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2023



Annual Report on the Work of the Police, 2023

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In 2023, the police met all security challenges, including the most unexpected

The work of some 8,000 police officers in 2023, and the extent and complexity of their work, are presented in this annual report, which details the scope of police tasks and how successfully they were tackled. The results are good, as shown by the statistics in all the main areas of police work, such as crime detection and prevention, traffic safety, public order and border protection.

Much of the police work, and the constant adaptation of work processes, was focused on protecting the national border. In the very first days of 2023, when Croatia joined the Schengen Area, we started a new, adapted method of police work. All border units were abolished and police officers were transferred inland, mainly to regional police stations and police stations for compensatory measures.

Last October, the Government decided to reintroduce controls at the internal borders with Croatia and Hungary virtually overnight, due to the increased threat of terrorism, extremism and organised cross-border crime. Several border crossing points were re-established and police officers deployed. The correctness of this decision was demonstrated by the number of cross-border crime and border-crossing offences dealt with, as well as by the increased number of persons refused entry for non-compliance with the entry requirements, the number of so-called SIS cases detected, and the number of other traffic safety and public order offences detected. The rapid reintroduction of internal border controls has confirmed the flexibility of the Slovenian Police to respond extremely well to new circumstances.

For some years now, a number of tasks have been linked to the protection of the national border and have become a regular feature of the prevention of illegal migration. The Slovenian Police take all necessary measures to prevent, detect and investigate irregular migration, including the detection of organised crime groups involved in the smuggling of illegal migrants. This is also reflected in the data on migrants and smugglers detected.

In addition to the aforementioned tasks in the area of border protection, the general police tasks also include road traffic safety and the maintenance of public order.

In terms of road safety, there were a few more accidents than the previous year, but with fewer consequences. Our roads took fewer lives and there were fewer serious and light injuries. However, despite constant warnings and numerous preventive measures, the predominant causes of the most serious accidents are still inappropriate speed, side and direction of driving and failure to respect the rules on priority.

In 2023, the police provided security for a large number of demanding public gatherings and sporting events, but fewer offences were dealt with in terms of maintaining public order. We estimate that the steady decline in the number of public order offences over the last few years is due to various factors, including targeted police work at events posing security risks and well-thought-out preventive and repressive measures when there is an increase in security issues.

Slightly over 54,000 crimes were dealt with in 2023. This figure is comparable to that in the period before the COVID-19 epidemic, which can be seen as the only real comparable period. There has been a 51% increase in the investigation of crime and a number of extremely complex, large-scale and high-profile investigations into international criminal organisations. For many years now, the police have been confronted with an increase in the volume of organised crime. This has an impact on the development of all other forms of crime that seriously undermine security. However, citizens are most vulnerable to criminal conduct that affects them personally, and it is then that they want the full involvement of the police. Police officers and criminal investigators treat every case with seriousness and commitment, and we are increasingly focusing our attention on preventive work that can prevent and reduce crime.

In recent years, the Slovenian Police have noted unpredictable events, in addition to their daily, regular tasks. There was a similar situation in 2023, which was full of unexpected security challenges, but we managed to provide a high level of security to the citizens of Slovenia.

One of the most shocking events was certainly the August floods. The heavy rainfall that gradually swept across the country caused severe and devastating flooding, followed by numerous landslides. The work of the police was mainly related to the direct rescue of people and property, assisting in the evacuation of people from the areas at risk, monitoring access to these areas and the protection of property, traffic management due to disrupted road links and so forth. In the first few days, police helicopter crews rescued 286 people and delivered more than 13 tonnes of food, fuel and other cargo to the areas at risk, with a lot more work to be done.

Like all countries in the region, Slovenia was shaken by the tragedy in not so far away Belgrade in May, when a shooting took place in a primary school, followed shortly after by another, albeit unrelated, tragic shooting attack. Following this event, the Slovenian Police stepped up their efforts to make schools safer for children. A number of preventive and other activities were carried out to detect indicators of deviant behaviour and to promote self-defence conduct in educational institutions. In addition to all the activities carried out by the police in the field in the days immediately after the attack, we continued to participate in or organise expert consultations and conferences with governmental and non-governmental organisations, relevant ministries and other services. In particular, we have strengthened our cooperation with schools, with which we continue to cooperate actively, and we have lectured to children, parents and professionals on topics in this area.

In summary, our work in 2023 demonstrated that we were up to the security challenges we face. For this, thanks are due to all police staff. A guiding principle of any leader must also be to take care of employees, to ensure that they are rewarded for their efforts and dedication with good working conditions and, above all, with organisational and professional stability and continuity in the recruitment of new staff, which is a prerequisite for the good functioning of an institution of this size that is responsible for people's security.

There were 8,162 public employees employed at the Police in 2023, which is 3% less than in 2022. The police face the same HR challenges as any other organisation. Individuals often find a better opportunity in the commercial sector, some simply find that the police profession is not for them, and the greater outflow of personnel is also connected with the retirement of more generations of employees. This is why the police have stepped up promoting the police profession and job opportunities, and through an active recruitment policy we are constantly working to reverse the decline in the number of police officers and to relieve the pressure on existing police officers by recruiting more new officers, thus ensuring even more successfully the optimal performance of police duties. We have also managed to hold the second enrolment period for students of the Police College for the first time.

Ultimately the police are not an end in themselves, but one of the pillars of society that looks after the well-being of others. We will continue to strive to strengthen people's trust in our work, as this is what gives legitimacy to our police profession, our tasks, our powers and any encroachment on human rights, which must always be justified and carried out in accordance with the highest principles of respect for the rule of law and human dignity. This has always been and will continue to be our guiding principle in the future.

mag. Senad Jušić
Director General of the Police
Chief Police Superintendent

Note on methodology

The statistics provided in the 2023 Annual Report on the Work of the Police (hereinafter: Annual Report) are mainly obtained from the Statistics, Annual Report application (hereinafter: Statistics application), available in the Police Information and Telecommunication System.

Data for previous years extracted from the Statistics application and reported in this annual report may differ from the same data reported in previous annual reports. The statistical databases for the annual report are no longer 'frozen' by the police, but all statistics for all years are captured on a specific date; for the 2023 annual report, they were made available to all units on 12 February 2024. This means that all corrections and any subsequent entries have been taken into account for the statistics from previous years. The statistics are therefore no longer comparable over time, in particular towards the end of the multi-year period under observation. Changes in legislation (for example, in the case of the number of offences, this is a change in the Criminal Code) are also one of the reasons for the lack of comparability of statistics.

Statistics are usually presented over a longer period of time (five or ten years). Some data are still shown for a shorter period because they have only been recorded for a shorter period or because of frequent legislative changes in recent years (e.g. amendments to the Minor Offences Act). The emphasis is on the fluctuation of the frequency of the security incidents dealt with over a longer period of time (trends). A negative trend means that the number of incidents has decreased over a longer period of time, while a positive trend means that the number has increased over a longer period of time. Instead of the term 'trend', the term 'trend curve' may also be used, which may be either a curve sloping downward or upward. For the safety situation, a negative trend is favourable for some events, such as the number of deaths in road accidents, but unfavourable for the number of prevention activities.

Due to extraordinary security incidents, statistics can also vary significantly from year to year. The 2016 figures are subject to significant variations due to the migrant crisis and the police strike, while the 2020 and 2021 figures are due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Croatia became a full member of the Schengen Area on 1 January 2023, therefore Slovenia has only five border crossing points on the external Schengen border: three on the air border and two on the maritime border. Therefore, the data in the section State border control and enforcement of foreigners legislation for 2023 are not comparable with the data of previous years.

Crime statistics are shown by the date of the first final document (criminal complaint or report to supplement a criminal complaint).¹ Statistically displayed are all criminal offences dealt with, with the exception of criminal offences relating to road transport. The statistics do not include incidents with signs of crimes caused by children. Crimes for which the perpetrators are prosecuted on the basis of a complaint and for which the victim has already withdrawn from prosecution at the time of filing the complaint (written statement of withdrawal or statement of withdrawal of the proposal to prosecute) are shown in a separate table, but are not included in the total number of crimes dealt with. The crimes dealt with are those for which the police have lodged a criminal complaint or a supplementary report. Investigated crimes are those where the suspect was already known when the crime was reported or discovered, or was discovered by the police at a later stage.

Data on wanted and recovered vehicles are displayed by the date of the closing document of the crime to which they belong. Data on seized illicit drugs are shown for all criminal offences (serious crimes and

¹ The date of the first final document does not specify the content. For each offence, the last value of the variables at the time of the capture of the statistics from the criminal record is always shown.

petty crimes or misdemeanours) by the date of entry in the database. In the case of reported and detected offences committed by the police and Ministry of the Interior officials, an additional condition is that the first final document of the offence is the form for transfer to the Specialised Public Prosecutor's Office (KR86).

In order to define offences resulting from organised criminal activity, four mandatory criteria and at least two of the seven variable (optional) criteria must be met. The mandatory criteria are the existence of a group of at least three people, the operation over a long period of time, the acquisition of financial gain and/or social power, and the commission of formally prosecutable offences. Variable criteria are the use of violence and/or corruption, international activities, involvement in money laundering, internal rules of conduct and the division of roles and tasks among group members, an entrepreneurial style of operation, and influence on the media, the economy, the administration and/or politics.

A person may be subject to one or more undercover investigation measures at the same time. For this reason, the number of persons is not aggregated. This is because several undercover measures may be ordered against one person, and several persons may be subject to a single undercover measure.

Until 2019, the number of undercover investigation measures was reported by the police as the number of acquisitions of data on traffic in the electronic communications network (Article 149b of the Criminal Procedure Act) and the number of other undercover investigation measures (Article 149a, Article 150, paragraph one, and Articles 151, 155 and 155a of the Criminal Procedure Act), and from 2019 as the number of acquisitions of data on the securing of traffic data related to communications (149.c of the Criminal Procedure Act) and the number of data acquisitions on deposits, account balances and turnover (Article 156 of the Criminal Procedure Act). The statistics are thus taken from two different databases. One of them comprises measures set out in Articles 149.b, 149c and 156 of the Criminal Procedure Act, while the data on the remaining measures (Article 149a, Article 150, paragraph one, and Articles 151, 155 and 155a of the Criminal Procedure Act) are collected by the Special Tasks Division of the Criminal Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate.

The annual report provides statistical data on the number of actual – rather than statistical – persons. This means that a person may be suspected of one or more offences, or may have suffered one or more offences, or may have committed one or more offences in a given period (year).

The statistics on the number of restraining orders issued include the number of restraining orders issued by the police under the Police Tasks and Powers Act and by courts under the Criminal Procedure Act. The data are therefore not comparable with previous years, when only the number of restraining orders under the Police Tasks and Powers Act was reported.

Since Croatia became a full member of the Schengen Area on 1 January 2023, systematic border controls at the Slovenian-Croatian land border were abolished. The internal Schengen border with Croatia allows free movement of traffic. Slovenia has only five border crossing points on the external Schengen border: three on the air border and two on the maritime border. Data in the section State border control and enforcement of foreigners legislation for 2023 are therefore not comparable with the data for the previous years.

Compensatory measures are measures taken by the police at internal borders to prevent, detect and investigate cross-border crime and to prevent illegal migration. The compensatory measures include the following police powers: checks on persons, verification of persons, inspection of documents and inspection of means of transport and items. Following Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area, the police stations for compensatory measures have been reinforced in terms of staff and the number of compensatory measures has increased (replacing the abolished systematic surveillance of the state border), therefore such figures for 2023 are also not comparable with those for the previous years.

A return decision is issued to a foreigner who is staying illegally in the Republic of Slovenia. A decision with a time limit for voluntary departure allows a foreigner 10 or 30 days to leave. A foreigner who fails to comply with the deadline for voluntary departure is removed from the country. A foreigner who is staying illegally in Slovenia and who presents a risk of absconding (Article 68 of the Foreigners Act) and a foreigner whose stay in Slovenia poses a danger to public order, public security or the security of the State (paragraph seven of Article 66 of the Foreigners Act) is issued with a return decision without a deadline for voluntary departure. In this case too, the police will also remove the foreigner from the country.

As an offence procedure may cover several offences under different legal rules (substantive rules), the total number of offence procedures is generally smaller than the sum total of offences in each area (maintaining public order and ensuring the general safety of persons and property, ensuring road safety, controlling the national border and enforcing the rules on foreign nationals).

For emergency calls to 113, the ringing time is measured from the time the phone starts ringing at the receiving location until the call is answered.

Emergency events are events in which there is an imminent threat to life, events in which a police officer is assaulted or needs assistance, events of a road traffic accident with serious bodily injuries or a road traffic accident endangering the safety of other road users, incidents in which preparatory actions for the commission of a criminal offence are announced or a criminal offence is in progress and the perpetrator might flee, and incidents which in the opinion of the shift manager of the Operations and Communication Centre require immediate police intervention (Article 88 of the Police Regulations).

A complaint may contain several grounds for complaint, so that the number of grounds is greater than the number of complaints resolved (a complaint may relate to different areas of work).

Training is dealt with in several chapters, with a stand-alone chapter on Education, Training and Development providing a more comprehensive overview, while individual chapters highlight specific features.

International cooperation is dealt with in several chapters, with the stand-alone chapter International Cooperation providing a more comprehensive presentation of the field, while individual chapters highlight specific features.

1 Characteristics of police work in 2023

National public security tasks

The priority tasks of the police were defined in the Medium-Term Police Development and Work Plan 2023–2027, the Annual Police Work Plan 2023 and other strategic documents. These tasks involved first and foremost the prevention of all forms of violence. In the area of crime, the focus was on the investigation of serious and organised crime, in which the National Bureau of Investigation played an important role. One of the priorities was the proper management of irregular migration and the lawful and professional exercise of police powers with respect for human rights and dignity. Special emphasis was also given to (digital) support for policing.

In 2023, the police faced security challenges such as increased flows of irregular migration, congestion on roads and motorways, new forms of crime and so forth. Significant changes in irregular migration were also the result of Croatia's joining the Schengen Area on 1 January 2023 and the lifting of systematic controls on the internal border with Croatia until 21 October 2023, when temporary controls were reintroduced on the internal land border with Croatia and Hungary.

The Slovenian Police had been preparing for *Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area* for a long time at both strategic and tactical levels. All changes were implemented in accordance with the Strategy for the Work and Organisation of the Slovenian Police after the Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Schengen Area, adopted in December 2022. The Strategy also defined the modified way of implementing compensatory measures on the internal borders with all neighbouring countries, the implementation of the EU legislation on the internal borders and the activities in case of a potential temporary reintroduction of internal border controls. An agreement on the dismissal of police staff was signed with the two trade unions and the Ministry of the Interior in the context of the adjustment of police operations following Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area.

The Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police was adopted by the Slovenian Government on 20 June 2023 and entered into force on 21 June 2023. The Organisation and Human Resources Office at the Secretariat of the Ministry of the Interior immediately sent employment annexes to all police administrations, with effect from 1 July 2023, and those who did not sign the annexes were served with the relevant decisions and transfers were made.

On 21 October 2023, the police reimposed and extended temporary controls on the internal land borders with Croatia and Hungary due to terrorism risks. On 22 December 2023, the temporary controls were further extended due to the risks of irregular migration.

Additional changes were also made in the areas of technical security, video surveillance systems, telecommunications infrastructure, ICT systems and equipment. In line with the strategy, police stations for compensatory measures were moved into some of the facilities of former border crossing points. Activities related to the infrastructure and strategic border crossing points² at all national borders with neighbouring countries continued in cooperation with the Logistics Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior. However,

the infrastructure had to be re-adjusted when the control of the internal land borders with Croatia and Hungary was temporarily re-established.

² The strategic border crossing points are defined in the Strategy for the Work and Organisation of the Police after Croatia's Accession to the Schengen Area, which the Slovenian Government considered, and adopted a decision taking note thereof.

The Slovenian Police had been constantly monitoring and analysing the situation on the border with Croatia, as well as more broadly in the Western Balkans. This situation has a direct impact on the situation at Slovenia's borders. All police actions have been adapted to the security situation after Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area, with the aim of ensuring Slovenia's security and preventing illegal migration, including the measures allowed by the Schengen rules.

The effects of climate change are also increasingly becoming a security risk factor. After the great Karst fire of 2022, Slovenia was hit by storms in July 2023 and then, in August of the same year, by *catastrophic floods* unlike any other before in Slovenia, followed by a series of landslides. These events required a coordinated response from all protection and rescue forces, including the police. Police activities were primarily focused on rescuing and evacuating people, delivering emergency equipment and technical personnel to inaccessible areas, checking the condition of roads and their trafficability, and protecting people's homes and other property that was left unprotected. The police ensured that, when Slovenia requested assistance through the European Union and NATO mechanisms

The humanitarian project Donations for Home (Dam za Dom), which was launched at the end of August 2023, brought together for the first time in history the Ministry of the Interior, the Police and the Internal Affairs Inspectorate, the representative trade unions, professional associations and the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth. Funds were raised for colleagues affected by the floods.

to deal with the consequences of heavy flooding, aid convoys from abroad reached their destination quickly and without hindrance. The police were involved in rescue activities in all affected areas, and the difficult situation strengthened their bond with the local population. In December 2023, the Police and the Ministry of the Interior held an event to thank those who saved lives and property during the floods and awarded them the Police Medal for Self-Sacrifice and the Ministry's prizes for their outstanding professional work, exceptional merits and achievements in promoting a culture of safety in the face of the devastating floods in Slovenia, and for their special contributions to the strengthening of the Ministry's reputation.

Natural disasters showed how fragile the environmental balance was, so it is important that it is not further jeopardised by improperly disposed waste. *Environmental crime*, especially the illegal shipment of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, is one of the most lucrative illegal business transactions. Illegal trade in waste often coincides with other serious crimes such as corruption, money laundering, illicit drug trafficking, counterfeiting, etc. The procedures for dealing with, investigating and prosecuting environmental criminals are often complex, as these crimes can be committed or facilitated by a wide range of actors, from individuals, companies, corporations and bribed officials to organised crime groups. This poses a particular challenge for investigators and prosecutors, requiring not only in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge, capacity and skills, but also innovative and collaborative approaches, a strong desire to solve problems and prevent these crimes, and also good inter-institutional and international cooperation.

Due to the cross-border dimension of crime, in 2023 the Slovenian Police planned and implemented joint police activities with the security authorities of the EU Member States and Europol to detect and prevent serious and organised crime, including in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) projects. Europol's analyses identify the Western Balkans as an important crime hotspot, where the logistics of trafficking in illicit goods are concentrated and where new markets for criminal activities are created and new opportunities arise for criminal groups, for which Slovenia is important as an entry point to markets in the EU. *Organised crime* extends not only to the Western Balkans, but also along the Balkan route to Western Europe and from South America and China to Slovenia – the port of Koper and Jože Pučnik Airport serve as entry points to the Balkans and the European Union. The Slovenian Police cooperates intensively with the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, security services and other entities in the prevention and investigation of crimes at the Port of Koper and Jože Pučnik Airport. International cooperation and the exchange of

information and expertise are crucial in the fight against smuggling of illicit drugs and precursors and other illicit goods.

Modern communication technologies – the Internet, social media and mobile applications – have a major impact on the way organised crime groups are involved in *international trafficking in human beings*. Modern technology allows traffickers to increase anonymity, real-time encrypted communications, the ability to reach a wider range of operations (in terms of victims and clients), geographical mobility, extortion of victims and remote control of their movements. The financial management of criminal transactions is also often carried out online. Social media platforms are used by traffickers as virtual catalogues to identify new victims and to develop recruitment strategies, as there is a wealth of psychological and personal background information about new potential victims on the Internet. Therefore, the Slovenian Police started to cooperate with various portals with the aim of reducing the chances of being exploited for trafficking or other criminal offences.

Detecting and *investigating economic crime and corruption*, including the protection of the financial interests of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union and more serious forms of crime, has been a priority for the Slovenian Police for many years. New forms of crime are also a major challenge for the police. Online fraud with different modes of perpetration, which requires specific skills, especially in the fields of computer science, business operations and analytics, has been a particular challenge to detect and investigate. A major focus has been on the detection of criminal conduct in the use of recovery and resilience funds related to the pandemic and post-flood reconstruction. In the detection and prevention of crimes against the Slovenian and European budgets, financial and cybercrime and money laundering, the Slovenian Police carried out joint activities within the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) and cooperated with other competent authorities at home and abroad. Financial investigations were carried out with the aim of identifying the proceeds of crime. The police proposed provisional measures and initiated proceedings to identify assets of illicit origin.

Terrorism and extremist violence remained one of the primary threats to the European Union in 2023, and the changing security situation in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Africa and Gaza and other third regions has increased the terrorist threat to all EU Member States. In Slovenia, it has been raised from low to

The widespread digitalisation, the development of technology and the marked cross-border criminal activity urgently require a transformation of the Slovenian Police, including in the field of terrorism and extreme violence.

medium, i.e. level 3, in autumn 2023. Slovenia has also adopted the National Strategy for the Prevention of Terrorism and Violent Extremism. In Slovenia, the police act as a key link, bringing together more than 20 national stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and other interest groups, in what is known as a 'whole-of-community' approach. Participation in national inter-ministerial working groups and international working groups is crucial. It has been

active in the *Counter-Terrorism Programme Board (CTPB)*, which operates within Europol's *European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC)*, and other international forms of cooperation of an operational and systemic nature.

As regards *general crime*, property crime dominated, and there are now as many property crimes as before the epidemic. Their number also depends on social developments, the economic situation, unemployment, the organisation of perpetrators, etc. The ways and trends in which property crime is committed have also changed over the years. In 2023, the police also detected foreign organised crime groups, which were mostly specialised in specific forms of property crime.

In addition to investigating child sexual abuse and identifying victims and perpetrators, In the area of *juvenile crime* priorities were given to effective protection of victims of domestic violence, training of criminal investigators and police officers on the specifics of dealing with juvenile crime, and inter-institutional cooperation in all areas, with an emphasis on prevention and awareness-raising. The Working Group on the Study of the Effectiveness of the Treatment of Domestic Violence, established

in 2022, continued its work in 2023. The Police, in cooperation with the National Education Institute, the Education and Sports Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia, and the head teachers of educational institutions across kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, raised awareness about violence, its timely identification and effective action to protect victims.

Investigations involving both organised and economic crime investigators in the investigation of crimes related to the establishment and operation of illicit tobacco production are a new feature of the work of the National Bureau of Investigation. It is also becoming a recognised unit of the Slovenian Police in the international environment for the investigation of such crimes.

In 2023, the *National Bureau of Investigation* continued its project-based way of working the networking and cooperation of investigators with expertise in different fields, including closer cooperation with other State authorities and foreign security authorities, allowed for the accelerated closure of cases that were being dealt with over a longer period of time (e.g. TEŠ 6), the launching of new investigations, a greater flow of information and knowledge between the heads of the investigations as well as between the investigators themselves, and thus an improvement of the results of the National Bureau of Investigation. The SharePoint software environment, which the Office has been using

since October 2023, allows it to better track insights into individual cases, as it operates on a need to know basis.

In the field of *forensic and crime laboratory activities*, the National Forensic Laboratory passed the assessment for the national accreditation body in 2023 and maintained its status as an accredited laboratory according to the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The scope of accredited activities remained the same, with a total of 28 accredited methods. The integration of new instruments or devices into the laboratory infrastructure allows for safe and competent work. New instruments were added to the biological and chemical examination sections in 2023.

In 2023, the area of *public order* was again characterised by registered and unregistered public gatherings, almost to the same extent as in 2022, but much less than in 2021. Public rallies were a response by individual social groups and civil society movements to current social developments at home and abroad (e.g. the critical situation in Slovenian healthcare, the dissatisfaction of individual professional groups with the evaluation of their status, the status of migrants in Slovenia, climate change, developments related to the armed

In the light of the events surrounding the opening of the public institution Centre Rog on 26 October 2023 in Ljubljana, the Ministry of the Interior requested clarifications from the Police on the basis of Article 14 of the Rules on the Guidance and Supervision of the Police.

conflicts in Ukraine and Israel). The Police committed approximately the same amount of human and material resources as in 2022, but much less than in 2021. Due to the events surrounding the opening of the public institution Centre Rog on 26 October 2023 in Ljubljana, the Directorate for Police and Other Security Tasks of the Ministry of the Interior requested and received clarifications from the Police regarding its activities and procedures for the protection of the public gathering, which were also prepared by the police.

In 2023, the police maintained its zero tolerance approach to all forms of violence. The police strived to respect human dignity in its procedures, especially in the case of vulnerable groups. The Resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention and Suppression of Crime 2019–2023 identified key risk factors and programmes with which the police wanted to improve the identification of violence at sporting events, domestic violence, peer violence and violence against children online. The police analysed the manifestations of intolerance, monitored trends and provided knowledge and information for the effective detection, prevention and prosecution of intolerant criminal behaviour. In November 2023, the police also prepared guidelines for uniform action by police officers in dealing with offences and crimes with elements of hate/intolerance.

The police have devoted a lot of attention to the issue of peer violence. In 2023, the police dealt with more cases of peer violence than in previous years, which does not mean that there is more such violence, but that society has become more sensitive to it. After all, activities of the police and educational institutions – especially after the mass shooting in Serbia at the beginning of May³ – were directed towards better identification of peer violence, raising awareness among young people of the need to report such acts and pursuing zero tolerance when such acts are detected. The police reacted to any potential threat of school violence with the utmost seriousness.

The police stepped up work in areas with *multi-ethnic communities*. In 2023, the achievements of the recruitment of new Roma police officers in 2021 were noted. Each complex police intervention in areas with a majority Roma population was analysed separately. The findings of the analyses were shared with the police officers directly involved in such interventions, with a view to reducing professional errors, improving the efficiency of the work and increasing the safety of all those involved in the intervention.

In the field of *road safety*, the police adapted their activities to the objectives and tasks arising from the Fundamental Objectives for the work of the police in the field of road safety in 2023. In 2023, a new Resolution on the National Road Safety Programme for the period 2023–2030 was adopted, according to which the number of road traffic deaths and the number of seriously injured persons in 2023 should not exceed 96 and 760, respectively. In 2023, 82 people died in road accidents and 829 were seriously injured. The police acquired new technical equipment to make it easier and more efficient to detect various road traffic offences. The specialised knowledge of police officers involved in road traffic control and surveillance was strengthened through various training courses. The reorganisation of the traffic police improved road traffic control efficiency, particularly on motorways and expressways, and two police officers started working in the National Traffic Management Centre (NCUP).

The main priorities of the police included *ensuring the security of the national and Schengen borders and preventing unauthorised border crossings*. The police implemented tighter controls to detect and prevent irregular migration and to detect migrant smugglers. Auxiliary police officers were deployed where necessary. Task forces were set up at individual police headquarters to investigate offences of illegal crossing of the national border or territory. The police participated in operational activities at external borders of the EU Member States and in individual third countries, coordinated by Frontex, focusing on the areas of South-Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, and on the management of irregular migration along the routes leading through these areas. The Slovenian Police also cooperated with neighbouring countries in the form of mixed patrols.

As irregular migration is increasingly becoming associated with other forms of crime (including radicalisation and terrorism), the police took all lawful measures to *prevent, detect and investigate irregular migration*.

One of the more recent joint steps to more effectively prevent irregular migration and people smuggling is the 24/7 mechanism of the Western Balkans Task Force (WBTF) Rapid Response Entry Points (RREPs), with the aim of rapidly exchanging information on emergencies, intelligence, early warnings, emerging trends, etc., and consequently rapid operational response on the ground.

In 2023, the number of crimes related to people smuggling increased significantly and the reintroduction of temporary border controls on the borders with Croatia and Hungary did not improve the situation. The Slovenian Police cooperated with the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), Croatia, Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Operational Task Force ZeBRa and seconded a national expert to it on a temporary basis. The police will continue with the Brdo Migrant Smuggling project launched in November 2022. The project is aimed at strengthening and developing further police cooperation

³ A seventh-grade student killed and injured several people during a shooting spree at his primary school in Serbia, which was widely reported in Slovenian media.

and joint action with the Western Balkan countries and neighbouring countries in combating smuggling of irregular migrants.

In the area of *protection of persons and objects*, the Police carried out several event security actions in 2023, including the 12th Africa Day Conference and the Brdo Process, the Bled Strategy Forum, the 12th European Strategy Forum for the Danube Region, and the Salzburg Forum.

Ensuring conditions for police work, police oversight and police cooperation with other stakeholders

Stability and continuity are essential for the normal functioning of the police. All stakeholders have an important role to play in shaping the meaning and role of the police in society as a professional and career security force that ensures the safety of people. However, it is the responsibility of the police, and in particular of its leadership, to make its mission in society a reality. While the police gained new leadership with the advent of a new government in 2022, following the replacement of the Minister of the Interior and the appointment of a new Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, at the end of February 2023 there was also a new change in the position of Acting Director General of the Police. Senad Jušić was appointed as the new Acting Director General of the Police for a five-year term, with the possibility of reappointment, as of 8 September 2023. In his inaugural address on his appointment, Mr Jušić stressed that he felt extremely honoured and responsible given the trust placed in him, and affirmed that his work would be focused on what is essential – doing good for fellow humans.

In 2023, the constructive dialogue with both trade unions, which was based on openness and fair cooperation with a view to finding common solutions for the benefit of both the police and the employees, continued. Several joint meetings were held to discuss the issues at stake and, in most cases, provide a framework for their solution. A number of systemic regulatory problems and problems at operational level were successfully resolved. Efforts were also made to ensure that management responded promptly to all initiatives, criticisms, suggestions and other communications from the trade unions and that responses were based on professional rules and arguments.

In cooperation with the Police and Security Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, the police continued drafting a proposal for amendments to the Organisation and Work of the Police Act in early 2023, which proposes to regulate the relationship between the Ministry and the police more clearly in the part relating to police guidance and the powers of the Ministry's officials for directing and supervising police work, regulating the management of the Ministry's assets, establishing the procedure for appointing and dismissing the Director General of the Police and the Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, upgrading other labour law institutes to allow for more flexible organisation and performance of police tasks, and regulating the translation and interpretation procedure for the performance of police tasks with foreign nationals. The activities of the police were also related to participation in the preparation of the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the Law on Police Tasks and Powers, which proposes to harmonise the provisions with the EU *acquis* and the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia (No. Up-26/19-31, U-I-227/19-22, 2 September 2021) and in connection with the proceedings conducted before the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia (regarding the maintaining of police records, their content and the retention periods of data in the records). It also proposes solutions for a more efficient functioning of the police in the performance of tasks arising from its fundamental legal duties. The police also participated in the drafting of the proposal for the Act Amending the State Border Control Act. A draft decree amending and supplementing the Decree on cooperation between the public prosecutor's office, the police and other competent state bodies and institutions in detecting and prosecuting offenders was prepared. In 2023, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia issued its third partial decision U-I-144/19 of 6 July 2023, repealing Articles 149b and 149c and paragraph five of Article 156 of the Criminal Procedure Act. The Court also repealed paragraph six of Article 156 of

the aforementioned Act insofar as it relates to paragraph five of that Article. Since the decision repeals the entire regulation of these measures, which will also have to be systemically included in the regulation of undercover investigation measures in the Criminal Procedure Act, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia postponed the effect of the repeal of all the provisions for a period of one year from the date of publication of this decision in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 6 June 2023.⁴

In order to provide information on the procedure for handling internal reports under the Whistleblower Protection Act, which must ensure the completeness, integrity and confidentiality of information and prevent unauthorised persons of the reporting party from gaining access to the content of the report, information about the reporting party and persons concerned by the report, the police adopted on 23 May 2023 the Instruction on the Internal Route for Reporting Violations of Regulations in the Police Service. Two representatives were also appointed to deal with internal reports of infringements of laws and regulations. The Instruction established an additional reporting channel for reporting violations of the rules within the police. Whistleblowers are also guaranteed anonymity in the Police by the Police Internal Security Regulation.

In 2023, the police participated in the activities for drafting a new Resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention and Suppression of Crime for the period 2024–2028 and the Resolution on the National Programme in the Field of Illicit Drugs 2023–2030. The implementation of the National Programme will be ensured at the operational level through an action plan, which is scheduled to be adopted in 2024. In this context, it was also necessary to take into account the EU's strategies for combating illicit drugs trafficking and combating organised crime. Moreover, the European Commission performed a Schengen Thematic Evaluation of best practices in the framework of Member States' capacities in the areas of police cooperation, external border surveillance and management of information systems to combat drug trafficking in 2023. In December 2023, the Minister also appointed a working group to draft a new resolution on the long-term development programme for the police for the period 2026–2035.

In 2023, the *Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police*, which refers to organisational changes and changes in job classification, was amended several times,

On 25 September 2023, a ceremony was held at the Brdo Congress Centre to mark the 50th anniversary of the systemic recruitment of female uniformed police officers. This marked the conclusion of a months-long project to collect testimonies of former female police officers and material on the historical milestones of women's integration into the police organisation.

including the reorganisation of the traffic police and the adaptation of the organisation and working methods of the Slovenian Police after Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area. In 2023, the Police continued to pursue its *active recruitment policy*. Nevertheless, staff turnover was negative. In the autumn, the Strategy for the Promotion of the Police Profession 2023–2025 was adopted, but the current labour market situation and low unemployment rate did not allow for an increase in police staff.

In 2023, the work of the Police Academy was marked by a high volume of education in the Police College, which runs the post-secondary study programme "Police Officer". The training was conducted as a full-time course for SE police officers who are candidates of the Police College and as a part-time course for two different target groups, for police officers to fulfil the provisions of Article 110 of the Organisation and Work in the Police Act and for police officers working as state border guards who were transferred on the basis of the transfer guidelines in the context of the organisational and personnel adjustment of the police after the accession of Croatia to the Schengen Area. The scope was even greater than in 2022, not only due to the number of different target groups, but also due to the diversity of the content,

⁴ <https://www.us-rs.si/delna-odlocba-ustavnega-sodisca-st-u-i-144-19-z-dne-6-7-2023/>.

as each target group requires a different curriculum. It was necessary to seek the assistance of relevant experts from other police units, especially in the field of police tactics and weaponry and communication skills, and to adapt the implementation of the special study for police officers due to space constraints.

In the area of training, the police started training candidates to become police officers for the protection of state facilities on the basis of a verified training programme. The first generation of police candidates completed their training in early 2023 and the second generation of police officer candidates for the protection of state facilities started their training in autumn 2023 and will complete it in 2024.

The Police Security Operations Centre for protection against cyber-attacks on the police information and telecommunication (ITC) system detected half as many attempts to misuse the Internet in 2023 as in 2022, and more than double the number of attempts in 2020 and 2021, which is why the police focused their *information and telecommunication activities* on ensuring the smooth functioning of existing ITC services that enable their operational activities. ITC services were adapted to regulatory changes and Slovenia's commitments to the European Union were implemented. A number of services (applications) were developed, updated or renewed, including the development of the Stalita analytical platform. A major focus was placed on upgrading and developing ITC solutions in the context of European systems, as their changes have an impact on national solutions, as well as on the exchange of data with external organisations. The first year of full operation of the Tetra (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) digital network has already shown its benefits, not only in the coverage of the terrain, but also in the increased reliability of services and equipment, the higher level of security of communications and the overall lower operating costs.

In 2023, the police were involved in planning projects that will allow them to draw on the so-called national envelope or decentralised financial resources of the European Union in the programming period 2021–2027 in 2024. In addition, the police are also applying for funding under calls issued by the European Commission or its agencies. In 2023, the Slovenian Police participated as a partner organisation in a number of projects and coordinated project activities in one project. It was also involved as a partner organisation in the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) project, and in a number of other international activities, ranging from participation in international operational investigations and operations, international civilian missions, training and refresher courses, to participation in international conferences and international organisations and associations.

The Slovenian Police in numbers

54,344
criminal offences

51.4%
criminal offences
investigated

32.1%
property crimes

50.7%
share of economic crime
damage in total crime

364
financial investigations
under the Criminal
Procedure Act

85
crimes dealt with by the
National Bureau of
Investigation

31,064
breach of public order
rules

4,550
violations referred to
provoking or inciting
fights

3,265
offences of misbehaviour
towards officials and
disobeying their orders

1,221
Offences related to
altercations, shouting and
indecent behaviour

2,252
domestic violence

345,191
highway code
infringements

82
road fatalities

22
road fatalities in traffic
accidents due to the
wrong side and direction
of driving

32
road fatalities due to
speeding

25.7%
alcohol-related traffic
accidents with fatal
outcomes

60,602
illegal crossing of the
internal border into
Slovenia

8,346
violation of the Foreigners
Act

843
foreigners denied entry at
border crossings

247
persons returned by the
Slovenian Police to
foreign security
authorities

15,477
procedures with
compensatory measures
against

72,517
verbal warnings pursuant
to the Minor Offences Act

12,718
notices of offences
pursuant to the Minor
Offences Act

235,891
orders to pay fines for
offences issued

16,577
decisions in expedited
procedure

9,980
accusatory instruments

2,483
motions submitted to
another offence
authorities

153
protection of Slovenian
nationals abroad

95
protection of foreign
nationals during their visit
to Slovenia

32
submission of credentials
by diplomatic missions
and consular posts

95
threat assessments
produced or updated

45
anonymous and other
letters received by
protected persons

14,858
prevention activities

315
general, expert and
follow-up supervisions of
the performance of work
by employees

467
complaints against the
work of police officers

464
complaints resolved

12
actions by police officers
inconsistent with
regulations identified in
conciliation procedures

533,662
calls to the 113
emergency number

215,985
interventions

87.7%
calls received in the first
12 seconds

7.1 seconds
average ringing time

4,145
cases of malware

620 hours
drone overflights

6,449
the number of requests
for investigations and
reports from the National
Forensic Laboratory

45,697
sample analysis

55,730
instrumental analyses by
the National Forensic
Laboratory

17,551
visits to crime scenes and
other events

2,607
visits with expert
assistance of the Forensic
Section

4,292
persons detained,
arrested and produced

8,067
use of instruments of
restraint and warning
shot fired against
individuals

38
use of instruments of
restraint against a crowd

88
police officers injured and

46
offenders injured due to
the use of instruments of
restraint

221
police officers assaulted

8,162
persons employed in the
police

581
terminated employments

320
new employments

44.2 years
average personnel age

491.8
million of budget funds
used

2,848
means of transport

5.9 years
average age of vehicles

1,792 flying hours
of helicopters

559 flying hours
helicopters on missions of
state border control

114
persons transported by
helicopter in mountain
rescue operations

517
alerts of the Riot Police
Unit (PPE)

62
urgent actions of the
Special Police Unit

2 Work in specific areas

2.1 Basic activities

2.1.1 Prevention, detection and investigation of crime

Criminal investigation requires a great deal of expertise and specific skills, which is why the police placed special emphasis on training and further training. A full 87 events were organised. Like in transitional years, most training were carried out for the detection and investigation of economic crime and corruption, cryptocurrencies, digital forensics, property crime, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings. Trainings were held for mobile criminal investigation units. Specialised training in criminal intelligence analyses and working with informants and sources was provided, as well as further training and advanced training for members of negotiation teams. Training was provided in the field of counter-terrorism and the use of new technologies in the event of a terrorist attack, as well as international cooperation. Training was also provided to the staff of the National Bureau of Investigation. A total of 24 training and advanced training courses were carried out in the framework of the Internal Security Fund, including a criminology course. The basic training was attended by 13 and the practical training by 21 participants, including a representative of the Ministry of Defence, the Institute of Forensic Medicine, the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security and two representatives of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior.

In 2023, the police dealt with 54,344 offences for which they filed a criminal complaint or a report supplementing a criminal complaint (hereafter: offences), which was below the ten-year average of 59,179. The growth in public non-finance corporations was 51.4% and in finance corporations 50.7%.

In 2023, the police dealt with 54,344 offences for which they filed a criminal complaint or a report supplementing a criminal complaint. The investigation rate was 51.4%.

The number of crimes investigated depends mainly on the number of general criminal offences, where property crimes account for the largest share. After several years of decline, the negative trend curve reversed upwards in 2022, and in 2023 the number of offences reached the pre-COVID 19 pandemic level. A similar trend can be observed in the treatment of economic crime.

Most crimes are dealt with by police units at regional and local level, but some are also dealt with by the General Police Directorate, notably the National Bureau of Investigation. In 2023, the National Bureau of Investigation handled and investigated 85 crimes (81 in the field of economic crime and four in the field of organised crime). The estimated damage or illegal proceeds totalled EUR 39.8 million. The National Bureau of Investigation investigated 335 persons suspected of committing criminal offences that harmed 53 persons.

One of the investigations completed by the National Bureau of Investigation in 2023 that is worth mentioning is the investigation of a criminal organisation that had a hidden plant for the production of illicit tobacco products in Slovenia. The police seized at least 816 kg of cut rag, 1,392 kg of tobacco leaves and 425 kg of ready-made cigarettes. A specialised investigation team with the Financial Administration and the Office for the Prevention of Money Laundering, and a joint investigation team (JIT) with the security authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, contributed to the filing of a criminal complaint against a criminal organisation for the abuse of position or position of trust in an economic activity, money laundering and criminal association, with proceeds of more than €5 million. Criminal charges were brought against several officials of the Ministry of Finance for having illegally obtained 224 transaction accounts for 62 natural persons and 32 legal persons. The criminal complaint also brought to an end a long-standing investigation into the establishment of Unit 6 of the Šoštanj Thermal Power Plant and a large-scale investigation into a tax carousel involving 60 legal entities. In line with

the guidelines of the Minister of the Interior, the National Bureau of Investigation prioritised investigations into suspected corruption offences. For example, it conducted several pre-trial proceedings in relation to the operations of the Motorway Company of the Republic of Slovenia (DARS d.d.) and investigated the suspicion of the crime of bribery against a mayor. It successfully investigated the suspicion of a criminal act in the procurement of specific medical material.

Economic crime and corruption are increasingly complex, sophisticated and carried out under the cover of legality; they are also increasingly organised and intertwined with international elements. In this context, the police focus on detecting and investigating crimes involving the acquisition of large assets, in particular to the detriment of the Slovenian and European Union budgets, and on conducting financial investigations with the aim of confiscating ill-gotten gains. It strengthened inter-institutional cooperation and paid particular attention to the professional training of all stakeholders in the detection and investigation of economic crime and corruption. It promoted joint forms of work in investigations, such as specialised investigation teams and joint investigation teams. It continued to establish access to external data sources to work more quickly and efficiently with other stakeholders.

The number of economic crime offences had been decreasing up until 2021, but has been slowly increasing again since 2022. In 2023, as many as 8,166 such crimes were dealt with, still less than the ten-year average of 9,621, but already at the pre-epidemic levels of 2018 and 2019. The share of economic damage in relation to the total caused by crime was 50.7%, which was the lowest share in the past ten years. The lowest share of economic crime in total crime was previously in 2022 (66.2%) and the highest in 2014 (88.8%). Fluctuations are normal and are due to the handling of individual cases with exceptionally high damage or gain achieved in individual periods. The use of counterfeit non-cash means of payment was the most frequent economic crime: with 1,142 offences it differed significantly from the average of 713 such offences handled per year. This was followed by 905 violations of fundamental rights of workers. The number of these offences is decreasing from year to year (negative trend), but in 2023 it was well down on the average of 1,575. The decrease was due to the amended legislation⁵ and the guidelines for the investigation of labour and social security offences, which contributed to a more uniform way of investigating such offences.⁶

In the area of public sector crime, in particular the abuse of official position or rights and fraud against the European Union, the number of offences fluctuated. In 2022, there was one of the largest upward deviations, with 458 cases of abuse of official position or official rights dealt with by the police. In 2023, the police dealt with 89 such offences, which was at the same level as in the period 2019–2021. The five-year average is 152 criminal offences a year. The upward trend in fraud against the European

Union did not continue in 2023, with only four offences dealt with by the police, compared with an average of 26 per year over the last five years.

Over the last two years, the number of abuses of non-cash means of payment has increased sharply. While the police dealt with an average of 19 such offences in 2019–2021, they dealt with 456 in 2022 and 614 in 2023. The sharp increase is due to changes in substantive criminal legislation on the treatment of counterfeit and stolen bank cards.

The number of tax evasion cases has been decreasing over the last three years. In 2023, 70 tax evasion offences were detected, which is below the five-year average of 124. The damage caused by such offences totalled EUR 12.1 million and was the lowest in the last five years and less than half the five-year average of EUR 26.7 million. The largest portion of this damage was

⁵ Article 196 of the Criminal Code (Violation of the fundamental rights of workers), has been amended. The second paragraph of that Article establishes a qualified form of the offence for more extensive cases of the number of workers harmed – at least 20 workers as a single offence. This means several combined hearings rather than several individual offences for each worker.

⁶ The guidelines (document No 2311-373/2022 of 28 April 2022) were prepared by the police for their units on the basis of coordinated positions on the treatment of such practices with the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia and the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

incurred in 2020, when 182 crimes resulted in EUR 49.2 million in damage. In the fight against tax evasion and other forms of financial crime, the Slovenian Police cooperated with other EU Member States in the framework of EMPACT projects, and with domestic stakeholders in the framework of the activities set out in the Resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention and Suppression of Crime for the period 2019–2023.

As in previous years, the offence with the highest material damage was the abuse of position of trust in the performance of economic activities. In 156 cases, such crimes resulted in EUR 59.1 million in damage (46.3% of economic damage). In 401 cases, such crimes resulted in EUR 20.8 million in damage (16.3% of economic damage).

The number of money laundering offences has been on the rise over the last two years, not least due to the number of cases of online fraud carried out to the detriment of domestic and foreign persons and the related monetary transactions. In 2023, the police dealt with 165 money laundering offences (the five-year average is 89).

In 2023, a total of 364 financial investigations were carried out under the Criminal Procedure Act, the fewest since 2018 and less than the ten-year average of 386. Major fluctuations in the amount of damages and benefits established are due to the handling of individual cases with exceptionally high damage or gain achieved in 2014–2021.

Corruption crimes are characterised by a closed circle in which everyone benefits (usually the provider of a favourable service and the beneficiary of a better financial position). Since everyone is incriminated, they have no interest in disclosure. This requires proactive action from the police, as there is usually little material evidence and no direct victim in such crimes, as is the case in most other crimes (yet society as a whole is always indirectly harmed). The fluctuation in the number of corruption offences in some years is the result of lengthy, extensive and complex investigations. In 2023, 91.5% of all corruption offences investigated were detected by the police through their own activities. The total number of corruption offences was 106, corruption offences against official duty and public authority being predominant. In the last ten years, fewer cases were recorded only in 2014, 2015 and 2017. The ten-year average is 152 criminal offences a year. In 2023, the police also dealt with 106 offences with elements of corruption (these are offences of abuse of official position or official rights and abuse of position or position of trust in an economic activity in which elements of corruption have been identified), which is above the ten-year average of 93. The police dealt with more offences with elements of corruption only in 2022, which is related to a larger number of closed cases.

The curve of the number of general crimes dealt with by the police has been downward-sloping over the past ten years until 2021, but turned upwards again in the past two years. In 2023, the number of general crimes totalled 46,178, which was still below the ten-year average of 49,558 offences per year. The share of general crimes in total crime has not changed much in the last ten years and remained around 84.0% of total crime. In 2023, the share of general crime in total crime was 85.0%. The investigation rate of these crimes was 47.4%.

Police detected organised groups from Eastern Europe which were mainly involved in stealing tractors, mobile machinery and spare parts for such machinery. However, Slovenia is still mainly a transit country for the transport of stolen vehicles to the East.

Among the general crimes dealt with, property crime accounted for the highest number of cases, 33,683, which is at the pre COVID-19 epidemic level. The five-year average is 31,406 crimes against property. The investigation rate of property crime in 2023 was 32.1%, which is at the level of previous years. There were more cases of robberies and thefts. The police also searched for slightly more stolen vehicles (582) than in 2021–2022. Mobile organised crime groups

committing various forms of property crime are a recurrent problem in Slovenia. Larger organised crime groups are usually divided into several groups that operate independently each in its area of operation.

Organised crime groups also differ by the crimes they commit, some specialising in burglaries in flats and houses and others in grand thefts. In 2023, the activities of organised crime groups were noticed again, but they mainly engaged in burglaries and theft of vehicles.

Although not as common as crimes against property, illegal trade in and transport of hazardous and non-hazardous waste poses a greater threat to the environment and society. In 2023, the police dealt with several cases of illegal transport of waste through Slovenia and a number of cases of export through the Port of Koper.

In 2023, the police dealt with 1,556 crimes against life and limb, which was above the five-year average of 1,478. Nine out of ten such crimes were investigated. The majority of offences involved light bodily injuries. The number of offences equalled that before the COVID-19 epidemic. The number of homicides remained unchanged from previous years, while there were fewer murders in 2023.

The number of reported and detected criminal offences against sexual integrity has been increasing over the last three years. In 2023, there were 598 complaints resolved, which is the highest number of complaints resolved in the past five years. The investigation rate of such crimes was slightly lower than in previous years, but still quite high at 87.5%, and a few points lower than in previous years. As many as 192 offences involved the display, production, possession and transmission of pornographic material, which was the highest number of such offences in the past five years. In 2023, the police dealt with 185 sexual assaults on a person below fifteen years of age, which was also the highest number of such cases in the last five years. The Slovenian Police are very active in combating online sexual exploitation of children and have cooperated with foreign security authorities as well as with Europol and Interpol. The prevalence and accessibility of the Internet and electronic devices to children and adolescents, who are unattended, left to themselves and not equipped with knowledge and personal responsibility in a virtual world, increases the risk of their becoming victims of sexual exploitation. This is all the more so given that the number of people with a sexual preference for children is enormous, the methods of concealing identities are effective and children are easily accessible to anyone via the Internet. The police actively participated in the EMPACT project and in bringing together the Western Balkan countries in combating this type of crime. Ten female and male criminal investigators have been trained to conduct forensic interviews with children. The increase in the number of rapes (completed and attempted) has levelled off, with 73 rapes handled by the police in 2023 and 74 in 2022.

In the area of crimes against marriage, family and children, the police dealt with 2,677 crimes, which is on a par with the average in the previous years. The largest number of such cases, 1,312, were related to domestic violence, and remained at the same level as the average for the previous years. However, the police dealt with 788 cases of neglect of a minor and brutal treatment, which was the highest number in the past five years. The police paid considerable attention to the safe use of the Internet by young people and to raising public awareness about domestic violence and encouraging people to report it.

With regard to juvenile offences, it is worth noting violence, threats and light bodily injuries, as their number has almost doubled over the past five years. These were often cases of peer violence.

In 2023, juvenile crime accounted for 2.9% of all crime dealt with, which was the highest proportion in the past ten years, and with 1,552 cases the second highest number dealt with by the police in the past ten years. The ten-year average is 1,363 cases. With regard to juvenile offences, it is worth noting that violent crime has been on the rise from year to year. While the police

dealt with 67 such crimes in 2019, there were 123 in 2023. These were often cases of peer violence. In the past five years, minors have also increasingly threatened and inflicted slight bodily injuries on other persons. While police officers dealt with 39 threats and 83 light injuries in 2019, they dealt with 116 threats and 112 slight injuries in 2023.

The number of offences meeting organised crime criteria that were dealt with in 2023⁷ exceeded the ten-year average of 542. The main crimes among the 880 recorded were the crimes of illicit manufacturing of and trading in narcotic drugs, illicit substances in sport and precursors for manufacturing and trading in narcotic drugs. International irregular migration flows along the Balkan route are under the heavy influence of organised crime groups smuggling migrants into Slovenia and EU Member States, and the trend is only steadily increasing.

In 2023, the police dealt with the highest number of organised crime offences in the last ten years – 880.

The highest number, 679, were the offences of illegal crossing of the national border or territory.

The number of offences of illicit manufacturing and trafficking in illicit drugs, illicit substances and procedures in sport and precursors for the manufacture of illicit drugs, and the number of crimes of facilitating the consumption or use of illicit drugs or illicit substances or processes in sport dealt with by the Slovenian Police in 2023 was the lowest in the past five years, but does not deviate significantly from the figures for the past few years. However, in 2023, the police investigated two

drug-related murders and also discovered a large quantity of various illicit drugs during the investigation. However, the number of crimes investigated does not reflect the prevalence of illicit drugs in Slovenia. The quantity and purity of (certain) seized illicit drugs are indicative of their availability and accessibility on the Slovenian market, as supply follows the demand on an ongoing basis. Slovenia has access to a wide variety of illicit drugs and precursors for their production due to its geographical location and the family and other links between members of criminal groups in Slovenia and organised criminal groups in the Western Balkans, Europe and South America. In 2023, the police seized most of the illicit drugs in the interior of the country, either in transit through Slovenia or in (high-profile) months-long investigations of international organised crime groups. The police again detected several artificial cannabis cultivation facilities and illegal cannabis plantations (72 in 2023), which, according to the police,⁸ still classify Slovenia as a self-sufficient country. The police believe that there are even more hidden plantations, especially near residential houses and among plantations of other cultivated plants where cannabis is grown by individuals.

In preventing terrorism and violent extremism, police activities focused on the timely detection of signs of all types of hatred, intolerance and radicalisation that could lead to violence, the daily exchange of information with partner agencies and the possible entry of terrorists into Slovenia. The police were also active in preventing arms smuggling, restrictive measures related to Ukraine and Russia, the misuse of dual-use goods and terrorist financing. It successfully dealt with a number of crisis cases, including three crimes of abduction. It seized a large number of military weapons and explosive formation agents in criminal investigations and prevented illicit trafficking of weapons used to commit violent extremism-related crimes.

Trafficking in human beings aims to exploit victims for prostitution or other forms of sexual abuse, forced labour, slavery, servitude, the commission of crimes, trafficking in organs, human tissue or blood, forced pregnancy or forced artificial insemination. The process itself also includes other practices supported by force, threats or deception, kidnapping, abuse, extortion or bribery, or other means of "entrapment" of the victim. In Slovenia, trafficking in human beings is most often linked to prostitution and sexual abuse, but other forms of exploitation of victims also occur, such as domestic servitude,⁹

⁷ To define organised criminal activity, four mandatory criteria and at least two of the seven variable (optional) criteria must be met. The mandatory criteria include the existence of a group of at least three people, operating over a long period of time, the acquisition of financial gain and/or social power, and the commission of officially prosecutable offences. The variable criteria include the use of violence and/or corruption, international activities, involvement in money laundering, internal rules of conduct and the division of roles and tasks between group members, an entrepreneurial style of operation, and influence on the media, the economy, the administration and/or politics.

⁸ Data from the General Police Directorate, Criminal Police Directorate, obtained on 13 February 2024.

⁹ Servitude is one of the forms of exploitation of trafficking victims defined in Article 113 of the Criminal Code, and should not be equated with forced begging. Forced begging or the exploitation of begging as a form of exploitation of trafficking

In 2023, the police dealt with 25 crimes of trafficking in human beings as a result of undercover investigations, and 33 crimes of prostitution. The number of crimes dealt with is a result of the pro-activity of the police in identifying victims, as well as the use of undercover investigation measures. Reports of these offences by the victims themselves are very rare, and so are the reports by other people.

the forced commission of crimes and other forms of forced labour. Slovenia is a target country for the exploitation of victims. However, the police do not have any information on Slovenian citizens having been victims of trafficking in human beings. In combating trafficking in human beings, the police cooperated with security authorities of neighbouring countries, Europol and Interpol, and carried out activities in the framework of the EMPACT THB (Trafficking in Human Beings) project. The police cooperate in the exchange of information with other state authorities and NGOs on possible indicators and identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings on the basis of

a cooperation agreement. In 2023, a total of 80 such information exchanges took place, and the police also received information through anonymous reports to its electronic mailbox (approximately 15).

The number of security-related crimes was at the same level as in the past five years, except for 2020, which was mainly different in terms of the number of threats. This is because the number of security crimes is mostly the result of crimes of threatening. In 2023, the number of such threats was 1,708.

In 2023, the police dealt with one smuggling offence. Due to the inadequate criminalisation of this crime in the Criminal Code, the police will initiate a new criminalisation adapted to the current social and legal environment.

The number of offences of illegal crossing of the national border or the territory was the highest in the last five years. In 2023, there were 679 such offences; the average for the last five years is 467. The number reflects the political, security, socio-economic and development instability in the Western Balkans and the global periphery of the European Union, in particular the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region and military conflicts in the immediate vicinity, and proactive action of the police by using undercover investigation measures. International irregular migration flows pass through Slovenia mainly via the Balkan route. Slovenia remains a transit country and irregular migration is directed towards Italy, Austria and other EU Member States. Human smuggling is carried out by international criminal groups operating along the entire migration route, but especially in the Western Balkan countries and in the countries of destination in the European Union. Smugglers often use digital services and tools such as social networks and mobile applications for recruitment, communication, money transfers, pick-up and handing over, routing migrants, sharing images and videos (e.g. of safe routes, documenting successful smuggling), and for counter-measures to security authorities' activities.

In 2023, the police dealt with 763 money forging crimes, which is at the same level as the five-year average. One out of seven offences was investigated, compared to only one out of 11 before. In 2023, a total of 11,951 counterfeit coins were cashed, the highest number in the past ten years. In particular, there has been an increase in the redemption of counterfeit two-euro coins in fast food and beverage vending machines. There were 7,375 counterfeit notes seized, predominantly euro notes. Other cases of counterfeit euro banknotes with the inscriptions Prop Copy and Movie Money were dealt with, which, due to different prosecutorial practices, were treated in some cases as a fraud offence and as a counterfeiting offence in other cases. The counterfeit notes of other currencies that were cashed in were mainly US and Australian dollar notes.

victims was not defined by the Criminal Code until 2023. It was understood by the police as a form of exploitation of victims from the provisions of Directive 2011/36/EU, more precisely as a form of forced labour (point 11 of the recitals to that Directive).

In investigating computer crime, police investigations in 2023 were similar to those in 2022, with attacks against information systems still dominated by ransomware attacks with the use of powerful cryptographic algorithms to render data unreadable and unusable, followed by a demand for payment,

In 2023, the police continued to deal with attacks on information systems of critical infrastructure and state institutions, even though, as in previous years, most of the targets of such attacks were small and medium-sized enterprises.

most often in the virtual currency bitcoin, in return for decrypting (unlocking) the data. In 2023, there were several cases of double extortion, where the perpetrators demanded payment for not publishing data in addition to the payment for their decryption. Most of these were sensitive business data and correspondence, which is why such publications (made free of charge or for a fee) on the darknet could have caused additional business damage. The police advise against making any payment as it does not guarantee that the data will be

decrypted and not published. In addition, criminal groups use the money extorted for financing their other illegal activities. Various forms of online fraud were aimed at obtaining financial gain, notably by hacking into and stealing virtual currency wallets and hacking into electronic banking systems, especially of individuals. In such crimes, evidence and electronic traces are usually scattered across the world, which is why in 2023 the Slovenian Police continued to cooperate with Europol, Interpol, the SI-CERT National Cyber Security Response Centre and security authorities in other countries, including through the EMPACT Cyber Attacks project and the Council of Europe's contact point network. As in previous years, the police strengthened the operational capacity of computer investigations by upgrading existing equipment and purchasing new equipment in 2023.

In the field of digital forensics – the seizure and examination of seized electronic devices – the police are securing, examining and analysing growing amounts of data each year, as the memory capacity of electronic devices seized in pre-trial proceedings continues to grow. In 2023, nearly 5,800 electronic devices were inspected, of which mobile phones accounted for 47.5%, hard drives for 12%, flash memory devices for 7.5% and the securing and analysing of data from various online profiles and/or accounts of suspects (e.g. Google, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) for 20%.

In 2023, a total of 4,968 (and 3,812 in 2022) police alerts were issued in the national police records, the highest number in the last ten years. Most alerts were issued for children escaped from an educational institution (almost double the number for 2022) and at the request of a court for avoiding legal proceedings (their number has remained at the same level as in previous years).

A total of 1,131 undercover investigation measures were carried out in 2023 (in 2022, 993), which was on a par with the ten-year average. Until 2019, the police reported the number of undercover investigation measures as the number of requests for traffic data from the electronic communications network and the number of other undercover investigation measures, and after 2019 also as the number of request traffic data in connection with communications and the number of requests for data on deposits, balance and movements in an account.¹⁰

In 2023, the police acquired a tool that allowed them to investigate the dark web more efficiently, which will also help them in investigating crimes. Other technical resources were also acquired to assist in carrying out undercover investigation measures and the delivery of evidence. An upgrade of the new electronic communications surveillance system was put in place. The final upgrade in 2024 will provide support to the latest communication technologies.

¹⁰ For more details, see the methodological notes.

2.1.2 Maintaining public order and ensuring the general safety of people and property

The police devoted a great deal of effort to raising public awareness and preventive action in maintaining law and order. In 2023, there were more public events and, as a result, the police carried out 3,263 more protections. Although the number of protections has been increasing again in the past two years, they were still fewer in number than in the period before the epidemic, when in the period 2014–2019 the police provided security at an average of 4,188 public events a year. Events, including sports competitions, were again attended by visitors, including members of organised supporters' groups, which required additional efforts from the police.

In 2023, the police also provided security at 168 public gatherings. In the past ten years, the police provided security at fewer public gatherings only in 2022 (155). However, the number of such public gatherings at which security was provided in 2023 was still less than half the number of such gatherings in 2020 and 2021. In 2023, most gatherings were organised in response to the current events at home and abroad, but there were no serious violations.

The National Football Information Point (NFIP Slovenia) was used to exchange information and make referrals of spotter police officers.¹¹ Spotter police officers carried out their tasks, monitoring fan events and prepared information relating to public gatherings (information on the activities of sports clubs, athletes, sports federations and organised fan groups) throughout the period under consideration. On 31 December 2023, 93 spotter police officers (in at least one module) were trained in the police force and collected 190 pieces of information related to sports events, compared to 154 in 2022.¹² In 2023, police officers imposed 29 measures prohibiting participation in sports events pursuant to Section 62 of the Police Tasks and Powers Act, with one measure more in the past ten years being issued only in 2017.

With the exception of a large variation in the number of infringements in the epidemic years 2020 and 2021, the number of infringements of all public order rules has been decreasing. In 2023, the police dealt with 31,064 public order violations, the fewest in the past ten years. The police directorates of Ljubljana, Maribor and Celje dealt with the largest number of these violations that accounted for 61.0% of all such violations in 2023.

The downward trend in the number of violations of the Law on the Protection of Public Order Act was not as strong in recent years; in 2023, the police recorded 16,159 violations, the fewest in the past ten years. According to the police, the number of violations was also due to its targeted work in security-vulnerable areas.

Most violations of the Protection of Public Order Act related to provoking or inciting fights, which accounted for 28.2% of the violations in 2023 and 28.3% in 2022. By targeting and monitoring the five most common public order violations over which the police have tighter control, the police are adapting their working methods and paying more attention to these offences. These are offences that occur in a public place and affect the safety of other people (acts of violence, indecent behaviour, incitement to intolerance and noise nuisance).

The police have maintained a favourable security situation in the area of law and order in public places, also thanks to their cooperation with municipal warden services and other security entities (private security and inspection services). It is therefore not surprising that there is a negative trend in

¹¹ For more details, see section 2.2.13 International cooperation.

¹² Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, General Police Division, obtained on 23 January 2024.

the number of offences caused by altercations, shouting or indecent behaviour. In 2023, these offences still accounted for only 7.6% of the Protection of Public Order Act violations.

Police efforts related to public awareness raising, training of police officers and changes in legislation (the Police Tasks and Powers Act and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act) contributed to the downward trend in domestic violence-related crime some time ago. In 2023, these offences accounted for 13.9% of all violations of the Protection of Public Order Act. The number of restraining orders imposed in 2023 was 1,302.¹³

Violations of the Protection of Public Order Act accounted for almost one half of all public order violations in 2023. One in ten was a violation of the Production of and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs Act.

In 2023, most violations of public order (52%) represented violations of the Protection of the Public Order Act. This was followed by the Production of and Trade in Illicit Drugs Act (10.3%), the Identity Card Act (6.5 %), the Residence Registration Act (6.1%) and the Animal Protection Act (5.2%).

In 2023, the increase in the provision of police assistance to beneficiaries under Section 12 of the Police Tasks and Powers Act continued. The police continued to provide the highest proportion of assistance to healthcare institutions, which accounted for 88.0 per cent of all police assistance provided in 2023.

The police continued to optimise and update technical support for missing persons search operations and training in the use of new technical tools. Unmanned aerial vehicles continued to be integrated into the surveillance and search system for missing persons in 2023. Police officers participated in training on how to deal with natural and other disasters and in protection and rescue exercises. The main security event in 2023 was the August floods that affected the northern half of the country the most. The National Flood Protection and Rescue Plan was activated between 4 and 31 August 2023 to manage the floods. The police carried out their tasks in accordance with this rescue plan. The costs recorded by the police in this context totalled EUR 816,000.

The recruitment and equipping of auxiliary police also continued. In spring 2023, the police trained 60 new auxiliary police officers in the framework of the basic training of auxiliary police officer candidates.¹⁴The autumn training and further recruitment of auxiliary police was put on hold by the police management due to disproportionate costs or austerity as a result of the catastrophic floods. The auxiliary police officers were largely deployed in the areas of national border protection, protection of major public and sports events and in the Centre for Foreigners. Due to the increased need for auxiliary police officers to perform police duties, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia issued a Decision No 22500-1/2022/8 of 14 November 2023, allowing for the recruitment of auxiliary police officers for a longer period.

2.1.3 Ensuring road traffic safety

In the area of road traffic safety, road traffic controls targeted the most common factors contributing to road accidents and the most serious violations of road traffic rules that indirectly lead to the most common causes of road accidents. The road safety situation was good. The target number of deaths for 2023 set in the Resolution on the National Road Safety Programme for the period 2023–2030

¹³ Statistics on the number of restraining orders issued in 2023 include the number of restraining orders issued by police officers under the Police Tasks and Powers Act and by courts under the Criminal Procedure Act. The data are therefore not comparable with previous years, when only the number of restraining orders under the Police Tasks and Powers Act was reported.

¹⁴ Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, General Police Division, obtained on 14 February 2024.

was not exceeded. In 2023, there were 82 fatal road accidents (in 2022, 85). The police, together with other stakeholders, paid a great deal of attention to raising awareness among road users in order to influence their behaviour and increase their responsibility in road traffic.

The traffic police were reorganised in order to optimise control on motorways and expressways. In March 2023, a new job classification was adopted, reinforcing the staffing of traffic police stations and formally abolishing the Motorway Police Directorate and its units. In 2023, 11 round-the-clock traffic police patrols were deployed on the motorway network. These operated exclusively on motorways and expressways and could only exceptionally be deployed to interventions outside these roads. In consequence, the number of controls in different areas of police work on the motorway network also increased.

To improve the quality of data capture and the professional handling of traffic accidents, police officers were trained in the handling of public transport safety offences. The traffic accident data entry application was updated to identify the exact location of a traffic accident or collision. Training was provided on the use of the new ethylometers and weighing scales that the units had received for use. The use of technical means in road traffic control reduced the risk of road accidents. The annual purchase of equipment updates outdated equipment, while the purchase of new equipment makes the work of police officers easier and more efficient.

In 2023, the traffic police continued to be involved in securing events on the roads, working together with external stakeholders to ensure the safety of events. During high-level state visits, it took care of traffic management and escorting of protected status persons. Cooperation with external stakeholders was also reflected in national and international tighter controls. One of the most important activities of the police in 2023 was participation in the inter-ministerial working group for drafting the Resolution on the National Road Safety Programme 2023–2030 and the working group addressing and solving the problems of hauliers.

In 2023, 82 people died in road accidents, bringing Slovenia to the 2023 target of a maximum of 96 deaths in road accidents.

In 2023, the police dealt with 19,801 road accidents, resulting in 82 deaths, 829 serious injuries and 6,395 light injuries. Most deaths occurred on regional roads and roads in settlements. The number of road fatalities by road type has not changed significantly over the last ten years, with the exception of improvements on

regional roads. These roads have had the lowest number of deaths in road accidents in the last two years and the lowest number of deaths in the last ten years. The majority of road accident victims were car drivers, passengers and pedestrians. As weaker road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and drivers of single-track vehicles, are often involved in road accidents, they received the most attention from the police in their traffic control activities.

The two most common causes of road accidents with the most serious consequences are speeding and driving on the wrong side of the road and in the wrong direction. In road accidents with material damage, the most common cause is improper vehicle movement. There was a growing trend in the number of hit-and-run accidents, with a sharp downward shift in 2020. The police dealt with 3,971 hit-and-run accidents in 2023, the highest number in the last ten years, mainly due to an increase in the number of accidents with material damage.

In 2023, alcohol-related traffic accidents accounted for 25.7% of fatal accidents, which was the lowest in the past ten years.

The number of drink-drivers in road accidents did not decrease significantly in 2023. The average alcohol intoxication level among drivers responsible for accidents remained almost at the same level as in previous years, except for drivers responsible for fatal road accidents who had the lowest alcohol intoxication

level recorded in the last ten years. In 2023, the highest number of breath tests in the last ten years was ordered. The largest number of drivers in the past ten years were also detained for drink-driving.

In 2023, police officers dealt with 345,191 violations of road traffic rules, mostly of the Road Traffic Rules Act (301,282). The highest number of violations was dealt with by the Ljubljana, Celje and Maribor Police Directorates, as most of the most important and busiest roads are run through these areas. These police directorates dealt with a total of 58.7% of all road traffic offences.

2.1.4 State border control and enforcement of regulations on foreign nationals

There was a high volume of irregular migrations due to the situation in the countries of origin and the intensification of the route across the eastern Mediterranean towards the Western Balkan region. Croatia's integration into the Schengen Area and the consequent abolition of systematic controls on the internal border with Croatia also had a significant impact on the control of the state border. The abolition of systematic controls on the internal land borders with Croatia and Hungary lasted until 21 October 2023, when they were temporarily reintroduced. The police ensured effective control at internal borders, in particular on the border with Croatia, by implementing compensatory measures, by means of flexible deployment of staff, by collecting key information and conducting detailed interviews with illegal border crossers (debriefing), by carrying out tight controls and by using technical equipment.

One of the cornerstones of an effective and efficient EU migration policy is the successful return of irregular migrants to their countries of origin. Cooperation with diplomatic and consular missions of third countries and representatives of state authorities in third countries is therefore essential in order to carry out identification procedures, issue travel documents for return and arrange the reception of persons who are illegally present in Slovenia and who meet the conditions for deportation.

In 2023, police officers dealt with 8,346 violations of the Foreigners Act, which, with the exception of 2015 and 2016, is the lowest number of cases in the past ten years and well below the ten-year average of 12,959. The decrease in the number of violations of the Foreigners Act in 2023 was due to the high number of expressed intentions to apply for international protection among irregular migrants.

With the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Schengen Area, the problem of unauthorised crossings of the external land border of the Schengen Area became the problem of unauthorised entries

In 2023, the police dealt with 60,602 irregular entries at internal borders.

In 2023, there were 633,080 passengers at air border crossings and 62,959 passengers at sea border crossings.

into Slovenia at its internal borders. The number of unauthorised entries at internal borders has thus increased disproportionately in 2023. While police officers dealt with an average of 2,301 illegal entries in the period 2014–2022, they dealt with 60,602 in 2023, i.e. with the vast majority of such entries at the internal border with Croatia. The majority of offenders were Afghan nationals, who in recent years accounted for

most unauthorised crossings of the external Schengen border. In 2023, police officers thus dealt with only another 227 unauthorised crossings of the external Schengen border, compared to 32,044 in 2022.

Compensatory measures were an essential part of border security and the prevention of cross-border crime. In 2023, the police carried out 15,477 procedures using compensatory measures against 25,962 persons. This is a significant increase compared to previous years due to changes in circumstances of work and the increased focus on the implementation of compensatory measures.

The number of passengers at air borders continued to rise in 2023 and has been slowly returning to pre-COVID-19 levels. The number of passengers at sea borders is expected to decrease as a result of

the Republic of Croatia's joining the Schengen Area. At the air borders, police officers refused entry to fewer foreigners, and to none at the maritime borders. Following the reintroduction of border controls, 74 foreigners were refused entry on the border with Hungary and 88 on the border with Croatia.¹⁵

A total of 113 forged or altered documents were found at border crossing points in 2023. As expected, this number decrease due to Croatia's integration into the Schengen area and the abolition of systematic controls at internal borders. Until the reintroduction of temporary controls on the internal land borders with Croatia and Hungary, the police carried out border checks at only five border crossing points on the external Schengen border, namely three air border crossing points and two sea border crossing points. For the most part, officers detected forged border control stamps.

Due to unauthorised residence, police officers dealt with 2,066 persons in 2023, the lowest number in the last ten years. This is mainly due to a reduction in the negative effects of visa liberalisation for citizens of Moldova. In addition to Moldovan citizens, citizens of the Western Balkan countries continue being the leading offenders. As a rule, their offences are mainly overstays in the Schengen Area.

After an exponential increase in 2017 and 2018, the trend curve of foreigners sent back by Slovenian police officers to the security authorities of neighbouring countries showed a sharp decline after 2019. In 2023, only 257 persons were sent by police officers back to foreign security authorities, the fewest in the last ten years. Indeed, the vast majority of foreigners processed for irregular entry in 2023 expressed their intention to apply for international protection. They abused their expressed intention by leaving the asylum facilities voluntarily and continuing their illegal journey to the countries of destination. The number of persons sent back to Slovenian police officers by foreign security authorities remained moderate.

The issuance of return decisions is also linked to illegal stay, deportation, the number of unauthorised crossings and the problem of abuse of the expressed intention to apply for international protection. The trend of issuing return decisions with a fixed time limit for voluntary departure was on the increase. In 2023, 2,493 such decisions were issued, the highest number in the last ten years. On the other hand, the number of return decisions issued without a fixed time limit for voluntary departure declined and had been declining since 2021.

The changed guidelines on the treatment of foreigners who illegally entered Slovenia, and Croatia's joining the Schengen Area, had an impact on the number of accommodation places in the Centre for Foreigners. In 2023, fewer foreigners were accommodated, due both to removal proceedings and return to a neighbouring country's security authorities under international treaties. There were also fewer accommodation places for applicants for international protection whose movement was restricted to the premises of the Centre by the Ministry of the Interior.

The foreigners accommodated in the Centre originated mostly from the Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa. In 2023, 71 foreigners in 2023 (in 2022, 1,062) declared after being accommodated and after the first informational interviews that they wished to apply for international protection in Slovenia and were subsequently transferred to the Asylum Centre of the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants. In these cases, no deportation of foreigners took place despite an issued return decision. The Ministry of the Interior and the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants issued a decision restricting the movement of 27 applicants for international protection (in 2022, 120) to the premises of the Centre for Foreigners pursuant to Article 84 of the International Protection Act and for the reasons set out in therein.

¹⁵ Data from the ZAVRN01 spreadsheet, obtained on 14 February 2024.

Most of the restrictions of movement and detentions of applicants¹⁶ for international protection were imposed for the following reasons:

- for preventing a threat to the security of the state or the constitutional order of the Republic of Slovenia;
- when this is necessary in order to protect people and property or for other comparable reasons related to public order; or
- for the purpose of establishing certain facts on which the application for international protection was based that could not be obtained without the measure imposed, and there was a risk that the applicant would abscond.¹⁷

In 2023, 291 foreigners were accommodated in the Centre for Foreigners compared to 1,963 in 2022. There was an increase in the number of foreigners accommodated and scheduled to be deported to their country of origin pursuant to a return decision.

In 2023, the Centre for Foreigners accommodated the largest number of foreigners who were to be deported from Slovenia, the territory of the EU Member States and the territory of the states parties to the Schengen Implementing Convention. The number of foreigners to be returned to foreign security authorities under agreement was lower. Neighbouring countries' security authorities, both informally and formally, refused to take in persons who had applied for

international protection in their own or another Member State and referred police officers to the application of the Dublin Regulation.

The Centre for Foreigners deported illegal immigrants to their countries of origin and to the security authorities of neighbouring or other countries under return agreements and other applicable instruments (e.g. the Dublin Regulation). In 2023, 140 foreigners were deported from the Centre for Foreigners (in 2022, 690), specifically:

- 38 (in 2022, 634) under deportation agreements with neighbouring security authorities, of whom 16 (in 2022, seven) in formal surrender procedures,
- 97 (in 2022, 53) to their countries of origin and
- 5 (in 2022, three) to another EU country under the Dublin Regulation.

In 2023, the Centre also participated in a joint deportation operation, with the majority of deportations taking place on scheduled flights. The organisation and booking of air tickets was carried out through the Frontex Application for Return (FAR) platform. The costs were fully borne by Frontex. The Slovenian Police deported in this way 108 and 99 in 2023 and 2022, respectively.¹⁸ Slovenia deported 12 (in 2022, 49) foreigners who were issued return decisions by the Centre for Foreigners pursuant to the Foreigners Act, with a fixed deadline for leaving Slovenia, other EU Member States and the States Parties to the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement.

In 2023, the Centre for Foreigners continued the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) project and the implementation of the Frontex Joint Reintegration Services (JRS) programme. In 2023, this programme included the participation of 29 persons.

¹⁶ The International Protection Act uses the term restriction of movement of applicants for international protection, while Regulation 604/2013/EU refers to detention of applicants for international protection and refers exclusively to those who are turned over to the competent Member State for the purpose of deciding on international protection (the Dublin Procedure). The Centre for Foreigners only keeps aggregate data on the total number of applicants for international protection accommodated, but not by reason for restriction.

¹⁷ Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, Centre for Foreigners, obtained on 14 February 2024.

¹⁸ Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, Centre for Foreigners, obtained from the FAR application on 14 February 2024.

The Centre for Foreigners continued the development of a new application within the RECAMAS – Organisational Return Case Management System working group, as part of a wider project to build a migration and return management system. The application used by the Centre until the end of 2023 had to be updated or replaced on the basis of a Frontex gap analysis carried out in March 2022. On the basis of a proposal for a new, more modern application solution for the Centre for Foreigners, the Slovenian Police concluded a financing agreement with Frontex, which was in force from September 2022 to November 2023. The new application, which has been in use since the end of 2023, has addressed the gap identified in the analysis. The application, which is the primary tool for the treatment of foreigners accommodated in the Centre for Foreigners and foreigners undergoing return procedures, has simplified and streamlined procedures, increased transparency and efficiency in the work of all the Centre's professional services and reduced the administrative burden.

The police kept the other competent maritime authorities informed of border violations at sea and, in the context of the implementation of the Arbitral Tribunal's ruling, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of all border incidents. In 2023, the Slovenian Police dealt with 716 unlawful incursions by Croatian police vessels (border incidents) and 993 unlawful incursions by Croatian fishing vessels. In 2022, the police recorded 1,244 incursions by Croatian fishing vessels and 938 incursions by Croatian security vessels.¹⁹

2.1.5 Police proceedings under the Minor Offences Act and appeals filed

In 2023, police officers implemented 350,166 measures under the Minor Offences Act. Out of the total number of proceedings carried out under the Minor Offences Act, the largest number involved the issuing of payment orders (235,891). Most formal notices were issued to traffic law offenders, while the lowest number of formal notices was issued in connection with state border control and the implementation of the rules on foreigners. In 2023, the share of formal notices was 20.7%, and in 2022 it was 36.1%.

The share of total appeals filed (against the infringement notice, the order for payment and the reasoned summary decision) was 2.2% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2022. Most applications for judicial protection against payment orders were issued in the area of traffic law enforcement, and the least under the Foreigners Act.

2.1.6 Protection of designated persons and facilities

In addition to the daily protection of protected status persons at home, protection was ensured during 153 visits abroad in 2023 and 173 in 2022. In 2023, protection was provided to 95 foreign state representatives during official, working and private visits to Slovenia and multilateral meetings (in 2022, 84). In 2023, seven operational security actions were carried out in (in 2022, six). The most demanding security operations were the ones carried out on the occasion of the state visit of the presidents of Montenegro and Albania. A considerable number of security operations were also carried out for events involving a large number of protected status persons, namely the 12th Africa Day Conference, the Brdo Process in April 2023, the Bled Strategy Forum in August 2023, the 12th European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR²⁰) in October 2023 and the Salzburg Forum in December 2023.

¹⁹ Data from the General Directorate of Police, Uniformed Police Directorate as at 31 December 2023 and as at 31 December 2022.

²⁰ For more on the EUSDR, the macro-regional strategy adopted by the Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011, see <https://danube-region.eu/about/>.

According to the 2023 statistics, over the last ten years, the police have on average protected 143 local persons abroad and 64 foreign protected status persons during their visits to Slovenia, and have carried out nine more complex security operations.²¹

In accordance with the Act on the Provision of Conditions for Holding the Office of the President of the Republic and the Decree on the protection of particular persons, premises, structures and surroundings of structures protected by the police, the police protected eight facilities housing the administrative headquarters of state bodies, 37 buildings of diplomatic and consular missions, nine

In accordance with Article 10 of the Regulation on the protection of designated persons, premises, buildings and areas of buildings under police protection, six new types of protection were introduced in 2023 and three were carried forward from 2022 (protection of three foreign persons and six local persons at risk). These included the protection of the Slovenian Ambassador to Ukraine, a specialised state prosecutor and a judge.

buildings of international organisations, four residences of ambassadors with the transmission of signalling and security devices, 19 residential facilities of the protected status persons, and six facilities of the police. In total, protection was ensured for 83 facilities.

The Security and Protection Centre also provided security for the Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels.

The police carried out 913 guarding operations in secure facilities of state bodies. At checkpoints, 53,624 persons, 59,155 pieces of luggage and 6,433 postal items were inspected.

Most of the threat assessments for foreign diplomatic missions and residences were produced and updated in 2021 and 2022 (95 in 2023).

The number of anonymous and other letters to protected status persons was at the ten-year average of 47, but almost halved compared to 2020–2022. In 2023, 45 written messages of security interest were identified. Letters from anonymous authors accounted for 15.6%, and letters containing threats and insults for 55.6%. Written messages of security interest were mostly posted as comments on social networks or sent by email, a few also having been sent by post.

While the number of additional security measures due to protest rallies in the vicinity of secure facilities almost doubled in 2020–2022 compared to the period 2015–2019, it returned to its previous level in 2023. In 2023, there were 61 such protests; the ten-year average is 85.

2.2 Other activities

2.2.1 Community policing and prevention activities

In 2023, police officers carried out 14,858 prevention and community policing activities, thus continuing the upward trend in performed activities. For the second year in a row, the number of performed activities exceeded the ten-year average of 11,876. It is also the highest in the last ten years. While during the COVID-19 epidemic many prevention campaigns were implemented online, in 2022 and 2023, police officers carried out prevention campaigns directly – in person.

²¹ All information in this section is provided by the General Police Directorate, Security and Protection Centre, as of 12 February 2023.

The police participated in various events, including the 24th Criminal Justice and Security Days held on 13–14 June 2023 at Terme Olimia in Podčetrtek, the 14th biennial conference Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – Rural and Urban Safety and Security Perspectives held on 12–14 September 2023 in Ljubljana, the 7th National Security Days on 10–11 October 2023, the 20th inter-institutional panel "Young People and Crime" on 18 October 2023 in Maribor, and the 9th National Conference on Safety and Security in Local Communities on 7 November 2023 in Kranj. The inter-institutional panel "Young People and Crime" was organised by the Maribor Police Directorate, while the majority of the aforementioned conferences were organised by the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security of the University of Maribor, the last one together with the City of Kranj.

The police, together with the Judicial Training Centre and the Association of State Prosecutors of Slovenia, organised the 21st symposium "The Child – a Means of Evidence?" held on 13–14 April 2023. In cooperation with the Spletno oko (Online Eye) hotline and the Association of Informatics and Telecommunications at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, it also organised the 13th Conference on Online Child Sexual Abuse, which was held on 19 September 2023 at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana. In general, the police devote great effort to raising awareness of children and adolescents about safe internet use, also in collaboration with the Safer Internet Centre. In 2023, the police carried out several prevention activities in kindergartens, which were aimed at parents, and in primary schools for school staff, parents and pupils. Lecture topics were interrelated and covered security incidents, from adverse events to peer violence.

Police representatives participated in the international conference on Criminal Prevention held on 26–28 November 2023 in Novi Sad, where the trends in prevention activities were presented, in particular in light of the recent mass shooting by a schoolboy in Serbia. During the international days of combating violence, the police organised the "Beyond Borders" symposium held on 11 December 2023, where international aspects of addressing domestic violence were highlighted.

The Mobile Police Station project has been implemented for more than 10 years, i.e. since 2012. In 2023, both mobile police station vehicles were used for most of the year. Until the first ten days of September, one of the mobile police stations had been used in the area of Koper Police Directorate, to facilitate the processing of applicants for international protection in Slovenia who arbitrarily left the Asylum Centre to continue their journey to the Western Europe. From then until the end of 2023, this mobile police station was used in the area of Novo mesto Police Directorate to facilitate the processing of foreigners who entered Slovenia illegally.

The prevention project Police Officer Leon Advises was introduced in October 2008. Ten years later, in 2018, the mascots Leon and Pika were first presented to the public. In 2023, two old mascot costumes ceased to be used and three new Leons and four Pikas were bought. Together with the mascot producer, the police trained an additional number of animators.

In primary schools, the projects Safe Way to School and Home and Police Officer Leon Advises continued. The main teaching aid used in the Police Officer Leon Advises project is a workbook. This publication and the brochure Do not Forget about Safety! were translated into and published in the languages of both national minorities, Italian and Hungarian.

The project Safe Tourist Destination also continued. Procedures conducted abroad in which a Slovenian police officer is present are shorter and less stressful, and make Slovenian citizens feel safer.

Prevention activities concerning road traffic were supplemented by tighter road traffic controls. The police carried out various prevention activities in collaboration with the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency and other organisations. Several campaigns, e.g. for zero road deaths at least for one day, were coordinated with the police of other European countries by the European Roads Policing Network (ROADPOL). The police also carried out other prevention campaigns for greater road traffic safety,

in particular for vulnerable groups in traffic (children, pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and others). Every motor vehicle driver whose breath test result was 0.0 during the tighter control in November 2023 received a leaflet which enabled them to enter a competition to win tickets for the concert of the Police Orchestra and singer Hamo.

On 25 May, International Missing Children's Day, the police, together with the Amber Alert Europe Foundation, published a children's picture book *The Rumbling Adventure of Hare*, A tale about following your intuition and keeping yourself safe, thus joining this pan-European campaign. The picture book teaches children how to stay safe and not get lost. The police participate in many other projects organised by domestic and foreign organisations, such as Interpol, Europol and the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP).

Police officers, teachers and Challe Salle are for a friendly school environment: "Violence is not cool!" September's event got a lot of media attention.

Prevention material was made (posters, leaflets, brochures and bookmarks) providing information on forms of peer violence and instructions on how children and adolescents can get help if they become victims of such acts. One of the prevention projects was the Violence is not cool! project of the Miha Pintar

Toledo Primary School in Velenje. It was very successful and got a lot of media attention, as Challe Salle, a musician popular among children, participated in it. Prevention material was distributed to all primary schools in Slovenia. All schoolchildren in grades 5 to 9 also received bookmarks, which will accompany them throughout the school year. On the bookmark is a QR code that links to a website with more content for children, parents and teachers. With this campaign, the police wanted to inform children of the peer violence problem in a friendly way and encourage them to keep their relationships friendly, and also to seek help if they experience violence.

Policing in a multi-cultural society was focused in particular on policing in the Roma community and on raising awareness and training of police officers and other public employees to improve their work with the members of multi-cultural communities. The police are the authority responsible for three measures from the National Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Roma for 2021–2030.²² They participated in the national platform for Roma (SIFOROMA 5 in the first half of 2023 and then SIFOROMA 6). They led and carried out the activities of the Government working group on Roma issues and presented these activities to the working bodies of the National Assembly and the National Council. They collaborated with the Government Office for National Minorities and other governmental and non-governmental organisations, in particular with the members of the Roma community with whom they held the 9th regular consultation meeting. The police also collaborated and met with representatives of civil initiatives from south-eastern Slovenia and some mayors of municipalities which have Roma settlements in their territories. They ran several training courses for public employees, i.e. two for the employees of the Celje Social Work Centre and the staff of primary schools in Celje and 17 courses at primary and secondary schools in Novo mesto. The topics of the training were peer violence and intercultural dialogue, and the prevention and treatment of aberrant behaviour. Two training courses on policing in multi-cultural societies were also carried out (one for the police officers at Murska Sobota Police Directorate and one for those at Koper Police Directorate). In 2023, police officers carried out 501 prevention activities in the Roma community (in 2022, 487), ranging from meetings, informal talks, consultations and warnings and raising awareness of particular difficult situations to direct interactions with the Roma community in the field. Based on the action plan for maintaining public order in areas with multi-ethnic communities, another 6,123 prevention activities were carried out. In total, the police carried out 6,624 prevention activities in 2023.²³

²² Document No 09501-2/2021/4 of 23 December 2021, available at <https://www.gov.si/novice/2021-12-28-vlada-je-sprejela-nacionalni-program-ukrepov-za-rome-za-obdobje-20212030/>.

²³ The working group on police work in a multicultural society and with subcultural groups – 2023 report on the work of the working group No 024-9/2024/3 of 16 February 2024.

2.2.2 Operational and communication activities

For many years, the number of calls to the police emergency number 113 has ranged around half a million per year. In 2023, the police recorded 533,662 calls, which is 25,297 more than the ten-year average of 508,365. There were 215,985 intervention incidents (incidents that require the arrival of the police), which is 27,900 more than the ten-year average of 188,085. Of this, there were 5,642 emergency intervention incidents, which is 5.5% more than in 2022 but still below the ten-year average of 6,429.

The police strive for the best possible reception of calls on the emergency number 113, fast dispatch of police officers to the site of the incident and expert assistance to police officers with available information that enables them to implement procedures safely, lawfully, professionally and effectively. Depending on the type of incident, several patrols may be dispatched to the scene to ensure the safety of police officers, which means more communication via communication systems, coordination of patrols, designation of intervention leaders and a meeting point for departure to the scene, etc. There is an upward trend in the number of patrols dispatched to intervention incident locations. In 2023, there were 267,844 such dispatches, which is 41,373 more than the ten-year average of 226,471. The number of cases in which individual institutions, specialist services and heads of individual police units were notified was also above the ten-year average. In the last ten years, there were 172,123 such notifications made per year, and in 2023 there were 195,230.

On average, police officers arrived on the scene of 5,642 emergency intervention incidents in 12 minutes and 4 seconds. Calls to the emergency number 113 were answered on average in just over 7 seconds. Nine of ten calls were answered within 12 seconds.

The time from the receipt of a call to the emergency number 113 to the arrival of the police on the scene depends on the type of incident, the urgency for rapid intervention, the incident location, the availability of police forces, traffic situation, the diversity of the terrain, distance to the scene and other factors. In 2023, the average response time for emergency interventions was 12 minutes and 4 seconds, which is 14 seconds longer than the ten-year average. The average ringing time of 113 calls across Slovenia was 7.1 seconds. The

ten-year average is 7.3 seconds. At individual police directorates, the average ringing time ranged from 5.3 seconds (Celje Police Directorate) to 9 seconds (Ljubljana Police Directorate). The police managed to answer 87.7% of the calls within the first 12 seconds, which is 1 pp above the ten-year average.

In 2023, the police requested mobile network operators to disclose the location of a missing person's mobile communication device 186 times²⁴ in order to protect the life of a person who was missing in a natural or other disaster, was lost or left home while their health or mental state was such as to require help, or in cases of missing children and adolescents. In 2022 they made 151 such requests. The ten-year average is 153. In 161 cases the missing persons were found alive, in 24 cases dead. The police are still looking for one person. In the last ten years, the police found on average 125 alive and 24 dead missing persons per year and failed to find 4 people (are still looking for them).

In 2023, the inspectors of the Operations Section of the Operations and Communications Centre at the Police Specialities Directorate of the General Police Directorate made 453²⁵ official notes²⁶ based on calls to the anonymous telephone number 080 1200, and sent them to the criminal police division of

²⁴ Data from the General Police Directorate, Police Specialities Directorate, Operations and Communications Centre, obtained on 16 January 2024 from the Lotus Notes database Shift Reports.

²⁵ These are calls in which information concerning crimes is provided. They are recorded in computer records. Other calls are not recorded due to anonymity.

²⁶ Data from the General Police Directorate, Police Specialities Directorate, Operations and Communications Centre, obtained on 30 January 2024 from the Lotus Notes database Together Against Crime.

the regional police directorate having the relevant territorial jurisdiction for further consideration. The number of official notes was below the ten-year average, which is 502.

2.2.3 Forensic and other technical crime investigation activities

In 2023, the experts of the National Forensic Laboratory attended 11 annual conferences of the expert working groups of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), 10 meetings of the Board and one video conference of an ENFSI working group. The National Forensic Laboratory also continued the activities related to leading the CERTAIN-FORS project (Competency, Education, Research, Testing, Accreditation, and Innovation in Forensic Science), namely the activities concerning training and competence assessment for forensic handwriting experts.

The laboratory infrastructure of the National Forensic Laboratory enables safe and competent work and the application of 28 accredited and internationally recognised methods.

The laboratory infrastructure of the National Forensic Laboratory enables safe and competent work and the application of accredited and internationally recognised methods. In 2023, the Chemical Examination Section obtained a gas chromatograph with mass

detector, a liquid chromatograph coupled with quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer (HPLC-Q-TOF), a portable Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer and a portable Raman spectrometer.²⁷ The Biological Examination Section obtained a machine for automated DNA isolation and the DNAXs program for calculating DNA profiles in complex mixtures.

The National Forensic Laboratory conducted 55,730 instrumental analyses in 2023, which is at the level of 2022 and 2021. More instrumental analyses were conducted only in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The ten-year average is 57,658 analyses.

In 2023, forensic examinations using various methods of examining secured traces again made an important contribution to the investigation rate of various criminal offences. As in previous years, DNA examinations predominated, as they enable fast, effective and reliable investigation of criminal offences. In 2023, the National Forensic Laboratory continued implementing the measures from the end of 2022 to reduce the delays which were a result of the increase in employee absences, cases with a greater number of samples and priority cases concerning burglaries of flats and houses, in accordance with the aim of improving the investigation rate of such criminal offences.

The laboratory's DNA record contains 33,334 DNA profiles of persons and traces,²⁸ of which 23,584 are profiles of persons. The identity of 296 (in 2022, 284) suspects of criminal offences was determined by the DNA examination of traces. Based on DNA profile exchange with the contracting parties of the Prüm Treaty, 51 perpetrators of criminal offences committed in Slovenia were identified in the foreign databases (in 2022, 58). The number of countries with which Slovenia exchanges DNA profiles based on the Prüm Treaty remained at 23. At the end of 2023, the elimination DNA database contained the profiles of 1,415 people from whom mouth swab samples were taken in accordance with the Police Tasks and Powers Act.²⁹

²⁷ Raman spectrometer is a device for analysing organic and inorganic compounds. Raman spectroscopy is a spectroscopy method for comparing and identifying compounds by measuring changes in the energy of scattered light in a sample following excitation with monochromatic (laser) light.

²⁸ A DNA trace of an unidentified person is recorded in the DNA record as a trace.

²⁹ Data from the General Police Directorate, National Forensic Laboratory, provided by the person responsible for biometric data on 16 February 2024.

At the end of 2023, the Automated Finger Identification System (AFIS) contained the fingerprints of 119,840 fingerprinted people and 48,107 fingerprint traces.³⁰ The increase in the number of fingerprinted people was due to the greater number of fingerprinted illegal migrants. In 2023, 135 fingerprint traces were identified based on the records of fingerprinted people in AFIS, 18 fingerprint traces were identified based on international exchange, and eight fingerprinted people were linked to criminal offences committed in countries with which Slovenia exchanges fingerprint data. There are 22 such countries.³¹

The experts of the National Forensic Laboratory participated in 42 inspections of crime scenes and sites of other incidents, and were summoned by a court order to appear at hearings as expert witness 75 times.³²

In 2023, 17,551 inspections of crime scenes and sites of other incidents were recorded in the inspection log, which does not vary much from the ten-year average of 17,683. The number of forensically examined suspects has been increasing and is nearing the pre-epidemic level.

With regard to requests for examinations at the forensic laboratory, the number of requests for DNA examination continues to grow (positive trend). Since 2014, when there were 1,953 such requests, their number has increased to 3,644 in 2023, which is the highest number in the last ten years. In 2023, the number of identified traces increased again, amounting to 1,111. This coincides with the increase in the number of entries in the inspection log, forensically examined people and traces sent for analysis.

In November 2023, an international conference on the use of polygraph procedures in criminal investigations was held in Slovenia. In 2023, 69 polygraph procedures were carried out, which is approximately the same as in 2022, and 203 analyses of personal statements following the linguistic method (SCAN – Scientific Content Analysis method), which has been increasingly replacing polygraph examinations.

2.2.4 Research and analytics

In the second half of October 2023, a measuring of the social climate was conducted. Several activities concerning the implementation of the competency model were also carried out in 2023. Two targeted research projects proposed in 2022 have been implemented. The Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security has studied community policing, while the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science has studied the integration and analysis of heterogeneous data streams on an investigation platform.

Two targeted research projects proposed in 2021 were concluded. Researchers at the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana examined more than 500 police files concerning restraining orders to determine the effectiveness of the measure. They analysed the cases in detail and at the end of August 2023 sent the final report on the study to the police. The findings of the analysis will be considered in drafting the proposals for amendments to legislation and police guidelines for preventing and dealing with domestic violence. The Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security studied foreign approaches and good practices concerning models for national security threat assessment and measuring the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of police work, and the possibilities for applying these models in Slovenia. At the end of August 2023, the Faculty sent the final report to the police, including

³⁰ Fingerprint trace is a trace of (fingerprint) papillary lines found and correctly secured at the crime or incident scene, on the victim or objects related to the crime, entered in AFIS, after which the identification procedure is carried out.

³¹ 2023 Report of the Dactyloscopy Section, document No 315-4/2024/3 of 18 January 2024.

³² Material for a management review of the National Forensic Laboratory for 2023, document No 315-4/2024/7.

the presentation of a model for assessing security situation and threats in Slovenia based on an analytically and systematically designed process in which decision-makers are provided adequate information support to make decisions.

The results of crime analytics contributed to a more efficient direction of complex investigations and supported decision-making processes at the operational and strategic levels. In 2023, considerable effort was invested in training in both basic and advanced crime analytics types and methods of work and in the use of advanced analytical software.

Criminal intelligence activities supported the processes of preventing, detecting and investigating organised and other forms of serious crimes, as well as decision-making and reporting processes at all levels of organisation. They were part of the activities concerning the development and production of strategic criminal intelligence analysis products and the development of new Europol working methods.

Representatives of the police exchanged information within the Frontex Risk Analysis Network, the Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network (WB-RAN), the Cross-border Crime Risk Analysis Network (CBC-RAN) and the Strategic Risk Analysis Network (SRAN) and by using the Integrated Return Management Application (IRMA) for migrant returns. The police also established a new Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM 2.1).

2.2.5 Supervision

In 2023, 412 inspections were carried out (in 2022, 315) in accordance with the rules on the implementation of supervision, which is slightly above the ten-year average of 348 inspections.³³ The increase in the number of specific cases had an important impact in terms of increasing the number of inspections.

In 2023, the officials authorised to carry out inspections focused on the following areas:

- minor offence proceedings – in 64 inspections, 64 forms on deficiencies or irregularities found (hereinafter: forms) were issued;
- crime detection and investigation – in 40 inspections, 37 forms were issued;
- the maintenance of public order and the general safety of people and property – in 36 inspections, 31 forms were issued;
- organisational issues – in 35 inspections, 34 forms were issued;
- powers – in 34 inspections, 34 forms were issued.

Inspections concerning minor offence proceedings found the most irregularities and deficiencies. To ensure improvements in all areas, the heads of police units had to regularly monitor the work of police officers and provide them with professional assistance.

³³ Data from the General Police Directorate, Service of Director General of the Police, obtained on 28 February 2024 from the Monitoring of Inspections application.

2.2.6 Monitoring the exercise of police powers and threats to police officers

In 2023, police officers established the identity of 79,182 people, which is the highest number in the last ten years. The ten-year average is 72,201. In the last decade, the number of identified people also deviated from the average in 2015 and 2016, when police officers less often established the identity of people in police procedures due to strike activities and activities related to migrations.

In 2023, police officers detained, held on remand or produced 4,292 people in relation to criminal offences, the prevention of further minor offences or other reasons. This is the lowest number in the last ten years. The number has more than halved compared to the period 2018–2022, mostly due to a drastic fall in the number of people detained for up to 48 hours due to the person's transfer to or from foreign security authorities under indent four of paragraph one of Article 64 of the Police Tasks and Powers Act, and due to the lower number of detention decisions under Article 32 of the State Border Control Act as a result of Croatia's joining the Schengen Area on 1 January 2023 and the lifting of systematic controls on the internal border with Croatia until 21 October 2023, when temporary controls were reintroduced on the internal land border with Croatia and Hungary.

Police officers arrested 1,529 people under the Criminal Procedure Act, which is at the level of the ten-year average of 1,538. Following a decline in 2019–2022, the trend turned upward in 2023.

In 2023, police officers used instruments of restraint in 3,675 cases 8,067 times on 3,912 individuals, which is the highest incidence in the last ten years. The police assessed that this was a result of the increase in the number of procedures involving illegal migrants and suspects of the crime of illegal crossing of the state border or territory under Article 308 of the Criminal Code (the "facilitators"). In arresting facilitators and illegal migrants, police officers use instruments of restraint – most often physical force, and handcuffs or other restraints – on a large number of people (migrants usually move in groups), which is reflected in the statistics. Facilitators often do not stop their vehicles when police officers give them a signal or order to do so, which is why police officers also used means to stop vehicles by force more often in 2023. Such means were used 26 times, while in 2022 they were used 14 times.

In 2023, police officers did not use firearms, while in 2022 they used them once. In the last ten years, police officers most frequently used firearms in 2015, i.e. eight times (in one case). In 2023, they did not even fire any warning shots, which is not considered the use of a firearm. In 2022 they fired one warning shot. They fired the largest number of warning shots in 2017 and 2020, five shots in each year.

As in the past, in 2023, instruments of restraint used in the great majority of cases were handcuffs or other restraints and physical force – in total 98.2% of all instruments of restraint used. This shows that police officers followed the proportionality principle and used the mildest instruments of restraint in performing their tasks. This is also confirmed by the fact that in 2023, police officers only used the baton, which more invasively breaches the bodily integrity of a person, 16 times, while in 2022 they used it 46 times.

The heads of units and the members of commissions examining the use of instruments of restraint assessed that police officers used 98.8% of instruments of restraint legally and professionally, and 94.7% effectively, which shows a high level of police officers' professional competence in this area.³⁴

³⁴ Report on the use of instruments of restraint in attacks on police officers in 2023, February 2024 (document No 0101-50/2024/3 (207-10) of 27 February 2024).

In using instruments of restraint on individuals, 46 offenders suffered physical injuries (in 2022, 60), which is below the ten-year average of 54 injured offenders per year. In 2023, 88 police officers were injured in using instruments of restraint, which is above the ten-year average of 76 police officers per year. In the last ten years, the fewest police officers were injured in 2016 (59) and the most in 2014 (111).

Police officers also used instruments of restraint on crowds. In 2023, they used 38 instruments of restraint on a crowd in 18 cases.³⁵ In 2022, they used 10 instruments of restraint in 8 cases. This was a result of ensuring security at unregistered public gatherings and events, such as the unregistered rally of the Javni zavod Center Rog in Ljubljana, sports events in the area of Celje Police Directorate and so forth. In restraining crowds, police officers used physical force 19 times, gas spray 11 times, baton 4 times and service dog 4 times. Two thirds of the cases when police officers used instruments of restraint on a crowd were in the area of Ljubljana Police Directorate.

The training of police officers is of key importance in ensuring that the instruments of restraint are used legally and professionally and keeping the number of injured offenders and police officers to a minimum. In January 2023, a training course in first aid after the use of instruments of restraint was held for practical procedure and self-defence instructors. In June 2023, basic and refresher training in the use of electric stun guns was provided for police officers of Novo mesto Police Directorate. In 2023, the police drew up guidelines for the use of means for stopping vehicles by force on motorways.

In 2023, 176 criminal offences of preventing the performance of official acts and attacking an official (hereinafter: attacks on police officers) were committed, in which 221 police officers were injured.

On 6 July 2023, shots were fired in Šmarjeta near Novo mesto. A man whose driving licence was taken by police officers during a traffic control because he had been driving under the influence of alcohol came back later and started shooting. Several shots hit the police vehicle with the two police officers inside. One of them was lightly wounded.

The number of attacks on police officers was below the ten-year average, which is 184 attacks per year. The number of injured police officers was also below the average of the last ten years, which is 249. In the last ten years, the number of attacks on police officers was the lowest in 2017 (157) and the highest in 2020 and 2021 (215 in each). In 2023, there were no attacks on police officers that ended in the death of an officer. However, there were some attacks that could have ended tragically for police officers if they had not successfully thwarted the attacks.

A safe environment is prerequisite for good performance of duties. By appropriately classifying criminal offences and evaluating the seriousness of threats to police officers, the police ensure effective and efficient planning of measures to ensure the safety of police officers at risk. Of 33 threats, which is the lowest number in the last ten years, four were evaluated at medium degree of risk and the others at low degree of risk. All threats were directed towards police officers due to the performance of their duties.

³⁵ This means 38 uses of instruments of restraint. The actual number of instruments of restraint may be higher. For example, when a group of police officers uses physical force to push a crowd, the actual number of instruments of restraint can be higher if one of the police officers uses instruments of restraint on several individuals in a crowd.

2.2.7 Resolution of complaints

The increase in the number of complaints about the work of police officers filed in the previous years³⁶ slowed down in 2023 and is at the level of the five-year average of 461. In 2023, 467 such complaints were filed.³⁷ The police consider this number to be low with regard to the number of police procedures carried out in a year and the measures imposed.

In 2023, 464 complaints were resolved. The five-year average of resolved complaints is 414. The majority of complaints resolved in 2023 concerned public peace and order and road traffic safety. The breakdown is comparable to previous years. The majority of grounds for complaint were related to alleged exceedance or unjustified or disproportionate use of various police powers and to inappropriate communication.

The heads of police units or their authorised representatives (hereinafter: heads) conducted 103 reconciliation proceedings, of which 57 or 55.3% were concluded successfully, as the complainants agreed with the findings and measures presented by the heads at the meetings with them. In 2022, 63 of 110 or 57.3% of reconciliation proceedings were concluded successfully. In 12 reconciliation proceedings, the heads assessed that the conduct of police officers was not in accordance with regulations. In 2022, there were nine such cases.

If a complainant does not agree with the findings of the head of police unit in reconciliation proceedings, the complaint proceedings may continue before a panel. The panel responsible for decisions on the merits of a complaint against a police officer is appointed by the Minister of the Interior. The panel consists of an authorised representative of the Minister from the Police Complaints Division of the Police and Security Directorate, who is the chair of the panel, and two representatives of the public, as members of the panel. In 2023, the panel considered 59 complaints against the work of police officers, of which 12 were justified.³⁸

In April 2023, all police units were requested to ensure the appropriate response of police officers and maintain correct relations with members of the public and to strictly observe this instruction.

2.2.8 Internal security

In 2023, the police referred 120 reports on established grounds for suspicion that 126 officials employed by the Police had committed a criminal offence for which the perpetrator is prosecuted *ex officio* to the Department for the Investigation and Prosecution of Official Persons Having Special Authority of the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office (hereinafter: Specialised Department). In 2022, there were 118 such reports against 123 officials. The last ten years can be divided into two periods: 2014–2018 when, on average, 70 reports per year were referred to the Special Department, and 2019–2023 when there were 123 such reports per year, on average.³⁹

³⁶ These are the data on complaints registered in the police database. The monitoring and resolution of complaints is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. The police enter all complaints received in the database, except those resolved by the Ministry's panel. The duration of proceedings, i.e. the interval from the receipt of a complain to the resolution of the case, may cause discrepancies in the data presented in the report and the data of the Police and Security Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior.

³⁷ In 2021 and 2022, one person filed 79 complaints with Ljubljana Police Directorate, of which 57 were in 2022 and 22 in 2021.

³⁸ More information on the work of the complaints panel and its findings and detailed statistics are available in the annual report of the Police Complaints Division of the Police and Security Directorate, Ministry of the Interior, on the resolution of complaints in 2023.

³⁹ In February 2019, the State Prosecutor General and the Director General of the Police signed an agreement on cooperation between the Department for the Investigation and Prosecution of Official Persons Having Special Authority at the Specialised

The police do not restrict the supplementary work or activity of their employees, however, due to the nature of police work, the police must carefully consider whether such work or activity could impact the impartial performance of duties, whether in performing the activity the police employee concerned could abuse the information they have access to in performing their work duties and which are not accessible to the public, and whether the activity would harm the reputation of the police. Under Article 75 of the Organisation and Work of the Police Act, a police employee must inform the Director General of the Police of any supplementary work or activity they perform. In 2023, police employees submitted 150 requests for the approval of the Director General to perform supplementary work or activity (in 2022, there were 171 such requests submitted). The police analysed the requests and based on the findings issued approvals for supplementary work or activities. In 2023, no police employee was prohibited from performing supplementary work or activity by a decision of the Director General of the Police. In 2022, one employee was issued a decision prohibiting them from performing supplementary work.

As part of their preventive measures concerning personnel, the police carry out security vetting in accordance with Article 51 of the Organisation and Work of the Police Act. In 2023, the police carried out 1,993 security vetting procedures (in 2022 1,699; in 2021 1,785; in 2020 1,384; in 2019 1,296; and in 2018 1,012).

The integrity of police officers is essential for police work. Aware of this, the police invest considerable effort in reducing the risk of a breach of integrity of police employees and police units. Based on the Rules on restrictions and duties of public employees with regard to accepting gifts, the police recorded five gifts in 2023 and one in 2022.

The police provide legal assistance free of charge to any police officer, auxiliary police officer or former police officer against whom a pre-trial investigation is pending,

or against whom criminal or civil proceedings have been instituted for performing police duties that, in the opinion of the police, were performed in accordance with regulations. Legal assistance may be provided to protect the personal integrity of the beneficiaries and exceptionally also to protect the organisational integrity of the police, when police officers are the injured parties or the people providing information in proceedings.

In 2023, 11 police officers applied for legal assistance, three of them as parties in contentious proceedings, two as interveners in proceedings, one in relation to the protection of personal integrity of a police officer, and five in a pre-trial procedure. Seven of these applications were granted. In 2022, five police officers applied for legal assistance, three of them in criminal proceedings and two in a pre-trial procedure. All five applications were granted. One application for legal assistance due to the protection of personal integrity was also received but was rejected because the police officer had not supplemented the application as requested.⁴⁰

2.2.9 Information and communication activities

In its first full year of operation, the new digital radio network TETRA (terrestrial trunked radio) has already shown operative advantages compared to previous radio communication used by the police. The main advantage of the new system is radio coverage of the terrain at the national level, which was particularly useful in operations covering large geographical areas, such as ensuring security at

State Prosecutor's Office and the Police, which provided the rules on cooperation and information exchange between the signatories.

⁴⁰ Data on requests for supplementary work approval, approvals or decisions prohibiting supplementary activity issued, the cases of legal assistance and the number of security vetting procedures in 2023 are from the General Police Directorate, Service of Director General of the Police, Internal Investigation and Integrity Division, obtained on 21 March 2024.

In 2023, the preparations for the implementation of the TETRA – LTE (public broadband mobile network) interface started, which will enable additional functionalities.

cycling races, which usually take place on road sections with less traffic and cover a wide area. Another advantage is a new cryptographic algorithm, which provides a higher level of communication protection than the old system. Due to the use of the latest technology, the services, hardware and software are more reliable and operation costs lower

than in the old system. The police will continue to gradually increase the number of base stations to eliminate grey zones in radio coverage. A small scale redistribution of base stations was also carried out. By the end of 2023, the network included 150 base stations and 11,517 radio terminals.

The centralisation of police directorates' fixed telephone connections has also continued, and the associated system transferred to a new hardware environment. The activities took place at 54 locations and 1,650 desk telephone terminals were replaced. The replacement of technology for connecting the fixed telephone system to the public operator's network reduced costs. Video conference equipment was installed in police directorates' meeting rooms. A procurement procedure was carried out for video conference equipment to allow courts to conduct interviews of foreigners remotely. The users were issued 437 tablet computers and 870 mobile phones.

The police also purchased 2,000 desktop computers, which will replace obsolete workstations in 2024. New file servers were installed at police directorates. File servers from the discontinued Schengen Area police units were transferred to police stations responsible for compensatory measures. The servers were upgraded to a newer operating system. The infrastructure for introducing the SharePoint cooperation platform was set up.

Part of the equipment of local, urban and wide area networks of the information and telecommunications system of the police was upgraded or replaced⁴¹, allowing the implementation of new applications and services, a more powerful server and storage infrastructure in data centres and the provision of greater security and resilience against cyberattacks. The renovation of the so-called demilitarized zone continued.⁴² New IP network connections and security solutions for the police's voice network were introduced. The smooth operation of the central server system, where applications and other software necessary for performing operational duties are installed, was ensured. Network connections were adjusted to operational requirements following the reintroduction of controls at internal Schengen borders. In seven police buildings video surveillance systems were replaced.

Modern information tools are part of police work. The police developed or updated nine applications for the new highly available (two servers) Geographic Information System (GIS). During the transition to the new system, all spatial layers were converted to the new national coordinate system D96 with links to neighbouring countries' systems, which enable police officers to use it in the event of any cross-border activity. Two new virtual servers were installed to fulfil the needs of the renovated cartographic bases and application solution. An improved method of entering event locations in CEPIS applications with a GIS element was introduced, enabling the selection of locations on a map. This makes the locations more precise and more suitable for further spatial analyses. In 2023, six new applications were developed, while some existing applications were improved with new tools. Throughout the period, new spatial layers were being obtained and the existing ones updated for use in applications.

⁴¹ A wide area network (WAN) is a telecommunications network or computer network extending over a wide geographical area. They are often established with leased telecommunications circuits.

⁴² The demilitarized zone is used to separate the police network from public networks such as the internet, and networks of other institutions such as the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Public Administration. This allows the police to ensure that their internal network stays safe from outside attacks.

In the Notebook⁴³ application, four new subapplications and forms were developed. Within the central police information system (CEPIS), the application for implementing fine refunds under the Communicable Diseases Act and the application for biometric checks were upgraded. Five new records were developed for the area of internal security and integrity, and three assemblers. The phonetic index of people and e-RISK were updated several times. The RECAMAS project was completed, finishing the development of an application solution to assist the Centre for Foreigners. The application for migrant registration and related statistical reporting is also regularly upgraded.

On the analytical platform Stalita, more than 20 new applications were made, the majority for investigating large quantities of seized material. Two application prototypes were also made for investigating online abuse and material on sexual abuse of children. Representatives of the Slovenian Police gave several presentations on the platform, including abroad, e.g. at CEPOL in Budapest and within various EMPACT projects.

Data were continuously exchanged with other organisations (the State Prosecutor's Office, the Financial Administration, the Ministry of Public Administration).

Great emphasis was placed on upgrading and developing ICT solutions in the context of European systems, as their changes affect national solutions.

The relevant applications were successfully redesigned to implement the upgrade of the Schengen Information System (SIS Recast). Certain applications were updated (the upgrades of SIS2 national solutions, SIRENE application and the national solution RSIS – sending calls for applications and measures to the central SIS system)

and intermediary application solutions⁴⁴ for external partners made (the Internal Administrative Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior, the Financial Administration, the Maritime Administration, the Civil Aviation Authority). For the Entry/Exit System (EES), intermediary application solutions for external users (the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs) and border control applications, including those for mobile Windows and Android terminals, were made or updated.⁴⁵ The introduction of this system was postponed until 2024 due to the delay in the central project (at the EU level).

There is a growing trend in internet abuse attempts. In 2023, the police security operations centre responsible for the protection of the police information and communications system against cyberattacks detected 4.5 million attempts of internet abuse, which is a half more than in 2022 and twice as many as in 2020 and 2021. Phishing attempts were still very frequent. This is a form of deception where the attacker tries to obtain certain data from the user with false websites or false electronic messages. The forms of phishing are becoming increasingly advanced and difficult to recognise, which increases the risks to the police information and communications system. In 2023, 4,145 cases of malware attack were detected. No successful hacks of the police information and communications system were detected.

Unmanned aircraft were used in various forms of terrain monitoring and in missing person searches. The IT and Telecommunications Office controlled the uncontrolled airspace, in cooperation with the Civil Aviation Agency of the Republic of Slovenia. In 2023, the police officers who operate unmanned aircraft attended two training courses and the units received new devices. In electronic anti-drone defence, the police assisted the Slovenian Armed Forces in monitoring military convoys carrying sensitive equipment. A working group on electronic anti-drone defence was established to draft

⁴³ Police Officer's Notebook is an online application for recording processed cases and issuing forms concerning crime, public safety and border issues. The aim of the application is to make the entry of data and issuing of forms easier, reduce the possibility of error and prevent data duplication. The content is taken from the existing records as far as possible. The data entered are transferred between forms and entered in other records.

⁴⁴ Intermediary application solutions enable external stakeholders to connect to certain IT systems of the EU to which they are entitled but to which only the police have direct access. In this case, these are the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the Entry/Exit System (EES).

⁴⁵ The necessary testing is being conducted.

a development strategy and set operational goals. The police also participates in a working group of the Ministry of Infrastructure, which studies the impacts of security risks (SRM – Safety Risk Management) and collaborates with the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).⁴⁶ The IT and Telecommunications Office also regularly carried out mobile video surveillance of cargo vehicles in the Pegaz 5 operation, in cooperation with police units throughout Slovenia.

Police network users submitted 19,887 service requests to the service centre of the IT and Telecommunications Office (negative trend), while the users of the Ministry of the Interior's network submitted 650 such requests (positive trend). The centre dealt with 1,521 cases of hardware, application or service failure (negative trend). It also dealt with 20,274 complaints against decisions and fixed penalty notices (slight positive trend), 10,968 requests for an update of police records (slight positive trend), 1,335 cancellations of enforcement proposals sent to the Financial Administration and 678 money orders for the payment of fines following enforcement (negative trend). In police records, 37,958 entries of data on persons were changed (negative trend).

2.2.10 Personnel and organisation

At the end of 2023, there were 8,162 posts (in 2022, 8,412) occupied, which is less than allowed by the personnel plan for 2023 (8,241). The Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police was amended five times in 2023.⁴⁷ Major changes included the discontinuation of the Motorway Police Directorate and the transfer of discontinued posts to other internal organisational units, the implementation of the Agreement on measures relating to salaries and other labour costs in the public sector for 2022 and 2023 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 136/22) and one salary grade promotion for all posts, and changes in the organisation and methods of work of the police following the lifting of border controls on the border with Croatia when it joined the Schengen Area.

In April 2023, the Guide to Competency Evaluation and Development in the Police was published to facilitate the use of the competency model in the police in developing human resources and recognising potential. The establishment of an information system for efficient employee management (IS MUZA), under the direction of the Ministry of Public Administration, continued with a view to transferring the competency model to human resource management. Almost 400 police leaders attended various training courses aimed at empowering them to evaluate and assess competencies.

In March 2023, a working group on the career system was established. Its final report with recommendations was presented to the two State Secretaries at the Ministry of the Interior in August and September 2023. In October 2023, guidelines were set for the preparation of systemic bases and normative regulation to establish a career system in the police.⁴⁸ After that, a working group was appointed within the Ministry of the Interior, which is chaired by a State Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior. The members of the working group are the Director General of the Police, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior and the presidents of both police trade unions.

The police planned to reinforce their personnel by employing 174 new police officers who completed their studies at the Police College in September or November 2023.

On 31 December 2023, 134 police candidates of the eighth generation and 149 police candidates of the ninth generation were enrolled in the Police College as full-time students. Based on a public call for applications for 50 vacancies for the position of police

⁴⁶ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/who-we-are/about-us_en.

⁴⁷ The Legal Act was amended on 31 March, 1 April, 7 June, 21 June and 1 October 2023.

⁴⁸ Document No 024-71/2023/58 (20-07) of 6 October 2023, addressed to the Minister of the Interior.

officer with attained secondary school education (security of state premises candidate), in October 2023 five candidates entered a fixed-duration employment relationship, i.e. a six-months training for protecting the premises of state authorities with the Security and Protection Centre, External Security of Premises Desk. In addition, employment procedures for 56 posts for officials and 57 professional technical posts were also carried out.

In 2023, the negative personnel turnover increased despite an active employment policy. In the autumn of 2023, a new strategy for promoting the police profession was adopted for the period 2023–2025. The employment of 581 public employees of the police was terminated (in 2022, 376), the majority (310) due to retirement. There were 135 agreed terminations of employment. In 65 cases the public employee failed to pass the proficiency examination set out as a condition in their employment contract. Other reasons for termination were: expiry of the term of employment contract, the transfer of public employees to another state administration body, extraordinary termination by the employer under Article 110 of the Employment Relationships Act, the suspension of rights, regular termination, death and notice period. In 2023, 265 procedures for the employment of public employees were carried out (in 2022, 308).⁴⁹

In March 2023, 65 candidates of the 11th generation completed basic training for auxiliary police candidates. In May 2023, 59 of them signed a contract on voluntary service within the auxiliary police force. In December 2023, a new call for applications for auxiliary police officers was published but was not implemented.

To improve health and safety at work, potential hazards and risks have been regularly monitored in accordance with the regulations on Safety Statement with Risk Assessment, and measures to prevent, manage and eliminate any hazards at work implemented. Within the monitoring of the incidence of communicable diseases and in accordance with the recommendations of the National Institute of Public Health, additional information and instructions concerning the preventive and protective measures to prevent and manage infections were drafted based on the risk assessment. On occasions when SARS-CoV-2 infections increased, preventive self-testing with rapid antigen tests was carried out. This proved to be an important preventive measure in the event of increased number of infections in an organisational unit. A total of 7,350 rapid antigen tests for self-testing were issued in 2023.

At the initiative of Koper Police Directorate, the first radon monitoring was carried out on the premises of Sežana Police Station from May to July 2023 and from November 2023 to March 2024. It was conducted by an authorised service provider in accordance with Article 71 of the Ionising Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act and the Rules on the authorisation of providers of specialist services concerning ionising radiation. Based on the data collected during summer and winter measurements, the authorised service provider will issue an expert opinion and propose measures, as appropriate. Based on the request to give an expert opinion on the suitability of work areas at Koper and Celje Police Directorates, representatives of the Health and Safety at Work Service carried out an inspection of work areas, measured physical parameters and proposed appropriate measures.

In 2023, health measures included 2,302 preventive medical examinations of police employees (in 2022, 3,500); 919 were performed by the Occupational Health Clinic of the Ministry of the Interior (in 2022, 1,042) and 1,383 by external authorised service providers (in 2022, 2,458). The police health commission met 15 times (in 2022, 18 times) to discuss the fitness for work of 22 police officers (in 2022, 19) in 50 hearings (in 2022, 64).

⁴⁹ Data from the Ministry of the Interior, Secretariat, Organisation and Personnel Office, and the Unified Accounting System of the Ministry of Finance (MFERAC application), obtained on 27 February 2024.

In 2023, 1,331 people were vaccinated⁵⁰ (in 2022, 1,731), of which 1,188 were police employees and 117 auxiliary police officers (in 2022, 1,643 police employees and 33 auxiliary police officers) at the Occupational Health Clinic of the Ministry of the Interior or in the field. In addition, 26 police officers (in 2022, 55) posted abroad were vaccinated at the National Institute of Public Health.

Final fire risk assessments were made for 104 buildings of the General Police Directorate and Celje, Ljubljana, Maribor and Novo mesto Police Directorates (in 2022, for 62 buildings of Koper, Murska Sobota, Nova Gorica and Kranj Police Directorates). The fire safety rules, fire safety plans and evacuation plans based on the new fire risk assessments for the buildings of the Ljubljana, Celje, Kranj, Nova Gorica and Murska Sobota Police Directorates were made under a public contract for a value of over EUR 95,000.

Various training courses and examinations of competence in health and safety at work (7,719⁵¹), fire protection (7,403), radiation protection (35) and first aid (691) were carried out. At the beginning of 2023, new first aid training programmes were adopted, which brought the content in line with the latest first aid guidelines, extended the duration of courses, in particular the basic and refresher first aid courses for medical assistants, and set a more favourable attendee to trainer ratio. New programmes significantly improved the quality of courses and thus the knowledge of medical assistants. Training in urgent first aid measures was included in practical procedure and self-defence training. The first practical procedure and self-defence instructors were evaluated with regard to running training in urgent first aid measures. More than 2,000 police officers from Murska Sobota, Ljubljana, Novo mesto, Celje and Kranj Police Directorates, the Police Academy, the Uniformed Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate and some other smaller internal organisational units of the police attended training in urgent first aid measures for police officers. They rated the training very positively and have already used the knowledge acquired in critical situations in the field. New teaching aids were purchased for the implementation of updated first aid training programmes, which enable first aid exercises to be performed on marked individuals with realistically presented injuries.

We ensured that personal and environmental dosimeters were regularly read by the Jožef Stefan Institute, ionising radiation of the stationary X-ray machine was measured during open door days at the office of the President of the Republic of Slovenia and the radiation sources were inspected by an authorised radiation protection expert. In cooperation with the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration, the licence to carry out radiation practice at the Ministry of the Interior, Police, No 3572-25/2021/6 of 30 June 2021 was amended due to the use of a new machine for X-ray spectroscopy and a licence to use a new portable X-ray machine XRS-3 was obtained. Inspections of radiation sources by authorised radiation protection experts were ensured. Monthly ionising radiation measurements were conducted on radiation sources and occupationally exposed police officers of class B.⁵² An authorised provider provided training for 31 police officers who are not classified as occupationally exposed persons⁵³ and for 4 occupationally exposed police officers. Instructions for the use of measuring equipment setting out the method of measurement, the frequency of calibration of radiation meters and

⁵⁰ Preventive initial vaccinations and revaccinations against hepatitis B and tick-borne encephalitis were carried out, and in some cases also against hepatitis A and typhus.

⁵¹ Training in health and safety at work was carried out for 7,464 police employees in accordance with the programme for health and safety at work training at the Ministry of the Interior and bodies within the Ministry. Training in safe work in the railway area for 138 police employees, training in safe use of gas devices for 36 new candidates for the Riot Police Unit and training in safe work at height for 53 police employees were also provided. In addition, 25 police employees were trained in the safe use of chainsaws and 3 in the safe use of forklift trucks.

⁵² These are the police officers working in the Bomb Disposal Section of the Special Police Unit and two veterinarians working in the Service Dog Training Section of the Training Centre at the Police Academy. The measurements for police officers are set out in the assessment of protection of exposed workers in using portable X-ray machines for scanning potentially dangerous items in the field, and for veterinarians in the assessment of radiation protection in radiological examinations at the Service Dog Training Section.

⁵³ These are the police officers who work with conveyor X-ray scanners. In accordance with the assessment of radiation protection in using conveyor and cabinet X-ray scanners for baggage and packages, these police officers are not classified in class B.

action plan in the event of increased radiation, and instructions for safe use and emergency action plan for the XRS-3 X-ray machine were produced. The regulatory actions referred to in the record of the inspection conducted by a radiation and nuclear safety inspector in May 2022 were implemented. In December 2023, the inspector carried out another routine inspection on the premises at Kotnikova 8a and in the Bomb Disposal Section. In July 2023, the Labour Inspectorate carried out a health and safety at work inspection on the premises of Maribor Police Directorate concerning thermal comfort in workplaces.

The Health and Safety at Work Service of the Organisation and Personnel Office at the Secretariat of the Ministry of the Interior, which participated in the supervision regarding the provision of preventive measures for health and safety at work, fire protection and radiation protection carried out at the Police Academy, established in relation to the Police Academy's closed shooting range that there is a long-term heightened risk of injuries and health damage for all users and proposed urgent measures. Concurrently, an occupational medicine provider set up health surveillance with biological monitoring for police officers who are shooting instructors and perform their work in the closed shooting range.

With regard to psychological support in 2023, the two specialist clinical psychologists carried out 715 preventive psychological examinations of police and Ministry of the Interior employees, 127 follow-up examinations and 116 clinical psychological treatment sessions (in 2022, there were 1,429 examinations, 127 follow-ups and 133 clinical psychological treatment sessions) and 14 crisis interventions. In 2023, 28 police employees (in 2022, 30) underwent psychotherapy or counselling, which in total included 123 psychotherapy or counselling sessions (in 2022, 120).

The two specialist clinical psychologists attended training in the use of a scale for assessing intellectual functioning in adults and training in the use of clinical personality tests. With this training they fulfilled the criteria for using the psychodiagnostic tests concerned in clinical psychological assessments (in assessing fitness for work, assessing risks related to duties and in planning interventions).

The collection of data on sleep problems and disorders among police officers continued. These data will be analysed, reports compiled and proposals made for reducing the negative impacts of night work at the individual and systemic levels. Participation in the writing of a monograph on the ethics of psychological work in the police led to the development of guidelines on preventing and solving ethical dilemmas in psychological work in the police. Contents for an interpersonal skills training programme were prepared, which is intended for all public employees at the police and the Ministry to improve communication within teams and with external stakeholders,

the effectiveness of conflict management and the identification of signs of distress that requires urgent professional help. Measures to be taken in the event of mental problems of public employees were redefined with a view to improving their effectiveness and reducing the time from the onset of problems to appropriate professional treatment.

At the end of 2023, psychological support was provided by 11 (in 2022, 12)⁵⁴ psychologists employed with the police and the Ministry of the Interior. There were also 25 (in 2022, 26) police officer confidants and candidates for police officer confidants. In 2023, 394 police employees sought help from a psychologist for the first time (in 2022, 384). In 2023, police officer confidants held 257 psychological support sessions (in 2021, 216). The most common reasons for seeking psychological help in 2023 were family or partner relationship problems, the person's state following a work-related traumatic event, and suspicion of mobbing and mental distress due to bad workplace relations. The most common reasons for seeking psychological support are stress due to work organisation and family or partner relationship problems. Psychologists participated in selection procedures for acceptance into the police,

⁵⁴ Data for 2023 are from the General Police Directorate, Police Academy, Research and Social Skills Centre, document No 024-10/2023/3 of 3 February 2024.

ran workshops and training for various target groups and provided training for new candidates for police officer candidates. In 2023, the working group on psychological help and psychological support in the police harmonised and published the amendments to the Rules on the provision of psychological help and psychological support to police employees.

In 2023, advisers for assistance and information on protection against sexual and other harassment or mobbing assisted and provided information on available measures in 16 cases in the police. The police processed 18 reports of sexual or other harassment or mobbing. In three cases, information and assistance was provided to employees with regard to alleged workplace discrimination.

Members of the working group on conflict management and mediation in the police considered seven reported conflicts in 2023. The analysis of the cases showed that difficulties in interpersonal relations occurred at different levels. Employees still use informal assistance in managing interpersonal relations – when they can, they resolve various conflicts themselves, while receiving support or guidelines and being provided with tools for improving relations. The option of informal assistance was used 53 times in 2023 (in 2022, 39 times).

2.2.11 Education and training

The large number of new police candidates in the full-time study programme, and police officers and border police officers referred to further education in part-time study programmes after the completion of the "Police Officer" higher education study programme, had a great impact on the work of the Police Academy, especially the Police College. In particular the referral of border police officers to part-time study programmes required changes in the organisation and operation of the college.

At the end of 2023, the college had 52 college lecturers to carry out the full-time and part-time study programmes under the "Police Officer" higher education study programme. Of these, 33 directly implemented the programmes, while the remaining lecturers, generally employees from other police units or from the Ministry, mentored students in writing their diploma theses. Employees from other units of the Police Academy or the police and some external providers were included in the education process as lecturers on specialist subjects, police tactical training instructors or mentors to police candidates.

In November 2023, 181 graduates of the seventh study generation under the "Police Officer" higher education programme received their diplomas. In the same month, another 47 candidates graduated (21 full-time and 26 part-time students). They will receive their diplomas in 2024.

There were 12 (in 2022, 28)⁵⁵ new or improved training programmes verified, i.e.: Protection of external Schengen border and preparation for an exam in exercising police powers; Complex police tasks in dealing with traffic accidents; Awareness of stereotypes, prejudice management and discrimination prevention in multi-cultural communities; E-learning in the police; Advanced and supplementary training for auxiliary police; Forensic interviews; Proceedings against minors – training of multipliers; Basic training for X-ray operators; Refresher training for X-ray operators; Basic training for police officers in the Bomb Disposal Section of the Special Police Unit; Updating of skills in bomb protection – bomb technician; Practical training for bomb technicians; and Use of measuring devices for road traffic control.

⁵⁵ Data from the General Police Directorate, Police Academy, Training Centre, obtained on 31 January 2024.

In 2023, 435 training courses were run, most of which were related to general police duties and specialities or were international training courses. There were 19,219 training attendees,⁵⁶ the majority (8,519) attended courses in information technology and computing, primarily for training in information security policy and refresher training in the protection and processing of confidential information.

The programme for training and advanced training in the exercise of police powers with practical procedure and self-defence (PPSA) was carried out. The mandatory examination of police officers and PPSA providers in police powers was carried out on the online platform EIDA.

In international activities, the Police Academy participated in various studies on training conducted through surveys by EU agencies, international organisations and certain countries, by submitting responses to questionnaires on methods of teaching and training police officers in Slovenia.

In 2023, 49 police employees attended 49 training courses provided by the European Police College (hereinafter: CEPOL). Four police employees also participated in three CEPOL training courses as lecturers. CEPOL also organised a training course in fundamental rights in Slovenia, at Brdo pri Kranju, which was attended by 23 foreign and one Slovenian attendees. Within the CEPOL exchange programme, one representative of the Slovenian Police went to Slovakia and one Slovak representative came to Slovenia (polygraph examinations). One representative of the police attended the evaluation meeting for the 2023 exchange programme and a meeting to plan the 2024 programme. Police representatives are also active in the management of CEPOL.

The Police Academy is a member of the Frontex Partnership Academies Network, which facilitates cooperation in border and coast guard training. The national training coordinator attended a conference of partner academies representatives and national coordinators, which was held for the first time after a break of several years. The Slovenian Police organised training for national contact centre coordinators with lectures given by experts from Frontex. Based on invitations received and coordination within the police, police officers were selected and referred to training provided abroad by Frontex. The police participated in the production of Frontex material for self-directed learning of English at B2 level (*English for European Border and Coast Guard Teams – Level 2*).

A meeting was held with representatives of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) to discuss the implementation of training in international protection for national officials and the meeting with the new head of the Training Institute of the Bavarian Police. A delegation of the Montenegro Police Academy paid a working visit to the Slovenian Police Academy. One police officer, a graduate from Germany, was here for a two-month practical training, and one police officer, a student from Austria, for a two-week practical training. Two specialist training courses for service dogs and service dog handlers from the Police Academy in Zagreb were carried out.

The cooperation with the Training Institute of the Bavarian Police in Ainring, which was disrupted by the COVID-19 epidemic, was re-established and upgraded. The assistant head teacher of the Police College attended the international conference Leadership in Challenging Times organised by the Institute. Two service dog handlers and their service dogs attended training in locating the seat of the fire, and a delegation of the Service Dog Training Section paid a working visit to the Institute's centre. Representatives of the Service Dog Training Section also paid a working visit to the Police Academy in Banja Luka. The Police Academy was visited by students from a Dutch faculty of criminology and by participants in an international conference held at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security.

Representatives of the Slovenian Police participated in the running of training courses within the Erasmus study programme, the training in resolving "AMOK" situations, i.e. situations of extreme aggression and mass killing or injuring large numbers of people in open or closed spaces, run by

⁵⁶ This is the statistical number of attendees. A person is counted each time they attend a training course.

the Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska, and the RAILEX XI non-lethal weapons training in Sofia, Bulgaria. Representatives of 18 RAILPOL members held a meeting where they presented the instruments of restraint used by their police forces and highlighted positive and negative experience gained in their use.

Representatives of the police participated in two training courses of the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest and two training courses of the European College of Financial Investigation and Financial Criminal Analysis (CEIFAC) in Strasbourg. They also participated remotely in the training carried out by the European Partners against Corruption and European contact-point network against corruption (EPAC/EACN). The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) also carried out an online training course.

2.2.12 Financial and material matters

In the revised state budget for 2023, EUR 513,250,874 was allocated to the police, while at the end of the year, the established budget of the police was EUR 520,980,939. The established budget differed from the allocated budget due to the reallocation of spending rights, donations, income from sale, substitution of tangible assets and own activities.

The established budget consisted of EUR 492,297,700 integral funds (type 1 supergroup), EUR 13,710,726 earmarked funds and EUR 14,972,513 funds from the EU and Slovenian participation.

On 31 December 2023, EUR 491,769,424 or 94.4% (on 31 December 2022, EUR 463,851,427 or 92.3%) of all established budget funds were spent. This comprised 98.2% (in 2022, 96.3%) of integral funds, 18.1% (in 2022, 9.8 %) of earmarked funds and 39.9% (in 2022, 76.8%) of funds from the EU and Slovenian participation. The two main reasons for the low share of spent funds from the EU and Slovenian participation, which were earmarked in 2022 for 2023, were the late approval of the implementing decision on programmes under the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and the Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI) for the period 2021–2027, and Croatia joining the Schengen Area.⁵⁷

In 2023, 98.4% of appropriations for salaries, 93.2% of appropriations for transfers, 87.2% of appropriations for material expenses and 79.4% of appropriations for investments were spent.⁵⁸

Equipment and vehicles necessary for the operation of the police were purchased. Most of EUR 36.8 million spent on investments (integral funds), was spent as follows:

- EUR 10.4 million for a multi-role transport helicopter,
- EUR 9.5 million for vehicles,
- EUR 7.1 million for information and telecommunications equipment, and
- EUR 2.8 million for major maintenance.

⁵⁷ The European Commission approved the programmes under the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI 2021–2027, at the end of 2022. Based on this, the approvals of action plans, which are required for the approval of support for projects, were issued in the first half of 2023. For this reason, a part of planned 2023 spending was transferred to 2024.

When Croatia joined the Schengen Area on 1 January 2023, Slovenia no longer controlled the external land border of the Schengen Area. Under the BMVI, the Slovenian Police is only entitled to the funds for activities on external Schengen borders and therefore had to considerably reduce the number of projects within the BMVI in 2023. Furthermore, an amendment to the BMVI 2021–2027 action plan affected the purchase of material and technical means and vehicles, and the spending of the funds from the EU and Slovenian participation in 2023.

⁵⁸ Data from the Ministry of the Interior, Secretariat, Finance and Accounting Office, obtained on 24 February 2024.

Larger equipment purchases recorded within material expenses included:

- personal equipment for police officers in the value of EUR 7.8 million (new uniforms for all members of uniformed police; and new work clothes for mobile crime investigation units, the Security and Protection Centre and the National Bureau of Investigation after the conclusion of the multiannual project of developing work clothes for non-uniformed police officers),
- weapons, ammunition and gas devices in the value of EUR 1.5 million, and
- protective equipment (full-face protective masks, vests, shirts and helmets with ballistic protection, active noise-reducing muffs, riot shields and other equipment) in the value of EUR 1.5 million.

In 2023, 257 vehicles were acquired under sale and supply contracts and 40 intervention vehicles under operating lease.

The Ministry of the Interior manages 599 housing units, of which five were transferred to the Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for management. These will be registered in the service housing stock of the Ministry of the Interior until the ownership is formalised. In 2023, 24 service housing units were allocated to employees. No service housing units were bought, two were sold. In the period 2024–2027, purchase of new service housing units is planned, together with the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Defence, primarily in the area of Ljubljana and Kranj.⁵⁹

In 2023, the police were also involved in planning projects that in 2024 will allow them to draw on the national envelope or decentralised financial resources of the European Union for the programming period 2021–2027, in the three internal affairs funds: the Internal Security Fund, the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument within the Integrated Border Management Fund. In addition to the national envelope funds, the police also regularly apply for funding in calls for applications launched by the European Commission or its agencies.

In 2023, the Slovenian Police participated as a partner organisation in more than 10 projects (co-)financed from various EU sources. It also led and coordinated the ISLE-IC project (International Specialist Law Enforcement, Improved Capabilities), with Germany and Latvia as partners. When the project was concluded in the second half of 2023, final substantive and financial reports were made. The activities within this project improved the investigation of criminal offences related to illicit trafficking in weapons and organised crime with the use of special techniques, tools and equipment, and the professional competence of specialists working in this field. Several applications for projects submitted by the Slovenian Police are pending the approval of the European Commission.

In 2023, the Slovenian Police also participated as a partner in the IPA project (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) Strengthening the rule of law in North Macedonia, whose aim is institutional capacity building in North Macedonia. The application for an IPA project for institutional capacity building in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPA4BiH – European Union Police Assistance for Bosnia and Herzegovina) was not approved by the European Commission. The Slovenian Police also participated in an IPA III project focused on dealing with migrant smuggling and human trafficking along the Balkan route.

⁵⁹ Data from the Ministry of the Interior, Logistics Directorate, sent on 19 March 2024.

2.2.13. International cooperation

International cooperation is an important part of the activities of the police at all levels, as bilateral, regional and international cooperation is often essential for successful fulfilment of police duties. Therefore, representatives of the police attended many international events.

In May 2023, the Director General of the Police attended an informal meeting of police chiefs in Stockholm organised by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU. The meeting was attended by chiefs of police or their deputies from EU Member States, Schengen Area countries and the United Kingdom, and one Europol representative. They focused on ensuring lawful access to data for effective law enforcement, policing in the digital age and human resources, skills and training needs over the next ten years.

The Director General of the Police led the Slovenian delegation at the 91st INTERPOL General Assembly at the end of November 2023 in Vienna, Austria, which took place in the light of the 100th anniversary of INTERPOL.

The informal meeting was followed by the European Police Chiefs Convention (EPCC) in September 2023, which was co-hosted by Europol and the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Directors-General and other high guests discussed crime and policing in the digital age, the role of crime in destabilising society and the challenges that illegal migration poses to the Schengen Area. On the sidelines of the EPCC,

the Director General of the Police also held several bilateral meetings, including with the Executive Director of Europol.

In order to respond to the increased migration pressure on the Western Balkans route, the Director General of the Police attended the meeting of police chiefs of Croatia, Italy and Slovenia in June 2023 in Rome. They agreed to strengthen joint activities, in particular mixed patrols, coordination of measures for effective migration management and timely information exchange among police forces of the three countries. At Slovenia's initiative, another trilateral meeting was held via a videoconference in November 2023, in which police chiefs reviewed the progress made and agreed on further regular videoconference meetings, which will be expanded to include other partners along the Western Balkans route.

In December, the Slovenian Police held the first regular videoconference meeting with Italy, Austria, Hungary and other partners in the Balkans. The aim of the meeting was to share ideas and experience in operational cooperation and to learn about the challenges faced by individual countries on the Western Balkans migration route. The participants in the meeting sought proposals for more targeted activities to deal with the challenges comprehensively, along the entire migration route. They decided to continue to hold regular meetings in this format.

In July 2023, the Director General of the Police attended the meeting of police chiefs of Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia and Romania held in Budapest, which was organised by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior and the Hungarian Police. One of the focal points of the talks was procedures to speed up information exchange with regard to the prevention and management of irregular migration and other security risks in the region. In addition, the Director General of the Police also held several bilateral meetings with police chiefs of other countries, in particular the neighbouring countries, while he was still acting Director General of the Police.

Representatives of the police regularly attended the meetings of working groups and committees of EU institutions concerning internal affairs. In these meetings they actively participated in the development of legislative and other documents and initiatives that affect the security of Slovenian and all other EU citizens. In 2023, two important pieces of legislation affecting the work of the police were adopted: in May 2023, Directive (EU) 2023/977 on the exchange of information between the law enforcement

authorities of Member States entered into force, and in November 2023, the negotiations between the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament on the Regulation on automated data exchange for police cooperation (Prüm II) concluded successfully.

In the second half of 2023, Slovenia chaired the regional initiative of the Salzburg Forum. In September 2023, heads of border police of Salzburg Forum Member States met in Ljubljana. They discussed the current migration situation, the methods used by smugglers of people of different nationalities in attempting to enter Member States, as well as the abuses of the asylum system and how Member States fight against them. Slovenia also organised a meeting of experts on witness protection.

Deployment of police officers to international civil missions under the auspices of the UN and the EU continued. Police officers were deployed to international civil missions EULEX Kosovo, UNMIK Kosovo, EUMM Georgia, EUAM Ukraine and EUPOL COPPS in Palestine. In 2023, two police officers were deployed to the international civil mission EUAM Ukraine, in accordance with the decision of the Slovenian Government allowing deployment to a war zone. When the security situation in Palestine and Israel worsened in October 2023, the Slovenian Police provided the police officer posted there with all the support necessary. On international civil missions police officers perform duties under the mission

In 2023, five police officers were seconded to the headquarters of international organisations. Three worked as national experts at Frontex, Interpol and the Secretariat General of the Council of the European Union, and two as liaison officers at Europol.

mandate. These are primarily supervisory and advisory duties and support to the authorities in strengthening the rule of law. In 2023, 14 police officers were deployed to international civil missions, generally for one year with the possibility of extension. In April 2023, the third panel discussion of police peacekeepers was held at the Police Academy.

Representatives of the Slovenian Police participated as instructors in the United Nations Police Officers Course held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Slovenian police officers also attended the Train the Trainer course held in Brindisi, Italy, and the Pre-Deployment course for Police Officers held in Brühl, Germany.

The police, in cooperation with the Centre for European Perspective (CEP) – Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC), organised specialist training about gender equality on international civil missions. Two police officers participated in the training as instructors, and 11 police officers completed the training. Six instructors from the Slovenian Police participated in the Hostile Environment Awareness Trainings (HEAT) organised by the POTC. In 2023, the police provided training for police candidates for work on international civil missions. There were 17 attendees, of which three were Slovenian police officers, who all successfully completed the training. Nine police officers also completed a two-week training for combat medics organised by the Slovenian Armed Forces.

International activities also included various projects and established forms of cooperation with international security organisations and agencies, in particular Europol and INTERPOL, and within the Schengen Area. Representatives of the police performed certain functions within Europol, i.e. in the Europol Management Board and its sub-groups and within the working group of heads of Europol national units, and in the management structures of INTERPOL. Representatives of the police cooperated with the European Roads Policing Network (ROADPOL) and the European Association of Railway Police Forces (RAILPOL), which ensures security and safety on railways. In the spring of 2023, Slovenia hosted a meeting of the RAILPOL's working group on crime and illegal migration. Female representatives of the police participated in the European Network of Policewomen.

Information exchange took place through agreed official channels, such as the National Football Information Point (NFIP) and the international information points for law and order⁶⁰, and also through the exchange of police delegations involving spotters. Representatives of the police participated in the exchange of information on the travelling of organised supporter groups to matches. In 2023, 1,379 documents or pieces of information (in 2022, 1,147) were exchanged between Slovenian police units and the security authorities of other NFIP members. In 2023, Slovenian spotters were twice (in 2022 three times) deployed abroad, once to Italy and once to Northern Ireland. Slovenia hosted seven delegations of foreign spotters (in 2022, there were four), i.e. from Denmark, Northern Ireland, Finland, France, Slovakia and two from Turkey. One representative of the police attended a security meeting in Rome, Italy, before the start of the group stage matches of the UEFA Champions League, the Europa League and the Conference League in the 2023/2024 season. Before the start of the European Football Championship, which will take place from 14 June to 14 July 2024 in Germany, an introductory meeting was held in Berlin to discuss security at the Championship. Two representatives of the General Police Directorate attended the meeting.

In 2023, the police issued 4,958⁶¹ (in 2022, 3,805) alerts in the national police records. The increase in the number of alerts is due to illegal migration. There were 1,750 hits abroad⁶² related to the alerts issued in Slovenia (in 2022, 1,557). The increasing number of hits is a result of the increase in the number of objects, in particular documents, wanted for seizure or evidence in criminal proceedings. There were 3,228 hits in Slovenia related to alerts issued abroad (the lowest number in the last five years) in 2023, and 6,207 hits in 2022. The majority of hits were related to witnesses or accused persons who had to appear in court as part of criminal proceedings or convicted persons on whom a judgment or summons to prison had to be served, or to foreigners for whom refusal of entry or prohibition of stay had been issued. The number of hits has halved due to Croatia's joining the Schengen Area and the resulting lifting of border controls at the inland border.

Slovenian police officers participated in various international operations. They were involved in joint action days within EMPACT projects for the areas of irregular migration, smuggling of excise goods, illicit drugs – in particular cocaine in containers – and weapons, the abuse of debit cards and other payment means, and the removal of online content promoting terrorism.

In 2023, 12 police officers were seconded to Frontex as part of long-term secondments (Category 2 – two-year secondment). Within the standing corps, the seconded police officers assisted in managing migration, fighting cross-border crime and carrying out returns. They also assisted the national authorities in ensuring safe and smooth border crossing for all passengers. In accordance with the needs determined on the basis of the security risk assessment made by Frontex, the seconded police officers worked in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Romania, North Macedonia and Serbia.

In 2023, a selection procedure for new category 2 police officers was successfully implemented. One female and six male police officers are seconded for a new 24-month period (2024–2025).

Within Frontex operational activities, the Slovenian Police participated in various joint operations at home and by deploying several Slovenian police officers to operative work abroad. Within short-term secondments, 84 police officers were seconded abroad. In accordance with the needs determined on the basis of the security risk assessment made by Frontex, the seconded police officers worked in Italy, Montenegro, Spain, Croatia, Serbia, Greece, North

⁶⁰ These points were established on the basis of the Joint action 97/339/JHA of 26 May 1997 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union with regard to cooperation on law and order and security. As this joint action was later supplemented by the establishment of national NFIPs and most of the information exchanged concerns sports events, few information exchanges are carried out through this channel. They mostly concern announced international events (concerts, motorcycle rallies, etc.) and rallies (with international dimension).

⁶¹ Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, obtained on 14 February 2024.

⁶² These are hits from the checks of data on wanted persons and objects in the Schengen Information System.

Macedonia, Bulgaria, Albania and Romania. Slovenia also hosted five police officers from other countries⁶³ within the joint operation on air borders.

The annual meeting with domestic and foreign police attachés was held in December 2023 in Gotenica. In addition to specialist staff from various services and the Slovenian police attachés, five attachés from Italy, Austria, Germany, the United States of America and Japan attended the meeting.

In 2023, six police employees constituted the network of domestic police attachés posted abroad – three in the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and North Macedonia) and three in the EU (Austria, Italy and Croatia). In the aforementioned Western Balkans countries, the police attachés participate in the European immigration liaison officers' network. In December 2023, the term of office of the police attachés in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia expired.

The selection procedures for candidates for police attachés in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Austria and North Macedonia were carried out in 2023 and concluded with the approval of the candidate to be posted as police attaché in Serbia. The call for applications for other police attaché posts will be repeated.

From 2015 to 20 April 2023, the Slovenian Police deployed police officers to North Macedonia in accordance with the Protocol on joint patrols in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia in the framework of joint operation. Slovenia was one of the first countries to deploy its police officers to this region. In 2023, it deployed 18 police officers there. They assisted Macedonian colleagues in solving the issue of increased migration flow at the North Macedonian–Greek border. This bilateral cooperation was terminated when an agreement was signed between North Macedonia and the European Union, under which operational activities were transferred to Frontex.

Under the protocol between the Slovenian and Croatian Ministries of the Interior and the police on cooperation in high tourist seasons, three Slovenian police officers were seconded to Croatian coastal towns in the 2023 summer season. During the winter season, two Croatian police officers assisted Slovenian police officers in ensuring safety on Slovenian ski slopes.

2.2.14 Public relations

In 2023, the police stepped up communications, including on social media. The rise in the number of communications is most prominent on its Facebook profile. The number of press conferences, press releases and photo opportunities has been growing from year to year. Apart from the COVID period 2020–2021, there is a positive trend in answers to questions posed by reporters and members of the public and in posts on Twitter, while the number of responses to articles and programmes in the media was below the ten-year average.

The police were also in the public eye in 2023, mainly due to many successful crime investigations and successful traffic campaigns and controls, more cases of diverse international cooperation and many brave and selfless acts of police officers, but also due to the protection at large sports events, fake electronic messages purportedly from the police, and the work of police management and staff changes. The year was marked by many anniversaries in the police. The media highlighted the work of police officers in the rescue of people buried in the avalanche under Mala Mojstrovka and in the rescue of people and property during the extensive floods in Slovenia.

⁶³ Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, obtained in January 2024.

The police are also involved in protocol activities. In the three quarters of a century of its development, the Police Orchestra has created an authentic and characteristic sound enriched with temperament and musical elegance. The orchestra performed at 76 diplomatic receptions. It had three big and many small concerts around Slovenia. It also played six concerts abroad, the most in the last ten years. One of its concerts was a present from the Slovenian Embassy to the City of Zagreb. Road users whose breath

With regard to gender equality, three publications were produced in collaboration with the Slovenian Police Museum, marking 50 years of systemic employment of female uniformed police officers: "Where are the women?", the accompanying publication to the "Where are the women?" exhibition; "Where are the women? Inclusion and visibility of women"; and the research report "Certain Organisational Aspects of Police Work: Gender Differences".

test result in the November prevention campaign "Slovenia blows 0.0" was 0.0, received a leaflet which enabled them to enter a competition to win tickets for the concert of the Police Orchestra and singer Hamo.

The Slovenian Police Museum, in collaboration with other museums and institutions, put on several exhibitions on the history of the police and the preservation of police cultural heritage: The 75th anniversary of the Police Orchestra; Where are the women?; Together to victory; The 50th anniversary of the Special Police Unit; From maritime "miličnik" (militiaman) to maritime police officer. Special events were organised: open door day on International Museum Day and on cultural holidays, the placing of

a commemorative plaque and exhibition upon the renaming of the Gotenica Training Centre as the Vinko Beznik Training Centre in Gotenica, the designing and mounting of the exhibition on the history of the police at the Collecta International Collectors Fair, and an exhibition on the history of the police for the presentation at the International Fair of Defence, Security, Protection and Rescue (SOBRA).

2.2.15 Activities of specialised police units

In 2023, police officers of the *Riot Police Unit (PPE)* were activated in 517⁶⁴ cases. In 2022, the unit was activated in 520 cases. In the last ten years, it was activated more times only in 2021, i.e. in 582 cases. Police officers of the Riot Police Unit participated in ensuring and maintaining order at registered and unregistered public gatherings and sports events, in protecting the state border, in tighter controls and security campaigns in areas with multi-ethnic communities, and in detecting and

In the last three years, the number of times the Riot Police Unit was activated was above the average of the last ten years, which is 387.

investigating crimes. The alpine unit was activated for rescues of injured mountaineers, paragliders and others and for dealing with mountain accidents and other incidents. The crew of the special vehicle with a water cannon was activated five times to assist in recovery after extensive floods.

In 2023, the *Specialised Unit for Traffic Control* collaborated 72 times (in 2022, 40 times) with traffic police stations in road traffic controls on motorways and expressways under the Pegaz methodology, and 40 times (in 2022, 49 times) with other police units in other controls.

The controls were coordinated by the Traffic Police Division at the Uniformed Police Directorate. The Specialised Unit for Traffic Control carried out some controls independently or in agreement with police directorates and police stations. The staff of the Specialised Unit for Traffic Control participated in the training of other police officers who monitor road transport and in the training organised by the Police Academy. They collaborated with other stakeholders (Infrastructure Inspectorate, Financial

⁶⁴ Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, General Police Division, obtained from the PPE activity log on 5 February 2024.

Administration, Cestel d.o.o., etc.), in particular in the control of undeclared work, compliance with social legislation and vehicle overloading. Of the total of 802 weighed vehicles, 191 were overloaded, while in 2022, 278 of 1,203 weighed vehicles were overloaded. Police officers of the Specialised Unit for Traffic Control participated daily in implementing compensatory measures at the border and identifying illegal migrations. In their work, they detected cases of various suspected criminal offences. They participated in the protection of events on roads and of protected persons. In August, they performed basic police duties ensuring the safety of people and property in the areas affected by the floods.

In 2023, due to the greater scope of irregular migrations, police officers of the *Specialised Unit for State Border Control I* were focused mostly on the protection of the green border with Croatia in the area of Koper Police Directorate, including by using service dogs, unmanned aircraft, thermal imaging and other equipment for state border protection. Police officers specialised in conducting interviews (debriefers) regularly participated in procedures involving migrants. In addition to the duties related to state border protection, compensatory measures and cross-border crime detection, police officers of this specialised unit assisted police officers of other units. Due to Croatia joining the Schengen Area and the resulting lifting of controls at border crossings with Croatia, police officers of the Specialised Unit for State Border Control I stepped up the controls on the motorway network in the vicinity of Vič Asylum Centre and its unit in Logatec, and in other areas of Ljubljana Police Directorate where there was a higher number of security threats. They participated in tighter controls carried out by the Financial Administration and other police units, including at the Ljubljana-Brnik border crossing point for international air traffic and Koper border crossing point for international maritime traffic, and assisted in house searches. Police officers of the Police Cooperation Centre at Vrata Megvarje and the Centre of Law Enforcement Cooperation in Dolga vas exchanged operational information with foreign security authorities or checked such information. The Centre of Law Enforcement Cooperation in Dolga vas participated in a pilot project of the EUROSUR National Coordination Centre. Police officers of the Specialised Unit for State Border Control I also participated in joint operations run by Frontex and in the project Union actions for police and customs cooperative centres (PCCCs).

Since 1 May 2023, the *Specialised Unit for State Border Control II* has had its headquarters at Dobova railway station, in the premises of the former Dobova Border Police Station. Police officers carried out the majority of their duties in the area of Novo mesto Police Directorate, i.e. on the motorway network and other transport networks near the state border with Croatia, where they carried out compensatory measures and detected cross-border crime. They discovered a large number of smugglers and people who crossed the border illegally, and several falsified documents and stolen vehicles. The unit participated in the implementation of many tighter controls related to border issues and foreigners, cross-border crime detection and road traffic safety (under the Pegaz methodology) and in joint operations run by Frontex.

In the second half of 2023, the *Specialised Unit for the Protection, Escort and Return of Foreigners* at the Centre for Foreigners was assisted by police officers from other units in ensuring smooth work in compliance with security requirements (transport of foreigners, performance of daily and planned activities, visits of lawyers and non-governmental organisations, etc.). Despite the smaller number of foreigners placed there, the security situation at the centre was demanding, as the residents often violated the centre rules. In 2023, 104 serious violations (2022, 32) and 106 minor violations (in 2022, 40) were recorded. There were 7 violations of the Protection of Public Order Act detected and 12 criminal offences committed (in 2022, 13).⁶⁵ Police officers of the Specialised Unit for the Protection, Escort and Return of Foreigners carried out on average one escorting or transport of foreigners to various locations per day. If only work days are counted, the average is 1.5 transports per day. On average, two police officers transported two foreigners per day and spent 5.3 hours per day for

⁶⁵ Data from the General Police Directorate, Uniformed Police Directorate, Centre for Foreigners, obtained on 14 February 2024.

this task. Police officers participated in escorting foreigners in 10 cases of forced return to the country of origin.

The *Special Police Unit* of the General Police Directorate performs operational and intervention duties concerning organised crime and extreme violence, and other police duties requiring special knowledge and skills. Police officers of the Special Police Unit are trained to ensure a high level of security for all involved in any high-risk procedure. In performing their operational work, police officers of the Special Police Unit collaborated with other police units and with the Bank of Slovenia. Despite some difficulties (lack of training and education facilities, in particular a shooting range), the Special Police Unit proved that it is united, physically and mentally fit and highly trained. With the exception of 2017 and the period 2021–2023, the number of the unit's operations ranged between 500 and 600 per year. The number of urgent interventions fell below 100 after 2015. In 2023, the unit participated in 759 operations and was activated for urgent interventions 62 times, which is the lowest number in the last ten years. The ten-year average of the number of urgent interventions is 92.

The Operational Activity Section and the Operational Support Section carried out 18 interventions (in 2022, 11) related to the protection and escorting of people, arrests, the protection of money transports and natural disaster recovery. The Bomb Disposal Section carried out 44 interventions (in 2022, 71). The majority involved the counter terrorism inspections of rooms, structures, devices and areas, the receipt, transport and storage of seized explosive ordnance, the issuing of expert opinions on explosive ordnance, participation in house searches, inspections of explosion sites, and the destruction or deactivation of explosive ordnance.⁶⁶

In December 2023, the police acquired the third new multi-role transport helicopter, an Agusta Westland 169.

In August 2023, police helicopters participated in rescues during the worst floods in Slovenia, rescuing 286 people and 10 animals. They transported 45 specialists in various fields and over 13 tonnes of food, fuel and other cargo.

The 18 pilots, 16 aviator technicians, the head of aviation safety and compliance and six other employees of the *Air Support Unit* provided effective helicopter support to police units, to the services for protection, rescue and relief in the event of natural and other disasters, and to other entitled entities within the planned, intervention and humanitarian duties. Three trainees were employed by the unit for a fixed term – two aviator technicians and one pilot. The unit maintained excellent fitness of crews and other users of police aircraft, and maintained the helicopter fleet and rejuvenated it with the third Agusta Westland 169 helicopter.

In 2023, the helicopters of the Air Support Unit⁶⁷ carried out 1,459 flights totalling 1,792 hours of flying (in 2022, 1,788 hours in 1,497 flights), of which:

- the majority, i.e. 52.0%, in performing planned police duties (in 2022, 42.2%),
- 27.7% to ensure that crews are operational and helicopters airworthy (in 2022, 33.6%),
- 14.7% in performing humanitarian duties (natural disasters, fires, mountain rescues) and in ensuring that external specialists are qualified for duties (in 2022, 16.6%),
- 5.1% in performing intervention police duties (in 2022, 6.6%), and
- 0.5% in other duties (in 2022, 1.1%).⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Data from the General Police Directorate, Special Police Unit, obtained on 22 January 2024.

⁶⁷ The Air Support Unit used six helicopters, i.e. two light single-engine AB-206 helicopters, which are used for simple day duties and the training of new pilots, two light twin-engine AW-109 and EC-135 helicopters, which are used for day and night duties, and two medium twin-engine AW-169 helicopters, which are used for complex day and night duties. In 2024, the unit will start using the third AW-169 helicopter delivered in December 2023.

⁶⁸ Data from the General Police Directorate, Police Specialities Directorate, Air Support Unit, obtained from the Flight Log Book on 1 January 2024, and data from the Mountain Rescue Association of Slovenia.

The majority of hours of flying (85%) were completed during daytime, 9% during nighttime, while 6% of hours were completed in instrument flying when visual flying was not possible due to bad weather conditions. The use of helicopters in police duties was mostly related to road traffic safety, migration management and missing person searches. In humanitarian duties, helicopters were used in mountain rescues (there were 100 such rescues in 2023), and in natural disaster recovery. During the greatest natural disaster in Slovenia, the unit made recordings and protected the data for another state authority, which conducted the procedures for obtaining financial assistance from European funds.

Under the agreement between the Slovenian and North Macedonian Ministries of the Interior, the Air Support Unit donated special tools and components for one AB-212 and one AB-412 helicopter to the North Macedonian Aviation Section. This is specific equipment that facilitates medical transport, firefighting and mountain rescues.

mag. Senad Jušić
Director General of the Police
Chief Police Superintendent

Annex 1: Chronologic overview of events⁶⁹

January	
<p>On 3 January 2023, two Croatian police officers once again joined Slovenian police officers providing security on ski slopes. Until 16 January 2023, they and Slovenian police officers were deployed at the ski resorts of Rogla, Kope and Kranjska Gora.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At midnight sharp, the barriers at the border crossing points with Croatia were raised and the green lights were switched on for free border crossing. On 1 January 2023, Croatia became a Full Member of the Schengen Area. Controls at its internal land and sea borders were lifted, followed by the lifting of controls at internal air borders on 26 March 2023. 2. 3. The Slovenian Police carry out border checks at five border crossing points, three for international air traffic (at Jože Pučnik Ljubljana, Edvard Rusjan Maribor and Portorož airports) and two for international sea traffic (at the ports of Koper and Piran), as well as compensatory measures in the interior. 4. 5.
<p>In line with the organisational and personnel adjustment of the police after Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area, an indicative set of Schengen and non-Schengen vacancies was prepared in order to better inform police officers about the vacancies and to make it easier for them to decide where they want to continue their work.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. 7. From 9 to 15 January 2023, police officers stepped up controls on the use of mobile phones and other devices and equipment that interfere with the driver's visual and auditory perception or ability to control a vehicle. Officers found 1,415 violations and issued warnings in 46 cases. 8. 9. 10.
<p>On 11 January 2023, Amber Alert Slovenia was launched for the most serious and life-threatening cases of missing or disappeared children.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. On 11 January 2023, the Slovenian Police deployed its 72nd police team to North Macedonia. Until 10 February 2023, six Slovenian police officers assisted in controlling the North Macedonian-Greek border as part of a joint action to manage increased migration flows. 12.
<p>On 12 January 2023, the police warned of online investment scams. The mere dissemination or promotion of such schemes, which are later found to be fraudulent, also has elements of complicity or aiding and abetting a criminal offence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. 14. On 16 January 2023, in cooperation with the Austrian security authorities and with the guidance of the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovenian Police concluded an extensive and lengthy criminal investigation of an organised crime group manufacturing and smuggling weapons. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19.
<p>On 20 and 21 January 2023, Informativa – the education and professions fair – took place at the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre. The police invited jobseekers to visit its stand to learn more about its work and job opportunities in the police.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Acting Director General of the Police Boštjan Lindav, and Sanja Ajanović Hovnik, Minister of Public Administration acting as Minister of the Interior, ceremonially signed cooperation agreements with representatives of veterans' and professional organisations on 20 January 2023. 21. 22. 23. Alongside SLOSKI and the Planica National Sports Institute, the police helped co-organise the traditional

⁶⁹ Overview of reported events.

January	
<p>On 24 January 2023, police officers and citizens who went above and beyond society's expectations in their actions were presented with awards for bravery and self-sacrifice. They were awarded to 77 brave and fearless individuals who proved themselves in 36 different unpredictable and dangerous situations to save lives.</p> <p>The police geographic information system was revamped. The migration to a more powerful server environment was accompanied by the conversion to the D96/TM national coordinate system.</p> <p>From 30 January to 3 February 2023, officers from the Specialised Traffic Control Unit checked several lorries, trailers and buses. This led to the discovery of serious violations by lorry and bus drivers, which can lead to fatal accidents.</p>	<p>24. Schoolchildren go Skiing campaign, which started on 23 January 2023 in Pokljuka. It officially ended on 3 March 2023 at Mariborsko Pohorje. The aim of the campaign is to introduce children to cross-country skiing, alpine skiing and snowboarding, and emphasise safe and considerate behaviour on the slopes.</p> <p>25.</p> <p>26. On 27 January 2023, police officers started stepping up controls on ski slopes and driving in the natural environment. During the winter holidays, they checked ski slopes for compliance with regulations and ensured skiers' safety.</p> <p>27.</p> <p>28.</p> <p>29.</p> <p>30.</p> <p>31.</p>

February

<p>Sanja Ajanović Hovnik in her capacity as Minister of the Interior, and Acting Director General of the Police Boštjan Lindav, presented the measures taken to remedy the shortcomings identified during the extraordinary control of the police's work in the protection of protests in 2020 and 2021. 63 police officers were warned for professional misconduct, and the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office was investigating suspected criminal offences committed by several police officers.</p> <p>On 17 and 18 February 2023, the Police Academy presented the profession in all its diversity and the enrolment procedure in the Police College at an information day, which was again held "live" after two years and very well attended. Students of the Police College and police officers who had recently graduated and now work in police units also presented their experiences and impressions.</p> <p>Police officers helped to make the Nordic World Ski Championships in Planica a success. The championship started on 21 February 2023 and hosted athletes from all over the world until 5 March 2023. The well-organised event also promoted the work of the Slovenian Police, who were responsible for the safety of athletes and visitors.</p> <p>In his welcoming letter, Minister Boštjan Poklukar emphasised, "As I said in my presentation at the National Assembly, I have set myself three priorities, namely the fight against corruption, migration management, and the depoliticisation, professionalisation and modernisation of the police. Of course, I will draw heavily on the knowledge and experience of all our employees to deliver on these commitments."</p> <p>The new Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, stated in his press release: "I am confident that we will continue to successfully ensure a high level of security for all citizens of Slovenia. I will personally strive to achieve this."</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. <p>Our lives are intertwined with the internet, where we work, learn and communicate with each other, using a variety of applications and programmes. Just as in the physical world, there are dangers in the virtual world, so we need to take care of our online safety. On 7 February 2023, Safe Internet Day, the police warned: <i>Think before you click!</i></p> <p>The Slovenian Police joined the celebrations of the Slovenian Cultural Holiday with a guided tour of the permanent exhibition at the Crime Museum.</p> <p>From 13 to 19 February 2023, the Police and the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency carried out a preventive action to improve the safety of freight vehicles and buses. <i>Driver fatigue, improperly loaded freight, inadequate tyres and speed can be a fatal combination.</i></p> <p>To make the Carnival time merry and safe, the police published precautionary tips and warnings on 17 February 2023: <i>Do not wear a carnival mask at the wheel, do not drink and drive, and do not forget about your own safety and the safety of your property at events. May the carnival time be sweet, joyful and playful!</i></p> <p>In her letter of thanks, Minister Sanja Ajanović Hovnik wrote: "During the time I have spent with you, I have come to realise that the Ministry, with its two affiliated bodies, is very well organised, which is also thanks to you, my excellent colleagues. (...) I am leaving enriched with new experience and new insights that will guide me in my future work."</p> <p>On 22 February 2023, 80 new auxiliary police officers, including 17 female auxiliary police officers, "pledged allegiance" to the police. Together, they will join 641 colleagues already serving as auxiliary police.</p> <p>On the proposal of the new Minister of the Interior, the Government relieved Boštjan Lindav and appointed Senad Jušić as the new Acting Director General of the Police, who took over on 24 February 2023. Leaving his office, Acting Director General of the Police Boštjan Lindav wrote the following letter of thanks: "It has been an honour to represent you and to stand up on behalf of our common organisation for the values and fundamental principles of policing that I believe give meaning to our profession."</p>
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February		
<p>In his introductory letter to staff, he said: "<i>A job in the Slovenian Police (regardless of title or position) is not a privilege, but a responsibility – to our colleagues, to the outside public, to the institution we belong to and to the country we serve. I believe and know that there is much good among us, and it is right that we recognise and appreciate it.</i>"</p>	26.	<p>The police were proud of "their" ski jumpers Ema Klinec and Nika Križnar (both police employees) for winning bronze together with Timi Zajc and Anže Lanišek at the Nordic World Championships in the mixed team ski jumping event on 26 February 2023.</p>
	27.	
	28.	

March

<p>The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Programme, the Internal Security Fund Programme and the Financial Support Instrument for Border Management and Visa Policy Programme of the Integrated Border Management Fund held their inaugural Monitoring Committee meeting at the very beginning of the month, on 1 March 2023.</p> <p>On the eve of Women's Day, the Police Academy opened an exhibition "Where are the women?" on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the systemic recruitment of uniformed policewomen.</p> <p>In his message on the occasion of International Women's Day, Minister Boštjan Poklukar wrote that this day is a symbol of the struggle for gender equality. <i>"This substantive dimension is sometimes (unintentionally) forgotten in modern countries, as Slovenia has a progressive legislative record on equality."</i></p> <p>Officers of the Specialised Traffic Control Unit stopped three groups of vehicles belonging to foreign transport companies on the Slovenian motorway network. During the monitoring of recording equipment (tachographs), anomalies were detected. The tachograph was not working properly and that it was recording incorrect data. In such cases, the fine for the driver is up to EUR 5,000 and for a legal person up to EUR 24,000.</p> <p>On 15 March 2023, the leadership of the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior and representatives of the police met with representatives of NGOs at the premises of the Ministry. Among other things, they discussed the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group to deal with sexual abuse, juvenile violence, femicide, violence against women, violence against children and sexual violence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On 1 March 2023, the National Bureau of Investigation conducted 25 searches of residential, business and other premises within the Ljubljana, Novo mesto and Nova Gorica Police Directorates on suspicion of abuse of position. 2. 3. From 6 to 12 March 2023, the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency and the Police carried out a coordinated European preventive action to raise drivers' awareness of the importance of wearing a seat belt. During the preventive action, police officers detected 2,050 violations of non-use of seat belts and child restraint systems. In 391 cases, only a warning was issued. 4. 5. 6. 7. As of 7 March 2023, the renewed Schengen Information System came into operation, contributing to even greater security in the European Union. The renovation was carried out with funding from the Internal Security Fund. 8. In order to effectively prevent and detect irregular migration, joint patrols of Slovenian and Austrian police officers were deployed on the border between Slovenia and Austria on 8 March 2023. Slovenia now has mixed patrols on the borders with all its neighbours. 9. The Acting Director General of the Police concluded his 8 March greetings with a thought from Peter Maffay: <i>"What a woman assumes is often more reliable than what a man knows."</i> 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. The Council of Ministers of the Interior devoted part of its meeting on 9 March 2023 to the situation in the Schengen Area and the internal and external dimension of asylum and migration. Crucial for Slovenia is the Western Balkans region: in the context of the Brdo Process, Slovenia and the countries in the region are focusing on preventing one of the most serious forms of crime – human smuggling. At the same time, they are also trying to make an important contribution to the more effective return of migrants from the region who are not eligible for protection. As the European Union, we should also focus on preventive information campaigns to raise awareness of the risks of irregular migration among people in the countries of origin and counsel those stranded en route.
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March

<p>On 16 March 2023, the Red Panthers, the Special Police Unit of the General Police Directorate, proudly celebrated half a century of work and development at Brdo pri Kranju. The Unit's motto is: <i>Trained for help, but also for impact and sharpness.</i></p> <p>The guiding principle of the celebration was a summary of the road travelled so far. To preserve this part of history and share it with others, a thematic exhibition was set up in the foyer of the Event Hall.</p> <p>Policewoman and ski jumper Ema Klinec made history as a world record holder with 226 metres, and also became the winner of the first women's ski flying competition and the winner of the Norwegian Tour.</p> <p>Safe motorcycling into the new season – from 20 to 26 March 2023, a national preventive action to make single-track motorcycles safer for drivers took place.</p> <p>Rules on the method of implementation of Article 220 of the Electronic Communications Act (submission of traffic and location data in missing person cases) entered into force on 22 March 2023.</p> <p>The Third Danube Security Conference held on 23–24 March 2023 in Brussels aimed at strengthening police cooperation in the Danube region in the areas of illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings, protection of critical infrastructure and the consequences of the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>The Police Orchestra of the Slovenian Police celebrates its 75th anniversary. The anniversary was marked with a gala concert on 27 March 2023 in the Gallus Hall of Cankarjev dom in Ljubljana. It is the central state symphony wind orchestra and the official protocol orchestra of the Republic of Slovenia. In the three quarters of a century of its development, it has created an authentic and characteristic sound enriched with temperament and musical elegance.</p> <p>In addition to the concert, the notable anniversary was accompanied by a photographic exhibition.</p> <p>The amended Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police entered into force on 31 March 2023. It brought about a reorganisation of the traffic police and criminal intelligence. The Motorway Police Directorate, with all its units, was abolished. However, new units were created in the Uniformed Police Directorate of the Police Directorates of Kranj, Nova Gorica and Murska Sobota. Traffic police stations established traffic control teams on motorways and expressways as a form of work rather than a unit. Criminal</p>	<p>16. Investigators from the National Bureau of Investigation, in cooperation with the Tax Administration, carried out a final operation in connection with a hidden plant for the production of illicit tobacco products. The suspects thus evaded excise duties and value added tax, thereby obtaining an unlawful financial gain of around EUR 730,000.</p> <p>17.</p> <p>18.</p> <p>19. The National Bureau of Investigation carried out 58 house searches in the area of the Ljubljana, Kranj, Koper and Nova Gorica Police Directorates on suspicion of abuse of position and money laundering.</p> <p>20. As part of the pre-trial proceedings, a specialised investigation team was established with the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Money Laundering Prevention, as well as a joint investigation team (JIT) with the security authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>21.</p> <p>22.</p> <p>23.</p> <p>24. In March, the Slovenian Air Support Unit conducted 14 days of training for police helicopter crews in North Macedonia. It was a test of their proficiency in flying aircraft and training in cargo transport and firefighting.</p> <p>25.</p> <p>26.</p> <p>On 27 March 2023, the Slovenian and Croatian traffic police carried out coordinated controls focusing on the control of passenger and freight transport.</p> <p>27. From 27 March to 12 May 2023, the second CEPA 2023 Certified Course (formerly the CEPA Forensic Course) was held in CEPA Member States, namely the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. The course was attended by 20 criminal police officers, including two from the National Bureau of Investigation.</p> <p>28. At the end of March 2023, the police published on their website a link to the Take It Down tool developed by the US National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). The Slovenian Police had indeed detected an increasing number of intimate recordings made and published by children and adolescents themselves. These images are often the result of reckless actions, as children are unaware that these photographs are then available to thousands of Internet users and cannot control their distribution.</p> <p>29.</p>
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March	
<p>Intelligence Sections were set up in all Criminal Police Sectors of the Police Headquarters, and the former Criminal Analysis Units were abolished. This also necessitated certain changes in the Criminal Police Directorate.</p>	<p>30.</p> <p>31.</p>
	<p>31 March is World Backup Day. The SI-CERT (Slovenian Computer Emergency Response Team) took the opportunity to stress the importance of archiving data. The police also followed their advice and warnings.</p>

April

<p>On 1 April 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, met his Austrian counterpart, Gerhard Karner, in Planica. Their shared opinion was that the work of mixed Slovenian-Austrian patrols, which started at the beginning of March, was proceeding as agreed, smoothly and without any specific issues.</p> <p>From 3 to 9 April 2023, the Safe with e-Scooter prevention campaign took place. During the campaign, police officers stepped up their surveillance of the use of light motorised vehicles such as e-scooters, segways and electric bicycles. Of the 521 e-scooter drivers checked, 12 were under the influence of alcohol. Officers issued 81 payment orders and 87 warnings. The most common violations were related to incorrect use of the driving surface.</p> <p>The Ministerial Meeting of the Brdo Process on 4 April 2023 in Portorož, attended by Ministers of the Interior and other representatives of the countries of the Western Balkans region, all neighbouring countries, as well as representatives of the European Commission, Europol and Frontex, was devoted to discussing current challenges in the field of internal security and migration, in particular the strengthening of cooperation in the fight against the smuggling of migrants.</p> <p>On 11 April 2023, the first Slovenian "police" bees located on the building of the Maribor police officers flew to the city park in Maribor to forage.</p> <p>On 13 April 2023, police officers, together with officers of the Infrastructure Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia and the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, in cooperation with the European Labour Authority (ELA), carried out a targeted and intensified control of international road passenger transport. The monitoring was also attended as observers by representatives of the Croatian inspection authorities (labour and traffic inspectorate) and the Croatian police (mobile traffic police unit), representatives of the German police, including a representative of ROADPOL, representatives of the European Labour Authority and a representative of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, which is responsible for this area.</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p> <p>8.</p> <p>9.</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11.</p> <p>12.</p> <p>13.</p>	<p>On 1 April 2023, new amendments to the Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police implemented the Agreement on measures relating to salaries and other labour costs in the public sector for 2022 and 2023 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 136/22). The regulations or acts already enacted on the basis of the Act required the civil service bodies to harmonise the job classifications in so far as they set out the salary grades of posts and titles. In the Slovenian Police, 11,774 posts out of 12,014 systematised posts had their salary grades changed as of 1 April 2023.</p> <p>Invited by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, two police representatives attended a working meeting of the Heads of the National Anti-Smuggling and Anti-Trafficking Units of the Western Balkan countries from 3 to 6 April 2023. The working meeting focused on activities related to enhancing effective cross-border cooperation and investigation of human smuggling and trafficking offences in the Western Balkan countries.</p> <p>On 10 April 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and a delegation including the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, met with the Mayor of the Municipality of Koper, Aleš Bržan. They discussed migration and the security situation in the region.</p> <p>On 12 April 2023, the Police invited all motorcyclists to attend a motorcycling workshop before the start of the season to prepare themselves for safe motorcycling.</p> <p>On 13 April 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, met his Italian counterpart, Matteo Piantedosi, in Rome. At the meeting, the two ministers confirmed the very good police cooperation. The discussion also focused on the migration situation in both countries and beyond.</p> <p>On 13 and 14 April 2023, the Judicial Training Centre, in cooperation with the Association of State Prosecutors of Slovenia and the Criminal Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate, organised an expert consultation The Child – a Means of Evidence? Experts from various fields presented, among other things, how a child is treated in police</p>
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April	
<p>On 14 April 2023, the Police Academy called for tenders for a period of training for municipal police officers from 11 to 15 September 2023.</p> <p>Go slow to go far. From 17 to 23 April 2023, a spring prevention campaign to reduce speeding on our roads took place. Officers detected 4,045 speeding offences, most of them in residential areas.</p> <p>The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, received police officers Boštjan Zemljič and Žan Hlis, both from Maribor II Police Station, who saved a citizen's life on 19 April 2023.</p> <p>The Pan-European Speed Control Marathon took place on 21 May 2023. By informing drivers in advance and posting the locations, the police primarily wanted to take preventive action so as to help drivers make the roads safer by driving calmly and defensively and continuing to do so even when such enhanced controls are not in place. Despite this, police officers detected 897 speeding offences, most of them in residential areas.</p> <p>The police prepared a series of tips to make May Day holidays safe, healthy and happy. Organisers of bonfires and individuals were warned of the risk of fires in the natural environment, which are common on such occasions, and proper arrangement of fire sites and fire control during burning. The police also recommended self-protection measures against residential and car burglaries. It urged hikers to enjoy the mountains responsibly and with a great deal of caution.</p>	<p>14. proceedings and how a child or a minor is interrogated in the Children's House, as well as the specific features of work with child victims of crime at social work centres. Attention was also paid to the damage and trauma that legal proceedings can cause to children.</p> <p>15.</p> <p>16.</p> <p>17. On 18 April 2023, Ljubljana hosted the 6th Conference of the Institute for Security Culture on Security and Non-Violence in Educational Institutions and the Role of Institutions and Communities in Preventing Violence.</p> <p>18.</p> <p>19. After seven years of bilateral assistance to North Macedonia in the management of irregular migration, the 74th Slovenian Police team completed its last deployment on the North Macedonian-Greek border on 19 April 2023. At the end of February this year, North Macedonia concluded an agreement with Frontex, which will now provide a permanent presence of guest officers in the country. Slovenia has already deployed two police officers to work with Frontex, who will start on 20 April 2023 at the Green Line in Bogorodica.</p> <p>20.</p> <p>21. On 21 April 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, issued guidelines and mandatory instructions for the Director General of the Police to immediately take additional measures to ensure impartial and professional, and in particular comprehensive, critical and objective, checks on the legality and professionalism of the use of police powers.</p> <p>22.</p> <p>23. On 24 April 2023, with regard to the concerns expressed in public about the work of the police in the case of the collection of notifications from citizens, the police explained that the collection of notifications is one of the basic powers of the police, which, in addition to the cooperation with the organiser, is crucial for the successful preparation and implementation of all the appropriate measures for the monitoring of a public meeting.</p> <p>24.</p> <p>25. From 25 to 27 April 2023, Assistant Director General of the Police Jože Senica, and Head of the Border Police Division of the Uniformed Police Administration Peter Skerbiš, attended the Polsecure International Police Conference and Trade Fair in Kielce, Poland, for a working discussion on the reliability of identifying victims of mass casualties. They also took part in a debate on innovation and strengthening human capital to fight cybercrime and on the activities of the border services in relation to the migratory pressure on the Polish-Belarusian border in the light of Russian military aggression.</p> <p>26.</p> <p>27.</p> <p>28.</p> <p>29.</p> <p>30.</p>

May

The police warned again about the circulation of malicious emails and other social engineering pitfalls.

Social engineering is most commonly used by fraudsters to obtain personal data or to commit fraud, where the attacker obtains confidential data and information from the victim through a breach of trust.

Social engineering techniques vary depending on the target, but phishing and spam are the most commonly used.

In view of the currently topical problem of peer violence, the police called on parents, teachers, educational workers, sports coaches and employees of various youth organisations who come into contact with children and adolescents to be alert to signs that a child may be a victim of peer violence in a school, social or online environment.

On 5 May 2023, at the initiative of the police, a meeting was held with representatives of the Slovenian Ministry of Education on the early detection and prevention of violence in and outside the school environment, with the aim of coordinating joint actions in school environments to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment in which children and staff feel comfortable.

From 8 to 14 May 2023, the European coordinated Truck & Bus campaign to improve the safety of truck and bus drivers took place. Police officers detected 862 violations of road traffic rules, of which 806 were committed by lorry drivers and 56 by bus drivers.

On 9 May 2023, on the initiative of the Slovenian Criminal Police Officers Association, the Ljubljana Police Directorate hosted Tadej Golob, a writer of well-known Slovenian crime novels, whose main literary character is Taras Birsa as the head of the Homicide Team in the Criminal Police Directorate of the Ljubljana Police Directorate.

1. After the retirement of Janez Ogulin, the long-standing Director of the Novo mesto Police Directorate, Andrej Zbašnik, the former Assistant Director, temporarily took over the management of the Directorate on 1 May 2023, under the authority of the Acting Director General of the Police.

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The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, met with the Austrian Director General for Public Security, Franz Ruf, in Bled on 4 May 2023. The main topic of their talks was bilateral cooperation between the police forces of the two countries, and they also discussed the recent intensification of joint border control activities and the migration situation.

5.

The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, visited North Macedonia on 7 and 8 May 2023.

6.

Among other things, they met with Slovenian police officers who were part of the Frontex joint operation from 20 April 2023. More than 100 European border guards help local authorities with border surveillance and checks.

7.

Mr Poklukar and Mr Jušić also attended the opening of the Interpol European Regional Conference in Ohrid. This was the first major high-level police conference in North Macedonia.

8.

The 50th Interpol European Regional Conference was held in Ohrid from 8 to 10 May 2023.

From 8 to 14 May 2023, the EMPACT Joint Action Days took place in the context of the Global Chain operation.

9.

The Police also joined the Europe Day event in Ljubljana's Congress Square with mounted police officers and handlers of police service dogs. Visitors could meet police mascot Leon and detect fingerprints by applying magnetic powder to recycled paper.

At a working meeting on 9 May 2023 at the premises of the Police Academy in Tacen, delegations of the Slovenian Police and the Croatian Police Border Administration exchanged analytical data in the field of irregular migration and agreed on enhanced cooperation in this area, including the preparation of a joint risk analysis.

May

From 10 to 12 May 2023, representatives of the police and the Police Attaché in Bosnia and Herzegovina attended strategic operational meetings with the leadership of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Police (SIPA) in Sarajevo and the leadership of the Police of Republika Srpska in Banja Luka.

On 11 May 2023, at the 25th SKOJ, the Slovenian Conference on Public Relations, the Maribor Police Directorate and Hitradio Center received the Prism Professional Excellence Award for their joint communication campaign. The idea for the project, which in a humorous way deals with drivers' excuses, thereby encouraging them to drive responsibly on the road, had been maturing for quite some time and found its way to implementation with the strong support of the project's partners, Hitradio Center, their project ambassador Tim Kores – Kori and colleagues, as well as the Road Safety Council of the Municipality of Maribor and the police officers of the Maribor Police Directorate.

On 15 May 2023, the removal of the panel fence at the border with Croatia started. The Slovenian Police are compensating for the removal of the fence by adapting the way they work, increasing the use of technical means, stepping up international cooperation and implementing compensatory measures.

On 16 May 2023, the Police Veterans Society Sever Maribor presented two publications at the Pekre Education Centre: *Vojni ujetniki v vzhodnoštajerski pokrajini 1991* (Prisoners of War in the East Styrian Province 1991) and *Dolga pot do hrama demokracije* (Akcija Skala) The Long Road to the Shrine of Democracy – Skala Action)). This is an important activity of the Sever, Association of Police Veteran Societies, as the two volumes contribute to the preservation of the historical memory of police work.

10. On 10 May 2023, a meeting was held at the Ministry of the Interior, where representatives of the relevant institutions discussed traffic problems, in particular on the Primorska motorway, due to lorry traffic to and from the Port of Koper. The participants agreed on short-term measures. A working group will work on further medium and long-term measures to address the problem of freight traffic and congestion at the Port of Koper.

11. The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, attended the informal meeting of heads of police in Stockholm, Sweden, on 11 May 2023. The Directors-General and other high-profile guests discussed current issues facing police forces and the future of policing in the current global context. They focused on ensuring lawful access to data for effective work of detection and investigation of criminal offences authorities, policing in the digital age and the human resources, skills and training needs over the next ten years.

12. On 12 May 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and his closest colleagues met with a number of foreign ambassadors to Slovenia at the Ministry's premises. Mr Poklukar outlined the three priorities of his mandate: prevention of all forms of violence and the fight against corruption, migration management, further professionalisation and modernisation of the police.

15. The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, received on 15 May 2023 Police Officer Luka Zalokar from the Cerknica Police Station, who in mid-April led a successful 30-hour cave rescue operation in the still unexplored Vranjedolska Cave, where a female caver had an accident.

16. Deputy Director General of the Police Robert Ferenc received on Tuesday, 16 May 2023, the police officers who participated in the difficult rescue at Mala Mojstrovka, namely Matej Brajnik from the General Police Division of the Uniformed Police Directorate at the General Police Directorate, Srečko Žagar, Nejc Travner and Vanči Žnidaršič from the Air Support Unit, Zlatko Klarič from the Jesenice Police Station, and Jaka Obida and Primož Lapanja from the Tolmin Police Station.

The Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency, the Police, the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy and the project Safe on a Bike held a media event to raise awareness of cyclist safety among all road users at the start of the seventh World Road Safety Week, which takes place under the auspices of the United Nations, and prior to the launch of the national preventive action for cyclists' safety, which took place in Ljubljana from 18 to 28 May 2023. In a ten-day preventive action, police officers checked 2,232 cyclists and detected 660 violations. They also found 178 offences committed by motorists whose actions endangered cyclists.

Out of the public's sight, but indispensable for the work of the police – the Police Negotiators and Mobile Criminal Investigation Units celebrated their 30th anniversary on 24 May 2023 at the Gotenica Training Centre. Police negotiators gave the police a new approach to dealing with the most difficult crisis events. In the last 15 years, since the activation reports have been recorded, negotiators have successfully intervened in more than 250 cases. Mobile Criminal Investigation Units, on the other hand, operate as regular units, dealing very directly and on a daily basis with well-organised criminal gangs. As a well-coordinated, tactically trained and strong unit of operatives, the criminal officers of these divisions are an invaluable support to criminal investigations.

The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, met with the Mayor of the Kočevje municipality, Vladimir Prebilič, on 25 May 2023. They mainly discussed security issues in the municipality.

17. The competency model developed for the police by a special task force can be a very good tool for managing human resources. It is therefore commendable that the Guide to Competency Evaluation and Development in the Police was also published in print. It is published in electronic form on the police website. A video course is also available to employees via a special Police Distance Learning app.

18. On 19 May 2023, the Police marked the 100th anniversary of Interpol and the 30th anniversary of the membership of the Slovenian Police in Interpol with a special ceremony. Slovenia was admitted to Interpol at the 61st Interpol General Assembly in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1992. Membership of the largest international police organisation was one of the signs of recognition that the Slovenian Police received at the time of independence.

19. 20. 21. 22. On 23 May 2023, Maribor hosted another sport and humanitarian event. The ninth edition of the Štengijada, organised by the Maribor Police Directorate with the support of various partners, saw 180 participants take part in the run to Kalvarija hill.

24. The inaugural meeting of the Council of Europe Police Network took place in Strasbourg, France, on 24 and 25 May 2023. The Slovenian Police was represented by Assistant Director General of the Police, Jože Senica, as a national delegate. At the first meeting, national delegates discussed the use of police authorisations in the context of violence in modern societies. The Police Network was set up a year ago by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to provide a framework for the member states of this international organisation to collect and exchange good policing practices and initiatives.

25. The final event of the 15th Children's Safety Olympiad took place in Maribor on 25 May 2023. It is a preventive project of the Maribor Police Directorate running since 2006. Children competed in several fun disciplines to test their knowledge of how to identify, prevent and eliminate the consequences of everyday hazards.

On 25 May, International Missing Children's Day, the Slovenian Police, together with the Amber Alert Europe Foundation, published a new children's picture book *The Rumbling Adventure of Hare*, a tale about following your intuition and keeping yourself safe. The book is about the importance of trusting your instincts. Through the story, children learn important rules in a playful and positive manner. These basic rules are based on five pieces of advice that arise from the concept of trusting one's own instincts, and were drafted in cooperation with experts on the topic of missing children.

The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Deputy Director General of the Police, Igor Ciperle, met with the Mayor of the Novo mesto municipality, Gregor Macedoni, on 26 May 2023.

They mainly discussed security issues in the municipality in relation to the Roma community. The police, in particular the Novo mesto Police Station, continuously carry out tasks in areas with multi-ethnic communities in accordance with the annual plan. These include measures that can go some way towards preventing and sanctioning deviant behaviour that creates a sense of threat to nearby residents.

The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič, met with the Mayor of the Črnomelj municipality, Andrej Kavšek, on 29 May 2023. They discussed the removal of the fence at the southern border and the reimbursement of costs due to increased border surveillance. With regard to the security situation related to the Roma community, the Minister emphasised the intensive work of the police in the local community, especially in preventive measures.

On 30 June 2023, the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Nataša Pirc Musar, together with police officers from the Ljubljana Traffic Police Station, took part in a training course on a driving range and open road. As Ms Pirc Musar said, every motorcyclist should undergo such safe driving training before taking to the road every season.

On 25 May 2023, representatives of the Koper Police Directorate gave a detailed presentation on the activities of the police in the area of compensatory measures, especially after Croatia's entry into the Schengen area and the abolition of border controls between Slovenia and Croatia.

On 25 May 2023, the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič, received police officers Robert Ovčar, Damijan Klemenčič and Peter Lipič, all three from Gorišnica Police Station. He thanked them for the excellent work they had done in rescuing an injured person from a vehicle that had crashed into the Pesnica River on 27 April 2023.

On 26 May 2023, the Ministry of the Interior hosted students from The New University and presented to them the functioning of the Ministry with its affiliated bodies, the Police and the Internal Affairs Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia.

26. As the police dealt with several scams involving false notifications of cryptocurrency investment profits, it warned the public that a phone call informing you that you have made money with cryptocurrencies is a scam!

27. A Europol criminal investigation led to the arrest of 37 members of a highly violent criminal cell from the Western Balkans, with the participation of the Slovenian Police. This powerful criminal cell, led by a Bosnian national from a prison cell in Italy, was mainly involved in the large-scale trafficking of drugs and firearms across Europe.

29. On 29 May 2023, at the Police Academy, 59 new auxiliary police officers, including nine female auxiliary police officers, pledged allegiance to the Police by taking the oath of office before the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič.

30. The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič, met with the Mayor of the Brežice municipality, Ivan Molan, on 30 May 2023. The main topics discussed were migration, the removal of the panel fence at the border and the situation related to the Roma community. The effectiveness and efficiency of work in the Roma community depends not only on the police, but also on the activities of other services, particularly in the fields of education, social services and employment.

May		
<p>On 31 May 2023, an event was held at the European Union House to approve the implementation programmes of the three EU internal affairs funds for the period 2021–2027, from which a total of EUR 183 million is available to Slovenia.</p>	31.	

June

Ahead of World Cycling Day on 3 June 2023 and at the end of the national prevention campaign Stay Safe on a Bicycle, the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency and the Police have renewed their call on motorists and cyclists to drive safely and obey road traffic rules.

Police again warned of a rise in online abuse, where victims trust strangers with access to their online bank and personal data out of naivety and a desire to make some easy cash.

The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, met with Vittorio Pisani, Chief of the Italian Police and the Director General of Public Safety, and the General Police Director of the Croatian Police, Nikola Milina, in Rome, Italy, on 6 June 2023. The main topic of discussion was joint police cooperation between the countries, with a focus on cooperation in the areas of migration management, internal security and the fight against organised crime along the Western Balkans migration route.

The 131st meeting of the Europol Management Board was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 7 and 8 June 2023, under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Board agreed to the establishment of a new unit tasked with providing operational integrated services, which will deal with all operational activities related to the interoperability architecture of the European Union's systems. The Directive on the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities of the Member States adopted not long before has a significant impact on Europol through increased exchange of information and more extensive processing of messages and information.

On 8 June 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, attended a meeting of the Council of the European Union on Home Affairs in Luxembourg. The key topics of the meeting were the pact on migration and asylum and the state of play in the Schengen Area.

1. The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, met with Nenad Nešić, Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on a working visit to Sarajevo on 2 June 2023. They agreed on the need to curb migration, in particular from those countries that abuse the visa-free regime to enter EU countries illegally from the Western Balkans. They also spoke about police cooperation, which is very good.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Two prevention campaigns were launched on 5 June 2023: the campaign to reduce speed on Slovenia's roads and the campaign to make motorists safer, both lasting until 11 June 2023. On 6 June 2023, the Traffic Safety Agency, the Murska Sobota Police Directorate and the Murska Sobota Safe Driving Centre organised a preventive event attended by around 100 secondary school students from Ptuj and Murska Sobota. The police also stepped up road traffic controls: 2,913 speeding offences were detected, including as many as 2,000 in residential areas. They checked 1,559 drivers of single-track motor vehicles and detected a total of 238 violations of road traffic rules by motorcyclists.
- 5.
6. The new amendments to the Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police were adopted on 6 June 2023 and entered into force the following day. Changes were made to 236 posts in the Criminal Police Directorate's Security and Protection Centre, the National Forensic Laboratory and the Air Support Unit, following an amendment to the Decree on the classification of specific posts and titles used in the police force in salary grades. The amendments included the renaming of the Gotenica Training Centre as the Vinko Beznik Gotenica Training Centre. Pursuant to paragraph five of Article 9 of the Personal Data Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 163/22), the appropriate consent for the use of personal data was obtained, as well as consent for the use of a short form of the name when referring to the name of the organisational unit.
- 7.
8. In his message on 8 June 2023, the Acting Director General of the Police, on the occasion of the forthcoming Police Day, stressed, among other things, that *"We must never forget that the police are actually people, individuals working for the common good. It is right to be proud of who we are. So let us*

June

<p>On 8 June 2023, the Police Academy echoed with the exclamations of excitement of the 90 children who took part in the Safe on a Bike project. This is a project in which the police have been involved for several years as a supporter of the idea of safe cycling for the youngest road users.</p>	<p>9. <i>continue to join forces and know that we are part of something bigger than ourselves."</i></p>
<p>On 10 June 2023, the Police Motorcycle Club Blue Knights Slovenia I, in cooperation with IPA RC Koroška and IPA RC Celje, organised the 2nd Blue Motorcycle Gathering of all police officers who are also motorcyclists in their free time, in front of the Bukovje Manor in Dravograd.</p>	<p>10. On the anniversary of the grave accident that occurred 26 years ago during the training of mountain rescuers in helicopter work, a ceremony organised by the Mountain Rescue Association of Slovenia (Radovljica unit) and the Police was held on 10 June 2023 at the memorial at Okrešelj. Five mountain rescuers lost their lives in the accident: Mitja Brajnik, Luka Karničar, Jani Kokalj, Rado Markič and Boris Mlekuž.</p>
<p>The Combat Team Conference was held in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia from 11 to 15 June 2023. Among 50 police and military special units from all over the world (participation is by invitation only), the Special Police Unit of the Slovenian Police ranked tenth.</p>	<p>11. The organisers, sponsors, wardens, paramedics and, of course, police officers worked together to ensure that the popular Franja cycling marathon, an exceptional sport and recreational event, ran smoothly. Several cycling events took place on the same weekend, with police officers on motorbikes and along the route ensuring order and safety.</p>
<p>The Slovenian Police organised and conducted a CEPOL training on Fundamental Rights at the Brdo pri Kranju Conference Centre from 12 to 16 June 2023.</p>	<p>12. The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič, held a reception for top athletes and coaches working for the police on 12 June 2023. The reception was also attended by Miroslav Cerar, a legend of Slovenian sport, Robert Kerstajn and Tomas Globočnik, the first two top athletes employed in the Slovenian Police, as well as representatives of several sports federations and other state bodies.</p>
<p>On 13 June 2023, a trilateral meeting of the border police of Slovenia, Austria and Croatia was held in Ptuj, where a number of topical issues were discussed, including proposals for more effective implementation of joint forms of police cooperation (joint patrols, joint controls and actions), greater control of public cross-border means of transport, and ensuring traffic fluidity and timely exchange of information on congestion and possible diversions.</p>	<p>On 13 June 2023, at the 24th Criminal Justice and Security Days, the conference participants were addressed by Minister Boštjan Poklukar and Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič. The latter stressed the need to involve education, academia, NGOs and civil society in the security debate.</p>
<p>On 13 June 2023, the management of the Security and Protection Centre was temporarily taken over by Tomaž Brezic, the former Assistant Director, by authority of the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič.</p>	<p>13. On 13 June 2023, a three-day training on trafficking in human beings started in Gotenica, as part of the prevention activities foreseen in the Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2023 and 2024. In addition to employees of the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior and the Criminal Police, the training was attended by employees of the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, District State Prosecutors' Offices, the Ljubljana District Court, representatives of NGOs and humanitarian organisations, and representatives of the Dutch and Bosnian security authorities.</p>

June

<p>On 14 June 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, signed an agreement with the Chairman of the Police Trade Union of Slovenia, Rok Cvetko, and the Vice-Chairman of the Police Trade Union of Slovenia, Adil Huselja, on the dismissal of police staff in the context of the adaptation of the police after the accession of Croatia to the Schengen Area.</p>	<p>14.</p>	<p>On 14 June 2023, the management of the Criminal Police Directorate was temporarily taken over by Matjaž Jerkič, the former Assistant Director, by authority of the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić.</p>
<p>Police officers were once again in charge of security at the international cycling race Tour of Slovenia, which took place from 14 to 18 June 2023. They were extremely dedicated to their work on the 833-kilometre course, divided into five challenging stages, aware of the importance of the race and their responsibility for the safety of both competitors and fans. The motorcycle police officers carried the heaviest burden, as this kind of work in very demanding conditions requires them to be extremely physically fit and to have excellent motorcycle skills, but in Celje and Ljubljana they prepared a small show for the spectators at the start and showed them an interesting start of police work.</p>	<p>15.</p>	<p>During the Who's Driving, You or Alcohol? campaign, which ran from 14 to 20 June 2023, 11,356 drivers were tested, of whom 121 tested positive up to 0.52 mg/l and 227 tested positive above 0.52 mg/l.</p> <p>The amended Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police, which entered into force on 15 June 2023, enacted changes related to the abolition of border controls. All 13 border police stations and all border control teams and border guard teams at regional police stations were abolished. Teams for compensatory measures were set up in regional police stations. The police stations for compensatory measures were reorganised by setting up teams for compensatory measures and teams for the treatment of foreigners, as well as a border control team at the Maribor Police Station for compensatory measures. Some posts have also been systematised in other police organisational units, in particular police stations. The Act also introduced some other, smaller changes. The Act entered into force on the day after the consent of the Slovenian Government was given, i.e. on 21 June 2023.</p>
<p>On 16 June 2023, the management of the Koper Police Directorate was temporarily taken over by Dejan Grandič, the former Assistant Director, under the authority of the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić.</p>	<p>16.</p>	<p>The 29th edition of the March of Reason, Will and Strength – Brajnik Memorial, held on 16 and 17 June 2023, was attended by 34 teams, the most ever. For the second year, Slovenian competitors were joined by two male teams of Croatian police officers. It is the most strenuous two-day sports competition of all structures of the Slovenian state security system, held in memory of its mastermind – the late police officer, mountain rescuer and mountaineer Mitja Brajnik, who lost his life in a tragic accident while training mountain rescuers in Okrešelj on 10 June 1997.</p>
<p>On the night from 17 June 2023 to 18 June 2023, police officers carried out a marathon of checks on the psycho-physical condition of drivers across Slovenia. During this period, 2,553 breath tests were carried out, involving 63 drivers whose breath test showed up to 0.52 mg of alcohol per litre of breath and 29 drivers whose breath test result showed more than 0.52 mg of alcohol per litre of breath.</p>	<p>17.</p>	<p>The new timeline for the migration of the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the Justice and Home Affairs Information System Interconnectivity (interoperability) project was the main topic of the June eu-LISA meeting in Tallinn. The Agency is successfully addressing the issues and expects the first operational version of the EES to be available by the end of July 2023. This will allow Member States to continue their preparations. The EES is expected to be operational in 2024 and all Member States are expected to complete their internal preparations by 1 September 2024.</p>
<p>The Slovenian Embassy presented Zagreb with a concert by the Police Orchestra. In accordance with diplomatic practice, on 20 June 2023, the Slovenian Presidency hosted a reception in Zagreb on the occasion of Statehood Day, to which high-ranking representatives of official Croatian institutions and</p>	<p>18.</p>	<p>The new timeline for the migration of the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the Justice and Home Affairs Information System Interconnectivity (interoperability) project was the main topic of the June eu-LISA meeting in Tallinn. The Agency is successfully addressing the issues and expects the first operational version of the EES to be available by the end of July 2023. This will allow Member States to continue their preparations. The EES is expected to be operational in 2024 and all Member States are expected to complete their internal preparations by 1 September 2024.</p>

June

<p>the diplomatic corps, as well as representatives of the Slovenian minority in Croatia, were invited. The celebration in Zagreb was also attended by Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić.</p>	<p>20. On 20 June 2023, the Slovenian Ambassador in Zagreb received Slovenian police officers who will assist their Croatian counterparts in working with tourists as part of the Safe Tourist Destination 2023 project.</p>
<p>Many European citizens have already been victims of burglary. Fortunately, burglaries can be prevented and taking preventive action is much cheaper than the potential damage caused by a break-in. On 21 June 2023, the fifth EU Focus Day on residential burglary took place in Europe under the auspices of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). Through this prevention campaign, the EUCPN, several European countries, including Slovenia, Europol and the European Commission aim to step up the fight against these crimes by informing citizens about how they can protect their homes.</p>	<p>21. The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Recovery and Resilience organised a consultation and workshop Recovery and Resilience Facility and Protection of the EU's Financial Interests. Representatives of the Slovenian Police also took part in the workshop, which was aimed at representatives of the ministries responsible for implementing the measures set out in the Recovery and Resilience Plan and thus protecting the financial interests of the European Union.</p> <p>The Slovenian Police Museum and the Military Museum of the Slovenian Armed Forces organised a photographic exhibition entitled Together..., which opened in the foyer of Cankarjev dom on 21 June 2023. Photographs by various photographers were exhibited, showing the combat activities of members of the Territorial Defence and militia during the War of Independence of Slovenia and their consequences.</p>
<p>On 22 June 2023, Boštjan Velički, the former Head of the Director's Department, temporarily took over the management of the Maribor Police Directorate under the authority of the Acting Director General of the Police.</p>	<p>22. Deputy Director General of the Police Robert Ferenc received police officer Matic Obretan from the Domžale Police Station on 22 June 2023 and thanked him for his selfless rescue of a citizen from a burning room.</p>
<p>To make free time and holidays as relaxed, fun and enjoyable as possible, the police published before the start of the holiday season some tips for children, young people, parents and other adults for spending their days off more safely.</p>	<p>23. On 22 June 2023, the National Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance of criminal investigators from Ljubljana, completed eight searches of residential, business and other premises in the area of the Ljubljana and Kranj police headquarters on suspicion of the criminal offence of abuse of position or trust in economic activity under Article 240 of the Criminal Code.</p>
<p>On 26 June 2023, in cooperation with the Italian and Croatian security authorities, the criminal investigators of Koper, in a joint operation to arrest suspects and conduct house searches in Trieste, successfully concluded a long-running criminal investigation into a 17-member criminal organisation that smuggled illegal migrants in Slovenia, Italy and Croatia.</p>	<p>24. On 26 June 2023, the Slovenian Embassy organised a reception in Skopje on the occasion of Statehood Day, which was attended by high-ranking representatives of the North Macedonian state and foreign countries accredited to North Macedonia.</p> <p>25. The reception was also attended by Slovenian police officers and a policewoman working within Frontex JO North Macedonia.</p>
<p>On 27 June 2023, a delegation of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, the Police and the Union of Police Veterans' Associations, Sever, paid tribute to the memory of deceased police officers at</p>	<p>27. After a series of Police Day ceremonies across Slovenia in recent weeks, organised by police administrations and the General Directorate of Police, the festive period was rounded off with a central</p>

June	
<p>two memorials, the Tacen Memorial Park and the Memorial to the Fallen in the 1991 War for Slovenia at Nove Žale cemetery in Ljubljana.</p>	<p>ceremony on the official Police Day on 27 June 2023 under the theme "Together for Safety" at the Portorož Auditorium. Acting Director General of the Police Senad Jušič talked in his address about the importance and role of the Slovenian Police: "<i>Safety comes before all other goods and values, because it is only when we are safe that we can truly live and develop.</i>"</p> <p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, also addressed the audience. Among other things, he stressed, "<i>Being a police officer is an honour, a mission and an oath!</i>"</p> <p>Some of the most deserving individuals were also presented with the highest police awards at the ceremony.</p>
<p>The renaming ceremony of the Central Police Training Centre took place in Gotenica on 28 June 2023. It is now called the Vinko Beznik Gotenica Training Centre. With this action, the police – on the initiative of the Union of Police Veterans' Associations, Sever – paid tribute to the late Vinko Beznik, the first commander of the Special Police Unit, the initiator and co-founder of the Sever association, a great man and patriot.</p>	<p>28. The reorganisation of the traffic police led to a significant increase in police surveillance activities on the motorway network. On 29 June 2023, police officers carried out enhanced checks to ensure that drivers maintain an adequate safety distance when driving.</p> <p>29. During the eight hours of checking, 284 such offences were detected.</p>
<p>At the end of the month, the police urged all visitors to the mountains to be properly prepared, and tourism officials to warn foreigners staying with them about the difficulty of Slovenia's mountains and to encourage them to seek appropriate information before setting off on their tours.</p>	<p>30. On 30 June 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Inspectorate of the Interior, Vesna Gutman, signed contracts with the Vice-Chairman of the Police Trade Union of Slovenia, Adil Huselja, to ensure the conditions for trade union work in the Ministry and the Inspectorate.</p>

July

<p>From 1 to 31 July 2023, a police officer from the Ljubljana Police Directorate assisted his Koper colleagues in their work with members of the Roma community, and was succeeded by a police officer from the Novo mesto Police Directorate from 2 to 18 August 2023.</p> <p>In his response to the European Commission's Fourth Report on the Rule of Law in Slovenia 2023, Minister of the Interior Poklukar stressed that progress in the fight against corruption cannot be achieved through repressive measures alone. <i>"It is important to raise the awareness of every individual and of society as a whole in order to eradicate corruption, which hinders the progress of modern society and undermines trust in the functioning of the state."</i></p> <p>The Recovery and Resilience Plan addresses, among other things, the digitisation-related challenges of public administration. One of the measures – Digitisation of Internal Security – will enable greater optimisation and support for the work processes of the Slovenian Police and the Ministry of the Interior; five projects are included: digital radio network (TETRA), modernisation of the police computer cloud (CEPIS), ABIS for the automatic face recognition, development of the e-policist mobile solution and digitisation of the documentary material of the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>As the number of accidents involving cyclists and electric scooter riders had recently increased, police officers urged people to take care and obey road traffic rules.</p> <p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič, visited the Park of Military History in Pivka on 7 and 8 July 2023.</p> <p>On 10 July 2023, the police once again urged all mountain visitors to approach the mountains with a high degree of caution, be well prepared and informed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new job classification entered into force on 1 July 2023. 1,458 police officers who, until Croatia's accession, had exclusively performed border control and Schengen border guard duties, were issued with transfer documents. 2. 3. 4. On 5 July 2023, the Police, the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, the Motorway Company of the Republic of Slovenia and the Infrastructure Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia carried out the control of lorry and bus drivers. The police officers mainly checked the legality of passenger transport and the compliant transport of goods. 5. On 6 July 2023, shots were fired in Šmarjeta. A man whose driving licence was taken by police officers during a traffic control because he had been driving under the influence of alcohol later came back and started shooting. 20 shots hit the police vehicle with the two police officers inside. Fortunately, only one of them was lightly wounded. Both received psychological support. 6. On 6 July 2023, police officers in Koper stopped two drivers driving at speeds of 269 and 292 kilometres per hour on the coastal motorway, endangering themselves and others. Both drivers were imposed a fine of EUR 1,200 and 9 penalty points. The police reiterated: <i>drivers, please adjust your speed to the speed limit, to your driving knowledge and experience, and to the road conditions!</i> 7. The first informal meeting of the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation in the Internal Security Sector (COSI) under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 6 and 7 July 2023 focused on security cooperation with Latin America, the threat posed by fentanyl in the EU and intimate partner violence. 8. 9. 10. The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič, appointed Igor Juršič as Director of the Novo mesto Police Directorate as of 10 July 2023.
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July

<p>On 11 July 2023, the police adopted the Domestic Violence Action Plan 2023–2024.</p> <p>The Air Support Unit participated in a major operational exercise with the Vodice Fire Brigade to extinguish a fire in a natural environment. The exercise, which took place on the forested northern slope of Rašica, tested the effectiveness of inter-agency cooperation, communication and the helicopter bucket method of firefighting.</p> <p>After a number of rescues by the Air Support Unit in July, on 14 July 2023 the police again warned all hikers not to put themselves in danger. It also warned everyone to be cautious of unannounced visits by strangers offering various services and products in people's homes.</p> <p>The World Ju-Jitsu Championships took place in Mongolia from 15 to 20 July 2023, with the participation of Tim Toplak, who is employed by the Slovenian Police. The bronze medal added to Tim's list of international successes – a bronze from the World Games, a gold, a silver and two bronzes from the World Championships, and two gold and two silver medals from the European Championships.</p> <p>On 17 July 2023, three Slovenian police officers started their work in Croatia, where they assisted their Croatian counterparts in police procedures involving Slovenian nationals for one month during the peak tourist season in the framework of the Safe Tourist Destination 2023 project.</p> <p>On 19 July 2023, during a check on the Dolenjska motorway, police officers stopped a van driver with a serious technical defect – the second axle was not equipped with two tyres on the left and right, but only one tyre, the inside tyre, on the right side. As part of the controls, police officers also measured speed. On the stretch of road where the work was being carried out, 33 speeding offences were detected.</p> <p>The police once again urged all road users to be <i>tolerant and respect the speed limits on road sections where work is being carried out and the speed limit is therefore reduced</i>.</p>	<p>11. On 11 July 2023, the Ministry of the Interior held a second meeting with representatives of NGOs working with the Ministry and the police. The meeting was aimed at reviewing cooperation and work done so far and discussing outstanding issues. NGOs were briefed on key projects, including the preparation of a migration strategy and a strategy on the integration of foreign nationals.</p> <p>12.</p> <p>13. The informal meeting of the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) on 13 and 14 July 2023 focused on temporary protection, legal migration and the review of Frontex activities.</p> <p>14. Alenka Korošec Peruzin became Director of the Koper Police Directorate. Acting Director General of the Police Senad Jušič appointed her to this post on 14 July 2023.</p> <p>15. Between 16 and 22 July 2023, 29 children of police officers from Slovakia visited Slovenia. The summer camp was organised by Milan Petruľa, an evangelical ministry leader from Slovakia, and his colleagues.</p> <p>16. Police Vicar Aleksander Erniša also took part in the camp and helped with the actual running of the camp.</p> <p>17. The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušič, on 17 July 2023 appointed Beno Meglič, the former Head of the Criminal Police Division of the Maribor Police Directorate, as Director of the Maribor Police Directorate.</p> <p>18. Acting Director General of the Police Senad Jušič appointed Damjan Petrič, who had been temporarily in charge of the Ljubljana Police Directorate since March 2022, to the post of Director of the Criminal Police Directorate at the General Police Directorate, effective 18 July 2023.</p> <p>19. The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, attended an informal meeting of the Council of the European Union on Justice and Home Affairs in Spain. Ministers discussed access to data to fight crime in the digital age, the fight against organised crime with a focus on drug trafficking and</p>
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July

On 19 July 2023, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany organised a working meeting with representatives of the Slovenian Police to mark the end of the term of office of the current Police Attaché and the presentation of his successor.

20.

The Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, attended the Regional Meeting of Central European Chiefs of Police in Budapest, Hungary, from 22 to 23 July 2023. One of the focal points of the talks was procedures to speed up the exchange of information on the prevention and management of irregular migration and other security risks in the region. On the sidelines of the Police Chiefs' Meeting, Senad Jušić met with János Balogh, High Commissioner of the Hungarian National Police, and exchanged information on bilateral cooperation.

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24.

On 25 July 2023, police officers in Koper dealt with several thefts of personal items from beach-goers in Portorož. Police officers reminded people not to take large amounts of money and valuables to the beach.

25.

Police officers from the Murska Sobota Police Directorate presented the work and equipment of police officers to the children attending the handball camp.

cooperation with Latin America, and the situation in Ukraine in relation to internal security and migration.

Acting Director General of the Police Senad Jušić appointed Tomislav Omejec as Director of the Ljubljana Police Directorate as of 21 July 2023. Mirko Nunić, who had been temporarily in charge of the Police Directorate since 18 July 2023, handed over his duties to the new Director, the former Head of the General Police Division at the General Police Directorate.

On 25 July 2023, Deputy Director General of the Police Igor Ciperle received police officer Miroslav Volmajer from the Jesenice Police Station and police officer candidate Uroš Markovič, who saved a man's life in the middle of a storm on 19 July 2023.

On 25 July 2023, additional Ministry of the Interior house rules were issued for the Police Academy's facilities, concerning, inter alia, entry, exit and movement in the area, in the facilities and on the business premises of the Police Academy, their security and use, as well as staying in the facilities.

On 27 July 2023, an amendment to the State Border Control Act entered into force, which, among other things, established the legal basis for keeping records of border checks carried out on travellers, defining the scope of processing and storage of personal data (despite Croatia's entry into the Schengen Area, three air border crossing points and two sea border crossing points are still maintained), and regulated more precisely the scope of the records of the implementation of compensatory measures, including the reduction of the data retention period from five to two years, thus ensuring the principle of proportionality of the processing of personal data.

26.

27.

At the former border crossing point of Dragonja, State Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior Helga Dobrin, and State Secretary at the Ministry of Infrastructure Andrej Rajh, presented the activities carried out so far to improve traffic flow in the areas of the former border crossing points on the Slovenian-Croatian border.

In addition to Dragonja, work was completed at the former border crossing points of Obrežje and Gruškovje. In 2025, an evaluation and needs assessment will be carried out for the further use of the remaining infrastructure (structures, awnings) as foreseen in the Police Strategy on their work after Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area.

Police Attaché Srečko Jarc and Slovenian police officer Matija Breznik, who was assigned to the police station in Pula during the tourist season, met with the management of the Istria Police Directorate on 27 July 2023.

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29.

The Slovenian Police Attaché in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Matjaž Šinkovec, paid a working visit to the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

July	
<p>On 30 July 2023, Alenka Artnik accomplished a 111-meter dive in the double fin in the Bahamas' Vertical Blue competition! The Slovenian Police, where she works as a top athlete, is proud of her!</p> <p>30 July is World Anti-Trafficking Day. The campaign focused on helping victims.</p>	<p>30. On 31 July 2023, the Deputy Acting Director General of Police, Igor Ciperle, received police officers Matej Hlebec and Filip Luci from the Ormož Police Station, who on 20 July 2023, while working in Središče ob Dravi in the early hours of the morning, prevented the worst and limited the damage to a commercial building caused by a fire.</p> <p>31.</p>

August

<p>On 2 August 2023, the police adopted an action plan to improve the situation in property crime investigations.</p> <p>In order to deal with several frauds involving false profit notifications when investing in cryptocurrencies, on 4 August 2023 the police issued a warning to people not to allow remote access to their computer/phone and online bank.</p> <p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, visited Dravograd on 6 August 2023. Koroška is a region that has been hit hard by catastrophic floods. The President of Slovenia, Nataša Pirc Musar, visited the Police Academy, which offered shelter to the residents of the surrounding area during the floods.</p> <p>On 9 August 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Deputy Director General of the Police, Robert Ferenc, visited Gorenja vas in Poljanska Valley. The Minister drew attention to safety in cleaning up and dealing with the consequences of floods, as well as to the protection of property.</p> <p>On 10 August 2023, the Ministry of the Interior issued a special warning that a situation may arise where weapons and ammunition are found during natural disaster recovery.</p> <p>On 11 August 2023, police warned that online fraudsters were sending messages on behalf of banks.</p> <p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, visited Koroška and the Upper Savinja Valley on 12 August 2023.</p> <p>On 14 August 2023, Solidarity Day, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Deputy Director General of the Police, Robert Ferenc, visited Laško and Žalec police stations. The areas of both police stations were severely affected by the floods.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Storms in July and catastrophic floods in August, which were unlike any other before in Slovenia and were followed by a series of landslides, required a coordinated response from all protection and rescue forces, including the police. 2. Following the activation of the National Flood Protection and Rescue Plan on 4 August 2023, the Flood Action Plan of the Ministry of the Interior was also activated. 3. 4. Police activities were primarily focused on rescuing and evacuating people, delivering emergency equipment and technical personnel to inaccessible areas, checking the condition of roads and their trafficability, and protecting people's homes and other property that was left unprotected. Police officers were present in all flood zones and assisted the protection and rescue services. The police ensured that, when Slovenia requested assistance through the EU and NATO mechanisms to deal with the consequences of heavy flooding, aid convoys from abroad reached their destination quickly and smoothly. Checkpoints were used to verify compliance with a special Civil Protection Order, which restricted access to certain at-risk areas in the Koroška and Zahodna Štajerska regions for security reasons. Many police officers also worked as volunteer firefighters to help people in flooded areas and landslide sites. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. A crew with a police water cannon also came to help the firefighters and the firefighting machinery. Police drones were also involved in the ground search and rescue. 10. Mounted police officers also went to the affected areas as soon as possible, as the floods also threatened the Ljubljana Mounted Police Station. 11. The Police Academy opened its doors and offered shelter to the residents of the surrounding area. 12. A police officer from the IT and Communications Office ensured that people were soon heard in the area of Črna na Koroškem, which was cut off from the world also in terms of communications. From 5 to 9 August 2023, he lived in the vicinity of the transmitters, ensuring the operation of mobile telephone and radio communications, which were essential for the work of the intervention services. 13. 14. The busiest units certainly included the operation and communication centres of the police directorates, which received calls for help, and the Air Support Unit. Its interventions were numerous and pilots were flying in situations where they would have refused to do so under different circumstances, but there were many people waiting for their help.
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August

<p>On the basis of citizens' reports, officers of the Ljubljana Police Directorate arrested several perpetrators of criminal offences. The cooperation between police officers and citizens in flood-affected areas, which was really good, was extended to areas not affected by the floods.</p>	<p>15.</p>	<p>From 4 to 10 August 2023, Slovenian police officers used three helicopters to rescue nearly three hundred people and transport several tonnes of essential relief supplies. A police helicopter was also used to rescue animals.</p>
	<p>16.</p>	<p>The Air Support Unit transported equipment and assisted trail markers in the restoration of mountain trails. It was part of long-standing assistance of the police to the Alpine Association of Slovenia.</p>
<p>Police officers from the Maribor Police Directorate arrested suspects who had caused damage to several Slovenian citizens through online fraud and misuse of payment cards. All mobile phone and computer users were also reminded once again that by entering the requested data, they allow the perpetrators to obtain all the necessary information to empty their accounts.</p>	<p>17.</p>	<p>The police helped rescue a boy from Krn Lake who needed medical attention. The boy later thanked them with drawings.</p>
<p>Following several days of media coverage of sexual offences allegedly committed by a primary school headmaster and a cross-country ski coach in his capacity as a guardian of minors, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, ordered extraordinary control over the work of the police in detecting and investigating offences against sexual integrity in the area of the Kranj Police Directorate.</p>	<p>18.</p>	<p>The police were involved in rescue activities in all affected areas, and the difficult situation strengthened their bond with the local population. Idrija police officers thus helped to protect residents and their houses threatened by avalanches, including a house that is 300 years old. Medvode police officers, whose station was also flooded, thanked the citizens who helped them rescue people from the flooded shopping centre. A police officer transported a boy from the flooded Mozirje area in urgent need of help to Celje in time.</p>
<p>Officers from the Celje Police Directorate charged an 18-year-old man with counterfeiting money. They also warned people to be cautious when dealing with cash, especially large sums.</p>	<p>19.</p>	<p>A dedicated sub-page on the police intranet was set up to publish all flood-related notifications. However, as numbers are the most telling in this respect too, the sub-page ensured that safety incidents and crimes related to flooding could also be properly monitored statistically.</p>
<p>On 21 August 2023, the police noted on their Facebook profile that the ETIAS travel authorisation does not require any medical information or biometric data.</p>	<p>20.</p>	<p>Through its website, the police repeatedly urged people not to create unnecessary hazards that would require the intervention of the emergency services, which had a lot of work to do in the affected areas.</p>
<p>On 21 August 2022, the Police responded to media reports about the proceedings against the Acting Director General of Police, Senad Jušić: <i>We stress that there are no grounds to suspect that Senad Jušić has committed an offence for which he is being prosecuted ex officio, as confirmed by the State Prosecutor's Office. On the basis of the information gathered, the data reviewed or otherwise, we have not obtained any evidence or indication that would give us reason to suspect that he has committed deviant behaviour, and we are therefore not investigating him under the police internal security procedure.</i></p>	<p>21.</p>	<p>On 30 August 2023, the Civil Protection Commander revoked the decision to activate the National Flood Protection and Rescue Plan. Emergency intervention measures on national and local road infrastructure were to be implemented until the necessary safe transport links and the functioning of the utilities infrastructure were ensured, but until 30 September 2023 at the latest.</p>
	<p>22.</p>	<p>At the end of August 2023, the police launched a humanitarian project to collect aid for colleagues affected by the floods, Donations for Home (Dam za dom). The project brought together for the first time in history the Ministry of the Interior, the Police and the Internal Affairs Inspectorate, the representative trade unions, professional associations and the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth.</p>
	<p>23.</p>	

August	
<p>On 24 and 25 August 2023, 22 police officers from all over Slovenia took part in the first training of police officers – promoters of the profession. This training is part of the police's deliberate efforts to make police employment attractive to a wide range of personnel and educational profiles.</p>	<p>24. The National Bureau of Investigation participated in an international investigation into an organised criminal drug trafficking ring, in which, with the coordination of Europol and under the leadership of the Serbian security authorities, law enforcement authorities from Brazil, France, Croatia, Poland, Portugal and Spain, assisted by the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre for Narcotics (MAOC-N), also took part. The final action took place on 24 August 2023.</p>
<p>The heads of the criminal police forces of Slovenia and Croatia met on 24 and 25 August 2023 at the Vinko Beznik Training Centre in Gotenica.</p>	<p>25. On 25 August 2024, a Holy Mass was held in Šentvid pri Stični for deceased police officers.</p>
<p>From 28 August to 8 September 2023, the national prevention campaign Safe to School was launched with the message: we are all at the heart of traffic safety. Police officers found as many as 1,285 traffic offences in a preventive action to mark the start of the school year.</p>	<p>26. The second deadline for applications to the Police College ran from 25 to 31 August 2023.</p>
<p>As of 29 August 2023, the Slovenian Police seconded a police officer to the international civilian mission EUAM Ukraine for one year. The Slovenian Police had already participated in this mission in 2020 and 2021.</p>	<p>27.</p> <p>28. The 18th Bled Strategic Forum (BSF), an international conference of senior representatives from several countries, took place in Bled on 28 and 29 August 2023. The BSF is one of the more security-intensive events.</p>
<p>Police officers from the Murska Sobota and Novo mesto Police Directorates took part in the second Roma Art Camp, which took place in Markovci.</p>	<p>29.</p> <p>30.</p> <p>31. Before the start of the new school year, Minister Boštjan Poklukar released a message wishing pupils and students a successful and adventurous school year and a safe and joyful journey to new knowledge.</p>

September

<p>As of 1 September 2024, the police representative started a two-year assignment at the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe in Brussels. As a seconded national expert, he will advise the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator on various aspects of European counter-terrorism policies.</p>	1.	<p>The first day of school was celebrated today by representatives of the Police, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency and the National Education Institute at the Blaž Arnič Primary School in Luče and the Solčava Branch Primary School. The route to school was very different in the areas badly affected by the floods, as it also passed through landslide and work sites. Ensuring children's road safety was therefore even more important in these areas.</p>
<p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Acting Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, visited Črna na Koroškem on the first day of school.</p>		
<p>A charity event on 2 September 2023 at the Studenec Summer Theatre featuring the Police Orchestra and Martin Krpan, a legendary Slovenian literary character, raised more than 30,000 euros for children from flooded areas.</p>	2.	<p>Two representatives of the Nova Gorica Police Directorate took part in the charity football event in Miren on 2 September 2023.</p>
<p>At the start of the school year, the police promoted safe mobility for children – on foot, by bike or scooter. At the same time, it called for their safety to be ensured all year round.</p>	3.	<p>The sixth meeting of First Responders in Jezersko, which took place on 2 September 2023 under the honorary patronage of the Slovenian President, Nataša Pirc Musar, was also attended by police officers from the Gorenjska region.</p>
<p>Acting Director General of the Police Senad Jušić received police officer Dejan Kranjc from the Lendava Police Station and thanked him for his quick intervention to save a child's life at the AGRA International Fair of Agriculture and Food in Gornja Radgona on 28 August 2023.</p>	4. 5.	
<p>On 6 September 2023, the Police Orchestra performed at a gala concert in Malečnik. The concert was a prelude to the three-day celebration of the joining of the Gothic Church of Our Lady of Gorca in Malečnik to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome. The orchestra was joined by internationally renowned soloists of the Slovenian National Theatre Maribor, Andreja Zakonjšek Krt and Tim Ribič.</p>	6.	<p>7 September is International Police Cooperation Day. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly at its 77th session. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing, together with Interpol, highlights the crucial role of women in policing. Europol applauded the dedication and commitment of law enforcement officials around the world who work tirelessly every day to fight cross-border organised crime. The Slovenian Police invited people to join in the celebrations via Facebook.</p>
<p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, met in Brežice with the Mayor of the Municipality of Brežice, Ivan Molan, and representatives of the local communities of Rigonce, Loče, Rakovec and Velika Dolana.</p>	7.	
<p>The police increased their presence in the border area of the Municipality of Brežice with additional patrols and technical means.</p>	8.	<p>Senad Jušić was appointed the new Director General of the Police for a five-year term of office, with the possibility of reappointment, as of 8 September 2023. In his inaugural address on his appointment, Director General of the Police Senad Jušić stressed that he felt immense honour and responsibility for the trust placed in him, and affirmed that his work would be focused on what is essential – doing good for fellow humans.</p>
<p>In Slovenia, nature conservation officers and volunteer wardens also monitor compliance with nature conservation prohibitions and regimes. The police play an important role in training new wardens. On 11 and 12 September 2023,</p>	9.	<p>On 9 September 2023, the Police Orchestra rocked the capital by taking a short "musical march" through the centre.</p>
	10.	

September

<p>the Vinko Beznik Gotenica Training Centre was the venue for the professional training called Nature Conservation Warden as an official, and operational procedures. This type of training has been taking place in the Gotenica area since 2015.</p>	<p>11.</p> <p>12.</p> <p>13.</p> <p>14.</p> <p>15.</p> <p>16.</p> <p>17.</p> <p>18.</p>	<p>The police took part in an attractive dynamic demonstration at ZgodoVikend (History Weekend) in Pivka. The Air Support Unit and the Alpine Police Unit⁷⁰ staged a mountain rescue exercise with a helicopter. The police also presented their work in other areas, vehicles and equipment. The event was attended on 17 September 2023 by the Director General of Police, Senad Jušič, and the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar.</p>
<p>The Spletno oko hotline, the Criminal Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate and the Association of Informatics and Telecommunications at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia organised the 13th Conference on Online Child Sexual Abuse held on 19 September 2023. The risks of online child sexual abuse continue to rise in the face of technological innovation and social crises. Transactional sexting (the exchange of sexual content for money) is also a growing phenomenon among young people.</p>	<p>19.</p> <p>20.</p>	<p>In view of the increase in the number of illegal entries into the country, especially in the Rigonce–Dobova area, Director General of the Police Senad Jušič proposed to his Croatian counterpart the further reinforcing of joint mixed patrols in this area.</p> <p>On 20 September 2023, Slovenian police officers joined the Roadpol campaign and international activities aimed at a single goal – zero traffic deaths, at least for one day – with enhanced traffic enforcement. On that day, no one died as a result of a road accident on Slovenian roads, and there were no road accidents resulting in serious injuries.</p>
<p>On 21 September 2023, the traditional Veterans' March for Peace took place to the strains of the Police Orchestra. In front of the Ljubljana City Hall, the organisers (veterans' associations and societies, members of the World Veterans' Federation) held a central ceremony to mark the International Day of Peace.</p>	<p>21.</p>	<p>On 21 September 2023, representatives of the police and education, together with singer Challe Salle, addressed pupils and encouraged them to create a childhood free from violence. Prevention posters and "cool" bookmarks for all pupils from 5th to 9th grade were produced under the slogan "Violence is totally out".</p>
<p>Whitewater canoeist Benjamin Savšek, who has been a top athlete with the police since 2011, won his second gold medal at the World Championship in London on 22 September 2023. He won his first World Championship title in 2017 in Pau, France.</p>	<p>22.</p> <p>23.</p>	<p>On the occasion of the Feast of Archangel Michael, patron saint of the police, the XIX Holy Mass for police officers was celebrated on 24 September 2023 in Srednja vas, Bohinj.</p>
<p>The 9th International Fair of Defence, Security, Protection and Rescue (SOBRA) in Gornja Radgona concluded with a closing ceremony on 24 September 2023. Among the exhibitors was the Slovenian Police.</p>	<p>24.</p>	<p>On 25 September 2023, a ceremony was held at the Brdo Congress Centre to mark the 50th anniversary of the systemic recruitment of female uniformed police officers. This marked the conclusion of a months-long project to collect testimonies of former female police officers and</p>
<p>During the nationwide Railpol campaign from 25 September to 2 October 2023, police officers together with representatives of Slovenian Railways stepped up controls on crossing the line and behaviour on trains.</p>	<p>25.</p>	<p>On 25 September 2023, a ceremony was held at the Brdo Congress Centre to mark the 50th anniversary of the systemic recruitment of female uniformed police officers. This marked the conclusion of a months-long project to collect testimonies of former female police officers and</p>

⁷⁰ The Alpine Police Unit is a subdivision of the Riot Police unit (PPE). Its officers are trained and equipped to perform police tasks in alpine terrain.

September

<p>The inter-ministerial expert consultation on 26 September 2023 at the premises of the Police Academy was devoted to an open discussion on the current situation in the field of criminal law protection of the environment in Slovenia and the prosecution of environmental crime. The consultation was organised by the Criminal Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>The police stepped up their compensatory measures in border areas in response to a surge in illegal entries. On 27 September 2023, the Director of the Uniformed Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate, Marko Gašperlin, presented the activities of the police in more detail to the public.</p> <p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, signed the amended Legal Act on the internal organisation, job classification, posts and titles in the police on 29 September 2023. A significant change was the transfer of spiritual care from the senior police management to the Police Academy. The Decree introduced certain changes in the internal organisational units of the General Police Directorate and in all police directorates except Murska Sobota. In addition, the Decree systematised additional posts for police officers serving in three ranks.</p>	<p>material on the historical milestones of women's integration into the police organisation.</p> <p>26. Director General of the Police Senad Jušič attended the European Police Chiefs Convention (EPCC) in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 26 and 27 September 2023. They discussed crime and policing in the digital age, the role of crime in destabilising society and the challenges that illegal migration poses to the Schengen Area.</p> <p>27. On 28 September 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, attended a meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council in Brussels, which focused on migration, cooperation with Latin America in the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking, and the extension of temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine. He and his Croatian colleague Davor Božinović addressed a joint initiative to the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, urging the European Commission to work as quickly and actively as possible towards the conclusion of a status agreement between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>28.</p> <p>29.</p> <p>30. Police officers dealt with a large number of frauds that start with a fake email, allegedly sent by a bank, or a phone call from a fake banker, and end with a hacked and drained bank account, so at the end of September 2023, the police warned the public about how these frauds are carried out.</p>
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October

On 1 October 2023, Maribor police officers warned passers-by about the dangers of hiking in the Šumik waterfalls area.

Slovenian police officers and representatives of the Infrastructure Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia took part in the international coordinated road surveillance of freight vehicles and buses, which was directed by the European Labour Authority, alongside Croatian and Italian security authorities.

The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, addressed the participants of the 7th National Security Days at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. The Ministry of the Interior with its affiliated bodies – the Police and the Internal Affairs Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia – is part of a well-functioning national security system. The two-day conference traditionally brings together representatives from the Ministry of the Interior and the Police with expert papers and lectures.

On 13 October 2023, the police presented an extensive criminal investigation, in the framework of which the National Bureau of Investigation filed a criminal complaint with the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia at the end of September 2023 for abuse of office or official duties. The National Bureau of Investigation investigated suspicions of abuse by officials from another body with special powers, with which the criminal police cooperate on an almost daily basis to obtain and verify information on suspected crimes.

The National Bureau of Investigation carried out several operational activities, including searches of residential, business and other premises in the area of the Ljubljana Police Directorate, as a result of suspicions of abuse of position or trust in economic activity under Article 240 of the Criminal Code and of assistance in the commission of this offence; at the same time, investigators from the Italian Guardia di Finanza conducted searches of premises in Italy in the presence of investigators from the National Bureau of Investigation.

1.

On 1 October 2023, police officers from the Specialised Traffic Control Unit and police officers from various units of the Koper Police Directorate carried out enhanced traffic control in the area of the Koper Police Directorate. They stopped and checked 531 vehicles. They also seized six cars and suspended nine driving licences.

2.

The Police College admitted new candidates enrolled in full-time study and police officers enrolled in part-time study for police officers serving as border guards. On the first day, 167 first-year candidates, 134 second-year candidates and 111 police officers who are part-time students gathered, joined by 10 colleagues on subsequent days.

3.

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From 9 to 15 October 2023, as part of the Focus on the Road prevention campaign, police officers monitored drivers' use of devices and equipment that reduce hearing or visual perception in road traffic. They found 1,428 violations related to impairment of the driver's auditory and visual perception and control of the vehicle.

11.

On 11 October 2023, the National Bureau of Investigation carried out 13 searches of residential and business premises in the areas of Celje, Maribor, Ljubljana and Koper for abuse of position or trust in economic activity under Article 240 of the Criminal Code. During the searches, investigators seized paper documentation, electronic data and electronic devices. Investigators are continuing their criminal investigation by reviewing seized data, gathering information and carrying out other urgent operational activities.

12.

The Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, met with the General Police Director of the Croatian Police, Nikola Milina, in Brežice on 12 October 2023. Their talks centred on the current challenges related to migration.

13.

14.

15.

On 16 October 2023, a one-week national prevention campaign to improve pedestrian safety, Be Seen, Be Careful, was launched. The action was carried out by the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency and the Police in cooperation with the Federation of Drivers' and Auto-Mechanics' Associations of Slovenia.

16.

17.

On 17 October 2023, the Italian Minister of the Interior informed the Slovenian Minister of the Interior about the introduction of border controls.

October

At a press conference on 18 October 2023, representatives of the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency, the police, the Eye Clinic of the University Clinical Centre in Ljubljana, and the Federation of Drivers' and Auto-Mechanics' Associations of Slovenia spoke about the recommendations for the safety of pedestrians in traffic, as well as about the definition of vision in B-category drivers.

At the same time, seven thematic workshops, with a special focus on pedestrian safety, were held in an interactive motor-didactic playroom to teach children about road safety for 108 pupils from the first three grades of primary school.

Police officers of the Ljubljana Police Directorate arrested a 20-year-old man who threatened to commit terrorist acts before a public rally on 19 October 2023 at Trg Republike in Ljubljana. Later that day, another man was arrested. Special Police Unit officers also intervened. Police appealed to anyone who had any information about the events in their neighbourhood that were causing them distress, or who found the situation simply unusual, to report it to the Police on 113 or the anonymous police line 080 1200.

In cooperation with criminal investigators and police officers from several other police directorates in the regions of Novo mesto and Ljubljana, Celje criminal investigators and police officers carried out ten house searches and arrested eight people suspected of grand larceny that had caused around half a million euros of material damage. Twenty-seven people were criminally charged on suspicion of committing at least twenty grand larcenies.

On 20 October 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, signed an Order designating the border crossing points with Croatia and Hungary at which border crossings are allowed during the temporary reintroduction of border controls.

During the government visit to the Savinjska region, Minister Boštjan Poklukar and Deputy Director General of the Police Robert Ferenc visited the police officers of the Mozirje Police Station on 21 October 2023 and met with the Mayor of the Municipality of Gornji Grad, Anton Špeh. They discussed the security situation in the area.

The Youth and Crime consultation, which has been organised by the Maribor Police Directorate for 20 years, attracted more than 200 participants on 17 October 2023.

18. The Inter-ministerial Working Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings dedicated this year's European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings on 18 October to raising awareness on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced labour and labour exploitation.

19. On 19 October 2023, the Slovenian Association of Criminal Police Officers celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Police Academy. The basic idea behind the founding of the Association was to raise the professional work, reputation and development of the criminological profession, and above all to ensure that the Association, through its influence, knowledge and commitment, ensure the proper positioning of the criminological profession in the Slovenian Police system, and the status of all criminal police officers and other members of the Association employed in the criminal police.

The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, attended a meeting of the European Union Justice and Home Affairs Council in Luxembourg.

20. On 20 October 2023, the Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, talked with his Italian counterpart, Director General for Public Security Vittorio Pisani, General Police Director of the Croatian Police Nikola Milina, and the High Commissioner of the Hungarian National Police, János Balogh, about the introduction of border controls.

Domestic and foreign experts active in combating trafficking in human beings met at Brdo pri Kranju. They discussed the issue of combating trafficking in human beings from the perspective of the international framework and monitoring mechanisms, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and also from the perspective of national and European legislation.

21. In accordance with the government ordinance, due to developments in the wider region and potential security risks, a temporary reintroduction of controls on Slovenia's internal Schengen borders with Croatia and Hungary took place on 21 October 2023 at 00:00. The reintroduction of temporary controls on the borders with Croatia and Hungary meant that when travellers entered Slovenia, police officers checked whether they met the conditions for entry and

October	
<p>On 22 October 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, visited the Obrežje Border Crossing Point and the Rigonce Border Crossing Point, where they familiarised themselves with the work of Slovenian police officers in controlling the internal border with Croatia.</p>	<p>22. whether they had the appropriate documents to cross the border. When carrying out border checks, officers paid particular attention to persons who might pose a risk of organised crime and terrorism. Travellers were only able to cross the border at border crossing points determined by the order.</p>
<p>The inter-ministerial consultation on 26 October 2023 on controls on driving vehicles in the natural environment was attended not only by representatives of the police, but also by inspectors for natural resources and mining, forestry and hunting inspectors, employees of the Forest Inspectorate and supervisors of the Triglav National Park, as well as representatives of civil society. The overall conclusion is that the legislation governing driving vehicles in the natural environment is basically adequate, but that some corrections are needed. The key is to continuously raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and to draw attention to the consequences of unauthorised driving on the natural environment.</p>	<p>23.</p> <p>24.</p> <p>25. Sever, the Association of Police Veteran Societies, and the Union of Veterans of the War for Slovenia marked Sovereignty Day on 25 October with a main celebration in Ptuj. The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, addressed the gathering. He compared the solidarity among Slovenians at that time to the solidarity during the August floods. He went on to thank the veterans for their dedication to preserving the historical memory and heritage of our country.</p>
<p>The temporary reintroduction of controls at Slovenia's internal borders with Croatia and Hungary on 21 October 2023 was extended until 19 November 2023.</p>	<p>26. the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Deputy Director General of the Police, Igor Ciperle, visited Pince and Dolga vas border crossing points. They were briefed on the work of police officers in controlling the internal border with Hungary.</p>
<p>The temporary reintroduction of controls at Slovenia's internal borders with Croatia and Hungary on 21 October 2023 was extended until 19 November 2023.</p>	<p>27.</p> <p>28. On 27 October 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, requested a police report on the protest in front of the Rog Centre.</p>
<p>The temporary reintroduction of controls at Slovenia's internal borders with Croatia and Hungary on 21 October 2023 was extended until 19 November 2023.</p>	<p>29.</p> <p>30. On 30 October 2023, the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police and Sever Association paid tribute to fallen and deceased police officers on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance of the Dead. They laid wreaths at the Tacen Memorial Park and at the memorial to the fallen in the 1991 War for Slovenia at Nove Žale cemetery in Ljubljana.</p>
<p>The temporary reintroduction of controls at Slovenia's internal borders with Croatia and Hungary on 21 October 2023 was extended until 19 November 2023.</p>	<p>31.</p>

November

<p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, met with the Acting Director of the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency (AVP), Simona Felser. The meeting was also attended by Robert Ferenc, Deputy Director General of the Police. Improving road safety is a common concern.</p> <p>From 6 to 12 November 2023, police officers across Slovenia carried out enhanced monitoring of the psycho-physical condition of drivers and raised awareness about the pitfalls of excessive drinking throughout the month of November. The campaign ended on 6 December 2023 with the traditional concert Slovenia Blows 0.0, featuring the Police Orchestra and singer Hamo.</p> <p>At the 9th Conference on Community Safety, organised by the Faculty of Security Sciences of the University of Maribor in cooperation with the Slovenian Police, municipalities and other organisations, participants discussed good practices and the impact of community safety research over the last decade.</p> <p>On 8 November 2023, the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, met with the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for Central Europe, Nicole Epting. Among other topics, they talked about temporary reintroduction of border controls on the borders with Croatia and Hungary. The meeting was also attended by Robert Ferenc, Deputy Director General of the Police.</p> <p>From 6 to 10 November 2023, the final part of the Bomb Technician practical training took place in Gotenica. All participants had to demonstrate their knowledge in a final test, where they had to practically solve different scenarios that bomb technicians around the world face in real life.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.	<p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, attended a trilateral meeting of the Ministers of the Interior of Slovenia, Italy and Croatia in Trieste on 2 November 2023. The Ministers paid particular attention to the Western Balkan migration route, which also passes through all three countries to the EU countries of destination, the presence of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the internal controls introduced by Italy and Slovenia due to the threat of terrorism. Slovenia proposed a meeting in March 2024 in Slovenia in the framework of the Brdo Process, which also brings together the interior ministers of the Western Balkan countries.</p> <p>The Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, hosted Nenad Nešić, the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their talks centred on the complex migration situation in the Western Balkans. They also held an in-depth discussion on the threat of terrorism and radicalisation in the region and agreed to strengthen cooperation in this area as well.</p> <p>Crisis communication and management training was organised in Gotenica from 9 to 10 November 2023. The aim of the training was to prepare police officers for the most demanding public appearances in the event of large-scale emergencies with serious consequences (terrorist attack, etc.). The main focus was on testing the participants' competences in crisis management and communication, as well as on establishing group dynamics.</p> <p>On 13 November 2023, the police issued a reminder that motor vehicles and trailers on the road must have winter tyres or appropriate winter equipment from 15 November. This is compulsory under the law until 15 March of the following year, as well as in winter conditions.</p>
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November

<p>On 14 November 2023, the Police issued an alert regarding fake emails on behalf of the Director General of the Police. Such emails have been very common in recent years, with online fraudsters using the names and symbols of public institutions in an attempt to stimulate fear and thus a greater response from the recipients, with the aim of establishing contact and, subsequently, causing financial damage.</p>	14.	<p>At a press conference on 14 November 2024, Marko Gašperlin, Director of the Uniformed Police Directorate at the General Police Directorate, presented in detail the findings and the current situation in the field of irregular migration and border control. According to Gašperlin, an extension of the control until 9 December 2024 was being planned.</p>
<p>At the session on 16 November 2023, the Government issued an Ordinance amending the Ordinance temporarily reintroducing controls on the internal borders of the Republic of Slovenia with the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary. The temporary controls on internal borders were extended until 9 December 2023. Temporary reintroduction of internal border controls for six months, as provided for in Article 25 of the Schengen Borders Code, would start on 22 December.</p>	15. 16. 17. 18.	<p>On 15 November 2023, 156 students of the seventh regular generation of the Police College and 29 candidates from previous generations, 185 graduates in total, took the oath of office before the Director General of the Police.</p>
<p>The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Accident Victims did not claim any lives. Police officers stepped up traffic enforcement on the entire motorway network. Police officers from traffic police stations and the Specialised Traffic Control Unit were involved in day-long monitoring. They detected 266 violations related to inadequate safety distances, but recorded only those violations that clearly posed a risk of collision. In addition, police officers recorded 138 speeding violations and 13 overtaking violations committed by drivers of heavy goods vehicles.</p>	19. 20. 21.	<p>Robert Tekavec, head of the Juvenile Crime Section at the General Police Directorate, and Primož Podbelšek, Criminal Investigator of the General Crime Section at the Ljubljana Police Directorate, presented at the press conference an extensive international criminal investigation in the area of child sexual abuse via the Internet – Mozaik 2023 which was carried out within the framework of EMPACT, in cooperation with Europol, Hungary, Croatia and several countries from the Western Balkans region.</p>
<p>At the Police Academy, the 34th generation attending the course for authorised officers took the oath of office before the Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić.</p>	22. 23. 24. 25.	<p>The Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić, and the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Robert Glavaš, signed the Cooperation Plan between the Police and the Slovenian Armed Forces for 2024.</p>
<p>The 2023 European Ju-Jitsu Championships took place in Zagreb, Croatia, from 23 to 26 November 2023. Tim Toplak, who won his third European championship title, took part in the competition as a member of the Slovenian national team.</p>	26. 27. 28. 29. 30.	<p>On 27 November 2023, the Police College conducted a test for the performance of tasks of municipal warden.</p> <p>For the ninth consecutive year, the Slovenian Police successfully participated in Europol's international operation EMMA 9 (European Money Mule Action) aimed at combating money mules who illegally receive funds, mainly related to cybercrime – online fraud. This year's campaign ran from 15 September to 30 November 2023. The Association of Banks of Slovenia also joined the public awareness initiative.</p>

December

<p>Katjuša Popovič, a representative of the Ključ Association, gave a lecture on Trafficking in Human Beings to candidates for police officers at the Police College.</p> <p>As part of the Prevention of Corruption Week, the police organised a roundtable discussion on Corruption Risks in the Implementation of Flood and Landslide Mitigation Measures at the Ministry of the Interior. The round table was also addressed by the Minister of the Interior, Boštjan Poklukar, and the Assistant Director General of the Police, Jože Senica.</p> <p>A national preventive action to prevent driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs and other psychoactive substances took place from 11 to 31 December 2023. Police officers checked breath alcohol content and carried out rapid drug tests. 27,935 breath tests were ordered, of which 654 were positive. Police officers suspended 574 driving licences and detained 59 motorists. 35 professional examinations for the presence of alcohol and 66 professional examinations for the presence of drugs were also ordered.</p> <p>That week, criminal investigators from the Ljubljana Police Directorate carried out several house searches and detained twelve suspects. It was an extensive, long-running investigation of an organised criminal gang, in which the Slovenian Police charged 27 people with 113 offences of trafficking in human beings for the exploitation of prostitution, drug trafficking and illegal crossing of the border or the territory of the country.</p> <p>Together with a representative of the Alpine Association of Slovenia, members of the Alpine Police Unit and the Air Police Unit warned about the many dangers of visiting the mountains at this time of year. Going to the mountains requires careful preparation, good and appropriate equipment and a great deal of caution.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 	<p>The police acquired a third multi-role transport helicopter, an Agusta Westland AW 169. It is the same type of helicopter that the police used last year to put out a fire in the Karst (Kras) region and to rescue people and property in this year's catastrophic floods in August, among other things. The total police fleet now comprises seven helicopters, and with a modern and stronger fleet, the Air Support Unit will be able to provide even better quality support to police units in the field and to other systems in the country.</p> <p>The police and the Ministry of the Interior held an event to thank those who saved lives and property during the floods and awarded them the Police Medal for Self-Sacrifice and the Ministry's plaque for their outstanding professional work, exceptional merits and achievements in promoting a culture of safety in the face of the devastating floods in Slovenia, and for their special contributions to the strengthening of the Ministry's reputation.</p> <p>On 11 December 2023, the Criminal Police Directorate organised an expert consultation at the General Police Directorate entitled Crossing Borders. The focus of this year's consultation was on international aspects of domestic violence, with an emphasis on measures to protect victims.</p> <p>Officers of the Special Police Unit of the Slovenian Police participated in the Europe-wide counter-terrorism exercise "Atlas Common Challenge 2023" in the framework of cooperation in the Atlas transnational network of law enforcement special intervention units. The exercise that took place in September and October simultaneously on several locations in different countries was attended by 38 counter-terrorist units. They trained in joint operations and response to potential terrorist threats.</p> <p>In mid-December 2023, investigators from the National Bureau of Investigation filed a criminal complaint with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) on reasonable suspicion of the commission of two criminal offences in connection with the supply of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (HATs). In total, six individuals were suspected.</p> <p>Minister Boštjan Poklukar and Director General of the Police Senad Jušić received the Light of Peace from Bethlehem, which, as in previous years, was brought by the Slovenian Scouts. The gathering was also addressed by Police Vicar Igor Jereb.</p>
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December

<p>On 20 December 2023, the traditional Christmas and New Year's concert took place in the Gallus Hall of Cankarjev dom, where the Police Orchestra played festive tunes, joined by the renowned Slovenian singer Raiven and the dancers of Dance City. The guests were welcomed by the Director General of the Police, Senad Jušić. The Slovenian protocol orchestra in blue uniforms celebrated its 75th anniversary this year.</p> <p>The Ministry and police leadership visited the police officers who ensure security on the longest night of the year at the majority of Slovenia's police directorates. In closing, Minister Boštjan Poklukar urged all those attending New Year's Eve outdoor events to take care for their own safety and the safety of others, and advised them to use pyrotechnic devices with caution, or not at all. He thanked the police officers in charge of security and those on missions abroad for their work and wished everyone a safe celebration.</p>	<p>19. On 20 December 2023, investigators from the National Bureau of Investigation filed a criminal complaint with the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia against seven Slovenian citizens on the grounds of reasonable suspicion that they had committed three offences of abuse of position or trust in the course of economic activity.</p> <p>20.</p> <p>21.</p> <p>22. The police issued a notice that a large number of counterfeit EUR 200 notes were in circulation, so people were advised to take extra care when handling cash. Most of the counterfeit banknotes in the denomination of EUR 200 were found in the Ljubljana area, but a smaller number were also found in other parts of Slovenia.</p> <p>23. On 23 December 2023, two Croatian police officers once again joined the Slovenian police force providing security on ski slopes. Until 7 January 2024, they and Slovenian police officers were deployed at the ski resorts of Rogla, Kope and Kranjska Gora.</p> <p>24.</p> <p>25.</p> <p>26.</p> <p>27.</p> <p>28.</p> <p>29.</p> <p>30.</p> <p>31.</p>
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABIS	Automatic Biometric Identification system
AFIS	Automated Fingerprint Identification System
AGRA	International Fair of Agriculture and Food in Gornja Radgona
AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
AVP	Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
BMVI	Border Management and Visa Instrument
BSF	Bled Strategic Forum
CBC-RAN	Cross-border Crime Risk Analysis Network
CEIFAC	Le Collège Européen des Investigations financières et de l'Analyse Financière criminelle
CEP	Centre for European Perspective
CEPA	Central European Police Academy (Ger. <i>Mitteleuropäische Polizeiakademie</i> – MEPA)
CEPIS	Central police information system
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CERTAIN FORS	Competency, Education, Research, Testing, Accreditation and Innovation in Forensic Science
Cestel, d. o. o.	Slovenian company; manufacturer of bridge systems for weighing vehicles while driving
CIRAM	Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model
COSI	Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation in the Internal Security Sector
COVID 19	Contagious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2
CTPB	Counter-Terrorism Programme Board
DARS d.d.	Motorway Company of the Republic of Slovenia
DG HOME	Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DNAxs	program for calculating DNA profiles in complex mixtures
ECTC	Europol's European Counter Terrorism Centre
EES	Entry-Exit System
EIDA	Police platform for distance learning for police officers
ELA	European Labour Authority
EMMA	European Money Mule Action
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats
EMPACT THB	EMPACT Trafficking in Human Beings
EMSC	European Migrant Smuggling Centre
ENFSI	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes
EPAC/EACN	The European Partners against Corruption and European contact-point network against corruption
EPCC	European Police Chiefs Convention
EPPD	European Public Prosecutor's Office
e-RISK	The civil registry is an electronic database containing a complete record of the personal status of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia. It is used to record vital facts (birth, marriage, civil union, death) that have occurred in the Republic of Slovenia (also for foreigners) and other changes in the personal status of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia (change of personal name, adoption, acknowledgement of paternity, divorce, being declared legally incompetent, custodianship).
ETIAS	European Travel Information and Authorisation System
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
EUAM Ukraine	European Union Advisory Mission in Ukraine
EUCPN	European Crime Prevention Network

EULEX Kosovo	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
eu-LISA	European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
EUMM Georgia	European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia
EUPA4BiH	European Union Police Assistance for Bosnia and Herzegovina
EUPOL COPPS	European Union Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support
EUR	euros
Europol	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (the EU's law enforcement organisation that handles information on crime)
EUROSUR	European Border Surveillance System
EUSDR	European Strategy for the Danube Region
FAR	Frontex Application for Return (Frontex app for ordering return air tickets)
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FTIR	Fourier transform infrared (spectrometer)
GIS	geographic information system
HATs	COVID-19 rapid antigen tests
HEAT	Hostile Environment Awareness Trainings
HPLC-Q-TOF	high pressure liquid chromatography coupled with quadrupole time-of-flight
ICT	Information and communications technology
ICT system	Information and telecommunication system
ILEA	International Law Enforcement Academy
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IP	Internet Protocol
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPA RC	International Police Association, Regional Club
IRMA	Integrated Return Management Application
ISLE-IC project	International Specialist Law Enforcement, Improved Capabilities
IS MUZA	Information system for effective staff management
ISF	Internal Security Fund
ISO/IEC	International standard for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
IT	Information technology
ITC	Information and telecommunication
JO	Joint Operation
JIT	Joint Investigation Team
JRS	Joint Reintegration Services
kg	Kilogram
LTE	Long-term evolution (in telecommunications); a standard for wireless broadband communication for mobile devices and data terminals, based on the GSM/EDGE and UMTS/HSPA standards
MAOC-N	Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre for Narcotics
MENA	Middle East and Northern Africa
MFERAC	Computer application for finance, accounting and HR data management, maintained by the Ministry of Finance
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCMEC	US National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
NCUP	National Traffic Management Centre
NFIP	National Football Information Point
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
No.	Number
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
PCCCs	Police and Customs Cooperation Centres
Pegaz	Stricter surveillance of road traffic methodology
PEN-MP	Police Expert Network on Missing Persons
POTC	Peace Operations Training Centre

PPE	Riot Police Unit
PPSA	Practical procedure and self-defence
RAILPOL	European Association of Railway Police Forces
RECAMAS	Development of return IT-tools; a project co-funded by centralised European Union financial resources
ROADPOL	European Roads Policing Network
RREPs	Rapid Response Entry Points
RS	Republic of Slovenia
RSIS	Calls for applications in the Schengen Information System
SCAN	Scientific Content Analysis
SCIFA	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum
SE police officer	Police officer with secondary education
SI-CERT	National Computer Emergency Response Team
SIFOROMA	National Roma Platform
SIRENE	Supplementary Information Request at National Entry
SKOJ	The Slovenian Conference on Public Relations
SIS	Schengen Information System
SIS Recast	Project of overhauling the Schengen Information System
SOBRA	International Fair of Defence, Security, Protection and Rescue in Gornja Radgona
SRAN	Strategic Risk Analysis Network
SRM	Safety Risk Management
Stalita	Analytics platform, the redevelopment of which is included in the targeted research project Development and Integration of New Data and Visual Analytics Algorithms into an Investigation Platform (CRP V5-2117)
TEŠ	Šoštanj Thermal Power Plant
TETRA	Terrestrial Trunked Radio
UEFA	Union of European Football Associations
UN	United Nations Organisation
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
US	United States
WB-RAN	Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network
WBTF	Western Balkans Task Force,
ZeBRa	Name of operational task force