Annual report on the work of the Police for 2024

ABSTRACT

The annual report outlines the key features of police work in 2024, including activities by operational areas, a chronological overview of events, and statistical data. Most of the statistical data were obtained from the Statistika application. As a rule, statistical data for all years are made available on the second Monday of February; therefore, figures for previous years may differ from those published in earlier annual reports. Emphasis is placed on long-term trends in the frequency of security incidents.

In 2024, the Police faced a range of **security challenges**, such as violence – particularly peer violence, domestic violence, and disturbances at sporting events – the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls, and irregular migration. Security issues in local communities were often linked to the Roma population and to foreign nationals as perpetrators of criminal offences. At the beginning of the summer, the Police intensified its activities in municipalities with Roma populations, particularly in south-eastern Slovenia. Addressing Roma-related issues is a shared responsibility of the entire community and can only be effective through genuine dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders, including both the local and the Roma communities. In 2024, the Police also devoted significant attention to air support activities, especially through the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service project.

Although statistical data across the main areas of police work – such as crime prevention and detection, road traffic safety, public order, and border control – along with increased public satisfaction reflected in opinion polls, indicated strong performance, the **positive results** were somewhat overshadowed by **allegations** of irregularities and anomalies in the work of the Security and Protection Centre, as well as concerns regarding the legality of the appointment of the Director General of Police.

In the **field of human resources and organisation**, 2024 was marked by a reform of the pay system and, above all, a continued decline in the number of police personnel. By the end of 2024, the number of employees in the Police had fallen below 8,000. Given the economic situation in Slovenia, the Police face similar staffing challenges to those encountered in other sectors, despite ongoing efforts to attract new candidates in line with the Police Profession Promotion Strategy 2023–2025.

Considerable emphasis was placed on the **interoperability of information systems** in the area of freedom, security and justice and on projects under the Digitalisation of internal security measure within the Recovery and Resilience Plan. These projects include the TETRA project, the modernisation of the Police’s CEPIS cloud, the development of the *ePolicistNG* mobile solution, and ABIS – the Automated Biometric Identification System for facial comparison.

On 26 April 2024, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the **Resolution on the national programme for the prevention and suppression of crime 2024–2028**. The resolution paves the way for greater safety for individuals and serves as a key guiding document for the development of a national security policy. It addresses core areas such as the prevention of violence, hate speech and incitement to hatred, economic crime, public health, information security and cybercrime, radicalisation, extreme violence and terrorism, and organised crime.

The **Resolution on the national programme on illicit drugs 2023–2030**, adopted in July 2023, began to be implemented through a two-year **action plan covering the years 2024 and 2025**.

On 14 June 2028, the **Threat notification and response protocol for educational institutions** was signed. The threats in educational institutions are categorised into three risk levels, using a traffic light colour system. Specific notification procedures are defined for each of the three levels. On 17 December 2024, the Threat notification and response protocol for higher education institutions was also signed.

# *CORE ACTIVITIES*

# *Prevention, detection, and investigation of crime*

* In 2024, the Police dealt with **59,234 criminal offences** for which they filed criminal complaints or reports supplementing criminal complaints (hereafter: criminal offences). This is the **highest number recorded in the past eight years** and exceeds the ten-year average of 56,292. The clearance rate stood at **51.4%**, compared to **50.8%** over the previous **ten years**.
* The **National Bureau of Investigation** handled **73 criminal offences** in 2024, achieving a clearance rate of **98.6%**. Throughout the year, the Bureau conducted numerous pre-trial investigations, addressing both economic offences – some of which attracted considerable public attention (breaches of restrictive measures and abuse of position in connection with the purchase of real estate for use by the judiciary) – and organised crime offences committed by criminal groups. The latter cases included house searches carried out on the basis of SKY communications analysis and in accordance with the provisions of the Confiscation of Assets of Illicit Origin Act. The Bureau concluded the year with an investigation into a suspected murder, the unauthorised production and trafficking of illicit drugs, and the unauthorised manufacture and trafficking of weapons or explosives. On 29 November 2024, investigators conducted a crime scene examination at the site of the murder. Based on their findings, collected information, and the use of covert investigative measures, three suspects were apprehended in Ljubljana six days later, on 5 December 2024. In December, the Bureau also filed a criminal complaint against a doctor who had abused his position of trust by selling harmful medicinal products and was also involved in illicit drug trafficking.
* A total of **9,855 economic criminal offences** were handled – **the highest number** in the past **eight years** and above the ten-year average of 8,900. In 2024, the most frequent types of economic crimes were abuse of position or trust in a business activity, commercial fraud, abuse of non-cash means of payment, and money laundering.
* In 2024, **economic damage** accounted for **38.7%** of the total damage caused by criminal offences – the **lowest share** recorded in the past **ten years**. The greatest losses resulted from cases of abuse of position or trust in a business activity, fraud, and also deception in obtaining loans or benefits.
* A total of **349 financial investigations** were carried out under the Criminal Procedure Act, the **lowest number** in the past **seven years** and **below** the ten-year average of 389. Significant fluctuations in the value of identified damage and illegal proceeds are attributable to the handling of individual cases involving exceptionally high losses or unlawfully acquired gains, which were concluded between 2017 and 2021.
* In 2024, **81.6%** of all **corruption** offences and **69%** of offences **with elements of corruption** were detected by the Police through their own activities. A total of **98** corruption offences were recorded, which is **below** the ten-year average of 155. Police officers dealt with **604** criminal offences **with elements of corruption**, which is **four times** the ten-year average of 151.
* A total of **49,379** **general crime offences** were recorded in 2024, which is **above** the ten‑year average of 47,393.
* Among general crime offences, the **majority** were related to **property crime**, with **36,268 recorded offences** – the **highest figure** in the past **five years**. The five-year average stands at 31,624. **The clearance rate** for these offences was **31.6%**, which is consistent with previous years. The Police also handled **230 robberies**, **exceeding** the five-year average of 186. An upward trend was also observed in fraud and theft offences.
* The police dealt with **1,807** criminal offences **against life and limb**, which is **above** the five‑year average of 1,510.
* A total of **623** criminal offences **against sexual integrity** were recorded – the **highest number** in the past **five years**. The **clearance rate** for these offences was **87.3%**. Among them were **248** criminal offences related to the **display, production, possession, and distribution of pornographic material** – also the highest number in the past five years. The majority of these offences were detected through the Police's own activities.
* The Police handled **3,172** criminal offences **against marriage, family, and children** – the highest number in the past five years and **above** the five-year average of 2,851. These offences predominantly involved domestic violence, as well as the neglect and maltreatment of minors.
* In 2024, **juvenile offences** accounted for **2.9%** of all recorded criminal offences – the same share as in 2023 and the highest proportion in the past ten years. The **number** of juvenile offences was also the **highest** in the past **ten years**, with the Police handling **1,715** cases, **exceeding** the ten-year average of 1,348. Among juvenile offences, cases of **violent conduct** stood out, having doubled over the past five years. A similar trend was observed in cases of **minor bodily injury** caused by juvenile offenders. Both types of offences frequently involved **peer violence**.
* The number of criminal offences handled in 2024 that met the criteria for **organised crime** was **in line with** the ten-year average of 570. Among the **591** organised crime offences, the most frequent were illegal crossing of the state border or territory and illicit manufacture and trafficking of narcotic drugs, prohibited substances in sport, and drug precursors.
* There were **550** criminal offences of **illegal crossing of the state border or territory,** **exceeding** the five-year average of 463.
* In 2024, the Police handled **25** criminal offences of **trafficking in human beings**, resulting from investigations involving covert investigative measures, and **24** criminal **offences of exploitation through prostitution**. The number of such offences reflects the both the proactive approach of the Police in identifying victims, as well as the use of covert investigative measures.
* For the first time, the Police **recorded a four-digit number** of criminal offences related to **attacks on information systems** – **1,346** cases in 2024, which is three times the five-year average of 429.

# *Maintaining public order and ensuring the general safety of people and property*

* In 2024, the Police provided security at **3,557 public events** – the highest number in the past five years, although still below pre-pandemic levels, where they handled an average of 4,204 such events annually between 2015 and 2019. Most activity in this area was focused on **football matches** in the Slovenian First League, UEFA club competition qualifiers involving the football clubs Maribor, Celje, and Olimpija, and the 2025 UEFA Conference League, for which both Celje and Olimpija qualified. Some of these matches were marked by serious public order disturbances, **most notably on 18 February 2024, during a Slovenian First League match between Mura and Maribor**, when a powerful pyrotechnic device injured six people.
* The Police **conducted analyses of security arrangements at sports events** where **serious public order disturbances** occurred. These revealed that one of the primary causes of such incidents was the failure of event organisers to prevent the entry of pyrotechnic devices, the use of which resulted in bodily injuries, damage to stadium infrastructure, and even match interruptions. When intervening against offenders, police officers often faced resistance, which in turn necessitated the use of coercive measures.
* In 2024, the Police also provided **security at 214 public assemblies**. Fewer such events were policed only in 2022 (155) and 2023 (168) over the past ten years.
* The Police handled **30,288 public order violations** in 2024 – the **lowest number** in the last **ten years** and **below** the ten-year average of 33,682.
* A total of **14,796 violations of the Protection of Public Order Act** were recorded, again the **lowest figure** in the last **ten years** and **below** the ten-year average of 18,112. According to the Police, this decrease was also influenced by their targeted efforts in areas with heightened security concerns.
* Of all public order violations in 2024, **the majority** (**48.9%**) were violations of the Protection of Public Order Act. These were followed by violations of the Production and Trade in Illicit Drugs Act (**10.8%**), the Identity Card Act (**7%**), the Residence Registration Act (**6.4%**), and the Animal Protection Act (**5.7%**).

# *Ensuring road traffic safety*

* In 2024, the Police dealt with **20,233 road traffic accidents**, in which **68 people lost their lives**, **953** were **seriously injured**, and **6,441** sustained **minor** **injuries**. The target number of fatalities for 2024, as set in the Resolution on the national road safety programme 2023‍–‍2030, was not exceeded.
* **The share of drivers under the influence of alcohol responsible** for **fatal accidents** stood at **28.3%** in 2024 – among the lowest figures recorded in the last ten years; however, an upward trend has been observed over the past two years.
* In 2024, the Police handled **332,158** of **road traffic violations**, the majority of which – **288,131** – were breaches of the Road Traffic Rules Act.

# *State border control and enforcement of regulations on foreign nationals*

* Police work in 2024 was significantly affected by the **temporary reintroduction of controls at the internal land borders** with Croatia and Hungary.
* In 2024, police officers handled **8,727** violations of the **Foreigners Act** – **comparable to 2023**, but well **below the ten-year average** of 12,892. The decline in such violations over the past two years is attributed to the **high number of irregular migrants expressing their intention** to apply for international protection.
* The Police dealt with **46,209** cases of **irregular entry at internal borders** in 2024, compared to 60,596 in 2023, the majority of which occurred at the internal border with Croatia. Following Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area, the issue of illegal crossings of the external Schengen land border has shifted to irregular entries into Slovenia at internal borders.
* In 2024, the Police carried out **8,097** **compensatory measures procedures involving 9,990 individuals – significantly fewer than in 2023** due to a shift in operational focus. Personnel previously assigned to these activities were redirected to perform temporary internal border controls.
* The downward trend in the number of foreigners **handed over by the Police to the authorities of neighbouring countries** continued in 2024 – a decline ongoing since 2019. In 2024, Slovenian police officers returned **144 persons** to foreign authorities – the **lowest number** in the past **ten years**. The vast majority of foreigners processed for irregular entry in 2024 expressed an intention to apply for international protection, a mechanism that was often abused. Over the past three years, the number of persons returned to the Police by foreign authorities has also been declining.
* A noticeable decrease was also observed in the number of **return decisions** issued. In 2024, the Police issued **98** return decisions without a specified deadline for voluntary departure – **the lowest number** in the past **ten years** – and **774** decisions with a deadline, with **fewer** issued **only in 2015**.
* The lower number of foreigners accommodated at the Centre for Foreigners in 2024 can be attributed to several factors, including changes in border procedures and in the processing of foreigners. The most notable decline in accommodations was linked to returns carried out under international agreements and bilateral readmission agreements with neighbouring countries. The majority of accommodated individuals were from Balkan and North African countries. In 2024, **216 foreigners were housed at the Centre for Foreigners**,compared to 292 in 2023.

# *Police procedures under the Minor Offences Act and legal remedies filed*

* In 2024, police officers carried out **334,476 procedures** in accordance with the Minor Offences Act. The majority of these procedures (233,270) **were issuances of payment orders.** Most warnings were issued to road traffic offenders. **The share of warnings** issued in 2024 was **17.5%**, down from 20.5% in 2023.
* **The share of the legal remedies filed** (against offence notices, payment orders, and reasoned decisions in expedited minor offence proceedings) was **2.2%** in both 2023 and 2024.

# *Protection of designated persons and facilities*

* In 2024, **protection was ensured during 170 visits abroad** (153 in 2023).
* In accordance with **Article 10 of the Decree on the police protection of designated persons, premises, facilities and their surroundings**, six new types of protection were introduced, while five carried forward from 2023. Since February 2022, the Security and Protection Centre has been protecting the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Ukraine, two judges (during a criminal case), and four specialised state prosecutors. Due to security concerns relating to one of the judges, protection was also provided during hearings in the criminal case held at the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre.
* In mid-December 2024, due to strong public interest, the classification level was lifted from the final report on the **extraordinary inspection of the tasks performed and powers exercised at the Security and Protection Centre**. The inspection uncovered **numerous systemic and individual irregularities** which, despite the unit having been subject to several inspections since 2012, had over the years given rise to dissatisfaction and internal tensions – ultimately escalating into serious problems that can no longer be overlooked. These irregularities call for a thorough re-evaluation of the organisational and operational framework of this police unit. The Minister of the Interior also instructed the Police to establish an appropriate supervisory mechanism for the management and protection of police-owned video surveillance systems used at protected persons’ locations.

# *OTHER ACTIVITIES*

* In 2024, police officers carried out **15,766** **community policing and prevention activities** (upward trend), which is **above** the five-year (12,705) and the ten-year average (12,141).
* Tasks related to **policing in a multicultural society** focused primarily on activities within the Roma community, along with efforts to raise awareness and provide training for police officers and other public officials to improve their engagement with members of multicultural communities. The Police cooperated and met with the representatives of civil initiatives from south-eastern Slovenia and several mayors of municipalities with Roma settlements. In 2024, police officers carried out **532** **prevention activities** in the Roma community (501 in 2023, 487 in 2022, 350 in 2021, and 251 in 2020). In accordance with the **Action plan** for maintaining public order in areas with multi-ethnic communities, another **7,275 prevention activities** were carried out.
* The eight Operations and Communications Centres (OCCs) that are part of police directorates received a total of **533,201 calls** to the **emergency number 113** in 2024, **exceeding** the ten-year average of 508,845. There were 219,088 **interventions**, which is also **above** the ten‑year average of 191,421. However, the number of **urgent interventions** in 2024was **5,761**, which falls **below** the ten-year average of 6,199.
* The **National Forensic Laboratory** handled **7,440 cases** in 2024, the **highest number** of cases in the **last ten years**. It conducted **64,574** instrumental analyses – **the second‑highest** figure recorded in the past decade, **after 2017**. **The number of processed samples** **doubled** in the past ten years.
* Regarding requests for **examinations at forensic sections**, the number of requests has once again been **on the rise**. An upward trend has been observed in requests **for DNA analyses**, with their number increasing from 2,093 in 2015 to **4,303**, marking **a** **ten‑year high**. The number of identified traces and the number of requests for the analysis of drugs and related substances remain in line with the ten‑year average.
* As part of **research activities** within the Police, several studies were planned and carried out. The first of five studies, entitled **Social (organisational) climate within the Police**, was completed. Using an updated measurement instrument, the public opinion survey **Perceptions and attitudes of the Slovenian public towards police work 2024** was conducted in May 2024. A **survey on employment opportunities** was also carried out and completed, thereby concluding the research on motivational factors for seeking employment in the Police. The findings of the study entitled **Certain organisational aspects of police work: gender differences**, particularly those related to participation in international civilian missions, **were** **presented** at bilateral thematic consultations between Slovenia and Norway, and at a regional event on women, peace and security held in December 2024.
* In 2024, **two targeted research programmes**, co-financed by the Police, were carried out: the Development of software support for training professionals in conducting complex interviews with children and the MONSOON project – development of a model and prototype of a technical solution for managing security incidents at the local level.
* A total of **348 supervisions** were conducted in 2024 in accordance with the relevant rules regarding supervision of police work (411 in 2023), which is **in line with** the ten-year average of 351 supervisions. The majority of the irregularities and shortcomings were detected in the field of detecting and investigating crime.
* **The Police and Security Directorate** at the Ministry of the Interior informed the Police of its findings from the following supervisions: a repeat supervision of police procedures regarding the legality and professional conduct in the use of a measure; an extraordinary supervision of police work in relation to a potential threat of attacks in schools; a regular supervision of police procedures in connection with the instruments of restraint used for stopping vehicles by force; and an extraordinary supervision of the implementation of police tasks and powers in the Security and Protection Centre.
* In 2024, police officers **detained or produced** **6,279 persons** due to criminal offences, the prevention of further commission of minor offences, or other reasons – **fewer** than in any of the previous **five years**, **except for 2023**. Compared to the multi-year average, the **decrease** is attributable to a reduced number of 48-hour detentions carried out for the purpose of handing over persons to, or receiving persons from, foreign law enforcement authorities, in accordance with point four of paragraph one of Article 64 of the Police Tasks and Powers Act, and a reduced number of detentions ordered in accordance with Article 32 of the State Border Control Act due to Croatia’s accession to the Schengen Area on 1 January 2023. Even following the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the internal land borders with Croatia and Hungary (introduced on 21 October 2023 and subsequently extended by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia), the figures did not return to the levels recorded prior to Croatia joining the Schengen Area.
* In 2024, police officers used **instruments of restraint** **8,530 times** against **4,069 individuals** in 3,861 separate cases – **the highest figure** recorded in the past **ten years**. According to police assessments, this increase is attributed in part to a **substantial rise in the number of police procedures** carried out in response to suspected criminal offences of illegal crossing of the state border or territory, as well as minor offences related to irregular entry into Slovenia (at internal borders). In 2024, there were 554 such criminal offences; the five-year average being 463. In 2024, police officers processed 46,209 persons (offenders) for irregular entry into Slovenia at internal borders.
* Police officers **have not used** **firearms** in the past two years; in fact, police officers **have not fired any warning shots**, which are not considered as the use of firearms.
* In 2024, **the use of instruments of restraint resulted in injuries to 56 offenders**, **exceeding** the ten-year average of 54 injured offenders per year. Additionally, **88 police officers** were injured while using instruments of restraint, **surpassing** the ten-year annual average of 74 injured police officers.
* Police officers also used **instruments of restraint against a crowd**, using a total of 13 instruments on 10 occasions. Instruments of restraint used against crowds included six instances of physical force, four of tear gas, two of police dog deployment, and one of baton use.
* In 2024, **514 complaints** **were filed** against police officers, slightly **exceeding** the five‑year average of 493. A total of **499 complaints** were **resolved**. The most frequent grounds for complaints involved allegations of inappropriate communication, misuse of police powers, and failure to act, while complaints concerning the use of instruments of restraint were the least common.
* In 2024, the Police referred a total of **99 complaints** to the Department for the Investigation and Prosecution of Official Persons Having Special Authority of the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia. These complaints concerned established grounds for the suspicion that **112 officers** employed by the Police had committed **criminal offences for which the perpetrator is prosecuted *ex officio***. There were 132 such complaints in 2023, filed against 136 officials.
* The Police conducted **733 internal security investigations** related to staff misconduct and internal security threats.
* With **cyberattacks** once again on the rise in 2024, the Police implemented urgent measures in the field of information and communication technology to strengthen its cybersecurity resilience. These included the adoption of an appropriate cyber defence strategy and awareness-raising efforts to educate staff in recognising potential cyber threats.
* In cooperation with the Civil Aviation Agency of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Infrastructure, regulatory documents concerning **unmanned aircraft** were prepared. Additionally, a special working group prepared a strategy on electronic drone countermeasures.
* In 2024, a total of **291** students graduated from the Police College’s higher education study programme **Police Officer**, which was delivered by 44 lecturers. By the end of the year, **54** individuals held the **title of lecturer** for the delivery of both full-time and part-time versions of the programme, 32 of whom were employed at the Police College.
* In 2024, a total of **747 training courses** were delivered, most of which focused on general police duties and specialist areas. The trainings were attended by **18,392 participants**.
* In the second half of 2023, the Police was entered into the Register of providers of assessment and certification of **National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)** **for the Police Officer qualification**. The assessment and certification system for the Police Officer NVQ was established in June 2024. In 2024, **32** individuals obtained the Police Officer NVQ certificate.
* As at 31 December 2024, a total of **7,899 posts** within the Police **were filled** (compared to 8,162 on 31 December 2023), which is **below** the number determined by the 2024 human resource plan (8,239). Out of 7,899 filled posts, **6,023 were at the regional and local levels**. **The average age** of employees rose from 40.7 to **44.4 years**. In 2024, **negative staff turnover** continued, with 574 employees leaving the Police, while 360 new staff members were recruited. Most employment contracts were terminated due to **retirement** – **57.3%** (up from 53.3% in 2023).
* As at 31 December 2024, the Police **had spent** **EUR 456,809,249** or 94.7% of the total police budget (compared to EUR 491,769,424 or 94.4% on 31 December 2023). Out of the total investment expenditure (integral funds) of approximately EUR 4 million in 2024, the largest allocations were for the **purchase of equipment for the criminal police** – **EUR 1.4 million**, and for **IT and telecommunication equipment** – **EUR 1.2 million**. Other major equipment acquisitions in 2024 that affected material costs included: **personal equipment of police officers** (EUR 2.8 million), **protective equipment** (EUR 1.1 million), and **weapons, ammunition and gas agents,** including – for the first time – the purchase of low-toxicity ammunition for training at indoor shooting ranges (just under EUR 500,000). Following a period of decline, 2024 saw an increase in the average age of the police vehicle fleet, which reached 6.6 years.