgian Standing Intelligence Agencies Review Committee), cleaning staff, trainees, staff members of the Social Secretariat (SSGPI), catering staff, staff of the General Inspectorate (AIG) and the Supervisory Body for Police Information (COC), staff members seconded to the Local Police against payment, persons working for the Administrative and Technical Secretariats (SAT-ATS), for the Coordination Unit for Threat Assessment (CUTA) and for SHAPE, and finally all staff members who requested non-activity prior to pension.

New in this table compared to previous years is that it also includes specific ranks within the Directorate of Infrastructure Security (DAB), i.e. security constables, security assistants and security coordinators, as well as protection assistants coming from the State Security Service.

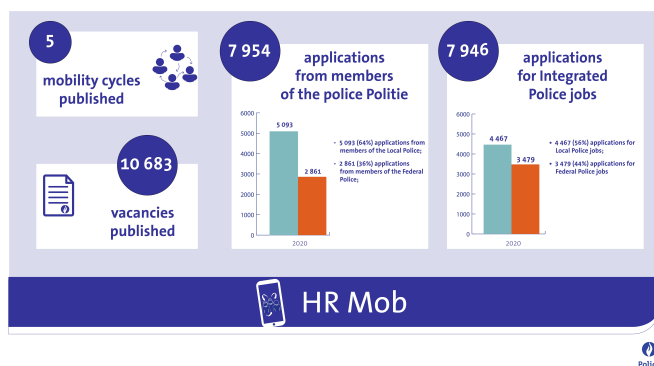


HRMob: simplicity, time saving and tailor-made information

HRMob is an application developed in SharePoint to digitise the mobility process. Accessibility, transparency and speed are the key words. HRMob enables staff members to search for a post (i.e. a different job at the police) within the framework of mobility, to apply for it and to follow up their file digitally, online, on any device, anytime and anywhere.

Some figures for HRMob in 2020:

- 5 mobility cycles published;
- 10 683 vacancies published;
- 7 946 applications submitted and processed by the Directorate of Staff:
 - 5 093 (64 %) applications from members of the Local Police;
 - 2 861 (36 %) applications from members of the Federal Police;
 - 4 467 (56 %) applications for Local Police jobs;
 - 3 479 (44 %) applications for Federal Police jobs;
- a total of 10 524 users for the month of February (mobility cycle 2020-01);
- a total of 13 129 users for the month of April (mobility cycle 2020-02);
- a total of 14 714 users for the month of July (mobility cycle 2020-03);
- a total of 18 177 users for the month of October (mobility cycle 2020-04);
- a total of 24 007 users for the month of December (mobility cycle 2020-05);
- 1 560 job descriptions already available to the Federal Police and another 521 entered in 2020.



Activities of the Medical Service for the Integrated Police

The Medical Service is responsible for the organisation and execution of medical expertise, administration, monitoring and advice. Staff members of the Federal Police and the Local Police can visit provincial medical centres (PMCs) to consult a curative physician. Consultations for curative care are carried out by external doctors, who use the existing infrastructures but organise the consultations themselves.

The medical data of the Integrated Police staff are managed and centralised in the MedOne database. In 2019, this database was first used on an exploratory basis in order to support the human resources policy.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Medical Service to suspend its activities for a considerable time. Since mid-March 2020, consultations implying physical contact with a sick staff member were limited. This does not mean that physicians and provincial medical centres did not follow up the files, but that physical consultations were reduced to protect police staff.

Consultations	2018	2019	2020
Control and advice*	10 052	11 217	4 321
Curative care**	11 893	9 012	5 519
Operational missions***	334	352	170
Emergency care	118	75	47
Subtotal	22 487	19 447	10 010

* Control and advice: carried out by the same doctors. In general, it should be noted that registration methods with regard to follow-up, consultation, preparation, control, etc. can differ between PMCs.

** Curative care: carried out by external doctors who manage themselves. The Medical Service no longer provides curative care. Therefore, we do not have all the figures for these consultations.

*** The Medical Service offers support (ambulance staff, etc.) for activities or exercises involving risk (law enforcement, Molotov exercises, Special Units, etc.). The difference between 2019 and 2020 is due to COVID-19. All missions were cancelled during the first lockdown, followed by a partial resumption of activities (July-October). During the second lockdown (November-December 2020), missions were cancelled for a second time.



Stress Team activities

The Stress Team of the Federal Police works for the Integrated Police, i.e. for both the Federal Police and the Local Police.

Many police zones have their own Stress Team/prevention service or collaborate with external prevention services and/or provincial assistance teams. This is why the figures for the Local Police are lower.

Interventions/consultations (talks)* relating to psychosocial problems

Stress Team support to the Federal Police	2018	2019	2020
Crisis intervention	247	187	171
Emotional debriefing	15	15	10
Trauma	217	333	490
Burnout	422	504	580
Depression	164	212	260
Violence against police officers	35	187	40
COVID-19	/	/	52

* An intervention is equivalent to one appointment or a long phone call.

** Interventions/consultations (talks) relating to COVID-19, e.g. violence against police officers linked to enforcement of Covid measures.

Stress Team support to the Local Police	2018	2019	2020
Crisis intervention	54	56	96
Emotional debriefing	30	23	19
Trauma	42	51	82
Burnout	21	37	143
Depression	3	3	30
Violence against police officers	20	56	87
COVID-19*	/	/	4

* Interventions/consultations (talks) relating to COVID-19, e.g. violence against police officers linked to enforcement of Covid measures.

The general upward trend can be partly explained by the coronavirus. The number of targeted Stress Team interventions is not predictable and is to a large extent related to current events and incidents, especially with regard to 'burnout' and 'trauma'.

Well-being and prevention (CGWB) for the Federal Police

The Directorate of Internal Prevention and Protection at Work (CGWB) of the Federal Police has the task of assisting the employer, management and staff members in the implementation of regulations relating to the well-being of workers. It is also involved in all prevention measures and activities.

CGWB has prevention advisors with a specialisation (occupational safety, occupational medicine, psychosocial aspects, ergonomics, occupational hygiene). This network also manages the network of trusted persons.

Training and awareness-raising for the Federal Police

Campaigns/Awareness-raising/Training	2018	2019	2020
Publications Prevention InfoNews (newsletter for the Federal Police)	27	7	12
PolNews articles (internal police website)	/	27	29
Information sessions on the different aspects of well-being at work	36	28	71
Training given on the different aspects of well-being at work	35	47	45

Individual files on psychosocial aspects of the Federal Police

In total, 187 Federal Police staff members requested psychosocial support from trusted persons and specialised prevention advisors.

Informal procedures*	2018	2019	2020
Advice	127	84	90
Consultations (talks)	/	79**	66
Intervention by a third party	28	14	16
Conciliation	13	14	15
Subtotal	168	191	187

Formal procedures***			
Collective	/	/	1
Individual	/	/	0
Violence/harassment at work	10	13	9
Subtotal	10	13	10

Register of offences by third parties****			
Physical violence	/	/	4
Psychological violence	/	/	3
Moral harassment at work	6	12	0
Sexual harassment at work	2	0	0
Physical & psychological violence and other*****	2	1	12

Subtotal	10	13	19
Total	178	204	216

* Informal interventions are intended to restore a serene working climate by advising the worker concerned, by having talks with him/her to help solve his/her problem, by turning to a third person who is involved in the problem (colleague/superior) or by organising conciliation.

** Refining statistics: there is a difference between advice and consultations. Each applicant receives advice. If this advice is sufficient, no consultation is needed.

*** In case of a formal procedure, the psychosocial risks of the situation are described in a report to the employer. Prevention and protective measures are proposed so as to solve the problem mentioned in the request and to avoid recurrence.

**** In case of violence, moral or sexual harassment at work by a third party, the worker concerned can, anonymously or not, inform his/her employer through the register of offences by third parties.

***** Physical & psychological violence and other includes all the above items.

Medical surveillance of workers' health

The Occupational Medicine Service carries out the tasks related to the health surveillance of the members of the Federal Police. For this purpose, the service is composed of prevention advisors-occupational physicians, nurses and administrative staff.

Annual periodic health assessment	2018	2019	2020
Workers subject to at least one annual periodic health assessment	13 130	12 700	12 994
Workers who have received an annual periodic health assessment			
Workers who have a safety function	5 670	6 415	3 572
Workers who have a position with increased vigilance	263	247	187
Workers at particular risk	1 558	1 308	766
Special categories (disabled persons, trainees, pupils, students, pregnant or breastfeeding workers, temporary workers, LEA workers)	3	40*	8
Total	7 494	8 010	4 533

* More students have been hired and data entry relating to worker types is also more accurate thanks to the improved *MedWAN* monitoring programme.

Staff safety

The Safety Service carries out tasks relating to safety at work. To this end, it is composed of safety prevention advisors.

The health crisis has had a large impact on work in the field of staff safety. The number of meetings of the Committees for Prevention and Protection at Work was also increased in order to discuss the measures taken by the organisation with the trade union partners.

Opinions/recommendations, advice (written or oral)	2018	2019	2020
Safety at work	223	326	376
Health in the performance of work	38	33	94
Industrial hygiene: chemical, biological and physical factors that can have an impact on well-being (light, cleanliness and maintenance of materials/equipment/rooms, colours, smells, heating, air conditioning appliances, ventilation, solar radiation, etc.)	43	92	158
Ergonomics: adapting work to people	19	63	22

Opinions/recommendations, advice (written or oral)	2018	2019	2020
Selection, purchase and commissioning of work materials and equipment ('three green lights procedure')	162	131	159
Risk analyses: - Participating in the elaboration of a risk analysis - Giving an opinion on the results of a risk analysis	187	219	195
Occupational accident* including analysis work	719	1 260	934
Safety incident* including analysis work	18	35	22
Workplace visits: - Annual visit of the Committee for Prevention and Protection at Work - Visit in the context of a file	277	311	218
Participation in the Committees for Prevention and Protection at Work	91	84	133

* A work-related accident may lead to incapacity to work; a work incident, however, implies an event or dysfunction that does not lead to injury.

Trade union relations

Social dialogue and negotiations between the authority and the trade unions help to improve working conditions and increase the safety of workers. Social relations within the police organisation take place at the level of the Negotiating Committee, the Higher Concertation Committee (CSC-HOC) and the Base Concertation Committees (CCB-BOC).

Negotiating Committee

The Negotiating Committee deals with files for the Integrated Police and the Federal Police. It decides on proposals concerning the basic rules of the statute, the financial statute and the pension scheme, relations with trade unions and other regulatory texts. It also deals with strike notices.

The Negotiating Committee is chaired by the Administrative and Technical Secretariat (SAT-ATS) 'Interior'. In 2020, it met 24 times (compared to 28 in 2019).

Higher Concertation Committee and Base Concertation Committees – Committee for Prevention and Protection at Work

The concertation committees deal with socio-economic matters or the application of basic rules (job profiles, temporary derogations from working hours, etc.).

They also have the competence to act as Committee for Prevention and Protection at Work (CPPT-CPBW). They follow up on matters relating to well-being at work and ensure that everyone can work in safe and healthy conditions. This includes concertation on prevention plans and risk analyses, as well as prior opinions on work equipment.

The Higher Concertation Committee (CSC-HOC) deals with files for the Federal Police and the Integrated Police. It is chaired by the General Director of Resource Management and Information (DGR). In 2020, it met 32 times (compared to 25 in 2019).

Veterinary activities for the Integrated Police

Our faithful four-legged auxiliaries also need care. The Federal Police has a veterinary service for this purpose, which also treats some of our colleagues' dogs of the Local Police.

Consultations	2018	2019	2020
for Federal Police dogs	443	787	845
for Local Police dogs	180	214	573
for horses	5 784	2 700	4 281*

Consultations	2018	2019	2020
External consultations for retired horses**	171	242	269
Total	6 578	3 943	5 968

* This increase is largely due to the average age of the horses, which is rather high at the moment. All sorts of problems occur (arthrosis, dental problems), requiring rehabilitation and regular check-ups.

** 'Retired' or 'unfit' horses are horses which, as they can no longer carry out missions, are accommodated in the homes of people who look after them during their retirement. However, they remain the property of the Federal Police.



Our material

- Every year, the Federal Police provides the people in the field with equipment and material: we spent 5 017 216 euros on weapons , of which 431 730 (9%) were for the benefit of the Local Police, and 13 785 018 euros on equipment, of which 6 160 995 (45%) were for the benefit of the Local Police.
- The Federal Police presents the new unisex, two-tone parka and a *softshell* jacket. Both are unique in their kind.
- Thanks to Logispol, the Federal Police's logistics staff have a system that gives them a very complete and correct view of the material in stock and, at the same time, of the remaining budget.

Vehicles

The total number of vehicles purchased has risen sharply. This can be explained by the fact that halfway through 2020, the government allocated an additional budget to the Federal Police, enabling units to improve their fleet.

Vehicles purchased	2019	2020
Anonymous vehicles	82	278
Vehicles with police logo	142	157
vehicles from special DAB (Directorate of Infrastructure Security) budget (non-recurring)	78	27
heavy-duty vehicles (> 3.5 tonnes, including buses, armoured vehicles, water cannons)	3	4
hybrid vehicles	26	30*
Total	224	435

* 26 mild hybrids + 2 rechargeable hybrids + 2 electric vehicles.

Federal Police service vehicles	2018	2019	2020
Anonymous vehicles (excluding Security Corps)	2 258	2 285	2 267
Vehicles with police logo	1 151	1 172	1 401
Heavy-duty vehicles	86	93	110
Total*	3 409	3 457	3 668

* Do NOT add the three numbers together to get the total number of vehicles. Heavy-duty vehicles (e.g. 110 for 2020) are already included in the anonymous vehicles or those with police striping.



Weapons and ammunition

We spent 1 164 698 euros on individual weapons (batons and pepper sprays) for the Federal Police.

Purchases of weapons and ammunition*	Quantity			Amount		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Individual weapons	113	430	1288	€ 43 749	€ 200 108	€ 512 907
Ammunition	/	6 699 000 cartridges	5 560 000	€ 747 794	€ 1 134 810	€ 945 544
Grenades	/	/	/	/	€ 107 755	€ 189 828
Tear gas	/	/	/	€ 75 796	/	/
Cougar launchers	/	/	/	/	€ 110 533	/
Batons + accessories	1 407	646	3 206	€ 142 50	€ 72 036	144 807
Pepper spray + accessories	2 971	1 112	13 426	€ 45 748	€ 22 797	€ 204 824
Accessories	/	/	/	€ 150 444	/	€ 339 711

* Excluding: Special Units (DSU) and National Police Academy (ANPA).

In 2020, the Federal Police purchased 236 new collective weapons, 36 blue guns and 26 red guns, totalling 1 686 609 euros. A blue gun is a weapon that fires blank cartridges or paintballs. A red gun has all the characteristics of a weapon, but is completely inert. Both guns are used for training purposes.

Equipment

Functional equipment: new items in the catalogue

In 2020, the Federal Police spent 10 593 995 euros on basic equipment, of which 4 711 389 euros went to the Local Police.

With regard to basic equipment, public procurement contracts for outdoor and indoor sports shoes were awarded in 2020. With regard to functional equipment, public procurement contracts were awarded for pepper sprays (including refillable inert sprays that stand out because of their smaller environmental footprint, durability and lower cost since they are refillable) and for lightweight ballistic safety helmets.

A new long weapon for the Integrated Police

Since the reality in the field and the weapons used by criminals have changed, the Integrated Police opted a few years ago for a new calibre (7.62x35 mm) for its collective weapon. The aim was to acquire a weapon with good ballistic performance and high neutralising capacity. After a joint procedure between the Directorate of Logistics of the Federal

Police (DRL) and the Westkust police zone, the public procurement contract was awarded to FN Herstal and its FN SCAR .300 for ten years. Currently, DRL and the Westkust police zone are finalising the public procurement contract for operational and training ammunition to allow the use of this relatively light weapon suitable for all types of shooters.



Success Story

A modern central warehouse

The central warehouse in Uccle was completely renovated and digitalised as a result of the introduction of Logispol, the new logistics management system. From now on, the warehouse will function as a modern distribution centre. In 2020, the functional equipment picking area was optimised, reducing the average processing time of trainees' orders from 17 to 9 days. In addition, the picking route was modified for some items to provide a faster and more efficient service to customers and better working ergonomics for staff.

Security notices

The Directorate of Logistics (DRL) of the Federal Police issues security notices and carries out audits in terms of infrastructure, standards for certain equipment or identity/identification documents.

	2018	2019	2020
Files for the Federal Police	76	44	66
Files for the Local Police	19	15	17
Management of police legitimization and identification cards	2 529	2 198	1 768
• for the Federal Police	892	742	607
• for the Local Police	1 637	1 445	1 161
Passport photographs taken*	/	27 270	3 743
• for the Federal Police	/	9 948	1 189
• for the Local Police	/	17 322	2 554

* The increase in the number of photos in 2019 compared to 2018 is due to the future renewal of legitimization and identification cards, which requires taking passport photographs of all Integrated Police staff. The drastic decrease in 2019-2020 is due to the corona measures, severely limiting the number of photos taken by operators.

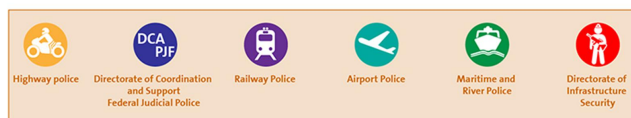
Purchase of material and environmental and sustainability aspects

The Federal Police is paying increasing attention to environmental and sustainability aspects when defining its requirements in the specifications of material requests (purchase files):

- from now on, the Directorate of Logistics (DRL) requires, wherever possible, certificates attesting that the supplier produces its articles in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner;
- it also seeks the opinion of customers on the items concerned before definitively closing their purchase files. DRL thus began the prospecting phase for tactical footwear – intervention shoes as part of the basic equipment – earlier in order to carry out a survey among future customers.

Our infrastructure

- In total, the Federal Police has 145 buildings on Belgian territory (148 in 2019). This decrease can be explained by the fact that certain entities, previously scattered, were centralised on one site.
- The new buildings for the 112 emergency call centre and the lab for the Federal Judicial Police in Vottem are modular, functional, accessible and focused on sustainable energy management.
- The Westakkers site, covering an area of 50 hectares, will be used by the Integrated Police as a training site for negotiated management of public space and other violence control training sessions.



Amount spent by the Régie des Bâtiments-Régie der Gebouwen (building authority) for the benefit of the Federal Police*

	2018	2019	2020	Evolution
Investment projects	€ 22 043 39	€25 004 733	€ 25 772 413	+3,07 %
Infrastructure maintenance	€ 3 771 799	€ 2 843 429	€ 3 264 303	+14,8 %
Infrastructure rental	€ 44 547 826	€ 40 875 492	€ 45 585 088	+11,5 %
Miscellaneous costs such as taxes	€ 2 047 573	€ 494 314	€ 1 256 800	+254,3 %
Total	€ 72 410 593	€ 69 217 968	€ 75 878 604	+9,62 %

* General explanations:

- The figures mentioned in this table refer to the management of the Federal Police requests by the Régie des Bâtiments-Régie der Gebouwen. The amounts also refer to 'settlement credits', which means that these payments are sometimes made with a certain delay.
- Each year, the Régie des Bâtiments-Régie der Gebouwen draws up an investment programme (IP) based on all the Federal Police requests, among other things. The Régie des Bâtiments-Régie der Gebouwen coordinates this programme with a large number of partners and services. It then determines the number of files that will be included in the IP and selects the files that will be integrated into it. In some years, the Federal Police is given a more important place in the IP because of large infrastructure projects. In other years, this share is smaller and the focus is mainly on the maintenance of the existing buildings.

Specific amounts paid by the Federal Police	2018	2019	2020	Evolution
Energy (electricity, gas, water, heating oil)	€ 8 684 410	€ 8 481 796	€ 6 443 110	-24,1 %
Maintenance and development costs and infrastructure rental	€ 6 858 048	€ 7 960 413	€ 8 319 150	+4,5 % *
Total	€ 15 542 458	€ 16 442 209	€ 14 762 260	-11,2 %

* The Federal Police offers partial solutions when the Régie des Bâtiments-Regie der Gebouwen is not able to provide a solution quickly. If necessary, the Federal Police stabilises the situation until the Régie des Bâtiments-Regie der Gebouwen can provide a structural solution.

A new emergency call centre and a lab in Vottem

At the end of 2020, building works were finished for a new 112 emergency call centre and a laboratory for the Federal Judicial Police in Vottem. This project, carried out by the Régie des Bâtiments-Regie der Gebouwen in cooperation with the Directorate of Logistics (DRL), fits in with the Infrastructure Master Plan of the Federal Police aimed at centralising the services of the Liège Federal Police on one site. The goal is to better meet work requirements for a modern police force. These new buildings supplement the logistic unit dating back to 2007. The second phase of the project will consist in providing workplaces for the staff of the Liège Federal Police.

The new buildings are modular, functional, accessible and designed for sustainable energy management. Besides server cooling systems and rainwater recovery, the emergency call centre also has 146 solar panels on its roof.



Some figures

For the emergency call centre of the Liège district:

- 30 % reduction in the total electricity consumption of the 112 emergency call centre thanks to the 146 solar panels;
- 9 % reduction in the electricity consumption of the chillers thanks to the servers' free chilling system;
- 20 % reduction in heating consumption thanks to heat recovery from the server cooling systems.

For the site:

Gross surface area of the buildings:

- 112 emergency call centre: 5 623 m²;
- laboratory: 4 029 m².

Investment: about 23.7 million euros.

Westakkers, a training site for the Integrated Police

At the end of 2020, the Régie des Bâtiments-Regie der Gebouwen purchased the former 'Westakkers' military base near Sint-Niklaas for the benefit of the Integrated Police. This 50-hectare site will be used as a training site for negotiated management of public space and other violence control training sessions.

In accordance with the Infrastructure Master Plan, the first works are planned for 2021-2024. However, the site is already available to our police officers and, of course, our colleagues of the Local Police in 2021. The site will develop, in time, into the training site for which the Integrated Police has been waiting for years.

General Commissioner Marc De Mesmaeker: "A wonderful achievement, because very necessary from an operational point of view. A wonderful realisation, because the result of perfect teamwork and lobbying of the General Commissioner's Office, the General Directorate of Resource Management and Information and the coordinating directors concerned. A wonderful challenge, because the fruit of cooperation between the Régie des Bâtiments-Regie der Gebouwen, Flanders, the province and the city. A wonderful result, because achieved in tight budgetary times."

Our budget

- The Federal Police has successfully applied for European subsidies for nine of its own projects.
- Thanks to an additional budget of 30 million euros, the Federal Police was able to purchase essential equipment (vehicles and vessels, computers, tablets, headsets and other mobile devices).
- Within the framework of the coronavirus pandemic, we spent almost 3 million euros on safety and hygiene equipment (you can read more about this in the [corona chapter](#)).

Overall budget

The budget, which amounts to 2 321 867 067 euros (excluding separate terrorism funds), is structured around three main axes:

- the Federal Police
- the Integrated Police (GPI)
- the Local Police

It is divided into five categories:

- staff
- operations
- investment
- allocations
- subsidies

Federal Police	2018	2019	2020
Staff	756 700 000	813 689 000	920 463 000
Operations	91 580 000	90 653 860	94 743 000
Investment	27 025 000	20 883 000	45 517 500
Allocations	/	/	/
Subsidies	1 170 000	1 170 000	1 344 000
Subtotal	876 475 000	926 395 860	1 062 067 500

Integrated Police	2018	2019	2020
Staff	103 759 000	108 745 000	97 637 000
Operations	70 673 000	73 522 929	82 469 122
Investment	13 633 000	6 559 657	10 877 445
Allocations	/	/	/
Subsidies	13 986 000	14 149 000	14 231 000
Subtotal	202 051 000	202 976 586	205 214 567

Local Police	2018	2019	2020
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Local Police	2018	2019	2020
Staff	/	/	/
Operations	/	/	/
Investment	/	/	/
Allocations	915 640 000	947 998 000	957 585 000
Subsidies	42 420 000	36 878 000	97 000 000
Total	958 060 000	984 876 000	1 054 585 000

Subtotal	2018	2019	2020
Staff	860 459 000	922 434 000	1 018 100 000
Operations	162 253 000	164 176 789	177 212 122
Investment	40 658 000	27 442 657	56 394 945
Allocations	915 640 000	947 998 000	957 585 000
Subsidies	57 576 000	52 197 000	112 575 000
Total	2 036 586 000	2 114 248 446	2 321 867 067

European funding as a lever for more resources

The Federal Police received European subsidies for nine of its own projects, totalling 1.63 million euros (total amount for all projects: 2.01 million euros). At the end of 2020, two files were still being evaluated: a project of 185 552 euros and a subsidy of 176 274 euros.

The additional subsidy received within the framework of the Bordertask project will be used to (further) develop and optimise border control systems. Furthermore, various low-value grants (subsidies below 60 000 euros) were approved for actions within the framework of investigations into drug trafficking and human trafficking with an international dimension.

The Federal Police is also participating as a partner in six projects financed by Europe and set up by external partners. We received a subsidy of 291 231 euros for our services and expertise within the framework of these projects.

The Federal Police also helped to prepare the implementation of the European funding mechanisms from the new EU long-term budget 2021-2027. It concerns the funding of 5G projects and certain digitisation projects within the Federal Judicial Police.

In addition, in November 2019, the UK Home Office proposed potential funding after an incident in Grays (United Kingdom) involving transit migrants travelling from Zeebrugge in a refrigerated container. With these funds, the Federal Police would be able to purchase specific equipment in the fight against human smuggling. Concretely, two drones, CO₂ detectors and a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB), i.e. a high-performing unsinkable inflatable boat, as well as other specialised equipment totalling about 784 000 euros (excluding VAT) were purchased in 2020.

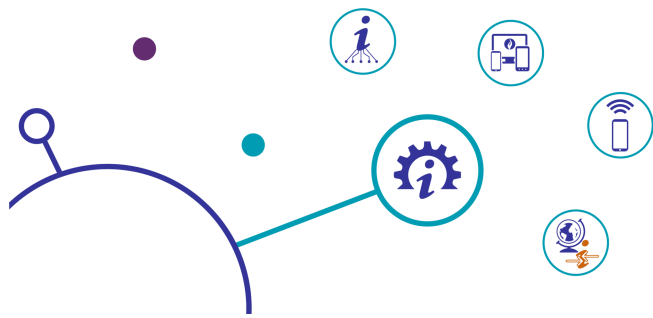


Additional investment budget

In June, the federal government allocated an additional budget of 30 million euros to the Federal Police for key investments. In the past years, the annual budget only covered the organisation's structural needs.

Concretely, the following investments have become possible through this additional budget:

- Rolling stock/floating equipment and vehicle fleet:
 - 1 boat for the Maritime and River Police (SPN);
 - 347 vehicles, including 33 motorcycles,
 - totalling 17 639 634 euros.
- Computer equipment to make the organisation more mobile and to follow the New Way of Working policy, particularly mobile and digital working. This is reflected in the purchase of:
 - PCs, laptops, screens, tablets, smartphones and headsets, totalling 4 351 000 euros;
 - equipment (servers and firewalls) needed to implement the third phase of BeSecure (system for remote access to operational applications), totalling 770 000 euros.
- The replacement of obsolete portable radios and accessories (audio, holders, charging units, etc.), totalling 7 176 000 euros.



Information management

[Home](#) / Information Management

- Information is perhaps the most important working tool of the police.
- It forms the basis for police action, and not the other way round; smooth and efficient information management is essential for fighting crime and ensuring public safety.
- The challenges in the field of information management are many: technological innovation and advanced digitalisation must make information exchange and police work faster, more focused, more efficient and, above all, more mobile.



[International information exchange](#)



[Information function](#)



[ICT, the driving force behind our actions and management](#)



International information exchange

- Last corona year, the Single Point of Operational Contact (SPOC) of the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) processed 217 660 information messages and alerts through multiple channels.
- In the run-up to Brexit, the SPOC manually converted 6 931 old alerts from the Schengen Information System (SIS) into Interpol alerts.
- Theft, drug trafficking and fraud/deception are again among the most common crimes dealt with by the SPOC.

Single Point of Operational Contact (SPOC)

The Single Point of Operational Contact (SPOC) is the hub for international police information exchange and international alerts in our country. The SPOC is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Information exchange

205 506



Operational messages

Information exchange refers to operational messages (within the framework of investigation files, measures concerning persons or vehicles, etc.) registered and processed at SPOC level through Interpol, Europol, liaison officers, Belgian or foreign police services, etc., as well as messages from the Police and Customs Cooperation Centres (CCPD-CPDS) of Tournai, Kerkrade and Luxembourg that follow up international police cooperation in border regions.

International alerts

12 154



International alerts

	2018	2019	2020
SIS*	6 818	7 596	9 227
IP**	1 828	2 028	2 927
Total	8 646	9 624	12 154

* SIS: Schengen Information System. System by which international alerts are issued in the Schengen area.

** IP: Interpol. Allows international alerts (diffusions or notices) to be issued outside the Schengen area.

International alerts are a special type of general information exchange: the police service issuing the alert sends information, but at the same time asks for a measure to be taken in its own interest. The main measures that may be taken in connection with an international alert are as follows:

- the arrest of a person;
- refusal of entry or stay in the territory;
- the search for and/or protection of a missing person;
- investigation for a judicial procedure;
- specific or discrete control with or without immediate contact with the SPOC;
- seizure.

These alerts are currently still issued manually. Alerts in the Schengen Information System (SIS) for seizure purposes are automatically issued after entry into the General National Database (BNG-ANG) by the police.

Hits

A *hit* means that there is a match with an entity subject of an international alert and for which a measure has been requested. The entity concerned may either have taken the measure or not.

Belgian hits on foreign international alerts	2018	2019	2020
Schengen Information System (SIS)	8 830	11 738*	8 691*
Interpol (IP)	591	590	/ **
Total	9 421	12 328	/

* Including 1 993 through Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).

** Figure no longer available due to the discontinuation of the Interpol registration system.

Foreign hits on Belgian international alerts	2018	2019	2020
Schengen Information System (SIS)	6 056	7 370	4 573
Interpol (IP)	74	199	/ *
Total	6 130	7 569	/

* Figure no longer available due to the discontinuation of the Interpol registration system.

Translation

In order to meet the requirements of international operational message handling in the field of languages, the SPOC has a translation department that translates messages with an operational character (i.e. linked to a file of judicial or administrative police) within the set deadlines. The messages are mainly sent via Schengen, Interpol, Europol and the liaison officers by both Belgian and foreign police forces.

	2018	2019	2020
Translations carried out*	15 284	13 774	11 718
FLASH cases**	33,5 %	34 %	37 %

* Almost all translations concern operational files.

** Translations related to FLASH cases to be processed within the hour.

Language combinations	2018	2019	2020
 ↔ 	48,5 %	50 %	45 %
 ↔ 	29,5 %	30 %	34 %
 ↔ 	13,5 %	12 %	13 %
 ↔ 	2,5 %	2 %	1,5 %
 ↔ 	2,5 %	2 %	1,5 %
 ↔ 	1,5 %	2 %	2 %
 ↔ 	2 %	2 %	2 %

Proactive screening of Interpol and Schengen alerts

Proactive screening is checking the lists of foreign Interpol alerts and the lists of Schengen A forms (notifications of new foreign SIS alerts for arrest purposes). The SPOC compares those lists with Belgian databases. This not only allows for quick and systematic processing of the lists, but also for provision of local operational information to the colleagues in the field and any interested units or services.

The system is currently used for all the Interpol alerts and the Schengen A forms (notification that a Member State has issued an international SIS alert for arrest purposes). This makes it possible for the SPOC to screen them proactively.

Foreign Interpol alerts

INTERPOL	2018	2019	2020
Alerts screened	8 983	23 426	16 691
Hit*	13	34	28

* In this case, a 'hit' means that a link with Belgium was found, for example: registered in Belgium, known with a measure to be taken in the General National Database (BNG-ANG).

A forms in the Schengen Information System (SIS)

	2019	2020
A forms checked (notifications of new foreign alerts for arrest purposes)	19 064	28 986
Aliases checked (any A form relating to a person may contain several aliases for that person and each alias is checked)	26 086	32 118
Hits by checking the A forms received	626	776

SIRENE for supplementary requests

SIRENE stands for Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries.

Each state operating the Schengen Information System has set up a national SIRENE Bureau that is responsible for international alerts. The activities of those SIRENE Bureaux range from validation to provision of supplementary information on alerts.

	2019	2020
Forms sent by SIRENE-Belgium	15 349	12 927
Forms received by SIRENE-Belgium	42 267	52 328

	2019	2020
Total of forms dealt with	57 616	65 255

Brexit: impact on international alerts and information exchange

Brexit means that the United Kingdom (UK) is no longer part of the European Union and the Schengen Information System (SIS). The UK is no longer able to enter alerts into SIS and alerts of EU Member States are no longer visible on British territory. In order to make Belgian international alerts visible in the UK, the Federal Police, in consultation with the magistracy, converted the old alerts into Interpol alerts (provided that a legal equivalent exists). As from 1 March, services issuing alerts were invited to request an Interpol alert if they wanted their international alert to be visible on British territory as well.

Below an overview of the old alerts (per article) manually converted into Interpol alerts by the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI):

	2020
Art. 26 – arrest	44
Art. 32 – missing persons	5 275
Art. 34 – localisation at the request of the judicial authorities	74
Art. 36.2 – specific or discrete control	1 538
Total	6 931

Cross-border phenomena

Top 5 crimes within Europol's mandate, on which the SPOC exchanged information:

	2018	2019	2020
1.	Theft and aggravated theft	Illicit drug trafficking	Theft and aggravated theft
2.	Illicit drug trafficking	Theft and aggravated theft	Illicit drug trafficking
3.	Fraud and deception	Fraud and deception	Fraud and deception
4.	Illegal immigration	Illegal immigration	Money laundering
5.	Money laundering	Vehicle crime	Illegal immigration



Success Story

International cocaine trafficking suspect arrested in Dubai

The 32-year-old Antwerp resident N.E.H., a suspect in an investigation into international cocaine trafficking, was arrested in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The man may also be linked to several violent crimes that have plagued Antwerp and the surrounding area since 2017.

The arrest was prepared in detail by the Antwerp Federal Judicial Police, in collaboration with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Antwerp, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, the Dubai Diplomatic Service, Dubai Police, the on-site liaison officer, Interpol in Abu Dhabi and the National Central Bureau (NCB) in Brussels.

It is one of the first times that someone wanted by our country was arrested in Dubai, partly thanks to the good collaboration with Interpol and with the authorities and police forces in the United Arab Emirates.



SIENA (Secure Information Exchange Network Application)

SIENA is a highly secured platform/application for operational crime-related information exchange between EU Member States, Europol and third parties in the field of serious and/or organised crime – affecting two or more Member States –, terrorism and other serious forms of crime.

SIENA training	2019	2020
Number of sessions	8	2*
Number of participants Federal Police	98	22

* Due to the corona measures, the number of participants per session was limited to eleven.

Belgian liaison officers and cooperation with intelligence services

The liaison officers (LOs) are an important link in international police cooperation. They facilitate, among other things, the police information exchange and the execution of requests for mutual assistance in criminal matters.

In 2020, besides appointing successors of our liaison officers in the United States, Albania, Russia and Italy, whose mandate had come to an end, we opened a new LO post in London to counter the impact of Brexit on police cooperation with the United Kingdom. This brings the total number of bilateral liaison officers of the Belgian police working abroad to eleven. Together, they are active in 50 partner countries.

The Federal Police and the State Security Service also signed a protocol of agreement regulating cooperation with liaison officers of the Belgian police who work abroad. It provides LOs with a clear framework for dealing with information from foreign intelligence services and services with mixed intelligence-police powers.



Success Story

Asian liaison officer's support in a complex investigation

A case that began in late 2016 with the discovery of a charred body in a remote canal in Geluwe (West Flanders) and ended with a verdict in the Assize Court of Bruges in November 2020. The Belgian perpetrator was sentenced to 27 years in prison for murder. Such a result could only be achieved through excellent national and international collaboration between the Belgian, Japanese and Vietnamese services to complete such a complex investigation.

In November 2018, the Public Prosecutor's Office in Brussels tasked the Belgian liaison officer in Thailand with meeting the parents of a girl reported missing in Vietnam, taking a sample of their DNA for analysis and informing them of the judicial process in Belgium. The most recent Belgian DNA database showed that there was a match between the DNA of the parents and the DNA of the victim in Geluwe ...

The liaison officer was involved in the entire investigation. He prepared a letter rogatory for the examining magistrate and two investigators in Bắc Ninh (Vietnam) and went to Nagoya (Japan) to collaborate with the Japanese Local Police in its investigation into the victim. He also handled the contacts with the victim's family in Vietnam. As it happens, the family was not present at the trial in Bruges. In addition to the liaison officer's testimony, his continuous presence at the trial was considered by all parties to be supportive of the victim's family.



Belgian investigation successfully concluded in Romania

In September 2020, the judiciary and police forces in Romania carried out eleven searches in Buzău on the basis of a European Investigation Order issued by the Belgian judiciary. Several suspects were arrested and stolen goods were confiscated. This allowed an investigation by Belgian investigators, led by the Public Prosecutor's Office in Eupen, to come to a successful conclusion. The Belgian liaison officer in Bucharest played a facilitating role between Belgium and Romania.

The investigation was launched in March 2016 and focused on an international gang operating in Belgium and controlled from Romania. The tightly hierarchically organised criminal gang could be linked to 109 offences, more specifically aggravated theft of tools, digging and garden machinery, mowers, boat engines, large quantities of fuel and so on. The total damage amounted to approximately 500 000 euros.

Information function

- In 2020, the Communication and Information Centres at district level (SICAD/CIC) handled slightly fewer than 3 million emergency calls in total.
- Each day, some 400 staff members of the District Information Crossroads (SICAD/CIA-AIK) collect and analyse police and other information to provide added value to their colleagues in the field.
- By the end of 2020, RegPol, the single register for all the processing operations within the Integrated Police, contained 3 667 processing operations, including 739 by the Federal Police.

KIK for single identification data entry

The *Kiosque d'Information - InformatieKiosk* (KIK) is a computer interface that allows for the simultaneous use, through a single point of identification data entry, of different information systems needed by police officers to carry out specific duties.

Since 2018, the number of Integrated Police services having KIK access has continuously increased.

Integrated Police	2018	2019	2020
Number of computers within the Integrated Police having KIK access	28 000	34 000	47 500

A key role for districts

The district level plays a key role in operational information management through the District Communication and Information Services (SICADs). A SICAD unites the provincial Communication and Information Centre (CIC), which receives and handles emergency calls, and the District Information Crossroads (CIA-AIK).

Number of calls in the CICs

Urgent	2018	2019	2020
West Flanders	217 454	212 201	190 012
East Flanders	248 776	250 749	235 004
Antwerp	318 490	317 192	281 660
Limburg	161 753	161 673	149 429
Flemish Brabant*	168 540	183 194	164 024
Brussels	442 899	443 932	361 199
Walloon Brabant	80 772	82 922	74 978
Hainaut	471 468	462 495	412 056
Namur	146 927	155 594	146 443
Liège*	358 335	365 564	341 041
Luxembourg	67 851	69 415	66 382

Urgent	2018	2019	2020
Total	2 683 265	2 704 931	2 422 228

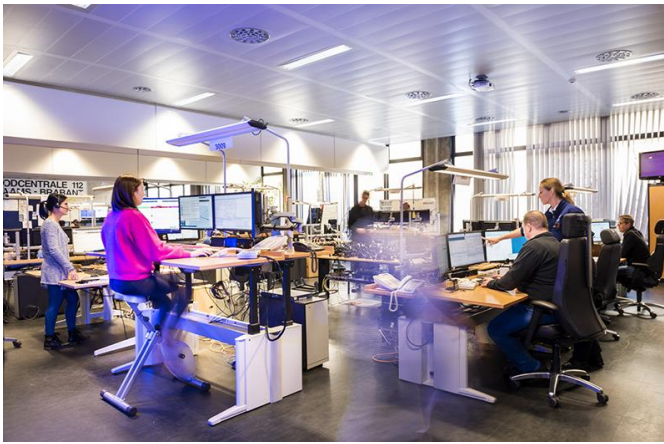
* The emergency calls for the districts of Halle/Vilvoorde and Eupen – which do not have their own CIC – arrive at the Leuven CIC (responsible for the whole of Flemish Brabant) and the Liège CIC (responsible for the districts of Liège and Eupen).

Non-urgent	2018	2019	2020
West Flanders	13 283	12 580	11 770
East Flanders	10 749	10 558	10 468
Antwerp	98 346	98 787	80 043
Limburg	15 942	16 506	12 461
Flemish Brabant*	20 197	18 680	16 266
Brussels	32 534	35 312	32 939
Walloon Brabant	16 860	18 766	19 083
Hainaut	13 936	16 374	16 029
Namur	15 511	15 493	14 676
Liège*	71 454	77 912	79 362
Luxembourg	18 936	19 541	19 957
Total	327 748	340 509	311 054

* The emergency calls for the districts of Halle/Vilvoorde and Eupen – which do not have their own CIC – arrive at the Leuven CIC (responsible for the whole of Flemish Brabant) and the Liège CIC (responsible for the districts of Liège and Eupen).

Total	2018	2019	2020
West Flanders	230 737	224 781	201 782
East Flanders	259 525	261 307	245 472
Antwerp	416 836	415 979	361 703
Limburg	177 695	178 179	161 890
Flemish Brabant*	188 737	201 874	180 290
Brussels	475 433	479 244	394 138
Walloon Brabant	97 632	101 688	94 061
Hainaut	485 404	478 869	428 085
Namur	162 438	171 087	161 119
Liège	429 789	443 476	720 403
Luxembourg	86 787	88 956	84 339
Total	3 011 013	3 045 440	2 733 282

* The emergency calls for the districts of Halle/Vilvoorde and Eupen – which do not have their own CIC – arrive at the Leuven CIC (responsible for the whole of Flemish Brabant) and the Liège CIC (responsible for the districts of Liège and Eupen).



Police information management

The District Information Crossroads at the SICADs are the cornerstones of police information management within the Integrated Police. They centralise, analyse and revise police and other information to provide added value for fieldwork. How? By building bridges and establishing links, by uncovering new security phenomena and criminal trends, by guiding police actions and by ensuring information sharing with and between police services to enable them to carry out their missions.

In 2020, some 400 staff members of the Integrated Police were responsible for managing police information within the District Information Crossroads.

At central level, the Directorate of Judicial Police Operations (DGJ/DJO) and the Directorate of Administrative Police Operations (DGA/DAO) specifically deal with police information management. Last year, 61 staff members of DJO worked on this and 41 staff members of DAO. The two directorates, together with the Single Point of Operational Contact (SPOC) of the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI), form the National Contact Point (PCN-NIP), a 24/7 on-call service.



Success Story

Innovative with interactive maps

A smooth exchange of information between the Local Police and the Federal Police is crucial for the Integrated Police. That is why the SICAD of West Flanders has developed a police information platform. This new platform is innovative in that it makes available interactive maps that provide visual support for operational work. These updated maps provide a better understanding of the scope and content of phenomena such as drugs, transmigration or theft. They also lead to the optimisation of the associated (working) processes in their integrated approach. This digital application contributes to an efficient flow of information between the SICAD and the police services of West Flanders, as well as between the different police services themselves (crimes in the districts of Hainaut and East Flanders are also visible via this platform).

New version of the ASTRID dispatching system

Since 2018, the migration from version 8 to version 9 of the dispatching system for police services has been systematically extended. The renewal of the CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) technology has an impact on the operation and organisation of the police services, in particular on the Communication and Information Centres (SICAD/CIC) of the Federal Police at district level.

The migration of all Communication and Information Centres (CICs) to CAD 9 was completed in 2020. Five CICs were already migrated in 2018 and another in 2019. The migration of the remaining five CICs took place in 2020.

Together with the planned renewal and centralisation of hardware, this upgrade should provide end users with an advanced tool (expanded information and communication possibilities, better coverage, etc.). It also allows for the integration of new technologies in the future.

(Personal) data protection

The Federal Police has taken various initiatives to ensure the protection of (personal) data.

RegPol, the register for all the data processing operations within the Integrated Police, is completed on a daily basis. On 31 December, RegPol contained 3 667 processing operations, including 739 by the Federal Police (see graphs).

An expert group of the Integrated Police commits itself to ensure the implementation and adaptation of laws and regulations. It includes members of the Legal Service (DGR/Legal), the Directorate of Police Information and ICT Resources (DRI), the Information Security & Privacy Office of the General Commissioner's Office (CG/ISPO) and representatives of the Local Police Standing Committee (CPPL-VCLP).

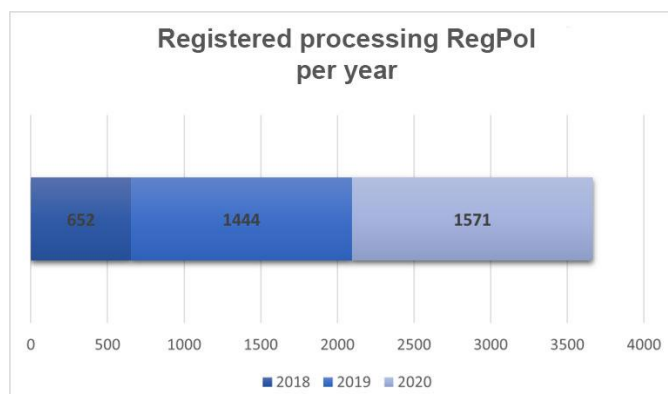
This expert group further examined the processing of camera images and data obtained by using drones and bodycams.

Furthermore, a directive was drawn up to allow information sharing between the police and different bodies and services with which it cooperates. This directive concretises the implementation of the amended article 44/11/9 of the law on the police function (LFP-WPA).

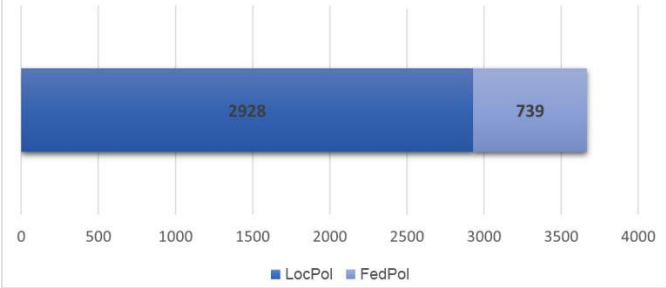
Last year, CG/ISPO was also active in various files and issues and responsible for the following tasks:

- advising and consulting about the protection of personal data of police staff, inter alia in external communication;
- giving advice as a Data Protection Officer (DPO) on processing operations for which the ministers are responsible, in particular Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Managed Services;
- advising on the information flow necessary to enable the police to carry out interventions in the context of the COVID-19 crisis;
- analysing processing operations in the Microsoft environment and examining the necessary processing agreements.

In order to raise awareness of personal data protection and information security, a new 'Data Protection' section was added to WiKiPol, the knowledge and information platform for the Integrated Police. Various GDPR themes are highlighted and explained here. Furthermore, during the past year, a series of information sessions took place on the theme 'data protection, two years later'. In total, 180 police staff members participated in these sessions.



Registered Processing RegPol
Local Police / Federal Police



ICT, the driving force behind our actions and management

- The Integrated Police continues its digital transformation. New digital technologies are constantly implemented in various fields of activity.
- A priority in this respect is to make work easier for our police officers. The aim is to improve their daily efficiency.
- Thanks to the new digital tools, we have the right information at the right time and place. This enhances cooperation and information exchange with partners.

Digital transformation: on the road to i-Police

Digital transformation is based on two pillars:

- real modernisation of police systems over a five-year period (i-Police);
- a number of short-term projects before the big shift.



The key aim of the strategic project i-Police is to completely upgrade the IT architecture of the Integrated Police (server infrastructure, police applications, etc.). This has to make our IT architecture meet the most recent and especially the future IT needs. Future intelligent systems will be the spearhead of Intelligence Led Policing, hence the 'i' in i-Police.

At the end of 2019, the Federal Police received the tenders of the selected candidates. In January 2020, various analysis teams, composed of members of the Local Police and the Federal Police, as well as technical experts, started analysing these tenders with the support of the Directorate of Police Information and ICT Resources (DRI) and the Purchase Service.

Their analysis showed that the tenders were unclear about a number of key elements in the specifications. Therefore, the dialogue with the selected candidates was reopened in November 2020.



Smart Policing Hackathon: innovation at the service of the police

A first for the Integrated Police: the Smart Policing Hackathon in collaboration with Vias Institute and EY served as a launchpad to boost smart innovation among the police. Various services of the General Commissioner's Office of the Federal Police were very closely involved in the organisation of this event.

Society and crime are constantly evolving. Remaining alert and agile in order to efficiently combat small, large and disruptive crime is essential for the police. And how can the police as an organisation innovate smartly to position itself as an attractive employer in the labour market? That, in summary, was the scope of the Smart Policing Hackathon.

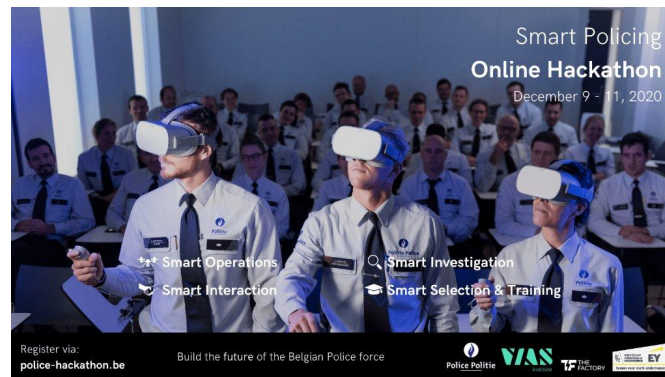
In a *hackathon* (which stands for hacking and marathon), the aim is to work together nonstop and within a limited time span on a challenge within small multidisciplinary teams and to come up with innovative and creative solutions

(the 'hacking' part). Each team consisted of people from the business world and the academic world (students, lecturers, etc.). The teams were supervised and coached by Integrated Police staff members.

During the online hackathon, 200 'hackers' in 43 teams spent 30 hours enthusiastically hacking away at innovative ideas to turn them into workable solutions that will make a difference to both the police and the public.

On 11 December, the Smart Policing Hackathon came to a conclusion with the announcement of the winners. Both established names and startups with a lot of know-how were counted among the winners, as well as young, driven students with a nose for innovation who, thanks to this initiative, have pushed open the door to the world of policing. The winners' solutions will be analysed further with a view to implementation within the police organisation. Information technologies demand a prominent place in this.

For all the information on the Smart Policing Hackathon: <https://police-hackathon.be>



“Not an end point, on the contrary!”

“The hackathon was not an end point, on the contrary! The momentum and the powerful network developed during the hackathon have to be maintained. The next step in 2021 will be the creation of an innovation unit within the General Commissioner's Office of the Federal Police. This Smart Policing Hackathon was not only inspiring for cooperation with external partners, but also for internal cohesion between services of the Local Police and the Federal Police.”



FIRST CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MARC DE MESMAEKER
General Commissioner of the Federal Police

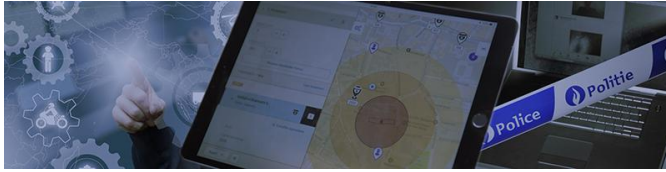
FOCUS@GPI

Through the FOCUS@GPI application, it is possible to use several functions in the field, such as consulting the national register or the General National Database (BNG-ANG), registering a vehicle, monitoring 101 incidents, having access to briefings, entering an offence, etc.

In 2019, the year when FOCUS@GPI was implemented, feedback from the 68 activated units confirmed that the application meets the needs in the field.

In 2020, the Federal Police was able to complete the rollout of the application in other units of the Integrated Police. By the end of the year, 252 units were using FOCUS@GPI: 185 police zones, 40 federal units, 13 District Communication and Information Services (SICADs), 5 sites of the National Police Academy (ANPA) and 9 provincial schools.

Such a new application undoubtedly raises new expectations, which are compiled, analysed and finally prioritised by the Directorate of Police Information and ICT Resources (DRI) and the partners of the Federal Police and the Local Police involved in this project in order to be implemented. In this regard, the possibility of sharing incidents has improved cooperation between units as from 2020.



Praise for FOCUS@GPI

On 22 September, the Ans/Saint-Nicolas police zone was equipped with FOCUS@GPI. Barely two months later, its managers circulated [an article full of accolades via Facebook](#). This article shows, on the one hand, how easy it is to implement the tool and, on the other hand, points out in a few words the advantages of using it.

"Thanks to Focus, police officers are saving time and are therefore more present in the field. It also makes it easier to draw up certain official reports and other municipal administrative sanctions without having to go to the office to do so. [...] Police officers appreciate this tool. The tool heralds a new era in policing and, most importantly, saves a great deal of time!"



Searching and managing with GES and MIS

An added value for management of investigations

The **Police Search-GES** tool operates on the same principles as the Google search engine. This tool searches the different registers of the Management of Investigations (GES) application to which the user has access. Through GES, police investigators can manage and monitor their investigations from A to Z. As from December 2019, searches of both structured (persons, companies, documents, etc.) and unstructured data (PDF files, Word files, etc.) are possible through Police Search-GES.

In 2019, the tool was rolled out at local level. In December 2020, GES was not only implemented in all Federal Judicial Police (FJP) services and the central directorates of the General Directorate of Judicial Police (DGJ), but also in 142 police zones and the Maritime and River Police (SPN).

The end of 2020 was marked by the introduction of an application to directly search the National Bank of Belgium database on the basis of a standardised magistrate's requisition. GES already had this function since July 2020. The BNBB application (bilingual abbreviation of *Banque Nationale de Belgique - Nationale Bank van België*) was developed for members of the Local Police who do not use GES.

Evolution of the Management Information System

Over the past few years, the **Management Information System (MIS)** has undergone a complete technical transformation. The final step was to make the application available to end users. Since November 2019, police zones and district units can search the new MIS for their own crime data.

In 2020, the focus was on the introduction of a dashboard with an up-to-date overview of staff capacity for all Federal Police directors. It graphically represents key figures on the staff a director is in charge of.

In addition, the Directorate of Staff of the Federal Police (DRP) now has its own MIS tool to answer all capacity questions, including parliamentary questions. Through this tool, it is possible to create customised reports. This is an important step towards standardisation and harmonisation of capacity figures.

Tools to increase border security

Belvis

Through the **Belvis** application (**BEL**gian **V**isa **I**nformation **S**ystem), it is possible to check visas in C-VIS (Central Visa Information System) in order to prevent visa abuse. The search options have been extended. Belvis links the Schengen Information System (SIS) to the fingerprint database (AFIS). It is therefore possible to send on the fingerprints taken to the SIS for the control of visa holders.

The Belvis control comes in addition to the controls in the General National Database (BNG-ANG), the Schengen Information System (SIS) and Interpol databases ASF Nominals and SLTD (Stolen and Lost Travel Documents).

	2019	2020*
Number of users	510	510
Number of checks	164 366	31 636
Number of fingerprint checks via Belvis in AFIS	118 465	6 294

* Due to the corona measures, international travel was severely restricted in 2020. This means fewer border crossings and therefore fewer checks.

Raavis, the e-connection with the Immigration Office

The **Raavis** application (*Rapport Administratif – Administratief Verslag Informatie Systeem*) enables police officers to contact the Immigration Office directly in connection with the decision following an interception on the territory or at the border of a person who does not have the appropriate residence permits.

- Number of users: 5 000
- Number of reports created: 21 264 (compared to 28 826 in 2019)

Aquatask and **Aerotask** are applications used by the Maritime and River Police (SPN) and the Airport Police (LPA) respectively for administrative border control of all maritime and air traffic crossing the Schengen external borders. The applications are used 24/7 and make it possible to check crew and passengers in the General National Database, SIS and Interpol databases.

Aerotask has only been in use since 21 September 2019. The control in Aerotask is done on the basis of the General Declarations for non-commercial flights.

- Number of users of Aquatask: 296
- Number of checks on passengers and crew in Aquatask: 565 722*
- Number of GenDec checks in Aerotask: 1 925

* It only concerns administrative checks on passengers and crew. These checks are carried out on individuals included in the active passenger lists of a stay, both on arrival and departure.

The big difference compared to 2019 (3 559 616) is due to the closure of the Zeebrugge-Hull ferry and the suspension of cruises since March 2020. One cruise necessitates 8 000 to 10 000 checks per day visit.



Success Story

Airport Police at the cradle of the European General Aviation Handbook

The Pompidou Group (Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs – intergovernmental body of the Council of Europe), active in the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking, had seen for years that General Aviation* was a blind spot in this matter. In order to help the first-line assessors in the Member States with their checks, they sought experts in

General Aviation. Colleagues from Ostend and Wevelgem, who have been working in this area for years, have contributed to the European General Aviation Handbook, along with colleagues from the Dutch Aviation Police, the German *Bundeskriminalamt*, the French *Gendarmerie des transports aériens* and the English *National Crime Agency* and *UK Border Office*.

* General Aviation (GA) is the umbrella term for general civil aviation, business aviation, private charter aviation, as well as tourism, education and training aviation.



Innovation and localisation

Diverse use of location service

The Federal Public Service Interior started to use two police products: Carte and Geolister.

- **Carte** enables citizens to locate their private surveillance cameras more accurately. For instance, if a street number is not found, citizens can move the point on the map themselves. That way, judicial police services are informed of the recorded images and they are able to retrieve them in case of a judicial investigation.
- **Geolister** is a service that makes it possible to search on the basis of a number of suggestions when entering an address on the www.declarationcamera.be - www.aangiftecamera.be website. This strongly reduces the number of addresses 'not found'.

Furthermore, the GALoP HRM tool uses geographical distance measurement in the process of calculating staff travel costs. This function makes it possible to highly automate the process and considerably reduce the processing time.

National ANPR camera shield

The national camera shield connects all ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras to a central control system allowing for a fast police response if a vehicle with criminals (based on a reported number plate) is detected. The ANPR network also includes average speed cameras.

Last year, the national ANPR camera shield was further developed. In 2020, 3 938 cameras are ready for integration into the national ANPR network.

- Already connected to operational systems: 1 549 cameras

In mid-October 2020, a technical milestone was reached. The AMS database (ANPR Managed Services), still running in a test environment, was migrated to a well-defined technical operational environment with approximately 1 000 cameras and a well-defined police user group with some 250 members. This phase was considered a 'real-life test' of the system, which until then had only been developed and tested in 'lab conditions'.

The number of portals was also increased. In 2020, 88 portals were built with 440 cameras, including 220 ANPR cameras.

This phase was certainly important from a technical point of view, since it was possible to check whether the system was still running and sufficiently stable. It also produced valuable statistical data necessary to further implement and increase the number of cameras and police users.



Digital cooperation with Justice: four achievements in a nutshell

CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE and a central container to follow up reports

Through the Cross-Border Exchange module, integrated into police applications, it is possible to send all immediate collections (ICs) reported by the Integrated Police and at the expense of Belgian or European residents to Justice electronically. Justice subsequently prints and sends these immediate collections, and follows up their payment.

In 2020, in the context of Cross-Border Exchange, the Federal Police carried out a number of projects together with Justice: an improved system to collect traffic fines by increasing the number of cameras, average speed cameras and the development of the digital signature and seal (Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and new certificate).

Through the ISLP application (Integrated System for Local Police), provided by the Federal Police, reports are drawn up and registered, among other things.

Number	2019*	2020
Reports drawn up	6 300 000	5 801 781
Reports sent to the judicial General National Database	2 160 000	2 190 253
Immediate collections	2 270 000	2 088 910
Data registered	5 500 000	4 995 666
Documents drawn up	13 260 000	11 745 608
Interrogations entered	1 450 000	1 228 335
Physical persons registered	/ **	24 935 159

* The figures for 2019 were rounded off for technical reasons.

** Figure not available.

PacOs: barcodes on pieces of evidence for more efficient monitoring by police and Justice

PacOs is an application to digitally manage pieces of evidence by means of barcodes. After the validation process on the test sites in 2019, the operational rollout on the sites of police and Justice gradually took place in districts in 2020. By the end of 2020, PacOs covered 55 % of the Belgian territory.

A few figures on PacOs:

	2019	2020
Users of PacOs (total)	2 287	31 948
• within the Integrated Police	2 220	31 666
• within Justice*	67	282
Judicial seizures	1 565	53 440
Pieces of evidence seized (total)	6 445	50 802
• within the Integrated Police	2 953	18 043
• within Justice	3 492	32 759

* Courts of first instance, Central Office for Seizure and Confiscation, National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology.

BNG-ANG/CROSS for easy monitoring of alerts

The Federal Police rolled out the first version of the **BNG-ANG/CROSS** application on 22 November 2019. This application makes it possible to issue and withdraw alerts for 'persons' in the field of judicial police within the General National Database (BNG-ANG). It also provides a link with I+Belgium, which makes it possible for public prosecutor's offices to enter conditional releases directly into the BNG-ANG.

This first version now also includes the possibility to manage aliases and alerts for persons created in CROSS.

A few definitions:

- alias: any false identity used by the 'offenders', so not a nickname;
- alert: registration of the person in the BNG-ANG by using a measure to be taken.

In the future, the BNG-ANG/CROSS application will be further extended to the entities 'Objects' and 'Means of transport'.

In addition, a specific (CROSS-COVID) version was implemented to manage COVID-19 offences. This application makes it possible to report such offences and to immediately collect fines since the first lockdown (April 2020).

Mercurius for easy consultation of driving bans

Mercurius comprises a number of applications providing information about events relating to driving licences. This constantly evolving project is the result of a partnership between the Federal Public Service Justice, the Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport, the Federal Public Service Policy and Support (BOSA), the examination centres, the municipalities and the Integrated Police.

In June 2020, the partners launched a new digital portal for Mercurius. Through this portal, police officers can immediately consult driving bans imposed by judges, as well as the driving licence 'status'. It provides direct access to that information in the Justice database.

In the first three months following the rollout of Mercurius, 197 different police units used the digital portal. The average number of searches amounts to 689 a day. It appeared that 16.5 % of the drivers checked were known for a driving ban.

Renewal of the data centre infrastructure

In June 2020, a milestone was reached in the field of information management within the Integrated Police.

All important central servers and disc systems were moved from the 45-year old data centre to a brand-new secure data centre with classical and special servers, each with specific cooling and electricity consumption requirements. During the entire move, planning, timing and budget were respected.

By the end of June, the new data centre was fully operational and again 24/7 manned by operators ensuring its monitoring and surveillance.

The data centre in a few figures

- 177 appliances were moved.
- Tens of kilometres of cable (copper and fiber optics) connect all this equipment.
- 12 large refrigerators keep the equipment cool.
- 38 extinguishing gas cylinders, 1.70 metres high and filled with argonite (300 bar), constitute the data centre's fully automated fire protection system.





The police as an employer

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- Although there were fewer candidates for the operational staff, we note a growing interest in jobs for the administrative and logistic staff.
- In 2020, we again used a wide range of communication channels to highlight vacancies within the Integrated Police.
- Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the National Police Academy launched some remarkable new training courses.



[Recruitment and selection](#)



[Training](#)

Recruitment and selection for the Integrated Police

- Although there were fewer candidates for the operational staff, we note a growing interest in jobs for the administrative and logistic staff.
- In 2020, we again used a wide range of communication channels to highlight vacancies within the Integrated Police.
- In the chapter on the handling of the [health crisis](#), you can read more about how we adapted our recruitment and selection process to the restrictive corona measures during the past year.

Summary table of recruitments

The Recruitment and Selection Service of the Federal Police (DPRS) is responsible for external recruitment of both operational and civilian staff of the Integrated Police (Local Police and Federal Police) as well as for internal promotion exams.

The tables below contain interesting figures relating to recruitment and selection procedures for the various target groups.

External recruitment	2018	2019	2020
Candidates for the operational staff*	17 654	14 594	12 989
Selected candidates for the operational staff*	1 802	1 667	1 626
Candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	8 227	8 274	8 241
Selected candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	1 552	1 706	2 079
Total	29 235	26 241	24 935

* Candidates in a specific year are not necessarily selected candidates in the same year.

Internal recruitment	2018	2019	2020
Candidates for the operational staff*	1 326	1 213	1 311
Selected candidates for the operational staff*	689	747	591
Candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	1 587	995	541
Selected candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	54	117	92
Total	3 656	3 072	2 536

* Candidates in a specific year are not necessarily selected candidates in the same year.

Total recruitment	2018	2019	2020	Evolution
Candidates for the operational staff*	18 980	15 807	14 300	-9,5 %
Selected candidates for the operational staff*	2 491	2 414	2 148	-11 %
Candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	9 814	8 269	8 782	+6 %

Total recruitment	2018	2019	2020	Evolution
Selected candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	1 606	1 823	2 171	+19 %
Total	32 891	29 313	27 470	-6 %

* Candidates in a specific year are not necessarily selected candidates in the same year.

1 844



Medical files handled by the
Occupational Health Service

3 193



Number of screenings of
candidates

Number of selection tests (new in 2019)

	2019	2020
Occupational tests	1 380	2 692
Sports tests	15 271	8 306
Cognitive tests	13 709	13 040
Language tests	9 104	6 926
Personality tests	11 909	10 403
Background checks	4 471	2 607
Selection boards	5 402	3 990
Deliberations	6 706	5 084

Communication and marketing

On a regular basis, (new) communication channels and tools are used to inform the public of vacancies for operational and civilian staff.

Marketing tools	2018	2019	2020*
Brochures and flyers	40 000	69 000	/
Telephone calls	/	20 985	41 984
Emails (dealt with)	/	14 158	25 985
Jobpol website visitors	/	1 414 750	1 858 442
Facebook messages	2 925	3 782	2 551
Training sessions in police zones	9	8	5
Info days in police schools	8	36	7
Followers on the Jobpol Facebook page	28 452	31 846	36 916

Marketing tools	2018	2019	2020*
Followers on the Jobpol Instagram page	/	/	6 936
Recruitment events (info sessions, job fairs, etc.)	293	265	214
Other events (festivals, sports events, etc.)	432	241	/**

* Certain marketing tools were not used due to the corona crisis.

** Various events were cancelled due to the restrictive corona measures.



Training for the Integrated Police

- The year 2020 was marked by the quick switch to distance learning due to the restrictive corona measures.
- The joint 'Without Worries across the Border' training in partnership with the Dutch Police Academy was adapted to the new Benelux police cooperation treaty.
- Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the National Police Academy launched some remarkable new training courses.

Basic training

Sessions*	2018	2019	2020
Constable	4	4	2
Inspector	23	23	28
Inspector - direct recruitment Antwerp police zone	3	3	4
Chief inspector	10	10	10
Chief inspector with specialisation	2	2	2
Preparatory training for middle-ranking officers	2	2	2
Superintendent	4	1	2
Preparatory training for senior officers	2	1	2
Accelerated training social promotion constable to inspector	4	2	2
Security constables and assistants (DAB)	21	14	9

* This is the number of sessions that started.

People trained**	2018**	2019**	2020**
Constable	90	69	66
Inspector	1 136	1 168	1 133
Inspector - direct recruitment Antwerp police zone	137	104	87
Chief inspector	385	355	409
Chief inspector with specialisation	23	24	38
Preparatory training for middle-ranking officers	39	47	25
Superintendent	110	154	118
Preparatory training for senior officers	33	16	9
Accelerated training social promotion constable to inspector	99	54	39
Security constables and assistants (DAB)	414	290	157

** These figures include the number of people who started their basic training.

People who successfully completed their training	2019***	2020***
Constable	34	21
Inspector	1 170	1 186
Inspector - direct recruitment Antwerp police zone	106	104
Chief inspector	389	346
Chief inspector with specialisation	42	16
Preparatory training for middle-ranking officers	39	23
Superintendent	110	152
Preparatory training for senior officers	33	15
Accelerated training social promotion constable to inspector	63	41
Security constables and assistants (DAB)	320	261

*** The number of people who completed their training successfully may be different from the number of people trained since the former also include people who started their training the previous year.



Total number of people trained

Schools	2018*	2019*	2020*
ANPA (Berg, Brussels, Ghent, Jumet, Vottem, Wilrijk)	23 778	25 923	14 626
Académie de police de Namur	3 918	4 402	2 035
APPH (Jurbise)	5 849	6 896	4 272
Campus VESTA (Antwerp)	6 625	10 765	6 115
École de Police de la Province de Liège	4 224	6 169	2 051
ERIP-GIP (Brussels)	5 532	6 277	4 099

Schools	2018*	2019*	2020*
PAULO (Ghent)	6 182	6 745	3 478
PIVO (Asse)	4 040	3 272	2 17
PLOT (Limburg)	3 214	3 897	2 680
WPS (Zedelgem)	4 757	5 349	3 238
Total	68 119	79 695**	44 769**

* For basic training, the figures include the number of people who started their training that year. For other training (promotional, continuous, functional, certified), this is the number of people who completed their training that year.

** The decrease in the number of staff members trained is due to the corona crisis. The training sessions were partly cancelled, since it was impossible to organise them respecting security measures on the one hand and since they were not yet available digitally on the other hand.

Distance learning due to corona measures

The coronavirus pandemic forced police schools to switch to distance learning overnight. The majority of continuous training sessions were suspended in order to convert them into online sessions. However, trainers and lecturers providing basic training had to switch from one day to the next. Through a process of trial and error, but especially of great efforts and perseverance, the trainers of the National Police Academy (ANPA) developed the best possible ways to provide good and in particular safe training.

During the coronavirus pandemic, risk analyses were carried out repeatedly, seventeen in total. Nineteen activity sheets were drawn up to make sure that the various training sessions can be organised in a safe manner. These documents contain guidelines on classroom lessons during a pandemic, the organisation of practical public order, traffic or violence control exercises during a pandemic, the use of collective equipment during a pandemic, etc.

International police cooperation training

Belgium-the Netherlands

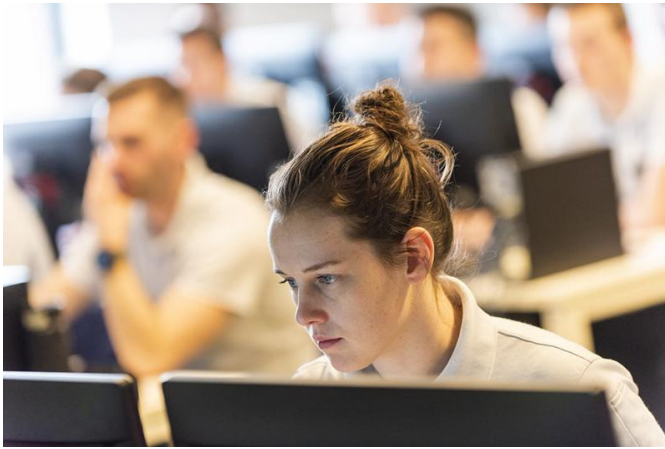
The certified trainers of the joint 'Without Worries across the Border' training provided a number of wage scale-based training sessions (8-hour sessions) to first line police officers in the Flemish-Dutch border region. This training focuses on what is possible and what is allowed in these countries with respect to cross-border actions or interventions. The trainers and the trainees are members of the Belgian or Dutch police.

The following sessions were organised together with the various police schools:

- Phase I in Paulo: completed.
- Phase II in Campus Vesta: 5 sessions with a total of 40 Belgian participants.
- Phase III in PLOT: no sessions due to COVID-19 measures.

In partnership with the Dutch Police Academy and under the umbrella of the Benelux Secretariat, the learning content for the intervention services was adapted to the new Benelux police cooperation treaty.

Given the success of this training format and at the request of other operational services, the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) developed new modules for specific target groups: the Maritime and River Police (SPN), the Railway Police (SPC) and the Federal Highway Police (WPR). Training courses for the investigation departments and the Special Units (DSU) are in the pipeline.



Belgium-France

In order to organise the same type of phased training in the French-Belgian border region, the learning content and the recognition file were completed and arrangements were made with the Bruges (WPS) and Jurbise (APPH) police schools. The three-day training course for trainers starts in 2021.

Information exchange and international alerts

End user training

The National Police Academy (ANPA) organised the 'International Information Exchange and International Alerts' training for staff members working in this field. Experts within the Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) and trainers in the complex subject matter collaborated on this training.

- Sessions for French-speaking staff: none*
- Sessions for Dutch-speaking staff: 3 (14 participants)

* This is not only due to the lack of computer rooms and the restrictive Covid measures, but also to the fact that trainers were deployed for priority training.

Remarkable new training courses developed by the National Police Academy

'Pursuit and Interception' training

After a police pursuit with a tragic end, the National Police Academy (ANPA) developed a new 'Pursuit and Interception' training course in line with the recommendations of the supervisory bodies (Standing Police Monitoring Committee). This training provides a uniform method of working for the Integrated Police. The aim is to improve and harmonise vehicle pursuit and interception skills. The learning content combines violence control techniques and driving skills.

In the spring, the first test session of the 'Pursuit and Interception' training took place, attended by various Integrated Police services. ANPA trained the lecturers through distance learning to enable them to start providing the training in all police schools in 2021. A uniform manual and a national presentation are available for all lecturers and police schools. The practical training for staff members of the Federal Police, in particular of the Federal Highway Police, will take place at the military base of Weelde.

Excited Delirium Syndrome

The police authorities, in particular the Minister of the Interior and the Coordinating Committee of the Integrated Police, have expressed their desire to train all police staff who are in direct contact with citizens, as well as calltakers in emergency call centres for specific interventions involving 'confused people'. The problem of 'unruly people', in particular those suffering from the Excited Delirium Syndrome (EDS), is a daily reality for police services. The personality, the attitude, as well as the place of intervention can play a role. These are often difficult and delicate situations.

Given the existing initiatives, the EDS training strategy for the police could be implemented rather quickly. Under the direction of the National Police Academy (ANPA), these initiatives were combined and integrated into a single harmonised strategy for a three-phase training course (theory and practice). In 2020, 200 lecturers were trained to enable the rollout of the training in all police schools in 2021.



Success Story

CEPOL goes digital!

Even though 2020 was marked by the coronavirus crisis, it was also a year of opportunities for international training. CEPOL, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, which aims to promote European and international collaboration through training, has rapidly developed its service offering into a distance model.

With this in mind, the Belgian section of CEPOL has organised and promoted the participation of members of the Integrated Police in webinars, modules and online classes on a variety of topics: sexual exploitation of children, environmental crime (such as the fight against illegal fishing), the dark web, crypto-currencies and gender-based hate or violent crimes.

	2019	2020
Webinars	261	839
Modules	6	127
Online sessions	54	35

