



LANDESPOLIZEI
FÜRSTENTUM LIECHTENSTEIN

2021 Annual Report

National Police of the Principality of Liechtenstein

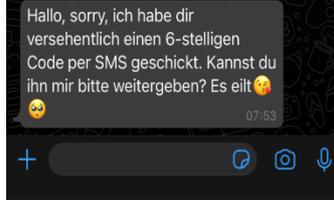


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Impressions of 2021



1 Focus areas of the National Police

1.1. Focus areas of the police

In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a major bearing on the work of the National Police. The special police operations centre (“CORONA”) ceased its activities in the spring due to the easing of the pandemic (with vaccines becoming available), and the everyday work of the state police largely returned to normal. But in autumn, this changed again with the start of the weekly demonstrations on Peter-Kaiser-Platz in Vaduz by opponents of vaccinations and restrictions.

Fortunately, the authorised events were largely peaceful, meaning that no major police interventions were required to ensure public safety. However, posters with problematic content were displayed at the events and there were also some verbal infractions (Holocaust comparisons, and insults), which led to charges being brought. Although less pronounced, similar tendencies manifested themselves in parts of the movement critical of restrictions in Liechtenstein, as has been the case with radicalised groups based in other European countries. There was also a “resistance narrative” that dramatised the state’s Covid measures as a fundamental threat to constitutional freedoms and used this as reasoning that it had a right to resist them. The arrest of an internationally wanted ‘state denier’ in Liechtenstein among critics of restrictions has also shone a spotlight on this worrying development in Liechtenstein.

Since a pandemic is primarily a health situation, the National Police were primarily involved in providing administrative assistance to the competent health and occupational safety authorities. During the mandatory closure of a guesthouse in Ruggell, for example, the National Police supported the enforcement bodies of the Office of Food Inspection and Veterinary Affairs. Moreover, in its interventions in response to violations of the Covid Ordinance, the National Police pursued the goal of enforcing compliance with the protection restrictions in place. It is very pleasing that hardly any charges needed to be brought. To avoid further inflaming the already tense and sometimes aggressive mood among the population, the National Police primarily relied on dialogue and took a ‘proportionate’ approach.

With the rapid spread of the Omicron variant towards the end of the reporting year, the special police operations centre (“CORONA”) was reactivated to ensure the operational capability of the National Police. This was to ensure public safety and law enforcement on a more sustainable footing, including during the expected Omicron infection wave. For example, FFP2 masks were made mandatory in the police building, the duty roster was reorganised to reduce the risk of infection and contingency planning to deal with reduced staff availability was prepared for the event that, despite the measures taken, a large number of employees may still be unavailable due to illness or having to isolate. Fortunately, this was not the case in the reporting year. But in addition to the pandemic, normal police work also provided plenty of challenges.

The death of Princess Marie of Liechtenstein in August resulted in a large-scale security operation for the National Police. Security arrangements for the funeral were planned in close consultation with the Princely House. Due to the pandemic, the number of mourners invited was extremely limited and the population could only attend the memorials on a very small scale. Due to the necessary barriers and the required protection of persons and property, all forces of the National Police were nevertheless deployed at the state funeral.

Increased burglaries, shots fired at cars in Gamprin, a cyberattack on the University of Liechtenstein, serious domestic violence and numerous elaborate fraud investigations were further challenges that occupied the National Police in the reporting year. It is encouraging that the overall crime rate nevertheless increased only minimally by 1% to 1,147 offences in the reporting year. The clear-up rate of 36% for property offences increased slightly, whereas the overall clearance rate decreased by 12 percentage points to 66%. This is related to a significant decrease in the case of narcotics offences. But in an international comparison, a clear-up rate of two-thirds of all offences is still a very respectable performance.

While in 2020, a decrease of 12% was reported for property offences, less surprisingly, an increase in offences was again recorded in the reporting year (17%). This means that the crime rate for property offences is back at pre-pandemic levels. On the other hand, the 25% plunge in violent offences is very encouraging. One reason for this is probably the calming of the situation on Postplatz in Schaan. The four statistically reported “homicides” are attempted offences in connection with a domestic violence case, the shooting in Gamprin, a traffic offence and a death threat.

Offences under the Narcotics Act fell by 55%. This significant decrease may be due to fewer activities in public and the withdrawal of users into private spaces due to the pandemic, but also because no major investigations were conducted due to suspicions of drugs trafficking (cannabis and/or cocaine). However, since narcotics crimes are ‘control offences’ that are rarely reported and usually uncovered through police checks, it can be assumed that these are simply going unnoticed. This is also indicated by the fact that three drug-related deaths occurred in the reporting year.

Economic crimes increased by 5% in the reporting year. However, the percentage increase says little about the actual investigation efforts. Investigations into white-collar crime – in some cases with incarcerated suspects – continue to tie up considerable human resources. With economic crimes, the majority of which are highly complex, a large number of documents need to be assessed, cash flow analyses need to be prepared and numerous people have to be questioned. The workload remained so high in the reporting year that it was not possible to promptly complete all cases and matters assigned by the court for investigation. For this reason, the National Police staff resources in the area of financial investigations have been expanded.

In view of the broad range of tasks of the state police, the continuous recruitment and development of personnel continues to be a constant challenge for police leadership. This is the only way that the police’s basic mission of “preserving public safety and prosecuting crimes in Liechtenstein” can also be achieved given the new types of activity and dangers. Due to the new two-year basic police training, no junior police officers could be sworn in and admitted to the National Police force in the reporting year. However, after successfully completing the first year of training at the Police Academy of Eastern Switzerland PSO, two cadets (male and female) started the second practical training year with the National Police in autumn. Accompanied by a practical mentor, they will be introduced to everyday police life and attend theoretical training sessions alongside their practical training placement. After passing the Federal Vocational Examination in autumn of next year, they will be accepted into the National Police.

At the same time, three male cadets and one female cadet also started their first year of training at the PSO in autumn 2021. The parallel supervision of first-year

cadets at the PSO and second-year cadets at the National Police is very time-consuming. However, the creation of the position of a training officer in the police command is proving to be very successful and ensures the professional supervision and training of junior police officers.

Due to the limited space in the police building, the International Police Cooperation unit has been relocated, which has created space for the new Digital Crime Unit (office, laboratory and evaluation room). Whereas evidence in the past was found in letters, paper files and notebooks, today it is found as digital information on smartphones, iPads, computers and on the cloud. Offences are increasingly committed digitally on blockchain, online and on social media platforms. For this reason, the National Police created a new centre of expertise in the reporting year in the form of the Digital Crime Commissioner's Office. By building up resources and expertise in this area, it should be possible for the National Police to ensure law enforcement there as well, so that the virtual world does not degenerate into a lawless space.

In the reporting year, the National Police's patrol vehicles had a new design after decades of vehicles on patrol sporting orange livery. Besides Liechtenstein, orange as a signal colour for the police is still mainly used in Switzerland. But at European level, blue combined with a signal colour has become the accepted colour to identify the police. The National Police have taken this development into account and combined the existing orange with a police blue. The orange-blue livery is now a distinguishing feature of the National Police and ensures that its patrol vehicles are clearly recognisable.

1.2. International police cooperation

International police cooperation is now very important. Crime, terrorism and migration are cross-border phenomena which cannot be successfully combated without close and rapid international police cooperation. The existing European security information systems are therefore being developed as quickly as possible (SISrecast), and new enquiry systems are being introduced (EES and ETIAS). Against this background, the National Police is facing the great challenge of implementing a new, central query solution – the "Police Query Portal PAP" – which allows both stationary and mobile alphanumeric and biometric queries of all European and national police-relevant databases. In the reporting year, initial preparatory work was carried out so that this central digitalisation project for the National Police can be achieved next year.

2 Headcount

In the reporting year, the National Police had a target headcount of 134 staff plus two jobs to be eliminated in the future (excluding National Prison). Of these, as at the end of 2021 there was a total headcount of 125.8 (excluding National Prison) (2020: 126.2): 85.3 police officer posts with official functions, 18.2 civilian staff posts with police functions (forensic science, international police cooperation, digital crime, etc.) and 22.3 administrative employees. In addition, two police cadets have been in training since October 2020 and four since October 2021, and they will be admitted to the police force in autumn 2022 and 2023 respectively upon successful completion of the

two-year basic training. The National Police was supported by 27 riot police. At the National Prison, there were 6.0 full-time prison officers.

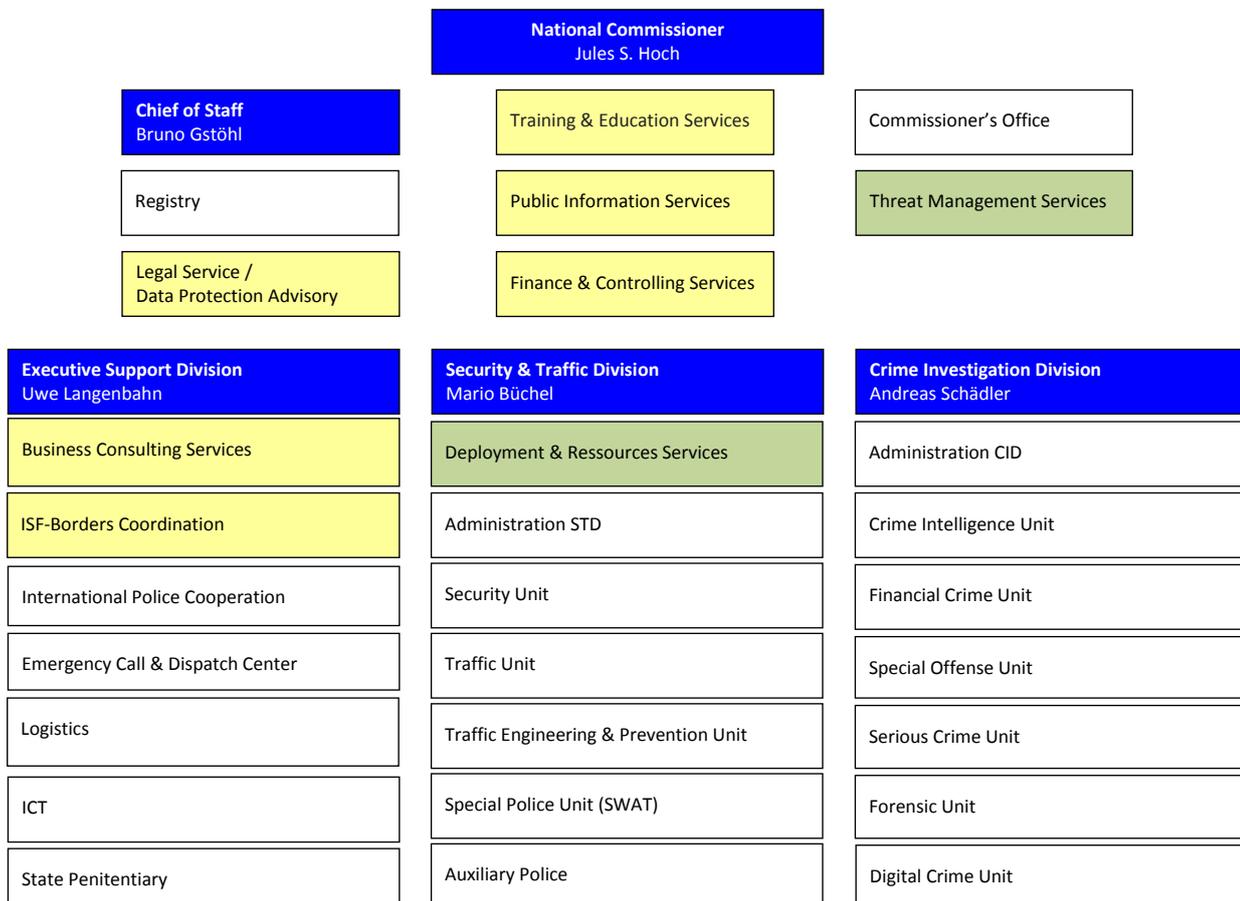


Fig.: National Police organisational chart

3 Education and Training

Internal and external education and training is highly valued in the National Police. Police officers completed various career-related forms of education and training in the reporting year in the area of leadership and on topics relating to security, criminal investigation and traffic. The employees of the National Police completed this training primarily at the Swiss Police Institute (SPI), at friendly cantonal police forces and, for some topics, also at police training institutions in Austria and Germany. The further education and training department of the National Police continuously reviews and optimises further education structures.

4 National Emergency-Call and Operations Centre

The National Police are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This also applies to the force's centrepiece, the National Emergency-Call and Operations Centre. Two

An average of 21 dispatches were made per day.

dispatch officers are on duty around the clock, take all police and ambulance service calls and initiate the necessary immediate measures.

In the reporting year, a total of 6,345 calls (2020: 6,131) from the emergency numbers 112 (international emergency call), 117 (police emergency call), 118 (fire service emergency call) and 144 (ambulance service emergency call) were taken. This was an increase of 3.5%. The majority of callers dialled the police emergency number 117, followed by the ambulance service emergency number 144 and the international emergency number 112. From the calls received, a total of 7,349 dispatches were made (police 4,964, ambulance 2,233 and fire 152), which was a significant increase (2020: 6,208). An average of 21 dispatches were made per day.



5 Anonymous whistleblower system

In April 2020, the National Police introduced a whistleblower platform secured with state-of-the-art technology for providing open and anonymous suspicious activity reports. Since then, people have been able to file reports with the National Police on the following (focus) areas around the clock:

- Money laundering
- Financing of terrorism
- Economic crimes
- Corruption offences

No IP address data, time stamp or other metadata is logged when people use the whistleblower system. If the whistleblower does not leave their name when making the report, the communication is completely anonymous – which is ensured by technical means. By setting up their own protected mailbox, there can also be communication with specialist employees from the criminal investigation department via the system.

In 2021, the whistleblower platform was accessed 571 times. During this time, two suspicious activity reports were made in the area of economic crimes, which were processed by the employees specialised in corruption offences. In both cases, a report was made to the Liechtenstein public prosecutor's office and criminal proceedings were opened in one case. This shows that anonymous tips continue to be

Two anonymous suspicious activity reports were processed from January to December.

assessed with due diligence. If they are sweeping, vague or inconclusive, they will not lead to further investigations.

6 Threat Management Department

In the reporting year, there was a marked increase in reports of people criticising pandemic-related measures in a way that was perceived as threatening. Due to somewhat radicalised statements on social media, as well as in emails and letters, the department stepped up its internal cooperation with State Protection. Contact was made with these people in person or by phone. Especially in the case of threatening posts on social media, the authors were also sent 'de-anonymising letters' to make it clear that the internet is not a lawless space.

In the reporting year, 94 (2020: 60) reports were received by the Threat Management department. 16 (2020: 5) were re-openings of cases that had previously been closed and 15 (2020: 10) were anonymous behavioural counselling. The incoming reports can be categorised as follows:

Categories of increased readiness to use violence	2021	2020
Domestic violence	23	16
Threatening behaviour towards a public authority/institution	20	11
Psychological abnormality	17	10
Threatening behaviour in general	16	9
Threatening behaviour at the workplace	3	2
Extremism	6	1
Stalking	6	1
Sexual assault	2	
<i>Not specified</i>	1	10

As in the previous year, most of the enquiries concerned conflicts domestically.

Reports of threatening behaviour towards the authorities and/or institutions almost doubled in the reporting year. This can primarily be attributed to the pandemic and the associated criticism of restrictions. There was also a sharp increase in the number of reports of people who gave cause for concern about an escalation of violence due to psychological problems and/or other threatening behaviour.

After analysing the situation and making an initial assessment, the Threat Management department's measures primarily comprise behavioural counselling. In many cases, it was possible to bring about a de-escalation and achieve relief for those affected. When appropriate, the department also enters into direct dialogue with threatening individuals to assess the individual's point of view and offer help getting out of the conflict spiral. Both people involved and perpetrators in many cases benefited from triage to the relevant departments, which are able to support them in solving problems and intervene early in the event of increasing stress. The department retains a coordination function here, especially in complex and medium to longer-term conflict situations. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, networking at

home and abroad, which is important for threat management, was still only possible to a limited extent.

6.1. Domestic violence

A total of 101 reports (2020: 75) in connection with domestic violence or conflicts were received by the National Police. In 27 cases (2020: 24), a report was made to the public prosecutor's office.

Following the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by parliament in May 2021, the government has appointed a state coordination group to implement the convention. The National Police is represented by the Threat Management Department in its function as the Domestic Violence Coordination Unit. As a result of the ratification, data collection has been adapted taking into account the terminology defined in the convention. This makes it difficult to compare the figures with the previous year, but it does point to the increasing awareness of the phenomenon of domestic violence.

Among other things, a distinction is made between physical (14 cases), psychological (86 cases; for example verbal disputes without criminal offences), sexual (one case) and economic violence (no cases). In addition, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is now recorded: in 41 cases, these were current or former romantic partners. 17 reports concerned intergenerational violence at home; in two cases it was not possible to clearly define the relationship.

Persons involved in cases of domestic violence at a glance:

	2021	2020
Male perpetrators	21	33
Female perpetrators	8	13
Male victims	7	47
Female victims	17	59
Juvenile perpetrators	2	5
Young victims (of which 2 not directly involved)	12	13
Children (< 14 years old) (of which 13 not directly involved)	35	24
Male involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	85	
Female involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	77	

Particularly in the case of verbal disputes or other incidents without criminal offences, a classification into perpetrator or victim roles was dispensed with and those involved were simply recorded as 'participants'.

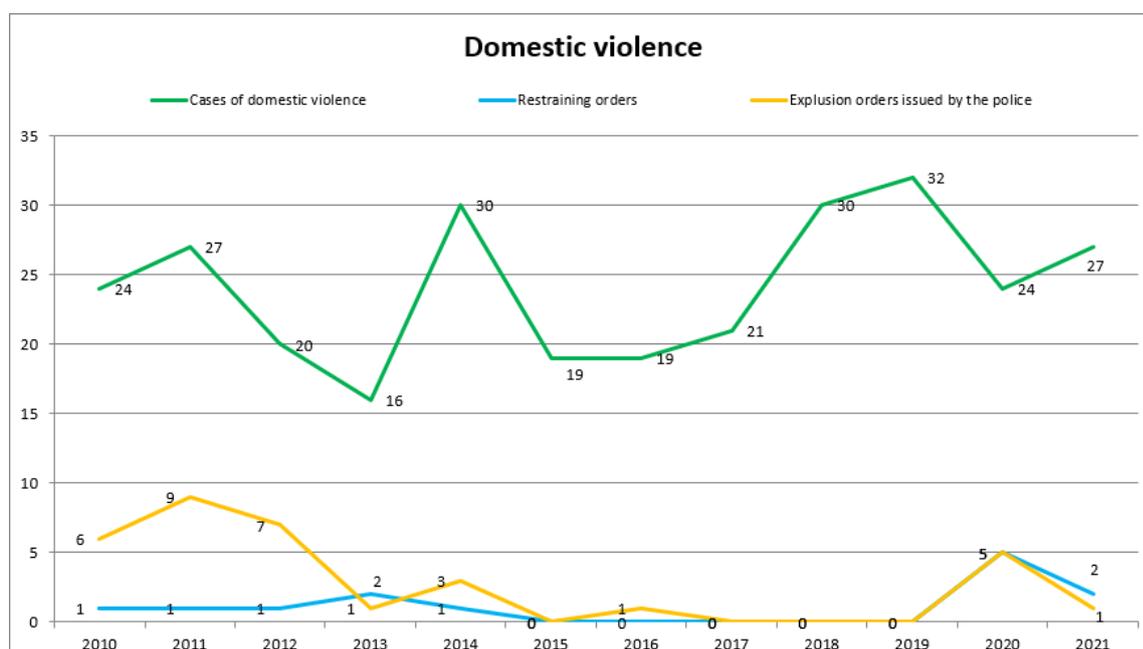
In 2021, 101 interventions were recorded under category of domestic violence. Charges were filed in 27 cases.

The National Police's measures at a glance:

	2021	2020
De-escalation dialogue	57	39
Triage/arrangement of further help (esp. Office of Social Services)	51	71
Bringing in other help on the ground (esp. crisis intervention team, emergency doctor)	7	14
Expulsion order issued by the police	1	5
Restraining order	2	5
Police custody	-	2
Direct dialogue with threatening individuals by the Threat Management department	11	3

The pandemic continued to occupy the Domestic Violence Coordination Unit, although the increased number of cases is not a direct consequence of the pandemic. However, there was an increasing need for counselling and care, which also manifested itself in a low threshold for contacting the police. This meant that the National Police were repeatedly called out to family conflicts without any real police jurisdiction being evident there. The frequent lack of jurisdiction also explains the decline in individual measures.

Against this background, the National Police have prepared a new flyer entitled (in German) "Support Services for Conflicts at Home". The brochure is handed out to those involved in initial interventions without further police jurisdiction and can be accessed on the National Police website. The brochure lists various psychosocial support and counselling services that can be used to overcome family conflict situations without violence.



7 Security

7.1. Basic services

The security and traffic police are responsible for basic police services and are on duty around the clock in shifts. The security and traffic police are dispatched for an initial intervention on the ground in response to all emergency calls and accident reports. The employees cover a wide range of assignments here: traffic accidents, work accidents, domestic violence, alarm and other security police call-outs (e.g. suicide threats, missing person reports, etc.), burglary and thefts, criminal damage, bodily harm, and crimes and breaches of secondary criminal law (weapons law, environmental law, etc.).

7.1.1. Public order and security service operations

The National Police did not have any public order service operations at football matches in the reporting year due to the pandemic (2020: 0). In the context of the Eastern Switzerland Police Concordat and the Conference of Cantonal Police Commanders (CCPCS), three public order service operations took place in Switzerland. A total of 76 special security services were provided (anti-Covid restriction protests, football matches, assistance operations by the intervention unit, etc.), which was 31 more than in the previous year (2020: 45) This increase is the result of security police operations at demonstrations and other incidents related to the government's Covid restrictions.

No public order service operations in Liechtenstein in 2021.

Security police work and services (excerpt)	2021	2020
Public order service operations in Lichtenstein	0	0
Public order service operations abroad	3	2
Security service operations	76	45
Intervention unit operations	6	3
Personal protection operations	8	11

Operations of the special intervention unit increased in the reporting year compared with the previous year. For example, six operations with high risk potential and eight personal protection operations were recorded. This also applies to operations at international conferences and during state visits.

8 Traffic

8.1. Road traffic accidents

These statistics only concern accidents that were reported to the National Police and that were also reported by the National Police.

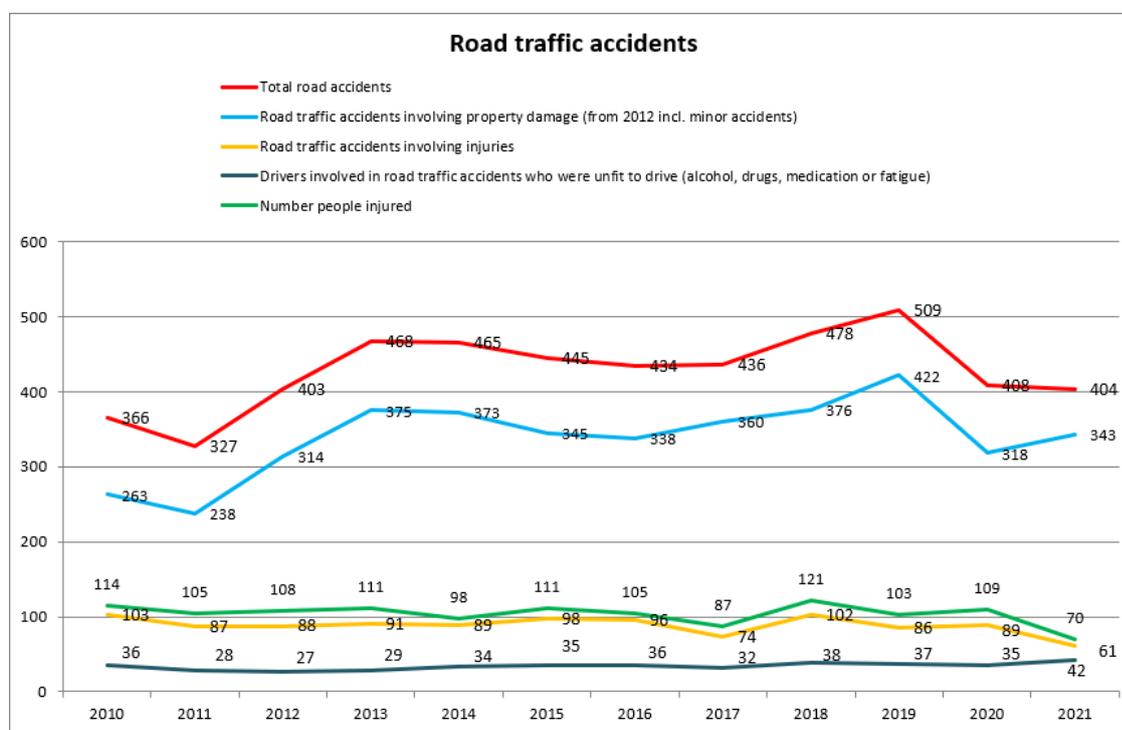
The number of traffic accidents in the reporting year remained virtually the same as the previous year (2021: 404 / 2020: 408). Fortunately, the number of accidents with injuries decreased by 18, from 89 (2020) to 61. The number of people injured in these accidents also decreased (2021: 70; 2020: 109). Of these, 17 people were seriously injured. There were no fatal road traffic accidents in the reporting year.

The number of traffic accidents remained virtually the same. Accidents with injuries decreased significantly.

In close to a third of road traffic accidents with property damage, there was failure to comply with the reporting obligation. In total, the National Police was able to identify 59% of the perpetrators. 84% of all road traffic accident took place in a built-up area. Only 66 accidents were recorded on roads in rural areas.

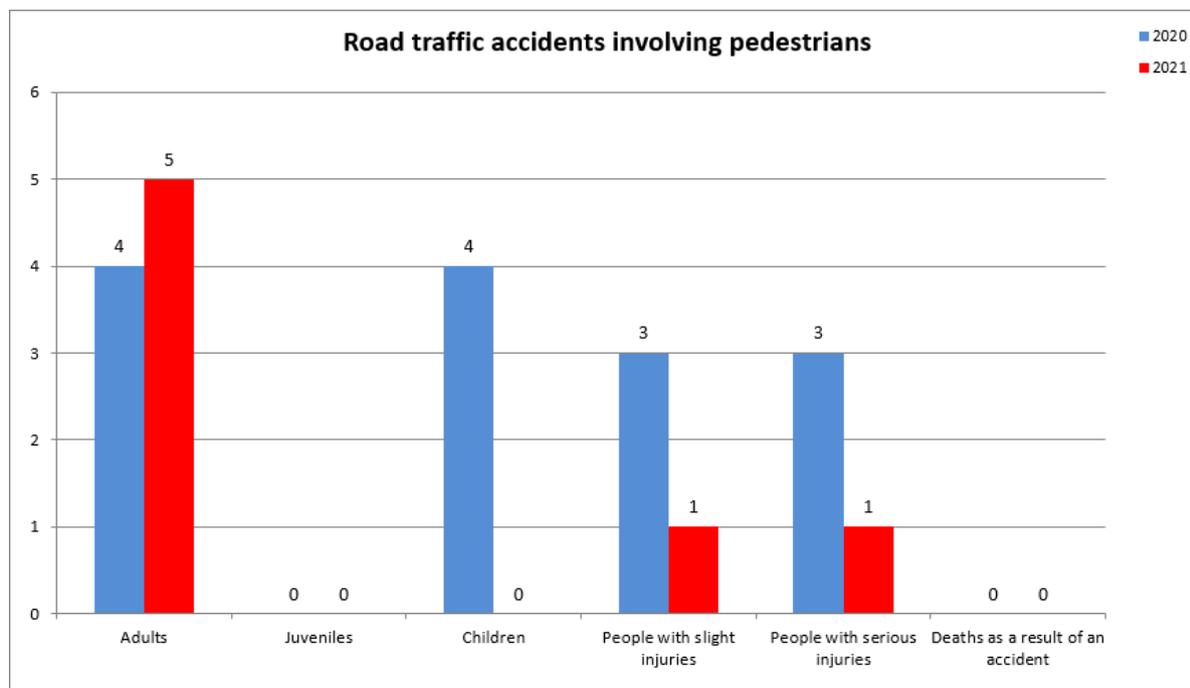
There was a small increase in the number of accidents caused by drivers unfit to drive to 42 (2020: 35). These included drivers of vehicles who were under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication or were fatigued.

Road traffic accident statistics	2021	2020
Total road traffic accidents (including cases of failure to comply with the reporting obligation)	404	408
of which the accident took place in a built-up area	338	348
of which the road traffic accident was fatal	0	1
thereof road traffic fatalities	0	1
of which the road traffic accident resulted in injuries	61	89
thereof people injured	70	109
of which the road traffic accident resulted in property damage (including minor accidents and parking damage)	343	318
of which cases of failure to comply with reporting obligation	113	113
of which perpetrator identified	59%	49%



8.1.1. Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians

The number of road traffic accidents involving pedestrians decreased in the reporting year. Five accidents were recorded in the reporting year, three fewer than in 2020. No children were involved in the accidents. One person involved in the accidents was slightly injured and one was seriously injured.

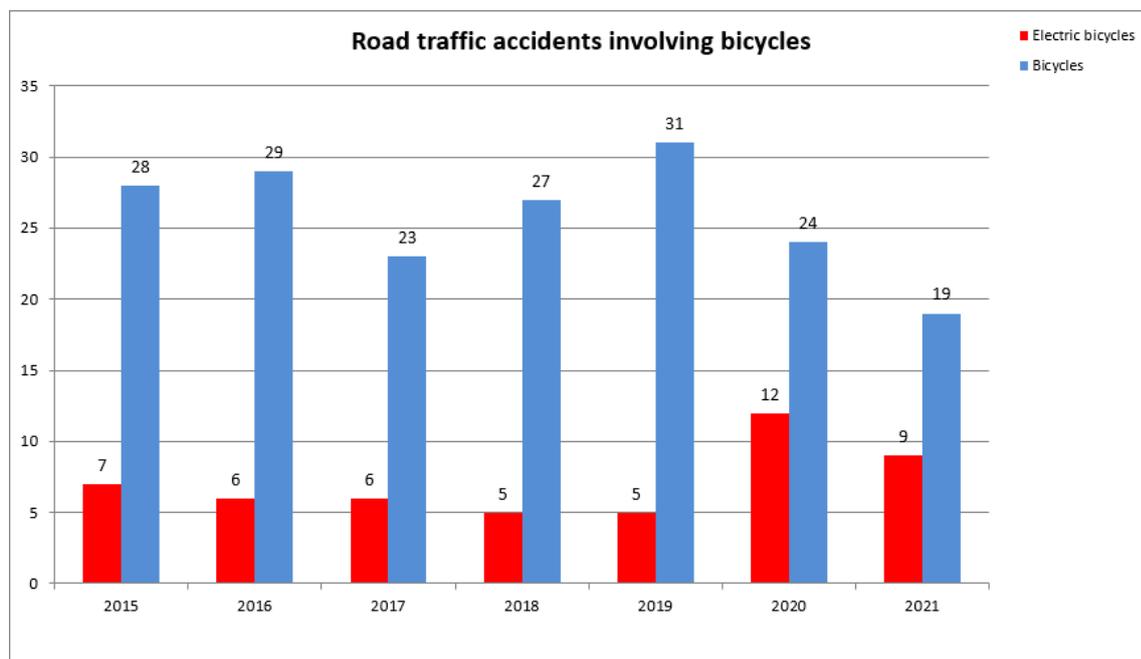


8.1.2. Road traffic accidents involving bicycles

The number of road traffic accidents involving bicycles decreased compared with the previous year. Fortunately, accidents involving e-bikes also decreased, although they continue to experience a boom in Liechtenstein.

E-bikes were involved in 33% of bicycle accidents.

Riding an e-bike is an activity with increased risk, as other road users and e-bikers themselves often underestimate their speed and stopping distances.



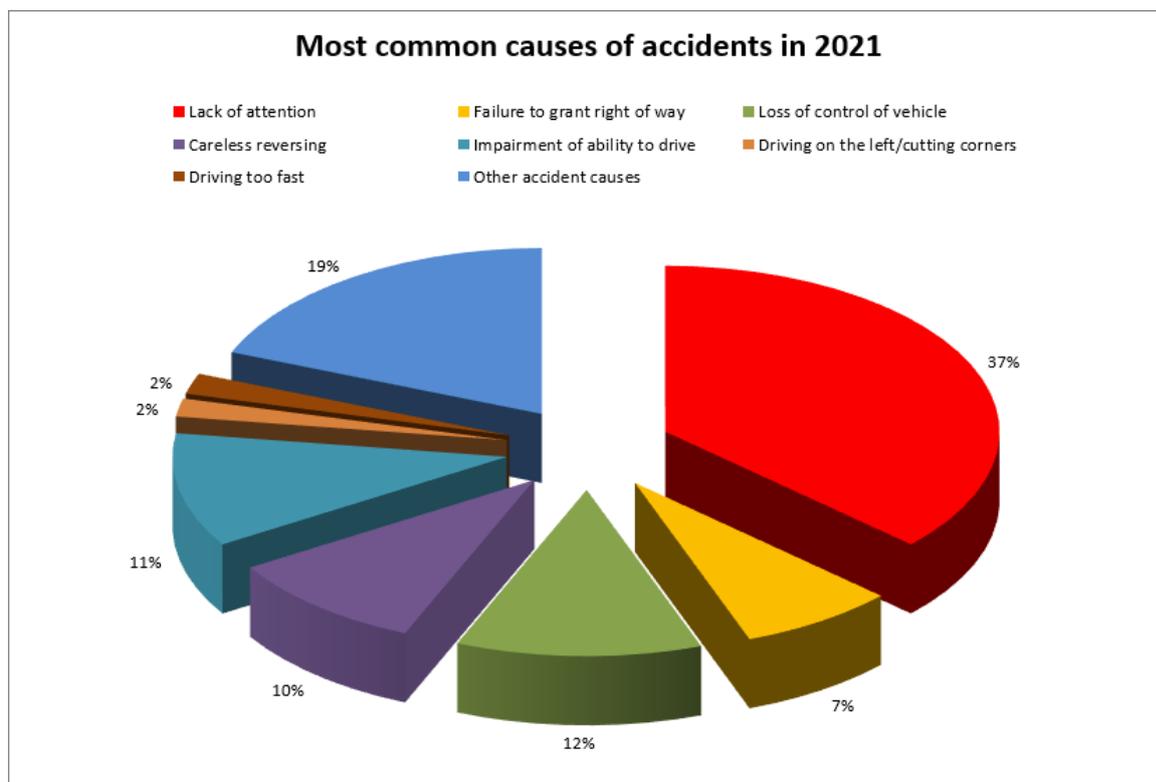
8.2. Accident causes

As in previous years, a lack of attention was also the main cause of accidents on Liechtenstein's roads in the reporting year. More than a third of all accidents are caused by the operator of the vehicle being distracted – whether by the environment, passengers or mobile phones.

Other causes of accidents included loss of control of the vehicle (12%), impairment of the ability to drive as a result of alcohol, drugs, medications or fatigue (11%), careless reversing (10%) and failure to grant right of way (7%).

The “other causes of accidents” category (19%) includes failing to maintain a sufficient distance, failure to heed signals, careless lane changes, vehicle defects or inappropriate behaviour by pedestrians.

More than a third of accidents occurred due to lack of attention.



8.3. Road safety

Road safety remains an effective aid for preventing road traffic accidents. This starts with the youngest road users, who were taught by two traffic safety instructors from the National Police in 163 practical and theory lessons. Practical road safety education also includes the road safety training facility in Schellenberg, where students can learn various traffic signals in a sheltered environment and practice the correct way to behave in road traffic on a bicycle.

A key focus was also placed on routes to school in the reporting year. These were regularly policed by the National Police – also in collaboration with the local police. The two road safety instructors organised safety training on the way to school, particularly at busy junctions, roundabouts and traffic lights, and were thus focused on the youngest road users.

Mobile speed checks focused on monitoring routes to school, traffic calming and reacting to reports by citizens. Mobile speed checks were carried out within normal limits (2021: 41/2020: 40).

A total of five traffic monitoring units were used: one mobile and two semi-stationary speed monitoring devices that monitor in both directions of travel. 12% more administrative fines had to be issued to offending drivers than in the previous year (2021: 46,644; 2020: 41,469). Fortunately, no monitoring systems failed for technical reasons in the reporting year, which is why the number of operating days also increased.

Road safety education and campaigns are important measures for preventing road traffic accidents.

46,644 traffic violations were detected with a total of five traffic monitoring units.

8.4. Road safety campaigns and traffic controls

The National Police was involved in several road safety campaigns throughout the year and is trying to give the general public a better understanding of a wide variety of issues and draw their attention to dangers. To increase road safety and thus minimise the risk of accidents, seven campaigns were also launched together with the Commission for Accident Prevention in the reporting year.

To support the road safety campaigns and to increase road safety, 140 traffic controls were carried out across the country (2020: 101). Some of the controls were carried out in coordination with the police force of Eastern Switzerland (Ostpol) and with European police force (Tispol). Heavy traffic controls (technical, ARV and ADR) were not carried out due to the ongoing pandemic.

Our own road safety campaigns



At the start of the cycling season, cyclists are reminded of the importance of wearing a cycling helmet.



This campaign reminds drivers of the importance of always wearing a seatbelt.

Our own campaigns and campaigns adopted from Switzerland contribute to road safety.



The #streetfluencer campaign raises awareness of people not paying adequate attention in traffic.



The campaign when school starts in August makes drivers aware of children in traffic.

Blickkontakt schafft



With the message "Eye contact creates clarity", the campaign provides a clear and easy-to-implement course of action to improve safety.



The topic of better visibility of pedestrians or cyclists in low light or darkness was also the subject of a campaign again in the reporting year.



In December, this campaign raised awareness of the risks of drinking and driving.

Other road safety campaigns from Switzerland



In the summer months, motorbike riders were asked to drive with due care.

9 Crime

The police crime statistics are police report statistics. They include figures and graphs on all reported crimes with the crime scene in Liechtenstein, which are collected in the National Police's case database. These cover laws such as the Liechtenstein Criminal Code (StGB), the Narcotics Act (BMG), the Aliens Act (AUG) and other secondary criminal law (penal provisions of the administrative laws).

The criminal statistics reflect the crimes the police are aware of in Liechtenstein. However, the dark figure of crime (i.e. unreported and undetected crimes) must also be assumed to exist. Thus, these crime statistics are only an approximation of the actual crime situation in Liechtenstein. To enable a more meaningful assessment of the crime situation and crime trends, *interpreted crime statistics* are published (see 9.7 and 9.8).

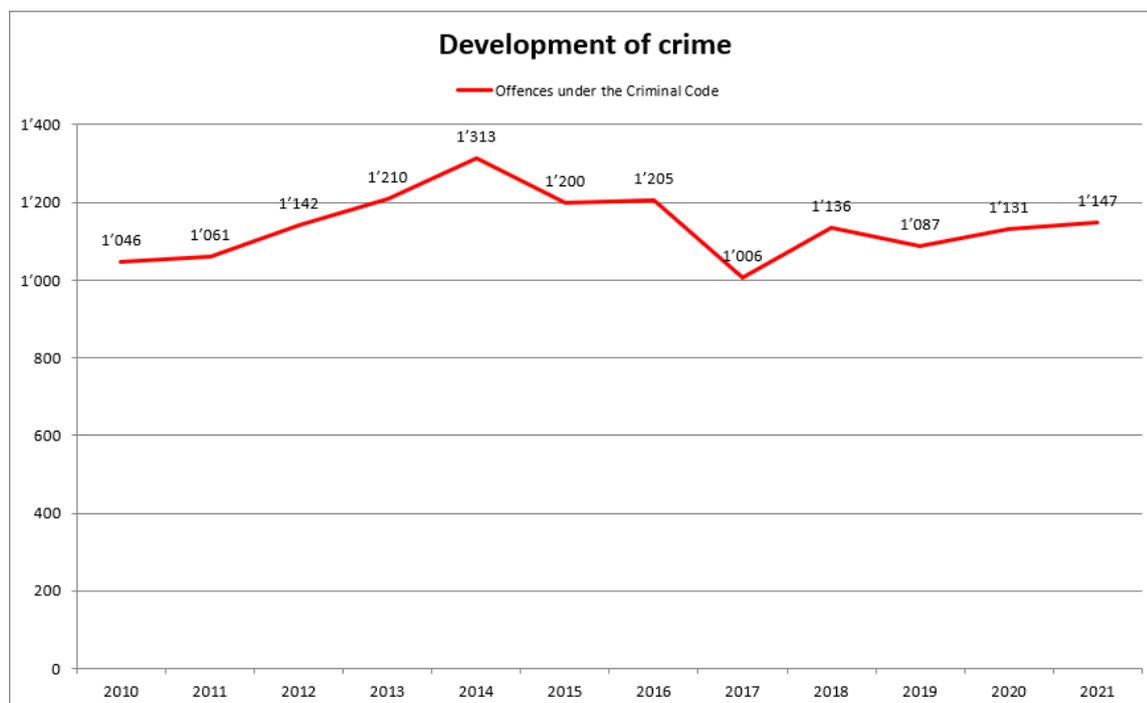
9.1. Total crime and clear-up rate

There was an increase in the number of offences under the Criminal Code in the reporting year 1,147 offences were recorded in the reporting year, compared with 1,131 in the previous year. In a ten-year comparison, the level of crime in 2021 was thus in the middle of the annual range of 1,000 to 1,200 offences.

Offences increased slightly; clear-up rate decreased to 66%.

The clear-up rate fell by 12 percentage points to 66% compared with the previous year, although this is also a good figure in an international comparison.

In addition to offences under the Criminal Code, offences under the Narcotics Act are also taken into account when calculating the clear-up rate.



9.1.1. Suspects

In the reporting year, 496 people committed offences under the Criminal Code, which is a decrease of 6%. The breakdown of nationalities is similar to the previous year. In 2021, a total of 31% of the suspects identified had Liechtenstein citizenship, whereas the remaining 69% had foreign citizenship. As in past years, the percentage of female suspects was also lower than the percentage of male suspects. Women were only identified as suspects in 20% of offences.

Overwhelming majority of suspects identified were foreign nationals.

9.2. Youth violence

In the reporting year, 24 (2020: 57) underage suspects were identified. They were responsible for 25 acts of violence. This number was over two-thirds lower than in the previous year (2020: 84). One reason for this was probably the calmer situation on the Postplatz in Schaan.

A total of 24 underage suspects were held responsible for 25 offences in area of youth violence.

All suspects were male. Six of the suspects were below 14 years of age, with the remaining 18 aged 14 to 18. Property damage made up the large proportion of the offences, followed by bodily harm.

Looking at the nationality of the underage suspects, it can be seen that 63% of acts were committed by Liechtenstein youths in the reporting year. This was an increase compared with the previous year (2020: 56%).

9.3. Right-wing violence

As in previous years, 2021 can also be described as a quiet year in the area of right-wing extremism. There have been no major incidents of violence or criminal events with a background of right-wing extremism in Liechtenstein for many years.

National Police takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of extremism.

9.4. Alpine police

In the 2021 reporting year, the Alpine police were called out on eight occasions (2020: 3): These included a work accident (forestry accident) in steep terrain and two fatal recreational accidents in the Alpine region. In addition, the Alpine police were called in to assist in four search operations in alpine terrain and one bicycle rescue in the Alpine region. Administrative assistance was also provided to the Department of the Environment to check wildlife refuge zones in Malbun.

Alpine police supported Department of the Environment in checks on wildlife refuge zones.

9.5. Criminal police work

In the reporting year, the number of house searches carried out on behalf of the National Court plus voluntary house inspections totalled 72, a reduction of 32 compared with the previous year (2020: 104). Telephone surveillance measures and internet surveillance were carried out on behalf of the National Court in two cases. The number of cases with observation measures fell by five, to four.

The number of people who had to be repatriated or extradited remained the same (24 people) as in the previous year. Due to negative asylum decisions, 21 people were deported to their home country or to a Dublin country and three were extradited to or from Liechtenstein on the basis of an international arrest warrant. These very low numbers compared with previous years are due to Covid-19 measures.

There was another decrease in the number of people who were subjected to procedures to establish their identity (fingerprints, photo, buccal swab) to 68 in the

The number of back-ups carried out decreased significantly.

reporting year (2020: 71). The number of back-ups of mobile phones, computers or similar devices fell by close to 25% to 197 (2020: 257).

The number of unusual deaths (suicide, discovery of a corpse, etc.) remained the same. Again, 16 cases (2020: 16) were registered in the reporting year. Three of these unusual deaths were by suicide.

Criminal police work and services (excerpt)	2021	2020
House searches/voluntary house inspections	72	104
Telephone/internet surveillance	2	1
Observations	5	9
Deportation/extraditions (number of people)	24	24
People subjected to procedures to establish their identity	68	71
Back-ups	197	257
Unusual deaths	16	16

9.6. Crime prevention

The National Police is not only active in prosecuting law enforcement, but also in crime prevention to a limited extent. The National Police therefore provides information to the entire population and also to special risk groups to prevent them from becoming the victim of a criminal (victimisation) or from committing crimes themselves. The latter is especially the case with drug prevention among young people.

Information relating to different areas of criminal prevention can be obtained from the National Police or downloaded from the website www.landespolizei.li.

The resources available for the prevention work are very limited, which is why enquiries regarding talks and taking part in prevention events are answered in very limited detail.

Prevention material (information sheets, leaflets, codes of conduct, etc.) on www.landespolizei.li

9.7. Crime statistics

To make it easier to assess crime levels and trends in Liechtenstein, *interpreted crime statistics* have been published since 2007. These group multiple offences into groups of offences and, in turn, group these into crime fields. Individual offences can also be allocated to multiple crime fields (e.g. rape can be allocated to the “violent crimes” and “sexual crimes” fields).

As this is a condensed selection of crime-field-specific offences, only a limited comparison of the figures in these *interpreted crime statistics* with the figures before 2007 is possible. A crime field (e.g. migration offences) does not have to include all offences under special laws (e.g. Aliens Act: failure to comply with the deadline for leaving the country).

The same applies to the number of suspects in the interpreted crime statistics. Here too, suspects may be counted multiple times if they have committed multiple offences at once or have committed the same offences at different times. The total number of suspects in the interpreted crime statistics is therefore not the same as the total number of people suspected of offences.

9.7.1. Economic crimes

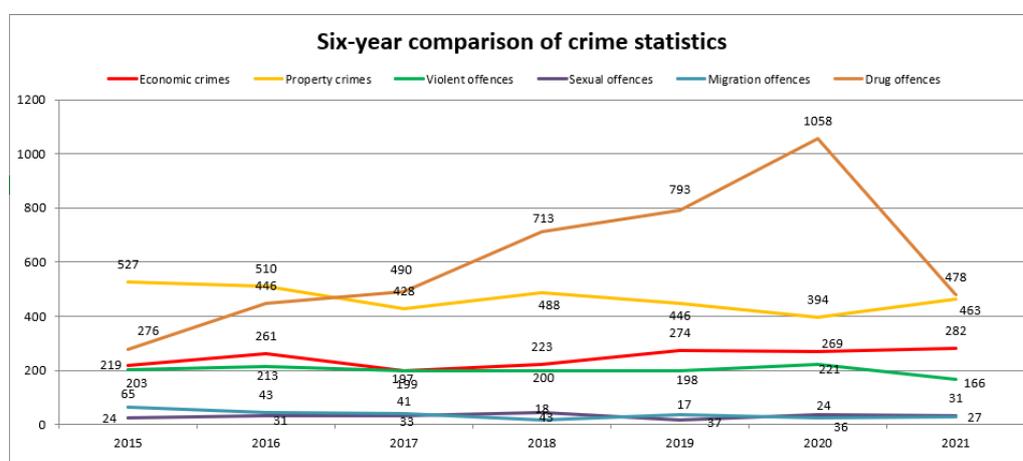
The number of economic crimes increased by 5% in the reporting year to 282 offences (2020: 269). Most cases were in the fraud/embezzlement category (184 offences).

The number of economic crimes increased by 5%.

9.7.2. Property crimes

Property crimes increased by 17% from 394 to 463. Theft was the most committed offence, followed by property damage and burglaries. There was an 88% increase in burglaries to 111 offences (2020: 59). This means that the crime rate in this area of crime is back at pre-pandemic levels.

The number of property crimes recorded increased.



9.7.3. Violent and sexual offences

The number of offences recorded in the field of violent offences decreased compared with the previous year to 166 (2020: 221). In the case of homicides, there were four offences where a charge of attempted murder was filed. These were one case of domestic violence, one report in connection with a traffic offence, one death threat and one incident in which a person fired several shots at a public bus.

Violent and sexual offences decreased in the reporting year.

Compared with the previous year, the number of sexual offences decreased by five to 31 (2020: 36). This change was mainly due to the fact that the number of offences involving the sexual abuse of minors and sexual harassment reduced.

9.7.4. Drug offences

Offences under the Narcotics Act decreased significantly. This decrease was due to the withdrawal of users into private spaces due to the pandemic as well as the fact that no major investigations were conducted due to suspicion of soft drug trafficking (cannabis and/or cocaine). As a result, only 478 offences (2020: 1,058) and 123 suspects (2020: 222) were registered with the police.

The number of drug offences decreased significantly; most reports were due to personal use.

This was 55% fewer drug offences and 45% fewer suspects than in the previous year. Most police reports (434) were due to personal use, whereas 41 reports were due to production/growing/purchase/sale of drugs. In three cases, it was possible to prove drug smuggling. Three drug deaths were recorded in the reporting year.

9.7.5. Digital crime

In digital crime, a distinction is drawn between cybercrime in the stricter sense and cybercrime in the broader sense. The cybercrime category of offence (in the stricter sense) was included in the crime statistics for the first time in 2019. Reports on mass phenomena (advance fee scam, etc.), in which no loss has occurred, are not listed in the crime statistics.

Cybercrime in the stricter sense comprises all offences where attacks are made on data or computer systems using information and communications technology. Specialist information technology knowledge and special technical evidence-based methods are needed to investigate such attacks (e.g. hacking, phishing, DDoS attacks, etc.). In the reporting year 2021, a total of 13 offences of cybercrime in the stricter sense were recorded, which was virtually the same as the figures from the previous year (2020: 12).

Digital forms of various offences rose sharply.

In addition, digital crime also includes cybercrime offences in the broader sense. This includes offences where information and communications technology is used for planning, preparing and committing offences. These are thus conventional criminal offences (e.g. economic crimes or sexual offences), which are committed in the digital space or have a digital component. In the case of cybercrime in the broader sense, the statistics show the number of cases processed, where one case may include several traditional offences. The number of processed cases assigned to cybercrime in the broader sense increased by 212% to 156 cases in the reporting year (2020: 50). A large proportion of the 156 cases concern enquiries in the crypto area (48%), followed by cyber fraud (28%), cyber sexual offences (14%) and other digitally committed offences (10%).

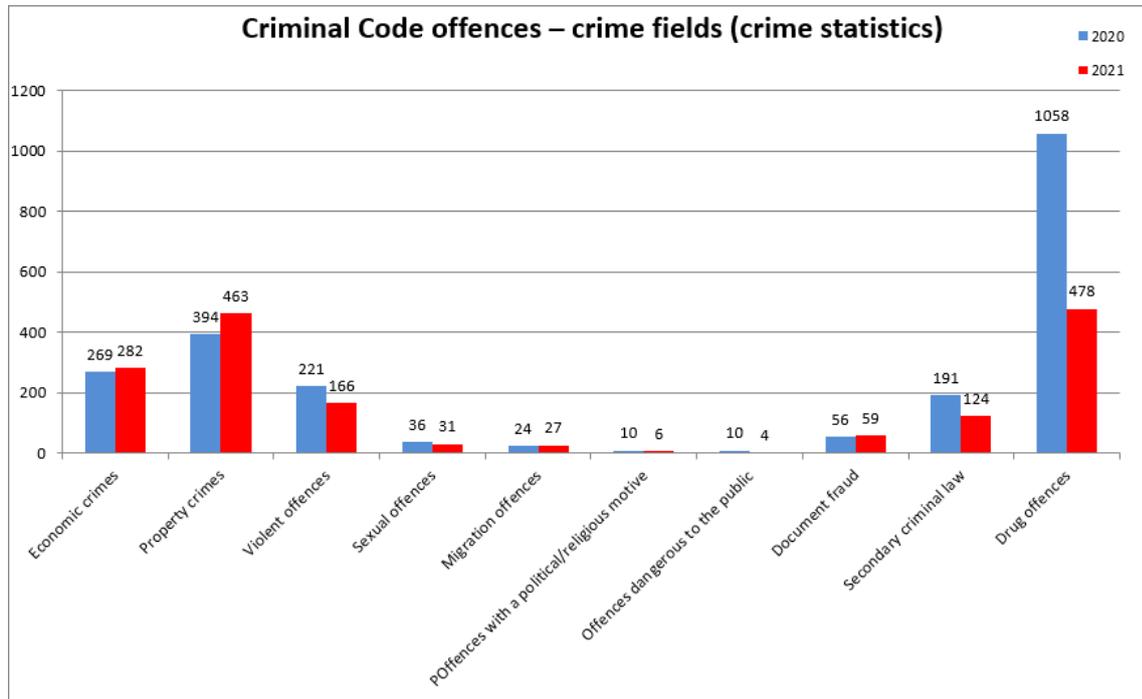
9.7.6. Migration offences

An increase in migration offences from 24 to 27 was recorded in the reporting year. The main reports were made for breaches of the entry and residence regulations (22). Four offences were recorded due to aiding and abetting illegal immigration (people smuggling).

The number of migration offences increased.

9.7.7. Other secondary criminal law

The National Police is responsible for prosecuting numerous offences in accordance with administrative law and secondary criminal law. A total of 124 such offences were recorded in the reporting year, which represents a decrease compared with the previous year (2020: 191). This was caused by the significant decrease in infringements of the Youth Act. These decreased from 45 to 18. With 40 offences against the Weapons Act, fewer offences were registered than in the previous year (2020: 56).



9.8. Interpreted crime statistics at a glance

Criminal offences	2021	2020	2021/2020 change		Offences cleared up in		Suspects identified		
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Total	under 18 y.	foreign
1. Economic crimes	282	269	13	5	163	58	184	3	153
Fraud/embezzlement	184	176	8	5	100	54	107	3	88
Bankruptcy offences	4	13	-9	-69	3	75	3	0	1
Money laundering/organized crime	66	58	8	14	43	65	79	0	73
Asset forfeiture/deprivation order	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	1
Financing of terrorism	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Corruption/insider trading	14	10	4	40	13	93	11	0	4
Cybercrime	13	12	1	8	3	23	4	0	4
2. Property crimes	463	394	69	18	167	36	128	22	86
Thefts	184	133	51	38	76	41	62	4	47
of which motor vehicle thefts	6	6	0	0	3	50	3	0	2
of which bicycle thefts	35	37	-2	-5	0	0	0	0	0
Misappropriation/embezzlement/deprivation of property	29	23	6	26	14	48	17	3	10
Burglary	111	59	52	88	21	19	18	5	16
Receiving stolen goods	1	4	-3	-75	1	100	1	0	1
Criminal damage	138	173	-37	-21	55	40	51	13	28
3. Violent offences	166	221	-55	-25	139	84	121	9	65
Homicides	4	1	3	300	4	100	5	0	3
Bodily harm/brawls	60	86	-26	-30	55	92	69	7	38
Blackmail/kidnapping	19	17	2	12	6	32	6	1	4
Robbery	2	4	-2	-50	0	0	0	0	0
Threat	38	44	-6	-14	33	87	32	1	14
Coercion	27	44	-17	-39	25	93	26	1	18
Sexual assault	6	11	-5	-45	6	100	5	0	1
Violence against public servants	10	14	-4	-29	10	100	9	0	3
4. Sexual offences	31	36	-5	-14	30	97	24	3	12
Rape/sexual Coercion	2	5	-3	-60	2	100	2	0	1
Sexual abuse of minors	3	6	-3	-50	3	100	3	0	1
Sexual harassment/exhibitionism	3	8	-5	-63	3	100	3	0	1
Pimping	2	0	2	na	2	100	1	0	1
Pornography	21	17	4	24	20	95	17	3	10
5. Migration offences	27	24	3	13	18	67	17	0	17
Entry and residence	22	16	6	38	15	68	15	0	15
Aiding and abetting	4	3	1	33	2	50	2	0	2
Use of identification	1	1	0	0	1	100	1	0	1
Work	0	4	-4	na	0	na	0	0	0
6. Offences with a religious motive	6	10	-4	-40	5	83	6	0	3
Discrimination	5	9	-4	-44	4	80	5	1	3
Terrorism	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Espionage	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	0
Regulatory offences	0	1	-1	na	0	na	0	0	0
7. Offences dangerous to the public	4	10	-6	-60	3	75	6	4	1
Arson	4	9	-5	-56	3	75	6	4	1
Explosives offences	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Radiation offences	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Environmental offences	0	1	-1	na	0	na	0	0	0
8. Document fraud	59	56	3	5	32	54	36	0	30
Forging documents	24	30	-6	-20	21	88	25	0	22
Forging money and securities	35	26	9	35	11	31	11	0	8
9. Administration	124	191	-67	-35	108	87	111	8	65
Weapons/explosives	40	56	-16	-29	37	93	36	1	18
Youth Act	18	43	-27	-60	18	100	15	0	7
Construction/industry/trade/tourism	13	8	5	63	11	85	13	0	11
Banks/financies/duty of care	9	8	1	13	6	67	10	0	6
Protection of personal security/work/intellectual property	1	4	-3	-75	1	100	1	0	1
Animal welfare/hunting/fishing/dog ownership	10	11	-1	-9	8	80	9	0	5
Health/environment/refuse	9	13	-4	-31	7	78	9	4	4
Legal closing time/peace/order	1	0	1	na	1	100	3	0	3
Other administrative law	23	46	-23	-50	19	83	22	4	14
10. Drug offences	478	1058	-580	-55	439	92	123	31	61
Personal use	434	862	-428	-50	403	93	119	30	58
Production/growing/purchase/sale	41	172	-131	-76	34	83	25	8	11
Smuggling	3	24	-21	-88	2	67	2	1	2
11. Incidents handled by the Crime Investigation Division	45	55	-10	-18	0	0	0	0	0
Missing persons cases	20	29	-9	-31	0	0	0	0	0
Fires	9	10	-1	-10	0	0	0	0	0
Unusual deaths	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicides	3	7	-4	-57	0	0	0	0	0
Drug deaths	3	0	3	na	0	0	0	0	0
Death by illness/accidents without traffic	10	9	1	11	0	0	0	0	0

10 International Police Cooperation

The International Police Cooperation unit is the National Police's central hub and co-ordination unit for international information sharing. It covers INTERPOL, the SIRENE Bureau in the context of Schengen information sharing, EUROPOL, the function of a National FRONTEX Point of Contact (FRONTEX = the European Border and Coast Guard Agency) and the Swiss search and communication systems. Having a central point of receipt means the National Police has an efficient and streamlined solution in international police cooperation, enabling it to quickly process the numerous enquiries received from various channels. The drop in individual numbers is due to the global decrease in travel opportunities and Covid-protective measures (e.g. border closures, suspension of search operations, working from home in the partner offices, etc.). As the result of the UK leaving the EU, in 2021 correspondence from GB in the 'Schengen Information System' (decrease) shifted to 'Interpol' (increase).

10.1. Focus areas of international cooperation

Migration, the associated crime, and dangers arising from international terrorism also strongly influenced international police information sharing in 2021.

10.2. Schengen/SIRENE

The key element in the Schengen police cooperation is the Europe-wide alert database, known as the Schengen Information System (SIS). The SIS contained more than 90 million data sets at the end of 2021 (2020: 93 million), in which the police authorities record data on searches for persons and objects, which is immediately available to every police officer throughout Europe. As the UK left the EU and thus the Schengen area in 2021, there was a decrease here. The UK's wanted persons data was subsequently deleted from the SIS.

In the reporting year, three (2020: 10) people for whom Liechtenstein had issued an alert for arrest were stopped and detained abroad as a result of searches in the Schengen Information System.

The Liechtenstein judiciary also arranges for searches for the purpose of locating people. Thanks to the Schengen Information System, information on the location of witnesses and other parties to the proceedings is obtained more often and earlier, as a result of which pending proceedings can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. In the reporting year, the locations of 129 wanted persons were discovered for the National Court in the Schengen area (2020: 118). Regular checks are also conducted in Liechtenstein to see who is residing in the country illegally or is subject to a Schengen entry ban (2021: 16/2020: 7).

As part of the Schengen Agreement, 946 requests were made by Liechtenstein law enforcement agencies to European police authorities (2020: 890), while 29,052 requests for information (2020: 34,160) were received from Schengen countries.

As a result of optimised cross-border police cooperation, our country is seen as a reliable partner in the fight against crime. International cooperation is also very valuable in the case of newly emerging phenomena and is intensively cultivated and used. The focus of future Schengen development will include the retrieval and storage of fingerprints in the Schengen Information System.

Liechtenstein criminal prosecution authorities made 946 information requests to other Schengen countries.

10.3. INTERPOL National Central Bureau

In addition to Schengen, INTERPOL with its 195 member states around the world continued to be an indispensable partner for the National Police in day-to-day police cooperation. The search information from INTERPOL is available electronically to every police officer.

Liechtenstein criminal prosecution authorities made 1,301 information requests to police authorities around world.

In the reporting year, queries from INTERPOL Vaduz to foreign police services increased once again to 1,301 (2020: 1,173). In the same period, foreign authorities circulated 26,357 queries globally through INTERPOL, which were also addressed to Liechtenstein (2020: 21,715).

10.4. Search hits

In the reporting year, there were numerous hits from searches for people and property (SIS, INTERPOL and other such search systems). With 255 search hits, of which 89 were domestic (2020: 113) and 166 abroad (2020: 157), these were 5% fewer than in the previous year (2020: 270). Arrests within Liechtenstein fell to six (2020: 15).

Due to the National Police's alerts, there were 166 hits abroad.

10.5. EUROPOL

The cooperation with EUROPOL continued in the tried and tested manner. In the reporting year, Liechtenstein made 437 enquiries to foreign police services (2020: 643) on the EUROPOL channel. Foreign authorities addressed 1,316 enquiries to Liechtenstein on this channel (2020: 1,611).

10.6. Cross-border networking

Thanks to participation in INTERPOL, Schengen and EUROPOL, the National Police is extremely well connected internationally. In an alliance with Switzerland, the National Police participates in the Swiss search system RIPOL and in the criminal police communication platform VULPUS. This mail system received 3,109 (2020: 3,459) criminal intelligence reports.

Regionally, the memberships of the Lake Constance Police Chiefs' Association and the Police Concordat of Eastern Switzerland ensure optimum cross-border cooperation. It is encouraging that it was possible to realise a secure communications system at regional level in the Lake Constance area in cooperation with EUROPOL. At the end of the year, a project initiated by the Lake Constance Police Chiefs' Association that enables the secure exchange of information (by means of the Europol system SIENA) between police authorities in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Vorarlberg, St Gallen, Thurgau, Schaffhausen and Liechtenstein was completed. EUROPOL sees this project as a showcase of good police cooperation in other European regions as well.

Nowadays, security can only be guaranteed in an international alliance. This applies to Liechtenstein more than any other country.

The police chief also maintains both an annual exchange of information with his colleagues in Austria and Switzerland and with the police chiefs of all the Schengen countries in the annual European Police Chief Conference (EPCC). Due to the pandemic, it was unfortunately only possible to maintain the majority of these networks through videoconferences.

Nevertheless, these international and regional networks are essential for successful police work in Liechtenstein. This is because security can nowadays only be guaranteed in an international alliance. This applies to a small country such as Liechtenstein even more than any other country.

Work and services of the International Police Cooperation (excerpt)	2021	2020
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities through INTERPOL	1,301	1,173
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through INTERPOL	26,357	21,715
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities under Schengen	946	890
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through Schengen	29,052	34,160
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities through EUROPOL	437	643
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through EUROPOL	1,316	1,611
Search hits (SIS, RIPOL, INTERPOL, LI wanted list)	255	270

10.7. Internal Security Fund ISF (external borders and visas)

Liechtenstein participates in the Internal Security Fund for External Borders and Visas (ISF-Borders) as part of its association with Schengen/Dublin. With this fund, Schengen states that bear high costs for the protection of the external Schengen borders due to their extensive land or sea borders, as well as significant international airports, are supported with funds linked to specific projects. The aim of the fund is to help improve the efficiency of controls and thus the protection of the external borders, as well as to reduce the number of illegal entries.

The total financial budget for the implementation of the Fund is EUR 2.76 billion. Liechtenstein will contribute around EUR 1.12 million over the seven-year period (2014–2020). However, expenditure from ongoing projects is still eligible under this fund until the end of 2022.

Although Liechtenstein does not have any external Schengen borders, the following projects in particular, which also protect the external borders, are implemented within the framework of ISF-Borders:

- *National Police SIS Recast Project*
Functional expansion of the Schengen Information System. The system for the automated search of persons and objects in the EU will be supplemented with new categories, queries and access extensions.
- *National Police Border Patrol Project*
Funding of a Swiss border guard expert to fulfil Liechtenstein's obligations under the FRONTEX Regulation.
- *Immigration and Passport Office EES Project*
Entry/exit system for the electronic registration of entries and exits of third-country nationals entering the Schengen area for a short stay and the registration of refusals of entry.

- *Immigration and Passport Office ETIAS Project*
European Travel Information and Authorisation System. Third-country nationals exempt from visa requirements and wishing to enter the Schengen area for a short stay will be required to apply online for travel authorisation, which is subject to a fee, before starting their journey to the Schengen area.

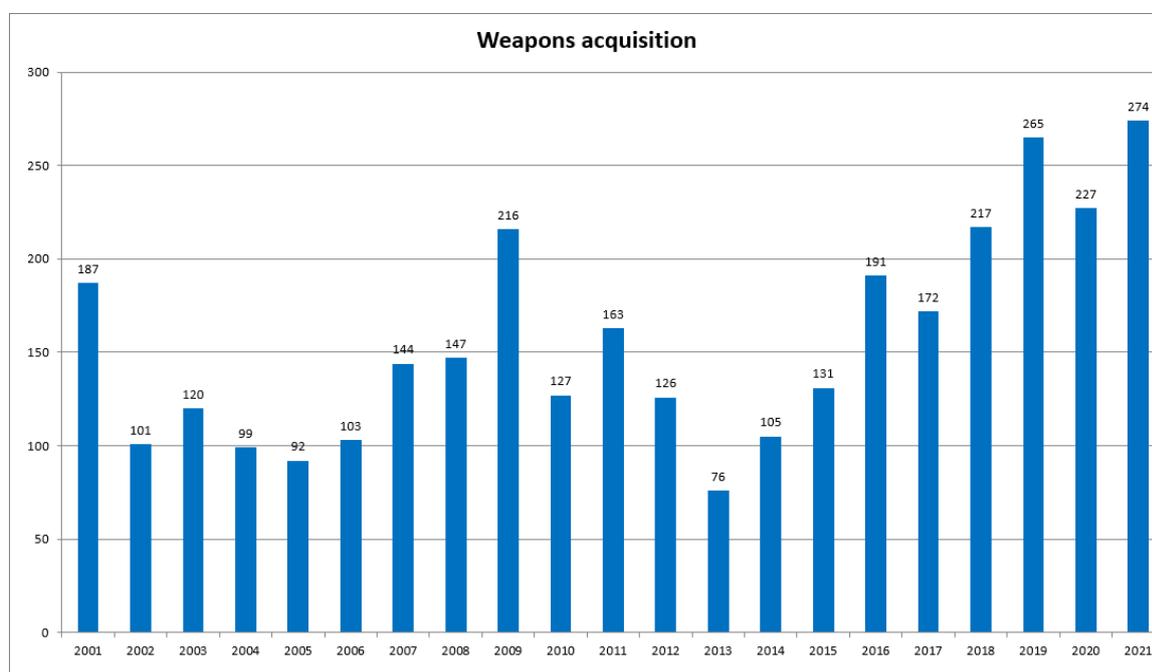
The ISF department at the National Police is responsible for the proper administration, monitoring of the national programme and its projects, and for all communications with the European Commission. Since Liechtenstein's participation in the ISF (2018 until mid-October 2021, the end of the last EU budget year), approximately CHF 2.13 million in project costs have been refinanced through the fund. This corresponds to a very good refinancing ratio of 92%.

11 Weapons

Around 9,900 weapons and essential weapons components are recorded in the National Police's weapons register. However, it can be assumed that more weapons are in the possession of individuals, since a registration obligation for the acquisition of all firearms has only been in force for a few years and presumably not all weapon owners have complied with the subsequent registration obligation.

11.1. Weapon purchase licences

The number of weapon purchase licences issued increased in the reporting year. Thus, 274 weapon purchase licences were issued, compared with 227 in the previous year.



11.2. Weapons carrying licences

Anyone who wishes to carry a weapon in publicly accessible places in Liechtenstein and can prove a justified need to do so, must first pass a theoretical and practical exam at the National Police. The number of weapons carrying licences issued increased by 14 in the reporting year to 44 (2020: 30), with all licences being issued exclusively to people from the security industry.

11.3. European Firearms Pass

The European Firearms Pass simplifies cross-border travel with firearms, especially for hunters and sports shooters. The number of European Firearms Passes issued in the reporting year increased; 35 passes were issued (2020: 24). There were no significant reasons for a fluctuation in this area.

12 National Prison

12.1. Special measures due to Covid-19

As part of precautions in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, various measures were taken from spring 2020 to reduce the risk of virus infection as far as possible in the National Prison. The development of and compliance with the internal protection concept have proven successful.

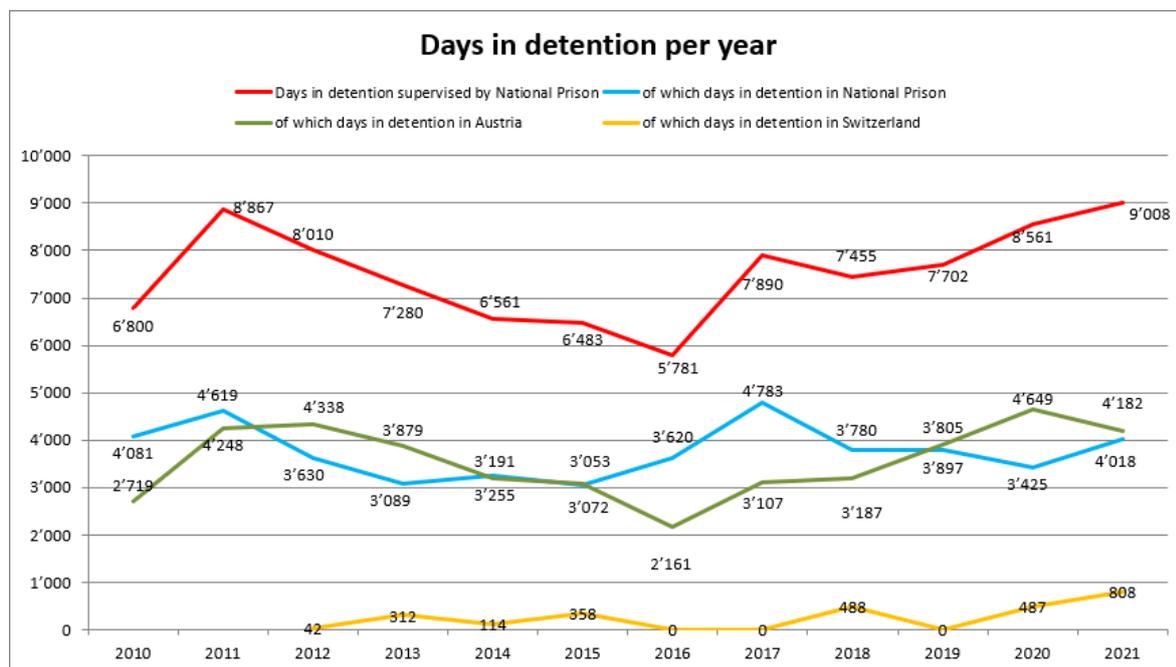
Thanks to the protection strategy, which includes obligatory quarantine for new entrants and visitor contact exclusively with no physical contact and separated by a glass screen, no inmates were infected or suffered from the coronavirus during the pandemic (2020/21). The technical and structural conditions were also created in the National Prison for members of the judiciary and the police to be able to conduct any necessary interviews by videoconference or from behind a glass screen.

12.2. National Prison occupancy

In the reporting year, a total of 52 people were incarcerated in the National Prison in Vaduz, which was three fewer than in the previous year. The majority of the prisoners were men (47), while only five women were incarcerated. The number of days in detention increased compared with the previous year to 4,018.

Detentions in the National Prison	2021	2020
Total detentions	52	57
of which men	47	53
of which juveniles	2	3
of which women	5	4
of which juveniles	0	1
Total days in detention	4,018	3,425
of which men	3,908	3,255
of which juveniles	206	186
of which women	110	170
of which juveniles	0	74
Detentions by law/reason	52	57
of which criminal law (total)	32	42
of which Aliens Act	13	7
of which Police Act	1	3
of which extraditions	5	2
of which imprisonment for failure to pay a fine	1	3

It continues to be the case that the most common reasons for incarcerations were violations of the Criminal Code, followed by incarcerations for violations of the Aliens Act (including deportations) and due to extradition requests.



12.3. Support

A total of 346 regular visits to the inmates in the National Prison were recorded in the reporting year. In addition, detained persons received 183 visits from their legal counsel and 80 visits from psychosocial professionals. The prison doctor visited the National Prison a total of 60 times, carrying out 180 consultations.

More days in detention were served in National Prison in 2021.

12.4. Remands

People who are detained on certain legal grounds during the investigation procedure on suspicion of committing a criminal offence are said to be remanded in custody. In the reporting year, fewer new remands were recorded than in the previous year. Of the total of eight remands in the reporting year, one person had Liechtenstein citizenship, two had foreign citizenship with the place of residence in Liechtenstein, whereas the remaining five people remanded were foreign citizens with the place of residence abroad.

Remands	2021	2020
Total remands	8	19
of which Liechtenstein citizens	1	3
of which foreign citizens with place of residence in LI	2	8
of which foreign citizens with place of residence abroad	5	8

12.5. Sentences served abroad

Due to the treaty with Austria from 1983, prison sentences of convicted offenders were primarily served in Austrian prisons. The same applies to the execution of court-ordered measures. Since the start of 2017, shorter prison sentences are also no

Prisoners were also placed in Austrian prisons in 2021.

longer served in Vaduz due to the revamp of the penal system as the legal requirements for timely and lawful execution of sentences can no longer be met in full (e.g. employment, free time, etc.). It has been agreed with the Canton of St Gallen that the Saxerriet Cantonal Prison can be used to prepare Liechtenstein prisoners for release.

Transfers abroad to carry out custodial sentences or measures are generally arranged as soon as the sentences take legal effect. Thus, a total of 20 prisoners spent 4,182 days in detention in Austrian prisons for the execution of their sentences or measures. Of this figure, 156 days were served by a woman. This was fewer days in detention than in the previous year (2020: 4,649), although three more people were detained in Austrian prisons. Six people were detained in Saxerriet in Switzerland for 808 days in 2021.