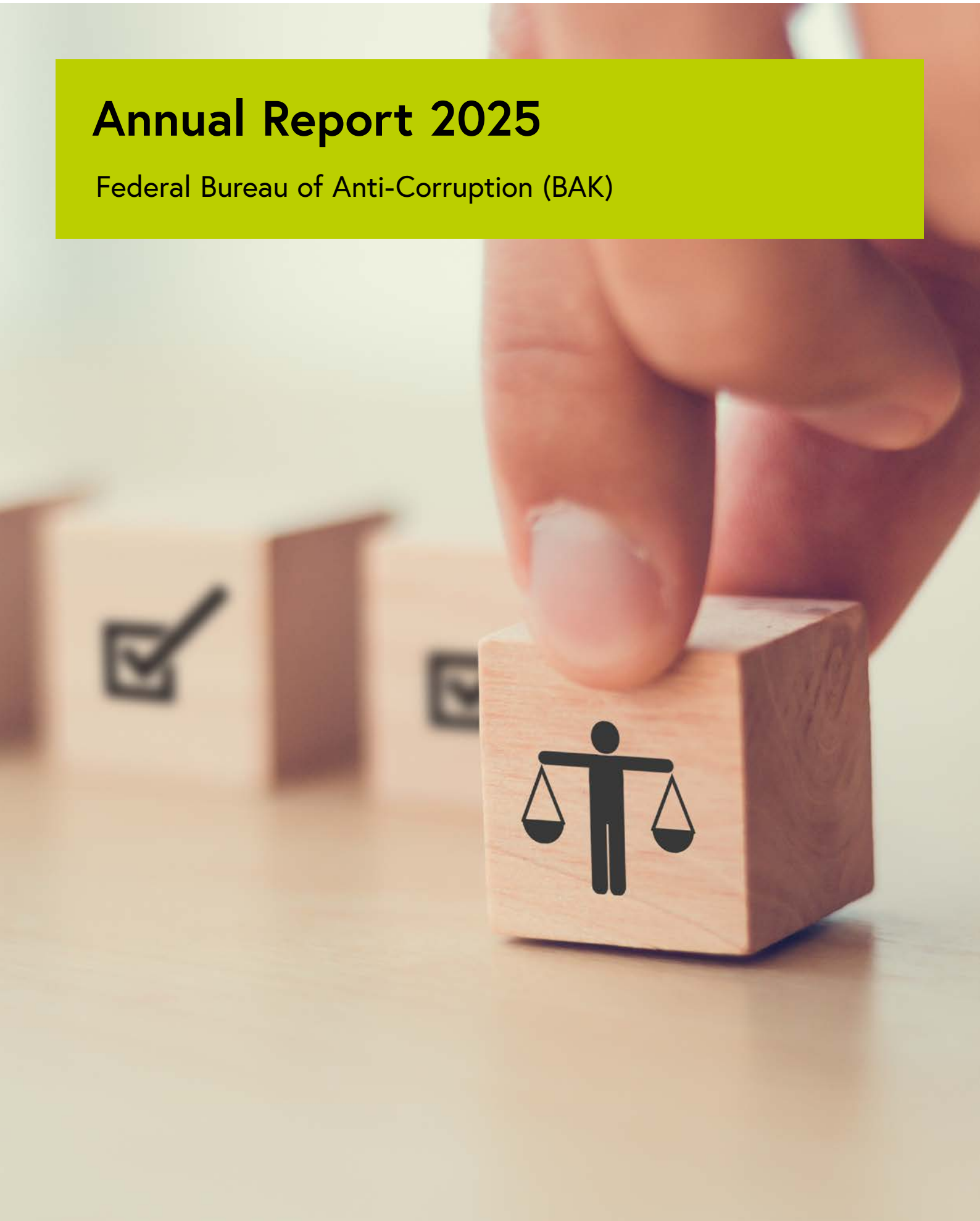
Federal Ministry
Interior
Republic of Austria

Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption

Annual Report 2025

Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK)



Annual Report 2025

Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK)

Vienna, 2026

Imprint

Media owner, publisher and editor: Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK)
Federal Ministry of the Interior Herrengasse 7, 1010 Vienna
+43 1 53126 906800
bak.gv.at
Authors: BAK
Photos: BAK, BMI/Gerd Pachauer, ENPE, EPAC/EACN, Josef Schimmer, KPK, OECD, stankovicphoto.hu, Adobe Stock
Layout: BAK
Vienna, 2026

Preface

Dear readers,



Dr. Otto Kerbl, MA

for the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bundesamt zur Korruptionsprävention und Korruptionsbekämpfung or BAK), the year 2025 was marked by many corruption prevention events. Under the title 'YOUTH4Integrity', BAK put a special focus on prevention work among young people. With its anti-corruption events, BAK was able to reach more than 1,000 school students in 2025. The 'Values & role models in front of the lens' photo competition, which encouraged secondary school students to engage creatively with the importance of values and integrity, was part of BAK's many preventive measures. The Austrian Anti-Corruption Day 2025 took place under the motto 'Strong Foundation, Stable House – How Integrity Promotes Organisational Culture'. The Network of Integrity Officers (IBN) continues to play an important role in the issue of 'integrity-enhancing organisational culture'. In 2025, the Integrity Club was established, which provides the framework for exchange and networking within IBN. Integrity Club meetings will continue to be held at regular intervals.

On an international level, BAK was able to set a milestone in 2025. A resolution initiated by BAK on the promotion of integrity and corruption prevention among children and young people was developed jointly with Slovenia and Chile. It was presented at the world's largest anti-corruption conference (CoSP) in Doha, Qatar, and adopted by the 192 States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in December 2025.

BAK achieved further positive results in the context of European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN). At the 24th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of EPAC/EACN, findings were presented of the international working group 'Effective Approaches to Developing Situation Reports on Corruption', which had met at BAK in April 2025. The results recorded in a publication provide a comprehensive guide for the development of standardised situation reports on corruption.

Extensive investigations in the area of corruption as well as by the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment were conducted in the usual professional manner. Please find an overview of the relevant statistics in this annual report.

My collegial thanks go to all employees of BAK. They perform their tasks extremely professionally and committedly, even in challenging times.

We hope to hereby provide you with an informative overview of the year 2025 and thus contribute to the prevention of corruption and the promotion of integrity in Austria.

Dr. Otto Kerbl, MA
Director

Content

Preface ... **3**

1 About BAK ... **6**

1.1 Organisational structure ... 7

1.2 Mission statement ... 9

1.3 Workplace health promotion ... 10

1.4 Public relations ... 10

2 BAK takes preventive action ... **12**

2.1 National Anti-Corruption Strategy and National Action Plan of the Federal Government 2023-2025 ... 13

2.2 'Strong Foundation, Stable House – How Integrity Promotes Organisational Culture' – Anti-Corruption Day 2025 ... 16

2.3 Basic research ... 18

2.4 Network of Integrity Officers (IBN) – A forum for experts to exchange ideas ... 19

3 BAK imparts knowledge ... **20**

3.1 'YOUTH4Integrity' ... 22

3.2 Corruption Prevention Officers ... 29

3.3 BAK training courses ... 30

3.4 'Compliance compass' for municipalities ... 31

3.5 Other lectures ... 32

3.6 Online training, BAK - Responsibilities: Strengthening knowledge, increasing security of action ... 33

4 BAK conducts investigations ... **34**

4.1 Basic explanations on statistical data collection ... 35

4.2 Overall statistics ... 36

4.3 Corruption Investigations ... 38

4.4 Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM) ... 47

4.5 Reports under the Whistleblower Protection Act ... 54

5 BAK engages in cooperation ... **56**

5.1 International committees, bodies and working groups ... 57

5.2 Anti-corruption measures at EU level ... 62

5.3 Bilateral cooperation ... 68

6 BAK's legal basis ... **72**

6.1 BAK's security and criminal police remit ... 73

6.2 Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (Ermittlungs- und Beschwerdestelle Misshandlungsvorwürfe – EBM) ... 74

1 Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption – BAK

1.1 BAK's organisational structure

Compact structure of four departments

BAK is an institution of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium für Inneres or BMI). Organisationally speaking, it is established outside the Directorate-General for Public Security, namely within Directorate-General (DG) III, and answers directly to the Director of DG III. In the reporting period, BAK was structured in four departments.

Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is BAK's main contact office. SPOC receives reports that may be relevant to criminal investigations, examines whether BAK has jurisdiction in any particular case and whether instant measures have to be taken, and assigns the cases for further processing. Additionally, SPOC is responsible for security matters at the BAK premises.

On 25 August 2023, an internal and an external reporting office were set up at BAK in accordance with the Act on Proceeding and Protecting Reports on Breaches of Law in Certain Areas (Whistleblower Protection Act or HinweisgeberInnenschutzgesetz - HSchG). The HSchG reporting offices in BAK are legally supervised from the receipt of a report through initial assessment to its completion.

Resources, Support and Legal Affairs

Department 1 provides the entire support for the Federal Bureau. Its responsibilities range from human resources, budget, controlling, fleet management, logistics, media analysis, public relations and arranging for workplace health promotion events, to IT infrastructure management, preservation of evidence in the field of IT, analysis of data and visualization, statistical analysis of BAK activities, various legal services for BAK as well as implementation and supervision of the BAK's own compliance management system.

Prevention, Education and Basic Research

Department 2 of BAK focuses, among other things, on corruption prevention and basic research. This includes preventive activities in the entire civil service, the implementation of studies, as well as scientific exchange and the support and supervision of external projects such as the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Another area of responsibility of Department 2 is education, which includes, in particular, the servicing of the Austrian-wide Network of Integrity Officers (Integritätsbeauftragtennetzwerk or IBN) as well as the organisation of trainings and awareness-raising events for the Federal Ministry of the Interior and other public authorities. Furthermore, Department 2 is responsible for international cooperation, i.e., inter alia, the promotion of bilateral exchange and co-operation with various European or international anti-corruption bodies and institutions.

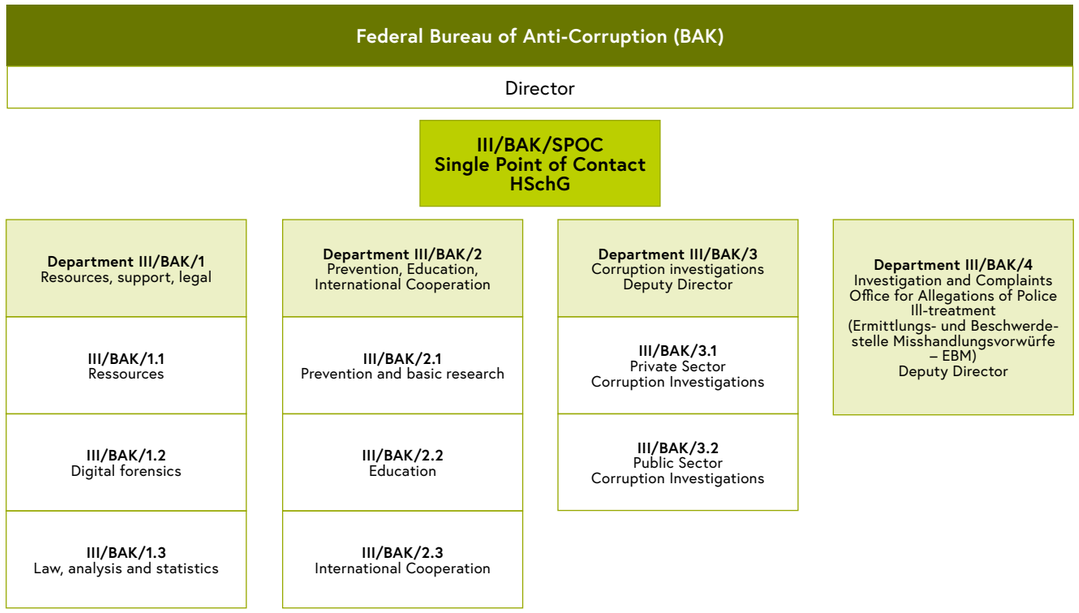
BAK's activities in the field of education are supported in each regional police directorate by corruption prevention officers (CPOs). In coordination with BAK, the CPOs give lectures and carry out advanced training courses in their respective region on issues related to corruption prevention. They thus contribute to saving resources (less travel expenses).

Corruption Investigations

Department 3 is where the BAK's operational casework is done. This is where security police investigations and criminal investigations are carried out, in the areas of corruption offences, offences in office and internal affairs. In the two units Private Sector Corruption Investigations and Public Sector Corruption Investigations, investigations are conducted by experienced case owners who, depending on the scope of the file, are supported by investigators, some of whom are assigned to the service from other units.

Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment

The Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (Ermittlungs- und Beschwerdestelle Misshandlungsvorwürfe or EBM) began its work as Department 4 of BAK on 22 January 2024. EBM is responsible nationwide for investigations and enquiries into allegations of ill-treatment against police officers and any police use of direct coercive force resulting in death and life-threatening use of weapons including firearms. Any suspicion or allegation of ill-treatment by police officers is investigated by EBM investigators. In addition to criminal police officers, who have investigative powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure, EBM also employs staff with special expertise, for example in psychology, human rights or sociology. They can therefore examine investigations from different angles and carry out analyses using their special expertise. In order to make EBM's activities as independent as possible and to ensure that EBM fulfils its tasks in accordance with the law, an Advisory Board has been established at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, which is independent and not subject to any instructions.



1.2 BAK's mission statement

BAK staff have committed themselves to the following values in their work practices:



1.3 BAK's workplace health promotion

Promoting the health of its employees is an important project of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. By implementing workplace health promotion measures, the aim is to prevent illness and improve the health and well-being of employees in the long term.

The Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) is playing a pioneering role in this regard. A first seal of approval was achieved back in 2016. Since then, BAK's health promotion measures have been repeatedly awarded the seal of approval by the Insurance Company for Public Employees, Railways and Mining (BVAEB), most recently for the period 2025 to 2027. In addition to regular exercise sessions, lectures on healthy nutrition and mental health were offered in 2025.

On 13 March 2025, BAK was awarded the quality seal of Österreichisches Netzwerk für Betriebliche Gesundheitsförderung (Austrian Network for Occupational Health Promotion) for the fourth time in a row.



© Josef Schimmer

1.4 BAK's public relations

In its public relations work, the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) pursues two lines that differ in terms of public communication:

Investigative work is subject to a non-public procedure and requires sensitive handling of personal data. Press enquiries in this regard are to be directed to the public prosecutor's office conducting the investigation. The situation is different in the prevention of corruption. Here, the focus is on comprehensive reporting and coverage of a broad target group in the population – according to the principle of 'the more prevention and communication, the better'.

BAK thus has its own website, (www.bak.gv.at), and a newsletter sent to interested parties on a quarterly basis. BAK also produces various publications.

Website

At www.bak.gv.at, BAK provides information about its tasks, events and publications, and publishes current affairs related to corruption. Basic facts about BAK as well as current reports – especially those with an international dimension – are also available in English.

Newsflash

The BAK Newsflash is published monthly and is sent to a wide range of interested parties. It contains an overview of all contributions published on the BAK website and leads directly to the respective contributions with links. The Newsflash has replaced the quarterly newsletter of recent years as of 1 January 2025.

BAK magazine

After replacing the former Newsletter with the Newsflash in the beginning of 2025, BAK is simultaneously expanding its public relations work with a new digital format, the BAK magazine. It deals more in-depth and extensively with specific topics related to corruption prevention and the fight against corruption. The first edition dealt with the topic of 'organisational culture'. The BAK magazine is going to be published twice a year and is available on the BAK website.

Social Media

With the launch of the LinkedIn account 'Bundesamt zur Korruptionsprävention und Korruptionsbekämpfung (BAK)' in May 2023, BAK is once again represented on social media. Followers can use the platform not only as a source of information, but also to communicate with the Federal Bureau, like and share posts and become active as multipliers in the prevention of corruption.

BAK film

The new BAK short film provides an overview of forms of corruption, prevention, education and the BAK's work. The film is available at the following link: BAK-Kurzfilm.

2
BAK takes preventive action

To work towards a corruption-free society, corruption prevention work is a key area of the BAK's remit. Awareness-raising and sensitising are intended to prevent corruption, to draw attention to dangers and impacts and to develop competences among the respective target groups in order to be able to act more effectively against corruption.

In 2025, this goal was served not only by the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (Nationale Anti-Korruptionsstrategie or NAKS), which was re-adopted in October 2023, but also by lectures, seminars and training courses in the public and state-related areas, as well as the exchange of experience and knowledge through various events and networks. These include, in particular, the Austrian Anti-Corruption Day and the Network of Integrity Officers (Integritätsbeauftragtennetzwerk or IBN).

In addition, research into the phenomenon of corruption is an essential pillar in prevention work.

2.1 National Anti-Corruption Strategy and National Action Plan of the Federal Government 2023–2025

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAKS), first adopted by the Council of Ministers on 31 January 2018 and most recently on 11 October 2023, provides the framework for a systematic approach to the implementation of anti-corruption measures in public administration, civil society and the economy in a holistic and cross-sectoral approach. NAKS is connected to two National Action Plans (NAPs) for three years each, which operationalise the holistic and cross-sectoral approach of NAKS in the form of objectives and measures.

BAK plays a leading role in the coordination of NAKS and NAPs. The Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) is home to the Coordinating Body on Combating Corruption (KgK), which regularly addresses all matters relating to NAKS.

Dual approach

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAKS) consists of a corruption prevention and a corruption prosecution part. BAK is responsible for the prevention part, and the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) is responsible for the prosecution part. The Federal Ministry of Justice is responsible for criminal prosecution. NAKS contains specially developed strategic priorities and basic principles. Objectives and measures have been developed in NAPs to achieve the objectives set out in NAKS.

In terms of prevention, these focus on the promotion of corruption prevention measures, establishment and expansion of compliance management systems, reduction of structural corruption risks, integrity management, public sensitisation and awareness-raising and training for specific target groups.

The strategic priorities of criminal prosecution are based on the fundamental principles of the rule of law and effective criminal prosecution, an effective civil service structure and sufficient resources, cooperation and coordination as well as the implementation of international and European legal requirements.

At the end of 2025, the action plans for the period 2023 to 2025 with a total of 231 objectives and 452 actions were evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively by the participating institutions and organisations under the lead coordination of BAK.

The NAP of the Federal Government 2023 to 2025, with a total of 120 objectives, 228 measures and 243 quantitative success indicators, met 213 indicators in full, 16 in part and failed to meet 14 in the planned implementation period. For organisations and authorities that participated in the NAP voluntarily, participation in the evaluation was optional. Nevertheless, all 17 organisations participated, that had defined a total of 111 targets, 224 measures and 214 quantitative success indicators for the period 2023 to 2025. Of these, 187 indicators were met in full, 21 in part and only six were not met in the foreseen implementation period. Thus, more than 88 percent of the 457 success indicators of the two action plans 2023 to 2025 were fully implemented and around eight percent partially implemented.

The evaluation for the period 2023 to 2025 also showed that the changes made to NAKS following the 2022 evaluation – such as a three-year cycle for action plans, the introduction of NAKS coordinators, and the definition of success indicators at the time the action plans are drawn up – have proved effective. The identified potential for further development in the context of the preparation of the action plans and their evaluation will be taken into account for the next action plan period 2026 to 2028.

The draft evaluation report drawn up by BAK was presented, discussed and adopted with two amendments at the 41st meeting of the Anti-Corruption Coordination Board (KgK) on 28 January 2026, following a written referral to the KgK members. The final evaluation report on the 2023 to 2025 NAKS National Action Plans was published as information of general interest on data.gv.at and on the BAK website. At the beginning of January 2026, the preparation of the action plans for the period 2026 to 2028 began.



2.2 ‘Strong Foundation, Stable House – How Integrity Promotes Organisational Culture’ – Anti-Corruption Day 2025

The Austrian Anti-Corruption Day 2025 of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), which took place on 24 and 25 April 2025 in Waidhofen an der Ybbs, devoted itself to the topic of integrity-enhancing organisational culture. Around 90 participants, primarily from public administration and state-affiliated companies, attended the event. Among the participants were also members of the Network of Integrity Officers (IBN), which serves to spread the idea of integrity in Austria and to exchange experiences on integrity promotion, corruption prevention and compliance.

‘Integrity as a strong foundation of a stable organisational culture is the best prophylaxis against corruption’, said Otto Kerbl, Director of BAK, in his opening speech. Mathias Vogl, Director General at the Ministry of the Interior, also stressed at the beginning of the event that ‘promoting integrity is fundamental as a measure to prevent corruption and as a measure to protect democracy and the rule of law’. For a successful organisational culture, it is not only essential to clearly define rules and values, but ‘these must also be implemented and lived by superiors so that they can be accepted, respected and lived by employees’, said Mathias Vogl.

Integrity-promoting organisational culture between claim and reality

Sonja Irresberger, Director in the Advisory Division Governance, Risk & Compliance Services and Forensic at KPMG, addressed the challenges and perspectives of organisational culture in practice in her keynote speech on the first day of the event. ‘Transparency, responsibility and exemplary action should be put at the centre of efforts to create an organisational culture that promotes integrity. I see a special role model function in superiors,’ said Sonja Irresberger.

In the subsequent panel discussion, moderated by Susanna Binder, Head of Unit for Prevention and Basic Research at BAK, the experts Gregor Weber (Federal Ministry of Housing, Art, Culture, Media and Sport), Rudolf Schwab (A1 Telekom Austria Group, Transparency International), Markus Kranz (City Office Director of the City of Hohenems) and Sonja Irresberger examined from different angles what constitutes a good organisational culture and how integrity in organisations can be promoted. In addition, the experts dealt with the challenges and benefits of an organisational culture that promotes integrity.



Foto: © BMI/Gerd Pachauer

Looking to the future: How can we implement our knowledge in a targeted manner?

Jamie-Lee Campbell, research assistant at the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, opened the second day of the event with her keynote speech and focused on the future. She dealt with the topic from an organisational psychology perspective as well as the possible influence of international developments on corruption and organisational culture. ‘We are witnessing many changes, especially at the international level, which are forcibly influencing our social norms, what we perceive as ethical behaviour and what is feasible. Especially in such times, it is all the more important to strengthen the mindset in organisations through values, processes and social norms in the sense of integrity,’ said Jamie-Lee Campbell.

The last item on the agenda for the Austrian Anti-Corruption Day 2025 was an Expert Lab – an interactive discussion format in which participants had the opportunity to engage in a lively exchange of experiences with experts. The panel was composed of Jamie-Lee Campbell, Sonja Irresberger and Andreas Raso (Vienna University of Veterinary Medicine). The audience was able to discuss their own experiences and challenges with the experts and jointly develop new solutions and strategy approaches.

The Austrian Anti-Corruption Day is co-financed by the Austrian Internal Security Fund.

Co-funded by the European Union

2.3 Basic research

BAK has the legal mandate to research and analyse corruption phenomena in order to gain insights into their prevention, avoidance and combating. It examines the motivations, triggers and backgrounds that can lead to corrupt actions. BAK does this, for example, through the targeted observation of national and international research, through the analysis of completed corruption cases or by conducting its own studies.

The analysis of completed corruption cases is carried out by a multidisciplinary team from the perspectives of sociology, psychology and criminology in order to be able to look at the complex topics and structures from different disciplines and perspectives. The aim of the scientific analysis is, on the one hand, to create a deep understanding of corruption in Austria. On the other hand, target group-specific prevention measures are developed and implemented on the basis of the findings and training content is expanded.

In 2025, the first pilot phase of an impact analysis of anti-corruption events for school students was also implemented. In the first step, the research design was based on a comparative analysis of a preliminary and subsequent survey on a fictitious dilemma from the students' lives. Preliminary results show that the anti-corruption events have led to changes in students' perceptions. The next step is to check these changes through statistical tests. The results of the impact analysis are used, among other things, for the further development of anti-corruption events.

In the area of networking with national and international corruption experts, BAK took part in the International Science Forum "Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Networks" with a lecture, and held networking discussions with corruption scientists on current topics in the field of corruption research.

© BAK





© BAK

2.4 Network of Integrity Officers (IBN) – A forum for experts to exchange ideas

In 2016, BAK initiated the Network of Integrity Officers (Integritätsbeauftragtennetzwerk or IBN), which aims to further strengthen the idea of integrity as a fundamental principle of proper public administration in Austria. Prospective integrity officers from administrative institutions and government-related organisations are trained in advance by BAK as part of the IBN course and prepared for the work they are going to perform in their respective organisations. At the time of reporting, IBN already had 200 members from almost 90 different organisations and is constantly growing.

IBN Integrity Club

In order to ensure the inter-organisational transfer of knowledge within the Network of Integrity Officers (IBN), the Integrity Club was established in 2025. It provides the framework for exchange and networking within the Network. The kick-off event took place on 18 September 2025 under the motto 'Integrity Officers in Dialogue: What do we mean when we talk about integrity?'. The second Integrity Club on 3 December 2025, entitled 'BAK Backstage', was used to present BAK and its wide range of tasks in an interactive setting. In total, more than 60 Integrity Officers from over 35 organisations participated in the IBN Integrity Clubs in 2025.

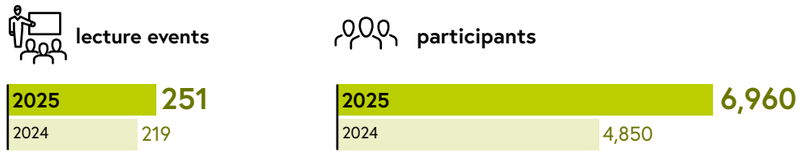
3
BAK imparts knowledge

The education initiatives of BAK on corruption prevention are aimed at different target groups and include lectures and workshops in the internal as well as external area. In particular, the work with students and educational staff at schools were key topics in 2025, but also cooperations such as the joint initiative with the Federal Competition Authority on a series of lectures entitled 'Compliance Compass for municipalities. The guideline for legal certainty in procurement' or with the University of Teacher Education in Vienna on 'Living Integrity – Shaping the Future. Anti-corruption training and integrity promotion.' The lecture activities of corruption prevention officers (KPB) and the BAK training courses for staff of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) are also essential for the educational work of BAK.

BAK reaches different target groups through practical presentations, training courses and events: from young people who are about to start their careers, to police trainees, to employees and leadership in the public service.

All events aim to raise awareness of the importance of corruption prevention and to impart specific knowledge and tools for recognising and avoiding corruption. Through these awareness-raising measures, BAK aims to promote a culture of integrity in public administration and increase understanding of the impact of corruption on society.

In 2025, around 6,960 participants were reached with 251 lecture events. Compared to the previous year, the number of lectures (219) and participants (4,850) increased.



Since the Federal Bureau was established (in January 2010), more than 58,510 people have been reached with training measures.

In 2025, BAK staff and corruption prevention officers (KPB) conducted a total of 173 training events for more than 3,760 participants on the topic of preventing and combating corruption in the training centres of the Police Academy (SIAK) alone.

The largest target group, with 2,960 participants at 138 events, continued to be basic police training (PGA E2b and PGA for border police operations). As regards E2a basic training, 21 BAK lectures were held at training centre locations throughout Austria, with 542 law enforcement officers being trained as future commanding officers.

In addition, BAK was involved in other basic training courses organised by SIAK and gave presentations both in-house and throughout the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) as part of various trainings and seminars.

For the University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt, BAK taught with two lectures each in the Bachelor's course 'Police Leadership' (45 participants in total) and in the Master's course 'Security Management' (45 participants).

As part of the management training module 'Successful Leadership', BAK organised two lectures in spring 2025 and one in autumn 2025 for a total of 77 BMI superiors.

Six training courses were organised for 92 employees of the Federal Chancellery in 2025. In addition, 31 BMI-external training courses for more than 1,000 participants took place throughout Austria.

3.1 'YOUTH4Integrity'

Under the title 'YOUTH4Integrity', BAK summarises different programmes designed for a sustainable fight against corruption to start among children, young people and young adults. These range from anti-corruption events for students to tailor-made teaching materials and teacher training. In addition, in 2025, a BAK photo competition was also a YOUTH4Integrity initiative designed to bring the issues of corruption and integrity to students in a creative way.

'YOUTH4Integrity' has four pillars:

1. Anti-corruption events for school students
2. Teaching material 'For Integrity – Against Corruption'
3. Teacher training at the University of Teacher Education Vienna
4. Photo competition 'Values and role models in front of the lens' (2025)



© BAK

Raising awareness among school students

In order to sensitise young people to corruption before they enter the labour market, BAK offers anti-corruption events and lectures for upper secondary schools. In 2025, 15 such events took place. In this regular framework, around 1,060 students were reached. Another separate anti-corruption event for students took place as part of the BAK photo competition (chapter: photo competition 'Values and role models in front of the lens').

School students on the threshold of entering professional life usually have received a sound education in their respective field, but often have little knowledge about the ethical and criminal law challenges that await them in the working world. BAK specifically addresses this problem by organising anti-corruption events at schools.

By further developing the anti-corruption events in 2024 and 2025, it was possible not only to improve the quality of the offer itself, but above all to significantly increase the number of schools and pupils reached by the events. From an average of 100 pupils reached at individual schools per year before, the number changed to 1,068 at twelve school locations in 2025.

The events are designed as interactive workshops to allow them to internalize the learned knowledge about corruption and integrity through a direct application. After an opening lecture, the students walk through three stations. The 'corruption scale' requires students to use images, fake news feeds and chat messages to assess how to classify a particular situation or action in terms of morality and corruption. At the 'Corruption Theatre', students re-enact a job interview in which a potentially corrupt act occurs. For the third station, there is the choice between an exciting lecture from the daily work of a corruption investigator, the lecture 'Would I – Should I?' on the topic of integrity, in which the students have to make tricky decisions in morally challenging situations, and a lecture on the fight against corruption in an international context, in which, among other things, international bodies and organisations for the fight against corruption are presented. The plenary session concludes with an online quiz in which the participants' knowledge is queried.

List of anti-corruption events for upper secondary schools in 2025 with the number of students in brackets:

- 31 January 2025 – HAS VBS Floridsdorf (68)
- 10 February 2025 – HAK VBS Floridsdorf (66)
- 25 February 2025 – Lauder Chabad HAS Wien 1020 (42)
- 6 March 2025 – BHAK Bruck/Leitha (61)
- 20 March 2025 – HTL Pinkafeld (52)
- 8 April 2025 – Vocational School for Administrative Professions (74)
- 15 May 2025 – IT school of HAK/HAS BFI Vienna (43)
- 3 June 2025 – BAfEP Maria Regina 1190 Vienna (90)
- 17 June 2025 – Vienna Business School Mödling (74)
- 9 September 2025 – Secondary School Oberpullendorf (90)
- 23 September 2025 – Business Academy Donaustadt (77)
- 15 October 2025 – Vocational School for Administrative Professions (82)
- 16 October 2025 – Vocational School for Administrative Professions (73)
- 4 December 2025 – HAK Zwettl (79)
- 16 December 2025 – BHAK Wien 10 (97)

Teaching material: For Integrity – Against Corruption

In order to give schools the opportunity to raise awareness of corruption and integrity among their pupils, even without prior knowledge and independently of an anti-corruption event at their school, the BAK 2025 Prevention Team developed the teaching material 'For Integrity – Against Corruption'. Teachers can use the material without further preparation in the classroom in the context of about two teaching units. The possibility of use remains flexible and the way of elaboration – whether individually, in small groups or in plenary – is left to the teachers.



© BAK

The teaching material was conceived by BAK and tested and further developed as partner schools at Vienna Business School Floridsdorf and at Bundeshandelsakademie und Bundeshandelsschule Wien 10. In terms of content, the material contains a short theoretical input, the description of a fictitious corruption case and a total of seven prefabricated work tasks.

The documents are available for download on the BAK website. A teacher version contains sample solutions and can be requested informally at bmi-iii-bak-2-1@bak.gv.at.



© BAK

Cooperation with Universities of Teacher Education

As part of a partnership with the Vienna University of Teacher Education, headteachers and teachers are being made aware of the importance of acting with integrity and are being trained to recognise and deal with situations involving corruption. After this training, they can also use a toolbox to raise their own awareness of corruption and act as multipliers among their colleagues.

The nationwide education and training programme on the topic of corruption prevention for teachers of vocational schools has been included in the professionalisation portfolio of Vienna University of Teacher Education (PH Vienna).

This supports the plan of PH Vienna to integrate corruption prevention information and training relating to Entrepreneurship, Education 4.0, Business and Law into its curriculum. The group of people addressed by PH Vienna includes teachers from different types of secondary schools such as Höhere Technische Lehranstalten (higher technical colleges), Handelsakademien (commercial academies), Humanberufliche Schulen (humane vocational schools) and wirtschaftskundige Berufsschulen (business-related vocational schools).

The training programme is a multi-level train-the-trainer approach. On the one hand, it enables graduates to train and sensitize pupils to the topic of corruption and, on the other hand, to strengthen their own security of action in situations affected by corruption. The participating teachers deepen their professional and didactic skills for their own teaching, are at the same time particularly sensitized in areas of corruption prevention and can also act as multipliers for their colleagues.

The theoretical content is supplemented by the teaching of methodological and didactic tools for teachers. One tool is, for example, the 'Corruption Theatre', in which participants reenact a dilemma situation during an interview and decide for themselves whether they behave correctly or corruptly. Tools serve the teaching staff both for their own use for the independent expansion of their method case and to support educators in their teaching activities on the subject of corruption in a professional and efficient way.

The training is currently carried out in three modules, with the first and third modules each covering the theoretical and methodological-practical foundations. In terms of content, the topics of corruption phenomena, ethical-moral and legal foundations of criminal law on corruption as well as economic crime and risk analysis methods are discussed. The second module is to be completed online as an e-learning event.

On 13 February 2025, the first Module I took place as part of a workshop at PH Vienna. Module III followed on 27 February 2025.



© BAK

Photo competition ‘Values and role models in front of the lens’

The BAK’s 2025 photo competition ‘Values and role models in front of the lens’ aimed to inspire high school students with a focus on photography, to address the importance of integrity and values and to present their findings photographically.

Five classes with around 90 students from BG/BRG Tullnerbach – Wienerwaldgymnasium and BORG Deutsch-Wagram took part in the competition.

BAK Workshop

The competition started with a workshop organised by BAK as part of a school event at International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) on 28 January 2025. Representatives of BAK informed about the dangers, forms and combating possibilities of corruption and conveyed essential foundations of corruption prevention, such as values and integrity.



Photo competition closing ceremony at GÖD (Austrian Service Union) Hall
© BMI/Gerd Pachauer

Creative phase

The creative process took place until Easter 2025. The students created their photographic works, accompanied by their teachers. Together with the students, the teachers also made the pre-selection of the resulting creative works, which were finally submitted.

Closing event and award ceremony

All 22 photographs submitted were presented in a festive setting at the closing event on 23 September 2025, and the winners were selected. Find out more here: Closing event and award ceremony of the ‘Values & role models in front of the lens’ photo competition.

Jury

The jury was composed of Elfie Semotan (Austrian photographer and artist), Bianca Kopp (coordinator of the GRACE initiative (Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment at UNODC, ethics expert) and Bettina Knötzl (chairwoman of the board of Transparency International Austria).

Travelling exhibition

All submitted photographs have so far been shown as part of a travelling exhibition at several locations in Austria:

- 24 and 25 April 2025 – Exhibition at the Austrian Anti-Corruption Day 2025 in Waidhofen an der Ybbs
- 17-20 June 2025 – Exhibition at an anti-corruption event in UNO City Vienna
- 14 October 2025 – Exhibition in the context of the ‘20 years TI Austria’ anniversary celebration in Vienna City Hall
- 15 to 19 December 2025 – Exhibition as part of the five-day 11th Conference of States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in Doha, Qatar

The students’ works as well as photos and videos of the various events can be found on the BAK website at the following link: Photos/Videos.



Winning teams of the 2025 photo competition
© BMI/Gerd Pachauer

Prizes
As part of a competition, the students were given three prizes to choose from. The winner class was the first to choose, followed by the runner-up, while the third prize automatically went to the third-placed. Prizes included:

- One day at Cobra Special Forces, where the students were given insights into the Cobra field of activity on 23 October 2025. The visit included a general lecture, a guided tour of the premises and training rooms in Wiener Neustadt, including the sports facility and simulation rooms, as well as a visit to the hangar of the aviation police and to the emergency vehicles.
- One day at Criminal Intelligence Service Austria (Bundeskriminalamt or BK) in the 'Forensics and Technology' department, where the runners-up participated in an interactive workshop and gained insights into crime scene photography on 20 October 2025. The students were also able to participate in VR simulations of fictional crime scenes and various techniques of trace detection and evaluation.
- A day in UNO City, where the third-placed received insights into the UN premises and the GRACE initiative (Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment) on 29 January 2026. The visit included a guided tour of UNO City, an interactive workshop on the work of the GRACE initiative and an exchange with experts from BAK.

Each visit provided students with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the work of the respective units and gain valuable experience.





© BAK

3.2 Corruption Prevention Officers

The substantive responsibility for the prevention and education of corruption as well as for the implementation of needs-based preventive measures through training and prevention formats lies in principle with the BAK's Department of Prevention, Education and International Cooperation (III/BAK/2).

In the field of basic police training, the highly sought-after network of corruption prevention officers (Korruptionspräventionsbeamte or KPB) has been carrying out these tasks since 2011 and thus ensures nationwide, uniform awareness-raising. Through the decentralised structure, regional specificities and specific needs can be taken into account, which can sustainably strengthen awareness-raising in the field of corruption prevention and combating.

The year 2025 was marked by intensive training activities. In the year under review, a total of 158 training events were held in the training centres of the Police Academy (Sicherheitsakademie or SIAK), in which 3,037 police officers participated. The main focus was on measures to prevent and combat corruption.

In addition, a new, cooperative training approach was chosen in 2025 as part of the annual KPB training measures. For the first time, this was addressed not only to KPB, but also to the governing bodies of the respective regional police directorates as well as to all district and city police commands.

Implementation started in June 2025 as part of the training series 'KPB Quality Circles and Priority Training on Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM)' in the Austrian regions of Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland.

On the one hand, this new format further deepened the technical know-how of the KPB and on the other hand offered EBM the opportunity to expand knowledge of the work of EBM in dealing with allegations of ill-treatment at management level. This has made a significant contribution to strengthening the security of action, the sense of responsibility and quality-assured prevention work within the law enforcement administration.

The first of the EBM trips to the regions (Bundesländerfachbereisung) took place on 24 and 25 June 2025 in Innsbruck (Tyrol) and Bregenz (Vorarlberg). Further dates followed on 20 November 2025 in Vienna, on 26 November 2025 in St. Pölten (Lower Austria) and on 4 December 2025 in Eisenstadt (Burgenland).

3.3 BAK training courses

BAK training courses for BMI staff present backgrounds and mechanisms of the phenomenon of corruption, and discuss dangers and risks of corruption.

These courses also address measures to prevent and combat corruption. Graduates should also act as multipliers in their respective fields. The 32nd two-week BAK training course took place with 20 course participants in March and April 2025. The main topics covered included white-collar crime, ethics and value management, civil service and disciplinary law, criminal law on corruption and the Code of Criminal Procedure. Information was also provided on the BAK's new tasks in connection with the reporting offices under the Whistleblower Protection Act and the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM), which was being set up at the time, including the corresponding reporting obligations.

This project is co-financed by the EU's Internal Security Fund.

Co-funded by the European Union



© BAK



© BAK

3.4 'Compliance Compass' for municipalities

The 'Compliance Compass for municipalities. The guideline for legal certainty in procurement' is based on a cooperation agreement concluded in 2024 between the Federal Competition Authority (BWB) and BAK, with the aim of supporting decision-makers of the Austrian local government in their challenging administrative tasks and providing them with the tools for integrity in procurement cases.

In 2025, BAK organised four 'Compliance Compass' events in cooperation with BWB. The first event of the year took place in the Marktgemeinde (market town) of Gratkorn in Styria on 13 May 2025.

On 15 October 2025, another 'Compliance Compass' followed in Graz, organised by the Municipality of Styria. Participants were people from different Styrian municipalities as well as from the Styrian Association of Municipalities.

On 5 and 6 November 2025, an event was held in Bad Vöslau. It was organised by Niederösterreichische Kommunalakademie (Lower Austrian Municipal Academy) in cooperation with Gemeindebund Niederösterreich (Municipal Association of Lower Austria). Individuals from different Lower Austrian communities took part in the two-day seminar.

For the fourth and last event in 2025, a two-day seminar was held in Steyr (Upper Austria) on 24 and 25 November, organised by Magistrat Steyr (Steyr City Council).

In addition to the tasks and support services of BWB and BAK, the topics of criminal law on corruption, procurement and antitrust law, corruption prevention and compliance were covered in all seminars as well as reference made to the Gemeindeangestelltengesetz (Municipal Employees Act). There was also ample room for discussion on the current effects of the new Freedom of Information Act on the bureaucratic effort in municipalities and the related possible violation of a duty of secrecy.

3.5 Other lectures

At the invitation of the Legal and Compliance Department of the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), BAK organised a jointly developed management workshop entitled 'Lead2gether' on 5 June 2025, as part of a BMIMI-internal training series.

From 8 to 12 December 2025 at Federal Sports and Leisure Centre Schloss Schielleiten in Styria, BAK also gave a lecture as part of a training week for 70 operational trainer of prison guards from Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. The lectures covered a variety of topics, including current standards in operational tactics, weapons technology, the application of mission-related physical strength and human rights-compliant language use. Another focus was on fundamental aspects of corruption prevention and legal content on corruption criminal law, which were explained using practical examples.

The regional governments of Carinthia and Tyrol also addressed the issue of preventing and combating corruption in two training sessions.

In addition, the Austrian School of Governance included two lectures of BAK in their handbook for public administration.



Presentation for operational trainers from Austria, Germany and the Netherlands
© BAK

3.6 Online training "BAK – Responsibilities": Strengthening knowledge, increasing security of action

Since the establishment of EBM in the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), BAK has been responsible nationwide for investigations into allegations of ill-treatment (Section (§) 4(5) of the BAK Act) as well as for criminal investigations into the consequences of death or life-threatening use of weapons in the context of direct coercive force (§ 4(4) of the BAK Act). This extended responsibility requires a high level of awareness, expertise and confidence in action among all employees.

In this context, the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption, in cooperation with the e-learning centre of the Police Academy (SIAK), designed and implemented the online training course 'BAK – Responsibilities'. The training supports awareness-raising and contributes to the sustained awareness-raising of staff. It provides in-depth, practice-oriented knowledge on corruption and official offences as well as on the tasks, responsibilities and areas of impact of BAK, EBM and the reporting channels in connection with the Whistleblower Protection Act (HSchG).

The online training is structured in a modular way and initially deals with corruption and offences in office as well as the expanded competence of BAK in coordinated learning units. Based on this, the tasks and procedures of the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM) are described in more detail. A central element is a video-based case study in which a scenario is described on the offence of abuse of office, including possible accompanying offences and the resulting legal consequences. In addition, another module informs about internal and external reporting offices and their importance for the responsible handling of information.

The training concludes with a mandatory knowledge check, which serves to monitor learning success and leads to the issuance of a certificate if successful.

The wide implementation of the online training "BAK – Responsibilities" highlights a high priority of the topic. Until 31 December 2025 a total of 30,448 certificates were achieved, with a total learning time of 12,074 hours. The training makes a significant contribution to imparting expertise, raising staff awareness and strengthening security of action and thus sustainably supports quality of performance.

.

4
BAK conducts investigations

4.1 Basic explanations on statistical data collection

All incoming reports, allegations and suspicions are covered by the BAK's statistics, regardless of how the Bureau or its SPOC (Single Point of Contact) is contacted (by telephone, email, mail, fax, etc.) or whether an investigation is being initiated ex officio. Reports are usually received from other law enforcement agencies, public prosecutor's office, private persons or anonymous sources. As a rule, preliminary examination of all incoming items of information is carried out by the BAK's SPOC (Single Point of Contact). Subsequent to this examination, all cases are statistically recorded as incoming cases. According to the results obtained from criminal investigations, the statistical data is constantly being updated and adjusted.

All cases covered by Section (§) 4(1) nos. 1-13 of the Federal Act on the Establishment and Organisation of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK Act) are referred to as cases of 'exclusive jurisdiction'. Cases falling under § 4(1) nos. 14-15 BAK Act ('extended jurisdiction') are statistically recorded due to the statutory duty to report to BAK. In these cases, BAK initiates investigations only upon written order by a court or a public prosecutor's office. The facts to be dealt with by the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM) pursuant to § 4(4) and (5) BAK Act are recorded separately. Requests for administrative and legal assistance, which can sometimes place a considerable workload on BAK, are shown separately. Cases not falling within BAK's remit whatsoever (e.g. disciplinary matters or misdirected mail) or considered as 'not relevant to criminal law' are registered as 'other cases'. It should be noted that BAK statistics are not dealing with final judgments.

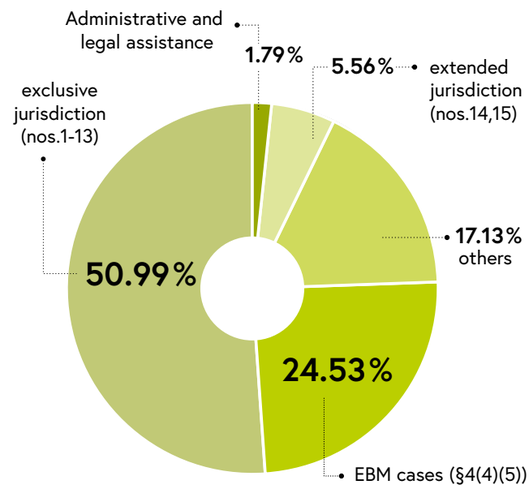
The present statistics are based on a complete survey, i.e. the corpus of data consists of all reports, allegations, etc. received by BAK/SPOC during the reporting year. Cases from previous years, where investigation has not been completed, are not included in the statistics of the reporting year. The survey period ends on 31 January of the year following the reporting year. This phase-out period is necessary in order to integrate reports/allegations that were only received in January but refer to the previous year into the corresponding reporting period and thus to keep statistics as comprehensive as possible.

4.2 Overall statistics

Incoming business incident in 2025

incoming business incident 2025	no. of cases
exclusive jurisdiction (nos.1–13)	1,137
extended jurisdiction (nos.14,15)	124
Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM) (§4(4)(5))	547
administrative and mutual legal assistance	40
others	382
total	**2,230**

Responsibilities clarified

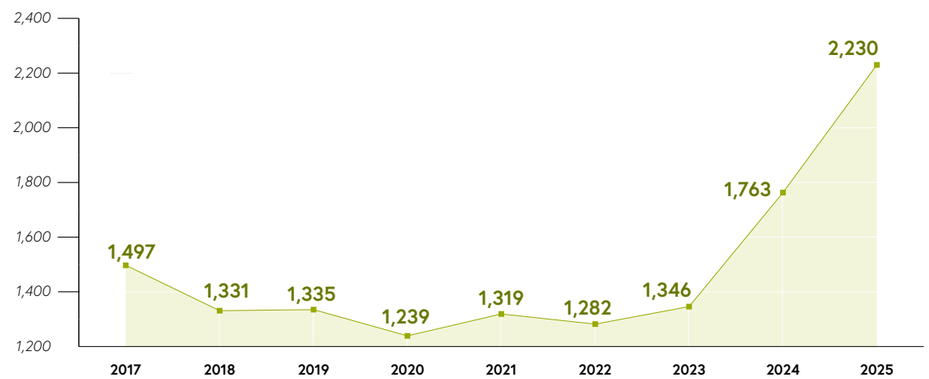


In 2025, the case load amounted to a total of 2,230 cases. Of these, 1,137 are cases of exclusive jurisdiction, i.e. those cases reported to BAK pursuant to § 4(1) nos. 1-13 of the BAK Act. They thus account for almost half of the cases reported to BAK. 124 cases concern extended jurisdiction. Nearly 30 percent of the BAK's business incident are EBM cases.

incoming business incident 2024 and 2025 in comparison			percentage change
	2024	2025	
exclusive jurisdiction (nos.1–13)	852	1,137	33.45%
extended jurisdiction (nos.14,15)	108	124	14.82%
Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM) (§4(4)(5))	514	547	6.40%
administrative and mutual legal assistance	21	40	90.48%
others	268	382	42.54%
total	**1,763**	**2,230**	**26.49%**

A comparison with the previous year shows that the business incident in BAK increased by 26.49 percent. Increases can be seen in all categories, with the increase in requests for administrative and mutual legal assistance being the highest, with a doubling. But the increase in reported cases of exclusive jurisdiction by 33.45 percent is also significant. There is also an increase in 'other cases' of more than 42 percent. This is due to the fact that a large number of reports were registered last year that point to inadequate behaviour by police officers without falling within the remit of EBM.

The increase in reported cases can also be clearly seen in the long-term year-on-year comparison:



Business incident in BAK

4.3 Corruption investigations

In BAK, investigations into criminally relevant facts are conducted by Department 3 (Corruption Investigations) to the extent of the legally regulated jurisdiction under § 4(1) of the BAK Act. Investigative actions are carried out by experienced 'case owners' and case officers assigned to them. Investigative cases are assigned to the units 'Private Sector Corruption Investigations' and 'Public Sector Corruption Investigations', where they are handled as required by criminal police investigators, criminal analysts and investigators specialising in asset recovery. Central documentation and a coordinated and targeted approach to the implementation of criminal police measures are of particular importance.

The Unit 'Private Sector Corruption Investigations' deals with criminal matters within the scope of jurisdiction under the BAK Act's catalogue of offences with a predominant connection to the private sector. In numerous investigation cases, final reports were submitted to the Central Public Prosecutor's Office for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption (WKStA) as well as to other public prosecutor's offices in the course of 2025. Often, however, a large number of interim and occasional reports have to be drawn up before final reports, which can lead to prosecutorial orders for measures to be issued to BAK. In addition to interrogation of witnesses, victims and accused persons, search and seizure measures are the main areas of activity of corruption investigators.

Long-standing large-scale criminal proceedings for restrictive agreements and other offences require extensive and personnel-intensive investigations. The number of accused natural persons and associations is in the range of several hundred. Some of the investigations are carried out in close cooperation with the Federal Competition Authority.

The 'Public Sector Corruption Investigations' Unit deals mainly with criminal matters relating to official and concomitant offences in the public sector. Again and again, extensive and complex investigative files are generated in this area.

Department 3 also cooperates with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and handles requests for administrative and mutual legal assistance. In cooperation with domestic and foreign authorities, criminal police measures were carried out within the framework of European Investigation Orders. At these operations, search and seizure orders were carried out simultaneously in Austria and abroad.

Cases of exclusive jurisdiction

The competence of BAK extends nationwide to security and criminal police matters with regard to the criminal acts listed in Section (§) 4(1) of the BAK Act.

Processing agency

Of all cases of 'exclusive jurisdiction' received by BAK, 297 (26.47 per cent) were handled by BAK and 834 (73.53 per cent) were processed by other law enforcement agencies. The number of cases handled in BAK increased compared to the previous year: While 226 cases were taken over in 2024, there were 297 cases in 2025, i.e. an increase of over 30 percent.

As regards the cases of exclusive jurisdiction, it should be noted that, for reasons of expediency, BAK may entrust other law enforcement agencies with the conduct of investigations where there is no particular public interest in a case or in the person under investigation.

Clearance rate

Of the 834 cases handled by other law enforcement agencies in the reporting year, 569 (68.23 per cent) were closed. This means that a report has been submitted by the processing law enforcement agency to the competent public prosecutor's office and no further investigation has been carried out (for the time being) on the matter in question. Of the 297 cases dealt with by BAK, 218 (73.40 per cent) were closed.

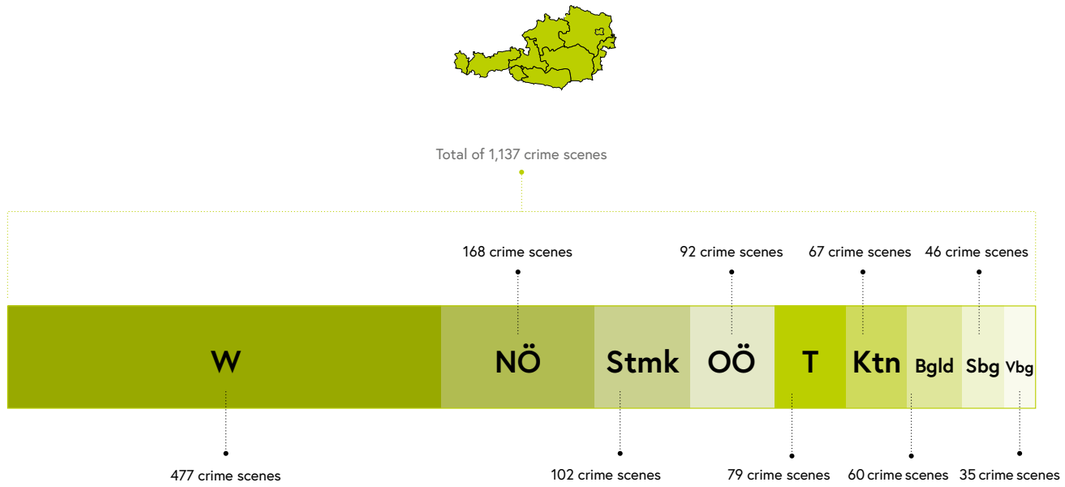
The 2025 annual statistics only cover the new cases incurred in the reporting year and do not reflect the actual workload of BAK. Due to the complexity of large-scale proceedings, extensive and lengthy investigative work and research activities are often required, which cannot be completed in the same reporting year.

In addition, cases from previous years could therefore be closed or unfinished cases from 2025 and from previous years will continue in 2026.

The older open cases are not included in the 2025 statistics, but significantly increase the workload. Due to their complexity, BAK's investigative procedures are often conducted over years.

Crime scenes: regional breakdown

For the 1,137 cases of BAK's exclusive jurisdiction (§ 4(1) nos. 1 to 13 BAK Act), 1,130 crime scenes were registered in Austria. In seven cases, no crime scene could be assigned.



W = Vienna, NÖ = Lower Austria, Stmk = Styria, T = Tyrol,
Vbg = Vorarlberg, Bgld = Burgenland, Ktn = Carinthia, Sbg = Salzburg

Cases of BAK's exclusive jurisdiction (nos. 1-13) by region

The above chart shows the distribution of the 1,130 crime scenes among the individual regions. As in previous years, the majority of offences (477 crime scenes, 42.21 %) were committed in Vienna, followed by the regions of Lower Austria (168 crime scenes, 14.87 %), Upper Austria (106 crime scenes, 9.38 %) and Styria (92 crime scenes, 8.14 %). 79 crime scenes were located in Tyrol (6.99 percent), 60 in Burgenland (5.31 percent), 46 (4.07 percent) in Salzburg, 67 in Carinthia (5.92 percent) and 35 in Vorarlberg (3.10 percent). The high number of crime scenes or investigations in Vienna can be explained by the fact that the population key of 21.82 percent (source: Statistik Austria) is at the expense of the federal capital and the number of persons employed in the public service in Vienna is the largest in relation to the other regions.

Criminal offences investigated

For the 1,137 cases of exclusive jurisdiction registered in 2025, the so-called 'principal offences' are presented in the table below. These are the offences that are decisive for the amount of the penalty. A total of 3,569 criminal offences were recorded in all cases reported in the area of corruption investigations.

Criminal offence	others	BAK	total
§ 302 Penal Code: Abuse of official authority (felony)	801	256	1,057
§ 310 Penal Code: Breach of official secrecy (misdemeanor)	15	12	27
Other criminal offences	6	9	15
§ 304 Penal Code: Corruptibility (misdemeanor)	2	9	11
§ 304 Penal Code: Corruptibility – from EUR 3,000 value – (felony)	1	4	5
§ 309 Penal Code: Acceptance of gifts and bribery of employees or agents – from EUR 50,000 value – (felony)	1	3	4
§ 153: Breach of trust (misdemeanor)	2	1	3
§ 168b Penal Code in conjunction with § 3 Act on the Liability of Organisations (VbVg): Agreements restricting competition in procurement procedures (misdemeanor)	2	1	3
§ 153a: Acceptance of gifts by persons holding a position of power (misdemeanor)	2	–	2
§ 165 Penal Code: Money laundering (misdemeanor)	1	1	2
§ 168b Penal Code: Agreements restricting competition in procurement procedures	1	1	2

(Principal) criminal offences total in 2025

In the majority (90 percent) of cases, abuse of official authority (§ 302 Penal Code) is the principal offence. The number of other offences is lower by comparison. However, these sometimes represent a considerable workload due to their complexity and extensive investigative activities.

Cases according to offences and exclusive jurisdiction § 4 Nos. 1-13 year-on-year 2024/2025

Criminal offence	2024	2025		Change (absolute)	Change (%)
§ 302 Penal Code: Abuse of official authority	769	1,057	↑	288	37.45 %
§ 310 Penal Code: Breach of official secrecy or breach of confidentiality	37	27	↓	–10	–27.03 %
Penal Code: Corruptibility	10	11	↑	1	10.00 %
§ 153 Penal Code: Breach of trust	9	4	↓	–5	–55.56 %
§ 309 Penal Code: Acceptance of gifts and bribery of employees or agents – from EUR 50,000 value	2	4	↑	2	100.00 %
§ 165 Penal Code: Money laundering	1	2	↑	1	100.00 %
§ 168b Penal Code: Agreements restricting competition in procurement procedures	5	2	↓	–3	–60.00 %
§ 305 Penal Code: Acceptance of an advantage	3	2	↓	–1	–33.33 %
§ 307 Penal Code: Bribery	4	2	↓	–2	–50.00 %
§ 307 Penal Code: Corruptibility – from EUR 3,000 value	1	1	→	0	0.00 %
§ 309 Penal Code: Acceptance of gifts and bribery of employees or agents	1	1	→	0	0.00 %
§ 313 in conjunction with § 153 Penal Code: Breach of trust due to abuse of an official function	4	1	↓	–3	–75.00 %
§ 313 in conjunction with § 153 Penal Code: Breach of trust due to abuse of an official function causing damages exceeding EUR 300,000	1	1	→	0	0.00 %

A closer look at the most common offences in the year-on-year comparison 2024/2025 shows the highest increase in offences under § 302 of the Penal Code (+288 cases).

Criminological facts

As the criminal offences themselves only reveal little about the underlying corruption phenomena, the principal offence of each case is allocated to one of so-called criminological facts. The following table shows the criminological facts of case assigned to all criminal offences investigated under the BAK's exclusive jurisdiction.

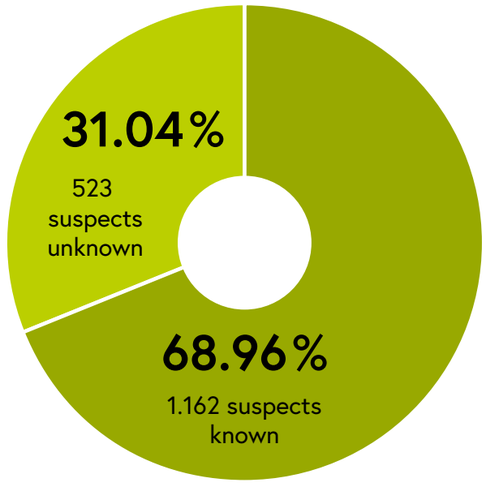
Criminological circumstances	other	BAK	total
Procedural irregularities – other	163	50	213
Procedural irregularities relating to the initiation of proceedings	153	14	167
Procedural irregularities relating to (administrative) decisions by authorities	100	20	120
Data retrieval/disclosure	76	29	105
Authorisations, expert reports and certificates	44	19	63
Procedural irregularities relating to judicial settlements	10	43	53
Criminal acts committed by exploiting an official position	43	8	51
Procedural irregularities relating to penal orders	41	6	47
Other (matters)	29	13	42
Permits, expert reports and certificates (sovereign powers – Section 57a KFG)	31	2	33
General complaints	26	6	32
Financial management	11	20	32
Procedural irregularities relating to building matters	22	6	28
Human resources	7	19	26
Procurement/contract award	13	7	20
Immigration and asylum matters	10	7	20
Procedural irregularities relating to family and youth matters	12	5	17
Criminal acts (committed whilst in an official capacity) during leisure time	14	2	16
Supervision/monitoring	8	7	15
Allegations of abuse	5	–	5
Sponsorship	1	4	5
Collusion	3	1	4
Procedural irregularities relating to postal deliveries (statutory – § 3 Postal Services Act)	4	–	4
Procedural irregularities relating to social security benefits	3	1	4
Procedural irregularities relating to inheritance and guardianship proceedings	2	1	3
Money laundering	1	1	2
No offence	1	–	1
Total	**833**	**291**	**1,124**

213 (18.95 percent) cases were assigned to the criminological fact of ‘other procedural deficiencies’, which means all deficiencies in a procedure such as refusal of access to the file, non-admission of evidence, incorrect translation or incorrect assessment of evidence. 167 (14.86 percent) are accounted for by the criminological fact of the lack of initiation of proceedings. This concerns, for example, the omission of a police officer or e.g. the mayor to take up a report or failure to take up parking penalties. 120 cases (10.68 percent) concerned procedural deficiencies in connection with official decisions. 53 cases (4.72 percent) were procedural deficiencies related to judicial decisions.

105 (9.34 per cent) cases fell into the category of ‘unauthorised data consultation and data sharing’ (including, for example, information sharing), 63 (5.60 per cent) cases fell into the category of ‘authorisations, opinions and certificates’, including issues such as deficiencies in the granting, obtaining or withdrawing of authorisations or permits. The deficiencies in assessments pursuant to §§ 57a and 40a of the Motor Vehicles Act (KFG) were recorded as separate facts due to the increased occurrence and account for 33 cases (2.94 percent) this year. 47 (4.18 per cent) cases were classified in the category ‘Procedural deficiencies – Criminal orders’, 51 (3.64 per cent) in the category ‘Criminal acts using official status’. This also includes intentional acts by an official, otherwise threatened with punishment, taking advantage of the opportunity offered to him or her by his or her official activities, such as fraud in the payroll.

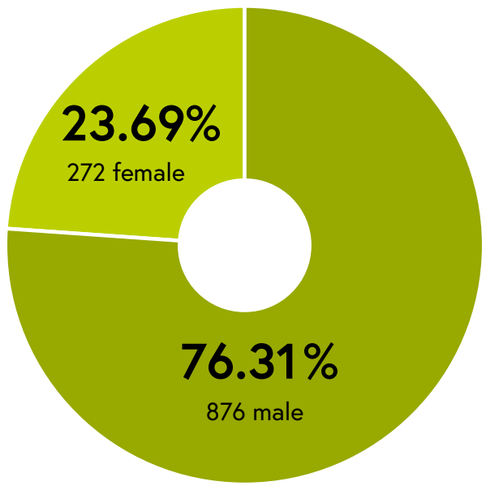
Suspects

In 2025, a total of 1,162 suspects could be identified and assigned to the cases of exclusive jurisdiction, 523 suspects remained unknown.



Suspect known/unknown exclusive jurisdiction

Of the 1,148 suspects, 876 (76.31 percent) were male and 272 (23.69 percent) were female.



Suspects by gender

Information on the age could be given for 658 suspects. Special features in the age structure are not apparent. The average age of suspects is 43 years. The youngest suspect recorded in 2025 was 19 years old, the oldest 83 years old.



Suspects by age group (absolute figures)

Age groups	Number of suspects
25–34 years	206
55–64 years	154
35–44 years	135
45–54 years	114
>64 years	25
15–24 years	24
Total	**658**

Suspects by age group in percent

age group	Number of suspects
25–34 years	31.30%
55–64 years	23.40%
35–44 years	20.52%
45–54 years	17.33%
>64 years	3.80%
15–24 years	3.65%
Total	**100.00%**

4.4 Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM)

The legislative amendment Federal Law Gazette I No. 107/2023 laid the legal foundation for the establishment of the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (Ermittlungs- und Beschwerdestelle Misshandlungsvorwürfe – EBM). The establishment as Department 4 of BAK – i.e. outside the Directorate-General for Public Security – serves, on the one hand, to ensure independence of investigations and, on the other hand, to ensure police powers. Since 22 January 2024, EBM has been responsible nationwide and exclusively for investigations into life-threatening weapons use, coercive force use resulting in death and allegations of ill-treatment.

Structure of EBM

Since its foundation, EBM has employed specially trained investigators, who form the core of an unbiased and targeted investigative work. They carry out inquiries and investigations in accordance with the provisions of criminal procedure and administrative law. Four investigative teams are set up, each led by a team leader.

Due to the special sensitivity of the investigations, EBM also employs specialist personnel from the fields of human rights and psychology. The inclusion of interdisciplinary expertise in investigations enshrined in the Act (§ 4a(1) of the BAK Act) is also ensured by employees with appropriate training and experience in the field of operational police techniques and tactics.

Responsibilities of EBM

The competence of EBM derives from § 4(4) and (5) of the BAK Act and extends to members of the Federal Ministry of the Interior who are authorised to exercise command and coercive force.

From a substantive point of view, EBM has two areas of competence:

1. Criminal police investigations into cases of use of direct coercive force resulting in death and life-threatening use of weapons including firearms by police

Coercive force applications include the use of any police coercive means, such as physical force or the use of weapons (pepper spray, electric pulse weapon, etc.) EBM's competence refers to any causal link between the use of such coercive means and the occurrence of death.

The use of weapons associated with the risk of life is to be understood as any use of weapons which is to be subsumed under § 7 of the Weapons Use Act 1969, irrespective of any consequences of death.

Deaths resulting from acts of public authority, such as traffic accidents involving patrol vehicles, do not fall within the competence of EBM.

2. Investigations into allegations of ill-treatment

Allegations of ill-treatment are divided into three categories in accordance with Section (§) 4(5) of the BAK Act. It should be noted that this classification does not allow any conclusions to be drawn as to the severity or intensity of the ill-treatment.

- § 4(5) no. 1 of the BAK Act – intentional offences against life and limb in the course of an official activity unrelated to the exercise of direct coercive force. Examples would be, the beating of an accused person by police officers during an interrogation.
- § 4(5) no. 2 BAK Act – criminal offences against life and limb, if there is sufficient reason to believe that this is due to a disproportionate exercise of direct coercive force (§§ 4 to 6 of the Arms Use Act 1969). This also includes negligent acts. In contrast to § 4(5) no. 1 of the BAK Act, the criminal offence must be related to the exercise of direct coercive force, in which there must be at least a sufficient reason for disproportionality – this reason usually results from the victim's assertion, but may also result from the injuries or from the evaluation of video recordings.
- § 4(5) no. 3 BAK Act – Inhuman or degrading treatment in the course of an official activity. According to § 4(5) no. 3 BAK Act, EBM is responsible for investigations on suspicion or allegation of inhuman or degrading treatment in the course of an official activity within the meaning of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Under § 4(5) no. 3 of the BAK Act, EBM determines whether or not there is an initial criminal suspicion (according to § 1(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure – StPO). Insofar as there is no such provision, EBM must apply mutatis mutandis the provisions of the General Administrative Procedure Act 1991, § 53(2) and (4) of the Security Police Act (SPG), which are relevant for the conduct of an investigation procedure, with the exception of the right of access to the file, and the Service Act. According to the case law of the Constitutional Court (VfGH), inhuman or degrading treatment is, for example, spitting, a slap without injury, gross insults and insults, bumps against a person on slippery ground, unjustified or degrading body searches, pulling on the hair, lack of food during a stop, refusal or delay of medical treatment during detention, not merely condescending handling or degrading gestures or facial expressions. Criminal acts against the legal interests of honour, freedom or sexual integrity and self-determination are also covered by this offence.

Investigation procedure

EBM is exclusively responsible for the investigation of allegations of ill-treatment against police, and acts ex officio, whereby the initiation of investigations usually takes place through the complaint of a (presumed) victim to EBM, the independent Advisory Board to the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment, or other (police) authorities. The transfer of investigations to other law enforcement authorities or agencies is not permitted, but EBM may delegate individual investigative and evidence-protection measures to other law enforcement authorities or agencies in exceptional cases.

Criminal investigation

Insofar as there is a criminally relevant initial suspicion, EBM conducts investigations on the basis of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1975 (StPO). In these cases, the competent public prosecutor's office is responsible for conducting the investigation, which has to decide on the indictment, resignation from prosecution or termination of the proceedings.

Administrative investigations

Insofar as there is no criminally relevant initial suspicion, EBM must clarify the facts by applying the General Administrative Procedure Act (AVG), § 53(2) and (4) Security Police Act mutatis mutandis and the Service Act to the extent that the direct superior can decide on any disciplinary measures. The investigative procedure replaces the otherwise informal enquiries by the superior. In addition, the role of investigative body is again emphasised here – the decision on disciplinary measures or penalties remains the responsibility of the competent superior or authority.

Requirements for the duty of investigation based on the five principles of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

The five principles laid down by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) for the investigation of allegations of ill-treatment are important for the investigations conducted by EBM. EBM investigations must therefore be conducted independently, without delay and in an appropriate and serious manner. In addition, the involvement of victims or relatives must be ensured and a certain level of public scrutiny of investigations must be guaranteed.

Independence

In order to assess the requirement of the independence of the investigation, the independence of the investigation as a whole and in the specific case is assessed by ECtHR, taking into account the individual circumstances. Investigative authorities do not therefore have to enjoy absolute independence in order to meet the standards of the ECtHR. However, they must identify sufficiently independently of the persons and structures whose responsibilities are affected. In order to ensure this independence, EBM is located outside the Directorate-General for Public Security – and thus outside

the ‘classic police apparatus’ – but in Directorate-General III (Law) of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. While all instructions to BAK on substantive treatment in certain proceedings had to be given in writing and reasoned, instructions to EBM must also be sent to the independent advisory board. Furthermore, in principle, only permanent civil servants are to be employed – exceptions to this can only be found in the absence of formal requirements, such as training as a superior officer or completing the EBM course.

Adequacy and seriousness
In order to be considered appropriate and effective by the ECtHR, investigations must lead to the determination of the facts and enable an informed decision to be made as to whether the alleged use of force was justified in the circumstances. In addition, investigations must be conducted thoroughly and lead to the identification and appropriate punishment of accused persons. In addition, no hasty or insufficiently reasoned conclusions may be drawn. As appropriate investigative steps, the ECtHR cites, for example, the securing of eyewitness reports and forensic evidence. EBM meets these requirements with specially trained investigators and additional staff working in analysis and quality assurance.

Immediacy
In order for investigations to be considered as immediate by ECtHR, they must start immediately after a report or complaint has arisen and be carried out within a reasonable time. The complexity of an investigation can play a role in the considerations of ECtHR. On the one hand, EBM has set up a permanence service, which can be reached around the clock and can start investigations immediately. Furthermore, the immediate reporting obligation pursuant to § 4a(2) BAK Act also regulates the immediate intervention and commencement of investigations at the legal level.

Public monitoring of investigations
Investigations must provide a sufficient element of public scrutiny. This is intended to ensure the responsibility of the authorities, but does not necessarily mean that the investigative procedures must be completely public, but only that there must be a sufficient element of public verifiability of the investigations and their results. This requirement is met in particular by the establishment of the independent advisory board to EBM.

Involvement of the victim
The victim or complainant must be able to participate effectively in the investigation in an investigation procedure. This means, for example, that the possibility for personal comments of the complainants must be given and evidence can be provided by the complainant. In addition, if possible, the victim must be informed about the procedure and the current status of the investigation. In criminal proceedings, this requirement is fully met by the victims’ rights; in proceedings conducted in accordance with AVG, the obligations of EBM to communicate laid down in § 4a(4) of the BAK Act ensure the involvement with or communication to the victim.

Independent advisory board to EBM

Pursuant to § 9a of the BAK Act, an independent and instructive advisory board consisting of a chairman, his or her deputy, seven members and seven substitute members is set up at the Federal Minister of the Interior to ensure the statutory fulfilment of tasks by EBM. From the point of view of the observance of fundamental and human rights, this is responsible for the accompanying structural monitoring of the activities of EBM, in particular with regard to the identification of organisational optimisation needs and advice in this regard. In addition, the advisory board also acts as a reporting centre for complainants. The advisory board to EBM is subject to official secrecy and other confidentiality obligations.

The advisory board cannot intervene in investigations. It does not carry out tasks of security or criminal police, nor is it a public service or disciplinary authority. There is therefore no relationship of instruction between the Advisory Board and EBM. Its recommendations are drawn up annually in a report and forwarded to the Federal Minister of the Interior, who in turn has to forward this report to the Committee on Internal Affairs. The advisory board may also report at any time to the Federal Minister of the Interior and, where deemed appropriate, to the public.

In its annual report, the advisory board took stock of its activities in the first financial year 2024, documented the interim reports and the recommendation to the Federal Minister of the Interior, and set out its working methods and its self-image as an advisory and controlling body. Overall, the advisory board to EBM judged the launch of EBM to be a success. This is also thanks to the high level of commitment of EBM staff. In its Recommendation No. 1 of October 2024, the advisory board referred to the tense staffing situation of EBM.

The full 2024 annual report is available on the website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior under the heading ‘Independent Advisory Board to the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM Advisory Board)’.

EBM Networking

On 13 March 2025, the 29th meeting of the Civil Society Dialogue Panel (ZDG) took place at BAK. Under the leadership of Federal Police Director Michael Takács, 22 representatives of civil society organisations and high-ranking executives from the Federal Ministry of the Interior gathered and took the opportunity to engage in intensive dialogue. The focus was on the work of the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM). Since then, EBM has been an integral part of ZDG and regularly participates in its meetings.

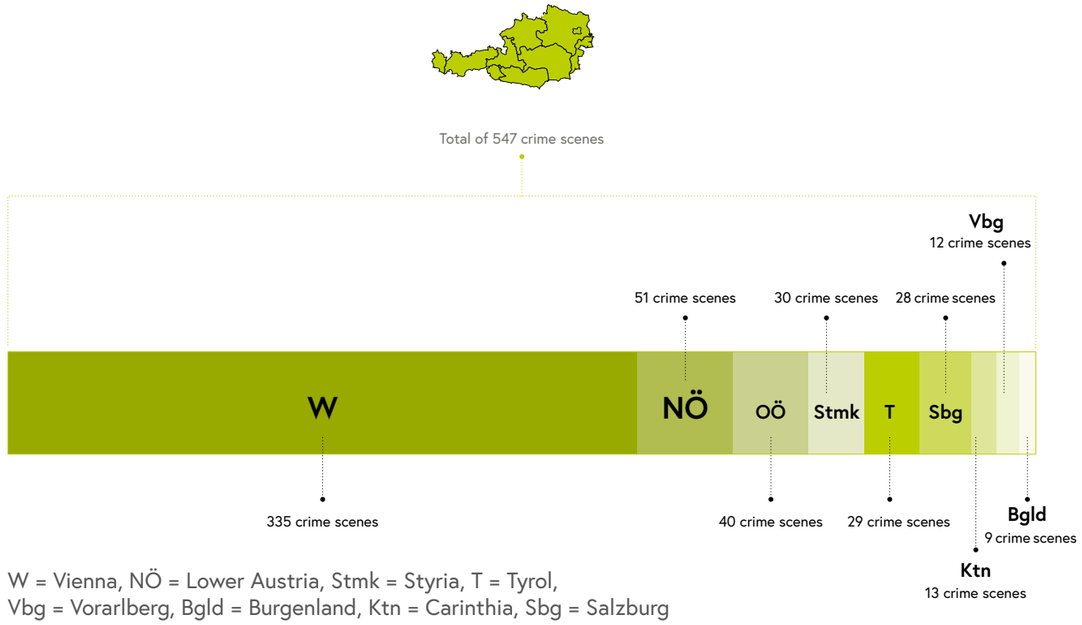
Statistics

There has been an increase in cases since EBM was established. While around 280 cases were recorded per year in the years prior to its existence, in 2024, EBM received 505 allegations of ill-treatment (§ 4(5) BAK Act), two applications of coercive measures resulting in death (§ 4(4) first clause BAK Act) and seven instances of life-threatening use of weapon (§ 4(4) second clause BAK Act), of which three were fatal, one and 547 cases in 2025, of which 535 were allegations of ill-treatment and 12 were life-threatening use of weapon (§ 4(4) second clause BAK Act), one of which ended in death. Thus, the increase in life-threatening weapon usage is clear, while at least in the comparable years 2024 and 2025, the number of allegations of ill-treatment remains at the same level, with about 1.5 entries per day.

Crime scene-related regional breakdown

The regional distribution of the 547 cases of BAK jurisdiction (§ 4(4) and (5) BAK Act) received in 2025 is as follows:

The above chart shows the distribution of the 547 crime scenes among the individual regions. Naturally, the majority of crime scenes (335, i.e. 61.24 percent) were registered in Austria's capital Vienna. 51 crime scenes (nine percent) were registered in Lower Austria, followed by Upper Austria with 40 (seven percent), Styria with 30 (five percent) and Tyrol with 29 crime scenes (five percent). 28 crime scenes were located in Salzburg, 13 in Carinthia, twelve in Vorarlberg and nine in Burgenland.



W = Vienna, NÖ = Lower Austria, Stmk = Styria, T = Tyrol,
Vbg = Vorarlberg, Bgld = Burgenland, Ktn = Carinthia, Sbg = Salzburg

Crime scene-related regional distribution EBM

4.5 Reports under the Whistleblower Protection Act

On 25 August 2023, an internal and an external reporting office were set up at BAK in accordance with the Act on Proceeding and Protecting Reports on Breaches of Law in Certain Areas (Whistleblower Protection Act or HinweisgeberInnenschutzgesetz – HSchG). BAK acts as an internal and external reporting office in accordance with the Whistleblower Protection Act (HSchG). The material scope of application of HSchG includes:

- Public procurement
- Product safety and compliance
- Transport safety
- Environmental protection, radiation protection and nuclear safety
- Food and feed safety
- Animal health and welfare
- Public health
- Consumer protection, protection of privacy and personal data
- Security of network and information systems
- Prevention and punishment of criminal offences under Sections (§§) 302 to 309 of the Austrian Penal Code (Strafgesetzbuch – StGB) (for example, abuse of authority, bribery and corruptibility)
- Breaches affecting the financial interests of the European Union

In 2025, the meeting of all external reporting offices under the Whistleblower Protection Act (HSchG) and those of the external reporting offices of the regions with representatives of all federal ministries took place, as provided for in § 18(2) of the HSchG. It was conducted online on 9 April 2025. At this meeting, experiences were exchanged, explanations on the number and quality of reports, problems arising and the upcoming evaluation of the Whistleblower Protection Act in 2026 were discussed, as well as questions on statistics and the evaluability of clues were discussed.

BAK offers all conceivable contact options for both the internal reporting unit and the external reporting unit. From letter to calls, face-to-face meetings, e-mails (usually via the ‘classic’ corruption reporting point of contact, SPOC) and, of course, via the BKMS system.

Statistics

In the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, 120 reports were received, 87 of which were submitted anonymously. In 79 cases, the whistleblowers decided to remain in contact with the reporting office and either set up a mailbox or provided other contact details. In total, 37 of the 120 reports submitted fell within the scope of HSchG. Two reports were submitted via the internal reporting channel for the Federal Ministry of the Interior and four meetings were held under the Whistleblower Protection Act. A total of 101 reports were submitted in 2024. This means an increase of almost 20 percent in 2025.

5
BAK engages in cooperation

In accordance with Section (§) 4(2) of the Federal Act on the Establishment and Organisation of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK Act), BAK is responsible for cooperation in investigations within the framework of international police cooperation and administrative assistance in the cases referred to in § 4(1) BAK Act.

Furthermore, BAK is responsible for cooperation with foreign authorities and international institutions in the field of preventing and combating corruption in general, and, in particular, for the exchange of experience in this area. Therefore, BAK maintains close contact with comparable anti-corruption authorities and is represented, depending on the resources available, in most of the relevant European and international bodies.

The Bureau's (bilateral) cooperation with foreign authorities/departments mainly comprises the organisation of visits to the BAK as well as the participation in official meetings and conferences abroad.

5.1 International committees, bodies and working groups

The BAK's experts represent the Bureau in various committees, bodies and working groups focusing on the exchange of information and experience and, in particular, the (national) implementation of international anti-corruption conventions ratified by Austria. These conventions and committees include, among others, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Council of Europe's Civil Law Convention on Corruption and Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, the OECD 'Working Party on Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption' (WP-PIAC), and the meetings of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). Furthermore, BAK is also in exchange with the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) located in Laxenburg, Lower Austria.

The United Nations and their activities to prevent and combat corruption

Participation of BAK in the 11th Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) and working groups to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Held from 15 to 19 December in Doha (Qatar), CoSP is the world's largest anti-corruption conference. It had more than 2,500 participants, more than 130 special events and a record number of 11 resolutions. This year's edition of the conference had a special significance for BAK and Austria. The country's three initiatives Resolution, Side Event and Photo Exhibition were able to present 'best practices' to a global audience. Austria's

© BAK



resolution on preventing corruption and promoting integrity in childhood and adolescence (in cooperation with Slovenia and Chile) is the result of intensive negotiations among delegations and was adopted by consensus by the 192 states in the framework of the CoSP Plenary Assembly. BAK has thus actively participated in the global anti-corruption agenda and the international priority setting of the UNCAC States Parties. The resolution met with a worldwide positive response and was able to win the formal support of several dozen states from all continents as 'co-sponsors' (including the entire European Union).

The project represents a milestone in BAK's international commitment. At the same time, the visibility of BMI and BAK could be strengthened, as a national focal point for the areas of corruption prevention and anti-corruption.

In the course of 2025, the UNCAC sub-organs responsible for the areas of prevention (Working Group on Prevention), asset recovery (Working Group on Asset Recovery), the implementation review group (Implementation Review Group) and international co-operation (Expert Meeting on International Cooperation) met several times.

UNCAC review of Austria in the second cycle

In the summer of 2019, Austria started the evaluation of UNCAC Chapters II (Prevention) and V (Repatriation) under the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism. Following the submission to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in December 2019 of the Austrian reply to the standardised self-assessment questionnaire, in which BAK was also closely involved, in particular in the chapter on prevention, the representatives of the lottery countries Germany and Vietnam examined the answers and documents provided by Austria in what is called 'desk review procedure'. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the on-site visit of the audit states Germany and Vietnam, originally planned for 2020, took place only in March 2022. The executive summary of the country report was published in October 2025.

GlobE Network

The GlobE network was established in 2021 on the basis of a G20 initiative, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and a decision by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The aim of the initiative is to establish and operate a Secure Communication Platform (SCP) enabling the direct, confidential and timely exchange of information between law enforcement authorities in the field of anti-corruption worldwide.

In addition to the Member States, with the agreement of the Network, selected international organisations have been admitted as observers, including Europol and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). Austria has been a member of the GlobE network since August 2021. Experts of BAK are continuously involved in the topics of the GlobE network.

2025 Plenary Session in Baku

Since the GlobE network was established, UNODC has organised annual plenary meetings of the Member States. The sixth plenary meeting took place in 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The BAK was also represented on a virtual basis.

The meeting focused on the further implementation of the Network's strategic work programme, reports on the development and use of the Secure Communication Platform and the exchange of experience on current challenges in the fight against cross-border corruption. Thematic priorities included measures to further 'denying safe havens' for corruption offenders, the increased use of common investigative formats and the practical added value of informal cooperation in complex international proceedings. The plenary discussions were complemented by case studies, working group meetings and bilateral discussions aimed at deepening existing contacts and initiating new cooperation formats.

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Austria ratified the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials in International Business Transactions on 20 May 1999. Since then, there has been an obligation under international law to effectively criminalise foreign corruption and to ensure the effective implementation of the corresponding criminal and institutional framework.

As part of the OECD-wide peer review process, Austria is obliged to regularly undergo evaluations and to actively participate in the review of other contracting states. These mutual evaluations serve the continuous development of national systems to combat foreign corruption and the promotion of internationally uniform standards.

OECD – Working Group on Bribery (WGB)

The OECD Working Group on Bribery (WGB) is the central body for monitoring the implementation of the Anti-Bribery Convention. Building on the Phase 4 evaluation completed in 2024, Austria is currently implementing the recommendations made in the reporting year 2025.

Under the lead coordination of the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ), work is ongoing on the fulfilment of the recommendations. This includes, in particular, measures to further develop the legal framework, to strengthen law enforcement competences, to intensify specialised training and awareness-raising activities and to further deepen international cooperation. Cross-cutting issues such as transparency, institutional independence and the protection of whistleblowers are also continuously reviewed and further developed in the light of the OECD recommendations.

BAK is involved in this implementation process and participates in the technical preparation, coordination and reporting. Austria will report on the progress made within the timeframe provided for in the WGB.

OECD Public Integrity Principles

The OECD Working Party on Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Government (WP-PIAC) has been evaluating the OECD Council Recommendations on Integrity in Public Life since December 2021. The questions are based on specific indicators developed in an OECD working group and cover topics such as national anti-corruption strategies, internal control systems and risk management. In this respect, BAK plays an essential coordination role. The working group serves as a forum for the exchange of information and the monitoring of developments in the areas of public integrity and the fight against corruption.



© ENPE

2025 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum

On 26 and 27 March 2025, the OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum (GACIF) took place in Paris. BAK was represented by a delegation. The annual forum brings together experts from politics, business, academia and civil society to discuss innovative approaches to fighting corruption and strengthening integrity. A highlight of the 2025 Forum was the panel discussion 'Addressing Strategic Corruption: How to Leverage the Anti-Corruption Toolbox', which presented and discussed strategic approaches to fighting corruption, including the role, tasks and achievements of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

In the context of GACIF 2025, BAK also participated in the meeting of the OECD Working Party on Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption (WP-PIAC), which gathered key findings from the Forum and discussed the next steps to strengthen the international fight against corruption and promote integrity. BAK is actively involved in data collection for the OECD Public Integrity Indicators, a central tool for assessing and promoting public integrity worldwide. BAK was invited to present best practices to the other Member States in plenary, including the Network of Integrity Officers (IBN) and the innovative module for various training courses "Ethics and Value Management".

OECD Working Party on Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Paris

Another meeting of OECD WP-PIAC took place in Paris on 13 and 14 November 2025. More than 120 delegates from OECD Member States and partner countries attended the meeting, including a delegation from BAK. One focus of the meeting was the preparation of the Outlook 2026, which provides for an evaluation of the progress made by the Member States. The focus is on national anti-corruption strategies, the handling of conflicts of interest, the regulation of lobbying, the transparency of public information and new data on integrity in the justice system. A key topic was the implementation of Principle 5 of the OECD Recommendation on Public Integrity. It calls on states to promote a culture of integrity beyond the public sector and to actively engage with business, civil society and citizens. BAK was involved in the programme items and chaired a break-out session on National Anti-Corruption Strategies, which discussed key success factors of national anti-corruption strategies as well as ways to strengthen integrity at local level.



© OECD

International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

IACA Assembly of Parties

On 4 November 2025, the 14th Assembly of Parties (AoP) of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) took place at Vienna International Center (VIC). Together with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), BAK was also part of the Austrian delegation. The Chair of the Board of Governors, Mathias Vogl, Head of Directorate-General III in BMI, stressed the importance of the financial stability of IACA in order to continue to play a pioneering role in education, research and capacity building in the field of anti-corruption.

In addition to the adoption of the budget, a panel discussion on the impact of artificial intelligence and digital technologies on corruption risks and law enforcement was also on the agenda. Statements were made by both BMEIA and BAK. BAK pointed to the commitment in the field of prevention. And announced the UNCAC resolution, which also mentions the importance of IACA. In addition, BAK pointed out the successful joint project of the photo competition. A Resolution on General Matters, tabled by Austria, was also adopted.



© BAK

5.2 Anti-corruption measures at EU level

EU Anti-Corruption Directive

In May 2023, the European Commission presented an anti-corruption package that included a proposal for a directive on combating corruption. The aim of the proposal was to update and harmonise EU anti-corruption law. In December 2025, an agreement was reached with the European Parliament on the text under the Danish Presidency. The Directive establishes an extended list of corruption offences in the EU as well as uniform minimum standards for their punishment. It also includes provisions to strengthen corruption prevention and rules for more effective investigations and prosecutions. BAK closely followed the negotiations, which spanned two and a half years, and also contributed opinions to the EU negotiation process.

EU network against corruption

The EU Network Against Corruption, also launched in 2023, continued its work in 2025. The network acts as a forum for national authorities, civil society, international organisations, EU agencies and researchers to exchange best practices in preventing and combating corruption and to promote and strengthen cooperation across the EU. In 2025, the European Commission invited to the third plenary session in Brussels as part of the network and also organised a national workshop on the state of play of the anti-corruption system in Austria, following the publication of the sixth EU Rule of Law Report in July 2025. A representative of BAK participated in both meetings and took the opportunity to intensify the exchange with key stakeholders such as civil society, business, national authorities, academia and other interested parties.

EU Rule of Law Cycle and Rule of Law Report

In summer 2019, the European Commission (EC) presented the proposal for a comprehensive Rule of Law Cycle. The cycle aims to promote, prevent violations and enforce the rule of law in the EU.

The central element of the mechanism is the EU Rule of Law Report, which has been published annually since 2020. It assesses the rule of law situation in the EU and in each EU Member State (EU MS), also in the four candidate countries Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia since 2024. It examines the independence of the judiciary, the anti-corruption framework, media pluralism and the separation of powers. For the first time in 2025, a focus was also placed on the single market dimension of the rule of law.

As in previous years, at the end of 2024, EU MS were also asked to reply to a questionnaire on the four thematic areas. Particular attention should be paid to feedback, progress and developments in relation to the issues raised in the respective country chapter of the Rule of Law Report 2024 as well as other significant rule of law developments.

For Austria, BAK again took over the lead for the inter-ministerial elaboration of the contribution to the area of anti-corruption. In January 2025, the contribution was sent to the Federal Chancellery (BKA), which is responsible for the overall Austrian contribution, after coordination with the other bodies concerned, including the Constitutional Service of the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ), the Federal Competition Authority and the Parliament Directorate.

Following a virtual country visit by EC representatives in Vienna at the beginning of March, followed by a fact-check in mid-June, the European Commission finalised the country chapter for Austria.

The sixth Rule of Law Report was submitted on 8 July 2025. The European Commission concludes that, overall, the EU and Member States are significantly better prepared to identify and address new challenges compared to the first report in 2020. On the fight against corruption in Austria, the report highlights the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAKS) and the National Action Plan (NAP) for 2023 to 2025.

The report positively mentions the ongoing BAK training courses within the framework of the Network of Integrity Officers as well as those for the Compliance Officers of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the corruption prevention officers of the Regional Police Directorates. There are also awareness-raising events for the general public and the education sector. The report also highlights a brochure for leadership prepared by BAK. In addition, cooperation between the Public Prosecutor's Office and the police, as well as between BAK and the European Public Prosecutor's Office, is described as good and constructive. The implementation of internet-based reporting channels for whistleblowers is also welcomed. BAK has had a fully functional system since August 2023 and provides step-by-step guidance and instructions on how to submit reports via the website, which can also be sent by phone, post or in person in addition to the web-based platform.

European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN)

The European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN) networks are independent platforms for anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies to maintain contacts and exchange information in the field of corruption prevention and fight against corruption. At the end of 2025, the two networks will have 127 members and observers across Europe.

Two-day EPAC/EACN workshop at BAK

On 24 and 25 April 2025, BAK organised a workshop on 'corruption situation reports' as part of EPAC/EACN. The event took place within the framework of the working group 'Effective Approaches to Developing Situation Reports on Corruption' (Corruption SITREP) on the premises of BAK and brought together around 30 participants from various anti-corruption authorities and international organisations.

External lectures, an online questionnaire and presentations by experts from the member organisations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided the basis for an intensive exchange of experiences and discussions on best practices. Results were presented at the annual conference in November 2025 and made available in a publication that serves as a guide for the preparation of situation reports in the area of corruption.



© BAK



© EPAC/EACN

BAK at 24th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in The Hague

The 24th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN) took place in The Hague (Netherlands) on 24 and 25 November 2025 and was co-hosted with Eurojust. Key issues included increased institutional independence and enhanced cooperation to prevent and combat corruption in Europe. More than 150 participants from almost 80 institutions from more than 30 countries attended the event, including representatives of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, Europol, Eurojust and OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office).

The conference focused mainly on strengthening cooperation between anti-corruption and police inspectorates, sharing practical experience and addressing current challenges in promoting integrity and transparency. Discussions included key topics such as measuring and preventing corruption, transparency in public procurement, innovation in anti-corruption practices, education and awareness-raising, and building resilient institutions.

'YOUTH4Integrity'

At a breakout session, Director of BAK Otto Kerbl presented BAK's extensive corruption prevention measures, especially in the education sector, as well as the preliminary results of the first pilot phase: an impact analysis of the anti-corruption events for school students. Under the title 'YOUTH4Integrity', BAK summarises different offers designed for a sustainable fight against corruption among children, young people and young adults. These range from anti-corruption events for school students to tailor-made teaching materials and teacher training. In addition, in 2025, a BAK photo competition was also a YOUTH4Integrity initiative designed to bring the issues of corruption and integrity to students in a creative way. (More on this in the chapter 'YOUTH4Integrity'.)

The Hague Declaration

The final document of the conference reaffirmed the joint commitment of European anti-corruption authorities and police inspectorates to integrity, transparency and the rule of law. It calls for greater institutional independence, professional standards and international cooperation in the fight against corruption and accountability. States are encouraged to ensure adequate resources, open data transparency and protection for prosecutors and investigators. The Declaration also invites EU institutions and international organisations to strengthen common anti-corruption standards, provide technical assistance and promote coherent, coordinated global efforts.

EPAC/EACN Award 2025

During the conference, participants voted on various initiatives underlining the network's shared commitment to supporting practical, effective anti-corruption and police oversight solutions. This year, the EPAC/EACN Award 2025 went to the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania for its initiative 'Strategic Anti-Corruption Guidelines for the Cabinet of Ministers (SAG)'. BAK had submitted the BAK photo competition in this context.

Europol

The European Police Authority Europol plays a central role in the fight against cross-border corruption within the European Union. As a cooperation platform, Europol supports national law enforcement authorities, inter alia, in detecting and prosecuting corruption cases, in particular those with an international dimension such as bribery, abuse of office and money laundering. The organisation provides specialised analytical tools, promotes the exchange of information between Member States and coordinates joint investigations. The aim is to combat systemic corruption that threatens trust in public institutions and economic stability.

Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (Groupe d'Etats contre la Corruption - GRECO)

Continuation of the fifth GRECO evaluation round

Austria has been a member of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) since 1 December 2006. Following the multidisciplinary approach of the Council of Europe in the fight against corruption, GRECO has to evaluate compliance with or implementation of the relevant legal instruments adopted by the Council of Europe. In late autumn 2021, the fifth GRECO evaluation round on 'Prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity in central governments (high-ranking decision-makers of the executive branch) and law enforcement agencies' started for Austria.

The related evaluation report was adopted at the 92nd plenary meeting of GRECO at the end of 2022 and published in March 2023. Nineteen recommendations had been addressed to Austria, the implementation of which was to be reported to GRECO by 30 June 2024. The relevant first compliance report was discussed and adopted in Strasbourg at the end of November 2024. The second compliance round starts with the publication of the first compliance report, which provides for an implementation period until 31 May 2026. By this point, Austria will have to report to GRECO on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations. Current information on the fifth evaluation round can be found on the website of the Council of Europe Group of States (https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/evaluations).

European Network for Public Ethics (ENPE)

The European Network for Public Ethics (ENPE) was launched at the initiative of the French High Authority for Transparency in Public Life in June 2022. BAK was one of the founding members. The aim of the network is to promote a culture of integrity in the public sector and to harmonise the relevant rules in the EU Member States. ENPE wants to establish itself as a contact point and interlocutor of the European institutions on issues of integrity, transparency and public ethics. Currently, the organisation brings together authorities dealing with ethics, integrity and the fight against corruption from 18 EU Member States. In October 2025, the annual ENPE conference took place in Budapest (Hungary). The network members met for a thematic meeting entitled, 'From culture to compliance: transforming conflict of interest monitoring'. During the plenary session, the ENPE secretariat presented findings on awareness-raising activities and communication related to the management of conflicts of interest. The presidency of the network will continue to be exercised by the Italian anti-corruption authority ANAC.



© sztankovicsphoto.hu

5.3 BAK's bilateral cooperation

BAK delegation visits CPK in Slovenia

From 14 to 16 January 2025, BAK visited the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (KPK) in Ljubljana (Slovenia) as part of a study visit. The visit focused on the exchange of best practices on integrity measures in education as well as anti-corruption awareness-raising measures for young people.



© KPK

Ombudsman of the Slovak Republic visits EBM

On 21 January 2025, one day before the anniversary of the establishment of the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM), EBM received the Ombudsman of the Slovak Republic with a delegation for a working meeting on the BAK's premises.



© BAK

Serbian delegation visits BAK

On 19 February 2025, a high-level delegation from the Serbian Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (APC) visited BAK. The visit served to exchange best practices and promote international cooperation and was organised by the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) as part of an EU project. The meeting focused on cooperation with IACA and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAKS). The Serbian delegation was particularly interested in youth programmes, including the Youth4Integrity initiative, which raises awareness of corruption from an early age.



© BAK

Bilateral exchange between BAK and Hungarian NVSZ

From 27 to 28 March 2025, a technical exchange took place between representatives of the Hungarian National Authority for Internal Security (NVSZ) and BAK in the Police Cooperation Centre (PKZ) Nickelsdorf and on the premises of BAK. The two-day meeting was attended by the head of the Corruption Prevention Department of the NVSZ as well as other representatives of the NVSZ and employees of the Prevention, Education and International Cooperation Department of BAK. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAKS) and its Hungarian counterpart were presented and discussed. A Hungarian university professor presented the concept of the 'Police Café' – an exchange format where police officers can engage with each other to build trust, share experience and openly address issues related to integrity, everyday life and cooperation. The multiplier models 'Network of Integrity Officers' (IBN) and 'Corruption Prevention Officers' (KPB) were also at the centre of attention.



© BAK

Delegation of the Korean ACRC to BAK

A delegation from the Anti-Corruption Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) of Korea visited BAK on 20 May 2025 as part of a study visit. The visit served to exchange best practices and promote international cooperation. It was organised by the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA).



© BAK

Delegation of the Philippine National Police to BAK

During a one-week study visit in Vienna, a delegation from the Philippine National Police-Internal Affairs Services (PNP-IAS) visited BAK from 19 to 21 May 2025. The focus of the meeting was the professional exchange on national and international approaches and best practices in the fight against corruption and in the area of investigation. The focus was on the investigative work of BAK, its legal basis and structural differences between the institutions.



© BAK

High-level delegation from Vietnam visits BAK

On 5 June 2025, a high-level delegation from Vietnam visited BAK. Under the leadership of Phan Dinh Trac, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam (KPV), Chairman of the Committee on the Interior of the KPV, Vice-Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Commission on Judicial Reform, a delegation from Vietnam visited BAK. In addition to high-ranking representatives of various Vietnamese authorities, including the Central Committee of the CPV, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Supreme Ombudsman, the Ambassador of Vietnam to Austria was also a guest of the event. The Deputy Director of BAK, Lukas Berghammer, and representatives of the Department of Prevention, Education and International Cooperation of BAK provided the guests with an overview of the activities of BAK, the fight against corruption in Austria and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). Another topic was the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption 2025 (CoSP), which took place in Doha (Qatar) in December.



© BAK

Delegation visit from the Czech Republic to BAK

On 2 July 2025, BAK welcomed a delegation of four members of the General Inspectorate of the Security Forces (GIBBS) from the Czech Republic. The BMI liaison officer also attended the meeting. The visit served as a bilateral exchange on the topics of anti-corruption, investigative strategies and the structural and legal framework of both organisations. Due to the comparable areas of responsibility, the professional dialogue was intensive and enriching. The presentation of the work of the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM) was the focus of the exchange. As part of this agenda item, both substantive and organisational aspects and challenges were discussed in detail. Potential solution strategies were also discussed together, as well as the effects and implications of findings of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).



© BAK

6
BAK's legal basis

The Federal Act on the Establishment and Organisation of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK Act), which entered into force on 1 January 2010, constitutes the legal basis for BAK.

6.1 BAK's security and criminal police remit

Pursuant to Section (§) 4 (1) BAK Act, BAK's Austria-wide remit in security and criminal police matters comprises the following criminal offences:

1. Abuse of official authority (§ 302 Penal Code),

2. Corruptibility (§ 304 Penal Code),

3. Acceptance of an advantage (§ 305 Penal Code),

4. Acceptance of an advantage with intent to be influenced (§ 306 Penal Code),

5. Bribery (§ 307 Penal Code),

6. Offering an advantage (§ 307a Penal Code),

7. Offering or granting an advantage with intent to influence (§ 307b Penal Code),

8. Illicit intervention (§ 308 Penal Code),

8a. Breach of confidentiality (§ 310 Penal Code)

8b. Breach of § 18 of the Information Management Act,

9. Breach of trust due to abuse of an official function or due to involvement of an office holder (§ 153(3), § 313, or in conjunction with § 74(1) no. 4a Penal Code),

9a. Misuse of funds and assets affecting the financial interests of the European Union (§ 168g Penal Code),

10. Acceptance of gifts by persons holding a position of power (§ 153a Penal Code),

11. Agreements restricting competition in procurement procedures (§ 168b Penal Code) as well as aggravated fraud (§ 147 Penal Code) and commercial fraud (§ 148 Penal Code) on the basis of such agreement,

12. Acceptance of gifts and bribery of employees or agents (§ 309 Penal Code),

13. Money laundering (§ 165 Penal Code), if the assets arise from offences 1 to 8, 9, 9a, or no. 11 second and third clause, or no. 12; criminal association or organisation (§§ 278 and 278a Penal Code), if their purpose is to commit offences nos. 1 to 9a or no. 11 second and third clause,

14. Acts punishable under the Austrian Penal Code and under ancillary criminal laws, insofar as these are connected with items 1 to 13 and insofar as these are to be prosecuted by the Federal Bureau by written order of a court or a public prosecutor's office,

15. Acts punishable pursuant to the Penal Code as well as to laws relevant to criminal law concerning members of the civil service at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, to the extent that they shall be prosecuted by BAK upon written order by a court or public prosecutor's office.

In the cases defined in Nos. 11-13 BAK Act, BAK, pursuant to § 28 para. 1 sentence 2 Penal Code, may only be the authority in charge if the above mentioned criminal offences are relevant for determining the extent of the punishment.

6.2 Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (EBM)

The legal basis for the jurisdiction of the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment (Ermittlungs- und Beschwerdestelle Misshandlungsvorwürfe or EBM) can be found in § 4 (4) and (5) of the BAK Act. Accordingly, EBM is in charge Austria-wide for:

'[…] criminal investigations into the use of direct coercive force resulting in death and life-threatening use of weapons including firearms (§ 7 Use of Weapons and Firearms Act 1969, Federal Law Gazette No. 149/1969) by

1. members of law enforcement, provided that they are employees of the federal government,

2. other employees of the Directorate State Protection and Intelligence Service, (§ 2b(2) State Protection and Intelligence Service Act, Federal Law Gazette I No. 5/2016) and

3. other employees of the Federal Ministry of the Interior or subordinate agencies authorised to exercise command and coercive force.'

and

'[…] investigations in connection with allegations of ill-treatment against members of the civil service or law enforcement according to § 4(4) Nos. 1 to 3 BAK Act. An allegation of ill-treatment is the suspicion or allegation of

1. an intentional punishable act against life and limb in the course of duty without connection to the exercise of direct coercive power,

2. a punishable act against life and limb if there are reasonable grounds for believing that it was caused by the disproportionate use of direct coercive power (§§ 4-6 Use of Weapons and Firearms Act 1969), or

3. inhumane or degrading treatment in the performance of official duties.'

The Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) shall not be responsible if an allegation of ill-treatment pursuant to § 4(5) no. 3 of the BAK Act relates to behaviour towards an employee of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and there is no initial suspicion pursuant to the Code of Criminal Procedure. The working methods and procedures of EBM are regulated in Section (§) 4a of the BAK Act.

BAK's international cooperation

International cooperation by BAK is explicitly laid down in § 4(2) of the BAK Act. BAK is responsible for cooperation in investigations within the framework of international police cooperation and administrative assistance in the cases referred to in § 4(1) of the BAK Act. Furthermore, BAK is responsible for cooperation with foreign authorities and international institutions in the field of prevention of and fight against corruption in general, and, in particular, exchange of experience in this area.

BAK's corruption prevention activities

As regards prevention of corruption, § 4(3) BAK Act stipulates that BAK shall analyse corruption phenomena, gather information on preventing and combating them and develop appropriate preventive measures.

Duty to report and right to report

§ 5 BAK Act provides for duty to report and right to report. Without prejudice to their duties to report defined by the Austrian Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) of 1975, Federal Law Gazette No. 631/1975, law enforcement authorities or departments receiving notice of a criminal offence defined in § 4(1) nos. 1-15, must report the offence in writing as soon as possible to BAK (duty to report). Federal employees must not be prevented from reporting allegations or suspicious circumstances concerning § 4(1) Nos. 1-15 of the BAK Act directly to BAK without going through official channels (right to report).

Cooperation among law enforcement

The law (§ 6 BAK Act) also regulates cooperation with other law enforcement authorities and agencies. The Federal Bureau may assign certain investigations to other law enforcement authorities and departments for reasons of expediency (§ 6(2) of the BAK Act). It may also transfer investigations to other competent law enforcement authorities and departments if there is no particular public interest regarding the importance of the criminal offence or of the person investigated (§ 6(3) of the BAK Act).

Legal protection

The Commission for Legal Protection was established as a special form of legal protection. It is an independent body not bound by instructions and subject to official secrecy. It consists of the Legal Protection Officer, as defined in § 91a of the Austrian Security Police Act, and two additional members. The Commission is to investigate allegations concerning the activities of BAK that are not manifestly unfounded if the persons concerned do not have a legal remedy at their disposal. The Commission presents an annual report on the performance of its functions to the Federal Minister of the Interior. Moreover, the Commission may address recommendations to the Federal Minister of the Interior or the Director of BAK (§§ 8 and 9 of the BAK Act).