

# SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT HUMAN SMUGGLING 2016

## General

The annual report „Organised Human Smuggling“ is intended to give stakeholders of the Federal Ministry of the Interior an in-depth overview of organised human smuggling or illegal migration and to offer contribution to strategic decision making. In addition, it shall serve as feedback for our colleagues.

## Figures and Data 2016

In 2016, a total of 50,848 persons were intercepted. Compared to 2015 (94,262 persons), this is a decrease by 46 per cent.

- The number of human smugglers dropped from 1,108 (2015) to 249 (2016).
- The number of smuggled persons dropped from 72,179 (2015) to 27,850 (2016).
- As regards the number of persons who have illegally entered or are illegally staying in Austria, it increased from 20,975 (2015) to 22,749 (2016).

The causes for migration are many, ranging from economic reasons to the effects of war. Worth to be mentioned in this context is the long-running internal conflict with foreign participation in Afghanistan. The massive migration flow from Afghanistan will continue. The conflicts in Iraq and Syria will continue to intensify migration towards Europe. To date no political solution for the destabilised Libya is in sight. Libya is de facto still in a state of civil war. For this reason, Libya seems to be a magnet in Africa, presenting a gateway to Europe. This massive migration flow will continue.

Most of the documented border crossings into Austria were made from Hungary (42.9 per cent), Italy (36.2 per cent) and Slovenia (17.2 per cent).

Compared to 2015, there have been changes regarding the countries where the intercepted persons come from:

### Increases (sorted by percentage change from 2015 to 2016)

Gambia		: plus 647 persons or 150.5 per cent; from 430 to 1,077 persons
Libya		: plus 256 persons or 125.5 per cent; from 204 to 460 persons
Egypt		: plus 248 persons or 115.3 per cent; from 215 to 463 persons.
Morocco		: plus 1,245 persons or 93.5 per cent; from 1,331 to 2,576 persons
Nigeria		: plus 2,017 persons or 90.5 per cent; from 2,228 to 4,245 persons
Algeria		: plus 491 persons or 43.1 per cent; from 1,138 to 1,629 persons

## Decreases (sorted by percentage change from 2015 to 2016)

Syria		: minus 83.5 per cent or 21,408 persons; from 25,635 to 4,227 persons
Kosovo		: minus 81.8 per cent or 1,723 persons; from 2,107 to 384 persons
Iraq		: minus 78.2 per cent or 11,200 persons; from 14,330 to 3,130 persons
Eritrea		: minus 75.3 per cent or 2,453 persons; from 3,256 to 803 persons
Bangladesh		: minus 56.4 per cent or 549 persons; from 973 to 424 persons
Afghanistan		: minus 45.6 per cent or 10,122 persons; from 22,176 to 12,054 persons

## Human smugglers

Most of the human smugglers were Romanian nationals (30), followed by nationals from Hungary (29), Pakistan (17), Austria (14) and Serbia (14).

## Smuggled persons

Most of the smuggled persons came from Afghanistan (9,445, 2015: 20,391), Syria (2,880, 2015: 21,473), Pakistan (2,298, 2015: 2,633), Iraq (2,134, 2015: 12,732), and Iran (1,850, 2015: 2,656).

## Persons who have illegally entered or are illegally staying in Austria

Most are nationals from Nigeria (2,811, 2015: 1,151), Afghanistan (2,603, 2015: 1,761), Pakistan (1,748, 2015: 939), Morocco (1,658, 2015: 687) and Syria (1,333, 2015: 4,100).

## Measures taken by the C.I.D.

After the death of 71 persons in a lorry at Parndorf/Burgenland in August 2015, on the initiative of Criminal Intelligence Service Austria, the need for more operational international cooperation in the combat against human smuggling has been recognised. To that end, in May 2016 the „Joint Operational Office against Human Smuggling Networks“ (JOO) was set up in the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria. It considers itself as an extension of Europol. In addition to their close collaboration with Europol, the investigators of the JOO also cooperate closely and directly with other law enforcement authorities.

## Outlook

An unchanged massive migration flow towards Europe can be expected for 2017. Libya as a „failed state“ will continue to be a magnet for illegal migration from all over Africa and as such a gateway to the West.

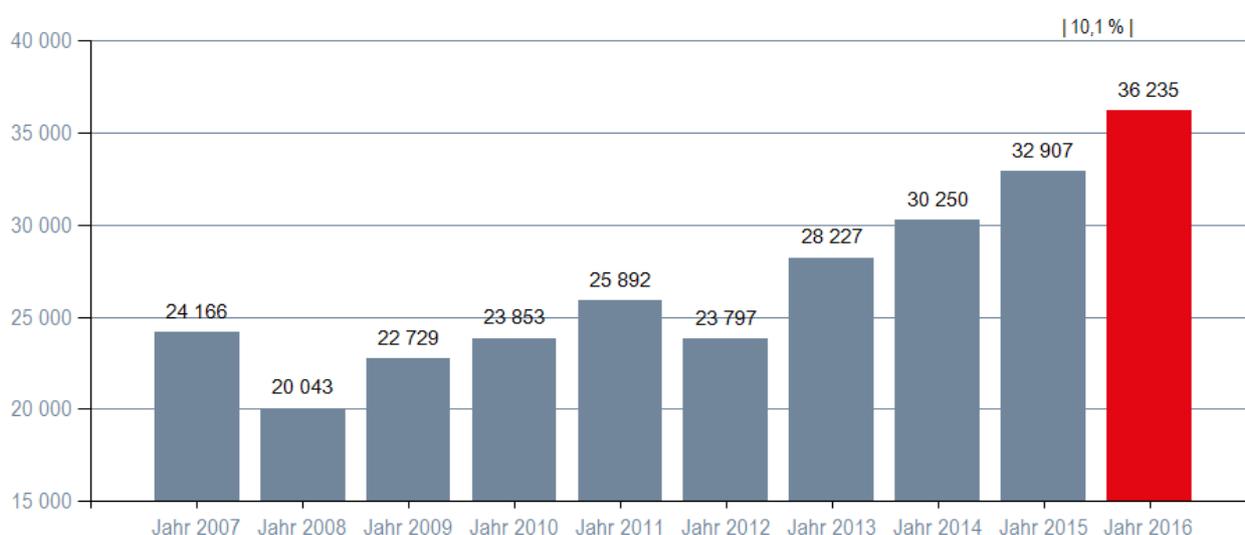
These prognoses confirm that exchange and cooperation with law enforcement authorities of all countries concerned will be of great importance in future as well. The Joint Operational Office within the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria will thus continue to focus its investigations on the Balkan route and the Mediterranean route.

# DRUG RELATED CRIME AUSTRIA

## AN OVERVIEW

Austria is consume, transit and trading centre for illegal drugs and place of diverse offender groups and distribution networks. The presence of the Balkan Route, where heroin and opiate products are being smuggled from Afghanistan to and through Austria and drug precursors are being smuggled into the opposite direction, shows to have an important impact. The Vienna international airport serves in particular for the import smuggling of cocaine from the South American countries. Bordering countries that are producing methamphetamine, the own production of cannabis products and especially the on the Internet (Darknet) offered illegal drugs and new psychoactive substances guarantee a wide range of drug offers.

### Development of drug related crime in Austria



68,9 kg heroin, 86,5 kg cocaine, 1.083 kg cannabis products, 29.485 pieces of ecstasy, 87,7 kg amphetamine and 4,8 kg methamphetamine were seized amongst others.

Foreigners: In the year 2016, 12.784 reports against foreigners due to criminal offences under the Narcotic Substances Act were made. The number of domestic offenders has continuously fallen since 2007 (from 78,2 to 61,8 per cent), while in the same period the number of investigated foreign offenders has continuously increased from 21,8 to 38,2 per cent. The number of total reports increased by 10,1 %.

### Offender groups

The different nationalities of the smuggling and trading networks depending on the type of illegal drug have remained unchanged. Mostly they have a close relationship with the countries of drug's origins that are used as transit and depot countries. The evaluation to nationalities shows in particular that the share of non-Austrian citizens is continuously increasing. For the first time foreign suspects committed more than half of the reported drug related offences in the field of felonies in the reporting year 2016. A considerable increase of drug related offences within one year was reported in the number of Nigerian citizens from 1.344 to 1.896, Algerian citizens from 759 to 1.282, Afghan citizens from 689 to 1.103 and Moroccan citizens from 530 to 850.

Based on the presence of the Balkan Route, offender groups from countries bordering this transit route are operating. Here Macedonian, Serbian, Croatian, Bulgarian and Turkish offenders are standing out. Occasionally Persian and Kosovarian groups appear. Austrians in leading positions are found in the production of cannabis herb. The illegal drug trafficking by ways of virtual trading platforms is becoming more and more important. Beside of the Internet especially the totally anonymous dealing in the Darknet and the used virtual payment methods represent a major challenge for the law enforcement agencies.

## Facts

Drug delicts are “control delicts”, therefore the increased control density of the reporting year 2016 is reflected in a noticeable increase of reports. Successful investigations in virtual forums in the Darknet are responsible for the additional increase of reports. In the past findings were gained through the consistent combat of street criminality that formed the basis for structure investigations and their analysis, today also continuously gained information from Darknet investigations is included. They also provide the requested investigative approaches for international investigations.

## International cooperation and projects

Organised drug trafficking can still only be combated with the help of a vehement international cooperation of law enforcement agencies. The strategically important circumstances of Austria’s geographic position enable the country to take measures with special commitment and success. Through the 2006 implemented philosophy, relating to the EU-funded project series “Drug Policing Balkan” lead by Austria, successful activities against organized drug trafficking could be performed. Reasons for the success lie also in a successful multinational cooperation. This has been guaranteed by the use of proved communication channels like Interpol, Europol, the network of the United Nations and the Austrian liaison officers abroad as well as the foreign liaison officers at home.

Beside numerous bilateral collaborations also border crossing drug projects have been performed. This includes for example the EU-funded project „Cooperation Southeast-Danube Region“, where Austria assumed, together with the Czech Republic, the position as project partner of the Bavarian project leader. Beside two international conferences a multinational observation exercise with the involved countries Moldova, Romania, Austria, Czech Republic and Germany has been a highlight.

## Fight against internationally organised illegal drug and arms trafficking

Since December 2016 Austria is leading together with its partner countries the EU-funded project „Joint investigation to fight trafficking in drugs and firearms with the main focus on international airports within and also into the EU“.

Beside of the 28 EU member states also candidate and third countries as well as Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), European Commission and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are involved. Illegal international drug and arms trafficking and smuggling are being combated with the focus on strategic objectives on the therefore strategically chosen multinational localities and transport routes. Apart from seizures and the breaking down of offender groups, findings shall be gained that enable a situation analysis of the reciprocal influence of drug and arms trafficking and smuggling.

## Main emphasis darknet

Meeting the new challenge of drug trafficking in the darknet, Austria assumed the leadership of the EU-funded project „Joint investigation to combat drug trafficking via the virtual market (darknet) within and also into the EU“. Through this project Austria has been leader of operational projects and is having wide international recognition. All 28 EU member states, candidate countries, Western Balkan countries as well as Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, EMCDDA, UNODC und the European Commission are participating. The project terminated at the end of June 2017.