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“2022 was supposed to mark a return to business as usual after the coronavirus crisis. Now we are faced with a new international crisis: the war in Ukraine. This conflict also has repercussions on the way our organisation operates. Additional European and NATO summits, for example, required significant deployment in terms of policing, protection and security.



Working visits abroad were once again authorised after a period of Covid-related restrictions. Again this year, we were able to conclude and implement several cooperation agreements. These enable many colleagues to work more effectively in the field, directly or indirectly. The Belgian police have also strengthened their position on the world map thanks to the election of Peter De Buysscher, Director of International Police Cooperation (CGI) at the Federal Police, as Vice-President of Interpol.

In 2022, the Federal Police could once again look back on many wonderful operational results, in every component of our organisation and in various fields, from road safety, organised crime and security to the fight against corruption.

2022 was a pivotal year in terms of strategy. The Integrated Police has a new roadbook, the National Security Plan (PNS/NVP) 2022-2025 A resilient Integrated Police at the service of society. It defines the safety themes that will be the focus of attention for all police forces over the next four years.

The Federal Police was also one of the main players in the États-Généraux de la police/Staten-generaal van de politie. Over 1,000 people attended the many events in order to reflect, debate and put forward proposals.

In the current economic climate, resources were insufficient in 2022 to meet all needs. Nevertheless, this breathing space enabled us to maintain and reinforce our workforce and guarantee a minimum level of operations.

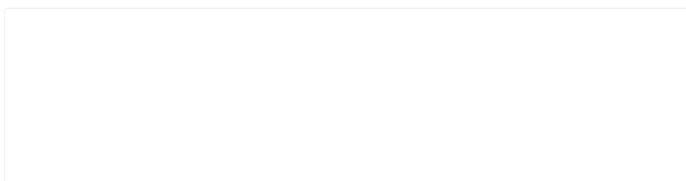
In 2022, our large police family was not spared by various tragic events. Once again, the immense solidarity, the helping hand, warmed our hearts. Thomas will always be remembered.

The massive turnout at the annual Police for Solidarity event gave us that same feeling, as did the shared, heartfelt pride felt when His Majesty the King visited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Special Units.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all my colleagues, whether they work behind the scenes or in the spotlight, in an increasingly international environment. Their daily efforts ensure a safe society. We can be proud of that. Today and tomorrow.

I invite everyone to continue on the same momentum and wish you much reading pleasure.

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





[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](#)

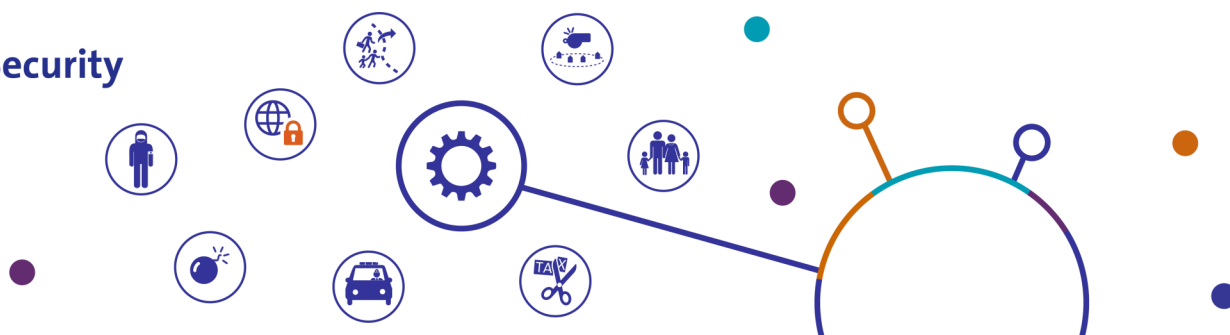
Recruiting the right profiles, the right people, training them sustainably to the best of their ability remains a permanent challenge. An overview of our actions in these areas over the past year.



[PDF Version](#)

Do you wish to read the complete annual report of the Federal Police in one sitting? Download the print-friendly PDF!

Security



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



[Drug trafficking](#)



[Police and citizens' security](#)



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



[Borders, migration and human trafficking](#)



[Road safety](#)



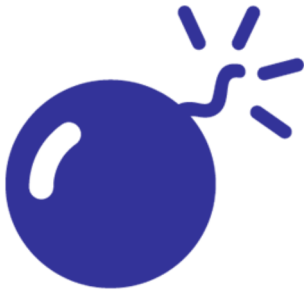
[Specialised teams](#)



[Online safety.](#)



[Economic and social security.](#)



[Terrorism, extremism,
radicalism](#)



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

Illicit drug trafficking

- More and more cocaine seizures.
- Introduction of anonymous contact points.
- Improved expertise to thwart operating methods.

Investigative capacity in "drug" cases

Federal investigative capacity in the fight against drugs	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of hours worked	428,756	521,722	641,162	722,952
Percentage relative to the total federal investigative capacity	15.9%	17.6%	22%	26%

In 2022, the emphasis was placed on international police cooperation, which is vital in the fight against this phenomenon. The Federal Police takes part in various international forums (EMPACT programs of Europol, international drug conference of Interpol, Groupe Pompidou of the Council of Europe, bilateral networks with the Netherlands, Benelux and Hazeldonk consultations, etc.) to combat drug trafficking both nationally and internationally.

"The Federal Judicial Police does not neglect any criminal phenomena".



"The messages decrypted in SKY ECC continue to be exploited, leading to successful anti-narcotics operations across the country. Nevertheless, the Federal Judicial Police does not neglect any criminal phenomena. The case of alleged corruption in the European Parliament is a case in point. The recovery of criminal assets was one of our priorities, with the equivalent of 400,933,969 euros seized by the Federal Judicial Police in 2022. Work in this area will need to continue, particularly with regard to virtual currencies."

FIRST CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ERIC SNOECK
Director General of the Judicial Police

Dismantling SKY ECC: perseverance in 2022

In 2022, the Federal Judicial Police persevered with intensive investigative work to identify and prosecute users of the SKY ECC encrypted messaging service. Innovative data processing tools have been developed to support the investigators' work. As a result, the deciphering work is ongoing and continues to produce results. For 2022, there were 520 Salduz IV hearings (this category applies to suspects deprived of their liberty and heard for offences that may be subject to custodial sentences) and a total of 30,296,109 euros in seizures. A review of the contents of the database led to the opening of 110 new files and the enhancement of 13 others. This work required the equivalent of 362 full-time jobs.

In parallel with the investigative work, strategic and tactical analyses were undertaken to draw lessons from this exceptional case and gain further knowledge of the criminal underworld.

Maritime seizures: cocaine trafficking

Some 260 cocaine seizures were made at sea alone.

Maritime cocaine seizures (kg)	2019	2020	2021	2022
in Antwerp	61,796	65,443	90,750	107,223
to Antwerp	76,986	67,780	102,193	93,210
in Belgium, excluding Antwerp	1,877	2,451	940	759
Total (kg)	140,660	135,675	193,883	201,192

Maritime seizures: hashish trafficking

In 2022, two operations at the port of Antwerp led to the seizure of a total of 2,822 kg of hashish.

Maritime seizures: heroine trafficking

In 2022, 1,265 kg of heroin were seized in four operations at the port of Antwerp.



Port contact points to combat crime

Belgian ports are well known points of entry for drugs into Europe, but they are also the scene of other criminal phenomena. The Federal Police, in particular the Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) and the Maritime and River Police (SPN), together with its partners, make a substantial contribution to the fight against the different forms of port crime.

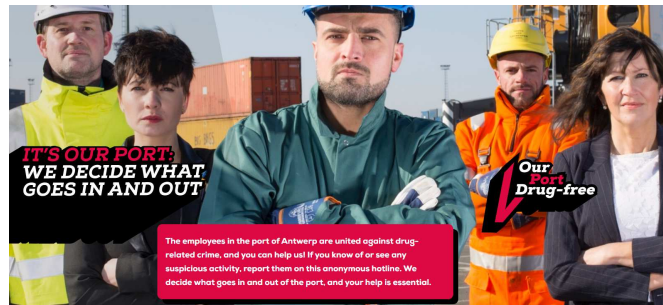


A drug-free port in Antwerp

The port of Antwerp is the gateway for the import and transit of a large number of goods in Europe. Unfortunately, criminal organisations also take advantage of this logistical hub, particularly for cocaine trafficking. The consequences of this phenomenon are deleterious, both for the economy and for the security of the metropolis and, by extension, the district. This is why Antwerp's port community is taking action against drug-related crime, and making sure it involves its citizens in the process. How? An anonymous point of contact – www.onzehavendrugsvrij.be/en – has been set up for people to report any suspicious situations. As in Zeebrugge, this port contact point is an initiative of the Port Authority, which has joined forces for this purpose with the Federal Police, a key partner in this context.

The many people who work at the port are at the heart of the process, as they, among others, determine what enters and leaves the port site. The website and telephone number allow them to anonymously report any suspicious situation. Companies can also report (suspected) infringements via this channel. This system allows the police to fight drug trafficking more actively and in a more targeted way.

Figures for 2022: 128 reports via the website, 35 telephone reports and 5 anonymous letters reporting possible offences.

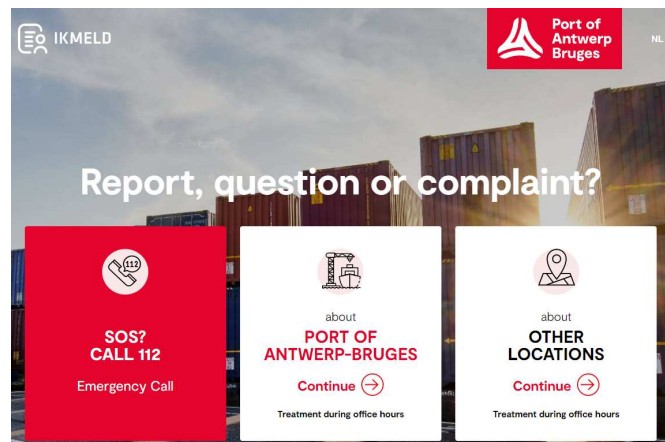


Digital contact point for Zeebrugge

On March 31, 2022, the [digital contact point for West Flanders \(Port of Zeebrugge\)](#) was presented at a press conference at the headquarters of Maatschappij van de Brugse Zeehaven (Port of Antwerp-Bruges).

This contact point allows suspicious situations to be reported directly to the police. It is a new source of information, particularly on organised crime. In the vicinity of the port, signs of human smuggling and trafficking, drug importation or other criminal phenomena may attract the attention of local residents, passers-by, contractors or employees. The contact point's website specifies the type of information investigators need to start an investigation or flesh out an existing file. Reports can also be made anonymously.

The Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) carries out an initial analysis of the reports. The relevant information is encoded in databases and made available to all police services. The Maritime and River Police (SPN) and the Local Police zones around the port are essential partners in this process. By providing them with additional ears and eyes, this point of contact represents invaluable added value.



The HavIK in Ghent

At the North Sea Port Ghent, a project group chaired by the Judicial Director of East Flanders has drawn up an action plan to make the port safer. As with other ports, one of the measures taken in this context is the creation of an anonymous point of contact. Under the supervision of the Haven InformatieKruispunt, or HavIK (part of SICAD's District Information Hub [CIA/AIK]), this contact point represents a first step towards strengthening not only the information position, but also trust between the different partners in general, and port workers in particular. Those who work in the port see and hear a great deal. In addition to companies and their employees, all those working in the port must be invested with a sense of responsibility to make the port safe and resilient.

Every report is treated in the strictest confidence and can remain entirely anonymous if its source so wishes. The HavIK contact point is not a central alarm station, as 112 remains the only number to contact in any emergency situation.

This initiative was launched in mid-November 2022; awareness-raising efforts to publicise it and explain how to use it are still underway.

Administrative approach to drug-related crime

In the fight against organised crime and security phenomena, a proactive administrative approach exists alongside the reactive criminal approach. Three district information and expertise centres (CIEARs/ARIECs) - Antwerp, Limburg and Namur follow this approach.

In 2022, the Antwerp CIEAR/ARIEC devoted additional efforts to the administrative fight against drugs. Various information sessions were held for local authorities and police zones, focusing on drug prevention in collaboration with the Antwerp Mental Health Centre. The *Lachgas* (laughing gas) roadmap has also been revised, and a new *Drugslabo's en dumpingen* (Drug production laboratories and clandestine depots) roadmap has been drafted and officially presented.

The CIEAR/ARIEC Antwerp has teamed up with various entities, the Federal Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office to produce an information brochure entitled *Veilig verhuur* (Rent safely). It was released in early June 2022 on a range of platforms to help landlords prevent their homes or business premises from being used for illegal purposes (drug consumption, sales and production). It provides information on the risks and liabilities of renting out properties that are home to illegal activities, as well as advice on how to protect yourself from dishonest tenants. The brochure also contains a list of indicators that can be useful in determining the presence of illegal activities in a building, such as chemical odours, drug production laboratories and excessive energy consumption.

This publication can be viewed at <https://www.drugsplantageontdekt.be/>



Networking and training on hidden spaces bear fruit

On 7 October 2022, the Circle of Police Leadership (CPL) held its third CPL Awards in Brussels. The award was created to highlight outstanding projects within the Belgian police force. [Thanks to its international project on hidden spaces, the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime \(DJSOC\) won an award in the "international police cooperation" category.](#)

Hidden spaces are now easier to spot and detect thanks to the pooling and exchange of knowledge and experience in Belgium and abroad. More than 2,000 Belgian police officers and around 100 foreign colleagues have taken the training course dedicated to this issue. This initiative, as well as our efforts to raise awareness in this area, are bearing fruit.



In 2022, around 95 hidden spaces were discovered in vehicles in Belgium.
Summary of seizures made in this context:

- 1,713,710 euro
- 1,785 kg of cocaine
- 4 kg of heroin
- 8 kg of marijuana
- 95 kg of hashish
- various weapons
- cell phones and luxury watches

Abroad, the competent services intercepted 43 vehicles – registered in Belgium – in which a hidden space had been professionally installed. These operations resulted in the seizure of 1,136,880 euros, 507 kg of cocaine, 36 kg of heroin, 298 kg of hashish, 2 kg of ketamine, 110 ecstasy pills and various weapons.

Hidden spaces are often used to house illegal goods; it is precisely for this reason that a bill has been tabled, on the initiative of the Federal Police (DJSOC), to prohibit the possession or fitting out of such spaces in the future.

Étoile actions within the framework of the Hazeldonk cooperation

Hazeldonk cooperation between Belgium, the Netherlands, France and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is designed to combat organised drug distribution networks across borders. Although it has been in existence since 2006, the initiative was given fresh impetus at the end of 2021 with the implementation of a new action plan based on three pillars: joint control actions, exchange of information and expertise, and the fight against drug distribution.

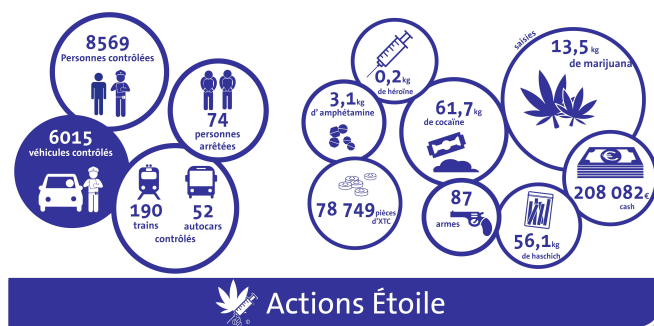
The result of collaboration between the Federal Police, the Local Police, the General Administration of Customs and Excise and their colleagues from the Benelux countries and France, Étoile actions are organised five times a year and have been declared a great success. In all (Benelux and France), they have led to the seizure of 48 kg of marijuana, 70 kg of hashish, 73 kg of cocaine, 79,000 ecstasy pills and nearly 264,000 euros in cash.

In addition to the seizures themselves, these actions have also improved the police image of the drug problem and strengthened the exchange of expertise between different countries. In February, an Étoile action led to the discovery of a synthetic drug production laboratory and the dismantling of a criminal organisation.

In addition to the Étoile actions, shorter but more muscular Dope Runner actions were also organised. These controls were aimed in particular at drug smugglers and distribution networks using motorways. In 2022, this successful approach led to the seizure of a total of 60 kg of cocaine, 35 kg of heroin, 20 kg of marijuana, 20 kg of speed, 360,000 ecstasy pills, 3 litres of GHB and 700,000 euros in cash. Information exchange and cooperation with other countries are also two of its strengths. In the Netherlands, a chase of a driver guilty of attempted murder ended in Belgium, where the driver was arrested in possession of 40 kg of ecstasy.

Efforts will be made in the future to involve the justice system even more closely and rapidly in Hazeldonk cooperation. Once ratified by the Netherlands, the new Benelux treaty will also open up new possibilities in the fight against drug distribution networks.

In 2022, Belgian police and Customs services recorded the following results over five action periods:





Drugs seized as part of Étoile actions:

Quantity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Marihuana	12.5 kg	39.5 kg	14 kg	39.5 kg	13.5 kg
Hashish	8 kg	1 kg	1 kg	7 kg	56.1 kg
Heroin	5 kg	0.2 kg	3 kg	8.8 kg	0.2 kg
Cocaine	2.5 kg	4.8 kg	11.4 kg	9.5 kg	61.7 kg
Amphetamines	1.5 kg	0.4 kg	0.15 kg	6.3 kg	3.1 kg
XTC	2,019 pills	1,168 pills	2,571 pills	1,275 pills	78,749 pills

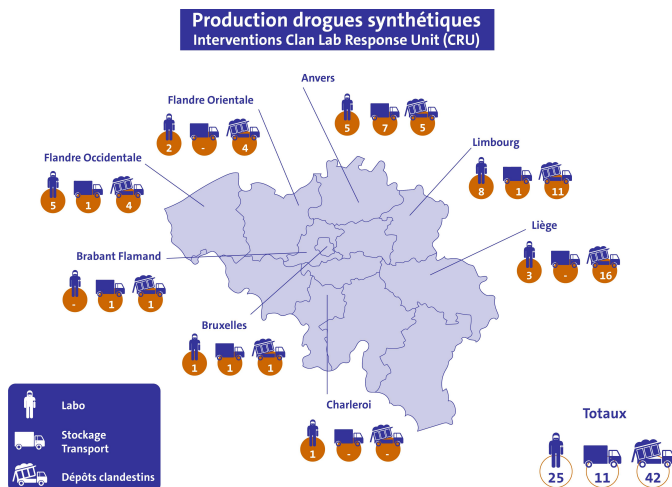
Production of synthetic drugs

In 2022, the Clan Lab Response Unit (CRU) carried out a total of 83 interventions. The CRU is a multidisciplinary team made up of members of the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC/Drugs), specialised fire service officers and forensic investigators from the Drugs Section of the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (INCC/NICC).



In 42 cases, these interventions were aimed at dismantling a "dumping" operation (clandestine dumping of chemical waste from drug production). The CRU also intervened in 25 cases linked to drug production laboratories and 11 linked to the transport or storage of drugs.

Five interventions were found to be unrelated to drugs. Remarkably, fewer methamphetamine production sites were discovered, and more MDMA and amphetamine production sites.



Training on synthetic drugs

In 2022, awareness training on synthetic drug production was delivered in 13 sessions to 223 Federal and Local Police personnel.

In addition, the Federal Police, under the aegis of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL Belgium), organised the "Illicit Laboratory Dismantling" training course, to teach candidates techniques for identifying and dismantling drug production laboratories. A total of 21 people from 17 EU Member States and Iceland took part in the initiative.



When the identification of an illicit depot leads to the discovery of a synthetic drug laboratory

Since the end of August 2022, the provinces of West Flanders and East Flanders have been dealing with the illegal dumping of waste from a synthetic drug production laboratory. In West Flanders, waste was discharged into the river Yser at Diksmuide. Thanks to investigations based on camera images and ANPR data, the Local Police were able to link these illegal dumps to a vehicle. The Federal Police's Clan Lab Response Unit (CRU) was on the scene and able to establish links between the dumping actions.

For its part, the Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) of West Flanders opened a file to search for the laboratory. Observations made by the Special Units then directed the investigation towards a suspect at a farm in Kortemak, which, according to police information, was probably being used as a synthetic drug production laboratory. On 28 October 2022, a search was carried out on the site, which was found to house a laboratory with a weekly production capacity of 500 kg of MDMA. The operation also led to the discovery of waste which, according to the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (INCC/NICC), could be responsible for the production of at least 3,000 kg of MDMA. A search of a suspect's home yielded 40 kg of MDMA, cash, goods purchased with the suspects' criminal assets and firearms. Four people were arrested in connection with this case. The subsequent investigation led to the arrest of a fifth person.

Training and exchange of expertise

Training on illegal cannabis cultivation

Every year, the Central Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC) holds training sessions in police academies across the country on illegal cannabis cultivation. Intended primarily for investigators, neighbourhood inspectors, aspiring chief inspectors and forensic laboratory personnel, these training courses cover the trends, developments, risks and dangers of illegal cannabis cultivation. 20 sessions took place in 2022 with a total of 407 participants.

CEPOL has also taken an initiative in this area. In autumn 2022, 24 candidates from 18 EU countries took part in a training course entitled "Dismantling of Cannabis Production and Trafficking" at the Vesta Campus in Emblem. On the agenda were the new working methods of criminals and the operation of the cannabis supply chain.

Training on *Drugs trafficking by post and courier services*

During the week of 26 October 2022, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), whose mission is to promote European and international police cooperation through training, organised an international training course on drug trafficking via postal and express services, in partnership with the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSCO/Drogue) and German police and customs services. The "Postkoets" project ([see Success Story below](#)) is an example of Belgian expertise in this field. The course, which took place in Leipzig, was an opportunity for a number of international experts to give presentations on this topic. The event attracted 30 participants (Customs, justice, police) from 24 different countries.

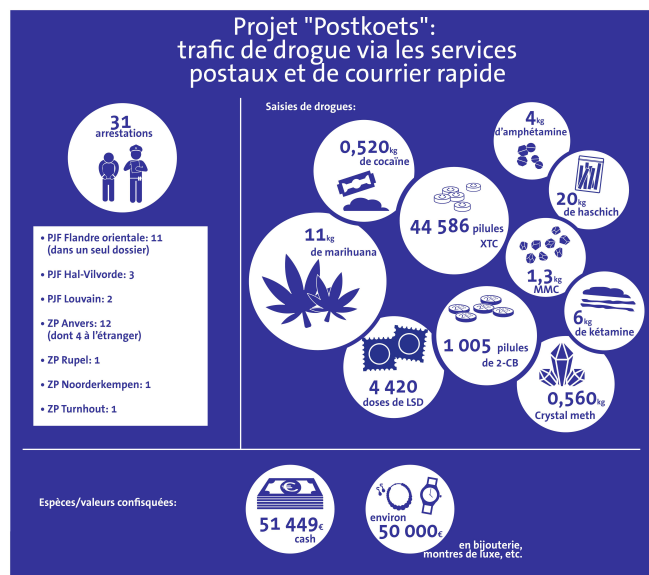


Success Story

"Postkoets" project: drug trafficking via postal and express services

Every year, Customs seize hundreds of kilos of drugs (including hundreds of thousands of ecstasy pills) transported via postal and express services. Following these seizures, some cases are subsequently investigated by a large number of local and federal police forces working in collaboration.

In 2022, as part of this project, named "Postkoets" (literally: "diligence" in English), the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC/Drogue) processed and coordinated a total of 208 alerts, forwarded by the Customs services, concerning international seizures of large quantities of drugs, mainly synthetic drugs such as ketamine and MDMA.



The 11 arrests by the Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) of East Flanders were in connection with a single case. Following a series of interceptions as part of the "Postkoets" project, the East Flanders PJF/FGP opened an investigation into a gang carrying out large-scale drug imports from Spain into Belgium. On 7 December 2022, ten searches led to the seizure of 11 kg of marijuana, 20 kg of hashish and 40,000 euros in cash, as well as luxury watches and two cars. Nine

suspects were arrested in Belgium and two in the Czech Republic. The gang is suspected of having imported more than 400 parcels, representing a total of over 4 tonnes of drugs.



Borders, migration and human trafficking

- Human trafficking and smuggling, difficult investigations with an international dimension.
- Small boats: a major challenge.
- Bordertask, an innovative application.

Investigation into human trafficking and smuggling

In the fight against human smuggling and trafficking, Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) investigators worked 181,176 hours in 2022. This represents 6.52% of federal investigative capacity (total = 2,799,285 hours), about the same figure as last year. 242 dossiers were opened.

Federal investigative capacity to combat human trafficking and smuggling				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of hours worked	191,364	202,461	186,810	181,176
Percentage relative to the total federal investigative capacity	7%	7%	6,45%	6,52%

Number of investigations opened by the Federal Judicial Police

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Human trafficking	232	169	132	98
Sexual exploitation	128	130	101	74
Economic exploitatione	51	59	46	32

The figures in this table refer to the number of newly started cases. A new registration method has been in use since 2021.

The decrease in the number of human trafficking cases can be explained by the growing number of investigations into the activities of international criminal organisations. The complexity of these investigations and the need to develop a coordinated international approach mean that more time and resources have to be devoted to them, which in turn reduces their number.

The new sexual criminal law has brought about a change, an adaptation of the police approach to controlling prostitution. Added to this is the rampant digitisation of criminal activities, particularly where sexual exploitation is concerned, making victims and those who exploit them more difficult to detect, identify and locate.

As far as economic exploitation is concerned, most investigations are carried out by inspectors from the National Social Security Office (ONSS/RSZ) and Control of Social Laws (CSL/TSW). These two departments have limited policing powers in terms of analysis and investigation in their areas of action. The police often act in support of these services. Only more complex investigations, often involving organised crime, are really handled by the police.

A worrying trend, resulting from the Covid-19 crisis, was confirmed in 2022 with regard to the exploitation of minors in all its forms: 81 cases of sexual exploitation of minors and 23 cases of sexual human trafficking with the aggravating circumstance that the victims were minors. Cases of forced criminality were also investigated, particularly among young unaccompanied foreign minors (MENA/NBMV) from North Africa and Afghanistan. Cases of sexual abuse and substance abuse were also reported. The aim is to make these minors more docile to those exploiting them, who are exclusively of the same nationality as their victims.



Police and judiciary focus on dangerous small boats of human smugglers

By 2021, the trend toward reaching the United Kingdom in small boats - rather than hiding in the cargo space of a truck -, mainly from northern France, became increasingly apparent. This led the Federal Police to establish intense and lasting collaborations nationally, internationally, internally and externally. This work continued in 2022.

At the European level, Belgium is a small transit country both for criminal organisations involved in human trafficking and for migrants wanting to reach the UK on their own.

29 'human trafficking' investigations into the small boats phenomenon were launched in Belgium in 2022. Most judicial districts have had to deal with this type of investigation, although the province of West Flanders is the most affected, given its geographical location.

The change in approach, with the development of a strategy of coordinated investigations at both national and international levels, led to the dismantling of several criminal sub-groups, all linked to a single organisation whose main leaders were domiciled in Germany or the UK.

In July 2022, a vast criminal organisation was dismantled at the European level (Belgium/France/Germany/Netherlands/United Kingdom). 18 key members of this organisation were arrested as part of a Belgian investigation, although none of them had any ties to Belgium. Our legislative framework and the prosecution policy of local and federal public prosecutors have enabled our services to target a structured criminal organisation based abroad, but using our country as a transit territory.



Success Story

International police operation ends human trafficking using private planes

On 13 September 2022, an international police operation put an end to an organisation specialising in human trafficking. The action, which involved police forces from Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, Austria and the United States, was led by an investigating judge in Brussels from the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. The Brussels Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP), assisted among others by the Federal Judicial Police's Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC), also received Europol's support in this investigation.

The organisation's human trafficking activities followed a well-established modus operandi. The passengers, mainly of Kurdish origin, would board a private jet in Turkey using false diplomatic passports. However, the flight's official destination

– usually the Caribbean – was never reached. During a stopover at a European airport, the migrants would get off the plane, destroy their false passports and systematically apply for asylum.

In addition to people trafficking and false documents, the organisation also issued forged cheques and defrauded airlines in order to build up its own fleet. Hotels have also fallen victim to scams involving unpaid invoices. The organisation collected exorbitant sums of up to \$20,000 for each illegal passenger.

Intensive investigations by Belgian investigators and close collaboration with other European and American police forces established that the organisation was based in Belgium.

The operation on the morning of Tuesday 13 September 2022, coordinated by Europol and Eurojust, targeted Italy and France in addition to Belgium. This action led to the arrest of five people, including two in Belgium. They were suspected of human trafficking, money laundering, participation in a criminal organisation and forgery.

A large sum of money and two aircraft were also seized during the operation. In addition, the fact that the organisation had forged documents in Belgium was confirmed during the action by the discovery of manufacturing equipment.



The Justice Department launches a contact point for tracing victims of human trafficking

Victims of human trafficking are still too often afraid to make a complaint. This is why the Federal Public Service (FPS) Justice has set up a contact point: www.stophumantrafficking.be.

In a first phase, the website provides information on human trafficking, enabling victims or witnesses to seek help or report incidents via an online form.

The contact point for victims of human trafficking will be staffed by personnel from the various reception centres (Pag-Asa in Brussels, Payoke in Antwerp and Süya in Liège). This will be the initial filter for assessing urgency, i.e. the degree of danger to the physical integrity of the potential victim, and for locating reported incidents. Depending on the urgency of the situation, a request for

police intervention may then be considered, or as a minimum a check by a police or social inspectorate. In less urgent cases, the centres themselves may first take charge of the victim before a complaint is lodged with the police.

The policy and approach to combating human trafficking and smuggling are multidisciplinary. The police are an essential part of this collaboration, both for the findings made by the front-line services (including the Federal Traffic Police) and for the investigations carried out by the Federal Judicial Police and local investigation services.



LIGNE D'ASSISTANCE BELGE
POUR LES VICTIMES DE LA
TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS

En cas de danger immédiat, appelez le 101

Trouvez de l'aide près de chez vous

Qu'est-ce que la traite des êtres humains?

La traite des êtres humains est une forme d'esclavage moderne. Il s'agit du crime d'une personne qui exploite une autre pour en tirer un profit pour son bénéfice personnel. Les trafiquants d'êtres humains profitent de la situation de vulnérabilité de leurs victimes pour prendre le contrôle de celles-ci. Souvent, ils utilisent la violence physique ou psychologique pour limiter la liberté des victimes. Ils peuvent aussi concier leurs victimes dans une situation de dépendance économique (via leur logement, nourriture, ou papiers) et/ou simplement abuser d'une position de vulnérabilité. Les trafiquants peuvent opérer au sein d'un réseau criminel, mais peuvent aussi agir seuls.

La traite des êtres humains peut toucher n'importe qui : adultes et enfants, hommes, femmes et personnes transgenres, de toutes nationalités (Belges, UE et hors UE). Vous pourriez aussi être ou devenir une victime !



La traite des êtres humains peut prendre différentes formes

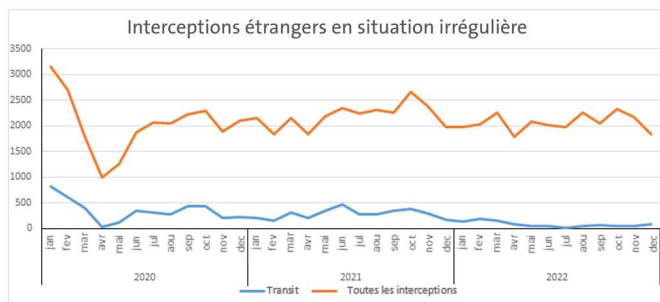
Exploitation sexuelle	Exploitation par le travail	Criminalité forcée
Les victimes d'exploitation sexuelle doivent fournir des services pour que l'exploiteur puisse en tirer des bénéfices. C	Obtenir de l'aide. C'est gratuit et confidentiel	Ons sont obligés de commettre des délits contre leur gré, bénéfice d'une autre personne. Les exploitateurs contrôlent
Je suis une victime	Je commets une victime potentielle	

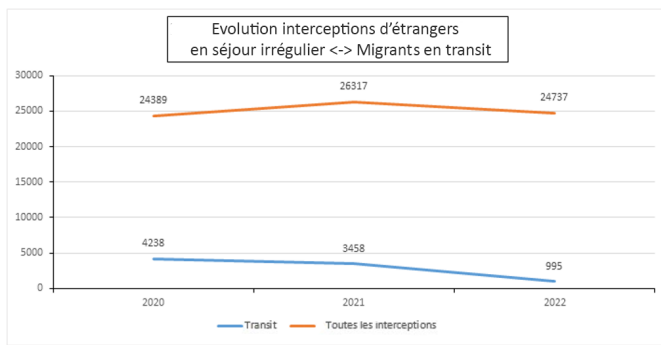
Interceptions of illegal residents

The police services often intercept persons who are illegally residing 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 Immigration 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.





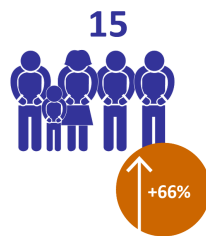
After the sharp decline during the first lockdown in 2020, the number of interceptions increased again before stabilising. This stabilisation is still noticeable in 2022.

In contrast, the number of transit migrants fell sharply in 2022, although the phenomenon has not completely disappeared. Many migrants transit through Belgium to reach the camps set up in northern France, before boarding small boats to attempt to cross the Channel to the English coast.

Nautical equipment, most of it transported in minivans or vans, is also increasingly routed via Belgium. Targeted operations are organised to keep this phenomenon under control. These actions are generally information-driven. The Federal Police focuses on the Supply Chain action plan, i.e. the transport and supply of nautical equipment on Belgian roads. In this context, every week federal entities and Local Police zones are required to check vehicles likely to be used in the small boat logistics chain. Integrated actions against this phenomenon are regularly carried out in collaboration with the police zones and with the involvement of the Federal Reserve (FERES) and the Intervention Corps (CIK).

In the other provinces further from the coast, the focus of the control activities is on intercepting suspicious vehicles transporting nautical equipment.

Illegal migration - contribution of the Airport Police (LPA)



Arrests

Arrests related to human smuggling

- 2018: 23
- 2019: 34
- 2020: 11
- 2021: 9
- 2022: 15

Removals

Limited flight supply and travel restrictions due to the corona pandemic prevented certain removals from taking place.

Removals	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Refolements*	2,399	2,377	848	1,206	1,791
Repatriations**	3,509	3,119	1,615	1,451	2,283

* Refoulement: when a person presents themselves at the border but their papers are not in order, they cannot cross the border and must be sent back to the country from which they came.

** Repatriation: when a person is found to be on the territory illegally, they must be "repatriated" to their country of origin or the last country through which they passed.



Success Story

Removing a Somali pirate: a difficult, complex but successful mission

In November 2022, a Somali national, an atypical “illegal immigrant”, was successfully returned to his native country. In itself, this type of removal mission is part of the day-to-day operation of the Zaventem Airport Police Removals Department (LPA BruNat). This was a special case, however, due to its (media) sensitivity, special agreements with external partners and the level of difficulty.

The “king of pirates”, who was arrested thanks to an undercover operation carried out by the Federal Police's special units (DSU), had been held in several Belgian prisons since 2012 following a conviction for taking the staff of the Belgian ship Pompei hostage for around 70 days in 2009.

The convicted hostage-taker remained incarcerated until May 2021, when he was transferred to a detention centre with a view to removing him to his native country. He would normally have been escorted to Mogadishu by the LPA BruNat removal service, but due to the unstable and dangerous situation in Somalia, this escort to the Somali capital was not possible. Agreements were reached with the Immigration Office (OE) and several airlines to break the deadlock.

Two attempts had to be aborted due to the fierce opposition of the individual on board the plane, but the third was successful. The deportee was escorted to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by the Federal Police. He was then accompanied back to Mogadishu by the airline's own security personnel.

This successful deportation was the result of close collaboration between the Federal Police, the Immigration Office and the airline, and brought to a close a case that had been dragging on for 18 months.

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

Illegal residents intercepted

- **2018:** 186
- **2019:** 130
- **2020:** 102
- **2021:** 85
- **2022:** 51

In recent years, there has been a decline in the number of interceptions at the Schengen external border at Brussels-Midi. There are two obvious reasons for this: first, a reduction in the number of travellers during the coronavirus period (2020-2021), with the first half of 2022 also seeing lower numbers of interceptions. Second, since Brexit, all travellers must have a passport to visit the UK. This document is more difficult to forge or counterfeit. The UK has also

significantly tightened its migration laws. As a result, people without proper or valid papers are less inclined to cross regular national borders to go there. This means that they take more alternative routes and means, such as crossing the English Channel in small boats.

Illegal immigration – contribution of the Maritime and River Police (SPN)

The sharp drop in the number of people intercepted by the Maritime and River Police is due to the change in their modus operandi to reach the UK, with the small boat phenomenon. The drop in the number of transit migrants intercepted is particularly noticeable during the summer months.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Illegal residents intercepted by the SPN (total regular operations and targeted actions)	4,256	2,951	2,612	2,359	451
- o using the CO ₂ detector	901	573	3*	18*	0
- o using the dogs deployed for immigration controls	1,457	1,497	908**	830**	235
Judicial arrests (confirmed by the magistrate) in the context of illegal migration (human smuggling and transit migration)	3	15	3	10	9
Targeted actions	216	215	327	326	198

* The decrease in the number of interceptions by CO₂ detection is because a private security firm has taken over this task.

** The decrease in the number of interceptions by dogs is because this task is divided between the Dog Support of the Federal Police and private security firms.

Border management

The National Security Plan (PNS-NVP) 2022-2025 *Resilient Integrated Policing at the Service of Society* comprises four cross-cutting themes that require an innovative policing approach to continue to effectively combat the wide range of security phenomena that have undergone recent developments. Integrated border management is one of them.

Many things await us in the near future, including the increasing internationalisation of society, the European Union placing an ever heavier regulatory burden on border management and the technological challenges we face with biometrics.

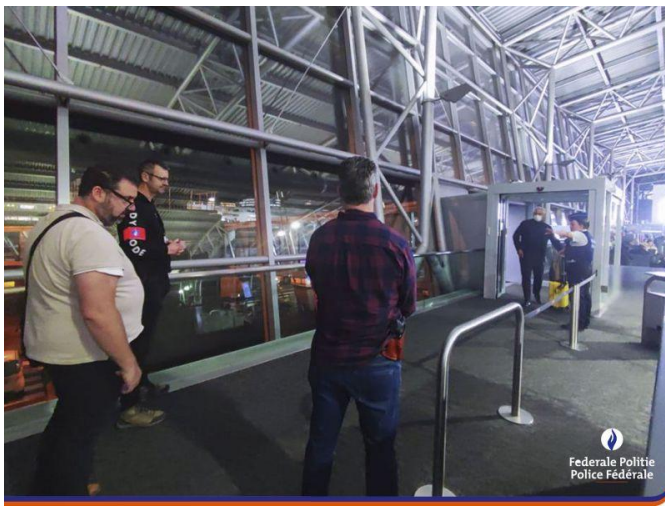
As an "impact factor", the border plays a role in many areas of security, including terrorism, drug trafficking and theft. By including this dimension into the National Security Plan, we are emphasising the importance of border management in all these areas.

As far as border controls are concerned, we are seeing an overall increase in figures, which was to be expected given the upturn in cross-border traffic after 2020 and 2021, which were marked by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 (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 Immigration 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.



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Passengers checked in the 2nd line	39,185	41,939	16,820	21,709	25,382
Reports to the Immigration Office	7,054	7,560	3,795	4,213	4,996
Refusals	2,940	3,026	1,132	1,553	2,223

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	2021	2022
Files	3,648	3,645	1,280	2,261	2,622
Seized documents	1,637	2,002	1,422	1,613	2,788
Impostors*	249	465	191	254	281
False documents**	620	863	561	989	1,108
Forged documents***	768	667	276	458	395

* An impostor uses a genuine, valid document for fraudulent purposes (usually based on its appearance).

** A false document is a completely counterfeit document.

*** 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.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Controls	3,142,108	3,047,019	470,639*	116,717*	1,525,761

* E-gates were used much less because they could not 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.

Checks in international trains (Paris, Amsterdam ...) by the Railway Police (SPC)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Controlled trains	374	250	191	218	140
Official reports	143	89	23	25	109

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Judicial arrests	79	30	6	0	9
Persons brought before (judicial) authorities	4	2	1	0	0
Administrative arrests	63	58	11	22	23

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Administrative controls of crew members	634,178	651,341	487,850	511,503	633,981
Physical controls of passengers	457,111	522,617	86,263	84,114	315,428*
Individual visas granted	4,347	4,953	4,817	5,721	5425
Stowaways intercepted	28	71	116	136	139**

* The increase is due to the resumption of cruise ship traffic after the coronavirus years.

** ** Of the 136 stowaways in 2021, 14 were confirmed stowaways and 122 were considered potential. Of the 139 stowaways in 2022, 26 were confirmed stowaways and 113 were considered potential stowaways. A potential stowaway is a person found on board a ship before it has left port. A stowaway is a person discovered during the voyage or when the ship arrives at another port.



New training for our border controllers

The Federal Police is preparing for the entry into force of the new European Entry/Exit System.

This computerised system, which will come into force in 2023, will enable travellers from outside the European Union to be registered.

In 2022, the police developed a specific in-house training course for our border controllers, in line with the online training provided by Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. This training was given 20 times last year.

Tools to increase border security

Belvis

Through the **Belvis** (**B**elgian **V**isa **I**nformation **S**ystem) application, it is possible to check visas in C-VIS (Central Visa Information System) in order to prevent visa abuse. 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*	2021*	2022
Number of users	510	510	510	510
Number of checks	164,366	31,636	26,008	100,582
Number of fingerprint checks via Belvis in AFIS	118,465	6,294	12,354	90,515

* Due to the corona measures, international travel was severely restricted in 2020 and 2021. 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 an alien who does not have the appropriate residence permit. The application has about 7,200 users.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of reports created	28,826	21,264	23,706	24,762

Aquatask and Aerotask to control all sea and air traffic

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

Aquatask	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of users	296	296	348	243*
Number of checks on passengers and crew members	1,968,896	565,722**	599,384**	954,036***

* The decrease in the number of Aquatask users is due to the fact that the list of users has been thoroughly reviewed at the DRI. Several people have been removed from this list, as they no longer work at the SPN or DRI. This update is not linked to an automatic procedure and was carried out for the first time in 2022.

** This refers only to the number of administrative controls on passengers and crew. These checks are carried out on individuals included in the active passenger and crew lists of a stay, both on arrival and departure. The big difference compared to 2020 is due to the closure of the Zeebrugge-Hull ferry and the ban on cruises since March 2020, that was still in place in 2021. A cruise ship requires 8,000 to 10,000 controls per day.

*** The increase in 2022 was therefore due to the strong upturn in cruise ship traffic.

The control in Aerotask is done on the basis of the General Declarations for non-commercial flights. Belgian private aviation companies, including Luxaviation, ASL and FlyingGroup, enjoyed a record year in 2022. Passenger numbers rose from 70,000 in 2021 to 114,000 last year. The number of General Declarations rose comparably as a consequence.

Aerotask	2020	2021	2022
Number of checks of General Declarations	1,925	2,283	4,435



Success Story

Bordertask Web: border control for the 21st century

Bordertask is the programme used for the integrated control of the Schengen area's external borders. New for 2022 is the Bordertask web application, which is connected to other similar programmes, such as Aquatask for sea borders and Aerotask for air borders. Thanks to this set, Bordertask contains all the relevant information on the different types of border.

Bordertask Web was rolled out to all border crossings in May 2022. During the summer months, 3 million passengers were screened using the new application. This represents the first major operational step towards the European Entry/Exit System (EES). This central European system means that stamps will disappear from non-European passports, and their owners and their travel documents will have to be controlled electronically.

Bordertask was also used to process the flow of Ukrainian refugees. A temporary registration centre was opened at Brussels Expo on 14 March 2022. The Federal Police has installed 42 passport scanners. The entire project was completed in four days, thanks to the close collaboration between the Immigration Office, Fedasil, the Red Cross and the Federal Police.



Contribution to Frontex missions

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

The Federal Police organised the mandatory secondment of (police) personnel to Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in 2022. Specifically, this involved ten individuals for longer-term missions, including nine from the Federal Police and one from the Immigration Office. In addition, the Integrated Police also carried out 88 short-term missions, 59 of which were carried out by the Federal Police and 29 by the Local Police, the Immigration Office and the General Administration of Customs and Excise. The nature of the missions and complex circumstances require continuous structural monitoring.

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



Number of hours worked

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Railway Police	575	1,175	204	546	840
Maritime and River Police	5,031	5,955	1,566	2,342	2,850
Airport Police	8,505	10,967	4,827	6,077	7,007
Highway Police	280	1,108	244	523	670
Directorate of Administrative Police Operations	2,027	1,886	349	598	827
Directorate of Security*	-	-	202	0	200
Coordination and Support Directorates*	-	-	556	413	0
Directorate of Judicial Police Operations*	-	-	377	224	0
Federal Judicial Police*	-	-	866	403	203
Directorate of International Police Cooperation - General Commissioner's Office	-	-	-	363	0

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Local Police*	-	-	423	866	420
Total	16,418	21,091 (+ 28%)	9,614 (-54,42%)	12,355 (+28,51%)	13,017 (+5,35%)

* Counting from 2020.

Police and citizen security

- The fight against corruption takes centre stage.
- The Research and Information Bulletin, an indispensable tool in the field.
- Securing critical infrastructures: the police take over.

Combating crime phenomena

In 2022, efforts to combat drug trafficking led to a significant increase in the number of arrests.

Investigative capacity broken down by phenomenon

Phenomenon	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Financial-economic crime	13,5%	23%	21,5%	21,5%	20%
Drugs	12%	17%	17,5%	22%	26%
Violence (murder, manslaughter, etc.)	10%	16%	15%	14%	14%
Theft	5,5%	14%	12%	9%	7%
Terrorism	9%	10%	7%	7%	6%
Human trafficking/smuggling	7%	8%	7%	6,5%	6,5%
Other	43%	12%	20%	20%	20,5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Arrests*

Phenomenon	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Drugs	751	906	881	1,036	1,201
Thefts	418	772	624	381	306
Ecofin	235	387	352	437	407
Violence - murders and manslaughters	223	451	441	437	443
Human trafficking/smuggling	171	265	235	262	257
Unknown (arrests not linked to a phenomenon)	1,497	176	236	137	62
Terrorism	112	98	62	86	98
Forgery	/	82	41	53	20
Special cases	/	21	19	40**	17
Environment	/	10	/	35	5
Medication fraud (and fraud related to food supplements)	/	8	/	4	6
ICT	/	/	26	51	57

Phenomenon	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Other phenomena	/	88	60	89	36
Total	3,407	3,264	3,108	3,048	2,982

* "Arrest" here means the deprivation of judicial liberty of any person identified as a suspect, in accordance with the Salduz law (category IV).

** This significant increase relates to the sharp rise in cases of breach of professional secrecy, most of which can be assimilated to cases of corruption.

Growing importance of cryptocurrencies in money laundering cases

The criminal underworld uses cash and cryptocurrencies to launder its profits, frequently transferring funds via countries like Dubai. As part of an investigation into a money laundering case led by the Oudenaarde investigating judge, in May 2022, the Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) of East Flanders dismantled a company trading in cryptocurrency and laundering the commissions it received. In addition to a large quantity of silver and gold coins worth 346,000 euros, cryptocurrencies and NFTs worth 175,000 euros and 26,000 euros respectively were also seized and transferred to the Central Office for Seizure and Confiscation (OCSC/COIV).

NFT stands for "Non-Fungible Token", meaning that it cannot be replaced by another of the same kind. A digital object (e.g. a photo, image or audio clip) can be registered as an NFT on a blockchain, so that the buyer can claim ownership. For example, Twitter founder Jack Dorsey's very first tweet was sold as an NFT for over \$2.9 million.

This was the first time NFTs had been seized in Belgium. Today, this practice is widespread in the world of digital art and collectables; the value of NTFs is also the subject of speculation. Buyers can resell their title of ownership to a digital art object.

However, this is an unregulated, high-risk market, not comparable to traditional art ownership practices.

Alongside the rise of NFTs, the criminal underworld is also increasingly investing in cryptocurrencies. Luxembourg's Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP), and in particular two investigators from its EcoFin division, are known and recognised for their expertise in cryptocurrencies.

They work with their district's Local Police zones when an "emergency report" needs to be made on blockchain analysis platforms.

A total of 50 researchers from the Federal Judicial Police took part in the "Chainalysis" training course. Chainalysis is a software programme that tracks cryptos and performs an in-depth analysis of the blockchain.



	2019	2020	2021	2022
New investigations into money-laundering practices	436	362	455	425

High-profile corruption cases

The Central Office for Corruption Prevention (OCRC/CDBC) is involved in a series of high-profile judicial investigations. Last year, at the request of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, the department investigated various cases of corruption linked to encrypted data on the SKY ECC platform. Some 30 investigations were opened into officials (from the police, customs, federal public services and local administrations) suspected of corruption. Most of these investigations are still ongoing.

In a first case linked to SKY ECC, the Antwerp criminal court sentenced a former police officer to four years' imprisonment and the forfeiture of 75,000 euros for corruption.

Another major case currently being followed by the press is the corruption affair within the European Parliament, also known as "Qatargate".

The OCRC/CDBC handles this type of case like any other organised crime case. In this case, by using a number of specific research methods.

The fact that the Public Prosecutor's Office is entrusting more large-scale corruption investigations to the Central Office for Corruption Prevention is also having an impact on the number of arrests made by the service: 12 arrests in 2020, 26 in 2021 and 18 in 2022.



The many facets of the fight against corruption

The 60 or so investigators at the [Central Office for Corruption Prevention \(OCRC/CDBC\)](#) investigate corruption in the broadest sense of the term: active corruption (offering something), passive corruption (accepting a gift or benefit), subsidy fraud, public procurement fraud and breach of professional secrecy. In recent years, the Office has paid particular attention to fraud in sport (match-fixing, fraudulent transfers, etc.).

Corruption is a difficult offence to prove. It is a complex subject, requiring a high level of expertise, particularly in the field of taxation, but not only... Corruption investigations are a team effort. The ability to conduct a financial investigation is a plus, but not all investigators need to master all the specific skills in this field. At the OCRC/CDBC, the typical profile is that of a motivated judicial investigator, well-versed in interrogation, wiretapping and other investigative techniques.

The department's investigators have nationwide investigative powers and work closely with audit departments, local public prosecutors' offices, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office and others.



Detection and alert

Wanted notices in the media: an added value

The Wanted Notices service of the Directorate of Judicial Police Operations (DJO/OAR) issued 361 notices in the media in 2022, just over half (56%) of which related to judicial events (the other 44% were the result of disappearances). And the results are still very positive, with a third of these notices contributing to the resolution of an ongoing investigation. Violent robbery and murder are disseminated most often.

361



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of wanted notices	418	444	396	392	361
Clearance rate	60%	69%	72%	71%	70%*

* The clearance rate for missing persons cases is 97%, compared with 39% for legal cases.

In 2022, the launch of <https://www.police.be/5998/fr/presse/operation-cimetiere-de-la-cellule-personnes-disparues-pouvez-vous-nous-aider-a-resoudre-ces> target="_blank">Operation Cemetery in the judicial district of Bruges led to an increase in the number of publications concerning persons to be identified. The aim is to put a name to cold cases involving unidentified bodies or body parts. This operation will be extended to the other districts over the next few years.

If there is one case from last year that stands out, it is the rape of an under-age girl in Deinze (Zulte), for which the investigators had very little evidence. A re-enactment, combined with CCTV footage, was produced and broadcast on FAROEK online. Two crucial witness accounts soon led to the identification of the perpetrator, who was subsequently apprehended.



Identification of offenders thanks to the Information and Investigation Bulletin

The Wanted Notices service of the Directorate of Judicial Police Operations (DJO/OAR) publishes the Information and Investigation Bulletin (BRI/RIB) for the Integrated Police. With the publication of almost 6,300 files in 2022 (a record!), the Bulletin is once again demonstrating that it meets a need of police officers in the field. And the results follow here too, as this has led to the identification of over 830 offenders (third best result since 2017). Available on SharePoint, the BRI/RIB is more indispensable than ever, thanks to the rapid dissemination of requests within the Integrated Police and feedback from colleagues. Whether using photos or videos, the BRI/RIB is above all a visual tool that can be consulted by police officers on any electronic medium.

Research and Information Bulletin	2020	2021	2022
Unique visitors	19,000	14,200	40,000
Identified offenders	900	622	830



Success Story

Guilty verdict thanks to DNA tests

Perseverance pays off. More than two years after the sudden death of schoolteacher Mieke in November 2020, police and public prosecutor's investigations, appeals for witnesses and large-scale DNA testing brought the case to a close.

At the time of the crime, the police initially had two concrete investigative elements concerning the perpetrator: a male DNA profile and a very specific, branded shoe print. Given the violent nature of the murder, the investigators hypothesised that the perpetrator was someone who hated the teacher. They

began by taking DNA samples from the victim's family and friends, as well as from a series of male customers who had purchased the brand of shoes in question in the Noorderwijk area. But their efforts were in vain. The investigation then turned to individuals known to the National General Data Bank (BNG/ANG) for acts of aggression. Once again, the trail led nowhere.

Subsequently, DNA samples were taken from all of Mieke's male colleagues, fathers of pupils and all the victim's former pupils. In 2022, the initiative led to a confession and a match in the database: the perpetrator was a former pupil of the teacher.

Missing persons

The number of worrying disappearances recorded in 2022 was 809, down 6% on 2021. In all, some 769 files were closed (95%), including 674 missing persons found alive.

In addition, the Missing Persons Unit was also deployed 46 times as a result of finding unidentified bodies or body parts, 37 of which were identified.

44 search operations were carried out in the water, locating interesting spots. After further searches, 77 reported vehicles and 7 bodies of missing persons were finally found at these locations.

[Operation Cemetery](#) also continued. The Missing Persons Unit uses the DNA database to establish links between DNA samples from 250 anonymous graves and 759 unsolved disappearances.

Two remarkable cases in 2022

On 12 January, four-year-old Dean disappeared in Sint-Gillis-Waas. After a very active investigation in close collaboration with the Dutch police, the child's body was found five days later in Zeeland. The suspect was arrested shortly afterwards.

Also in January, 28-year-old Natacha disappeared during a trip to Peru. A team of Belgian investigators from the Federal Police were on hand to help their Peruvian colleagues. Natacha's body was found at the end of September and formally identified through DNA testing.

	2020	2021	2022
Worrying disappearances	785	863	809
Closed files	745	808	769
<i>Persons found alive</i>	<i>658</i>	<i>680</i>	<i>674</i>
Underwater search operations	38	57	44
<i>Vehicles found</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>Human bodies found</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>7</i>



Protection missions

The Directorate of Protection (DAP) is mainly responsible for the protection of personalities under threat. They include both Belgian and foreign personalities visiting Belgian territory and requiring close protection. The DAP is also responsible for protecting certain shipments of valuables and transfers of dangerous prisoners.

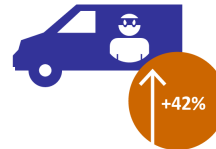
The Directorate of Judicial Police Operations (DJO/Witness Protection) analyses criminal threats to individuals and coordinates (witness) protection. At the request of the National Crisis Center, DJO/Witness carried out 172 threat assessments in 2022. A protection file was opened in 67 cases, notably for police officers (22), political figures (15) and magistrates (17). The most high-profile case was undoubtedly that of Justice Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne.

3 123



VIP missions (1 mission = protection of one VIP per day)

157



Transfer of dangerous prisoners

511



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

24



National Bank of Belgium (NBB) escort missions National Bank of Belgium (NBB) escort missions

12



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

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
VIP missions (1 mission = protection of one VIP per day)	3,428	3,133	2,480	2,361	3,123
Abroad	105	282	83	194	66
Transfers of dangerous prisoners (1 mission = transfer of one prisoner per day)	388	346	151	110	157

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Inter/intracity cash transport escorts (1 escort = protection of one van per day)	923	869	708	659	511
National Bank of Belgium (NBB) escort missions	62	41	15	42	24
Other types of transport (diamonds, works of art and nuclear material)	31	11	15	11	12



The Directorate of Security continues its recruitment efforts

The Directorate of Security (DAB) had 1,233 staff members in 2021 and 1,349 by the end of 2022.

This increase in headcount made it possible to absorb some of the additional workload and enable staff members to acquire new skills:

- securing Russia's diplomatic interests (e.g. the Russian embassy has been the target of protest action due to the situation in Ukraine);
- training staff in the transfer of level 3 detainees, in preparation for the historic trial of the Brussels and Zaventem attacks.

The trial of these attacks, which was due to start in October, finally began in December 2022.

2022 came to a symbolic close with the handover to Defence of the security missions at the Doel and Mol/Dessel/Geel nuclear sites and power plants.

In 2022, the DAB also carried out 82,171 missions with regard to the police of courts and tribunals and transfers of prisoners. Representation in figures:

- 4,946 national transfers (transfers of prisoners between prisons);
- 9,923 medical transfers (presentation of prisoners in the context of urgent and non-urgent medical transfers);
- 1,588 transfers of minors (transfers from, to and between community institutions and also the various juvenile courts);
- 65,061 transfers to courthouses (presentation in the context of hearings in courthouses);
- 514 border transfers (transfer-takeover of prisoners in the context of transfers between States);
- 139 humanitarian transfers (transfers [escorts] of prisoners for social, family and humanitarian purposes [e.g. deceased person]).

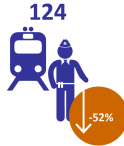




The phenomenon of track walking

The phenomenon of track walking (formerly known as "trespassing") consists of illegally crossing railroad tracks.

The figures below include traffic violations in stations and on tracks (e.g. track walking) as well as violations at level crossings when road users (pedestrians as well as cyclists, motorists, etc.) cross the tracks while the signalling system no longer allows it.



Official reports
drawn up by the
Railway Police

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Official reports drawn up by the Railway Police	137	226	96	258*	124

** This increase can be explained by a broader definition of the phenomenon than in previous years. From 2021, this figure includes offences of movement in railway stations and on tracks as well as illegal movement at level crossings, committed by road users while the signals no longer allow this.



Fight against environmental crime

Created two years ago, FUPHEC (Federal Unit Public Health and Environmental Crime) has not been idle in 2022.

For example, it took part in Operation SHIELD III with Customs, the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) and the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (AFSCA). Coordinated by Europol, the operation focused on the illegal trade in doping products and erectile stimulants.

It led to the seizure in Belgium of 118,259 tablets, 1,815 ampoules, 3,361 bottles, 18,445 aluminium bags, 744 packages and 5 sprays.

A Power Apps "anabolics" application was also launched last year to help members of the Integrated Police to identify doping products. This app lists prohibited drugs and also links to the relevant legislation.

Collaboration with the French Gendarmerie, the Federal Highway Police and the Walloon Environmental Inspectorate has also been set up to monitor the cross-border transport of different types of waste. This collaboration will certainly continue in 2023.

Interestingly, in 2022, FUPHEC also lent its support to a Local Police zone in a case involving the importation and trafficking of protected turtles.

Road safety

- Regional processing centres at cruising speed.
- National day of action against distracted driving.
- Safety and recruitment at the heart of cycle racing.



The Federal Police and Belgian Cycling collaborate on recruitment and safety issues

The Federal Police and Belgian Cycling (formerly known as the Royale Ligue Vélocipédique Belge) have begun to collaborate on [recruitment](#) and safety at cycling races. This agreement was presented on 21 February 2022 in the presence of the Minister of the Interior, Annelies Verlinden.

The Federal Police and Belgian Cycling will be informing cyclists about the different job opportunities with the police, both in and out of uniform. The information will be aimed at young cyclists, as well as those wanting to embark on a new career and everyone else in the world of cycling.

The second major aspect of this collaboration concerns the national safety consultation for cycle races. Each year, Belgian Cycling and the Federal Police will evaluate the safety situation around cycling competitions, in collaboration with representatives of the organisers and other stakeholders in the cycling world. The aim is to work together to ensure the proper and uniform application of the rules governing cycle racing.

Speeding offences detected by speed radars and cameras

The technical sections of the Federal Highway Police (DAH) are responsible for conducting speed checks (with fixed or mobile equipment) and for processing the resulting reports. The regional processing centres (CRTs/GVCs) process the automatically detected traffic violations (radars, average speed cameras, etc.).

4 880 603



Total number of offences

Total number of speeding offences processed by the CRTs/GVCs and the technical sections of DAH:

- 2018: 2,108,858
- 2019: 2,479,444
- 2020: 2,710,357
- 2021: 3,461,413
- 2022: 4,880,603

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs

Due to the registration process of official reports, figures from previous years can still be updated. The figures for previous years were updated on the basis of the most recent closing date of the database (6-03-2023).



Number of breath tests performed:

- 2018: 247,170
- 2019: 247,561
- 2020: 108,97
- 2021: 154,387
- 2022: 297,186

Number of alcohol-related offences recorded*:

- 2018: 3,727
- 2019: 3,978
- 2020: 1,665
- 2021: 2,582
- 2022: 4,059

* Alert + positive + refusal + possible blood tests

Number of drug-related offences recorded: in addition to the simplification of detection (saliva analyses rather than blood tests), the sharp increase in the number of offences detected since 2020 is probably related to the more systematic imposition of saliva testing in the event of an accident by the public prosecutor's offices and the provision and use of a greater number of saliva tests.

- 2018: 287
- 2019: 384
- 2020: 466
- 2021: 858
- 2022: 985



Belt and child seat

5 164



Offences

Number of recorded offences against seat belt wearing and the use of child seats:

- 2018: 5,595
- 2019: 5,684
- 2020: 5,312
- 2021: 4,913
- 2022: 5,164



A cuddle to brighten a toddler's world

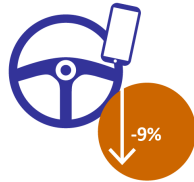
Several Federal Police departments work with small teddy bears. The Federal Highway Police (DAH) and the provincial Coordination and Support Directorates (DCAs/CSDs) use cuddly toys to soothe children's grief, for example in the event of a traffic accident. They are a tool to show them that the police pay special attention to them. Cuddly toys help break the ice or comfort them in the moment.

In 2022, the Federal Highway Police (DAH) again ordered 500 cuddly toys. Over the past two years, the West Flanders Traffic Police (WPR), along with the WPRs of Namur, Limburg, Brabant, East Flanders, Luxembourg and Antwerp, have donated around 170 cuddly toys. The initiative is proving its worth.



Using your mobile phone while driving

13 495



Offences

Number of recorded violations against mobile phone use while driving:

- 2018: 10,585
- 2019 : 11,840
- 2020: 12,568
- 2021: 14,964
- 2022: 13,498



Success Story

National day of action against "Distracted driving"

On Tuesday 17 May and Wednesday 18 May 2022, the Federal Highway Police and 110 Local Police zones across the country organised checks targeting distracted driving. The use of mobile phones and other forms of distraction is a major hazard in traffic.

A total of 2,445 offences were recorded. Of these, 2,331 involved the use of mobile phones while driving, and 114 other forms of distraction. In several arrondissements, the Public Prosecutor's Office ordered the immediate withdrawal of offenders' licences: 503 drivers were affected by this measure.



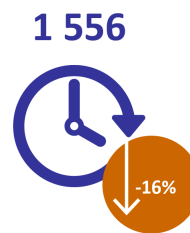
Heavy goods vehicles

Number of tachograph fraud offences reported: the steady increase since 2018 can be explained by the strengthened checks, the purchase of the Tachoscan control program, and the increased workload of carriers due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- 2018: 1,375
- 2019: 2,034
- 2020: 2,451
- 2021: 3,138
- 2022: 2,816



Number of tachograph fraud cases recorded



Number of offences recorded in relation to driving and rest periods

Number of offences recorded in relation to driving and rest periods:

- 2018: 1,207
- 2019: 938
- 2020: 1,261
- 2021: 1,860
- 2022: 1,556



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

The number of accidents with physical injuries recorded in the Federal Highway Police's priority field of action increased by 6 % between 2021 and 2022 (number of deaths at the scene: +3 % compared to 2021). However, the year 2021 is not an optimal basis for comparison. Indeed, the restrictive measures in terms of travel and work organisation (mandatory telework) resulted in a decrease in the number of accidents and victims. Unsurprisingly, the numbers have increased in 2022 compared to 2021. A comparison with the year 2019 gives a very different picture: the number of accidents with physical injuries decreased by 10% and the number of deaths at the scene decreased by 22%.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Accidents with injuries*	3,102	3,096	2,186	2,662	2,816
Fatal accidents*	94	113	81	82	84
Fatalities**	93	104	79	79	81
Seriously injured victims	363	378	240	276	280
Minor injuries	4,400	4,169	2,839	3,563	3,825

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

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

VIP escorts and European summits

The Federal Police contributes to maintaining order and security at European summits and other events, particularly in Brussels. It does this in partnership with the Brussels CAPITAL 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.

The year 2022 saw six in-person European summits (including two extraordinary summits on 24 February and 30-31 May), an event at Heysel on 21-22 June with nine African Heads of State (European Development Days) and an EU/NATO/G7 summit bringing together several Heads of State and Government (24-25 March). These events required the commitment of considerable forces and important organisational and coordination efforts.

Besides these large-scale events with the presence of many VIPs requiring several police escorts, Belgium received the visits of 142 VIPs, who were protected and escorted by the Federal Highway Police. With an average duration of two days, these VIP escorts represent a total of 243 working days.

In 2022, the Federal Highway Police worked 50,104 hours during escort missions (compared to 32,295 hours in 2021).





Negotiated management of public space

- Management of public space: permanent support from specialised resources.
- Mission accomplished at several large-scale events.
- Nothing escapes the helicopter.

"Sharp increase in all kinds of events in the post-Covid era"



"2022 was characterised in particular by preparations for the assize trial on the 2016 terrorist attacks. To carry out this mission, over 100 members of staff from the different entities of the General Directorate of Administrative Police (DGA) were (and are) mobilised on each day of the hearing, in close collaboration with members of the intervention corps and with the help of the Local Police and, of course, the Brussels CAPITAL Ixelles police zone, which is in charge of the event.

For this exceptional trial, the Directorate of Public Security (DAS) and the Special Units (DSU) set up a special system to counter any malicious use of drones.

In 2022, the Railway Police (SPC) focused on IMPACT flash actions targeting drug use in a number of metro stations and, in collaboration with the Brussels-North police zone, on the problem at Brussels North Station. A support team has also been set up within the SPC to combat pickpockets and the transport of black money and drugs on international railway lines.

Following the health crisis, there was a sharp increase in all types of events, for which the various DGA departments were always ready to provide specialist support.

For the Airport Police (LPA), the ending of lockdown restrictions also led to a considerable increase in the number of passengers at airports.

In terms of road safety, the Federal Highway Police (DAH) noted several significant differences compared with 2021: almost 50% more speeding offences were recorded, while the number of offences relating to the use of mobile phones while driving showed a slight downward trend. Twice as many breathalyser tests were carried out in 2022, which unfortunately resulted in an increase of over 50% in positive tests."

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT WALD THIELEMANS
Director General of the Administrative Police

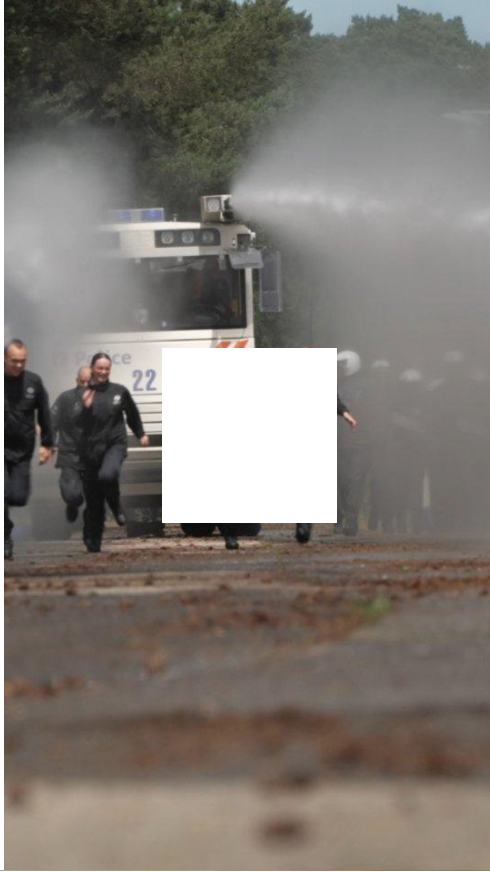
Reinforcements for the Local Police zones

To organise a public order mission to manage an event (demonstration, football match, festival, etc.), a Local Police zone can request non-specialised reinforcements from:

- other Local Police zones: in police language, this is called "hypothetical capacity", i.e. the solidarity mechanism between police zones regarding reinforcements for administrative police missions.
- the Federal Police, through the Intervention Corps (CIKs) of the decentralised Coordination and Support Directorates (CSDs) and the Directorate of Public Security (DAS), which together constitute the Federal Intervention Reserve.

In 2022, 53.7% of reinforcements for police zones were provided by "hypothetical capacity" and 46.3% by the Federal Police.

Within the framework of the reinforcement missions for police zones, 514 members of the thirteen Intervention Corps together worked a total of 321,060 hours; 475 members of DAS worked 25,406 hours in this context.



[Voir plus sur Instagram](#)

1 015 mentions J'aime

belgianfederalpolice

Training, again and again.

#FTXcamp #field #training #exercice #federalpolice

Voir les 11 commentaires

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Success Story

Festive atmosphere in Binche for the Tour de France

On 7 July, the sixth and longest stage of the 109th Tour de France, covering no fewer than 219.9 km, crossed two of our country's provinces: Hainaut and Namur. This stage took the cyclists from Binche, where no fewer than 81,500 visitors came to watch the event, to Longwy in France.

The Coordination and Support Directorate (DCA/CSD) of Hainaut acted as Gold Commander, meaning that it was ultimately responsible for organising this major event. In particular, this coordination involved setting up fixed systems to channel traffic while the race passed along a specific route, coordinating the motorised escort, taking special measures to secure the event, and providing support to police zones requesting reinforcement measures.

The Hainaut DCA/CSD was supported by the Namur DCA/CSD and four Local Police zones: the Anderlues/Binche/Lermes police zone, the Botte du Hainaut police zone, the 3 Vallées police zone and the Hermeton et Heure police zone. In total, some 380 Local and Federal police officers were mobilised. Their main missions were security, reception, hospitality, mobility, circulation, legal aspects, coordination, communication management, information systems and negotiated management of public space.

"The Tour de France is fantastic, but taking a tour of the system set up by the Integrated Police is no less so. Our mission is to '... contribute to the quality of life in society.' Judging by the fervour of the thousands of spectators, we can say that we accomplished this perfectly. Thank you very much!"



FIRST CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MARC DE MESMAEKER

General Commissioner of the Federal Police



Deployment of resources

In 2022, the directorates of the General Directorate of Administrative Police (DGA) provided reinforcement for 540 events on Belgian soil. These include events related to the trial for the Zaventem and Maelbeek attacks, football matches, cycle races, European and NATO summits, festivals, carnivals, demonstrations, etc.

A total of 8,972 members of DGA were deployed, including staff from the Directorate of Public Security (DAS), the Federal Highway Police (DAH), the Directorate of Protection (DAP), the Directorate of Infrastructure Security (DAB), the Railway Police (SPC), the Maritime and River Police (SPN) and the Airport Police (LPA).



Success Story

Summit meetings in Brussels

Some 30 heads of State and Government, including US President Joe Biden, were present in Brussels on 24 and 25 March 2022, on the sidelines of summits organised at various levels (NATO, G7, EU) in the context of the Ukrainian conflict. The Integrated Police showed a commitment commensurate with the event, before, during and after the summits.

Support for the Brussels-CAPITAL Ixelles Police Zone, which was the Gold Commander for security, can be summed up in a few figures:

- 387 and 249 members of the Federal Police's intervention corps and Public Security Directorate (DAS);
- 105 and 104 members of the Directorate of Airport Police (LPA);
- 78 and 26 members of the Directorate of Infrastructure Security (DAB);
- two times 159 members of the Federal Highway Police (DAH/WPR);
- 796 and 277 Police Zone personnel throughout Belgium, and two times 18 Local Police motorcyclists.

Specialised Federal Police resources were also deployed:

- 17 explosive dog teams and 10 patrol dog teams (DACH);
- 4 sections of mounted police, 8 water cannons, 2 buses for apprehended persons, 4 lock-on teams, 8 armoured vehicles and 3 command vehicles (DAS);
- air support helicopters (DAFA);
- drone teams from the Brussels Coordination and Support Directorate (DCA/CSD);

- 102 escort devices;
- Special Units (DSU).

The Coordination and Support Directorates in Brussels and Hal/Vilvoorde, and the Directorate of Administrative Police Operations (DAO) also monitored and coordinated operations. In addition to the large-scale deployment of federal and local police forces, Defence and teams from the French Gendarmerie were also on hand, with teams specialising in protection against drone attacks.



Support in the field of public security: focus on the DAS

The Directorate of Public Security (DAS) provides specialised support to the police zones (mounted police, water cannon, video team, etc.) in order to prevent or resolve violent and/or potentially dangerous situations in the field of public security.

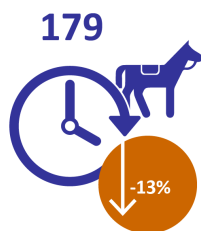
Both specialised and non-specialised support provided by DAS required the deployment of 499 staff members for all these missions.

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

Daily deployment (average) of staff members

- 2018: 62
- 2019: 81
- 2020: 92
- 2021: 101
- 2022: 90

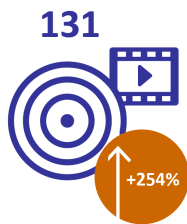
Mounted police public order services



Hours worked

- 2018: 365
- 2019: 326
- 2020: 226
- 2021: 207
- 2022: 179

Video team



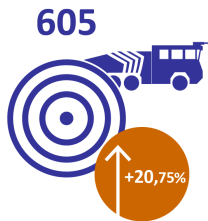
Missions

Missions:

- 2018: 105
- 2019: 136
- 2020: 46
- 2021: 37*
- 2022: 131

* The reduced deployment of this team was due to the health crisis (fewer "classic" events).

Water cannons



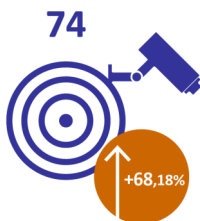
Missions

Missions:

- 2018: 659
- 2019: 669
- 2020: 331
- 2021: 501
- 2022: 605

Fixed temporary cameras (ARGOS)

Named "ARGOS", from the name of this Greek giant with a hundred eyes spread over his 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 sharp decrease in 2020.



Missions

Missions:

- 2018 : 48
- 2019: 58
- 2020: 6
- 2021: 44
- 2022: 74



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. All police officers have access to this application.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New created events	47,536	46,166	33,748	33,710	37,896
Total number of events	151,036	197,202	230,950	264,660	302,556

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.

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Helicopter missions	Numbers	Hours worked	Numbers	Hours worked	Numbers	Hours worked	Numbers	Hours worked	Numbers	Hours worked
Football	56	157	56	134	5	15	16	33	31	77
Mass events (festivals, etc.)	64	114	58	127	16	52	18	56	64	127
Support to fire brigades and the Civil Protection in the event of disaster (fire, etc.)	28	19	10	11	41*	39	21	55**	42	53
Demonstrations	35	62	36	60	57	82	24	46	15	26
VIP protection (European summits, etc.)	65	113	40	56	23	27	49	60***	32	44
Total	248	465	200	388	142	215	128	250	184	327

* A remarkable increase due to dry and warm spring and summer months. DAFA was increasingly called upon to extinguish fires using the "Bambi bucket" (a water tank suspended from a helicopter or aircraft).

** Strong increase due to interventions during the July floods.

*** Strong increase due to the NATO summit and the visit of US President Joe Biden.



Specialised teams

- 50 years of specialised interventions for the Special Units
- The Forensic Police, experts in many fields.
- Fast results for the FAST hackathon.

Fifty years of Special Units

In 2022, the Directorate of Special Units (DSU) celebrated its [50th anniversary](#). Events at the 1972 Munich Olympics were the trigger that led the authorities to "*create a force capable of fighting this new crime wave.*" It was against this backdrop that the Diane group was created. Today, the DSU is a police unit whose effectiveness is internationally recognised.

During a Jubilee visit last year, His Majesty King Philippe presented the DSU with a banner in recognition of its values and traditions, such as courage, team spirit, availability, altruism and a sense of duty.

The motto of the DSU is *Ultima Ratio*, or "last resort". The Special Units intervene only when conventional police resources prove insufficient to solve a problem. Coercion is the ultimate resort; the first weapon is negotiation. The DSU never acts on its own initiative, but always at the request of other police services.

It takes part in support missions to gather evidence on perpetrators, facilitate their interception and enable investigators to conclude their inquiry. It also carries out surveillance and protection missions. The DSU is also involved in managing and resolving crisis situations with a high risk of violence, such as hostage-taking, kidnapping, siege situations or large-scale operations such as prison riots.

To carry out their missions, the Special Units can count on expert personnel specialised in a range of fields (intervention/arrest, observation, technical, undercover).

The DSU comprises central units in Brussels and decentralised units in Ghent, Antwerp, Charleroi and Liège. Its management is based in Brussels. The different units can be deployed independently or in combination. For example, the offensive component can work alone or in conjunction with the technical, observation and other components. The central and decentralised units can also work as stand-alone, combined or integrated units.

Crisis situations	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Siege situations*	37	41	58	48	45
Hostage takings	5	3	3	4	3
Abductions	7	8	12	15	11
Extortion	5	4	3	3	7
Enhanced searches	174	185	209	252	215

* A situation in which one or more people in possession of weapons withdraw and refuse to surrender to the police.

Special search techniques

In 2022, the BTS (Special Techniques) team of the Directorate of Judicial Police Operations (DJO) opened 623 new national observation files, coordinated 25 infiltrations and issued opinions in 90 embargoed files.

The Directorate of Special Units (DSU) uses special search techniques.

Specialities	2019	2020	2021	2022
Observations*	732**	1218	1214	1092
Technical operational support (NTSU)	294	105	845**	764
Undercover Team (cases)	40	28	36	36
Real-time interceptions (telephone and data tapping) in the context of judicial investigations	8,839	7,724	8,168	6,967
Real-time observations (e.g. metadata via antennae) in the context of judicial investigations	1,193	2,142	1,263	1,807

*A new counting method has been used since 2022 (number of transactions carried out)

**Figures from April to December 2019.

***This increase is due to the growing use of new technologies.



Air Support

Helicopter (RAGO)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Arrests and arrests after pursuit	160	179	79	80	147
Recovered stolen vehicles	1	6	1	1	1
Infrared targets scanned	348	407	422	302	391
Positive infrared scans	84	106	147	71	110
Laser incidents	9	5	3	2	3
Control assistance	284	243	135	91	65
Search assistance	432	511	464	584	415
Photos	139	117	173	65	71
Videos	200	264	211	163	232
Image transmission	496	534	380	312	495

Drones	2019	2020	2021	2022
Operational missions	88	55	51	28*

Drones	2019	2020	2021	2022
Flight hours	95	60	66	36
Arrests (smugglers)	-	-	9	4**

* The reduction in the number of missions is due to the decommissioning of two drones.

** The number of missions related to transit migration issues has fallen, especially on the coast.



The flair of our police dogs

The Directorate of Dog Support (DACH), which had 153 police dogs at the end of 2022, carried out a large number of specialised interventions.

Number of interventions	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Tracker dog teams	1,441	1,375	1,552	1,485	1,347
Drug dog teams (active + cash and passive)	3,221	3,290	2,009	1,963	2,294
Human remains detection dog teams	74	51	44	65	74
Seat of fire detection dog teams	408	386	288	185	174
Immigration control dog teams	59	57	44	119	865*
Explosive detection dog teams	4,301	4,716	3,502	3,718	3,714

* For 2022, SPC interventions have also been included, unlike in previous years.



The Federal Police's certification centre is the only body authorised to evaluate explosive detection dogs at airports.

Since 2017, the certification centre of the Federal Police's Directorate of Dog Support (DACH) has been the only certification centre in Belgium approved by the Air Transport Directorate General (DGTA/DGLV) for explosive detection dogs. Its approval was extended for a further five years in April 2022.

The Directorate of Dog Support has 21 fully-trained explosive detection dogs at its disposal, ready to perform their duties for the Integrated Police. Explosive detection dogs are also used in the air transport sector by private security

companies. To guarantee the quality of their work, it is imperative that these dogs and their handlers have an official certificate, which they can obtain from the [DACH certification centre in Neerhespen](#).

Each year, between 1,100 and 1,200 exams are organised as part of various modules. Success rates are high. The success rate for the TATP odour detection test, which the DACH itself organises as a safety measure, is close to 100%. For the other modules, this percentage hovers around 82%. The DACH certifies around 160 explosives detection teams each year.



Technical support from 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 crisis, these technical resources were used to a lesser extent in 2020 and 2021, as many actions were not authorised or could not be implemented.

For a number of detection resources, the 2022 figures are once again significantly lower than in previous years, since activity linked to transit migration in Belgian seaports has been lower (due in particular to a shift in the problem to the north of France with small boats), which has also led to a reduction in the resources deployed.

Number of actions	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Side Scan Sonar	142	108	55	55	46
CO ₂ detector	337	329	280	246	28
Mobile trace > HTDS*	63	53	20	15 (HTDS)	25 (HTDS)
• Videoscope	21	14	13	18	7
• Drones (new in 2022)	/	/	/	/	15
• Other means of detection (metal detectors, cameras, night vision goggles, etc.)	231	107	71	54	19

* In 2021, the HTDS (Hi-Tech Detection System) replaced the mobile trace system. HTDS is a detection device that can detect both narcotic drugs and explosives. A swab (sample taken with absorbent material) is taken from the person's hands, steering wheel, gearstick ... and that swab is put into the device. The substances on the swab are analysed through internal heating of the swab. In case of an explosive substance or a narcotic, we get an alarm on the device as well as the name of the substance that was detected.



Technical facilities and expertise supporting investigations

Behavioural analysis

On the basis of their scientific expertise (psychology, criminology, sociology, etc.), the behavioural analysts (GACs) working in the Directorate of Forensic Police (DJT) 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 Central Directorate of Judicial Police Operations (DJO).

Number of cases in which behavioural analysts provided support	2019	2020	2021	2022
Expertise in hearings	155	131	91	88
Analyses	39	21	27	17
Assessment interviews	9	2	6	7
Total	203	154	124	112

Lie detection

Experts use a special interrogation technique to determine whether a person is lying or telling the truth by analysing their psychophysiological reactions. 2022 saw a return to the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of polygraph tests	271	77	47	226
Number of misleading results	104	15	9	63
Number of confessions	33	1	1	4

Analysis of sex offences

The analysts in this section encode facts relating to sexually-motivated crimes in the ViCLAS (Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System) national expert database. Their expertise and support include the search for potential links between a new act and those already encoded.

By means of the ViCLAS database, 66 sex offence analyses were carried out in 2022, uncovering 24 links to other offences and cases.



Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence: a coordinating role for the Federal Police

A [Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence \(CPVS/ZSG\)](#) is a service within a hospital to which any victim of sexual violence can turn on a permanent basis for medical care, psychological assistance, a forensic examination, the filing of a

complaint with the police if they so wish - with the help of specially trained inspectors - and, finally, follow-up.

Since their creation, the Centres for Victims of Sexual Violence have revolutionised police work. There is now a new type of police hearing: the hearing of a victim of sexual violence carried out in a CPVS/ZSG. Only duly trained police officers can carry out this type of hearing.

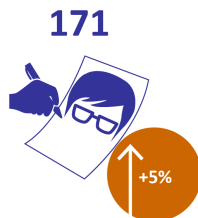
Initially, this was a pilot project carried out in Ghent, Brussels and Liège under the coordination of the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men. There are now CPVS/ZSGs in Antwerp, Charleroi, Ghent, Roeselare and Leuven.

The Leuven Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence opened on 15 June 2022. The Leuven Coordination and Support Directorate (DCA/CSD) was closely involved in the preparation and implementation of this initiative. A detailed roadmap (including training) has been drawn up to guide police officers who come into contact with victims of sexual violence. The Leuven DCA/CSD also coordinated the selection of 36 vice inspectors with the support of the Federal Police's Behavioural Sciences department and in collaboration with the Provinciaal Instituut voor Vorming en Opleiding (PIVO). It continues to play a role in the operation of the CPVS/ZSG by providing its administrative coordination.

Collaboration between the many departments working within the CPVS/ZSG is impressively efficient.

Composite drawings and facial reconstructions

The ROBOT department has portraitists who, in addition to producing composite drawings, master other techniques such as facial reconstruction (2D & 3D). To create their composite drawings, portraitists now use high-performance tools, such as tablets, in addition to their pencils.



Composite drawings

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Composite drawings	386	213	163	171
Post-mortem drawings	-	5	6	4
Facial reconstructions	-	5	2	3
Total number of requests handled	444	234	188	178

Identity fraud and counterfeiting

A team from the Federal Judicial Police – the Central Office for Combating Counterfeiting (OCRF/CDBV) of the Directorate of Forensic Police (DJT) – specialises in identity fraud using forged documents and counterfeit currency.

False documents

The expert team analysed 57,395 identity or travel documents for identity fraud (compared with 57,611 in 2021).

Some 40,833 documents (compared with 43,268 in 2021) were analysed as part of the European fraud prevention procedure, 186 of which were found to be false (compared to 589 in 2021).

12,551 driving licences were also checked (compared to 10,318 in 2021), of which 249 were found to be false and invalidated after analysis (compared to 696 in 2021).

The remaining 4,011 documents analysed were from border controls and from seizures from forgers.

Counterfeiting

Number of counterfeit banknotes detected	2019	2020	2021	2022
Euros	46,088	56,968	60,105	89,119
Foreign currency	515	1,497	23,083*	1,012

* In one case, the Liège Federal Judicial Police was able to seize 22,227 counterfeit \$100 banknotes.



The new Belgian passport is one of the best in the world

To create the new Belgian passport – which has been available since February 2022 – the Federal Public Service (FPS) Foreign Affairs worked closely with the Central Office for Combating Counterfeiting (OCRF/CDBV) of the Directorate of Forensic Police (DJT). On 28 June, this new passport was proclaimed "Best New Passport of the Year 2022" at an international conference in Tallinn. This was wonderful recognition of the expertise of OCRF/CDBV members!

In addition to its security features, this passport also features a unique design, illustrated with Belgian cartoon heroes.

The Belgian passport was also considered one of the best in the world in the [Nomad Passport Index](#).

Identification: making the dead talk

The Disaster Victim Identification Team (DVI) not only intervenes in disaster situations, but also for the identification of victims in general. In addition, this team focuses on new challenges such as necrosearch (forensic archaeology) and searches on difficult terrain (MTD, which stands for Moeilijk Terrein/Terrain Difficile) to find solutions when deceased victims are difficult to identify.

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

In 2022, the DVI team carried out 157 interventions, 117 of which resulted in identification.

DVI	2020	2021	2022
Intervention	149	131	157
Led to the identification of	93	100	117



Forensic laboratories

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

12 856



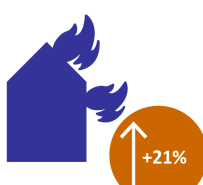
Thefts

563



Robberies and other types of violent thefts

703



Fires (arson and accidental fires)

583



Murders and homicides

313



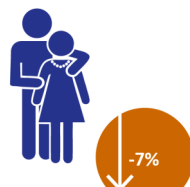
Suicides

1 109



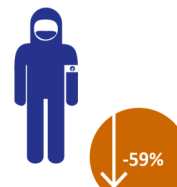
Suspicious deaths

161



Sex offences

2 323



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

Support for investigations (number of files)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Thefts	20,286	13,163	10,318	12,856
Robberies and other types of violent thefts	1,161	769	542	563
Fires (arson and accidental fires)	1,117	820	578	703
Murders and homicides	562	535	483	583
Suicides	400	366	322	313
Suspicious deaths	1,390	1,358	1,158	1,109
Sex offences	229	182	173	161
Other (drugs, road accidents, false documents, etc.)	2,137	2,571	5,708	2,323



FAST, a specialised unit that tracks down fugitive criminals

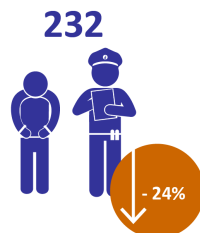
In 2022, 144 new Belgian cases were opened, resulting in 44 arrests (31%). The number of international cases opened was 34, resulting in the arrest of 27 people (79%).

The new working method set out in circular COL 8/2021 has also been implemented, resulting in a 33% drop in the number of "sentence execution" files opened (i.e. in absolute figures, a reduction from 1,550 to 1,052 files).

Circular COL 8/2021 of the Board of Prosecutors-General on the search for fugitives and escaped persons defines the division of tasks between the Fugitive Active Search Team of the Directorate of Judicial Operations (DJO/FAST) and other police services (Local Police and other units of the Federal Police). The circular also emphasises the core tasks of DJO/FAST and provides additional clarification on the execution of the team's operational core tasks.

Key figures:

- a total of 232 fugitives were apprehended, including 79 in Belgium;
- FAST is responsible for 55 of these arrests;
- three of these fugitives were on [Belgium's Most Wanted](#) list.



Fugitive criminals apprehended



Success Story

FAST hackathon leads to 8 arrests

On Wednesday 30 March 2022, the FAST (Fugitive Active Search Team) of the Federal Judicial Police organised a "hackathon" in collaboration with the Public Prosecutor's Office. The day-long event brought together specialists from a variety of police and security services with one objective: to track down around 40 fugitive criminals using open source intelligence, mainly from websites and social media.

This [first FAST hackathon](#) was a real success, as eight fugitives were locked up.

In addition to these eight arrests, the project earned colleagues from the Federal Police's Fugitive Active Search Team the CPL Award 2022 for best network and partnership project. The Circle of Police Leadership (CPL) awards these prizes to individuals who have been exceptionally active within the police force, or to police zones or departments of the Federal Police that have carried out outstanding projects. According to the CPL, *"never before have so many experts been physically in the same place to intensively search for fugitive criminals for*

one day. Uniquely composed investigation teams set to work with combined strengths, each drawing on their own expertise, knowledge and experience, with fantastic results as a consequence."



Online safety

- Two faces embodying cybercrime prevention.
- Forensic Centers, a valuable asset for investigators.
- Computer Crime Units in European projects.



Two "cyber" faces for the general public

"Cybercrime as a service" seemed to be the concept of 2022. The principle is that cybercriminals offer their services to other criminal organisations for a fee. This enables them to carry out cyberattacks themselves, with no technical knowledge. In this way, criminal organisations can take more frequent and targeted action. For example, they increasingly target specific companies and organisations rather than random users. These attacks have become so professionalised that the consequences for victims have also increased.

Of all forms of cybercrime, ransomware seemed to see the most notable increase in 2022, especially in the autumn. A number of examples spring to mind, as some (large) cities, police stations and hospitals have already fallen victim to this phenomenon over the past year. Criminals then specifically target companies or organisations with sensitive, mission-critical data.

Phishing remains the most popular form of Internet scam. This is the most effective way for cybercriminals to steal sensitive information such as personal and login data. In doing so, perpetrators are increasingly targeting mobile devices such as mobile phones and tablets. They also use increasingly sophisticated techniques that make it even more difficult to distinguish between real and fake emails and websites.

The latest [Security Monitor \(2021\)](#), a survey of 100,000 Belgians, also shows just how pervasive computer crime is. On the other hand, phishing, Internet scams and computer hacking are among the least reported crimes.

It is vital to focus on prevention, exercise caution and invest in securing IT systems. This can be done, for example, by implementing two-factor authentication and a strong password policy, keeping abreast of software updates and educating citizens on how to protect themselves against cybercrime.

On this last point, the Federal Police has two ambassadors who are experts in cybersecurity. Olivier Bogaert's face and voice have long been familiar to French-speaking audiences, as the Commissioner of the Federal Computer Crime Unit (FCCU) has been dispensing advice on cybersecurity for years through his *Surfons tranquille* columns. On the Dutch-speaking side, a new face appeared in 2022: Commissioner Christophe Van Bortel, from Antwerp's Regional Computer Crime Unit (RCCU). Their role is to share the expertise of the Federal Judicial Police in the fight against cybercrime with the general public simply and effectively.



Federal Computer Crime Unit

The FCCU drew up 47 initial reports and opened 16 new clean files. It also provided forensic support in 41 cases.

One landmark case involved the investigation of a cybercriminal who was launching DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks. The international operation, which involved services from the Netherlands, the US FBI and a Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT), resulted in an arrest warrant being issued for the main Belgian suspect.

When carrying out a DDoS attack, cybercriminals flood the website they are targeting with requests from several computers that have often been hacked, making it temporarily unavailable. Servers are overloaded and the site becomes inaccessible. Perpetrators often use a "botnet", a large network of computers (or other Internet-connected devices) infected with malware, enabling cybercriminals to use them to carry out their attacks.

2022 saw an increase in the number of [large-scale DDoS attacks](#) in Belgium.

Quick Reaction Force

The Quick Reaction Force (QRF) is made up of members of the various Computer Crime Units (both federal and regional) with the necessary expertise to investigate cybercrime in complex network environments. The QRF can be mobilised to gather evidence following serious cyber incidents, for example.

During a refresher day in October 2022, subject matter experts discussed the incidents that had occurred, shared their technical expertise and looked at how to improve QRF operation.

Forensic Centers

Forensic Centers went into action in 2022. This project, which fits perfectly with the DGJ 3.0 strategy to support innovation and digitalisation, and integrate them sustainably into the operation of the Federal Judicial Police, has been deployed both nationally (FCCU) and at PJF/FGP level (RCCU).

At national level, the Forensic Center is located within the FCCU of the Directorate for the Fight against Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC). Members of other central investigation units of the Federal Judicial Police can take advantage of hardware and software solutions adapted to and compatible with the tools used within the FCCU, in order to analyse the data extracted by the FCCU, extract the most relevant information for the investigation in progress and, if necessary, receive the assistance of FCCU members.

Ransomware network

The Ransomware network was created at the end of 2022. This monthly forum brings together specialists from each Computer Crime Unit (CCU) to exchange information. The initial aim is to improve the monitoring of the ransomware phenomenon. In addition, investigators collect and share information and explanations about recent cyber-attack facts and trends.

Ransomware is malware that blocks a computer and/or the data stored on it. The criminals then demand money (a ransom) to make the computer and/or data accessible again.

FCCU's predominant role in EMPACT projects

In 2022, the FCCU was also committed to participating in international cyber projects (Cyber Attack against Information Systems) as part of EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats). EMPACT is a structured, multidisciplinary collaboration network set up to combat serious and organised international crime. It is led by the Member States and supported by the institutions, bodies and authorities of the European Union.

In particular, the FCCU has made its own database available to a Dutch project, enabling data processing applications to be developed. FCCU's network specialists continue to play an active role in this project.

Belgium is also co-leading a French project to identify and combat criminal financial service providers. This project is part of an initiative by the Belgian-led Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT), whose aim is to build a case as part of the International Ransomware Response Model (IRRM).



Success Story

CyberAid, a new tool born of an exceptional collaboration

CyberAid is a tool available exclusively to members of the Integrated Police and certain magistrates. Its aim is to provide immediate answers to questions raised in police missions concerning offences committed on or via the Internet.

The organisation of CyberAid in the form of a website (SharePoint) makes it possible both to identify a computer-related offence and to quickly determine the elements that need to be identified to pursue the investigation. It also presents the information needed to properly record and use digital traces, notably through requests for indictments.

The main focus is on identifying the offence and recording the complaint, as well as managing indictments.

The creation of this new single point of entry is the result of an exceptional and ongoing collaboration between the Local Police zones and the Federal Police services. CyberAid meets a real need, as confirmed by its daily use across the country. The consultation figures speak for themselves, as from the launch in early 2022 to 31 January 2023, there were 418,000 visits to the site by 14,000 unique visitors.

The site is monitored by a steering group, which ensures regular updates and a high level of completeness in terms of the subjects covered.

User feedback is the best proof of CyberAid's added value. Eric Laverdeur, Inspector with the Vesdre Local Police zone, comments, *"I regularly recommend this site to colleagues. Either for finding all the information needed to send an indictment to a company (email address, useful information to include in the indictment, etc.), or for the Flowchart, which helps colleagues to determine quickly and with just a few clicks which articles of law to include in the indictment. The tool is intended to be lively and regularly updated. CyberAid's managers are very responsive when we send them updates, enabling all Integrated Police colleagues to receive them quickly."*

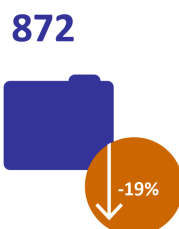


Internet investigations

The i2-IRU (Internet Referral Unit) section of the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC) investigates illegal activities (terrorist propaganda, incitement to hatred, fake news, etc.) on the Internet and blocks sites and/or content in collaboration with Internet service providers and web platforms. This role has been considerably reduced compared with 2021 for capacity reasons.

Detecting and blocking websites/online content	2021	2022
IRU - Terrorism	367 (183 withdrawals)	10 (1 withdrawal)
IRU - Hate speech	232 (31 withdrawals)	5 (2 withdrawals)
IRU - Fake news	82 (16 withdrawals)	8 (3 withdrawals)
IRU - Covid-19	105 (28 withdrawals)	17 (1 withdrawal)

In addition to detecting and blocking online content on the basis of a police assessment, the i2-IRU section provides support to investigation units. The number of files decreased in 2022.



files

Support from i2-IRU to investigations (number of files)	2020	2021	2022
Terrorism	244	286	200
Information	151	134	97
Fraud	194	144	75
Thefts	32	23	19
Suicide attempts	69	65	62
Child sexual abuse	53	52	68
Trafficking in human beings	35	36	25
Narcotic drugs	57	42	48

Support from i2-IRU to investigations (number of files)	2020	2021	2022
Public order	97	47	24
Online hate	47	30	41
Cybercrime	37	40	33
Weapons	20	25	16
Disappearances	23	20	34
Hormones	15	11	1
Homicide	16	20	18
Patrimony	6	4	2
Fake news (call for riots, falsified medicines)	2	2	2
Revenge porn	1	12	16
Sex offences	/	/	11*
Management of scams (phishing via email) of the "squad to protect minors" type	/	89	80
Total	1,099	1,082	872

* This is a new heading since 2022.

Terrorism, extremism and radicalism

- Focus on financing.
- Hunting down explosives and precursors.
- The internationally active Behaviour Detecting Officers (BDO).

Threat image and tracking

The Central Terrorism Department of the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC/Terro) and its partners in the security chain keep a close watch on ideologies, groups and entities.

2022 saw a series of threats, mainly against public bodies, police stations and personnel, airports, religious communities, hospitals, diplomatic interests and festivals.

Threats and incidents targeting diplomatic posts and foreign interests (Israel, China, Russia, Italy, etc.) are often the consequence of (geo)political situations.

Threats are made both online (via channels such as Telegram, Twitter, Snapchat and TikTok) and offline (by phone). After investigation, it often emerges that they were made by suspects with some kind of mental disorder.

Some took the form of firebombs or Molotov cocktails. Most of the perpetrators acted alone, impulsively and with limited resources.

On 10 November 2022, Inspector Thomas Monjoie of the Brussels North police zone was fatally attacked in Schaerbeek. The suspect, a released radicalised prisoner, had sought help earlier in the day. The incomprehension and anger that overwhelmed the police community following this gratuitous act of violence led to [a huge outpouring of solidarity with the police](#). Following the parliamentary committee meeting of 14 November 2022 on the attack on the two police officers – in which one of Thomas's colleagues was injured – the General Commissioner of the Federal Police put forward a series of proposals to improve collaboration between the police, the justice system and the emergency services, as part of the fight against violence targeting the police.

Although right-wing extremism is clearly on the rise in Belgium, with a growing number of sympathisers and entities to be monitored, a more active search for weapons and preparatory activities, internationalisation and synergies between hooligans and biker gangs, Belgium has remained untouched by serious incidents. As part of a network of European experts, one of the roles of DJSOC/Terro is to shed light on the financing of extreme right-wing organisations.

Several incidents have been blamed on the extreme left-wing and anarchic movement in our country. These events were mainly related to climate change, capitalism, 5G communications networks and military installations. At the same time, it has been observed that the members of these groups are more prepared to use violence (against the police) during demonstrations. Here too, the phenomenon is characterised by increasing internationalisation, professionalisation and anti-establishment sentiment.

The Jihadist/Salafist threat is still under constant surveillance today, given the propaganda circulating and the radicalisation of isolated individuals linked to it. DJSOC/Terro Islamologists have lent their support and expertise to various investigative dossiers.

The DJSOC/Terro Front Office coordinates incoming messages on a daily basis. Last year, it received a total of 80,062 emails, an average of 400 per day.

The Back Office focuses on intelligence (by region: Flanders, Brussels, Wallonia), analysis and programme operation. This service processed and sent 58,059 messages last year, or 242 per day.

DJSOC/Terro also handles all classified and international messages from Europol and Interpol. The department also takes part in various forums and consultation platforms and meets regularly with partners such as State Security (VSSE) and the Coordination Unit for Threat Assessment (OCAM/OCAD).

National contact point for precursors and Bomb Data Center

The Central Terrorism Department of the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC/Terro) provides expertise in explosives.

This department has two contact points:

- the national Bomb Data Center (BDC);
- the Precursors - Improvised Explosives contact point.

Acquiring an overview and vision of this phenomenon has a threefold objective:

1. provide an early warning of national and international trends and developments;
2. provide advice on explosives and precursors;
3. provide research support.

Last year, the contact points handled a total of 260 operational messages. To meet the need to develop an image of this phenomenon, the collection of information is divided into three main sections: explosives (136 messages), precursors (42 messages) and CBRN explosives (82 messages).

Thanks to its expertise and the information it collects, DJSOC/Terro is able to inform and support the Federal and Local Police regarding the materials found and the manufacture of (improvised) explosives.



The Federal Police supports the European Bullseye project

The European Bullseye project is a joint initiative by the Federal Police and the National Crisis Center (NCCN), covering the approach to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRNe) explosives. The situation in Russia and Ukraine has made everyone aware that a CBRN threat may be more real than first thought.

The idea behind this project is to put in place harmonised procedures to speed up preventive and reactive emergency responses to terrorist attacks using CBRN substances. Concrete guidelines – extensively tested during the project – will ensure that paramedics, members of the Integrated Police, civil protection, firefighters, different specialist CBRN units and others are better prepared in future.

The Federal Police is one of eight key partners from five countries (Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Slovakia), and contributes to two parts of the project: the Directorate of Dog Support (DACH) for CBRN explosives and precursor detection, and the Central Directorate of Technical and Scientific Police (DJT) for trace analysis (CSI) and victim identification (DVI).

The Directorate for International Cooperation (CGI) is coordinating the Federal Police's participation in this European project. Initially launched in 2019, the project was due to be completed in 2022, but the coronavirus crisis put a spanner in the works. Bullseye was extended until April 2023.

Behaviour Detecting Officers

The Central Terrorism Department of the Directorate for Combating Serious and Organised Crime (DJSOC/Terro) coordinates the development and evolution of training and techniques for the Integrated Police and contributes to their implementation in the operational functioning of the various entities. Practically speaking, this means:

- training as many front-line operational police personnel as possible in behaviour recognition techniques;
- sharing knowledge of the techniques as widely as possible, and offering opportunities to use them in all Federal and Local Police entities and services;
- sharing its expertise through collaboration with national and international partners.

In 2022, Behaviour Detecting Officer (BDO) training was delivered to 509 front-line members. This figure does not include members of the Airport Police, who acquire this skill during their basic training. This brings the total number of police officers who have taken BDO training coordinated by DJSOC to 2,635. In addition, 837 Directorate of

Infrastructure Security staff members have been trained in this area as part of their basic training.

No new BDO trainers were trained last year; 228 members of the police force already have a BDO trainer certificate.

In addition, the BDO is part of a collaboration plan signed on 13 December 2022 by the Federal Police and the General Directorates of National Security and Territorial Surveillance and the Royal Moroccan Gendarmerie. This was immediately followed by a BDO session for Moroccan police and security representatives in Belgium during the same month. Furthermore, a delegation of Belgian BDO trainers travelled to Rabat to prepare a train-the-trainer course scheduled for 2023.



Screening

Security notices and certificates

Screening consists of 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	2019	2020	2021	2022
Airports	20,068	15,491	19,956	22,500
National Security Authority (NSA/NVO)	6,569	5,507	5,901	14,001
Miscellaneous	6,488	3,368	4,355	4,235
Military	4,993	7,337	27,672	32,442
Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (AFCN/FANC)	4,994	4,519	3,018	3,431
Integrated Police recruitments	5,916	3,437	6,628	10,890
Support to police zones	578	295	338	294
Honours	20,207	13,181	14,971	3,244
Total	69,813	53,135	82,739	91,037

2022 saw a continued increase in the number of screenings prior to recruitment of candidates for the operational and civilian staff (CALog), and in the number of screenings requested by Defence. The number of files generated by the NSA/NVO has returned to a volume slightly higher than in the period preceding the health crisis.

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 specific clearance. The purpose of these "security clearances" is to protect sensitive information by limiting its availability.

Security clearances granted	2019	2020	2021	2022
Confidential	10	76	52	8
Secret	753	713	732	681
Top secret	195	247	259	209

Security clearances granted	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	958	1,036	1,043	898

In 2022, 70% of the requests for (initial or the renewal of) clearance came from members of the Federal Police.

Economic and social security

- Multidisciplinary investigation teams (MOTEM) to combat social fraud effectively.
- Great success for "flex" actions!

Tackling social and tax fraud: MOTEM

The cooperation between the Federal Judicial Police and the specialised services within a multidisciplinary investigation team or MOTEM (which stands for Multidisciplinair Onderzoeksteam/Team d'Enquête Multidisciplinaire) is an important tool for combating social and tax fraud.

Social fraud has a serious impact not only on victims but also on the economy and public authorities. Social fraud distorts competition and pushes honest businesses out of the market. The government loses hundreds of thousands and even millions of euros in social contributions.

In 2022, the fight against social fraud was boosted by the organisation of an online training course comprising some ten modules. This training course was developed in close collaboration with the Judicial Training Institute (IFJ/IGO) and the Information and Social Research Service (SIRS/SIOD) for judicial authorities, different inspection services (FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, ONSS/RSZ, INASTI/RSVZ and regional inspection services), and the Integrated Police.

MOTEMs can also be deployed during field control operations. So, on Sunday 13 November 2022, a [large-scale operation \(NL\)](#) took place in Kalken, in the HGV parking area along the E17, under the coordination of the East Flanders Federal Highway Police. All the trucks in the car park, 129 in all, were thoroughly checked. These checks were carried out under the watchful eye of the Labour Inspection Agency and the Public Prosecutor's Office, in collaboration with a number of partners, including the West Flanders PJF/FGP and the social inspection services participating in the operation as part of MOTEM.

With this type of operation, the police, the judiciary and the inspection services want to raise awareness in the transport sector and check the extent to which current legislation is being respected. These controls also help to counter unfair competition in the sector. Transport companies that comply with the law should not have to endure unfair competition from companies that do not make the necessary investments for their staff.



Administrative approach to social and economic fraud

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



Flex action in Limburg against night-shop crime

On 11 June 2022, a coordinated control action ("flex") was carried out in around ten shops, including night shops, in the Kanton Borgloon police zone (Alken, Borgloon, Heers, Kortessem and Wellen). This action, carried out in consultation with the Public Prosecutor's Office, was supported by the Limburg District Information and Expertise Centre (CIEAR/ARIEC). A range of social and fire safety offences were observed.

The inspections focused in particular on the safety of the premises, working conditions and regulations relating to the population register and town and country planning. None of the ten businesses inspected complied with the legal fire safety regulations. Several breaches of planning regulations were also noted. The owners were ordered to put their property in order.

The Labour Inspectorate found violations of labour laws, mainly concerning Dimona, social documents, part-time work and abuse of Covid-19 bonuses. The FPS Economy issued fines and warnings concerning price marking. The FPS Public Health confiscated a number of non-compliant cosmetics, electronic cigarettes and tobacco products. Customs seized products such as water pipe tobacco under excise legislation. All the reports were forwarded to the Limburg Public Prosecutor's Office and the Antwerp Labour Inspection Agency.

During this coordinated "flex" action, the interdisciplinary control team included representatives from the Zuid-West Limburg fire department, the Labour Inspectorate, the National Social Security Office (ONSS/RSZ) and Customs. The Limburg CIEAR/ARIEC and the Kanton Borgloon police zone were on hand to provide back-up.

The CIEAR/ARIEC supports local authorities in their administrative approach to organised crime. This may involve exploitation, human trafficking, large-scale fraud, money laundering or slum landlords. The "flex" actions must ensure that this crime does not become entrenched in the local fabric.

International partnership: the key to success

- Good report card for Belgium in the Schengen evaluation!
- Enhanced international cooperation.
- Election of a Belgian to an important international post.

Good report card for police cooperation in the Schengen evaluation

In May 2022, the European Commission received the report on the Schengen evaluation of police cooperation in Belgium in June 2021. The overall conclusions of the report are positive. The evaluation team found that "*Belgium effectively and actively manages international police cooperation, fulfilling the obligations of the Schengen acquis in this area*", and that "*it demonstrates a high level of commitment to the international operational projects in which it participates*".

In addition, the Schengen Evaluation Team described the Benelux Police Cooperation Treaty (concluded on 23 July 2018 and regularly applied and expanded since then, see below) as "*the most ambitious police cooperation agreement in the Schengen area*".

Bilateral and multilateral agreements

On 1 June 2022, the bilateral police cooperation treaty with Morocco entered into force. This treaty, relating to all major forms of organised crime and terrorism, provides a strong legal basis for bilateral information exchange between the Belgian and Moroccan police, providing the necessary guarantees on the protection of personal data and classified information. The treaty also contains provisions relating to the appointment and deployment of bilateral liaison officers.

In 2022, the Federal Police signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates, the Royal Thai Police and the Department of Special Investigation of the Thai Ministry of Justice. These agreements are designed to strengthen cooperation with our partner services in the countries concerned, through the exchange of information, the organisation of training courses and the sharing of best practices.

Implementation of new EU regulations

Despite the significant delays in the continuation of the work in 2022, the Federal Police continued to prepare for the implementation, on a somewhat modified timetable, of several European Union regulations, such as the entry/exit system and other parts of the interoperability regulations, as well as 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.

Furthermore, the Federal Police, where necessary together with the Local Police, continued to contribute actively to the negotiations within the relevant EU forums in the context of the new, adapted Europol Regulation (in force since June 2022), the proposal for screening at external borders, the Artificial Intelligence Act, the Prüm II Regulation, the Council Recommendation on operational police cooperation and the Directive on information exchange (with a view to replacing the Swedish Framework Decision; entry into force planned for May 2023).

New representatives in Europol and Interpol

The Federal Police appointed an additional representative to the Europol headquarters in The Hague in 2022. This person participates in the Drugs Liaison Task Force, set up in April 2022 within Europol, to improve the exchange of information in real time on drug-related cases.

Since 1 July 2022, the Federal Police has provided an expert to the Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon as part of the I-CORE project, which aims to improve the international exchange of information and alerts via the Interpol channel.



Peter De Buysscher elected Vice-President of Interpol

Chief Superintendent Peter De Buysscher, Director of International Police Cooperation (CGI) at the Federal Police, has been elected Vice-President Europe of Interpol's Executive Committee for a three-year term. He previously represented Belgium on Europol's Management Board. Peter De Buysscher will also continue in his role as Managing Director of CGI.

Not since 1957 has a Belgian held such a senior position at Interpol. The Belgian police force is therefore strengthening its place on the world map. As Vice-President for Europe, Peter De Buysscher is assisted by two other Vice-Presidents (America and Africa). All three work under the Presidency of Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi, from the United Arab Emirates (Asia).

The General Commissioner of the Federal Police, Marc De Mesmaeker, who accompanied Peter De Buysscher as Head of Delegation to the General Assembly in Delhi, said, *"This election result clearly shows that the Belgian police plays an important, even leading, role in international police cooperation, and is appreciated worldwide for its role in the transnational approach to security issues. The appointment of CGI's director also represents huge added value for Interpol, as Peter excels where Belgium often excels, i.e. in international insight and sensitivity. With his new and important responsibilities as Vice President on Interpol's Management Board, he will create even more operational added value for police officers in the field, worldwide."*



Crossing the French border without worries

The "Crossing the border without worries" training course aims to familiarise police officers with the particularities of police work in neighbouring countries (the Netherlands and France respectively) so that cross-border policing can take places as smoothly as possible.

As part of our cross-border intervention training with France, a second train-the-trainer session was held at the Namur Police Academy in March 2022 (the first had taken place in Hainaut the previous year). Twenty-two trainer candidates from Namur and Luxembourg, including one French colleague, attended the three-day course. A third and final session

for 20 trainer candidates from the province of West Flanders took place in May 2022 at the West Flanders Police School (WPS) in Bruges.

In anticipation of the new Benelux treaty, the Federal Police, the Landelijke Politie and the Koninklijke Marechaussee (Netherlands), together with the police of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, began preparing a new joint training course on cross-border police cooperation last year.



Civil crisis management and cooperation with ENABEL

In 2022, several members of the Federal Police worked as counter-terrorism experts for the European Union delegations in Bosnia-Herzegovina (EUDEL Sarajevo), Indonesia (EUDEL Jakarta) and Lebanon (EUDEL Beirut).

In addition, the Integrated Police – through the Directorate of International Police Cooperation of the Federal Police (CGI) – deployed a total of nine staff members (including seven from the Federal Police) for civilian crisis management missions of the European Union (in Niger, Mali, Iraq and Ukraine) and the United Nations (Standing Police Capacity based in Brindisi). By taking part in these missions, Belgium intends to help local authorities deal with the terrorist threat and other security challenges 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. In addition, since early 2022, Belgian police have been involved in a cooperation project between ENABEL, the Moroccan Ministry of the Interior and the police services to combat violence against women. Belgian police experts provide strategic and organisational advice to the project's Moroccan partners.



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.



[Information exchange](#)



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



Information exchange

- 583,974 international alerts and messages channelled.
- An airport first: a "hit" thanks to fingerprints.
- 3 million calls handled by the emergency centres.

International information exchange: Single Point of Operational Contact

The Single Point of Operational Contact (SPOC) of the Federal Police is the hub for international police information exchange and international alerts in our country.

The SPOC handles all messages from and to foreign police services, whether for investigations, public order or security purposes. All international alerts also go through this service: persons wanted by the Belgian or foreign police, reports of missing persons, stolen vehicles, or requests to foreign colleagues to check or locate a person. These communications all flow through secure channels, such as the Europol SIENA channel or the Interpol 24/7 application.

The SPOC, which has more than 100 staff members, is available 24/7 to foreign police services that have a request to make to their Belgian colleagues, or vice versa. In addition to the main headquarters in Brussels, the SPOC also includes three Police and Customs Cooperation Centres in Tournai, Luxembourg and Kerkrade (NL). These centres exchange information on police cooperation in border regions.

In 2022, the SPOC processed 583,974 messages (via Interpol, Europol, Schengen, liaison officers) from or to Belgian police services.

This year, the number of SIENA (Secure Information Exchange Network Application messages, a Europol application enabling the exchange of operational information) has increased by 36.7% compared to last year, i.e. 83,074 messages in 2022 versus 60,770 in 2021.

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.

Information sharing in the field of organised crime is increasing. Whether it is about fugitive criminals appearing on the Federal Police's Most Wanted list who can be arrested abroad, the collection of information about a foreign suspect in a Belgian drug case or the dismantling of an international arms trade, the SPOC is always a crucial link.

Cross-border phenomena

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

	2019	2020	2021	2022
1.	Illicit drug trafficking	Theft and aggravated theft	Theft and aggravated theft	Illicit drug trafficking
2.	Theft and aggravated theft	Illicit drug trafficking	Illicit drug trafficking	Theft and aggravated theft
3.	Fraud and deception	Fraud and deception	Fraud and deception	Fraud and deception
4.	Illegal immigration	Money laundering	Money laundering	Money laundering
5.	Vehicle crime	Illegal immigration	Illegal immigration	Illegal immigration

International alerts

Belgium issued 9,486 alerts on individuals in the Schengen Information System (SIS). In addition, 11,446 "hits" were registered in our country against foreign SIS alerts.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SIS*	6,818	7,596	9,227	6,530	9,486

Interpol**	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	8,646	9,624	12,154	8,968	11,664

* SIS: Schengen Information System. System by which international alerts are circulated within the Schengen Area.

** Interpol: allows international alerts (diffusions or notices) to be issued outside the Schengen Area.

International alerts are a specific form of 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:

- arrest of a person;
- refusal of entry or stay in the territory;
- 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 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	2021	2022
Schengen Information System (SIS)	8,830	11,738	8,691	8,093	10,074

• Foreign hits on Belgian international alerts

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Schengen Information System (SIS)	6,056	7,370	4,573	4,956	3,946



An airport first: a "hit" thanks to fingerprints

Good collaboration between the Brussels-National Airport Police (LPA BruNat) and colleagues from the Single Point of Operational Contact (SPOC) helped airport police officers to manage an unprecedented situation and arrest a suspect.

In November 2022, a person was found and arrested thanks to their fingerprints. This was a first for Zaventem airport! This person was checked on arrival in Belgium as they came from outside the Schengen Area. In this case, they were checked to see if the person's identity was known in Belgian and international police databases, such as SIS and Interpol. A check of their identity revealed nothing suspicious. However, in certain circumstances, a person's fingerprints can also be compared with those contained in police databases.

And at this stage, the system gave a positive result, as an alert for arrest existed in the SIS. An arrest warrant had been issued against them by the French authorities. A comparison of their fingerprints led to their arrest. The suspect used a different identity from the one reported by the French authorities.

The SIS can be used to report persons wanted by the police on the basis of their identity, with the addition of a photo or fingerprints. European police officers can therefore check a person both on the basis of identity and by comparing fingerprints. Had it not been for the fingerprint comparison, the suspect could have gone on their way without being troubled.

Translation

In order to meet the requirements of international operational message handling in the field of languages, the SPOC has a Translation Service 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	2021	2022
Translations carried out*	15,284	13,774	11,718	10,591	9,922
Translations carried out*	33.5%	34%	37%	41.5%	44.5%

*Almost all translations concern operational files.

**Translations concerning FLASH files must be processed within the hour.



SIS Recast: efficiency gains at the heart of Schengen Information System (SIS) expansion

SIS Recast for international alerts should enable police forces to achieve even better results in operational cases with an international dimension.

SIS Recast will enable police forces to report a wider range of entities to SIS. In addition to people and vehicles, IT equipment (computers, smartphones, etc.), industrial equipment, boat engines, etc. can now be reported.

In addition, the SIS has been given additional functionalities, and authorities other than national police forces will also have access to the database, including Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, the General Administration of Customs and Excise and certain services of the Vehicle Registration Department (those responsible for vehicle registration, among others, already had access).

The Directorate of International Police Cooperation (CGI) took a number of initiatives last year in preparation for SIS Recast's entry into service (March 2023). By October 2022, 16 trainers had been trained according to the "train the trainer" principle. The reference brochure for international alerts has been extensively updated in preparation for the launch of SIS Recast. An FAQ has been posted online to anticipate end-user questions about the new SIS.

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	2021	2022
Forms sent by SIRENE-Belgium	15,349	12,927	35,428	16,338
Forms received by SIRENE-Belgium	42,267	52,328	58,531	38,191
Total number of forms dealt with	57,616	65,255	93,959	54,529

Information exchange and the key role of the 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 Centres (CICs), which receives and handles emergency calls, and the District Information Hubs(CIA-AIK).

Emergency calls

Emergency calls from the public on 101 or 112 numbers (including calls transferred by 100/112 and calls from certain alarms and the National Bank) are received by the Information and Communication Centres (CICs).

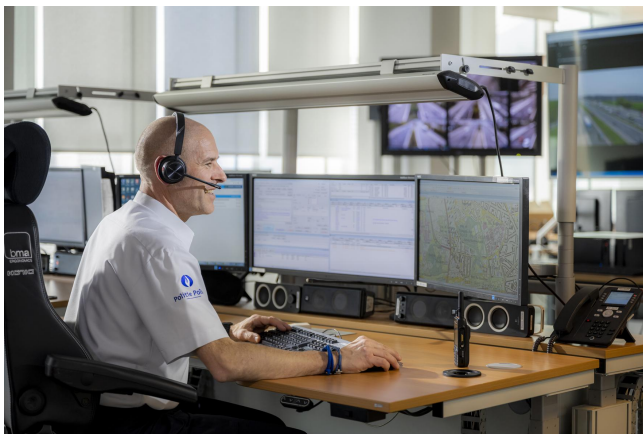
Non-emergency calls are all other calls received, for example, from a Local Police zone or from a tow truck driver who directly calls a CIC dispatcher via his workstation number.

In 2022, the number of calls to CICs rose by 200,000 compared with the Covid-19 years of 2020 and 2021. This brings us back to the order of magnitude of three million a year in the pre-Covid period.

										Total			
										2019	2020	2021	2022
West Flanders	212,201	190,012	191,482	209,493	12,580	11,770	12,190	12,435	224,781	201,782	203,675	221,928	
East Flanders	250,749	235,004	242,036	268,807	10,558	10,468	11,159	11,237	261,307	245,472	253,195	280,044	
Antwerp	317,192	281,660	295,843	359,552	98,787	80,043	81,224	78,899	415,979	361,703	377,067	408,451	

									Total			
									2019	2020	2021	2022
Limburg	161,673	149,429	148,504	153,823	16,506	12,461	12,570	12,406	178,179	161,890	161,074	166,229
Flemish Brabant*	183,194	164,024	165,060	183,742	18,680	16,266	15,367	15,775	201,874	180,290	180,427	199,517
Brussels	443,932	361,199	355,798	391,416	35,312	32,939	38,457	43,681	479,244	394,138	394,255	435,097
Walloon Brabant	82,922	74,978	71,566	82,993	18,766	19,083	16,533	18,322	101,688	94,061	88,099	101,315
Hainaut	462,495	412,056	375,611	400,057	16,374	16,029	16,816	17,413	478,869	428,085	392,427	417,470
Namur	155,594	146,443	141,676	146,706	15,493	14,676	14,616	14,783	171,087	161,119	156,292	161,489
Liège*	365,564	341,041	347,208	350,561	77,912	79,362	81,946	77,486	443,476	420,403	429,154	428,047
Luxembourg	69,415	66,382	61,622	64,838	19,541	17,957	17,197	17,148	88,956	84,339	78,819	81,986
Total	2,704,931	2,422,228	2,396,409	2,611,988	340,509	311,054	318,075	289,585	3,045,440	2,733,282	2,714,484	2,901,573

* The emergency calls for the districts of Hal/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).



Astrid User Days a success

After a two-year absence, rescue and public safety specialists met again on 18 and 19 May at the Louvexpo in La Louvière for the 2022 Astrid User Days. ASTRID is the telecom operator used by the emergency and security services.

Some 60 exhibitors from all over Europe showcased the latest technologies in critical communications, dispatching, geolocation and more.

The Federal Police and the La Louvière Local Police zone were present, with several vehicles and tools to discover, and a recruitment stand for those wanting to embark on a career in policing. Visitors were able to discover the audio accessories of a Traffic Police motorcycle, the TETRAsim radio simulation tool, enabling e-learning of TETRA radios (a standard developed in Europe for digital radio communication of voice and data), the Argos temporary fixed camera system and the automatic licence plate recognition (ANPR) system.



Harassment alarm: alert the police at the touch of a button

On 14 March 2022, the Minister of the Interior, Institutional Reforms and Democratic Renewal, Annelies Verlinden, and the Minister of Justice, Vincent Van Quickenborne, jointly presented the harassment alarm, a valuable tool in the fight against domestic and sexual violence, in Oudenaarde. It is a button linked via Bluetooth to the 112 app on the victim's smartphone. When pressed, this button directly alerts the police dispatchers at the district's Information and Communication Centre (CIC). 101 can then immediately identify and geolocate the victim, and quickly dispatch a patrol to the scene.

The Federal Police, which coordinates the Information and Communication Centres (CICs) responsible for dispatching, considered its participation in this project a priority, given the added value it brings to the fight against these forms of violence.

The first tests in East and West Flanders were a success. The harassment alarm will eventually be extended nationwide.

Protection of personal data

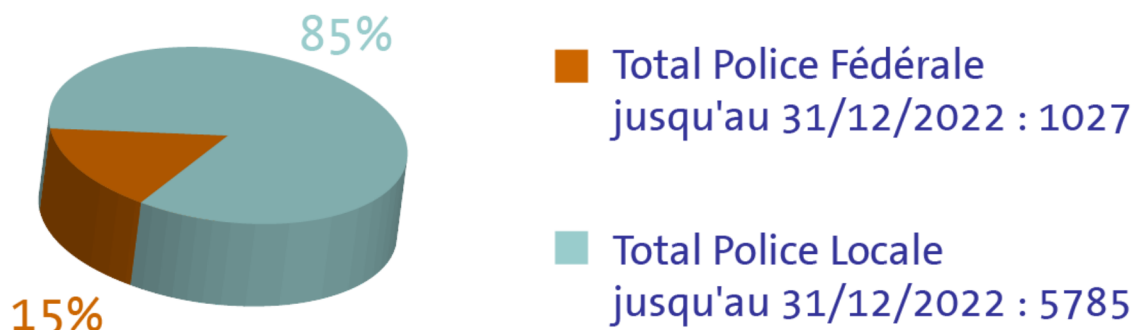
In 2022, various actions were taken by the Federal Police to guarantee (personal) data protection and security.

The Information Security & Privacy Office of the General Commissioner's Office (CG/ISPO) has, among other things:

- participated in the analysis and implementation of proposals for legislative and normative adaptations (Data Protection Act, Police Functions Act, Integrated Police Act, Royal Decrees and Directives, etc.) to comply with data protection regulations (16 draft legal/regulatory texts);
- been mobilised in the context of 32 opinions issued by the Supervisory Body for Police Information (COC);
- monitored requests for indirect access to police databases via the COC (24 cases in which CG/ISPO was involved) and carried out analyses prior to any reform of indirect access;
- been involved in ten security incidents and breaches;
- drafted the information security policy describing the general framework and the guiding principles in this matter for the Integrated Police.

RegPol, the register of all the Integrated Police's processing operations, continues to be actively fed and, as of 31 December 2022, it had a total of 6,812 registered processing operations, of which 1,027 (15%) were carried out by the Federal Police.

Statistiques RegPol



ICT, the driving force behind our actions and management

- Emphasis on digital support.
- Cross Border Exchange, a success.
- The electronic report (E-PV) is a reality.

Digital transformation: i-Police and the police of the future



The i-Police project will replace around 80 different applications (such as ISLP, FEEDIS, BNG/ANG). i-Police will bring together all the information currently dispersed in different databases on a single integrated information platform, with a new National General Database (BNG/ANG) offering more information than before. This information platform will be the foundation par excellence of the entire i-Police project.

2021 ended with the award of the i-Police contract. This is the result of an intensive procurement process, which owes its success to the cooperation and contributions of numerous technical and functional experts and experienced staff.

In 2022, two pilot projects were launched to lay the foundations for i-Police. They focused on the exchange of information with international bodies (Schengen, Interpol, Europol) and on the compilation of information for the Intelligence-Led Policing function. For this second project, the technicians studied how i-Police can employ dashboard, network analysis and search functions to make better use of the wealth of data available to us as a police service.

Police officers in the field, who will have to use the i-Police tools on a daily basis, are heavily involved in the projects. Their feedback and needs are taken into account to ensure even greater public safety.

"i-Police is a huge challenge".

"i-Police is a huge challenge. The contribution of our field staff is essential to the success of this project. The project will also change the way we work in the field, enabling us to provide better support to our staff. Operational reality, training and support will no longer be conceivable without digital technology."



SENIOR ADVISOR DOMINIQUE VAN RYCKEGHEM
General Director of Resource Management and Information (DGR)



End of the road for British con man

Robert Hendy-Freegard, a notorious British swindler, was arrested by members of the Federal Highway Police (DAH) in Grand-Bigard on 2 September, a few days after fleeing France.

Since the early 90s, this king of manipulation had sought to enrich himself by posing as a secret agent. In 2005, he was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment for kidnapping, deception and theft. No fewer than 19 charges had been brought against him. But two years later, Justice reviewed his sentence. He was freed: his victims had not been confined and were free to escape.

The swindler then fled to France. It was there that the French Gendarmerie visited his home at the end of August. Faced with an identity check, the suspect fled in his car, injuring two gendarmes in the process. A European arrest warrant was then issued for him.

On 2 September 2022, at around 4pm, the Federal Highway Police (WPR) of East Flanders was informed by the Border Information Network (GIN = Grens Informatie Netwerk) of the presence on its territory of a vehicle entered in the Schengen Information System (SIS). The vehicle was soon detected by ANPR cameras on the E40 motorway heading towards Brussels.

The WPR East Flanders coordinator immediately directed the teams to intercept the vehicle. Three teams from the Patrol and Surveillance (CPS/CPT) unit in East Flanders were also dispatched, along with a team of motorcyclists from Wetteren traffic police unit. The vehicle was finally intercepted on the E40 motorway at Grand-Bigard heading in the direction of Brussels, and the driver was arrested.

The rapid detection and location of this 'media figure' were made possible by the appropriate use of existing information networks and technical resources (FOCUS and ANPR).

National ANPR camera shield

The national camera shield connects all ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras to a central management system (AMS - ANPR Managed Services) allowing for a fast police response when criminals are detected in a vehicle, based on a reported number plate. The ANPR network also includes average speed cameras.

The AMS offers three basic features:

- average speed cameras within the framework of road safety;
- processing of hits from blacklists for police intervention;
- support for research investigations.

By the end of December 2022, the number of police users with access to AMS had risen by 30% to 19,699. The number of cameras connected to AMS has risen to 1,786, an increase of 16%. The number of roadside radars approved and processed by the Regional Fine Processing Centres (CRT/GVC) rose by over 35% to 281. This latest increase was made possible by the commissioning of a new AMS server dedicated to speed camera processing.



Missing person found thanks to ANPR

On 6 August 2022, a missing person, aged 82 and suffering from memory problems, was reported by the Ans/Saint-Nicolas Local Police. The person's vehicle was located thanks to the various ANPR hits recorded by the Liège District Communication and Information Service (SICAD). The SICAD dispatcher was able to guide the teams in the field. The person was found in good health in Grand-Bigard by a team of local police. So the ANPR system is not just for tracking down criminals and fugitives!

Strengthened digital links with the judiciary

Cross Border Exchange: a 99 % success rate!

Cross Border Exchange (CBE) is a module integrated in the police applications as regard immediate collections that are related to driving offences. Within this framework, the Integrated Police records and reports Belgian or European residents (particularly for offences noted by cameras and speed cameras), before it passes on the information to the judiciary through an electronic flow. The judiciary subsequently prints and sends these immediate collections, and follows up their payment. Since 2021, digital signature and sealing (including MultiFactor Authentication or MFA) have been integrated into this system.

In 2022, Cross Border Exchange again achieved a success rate of 99 % with an ever-increasing number of cases.

Every two years, the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) awards the most innovative, effective and co-creative projects of public entities at local, regional and national/European level. This year, **CrossBorder Exchange** has been nominated in the **"Digital Public Administration"** category, much to the pride of the Directorate of Police Information and ICT Resources (DRI).

Number	2019*	2020	2021	2022
Reports drawn up	6,300,000	5,801,781	5,819,503	5,896,523
Reports sent to the judicial General National Database	2,160,000	2,190,253	1,983,847	2,157,935
Immediate collections	2,270,000	2,088,910	1,957,245	1,791,250
Data registered	5,500,000	4,995,666	5,043,089	5,478,687
Documents drawn up	13,260,000	11,745,608	11,663,555	12,337,957
Interrogations entered	1,450,000	1,228,335	1,266,219	1,344,166
Physical persons registered	/**	24,935,159	24,986,764	25,870,043

*The figures for 2019 were rounded for technical reasons.

** Figure not available.



The electronic report (E-PV) is a reality

The E-PV is a digital PDF version of the paper version.

Since April 2022, the police have been making their immediate traffic collections available to the Justice Department. These services receive an electronic version of the immediate collection and can forward it to the citizen by email. Anyone who commits a traffic offence will now receive a traffic fine in their letterbox.

BNG/CROSS: improved alert tracking

The BNG/CROSS application offers the possibility to issue and delete alerts on individuals in the General National Database (BNG/ANG) with regard to judicial police matters.

In 2022, development work began on CROSS Vehicles and Objects and Cross Report.

Cross Vehicles and Objects will enable the flagging of vehicles and objects in the BNG/ANG as part of a legal case.

Cross Report will produce a police report on the basis of which the BNG/ANG can be updated with both judicial and administrative information.

Lastly, the first version of Cross Arrest entered the test phase. With this application, we will be able to bring together the arrest records of individuals in a single location.

PacOs: barcodes on exhibits for more efficient tracking

PacOs is the application used to digitally manage exhibits by means of barcodes. By the end of 2020, PacOs covered 55 % of the Belgian territory. The roll-out ended everywhere in the country in 2021, both in the Integrated Police and the judiciary.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Judicial seizures	1,565	53,440	163,682	215,262
- Exhibits seized (total)	6,445	50,802	430,182	484,818
- within the Integrated Police	2,953	18,043	153,613	185,066
within the judiciary	3,492	32,759	276,659	299,752

* Trial Courts, Central Office for Seizure and Confiscation, National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology.



MyPolice-Belgium, an application to make life easier for citizens

[MyPolice-Belgium](#) is an application that makes it easier for citizens to contact the police and find all the information they need.

The user has access to different tabs with emergency numbers, missing persons notices, the online declaration form, local news, federal news, a link to the Jobpol.be recruitment site, etc.

Simply select your language and municipality, and "MyPolice" does the rest. The application interacts with all the information available on the websites of the Local Police zones (over 90% of zones are covered) and the Federal Police. MyPolice-Belgium has been available in the Google Play Store and Apple Store since 19 December 2022. Five months after its launch, the application has 17,000 users and a score of 4.5 stars.

Each user can send us their comments to help us improve the site. The aim is to ensure that it corresponds as closely as possible to citizens' wishes!

Police statistics and Security Monitor

A new look for the registered crime site

The new Integrated Police statistics website went live in December 2022.

Thanks to this website, citizens can find data in one place on the security themes around which the services of the Integrated Police in Belgium operate. The website therefore presents official police statistics on recorded crime, traffic and police morphology, as well as Security Monitor results from previous years.

[Do you want to take a look?](#)

Results of the Security Monitor 2021

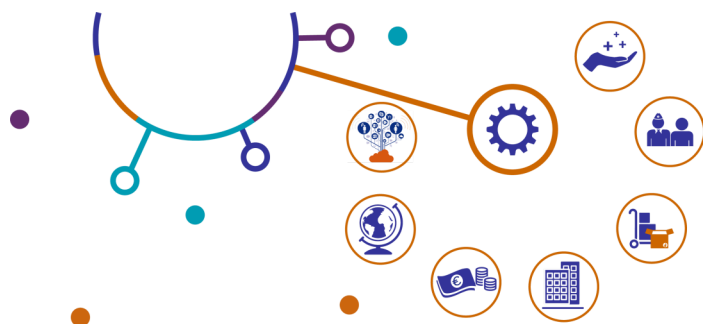
A large-scale survey took place in 2021: the Security Monitor. This survey was a tool for obtaining information on victimisation, reporting behaviour and a range of safety-related topics, such as possible district problems, feelings of insecurity and satisfaction with police work in Belgium.

By taking part in this survey, the Belgian population can give its opinion on the safety policy.

Almost 100,000 responses to the Security Monitor were processed over the course of 2022. The digitisation of the paper questionnaires by an external partner took almost six months. The team from the Federal Police's Directorate of Police Information and ICT Resources (DRI) then took over to carry out the statistical processing and analysis. By October, the Local Police zones had their results. The national results were finalised in December.

The [results](#) are available on the Federal Police's new statistical data website.

[Do you want to take a look?](#)



The Federal Police, an organisation

[Home](#) / The Federal Police, an organisation

- As at 31 December 2021, the total strength of the Federal Police staff stood at 13 965, including 10 658 operational staff (Ops) and 3 307 civilian staff (CALog).
- The total number of vehicles purchased has increased significantly.
- The Mutual Respect campaign, which was initiated by the SPF Interior, aims to convey a positive message about the police and other security professionals, whose essential principles are mutual respect, mutual knowledge, openness of dialogue and trust.



[Our values](#)



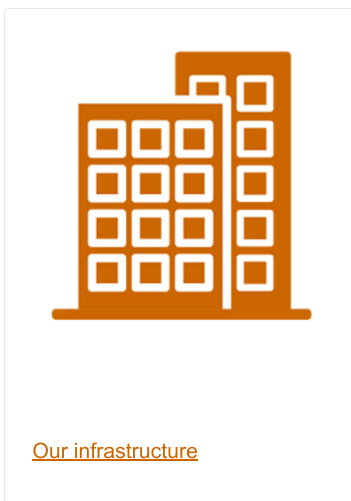
[Our material](#)



[Our budget](#)



[Our staff](#)



[Our infrastructure](#)

Our values

- Solidarity is second nature to our organisation.
- The unifying role of innovation.
- A serious game about integrity.

General Police Conference

More than 20 years after the police reform, the Minister of the Interior, Institutional Reforms and Democratic Renewal, Annelies Verlinden, took the initiative in 2021 to organise the États généraux de la police/Staten-generaal van de Politie (#SEGPoI). The police must evolve with society if they are to continue to fulfil their role as service providers to citizens. The Minister has therefore invited the police and its many partners to reflect on the organisation's future needs and put forward concrete ideas for the future.

For two years, the key partners of #SEGPoI – the Centre for Policing and Security (CPS), the Circle of Police Leadership (CPL), the Centre d'études sur la Police (CEP), and the Federal Police – have been working, through roundtables, seminars, study days and workshops, to formulate proposals aimed at best preparing the police for the many challenges ahead. The Federal Police has played a leading role in issues such as integrity, diversity, the use of force/violence by and against the police, synergy with partners and international police cooperation.

Over 1,000 people attended the many events in order to reflect, debate and (re)invent.

The findings and ideas that emerged from this process have been brought together in a [plan for the police of the future](#).

A Mission Statement based on values

The values that the Federal Police highlight in their [Mission Statement](#) are as follows:

- integrity
- respect
- open-mindedness
- flexibility
- service-mindedness
- pride

The Federal Police is taking initiatives to raise awareness of these values among its personnel and to draw their attention to the different areas in which they can be applied. Furthermore, they intend to continue building a working environment for their staff that promotes solidarity and diversity, where staff members feel respected and see their professional commitment recognised.



Solidarity in good times and bad

The sudden death of Thomas Monjoie sparked a blue wave of solidarity. The inspector of the Brussels-North police zone was killed during an intervention on 10 November 2022. The loss of this colleague, the manner in which it occurred and the violence of this act have struck us straight in the heart.

On Friday 18 November, the Integrated Police paid tribute to Thomas in a professional and calm manner, but above all with solidarity and dignity. Thousands of Local and Federal Police officers, as well as representatives of foreign police forces, formed an impressive guard of honour along the funeral cortege's route from the funeral home to the cemetery, in tribute to Thomas and

as a sign of support and sympathy for his family and loved ones. All over Belgium, police forces have taken initiatives to express their sadness, sympathy, support and solidarity.

The many actions organised within the Integrated Police each year are proof that solidarity is not a fleeting notion that only manifests itself during painful events. Many police staff organise charity events for *Kom op tegen Kanker*, *Viva for Life*, *Télévie*, *De Warmste Week* and other smaller causes.

In May 2022, the Federal Police's Directorate of Communication (CGC) launched a themed website to centralise and highlight solidarity actions.

Within the Integrated Police, *Police for Solidarity* is undoubtedly the largest and most visible solidarity initiative organised by the Federal Police and the Local Police Standing Committee, with the support of the Social Service. This organised relay race has returned to the King Baudouin stadium after a two-year hiatus. The party was spectacular. Some 3,000 participants and 81 teams of runners were present. Their main aim was to contribute to a good cause but also get together again with local and federal law enforcement personnel.

The Federal Police breaks new ground

The Federal Police was able to draw up a draft innovation strategy thanks to a forward-looking analysis aimed at identifying societal evolutions and new technological developments with an impact on the police, as well as the organisation of a World Café workshop attended by over 70 members of staff. Once validated by the Management Committee in 2023, this strategy will form the framework within which the organisation's approach to innovation will be developed over the coming years.

The Innovation department has put considerable energy into connecting colleagues at the national and international levels who are working on identical themes or looking for additional human or financial support to develop and implement innovative initiatives. Here are a few examples of initiatives taken in this area:

- linking specific field units with different Technology Interest Groups (TIGs) of the European Network for Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS): *Financial Investigation (focus on cryptocurrencies)*, *Public Order*, *C-UAS*, *Operational Centers*, *Procurement*, *Digital Workplace*...
- linking specific field units with the EU Clearing Board's Core Groups: *Speech to text transcription tools*, *Darknet monitoring tools* and *Online policing*;
- active participation of the Innovation department in the EU Clearing Board's *Strategic Group on Horizon Scanning and Technology Foresight*. A Horizon Europe project has also been submitted in this respect, in collaboration with France;
- active leadership of the EU Clearing Board's eXtended Reality Coregroup by the Innovation Department and the Limburg Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP). This Coregroup brings together nine European Union countries to work on the first use case, a virtual shooting range;
- the Innovation department's intensive contribution to the work of INTERPOL's StraTalks meetings, which are developing a discussion paper on the police of the future (2030), a *Horizon Scanning and Technology Foresight* capability and a guide to digitalisation processes within police services.

A series of innovation initiatives were launched in 2022, thanks in part to a dedicated budget. For example, training projects have been supported (virtual reality applications, innovation awareness), tools have been acquired to optimise findings in the field (3D scanning of road accidents, virtual police raids on crime scenes, drones) and data processing applications have been set up.

September saw the inauguration of the first and only "eXtended Reality Lab", hosting teams from the Federal Police and Defence to collaborate on a range of virtual applications. The first initiative in this area was the creation of a Shooting House, where the Defence Special Forces and the Special Units of the Federal Police can prepare for specific missions virtually but realistically.

The Integrated Police and Kazerne Dossin

The Integrated Police have been working with Kazerne Dossin since 2014 to provide future police officers with training linked to diversity, internal relations and workplace wellness.

As part of a programme called "Holocaust, Police and Human Rights" (HPDH), participants are being offered four separate training courses – developed in partnership with UNIA, the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities.

- 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 department
- Polarisation: threat or opportunity for the police?



Kazerne Dossin celebrates its 10th anniversary

In 2022, Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen celebrated its tenth anniversary as a Holocaust and human rights memorial, museum and documentation centre.

The "Holocaust, Police and Human Rights" (HPDH) course has been running there for nine years. Dominique Van Ryckeghem, Director General of Resource and Information Management at the Federal Police, was instrumental in the creation of the HPDH project: *"In these times of polarisation and war, HPDH training offers valuable information for better understanding certain phenomena, such as group pressure and ethical dilemmas."*

In 2020, Kazerne Dossin and the police renewed their cooperation agreement on this project. It also received the support of Annelies Verlinden, Minister of the Interior, Institutional Reform and Democratic Renewal: *"Racism and discrimination have no place in our society, or in the police. Integrity and diversity are cornerstones of our service to the public. This is why the collaboration between the Federal Police and Kazerne Dossin is so important. We must – and we will – continue to invest in mutual respect, trust and understanding."*

The training supervisors come from the world of policing and have been trained directly for this purpose at Kazerne Dossin. Some of these people are retired colleagues. In autumn 2022, a new group of 14 colleagues began HPDH coaching training, a clear signal that the police community is committed and motivated to support this unique project.

Holocaust, Police and Human Rights training

Between 2014 and 2022, 13,773 police personnel completed the "Holocaust, Police and Human Rights" (HPDH) training, some as aspiring officers as part of their basic training, others for in-career retraining.

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Training	Sessions	People trained	Sessions	People trained	Sessions	People trained	Sessions	People trained	Sessions	People trained
Users	93	1,636	129	2,390	40	530	57	697	119	1,768
Managers	2	23	1	8	/*	/	/*	/	/*	/

* In 2020, 2021 and 2022, no sessions were held for leaders.

Polarisation training: threat or opportunity for the police?

The attacks in Brussels in 2016 caused a real upheaval within the Integrated Police. These events again highlighted the importance of recognising, understanding and, most importantly, addressing the polarisation of our society. The Diversity Unit of the Federal Police has developed a one-day training course on this topic.

In 2022, 267 people took part, compared with 314 in 2021. According to the evaluation results, participants were satisfied with the training and the knowledge they acquired.



Coping with police dilemmas: a serious game

Integrity is one of the core values of the police force. This essential value is also highlighted as a core value in our Code of Ethics. Every member of our staff has a duty to act in accordance with the applicable values, standards and rules. However, it is not always that simple in the field, as we are all faced with ethical dilemmas.

When faced with an ethical question, any decision taken always has a "moral cost". It is therefore essential to be fully aware of the possible consequences of your choices, not only for yourself but also for the other stakeholders.

The hybrid "serious game" developed for the police force aims specifically to train staff to make decisions when faced with ethical dilemmas. Through a board game and a complementary digital module, this initiative aims to raise awareness of integrity issues among (future) police staff members provoke group discussions on delicate situations and promote ethical behaviour in an enjoyable way.

Although it has only just been completed, Coping with police dilemmas, a serious game has already won two prestigious awards in the last year.

The Publica Awards highlight inspiring public sector projects. On 18 March, the serious game was awarded the People's Choice Award in the "Safety & Security" category.

On 7 October, it also received the CPL Award for "Best Integrity Project". Awarded by the Circle of Police Leadership, the CPL Awards honour outstanding projects carried out within the Belgian police force.

Last year, the serious game was integrated into the basic training for aspiring police officers. Several police academies (Paulo and Pivo) are already actively using it. The serious game has also been developed for French-speakers. The CG/Integrity team at the General Commissioners's Office of the Federal Police is responsible for coordination.

Mutual respect: a theme on the agenda and in images throughout the year

In 2022, the Federal Police calendar was all about mutual respect. This theme has its origins in two initiatives, namely the Respect campaign, launched internally in 2019 to remind everyone of the importance of respecting their colleagues, and the campaign set up by the Federal Public Service (FPS) Interior in November 2021 to promote mutual respect between citizens and the security professions. The message is: *"It is by getting to know each other better that we can respect each other more"*.

The 12 calendar photos were exhibited at the Jardins de la Couronne, one of the main Federal Police buildings in Brussels. Each one shows a "check" using the fist, the symbol of the "Mutual Respect" campaign, in different situations.

In 2022, the calendar's annual theme was used as the common thread for an in-house and social media communications campaign.

Every year, the Federal Police highlights the theme of "inclusion of people with disabilities" on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Showing how the inclusion of these men and women strengthens our organisation highlights the importance of their integration. But there is still a long way to go. A royal decree stipulates that people with disabilities must make up 3 % of the staff in each federal organisation. For the Federal Police, this only applies to civilian staff (CAlLog). This figure is rising: from 0.16% in 2019 and 2020, to 0.51% in 2021, then to 0.53% in 2022.



Cooperation protocols with Womenpol and Rainbow Cops

It is no coincidence that 8 March, International Women's Day, was chosen for the signing of a cooperation protocol between the Federal Police, the Local Police and the non-profit organisation Womenpol, the Network of Belgian Policewomen. This protocol is a commitment in principle through which the partners aim for more structural collaboration. In particular, it involves closer collaboration between Womenpol and the National Police Academy (ANPA), the Proleader Service and the Diversity Unit of the Federal Police's Directorate General for Resources and Information Management (DGR). The Federal Police will facilitate Womenpol's activities. There will also be regular consultation between Womenpol, the Federal Police and the Local Police Standing Committee.

The common goal is to ensure that everyone is open-minded and enable diversity in all parts of the organisation, with the aim of even further improvement. The Integrated Police must reflect society, but not through quotas or a policy of positive discrimination.

Since 17 May 2022, LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual) police officers have also received official internal recognition through a protocol between Rainbow Cops, the FPS Interior, the Federal Police and the Local Police Standing Committee, signed during the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. This protocol sends a strong signal: that of an Integrated Police Force that intends to represent a diverse society, based on mutual respect.

The protocol specifies that Rainbow Cops Belgium LGBTQIA+ Police can use the channels and means of communication of the Federal Police to communicate its national initiatives, as well as its infrastructure for the organisation of its assemblies, meetings, study days and training courses.

Transparency and accountability: parliamentary questions

In its oversight role, the Parliament has, inter alia, the ability to put – written or oral – questions 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 via the Administrative and Technical Secretariats (SAT-ATS) in preparing answers.

In 2022, 1,200 oral and written parliamentary questions about the Federal Police were addressed to the responsible ministers (1,369 in 2021).

Our staff

- 14,068 employees working for the authorities and the population.
- A label for well-being, human resources and sport.

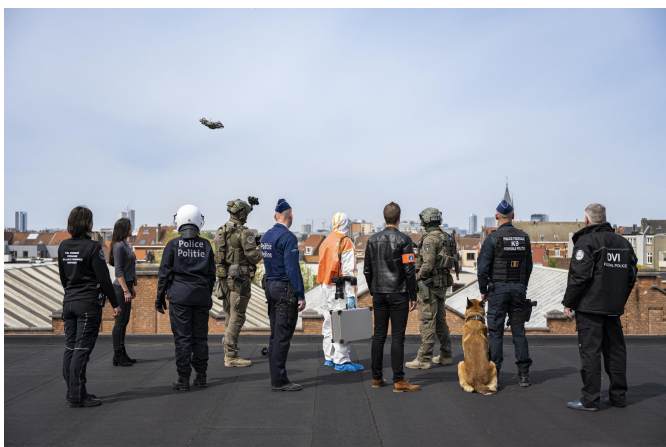
Federal Police workforce

The analysis of the Federal Police workforce as of 31 December 2022 compared to 31 December 2021 indicates that the shortfall (lack of staff compared to planned capacity) of operational staff remains relatively stable (15.60% in 2021 versus 15.40% in 2022). The administrative and logistic staffing shortfall has decreased slightly (3.81% in 2021 versus 2.15% in 2022).

	Men				Women				Total			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Operational staff												
Chief superintendent	160	175	169	159	16	23	24	25	176	198	193	184
Superintendent	927	858	828	772	129	137	144	155	1,056	995	972	927
Chief inspector	2,328	2,331	2,354	2,294	409	414	463	474	2,737	2,745	2,817	2,768
Inspector	4,125	4,208	4,272	4,253	1,161	1,221	1,318	1,365	5,286	5,429	5,590	5,618
Constable	9	8	5	4	14	14	12	12	23	22	17	16
Protection assistant	37	29	22	21	/	/	/	/	37	29	22	21
Security constable	401	522	580	686	23	91	115	146	472	613	695	832
Security assistant	332	311	301	278	49	48	48	48	381	359	349	326
Security coordinator	4	4	3	3	/	/	/	/	4	4	3	3
Administrative and logistic staff												
A level	263	260	277	291	452	448	500	523	715	708	777	814
B level	362	364	381	398	518	531	587	596	880	895	968	994
C level	417	427	455	467	710	699	745	756	1,127	1,126	1,200	1,223
D level	228	219	222	212	158	151	140	130	386	370	362	342
Total	9,593	9,716	9,869	9,838	3,687	3,777	4,096	4,230	13,280	13,493	13,965	14,068
Difference	Men: -0.31				Women: +3.17				Total: +0.73			

Explanation of the above table

These figures represent, as on 31 December 2022, the staff of the three general directorates and the General Commissioner's Office of the Federal Police, excluding staff recruited with funding of the Road Safety Fund, as well as aspiring security constables who did not successfully complete their training and have been seconded while awaiting a new training session. These figures 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, aspiring police officers, 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, for the Coordination Unit for Threat Assessment (OCAM/OCAD) and for SHAPE, and finally all staff members who requested non-activity prior to pension.



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.

Consultations	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Control and advice*	10,052	11,217	4,321	5,403	6,821
Curative care**	11,893	9,012	5,519	3,618	2,177
Operational missions***	334	352	170	329	417
Emergency care	118	75	47	28****	47
Total for Provincial Medical Centres (PMCs)	22,487	19,447	10,010	9,378	9,928

* Control and advice: carried out by the same doctors. The way in which follow-up, consultation, preparation and monitoring are recorded may vary from one CMP to another.

** Curative medicine: provided by doctors who manage their own schedules. The Medical Service no longer provides curative medicine. This is why we do not have all the statistics for these consultations.

*** The Medical Service offers support for high-risk activities or exercises (law enforcement, Molotov exercises, Special Units, etc.).

**** Significant decrease due to working from home and the cancellation of sporting events as a result of the pandemic.



Stress Team activities

The Federal Police Stress Team works for both the Federal and 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	2021	2022
Crisis intervention	247	187	171	262	218
Emotional debriefing	15	15	10	26	13
Trauma	217	333	490	495	421
Burnout	422	504	580	591	451
Depression	164	212	260	192	102
Violence against police officers	35	187	40	70	64
Covid-19**	/	/	52	13	0

* An intervention is equivalent to a meeting or a long telephone interview.

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

Stress Team support to the Local Police	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crisis intervention	54	56	96	104	168
Emotional debriefing	30	23	19	5	9
Trauma	42	51	82	71	89
Burnout	21	37	143	64	20
Depression	3	3	30	6	3
Violence against police officers	20	56	87	63	109
Covid-19*	/	/	4	4	0

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

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	2019	2020	2021	2022
Prevention InfoNews Publications (newsletter for the Federal Police)	7	12	12	13
PolNews articles (internal police website)	27	29	20	16
Information sessions on the different aspects of well-being at work	28	71	22	28
Training given on the different aspects of well-being at work	47	45	48	58

Individual files on psychosocial aspects of the Federal Police

In total, 245 Federal Police staff members requested psychosocial support from trusted persons and specialised prevention advisors.

Informal procedures*	2019	2020	2021	2022
Opinions	84	90	77	97
Consultations (talks)	79**	66	83	92
Intervention by a third party	14	16	26	29
Conciliation	14	15	16	27
Subtotal	191	187	202	245

Formal procedures***	2019	2020	2021	2022
Collective	/	1	2	1
Individual psychosocial risks	/	0	0	1
Individual cases of violence/moral or sexual harassment in the workplace	13	9	11	7
Subtotal	13	10	13	9

Register of offences by third parties****	2019	2020	2021	2022
Physical violence	/	4	13	6
Psychological violence	/	3	1	1
Moral harassment at work	12	0	1	0
Sexual harassment at work	0	0	0	0
Physical & psychological violence and other*****	1	12	12	5
Subtotal	13	19	27	12

Total	204	216	242	266
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- * Informal interventions are intended to restore a serene working climate by advising the worker concerned, by having talks with them to help solve their 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, the claimant will not be interviewed.
- *** In the event of a formal procedure, the psychosocial risks identified in the situation are described in a report to the employer, and preventive and protective measures are proposed to resolve the problem mentioned in the request and prevent its recurrence.
- **** In the event of violence, moral or sexual harassment at work by a third party, the employee concerned can inform their employer, anonymously or otherwise, via the register of third-party incidents.
- ***** Physical & psychological violence and other: covers all the above points.



Limburg Federal Police proud of *Sportbedrijf* label

At the Circle of Police Leadership's CPL Awards gala on 7 October 2022, the People's Choice Award went to the Limburg Federal Police's Coordination and Support Directorate. This was a wonderful achievement for the "Duurzaam omgaan met menselijk kapitaal" ("Sustainable use of human capital") project, which focuses on talent management and a dynamic health policy. The project includes a collective sports offer, whose initiators were awarded the coveted [Sportbedrijf](#) label by Sport Vlaanderen, the sports department of the Flemish administration, last summer.

This is a form of recognition for employers who invest in their employees' health. The Limburg Federal Police, and more specifically the Coordination and Support Directorate (DCA/CSD) and the Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP), which share the same buildings, have a wide range of collective sports on offer, supported by Sport Vlaanderen but above all by their own resources.

Sports activities are organised within the framework of the Federal Police's sports policy. Colleagues are encouraged to make the most of their "sports hour" to promote their work/life balance by taking part in group sessions.

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.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Workers subject to at least one annual periodic health assessment	12,700	12,994	14,158	14,403
Workers who have a safety function	6,415	3,572	3,057	2,369
Workers who have a position with increased vigilance	247	187	173	147
Workers at particular risk	1,308	766	611	522
Special categories (disabled, young people, trainees, pupils, students, pregnant or breastfeeding workers, temporary workers, LEAs)	40*	8	9	3
Total	8,010	4,533	3,850	3,041

* 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.

	2019*	2020	2021	2022
Analysis activities	477	399	252	377
<i>Detailed reports about serious work accidents, indicative measures, purchase files, observation</i>				

	2019*	2020	2021	2022
Formulation of opinions	473	650	604	913
<i>Risk analyses, material requests (DMAT), Material Evaluation Committee (CEM), submission, fire prevention files, work site visit reports</i>				
Collaboration activities	219	195	280	542
<i>Drafting of risk analyses of tasks and missions, committee, working groups</i>				
Handling of occupational accidents, including analysis work**	1,260	934	1,068	1,286
Activities in the Committees for Prevention and Protection at Work <i>(including those of the Director)</i>	84	133	224	443

*Reports completed by prevention/Safety advisors were adapted in 2021 to have a better understanding of the types of activities performed.

However, in 2019, we did not differentiate risk analyses for advice/recommendations from risk analysis participations.

**An industrial accident implies that there is a possibility of work incapacity, whereas an incident involves an event or malfunction that does not result in injury.

Veterinary activities for the Integrated Police

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

Consultations	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
for Federal Police dogs	443	787	845	782	725
for Local Police dogs	180	214	573	168	248
for horses	5,784	2,700	4,281*	3,912	875**
External consultations for unfit horses***	171	242	269	242	316
Total	6,578	3,943	5,968	5,104	2,164

* 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), This requires rehabilitation and regular checks.

**Routine consultations are no longer counted.

*Retired or unfit horses are horses that can no longer be engaged in missions and are housed with people who look after them during their retirement. However, they remain the property of the Federal Police.

Our material

- Tailor-made work for a tailor-made service.
- 12,724,110 euros in investments.
- Car fleet renewal.

Vehicles

By 2021, we invested heavily in vehicles bearing the police stripe and logo. In 2022, we are focusing on unmarked vehicles.

Vehicles purchased	2020	2021	2022
Unmarked vehicles	278	384	194
Vehicles with police logo	157	208	31
incl. vehicles from special DAB budget (non-recurring)	27	27	0
incl. heavy-duty vehicles (>3.5 tonnes, including buses, armoured vehicles and water cannons)	4	1	1
incl. hybrid vehicles	30	52	3
Total	496	672	225

* Do NOT add the three numbers together to get the total number of vehicles. In fact, heavy-duty vehicles are already counted as anonymous or police-striped vehicles.

Federal Police service vehicles *	2020	2021	2022
Anonymous vehicles (not including the Directorate of Security (DAB))	2,267	2,453	2,625
Vehicles with police logo	1,401	1,451	1,271
Heavy-duty vehicles	110	110	111

* Do NOT add the three numbers together to get the total number of vehicles. In fact, heavy-duty vehicles are already counted as anonymous or police-striped vehicles.



Delfine Persoon christens the new SPN-01 vessel

On 30 May 2022, the Maritime and River Police (SPN) officially christened its new patrol vessel, the SPN-01. Its sponsor is none other than Delfine Persoon, Chief Inspector and world boxing champion.

The new Maritime and River Police vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and easy-to-maintain materials. Numerous ecological measures have been integrated into its design. As a result, its engines run on low-sulphur fuel and consumption is much lower than on the previous patrol boat. The engines directly supply the entire boat with electricity, and the heat they produce is recovered to supply most of the on-board heating.



Vehicles adapted to the needs of our dogs and their handlers

In 2022, the Directorate of Logistics' Fleet Department launched a project to equip the new vehicles of the Directorate of Dog Support (DACH).

43 of the new vehicles must be equipped to meet the operational requirements of the different canine units: operability and comfort for both handlers and dogs, taking into account technical and budgetary requirements. A major planning challenge!

New synergies have been created thanks to internal cooperation between our Fleet Department and the Directorate of Dog Support. They have enabled us to enhance our skills and expertise.

Operability, benchmarking, enthusiasm, safety, ergonomics and human and animal comfort are the watchwords of this project.



Weapons and ammunition

In terms of individual weapons (firearms, telescopic batons, spray, handcuffs, accessories, etc.), we spent 1,627,360 euros for the Federal Police.

Purchases of weapons and ammunition *	2020	2021	2022
Individual weapons	1,288	0**	0
<i>Amount</i>	€512,907	€139,269	/
Ammunition	5,560,000 cartridges	4,538,000 cartridges	6,216,000 cartridges
<i>Amount</i>	€945,544	€781,476	€1,369,268
Grenades, tear gas and smoke grenades (special weapons) - Amount	€189,828	€53,324	€111,273
<i>Amount</i>			
"Cougars" grenade launcher - Amount	/	€15,791	/
<i>Amount</i>			
Batons + accessories	3,206	3,477	5,665
<i>Amount</i>	€144,807	€122,702	€213,348
Pepper spray + accessories	13,426	7,715	3412
<i>Amount</i>	€204,824	155 754 €	€44,743
Accessories	€339,741	€278,456	€141,266

* Not included: Special Units (DSU) and National Police Academy (ANPA).

**There were no orders for individual weapons, only for spare parts.



Our infrastructure

- A presence on 143 sites.
- Renovation in progress.
- Corporate social responsibility, including infrastructure development.

In total, the Federal Police have 143 sites on the Belgian territory.

Expenses incurred by the Federal Police	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Evolution
Energy (electricity, gas, water, heating oil)	€8,684,410	€8,481,796	€6,443,110	€8,257,805	€24,239,421**	+193%
Maintenance and development costs and infrastructure rental	€6,858,048	€7,960,413	€8,319,150	€9,237,866	€11,229,865	+22 %*
Total	€15,542,458	€16,442,209	€14,762,260	€17,495,671	€35,469,286	+102%*

* The Federal Police offer partial solutions when the Régie des bâtiments/Regie der Gebouwen (building authority) is not able to provide a solution quickly. If necessary, the Federal Police stabilise the situation until the Régie des bâtiments/Regie der Gebouwen can provide a structural solution.

** The 2022 energy crisis also led to a rise in consumption costs for the Federal Police.

Renovation and fitting out of the buildings of the Directorate of Special Units and the Federal Judicial Police in Namur

On 14 November 2022, the Régie des bâtiments/Regie der Gebouwen began renovating and fitting out a building belonging to the Federal Police's Directorate of Special Units at the Witte de Haelen complex in Brussels.

These works represent an investment of around 17 million euros to renovate a building with a surface area of approximately 4,654 m². This is more than half the size of a football pitch, with several floors, of course. The challenge of this renovation will be to respond as effectively as possible to the specific needs of this Directorate.

The project is part of a sustainable development approach, with the installation of solar panels, the use of energy-efficient materials, etc. The aim is to achieve "very low energy" performance.

In addition to these renovations, a new perimeter security system will be installed throughout the complex.

A bold project to regroup the two Namur sites was launched in November 2018 in the judicial district of Namur, following the merger of the judicial districts of Namur and Dinant in 2014, and the distribution of the Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) and the Coordination and Support Directorate (DCA/CSD) over four sites (two in Dinant and two in Namur). The Covid period caused a considerable delay, but 2022 saw the completion of this important project.

This success is the result of a number of successive stages: a feasibility study involving consultation with all employees, a major communication campaign, the adoption of social support measures, the refurbishment of the majority of our premises and the reorganisation of all services, with their distribution over two sites.

The completion of this project was only made possible by the investment of everyone involved in a genuine partnership between the Federal Police and the Régie des bâtiments/Regie der Gebouwen.

In Liège, the Federal Judicial Police (PJF/FGP) is experiencing major infrastructure problems. By the end of 2022, various blocks on the Rue Saint-Léonard and Rue du Palais sites were no longer accessible, as they required intervention.

The Régie des bâtiments/Regie der Gebouwen is working closely with the PJF/FGP and the Directorate of Logistics (DRL) of the Federal Police to overcome these infrastructure problems.



Moving to the Haras de Wisbecq, a new era for the cavalry

An important and historic page in the history of the cavalry was turned on 2 December 2022. After more than a century of cavalry presence in Brussels, all staff and horses have left the Etterbeek barracks for the new site at the Haras de Wisbecq in Rebecq, Walloon Brabant. This new, modern facility offers many advantages.

Animal welfare

At the Witte de Haelen barracks in Etterbeek, there were no meadows for the horses, nor were there any nearby, given the urban environment. There was only one indoor arena for the 110 cavalry horses and the complex's stables were dilapidated.

The Haras de Wisbecq covers an area of 15 hectares. In addition to the ten hectares of meadows, the domain includes two covered tracks and 145 stalls that comply perfectly with animal welfare regulations.

More environmentally friendly

The Haras de Wisbecq is virtually energy-neutral, thanks to its 450 solar panels, well-insulated interiors and the recovery of one million litres of rainwater from the roofs every year. Straw and hay will come from the region, where agriculture is very common.

No more polluting transport of hay, straw and manure, and no more moving the horses themselves out of the capital.

Lower (operating) costs

Operating costs are low thanks to energy-saving measures, rainwater recovery and the proximity of agricultural land.

The Haras de Wisbecq is located southwest of Brussels, along the E429 motorway, and is easily accessible. Getting the horses to the starting point of a mission will therefore take less time on average, and cost less. The cavalry provides support to Local Police zones and Federal Police services all over Belgium, and therefore has to travel extensively.

Freeing up space in Etterbeek

The relocation of the cavalry will free up space in the Etterbeek barracks. The Régie des bâtiments/Regie der Gebouwen is examining how this space can be used in the most useful and efficient way for the benefit of the police and security services.



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	2021	2022
Files for the Federal Police	76	44	66	38	84
Files for the Local Police	19	15	17	10	15
Management of police legitimization and identification cards	2,529	2,198	1,768	7,945*	8,663*
<i>for the Federal Police</i>	892	742	607	5,165	5,803
<i>for the Local Police</i>	1,637	1,445	1,161	2,618	2,860

* Large increase due to replacement of old cards

Our budget

- A federal breathing space for recruitment, operations and investment.
- 27 projects sponsored by Europe.

Overall budget

The budget of 2,556,228,000 euros (excluding terrorism-related appropriations) is shared between the Federal Police and the Local Police.

Local Police zones have two main sources of funding: the municipalities and the federal government. The federally-financed portion is made up mainly of federal grants and the Road Safety Fund (FSR/VVF).

A cross-functional budget of 252 million is planned. This GPI (Integrated Police) budget is a joint budget for the Federal and Local police forces. This budget is used to carry out joint projects and strengthen the Federal Police's support for the Local Police.

It is divided into five categories:

- staff;
- operations;
- investment;
- grants;
- subsidies.

Federal Police	2019	2020	2021	2022
Staff	813,689,000	920,463,000	917,951,000	1,084,340,229
Operations	90,653,860	94,743,000	98,029,835	143,966,812
Investment	20,883,000	45,517,500	47,339,081	11,495,599
Allocations		/	/	/
Subsidies	1,170,000	1,344,000	1,346,000	1,244,000
Total	926,395,860	1,062,067,500	1,064,665,916	1,255,687,590

Integrated Police	2019	2020	2021	2022
Staff	108,745,000	97,637,000	90,907,774	83,584,500
Operations	73 522 929	82,469,122	138,983,348	142,958,151
Investment	6 559 657	10,877,445	32,551,962	11,495,599
Allocations	/	/	/	/
Subsidies	13,986,000	14,149,000	14,231,000	14,233,000
Total	202,976,586	205 214 567	276,835,084	252,271,250

Local Police	2019	2020	2021	2022
Staff	/	/	/	/
Operations	/	/	/	/
Investment	/	/	/	/
Allocations	947,998,000	957,585,000	917,333,000	1,017,469,000
Subsidies	36,878,000	97,000,000	32,915,000	40,800,000
Total	958,060,000	984,876,000	1,054,585,000	1,058,269,000

Total	2019	2020	2021	2022
Staff	922,434,000	1,018,100,000	1,008,858,774	1,167,924,729
Operations	164,176,789	177,212,122	237,013,183	286,924,963
Investment	27,442,657	56,394,945	79,891,043	37,632,148
Allocations	947,998,000	95,585,000	917,333,000	1,017,469,000
Subsidies	52,197,000	112,575,000	48,653,000	56,277,000
Total	2,114,248, 446	2,321,867,067	2,291,749,000	2,566,227,840

Envelopes for essential investments and structural needs

Since 2021, the police force has been on a growth trajectory, with an additional annual budget injection.

A budget envelope is an amount allocated to be spent in a particular area. The police receive this envelope to invest in their operations and projects.

The envelopes granted amount to:

f

Year	Additional amount
2021	+ 50,000,000 euros
2022	+ 70,000,000 euros
2023	+ 90,000,000 euros
2024	+ 100,000,000 euros

In 2022, 70 million euros were freed up for the overall strengthening of the police force as called for in the government agreement.

The government wants to recruit 1,600 aspiring officers a year to provide the Local and Federal Police with the reinforcements they need. To achieve this, over 30.37 million euros were spent on training, equipment, salaries and the recruitment campaign, underlining the ambition of having more officers on the streets.

Furthermore, the annual budget allocated to the Federal Police cannot finance all its needs. That is why over 18 million euros of additional funding has been allocated for essential needs such as replacing equipment and materials, boosting the salary scheme and supporting the development of expertise.

Lastly, 11.5 million euros were devoted to (re)investments such as strengthening the ICT infrastructure, implementing the New Way of Working/Flexwork, upgrading the vehicle fleet and new initiatives such as cell security.

Investments were also made in existing and new infrastructures, as well as in ICT resources and non-digital equipment.

On 17 June 2022, the Council of Ministers set out the outlines of a system for directing the personnel credits available to the Federal Police for the coming years (up to 2024). Budgetary resources have therefore been made available to enable a **1-for-1 replacement** at the Federal Police, as well as an **additional strengthening of personnel capacity** by 195 members of staff for the Federal Judicial Police (DGJ), 45 for the General Commissioner's Office (CG), and 150 for the General Directorate of the Administrative Police (DGA).

European funding as a lever for more resources

In 2022, the Federal Police obtained European subsidies for 27 of its projects, representing a total amount of 29,681,240 euros (total amount of projects: 39,263,193 euros). Subsidies have therefore been allocated to projects focusing on improving and extending international information exchange, border controls, the fight against cybercrime, international drug trafficking, the fight against human trafficking, the fight against the online sexual abuse of minors and high-risk criminal networks. In particular, the grants enabled the recruitment of the necessary technical profiles, the acquisition of specialised technical equipment and the organisation of action days and consultation meetings at (inter)national level.

The Federal Police are also involved as a partner in nine projects financed by Europe and set up by external partners. For our services and expertise in these projects, we received a grant totalling 325,489 euros (total project budget: 327,845 euros). They include projects to combat international drug trafficking, the online sexual abuse of minors and fake news.

	2022
Projects with the Federal Police as project partner	9
Projects with the Federal Police as coordinator	27
Project partner grant	327,845 euros
Project budget Project partner	325,489 euros
Coordinator grant	29,355,751 euros
Budget for coordinating project	38,935,348 euros

The sharp increase in the grant obtained for coordinated projects in 2022 (in 2021, the total amount of projects was 1.24 million euros) is mainly due to the fact that 2021 was a transition year during which the focus was on preparing the European Union's new multi-annual budget. The project proposals prepared in 2021 were then submitted in 2022. An amount was allocated for 17 national projects under the new multi-annual budget. These 17 projects, most of which will run until the end of 2024, have received a grant of 28,623,111 euros (total project budget: 38,164,149 euros).



The police as an employer

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- There was a slight increase in the number of candidates who applied for an operational job.
- The selection procedure has been reviewed and made more efficient; several tests have been adapted or digitised.
- The Federal Police have launched a new project for young people aged 14 to 18, namely "The Rookies".



[Recruitment & selection](#)



[Training](#)

Recruitment and selection for the Integrated Police

- Employer branding, an ongoing concern.
- Partnership with sports federations around values.
- The Rookies, the next generation.

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	2020	2021	2022
Candidates for the operational staff*	12,438	13,218	12,326
Selected candidates for the operational staff*	1 626	2,269	2,063
Candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	8,241	10,370	4,176
Selected candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	2,079	1,550	864
Total	24,935	27,407	19,429

* This number is lower because there is no longer a separate language test. Language level is now measured using cognitive tests.

Internal recruitment	2020	2021	2022
Candidates for the operational staff*	1,311	1,157	1,263
Selected candidates for the operational staff*	591	600	619
Candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	541	0**	304
Selected candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	92	0**	123
Total	2,536	1,757	2,309

* This number is lower because there is no longer a separate language test. Language level is now measured using cognitive tests.

Total recruitment	2020	2021	2022	Evolution
Candidates for the operational staff*	14,300	14,375	13,589	-5.78%
Selected candidates for the operational staff*	2,148	2,869	2,682	-6.97%
Candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	8,782	10,370	4,480	-43.20%
Selected candidates for the administrative and logistic staff	2,171	1,550	987	-16.51%

Total recruitment	2020	2021	2022	Evolution
Total	27,407	29,164	21,738	-34.16%

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

Selection tests

A detailed description of the selection tests for "uniformed duties" and "civilian duties" is available on www.jobpol.be.

Total	2019	2020	2021	2022
Professional tests	1,380	2,692	2,016	3,133
Sports tests	15,271	8,306	10,246	15,129
Cognitive tests	13,709	13,040	12,031	16,305
Language tests	9,104	6,926	6,408	47*
Personality tests	11,909	10,403	10,947	9,414
Background checks	4,471	2,607	3,307	5,634
Selection boards	5,402	3,990	4,395	No application given the new recruitment and selection procedure
Deliberations	6,706	5,084	5,693	5,754

* This number is lower because there is no longer a separate language test. Language level is now measured using cognitive tests.



Success Story

Partnership between the police and Judo Belgium

Respect, benevolence and the minimal use of violence are values shared by judoka and the police. From a recruitment point of view, judokas are ideal candidates for police jobs. Judo Belgium and the Federal Police have joined forces around these shared values and a recruitment policy. This partnership will involve all judo clubs, the Integrated Police and any other interested parties. The theme of this partnership is Respect everywhere and always. The new partnership was presented on 5 October 2022 by Annelies Verlinden, Minister of the Interior, Institutional Reforms and Democratic Renewal.

In practical terms, the collaboration between the police and Judo Belgium consists of workshops on respect and violence management, recruitment information sessions at major judo events, judo training and police judokas acting as ambassadors for their sport and their job.

The judo-police collaboration is part of a series of partnerships that the police are forging with organisations such as Belgian Cycling, non-profit organisations such as Capital, educational establishments and others.



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	2021	2022
Brochures and flyers	40,000	69,000	/	10,000	117,000 flyers 20,000 brochures 1,090 posters
Telephone calls	/	20,985	41,984	56,530	57,833
Emails (dealt with)	/	14,158	25,985	28,433	31,591
Jobpol website visitors	/	1,414,750	1,858,442	1,599,843	582,055
Facebook messages	2,925	3,782	2,551	3,978	not applicable
Info days in police schools	8	36	7	25	11
Followers on the Jobpol Facebook page	28,452	31,846	36,916	40,630	54,151
Followers on the Jobpol Instagram page	/	/	6,936	8,816	10,900
Recruitment events (info sessions, job fairs, etc.)	293	265	214	574	720
Other events (festivals, sports events, etc.)	432	241	/*	/*	2,686

* Some marketing tools were not used and events could not take place due to the corona crisis.



Enthusiastic staff highlight specialised jobs

On 21 May 2022, around 100 Federal Police staff welcomed over 700 applicants interested in a specialised job with the Federal Police.

Given the massive turnout, this first recruitment day, which focused specifically on the wide range of specialised jobs available with the Federal Police, was a real success. The information stands were teeming with applicants from Saturday morning until late afternoon. Ambassadors from the Federal Police presented career opportunities and the content of specialised functions.

The different demonstrations with the tracker dogs, the water cannon, the riders, etc. took place under a summer sun. In the gym, contestants jostled to do their best on the obstacle course.



Police Village and 21 July festivities

After a two-year hiatus due to the health crisis, the Police Village, organised in Brussels to celebrate the national holiday, was back in action, again highlighting the many career opportunities available within the Integrated Police. To inform and attract potential candidates, numerous ambassadors from the police ranks were on hand on Place Poelaert to talk to potential future colleagues.

After a two-year absence, there was plenty to see and celebrate in the Police Village and on Place des Palais during the parade: anniversaries, including that of the Directorate of Special Units (DSU), Rookies on probation at the Federal Police, officers decorated for acts of courage and, of course, the different demonstrations (drones, motorcyclists, phishing and cybersecurity prevention, police dogs, negotiated management of public space, interventions on the public highway) and the various information stands run by friendly police officers.

The Village is a condensed version of the detective world. It is an excellent opportunity to showcase the wide range of attractive professions within the police force, as well as to meet the public in a relaxed and festive atmosphere.



The first class of Rookies graduates

After a series of Wednesday afternoons spent immersed in the different fields of action of the Federal Police, once a month for almost a year, the Rookies, 30 young people from all four corners of Belgium received their diploma at the end of September 2022 from First Chief Superintendent Marc De Mesmaeker, General Commissioner of the Federal Police. It is an experience they will remember for a long time!

The new "Rookies" project is aimed at young people aged 14 to 18 and is designed to strengthen the links between young people and the police. Thirty young people had the opportunity to discover the work of the Federal Police through a variety of activities. This project is part of the "Mutual Respect" campaign, which intends to rebuild bridges between the safety professionals and the citizens. This is the aim of "The Rookies".

The call for applications for the second edition of The Rookies at the Federal Police was launched in October 2022. There are plenty of candidates! The young trainees who graduated from the first class are also willing to sponsor the new recruits. The enthusiasm and satisfaction of both the young people and the Federal Police units speak volumes and are contagious!



Training for the Integrated Police

- Training: back to the classroom.
- Focus on leadership.
- CEPOL is active on many fronts.

Basic training

Sessions*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Constable	4	4	2	3	3
Inspector	23	23	28	28	30
Chief inspector	10	10	10	10	12
Chief inspector with specialisation	2	2	2	2	2
Preparatory training for middle-ranking officers	2	2	2	2	2
Superintendent	4	1	2	2	2
Preparatory training for senior officers	2	1	2	2	2
Accelerated training social promotion constable to inspector	4	2	2	2	3
Security constables and assistants (DAB)	21	14	9	14	9

* Number of sessions that have begun.

People trained*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Constable	90	69	66	86	76
Inspector	1,136	1,168	1,133	1,116	1,518
Chief inspector	385	355	409	433	432
Chief inspector with specialisation	23	24	38	27	182
Preparatory training for middle-ranking officers	39	47	25	25	25
Superintendent	110	154	118	120	152
Preparatory training for senior officers	33	16	9	10	18
Accelerated training social promotion constable to inspector	99	54	39	46	59
Security constables and assistants (DAB)	414	290	157	249	161

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

People who successfully completed their training*	2019	2020	2021	2022
Constable	34	21	82	103
Inspector	1,170	1,186	1,099	1,330
Chief inspector	389	346	408	432
Chief inspector with specialisation	42	16	27	**
Preparatory training for middle-ranking officers	39	23	24	25
Superintendent	110	152	119	123
Preparatory training for senior officers	33	15	10	26
Accelerated training social promotion constable to inspector	63	41	43	7
Security constables and assistants (DAB)	320	261	231	174

* 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.

** The number of trained Chief inspectors with specialisation is included in the number of Chief inspectors trained. All Chief inspectors (including those with specialisation) undergo the same training. Further training is then organised for specialisation.



Total number of people trained

The catch-up process initiated in 2021 in terms of training continued in 2022.

The figures in the table below include both basic and other training. For basic training, the figures include the number of people who started their training this year. For other training (promotional, continuous, functional, certified), this is the number of people who completed their training this year.

Schools	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ANPA (Berg, Brussels, Ghent, Jumet, Vottem, Wilrijk)	23,778	25,923	14,626	34,377	34,238
Académie de police de Namur	3,918	4,402	2,035	2,930	4,088
APPH (Jurbise)	5,849	6,896	4,272	6,804	5,797
Campus VESTA (Antwerp)	6,625	10,765	6,115	7,596	9,165
École de Police de la Province de Liège	4,224	6,169	2,051	5,789	5,442
ERIP-GIP (Brussels)	5,532	6,277	4,099	13,609	10,834
PAULO (Ghent)	6,182	6,745	3,478	7,766	7,142

Schools	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
PIVO (Asse)	4,040	3,272	2 17	3,223	3,715
PLOT (Limburg)	3,214	3,897	2,680	4,812	3,789
WPS (Zedelgem)	4,757	5,349	3,238	6,109	6,055
Total	68,119	79,695	44,769*	93,015	90,265

Management certificate: 68 future new divisional commissioners

In 2022, 68 commissioners obtained their management certificate. At the end of a two-year training process, successful candidates are eligible to apply for a position as divisional commissioner and obtain a management certificate.

To obtain this certificate, candidates attend training courses and presentations on new societal developments and/or new management skills. As a group, they examined complex issues linked to the world of policing, such as polarisation, professional secrecy and the relationship between the police and citizens.

The new features of the training programme include company visits. Candidates were able to visit companies known for their participative, people-oriented organisational culture, such as Schoenen Torfs, Decathlon Belgium, Colruyt and Wilms Rolluiken NV for Dutch-speaking candidates. French-speaking candidates visited FPS Mobility, NRJ Nostalgie and Odoo, among others.

Successful candidates at a glance

	Dutch-speaking successful candidates	French-speaking successful candidates
Men	19	23
Women	15	11
Total	34	34

CEPOL training courses

CEPOL, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, which aims to promote European and international cooperation through training, provides training courses in various forms: on-site, but also through webinars, online courses and modules.

The sessions cover several topics such as sexual exploitation of children, drug trafficking, environmental crime (such as the fight against illegal fishing), the dark web, cryptocurrencies, or gender-based hate or violence crimes.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Webinars	261	839	682	428
Modules	6	127	107	187
Online sessions	54	35	28	202
On site	80	3	52	85

European cooperation: sharing expertise and skills in driving techniques

The Federal Police is taking part in a project to exchange driving techniques between instructors from different European police forces.

In 2022, the Federal Police invited its European partners to take part in a driving techniques session in Belgium. Candidates from Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland and Latvia attended. International police projects of this kind enable the different police forces to exchange techniques and expertise.