



**ØKOKRIM**

Key information and performance in 2024  
okokrim.no

**2024**



**Annual  
Report**

**||** *Crime that threatens society requires new measures and working methods – not least in collaboration with relevant private and public sector partners. We need to establish a comprehensive defence against financial and environmental crime.*



Photo: NicoElNino/iStock



## Director's statement

The Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime (Økokrim) has a special responsibility to prevent, fight and limit economic and environmental crime.

The 2024 Police Threat Assessment and Økokrim's own assessment of the threat posed by the growth of the criminal economy both focused on crime that threatens public safety and security, public funds and assets, fundamental societal structures and critical infrastructure and societal functions. Over time, it has been pointed out that the threat posed by organised criminal networks is increasing. In recent years we have also seen how international conflicts and hybrid attacks influence crime in Norway. We therefore welcome the response to this situation – with increased attention and support for intensified efforts. We saw this after the presentation in March 2024 of the parliamentary white paper on financial crime, «Public funds and assets – our shared responsibility». The Danish TV documentary «The Black Swan» which was aired just before the publication of the white paper, showed us how harmful such crime really is.

Økokrim launched a number of major initiatives in 2024, with several more to follow in 2025. The increased funding we have been allocated will go towards strengthening our efforts to combat criminal networks in particular and money laundering, corruption and illegal proceeds in general.

Of our activities in 2024, in addition to our core business, which is investigation and prosecution of criminal cases and preparation of intelligence reports in the crime areas for which we have a national responsibility, we would like to highlight the establishment of our fraud unit in Gjøvik and the tax fraud project, which was launched in November. The latter is a cooperation with Oslo and Øst police districts, Oslo Public Prosecutors' Office and the Norwegian Tax Administration and led by Økokrim and located on our premises.

Crime that threatens society requires new measures and working methods – not least in cooperation with relevant private- and public-sector partners. We must establish a comprehensive defence against financial and environmental crime. Øko-

krim's interdisciplinary expertise and capacities are vital to the police and how we will meet these challenges going forward. Most of the crime that Økokrim is tasked with preventing, uncovering, investigating and prosecuting is organised and profit-motivated in some way or another. We therefore have to step up our efforts to combat these types of crime, stop the financing of new crime and minimise the economic losses to society. We have our work cut out for us in the coming years.



Photo: Gorm Gaare



**Inge Svæe-Grotli**  
Acting Head of Økokrim

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Photo:

## Økokrim's organisation and mission

The Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime, Økokrim is both a specialist police agency and a public prosecutors' office.

Økokrim's mission is to combat and limit serious economic and environmental crime in Norway. In addition to investigating and prosecuting serious and complex cases of economic and environmental crime, we are also tasked with building expertise on and preventing such crime. A number of Økokrim's tasks and cases have links abroad.

We work in interdisciplinary, interdepartmental temporary and permanent teams, projects and specialist units. Through our support to police districts and international law enforcement agencies, and our role as national expert in our fields, Økokrim helps strengthen the police and prosecuting authority's combined ability to combat economic and environmental crime.



## National expertise stewardship

Økokrim is national expertise steward within the fields of financial and environmental crime, tax fraud, employer crime, and asset recovery. Økokrim aims to further develop intelligence production as support for prioritisations and a knowledge base for preventive measures. We are responsible for national intelligence production within our fields and for asset recovery. Norway's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is part of Økokrim. The unit receives suspicious transaction reports from Norway and abroad, and has a particular responsibility in combating money laundering and financing of terrorism. Økokrim is controller of the national money laundering database.

Økokrim manages and coordinates the police's contribution to the national, inter-departmental efforts against employer crime, including at district level. The Asset Recovery Unit at Økokrim supports the national efforts to recover illegal proceeds.

The National Joint Analysis and Intelligence Centre is located at Økokrim, which gathers the police, the Tax Administration, the Welfare Administration and the Labour Inspection Authority. The centre prepares national analysis and intelligence products as decision support for the police and inspection authorities in their efforts against financial and employer crime. The centre is administered by Økokrim, who is also represented on the project's steering committee and is controller of the centre's databases.

Photo: EyeEm Mobile GmbH/iStock

In 2024, Økokrim addressed the need for increased attention to economic and environmental crime, and how these types of crime should be combated.

A number of media stories that have documented the serious societal consequences of this crime, not least the Danish documentary «The Black Swan», has left a lasting impression. This dramatic increase in fraud is a big problem.

The white paper on financial crime<sup>1</sup> addresses the scale of the problem and the measures necessary to fight it in a good way and has already resulted in several political initiatives, among them the creation of the fraud unit and tax fraud project at Økokrim, and a national initiative against criminal networks that Økokrim coordinates together with the National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS).

## Initiatives

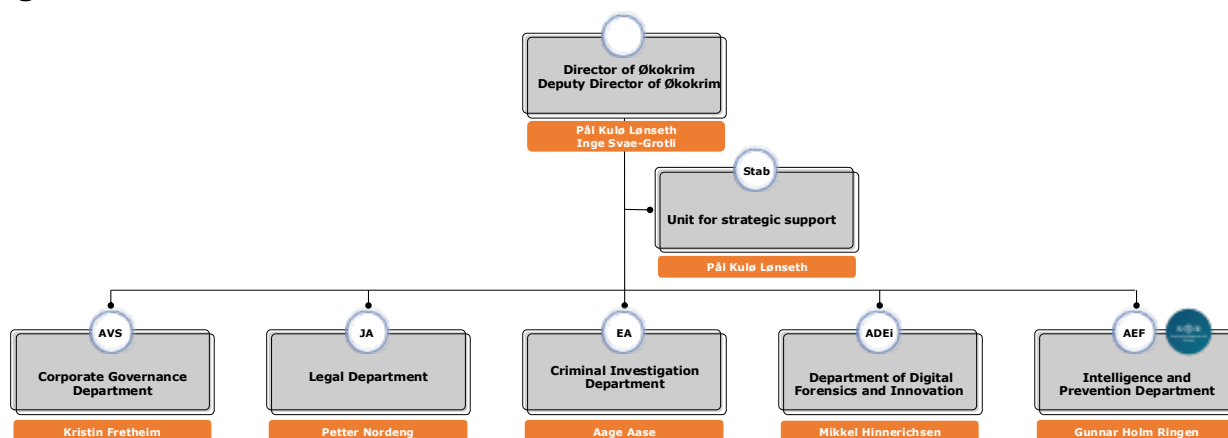
The newly established fraud unit will involve the police in all districts to obtain a better overview of

fraud cases and combat and minimise the consequences of fraud with the help of interdisciplinary expertise in policing, law, technology, social studies and economics.

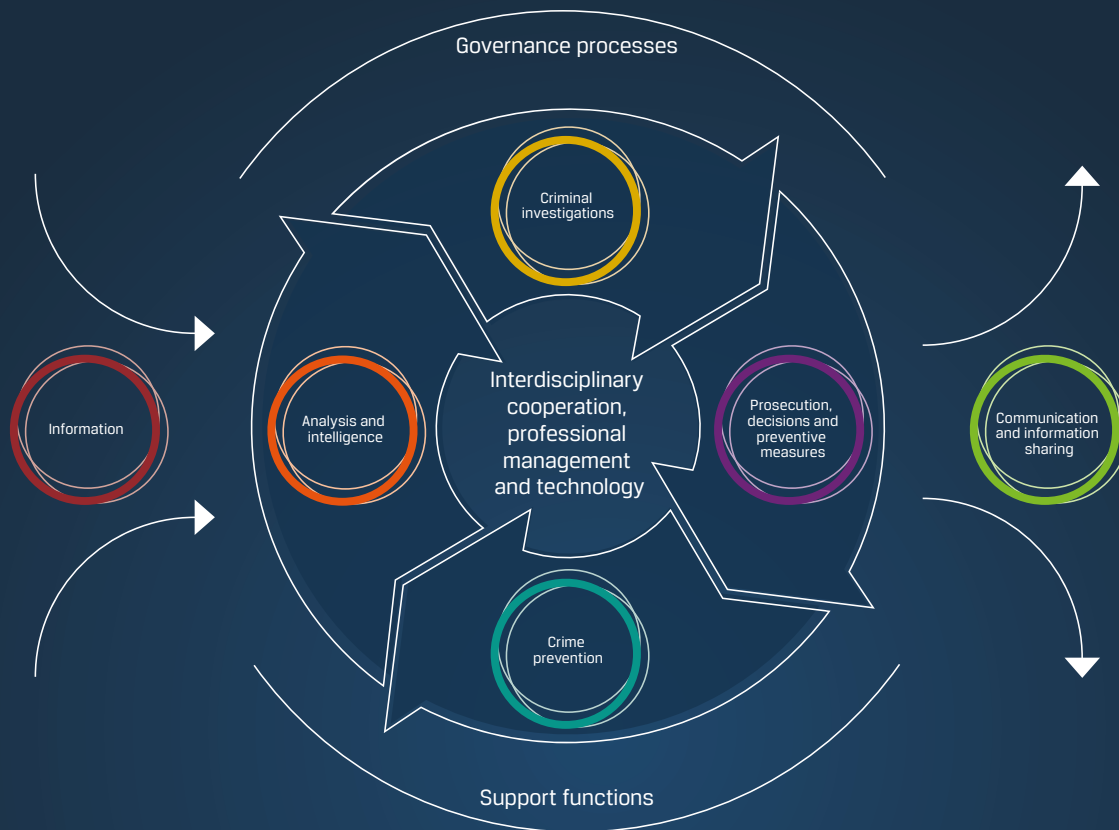
The National Police Directorate has, in consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions, asked Økokrim and Oslo and Øst police districts to initiate a pilot project («the tax fraud project») in which Økokrim will receive all complaints that the Norwegian Tax Administration would otherwise have forwarded directly to the two police districts.

The Government has also allocated considerable funds to a national initiative against criminal networks. Økokrim's contribution will involve investigating our own cases, assisting in other investigations and sharing expertise and knowledge with the police districts and specialist agencies investigating criminal networks, in addition to supplying intelligence to support police actions and investigations.

## Organisational chart



1 Parliamentary White Paper 15 (2023-2024) «Public funds and assets – our shared responsibility»



## Økokrim's remit and core activities

Økokrim's mission is to combat and limit serious economic and environmental crime in Norway. Interdisciplinary methods, strong expertise stewardship and the use of state-of-the-art technology is at the core of our work. We pride ourselves on always staying up to date and being alert to recent developments in the criminal landscape, and on openness and informing about what we do.

[Read more about the model at okokrim.no](https://okokrim.no) →



Photo: Tore Engen

|| Økokrim launched several projects in 2024 and more large initiatives will follow in 2025.

# Økokrim's priorities

## Økokrim Fraud Unit

In 2024, Økokrim established a fraud unit with offices in Gjøvik. The unit is tasked with uncovering fraud and scams that affect Norwegians across police district lines, or that are linked to other countries, to achieve a more structured and effective police response.

The fraud unit was officially opened on 14 October 2024, and its functions are primarily preventive. The unit has an interdisciplinary team working alone and in cooperation with both public agencies and private organisations to prevent people living in Norway and Norwegians abroad becoming victims of fraud. Prevention and intelligence are integrated into criminal investigations to uncover and close vulnerabilities, learn from the criminals and share this knowledge with the rest of the police.

In 2024, people in Norway submitted nearly 30,000 complaints about fraud, of which 77% concerned digital fraud. Our information indicates that large numbers go unreported, and that fraud makes up a large part of the illegal economy. The unit is therefore computer-driven in its approach, something that enables us to make the right priorities and work more efficiently with a focus on digital innovation, analyses, automation and asset recovery.

## Criminal networks

The government has allocated NOK 600 million annually for a crackdown on criminal networks. This order has been issued to all police districts and specialist agencies.

Criminal networks are by nature profit-driven and aim to maximise proceeds in order to grow. And while higher profits give the networks larger financial muscles, businesses, individuals and society suffer corresponding losses. Økokrim believes, like Europol, that the best way to combat criminal networks is to target the «engine» driving networks' profit maximisation, e.g. money laundering, corruption and accumulation of illegally acquired assets. A key element in the crackdown is therefore to attack and reduce the networks' financial foundations.

Økokrim's contribution to the crackdown consists of investigation of our own cases and to assist in investigations and share our expertise and knowledge with the rest of the police, and to gather and share intelligence to support the crackdown.

Investigations related to the crackdown will be coordinated by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Director of Public Prosecutions has set up a task force to prioritise and select targets and measures. Funds have been allocated in recent years to Økokrim to strengthen our efforts to combat fraud, criminal networks, money laundering and corruption.

## The Tax Fraud Project

The National Police Directorate and the Director of Public Prosecutions has ordered Økokrim to set up a project to tackle tax fraud in cooperation with Oslo Public Prosecutors' Office, Oslo and Øst police districts and the Norwegian Tax Administration, who have all seconded personnel to Økokrim, who leads the project. From 1 November 2024, the project will receive all complaints that the Norwegian Tax Administration would otherwise have forwarded directly to the two police districts.

The project aims to investigate and prosecute these cases with good quality and a uniform approach and follow-up. The purpose is to increase the number of tax fraud cases that are investigated and prosecuted and reduce the growing threat from criminal networks that employ legal companies to commit crime and launder illegal proceeds.

The information gathered will also increase our knowledge about criminal networks and enable the actors to prevent tax fraud and manipulation of public registers in cooperation with the Norwegian Tax Administration.

The project will have sufficient resources to investigate and prosecute 80 major cases each year.

Økokrim will be formally responsible for the criminal investigations, prosecution decisions and prosecution of the cases in court. The investigations and prosecutions will be led by Økokrim's public prosecutors. The project is composed of public and police prosecutors, special and police investigators, police accountants in addition to administrative and management resources.

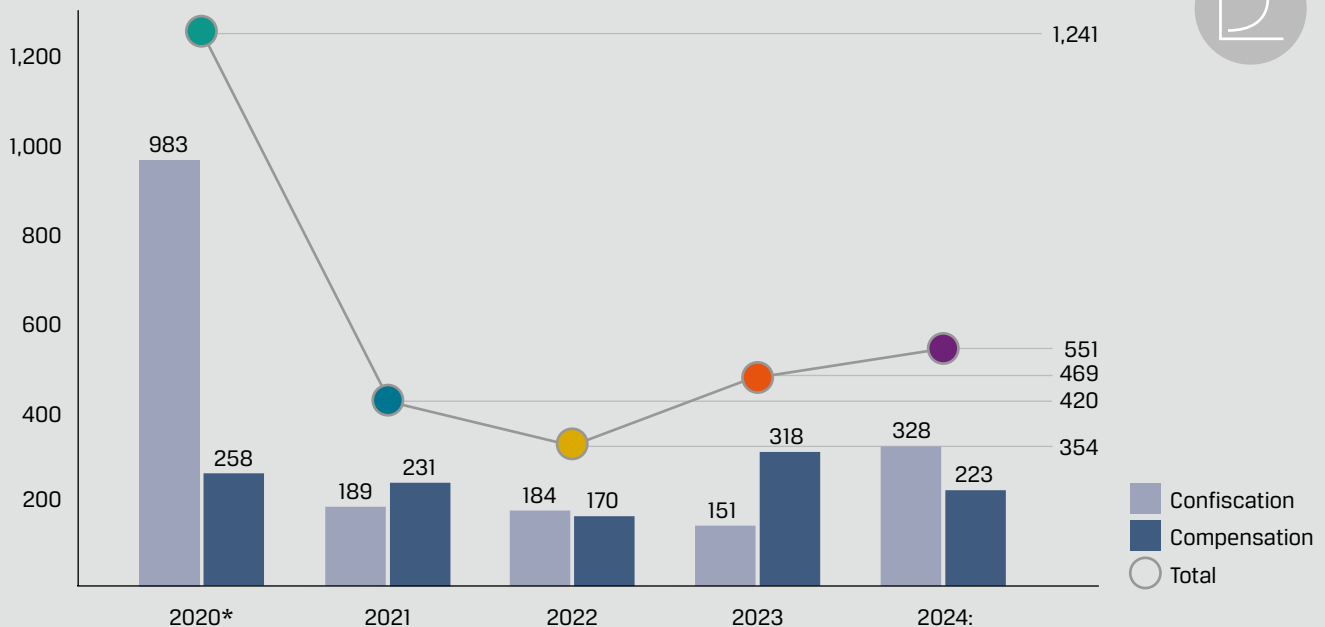
## Asset recovery

Økokrim is steward of national asset recovery expertise. Final and enforceable confiscation orders for 2024 (as at 31.01.25) amount to NOK 328 million. Criminals were also deprived of proceeds through compensation awarded to victims. Final and enforceable compensation orders for 2024 (as at the same date) amount to NOK 223 million for select statistics groups, particularly financial and property crime. Total confiscation and compensation orders amount to NOK 551 million in 2024. Because registration of legally enforceable decisions drags on into the following year, this figure

is expected to increase somewhat. In all, Økokrim has processed around 250 requests from the local police and international law enforcement agencies in 2024.

There has for some time been a persistent focus on the police's lacking ability to confiscate proceeds of crime. Økokrim has a dedicated Asset Recovery Unit working widely to increase the local police's skills and knowledge about asset recovery, and to confiscate more proceeds of crime. The unit is responsible for assisting and supervising the local asset recovery specialists and police

### Confiscation and compensation - national figures



\* The size of the confiscated amount is due mainly to a sentence that included the confiscation of NOK 825 million (EUR 70 million).

\*\* A confiscation order for NOK 60 million could not be recorded for technical reasons because no-one was charged in the matter. The amount has been added manually. The other figures are obtained from the criminal cases database.

prosecutors, particularly in matters pertaining to mapping, freezing and recovering assets abroad. Two asset recovery seminars were organised in 2024, of which one in collaboration with the Police University College. Several police districts recruited legal professionals specialising in asset recovery in 2024, and we expect that the remaining districts will do so in 2025. This will strengthen the local police districts' asset recovery teams and increase the amount of proceeds confiscated.

The Asset Recovery Unit has also worked with the police's IT unit to improve the quality of confiscation data. Also, cooperation with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has been strengthened for easier identification of cases where there is a potential for recovering assets. The Asset Recovery Unit is active nationally and internationally, both strategically and operationally. Participation in relevant international forums has strengthened cooperation between the Nordic asset recovery offices. The Asset Recovery Unit at Økokrim is in regular contact with other countries' asset recovery offices.

## FIU and technology

Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) are national units connected in an international network to combat money-laundering and financing of terrorism, and in Norway this unit has been organised under Økokrim. The FIU is a key player in preventing and combating money laundering and financing of terrorism, and functions as a liaison between financial institutions and law enforcement agencies.



## Financial Intelligence Unit Norway

Its tasks follow directly from the EU's Anti-Money Laundering Directive.

The FIU at Økokrim may in special cases suspend a transaction, cf. the Anti-Money Laundering Act section 27. The majority of these actions are a result of the FIU receiving information from obliged entities indicating that a transaction should be suspended. The purpose of suspending transactions is to give the FIU time to assess whether or not to start an investigation and whether the funds should be seized or attached as part of criminal proceedings<sup>2</sup>. This is particularly important to be able to seize funds for recovery and stop a criminal offence before completion.

Økokrim received 133 suspension requests from obliged entities in 2024, seven more than in 2023. The quality and complexity of the requests vary, from fraud of under NOK 100,000 to suspicion of breach of international sanctions and transfers of several hundred million NOK.

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<sup>2</sup> Suspension/stopping of transactions by the FIU and obliged entities does not constitute seizure or attachment under the Criminal Procedure Act.

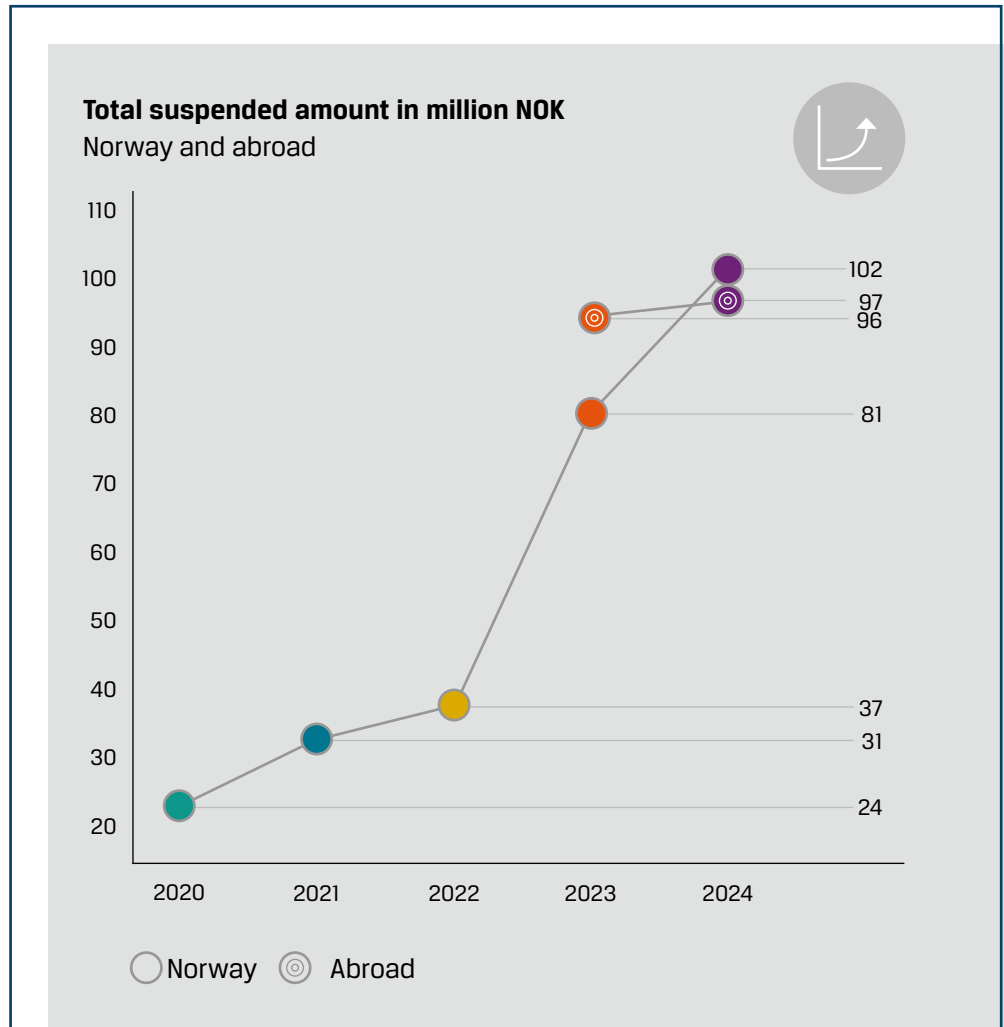
Only the prosecuting authority is authorised to decide this.

The requests received in 2024 concerned money laundering, fraud, exploitation of workers, tax evasion, breach of trust etc. The crimes that were stopped in Norway involved, e.g., money laundering through cryptocurrency and purchase of valuables, embezzlement and investment fraud.

In 2024, the FIU stopped almost NOK 200 million, of which NOK 102 million in Norway and NOK 97 million abroad.

Through international information exchange, the FIU contributes to the seizure of proceeds of crime in Norway and other countries. The FIU can forward suspension requests from Norwegian police to other countries' FIUs. The foreign FIUs make their own decisions based on their national legislation.

Last year, Økokrim started the renewal and further development of the technological platform used for receipt and analysis of STRs. Personnel from Økokrim and the Police IT Unit work together to develop the new platform, which will make combating money-laundering and financing of terrorism more efficient. The work continues in 2025 as a priority to meet the great need to combat money laundering, corruption and terrorist financing.



The EU has in 2024 been preparing new and more comprehensive legislation in EEA-relevant Council regulations and directives to combat money-laundering and financing of terrorism. The new legislation is expected to provide new opportunities and obligations for the parties.



**What is environmental crime?** In addition to pollution and illegal waste management activities, environmental crime involves a wide spectrum of illegal acts relating to protection of nature and natural diversity, hunting and harvesting, fisheries, aquaculture and conservation of the oceans, plus animal welfare and cultural heritage.

## Environmental crime

Environmental crime poses a major threat to society, the economy and the very basis of our existence. This is serious crime that often has a double impact as it harms both the environment and the economy. The driver is usually profit, and environmental crime is therefore very often also financial crime.

Management of the environment is entrusted to many different authorities, something which makes it difficult to uncover and prosecute offences. The environment is destroyed «piecemeal», and the combating of environmental crime suffers from a fragmented prioritisation and approach.

Our knowledge of the true scale of environmental crime is still sketchy, and there is a clear need for

a comprehensive and targeted approach both in Norway and abroad.

Økokrim has for many years had a unit that specialises in investigation and prosecution of environmental crime. We now want to increase our efforts in this area. In 2025, we are going to expand our cooperation with public directorates, supervisory authorities, police districts and other relevant actors working on environmental issues.

Investigation and prosecution of environmental crime is an ongoing process at Økokrim. Several major cases are under investigation and we expect prosecution decisions to be made in the course of 2025. In 2025, Økokrim will prepare its first threat assessment for environmental crime.

Photo: Joachim Schjolden



Photo: Pixabay



## Information received by Økokrim

During the year, Økokrim receives large amounts of information about possible offences within our remit. The complainants are in many cases inspection and supervisory authorities, who are often the first to detect offences. But also private individuals, professional and special interest organisations supply valuable information to Økokrim, both in the shape of complaints and tip-offs.

Our online tip-off solutions are important channels for receipt of individual tip-offs and other inquiries. These may then form the basis for either preventive action, intelligence gathering or investigation.

Under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, private companies and institutions are obliged to submit suspicious transaction reports (STRs) to Økokrim. This is done through a dedicated encrypted channel. The STRs provide important sensitive information. Økokrim also monitors various police logs to obtain information about financial and environmental crimes that are reported to the local police districts. The purpose is to obtain the fullest possible picture of current threats.



## Reported crime

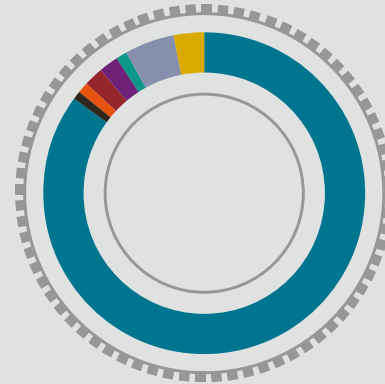
The data for reported crime within Økokrim's remit show that the trends observable during the last five years continue.

The number of submitted fraud complaints continue its steady rise, while the number of other financial crime cases is almost stable, with a slight decline. Fraud made up the vast majority of financial crime cases handled by the police last year. The total number increased by 12% on the previous year.

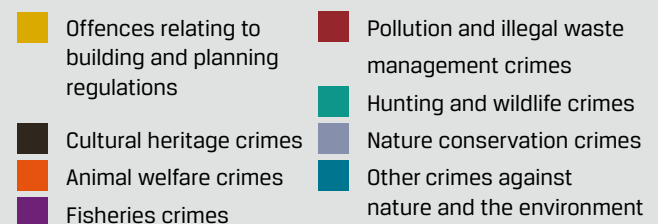
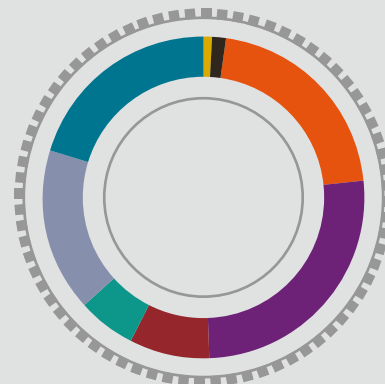
The number of environmental crime cases stayed stable during the past five years with a variance of 500 cases, and a peak in 2020. Last year's chart is similar to those for 2019 and 2022. A possible explanation for the variation is that the police prioritise specific threats, something which may cause the number of new cases to vary.

The number of cases related to the working environment (particularly accidents) was very stable, with around 1000 new cases every year. Cases of employer crime are recorded under other financial crime statistics.

## Crime reports – financial crime

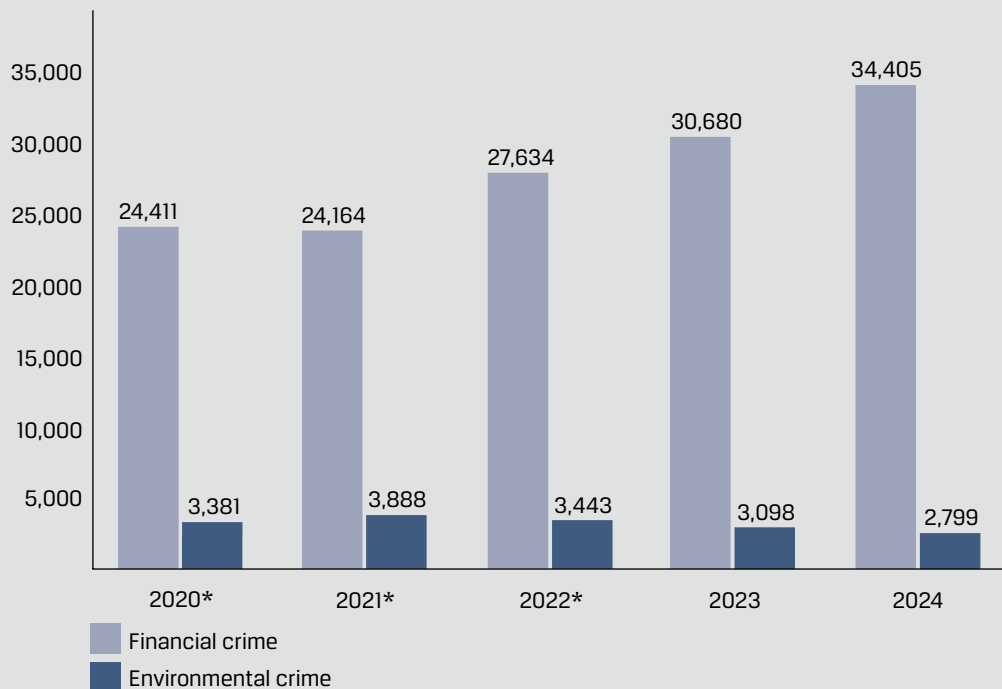


## Reports of environmental crimes



**||** *The police need information about the scams and attempted scams that people are victim to, and it is very important that people report the crimes to the police or tip them off about them.*

### Reported crime - nationally



\*Figure corrected from the 2022 annual report due to a change in the calculation basis for the number of received crime reports.

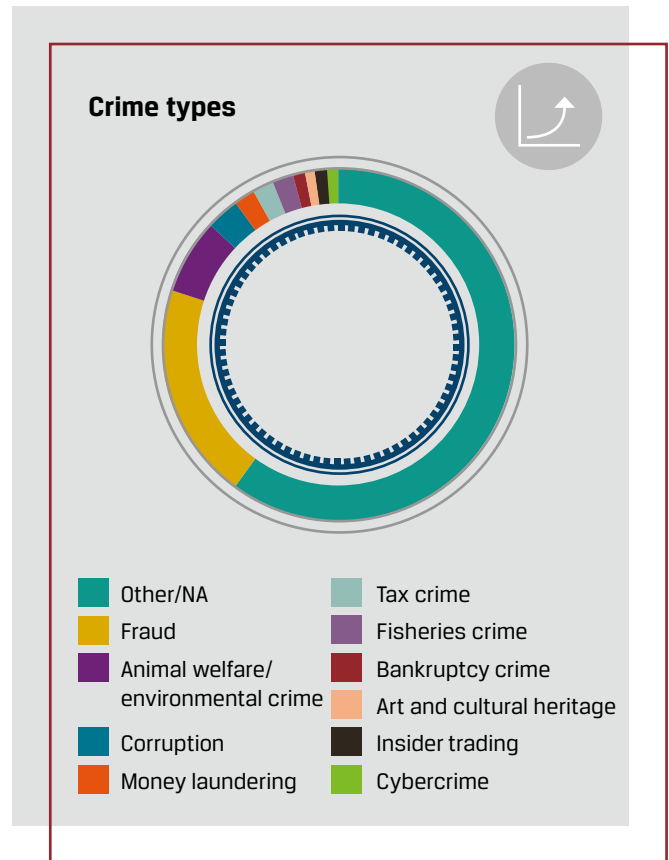
Photo: BernardaSv/iStock

## Tip-offs and other inquiries

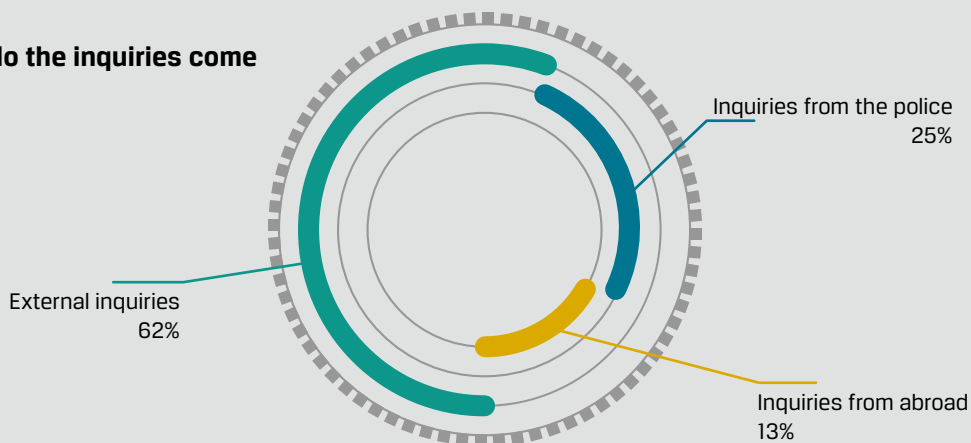
The chart on the right contains a categorisation of all inquiries received by Økokrim in 2024. Many of the inquiries are tip-offs and reports of committed crime, but may also be requests for advice and guidance and administrative requests that cannot be categorised as a crime. Økokrim received around 3100 inquiries in 2024.

Tip-offs can be submitted on Økokrim's website and are categorised as «fraud», «fisheries crime», «insider trading», «corruption» and «general».

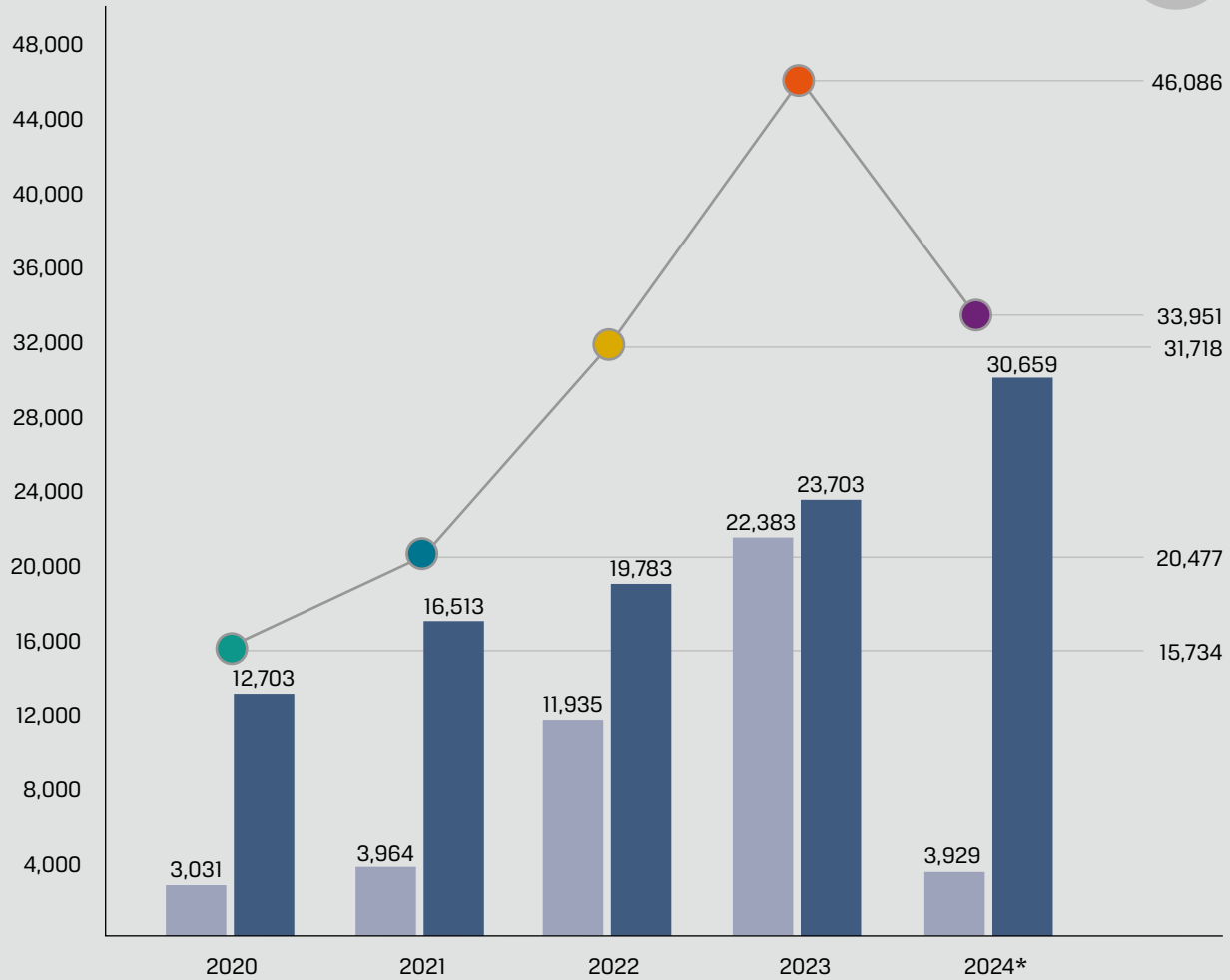
[Read more about how to tip us on okokrim.no](https://www.okokrim.no)



## Where do the inquiries come from



## Increase in the number of STRs received



- Information from FIUs abroad.
- Suspicious transaction reports
- Total

\* The reduction in information received from abroad is due to automatic reporting being suspended pending installation of new software in foreign FIUs.

## STRs submitted to the FIU

The FIU receives reports about suspicious transactions from entities obliged to submit such reports under the Anti-Money Laundering Act. The information contained in these reports is then processed, enriched and analysed before the results are distributed to the police, supervisory and inspection authorities, and foreign law enforcement partner organisations. Another core task is to prepare operational and strategic intelligence reports and information products to support the police and other authorities in their efforts to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism.

## Increased number of STRs submitted in Norway

The chart shows the number of submitted STRs 2020–2024. 30,659 STRs were submitted in 2024. On average, the number of STRs increased 20% each year since 2020 and 30% in 2024. Also, the FIU received 3929 information messages from foreign FIUs last year.

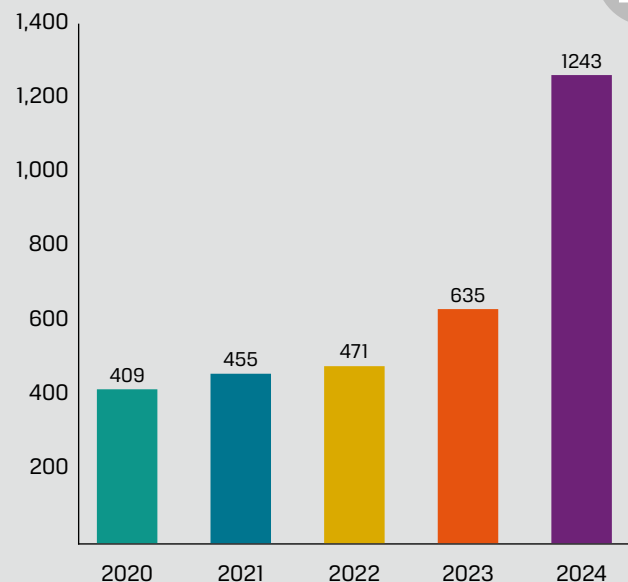
The number of messages about suspicious activity by customers in Norway fell from 22,383 in 2023 to 3929 in 2024. The reduction is mostly due to some EU FIUs halting their automatic reporting temporarily to improve information sharing and implement new technology. The reduction is therefore artificial and temporary. The number of STRs received is expected to increase markedly in the coming years as the FIUs in the EU and EEA implement technology for automatic information sharing.

## STRs about suspected financing of terrorism

Since 2021, there has been an increase in the number of STRs where the reporter has ticked off for suspected financing of terrorism, and the number nearly doubled from 2023 to 2024. The FIU comments on the increase in its report for 2024.

Financing of terrorism is defined as obtaining financial support for or giving financial support to terrorists or terrorist organisations. The primary aim is not profit but to finance the commission of another criminal act, i.e. the terrorist act. Funds enable terrorists to commit planned attacks and other acts.

### Ticked for suspicion of terrorism



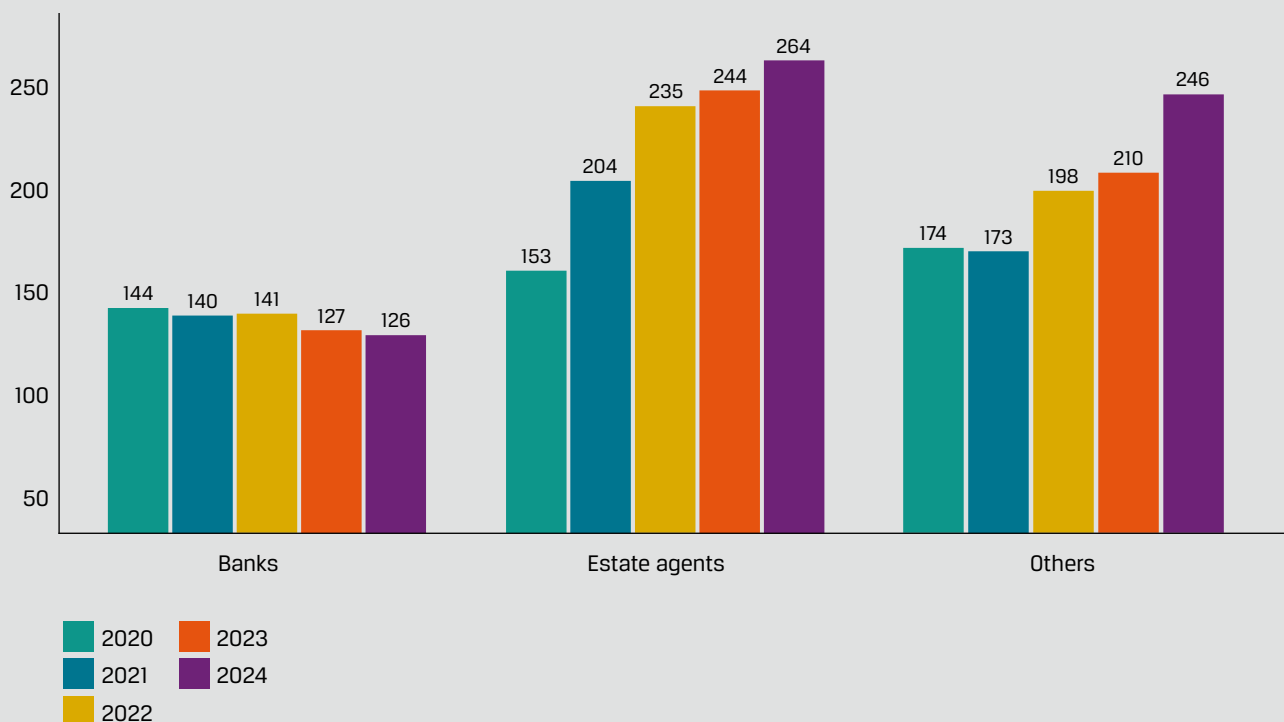
## The number of unique reporters is increasing

STRs were submitted by 636 unique entities in 2024, up 10% from 2023. The number of reporters has risen steadily in recent years. The increase is primarily due to more estate agents and accountants submitting STRs.

Banks submitted almost 5000 more STRs in 2024 compared with 2023, an increase of 30%. E-money businesses (financial institutions with a licence to issue electronic money) and payment service providers have also submitted significantly more STRs than before.



### Number of unique submitters of STRs





Analysis and  
intelligence



Photo: Tippapatt/iStock

**”** *Prevention is every bit as important as prosecution. This requires gathering intelligence to uncover vulnerabilities that the criminals exploit.*

## Analysis and intelligence

Økokrim is tasked with preparing national analysis and intelligence products within our crime areas, both operational and strategic, for use by the police and other public authorities in combating crime.

Prevention is as important as prosecution, something which requires gathering intelligence to uncover the vulnerabilities that the criminals exploit. Our intelligence products therefore provide important knowledge for our prevention unit and cooperation with other public agencies and the private sector. Analysis and intelligence are also important tasks for several of our priorities as described above.

## Money-laundering and financing of terrorism

Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism through prevention and detection is challenging, and cooperation between the various actors is vital for success.

The FIU cooperates well with both national and foreign actors. The FIU and the Police Security Service regularly exchange both general information and information about specific threat actors.

The FIU has throughout the year shared information with obliged entities through various products and channels. Eight strategic products have been prepared, of which three in collaboration with others. The FIU has also sent representatives to various events and conferences, and held meetings with obliged entities and industry associations.

## Fisheries crime

Fisheries crime is prioritised in our intelligence gathering and analysis work. In 2024, we continued developing our gathering of intelligence on fisheries crime throughout the value chain, from the sea to the table. This work will inform future intelligence production, which will form the basis for implementing preventive and reactive measures.

## Employer crime

Økokrim has for a number of years focused on building a robust knowledge basis about employer crime. Last year, Økokrim held regular meetings with officers seconded to the employer crime centres and prepared numerous intelligence summaries which were shared with the other govern-

ment agencies involved in this collaborative effort. Økokrim also has an important task in preparing information reports about phenomena, vulnerabilities and actors within employer crime. The FIU is an important source of information, particularly about money laundering committed by actors involved in employer crime.

## Criminal networks

Norwegian police have for several years focused on gathering intelligence about criminal networks, and from 2024, more resources will be allocated to this work. In line with the national crackdown on criminal networks, Økokrim in 2024 focused on gathering knowledge about threat



Photo: Pixabay



Photo: AI generated illustration

actors who provide money laundering and other illegal services to criminals. For more information, see page 11.

## **Økokrim threat assessment 2024**

Økokrim regularly publishes threat assessments covering crime types and factors with serious societal consequences.

Økokrim's threat assessment for 2024 focused on the illegal economy and economic crime committed by criminal networks. The challenges and developments emphasised in the report are how organised criminals integrate their criminal activities into legal businesses, facilitators of financial crime and the mixing of state business and crime.

For the first time in our threat assessments, we recommended measures to counter both threats and vulnerabilities which criminals exploit. The purpose is to enable both private businesses and public administrative bodies to implement

preventive measures to combat shared criminal threats.

[Find the report in PDF format under publications on okokrim.no](#)



## **Nordic analysis cooperation**

In 2024, Økokrim took part in preparing two Nordic analyses of digital fraud and the use of cash: «Nordic threat assessment on online fraud 2024» and «Cashing Out». Both reports provide important insight into shared threats and cross-border criminal networks. The reports also give an account of measures that have been implemented or tried out in the Nordic countries. The preparation of the reports gave us an opportunity to share experiences and strengthen the cooperation between the Nordic financial crime units.

## **Nordic threat assessment on online fraud 2024**

The report originates in the close cooperation between law enforcement in the Nordic countries

to combat digital fraud and the Nordic anti-fraud working group. In order to be able to implement joint measures, a decision was made to prepare a Nordic threat assessment on fraud. Økokrim was given the task of chairing the work. The purpose of the report was to map the most serious modus operandi within online fraud in the Nordics, identify vulnerabilities, share experiences of implemented preventive measures, and to recommend new measures.

The report was prepared in cooperation between the District Prosecutor in Iceland, the National Special Crime Unit in Denmark, the National Fraud Centre in Sweden (part of the Department of National Operations), the National Police Board of Finland and Økokrim.

The report reveals that more than EUR 828 million was lost to fraud in the Nordics in 2023. This is a conservative estimate.

The most common preventive measure in the Nordics has been awareness campaigns. However, the results of these vary, and often they have little or no effect. The report also identifies several vulnerabilities which are common to the Nordics, e.g. a high degree of trust.

[Find the report in PDF format under publications on okokrim.no](#) →

## Cashing Out

Through our various collaboration forums, law enforcement in the Nordics has found that laundering of cash proceeds of crime abroad is a challenge we all share, and to get a shared understanding

in the Nordics about this modus operandi, we decided to prepare a joint report.

While money has mostly been digitised, the criminals' continued use of cash has largely gone unnoticed. Cash provides anonymity, something which makes it easier to conceal its origin from the police. Criminals make use of the open borders to smuggle cash proceeds out of the Nordics to launder them elsewhere. Norwegian and Danish authorities have implemented measures which have reduced money laundering abroad, but there is reason to believe that cash is now to a greater degree being laundered nationally instead.

[Find the report in PDF format under publications on okokrim.no](#) →

## National Joint Analysis and Intelligence Centre

The National Joint Analysis and Intelligence Centre has been set up between the police, the Tax Administration, the Labour and Welfare Administration and the Labour Inspection Authority, with offices at Økokrim.

The purpose is to reinforce efforts against financial crime, including tax fraud and exploitation of workers. The centre has in 2024 published the reports «When wages are not paid – on wage theft – phenomenon, MOs and vulnerabilities» and «Manipulation of public registers». The report on register manipulation is being followed up through the interdisciplinary cooperation with particular focus on eliminating vulnerabilities and prevention.



# Crime prevention

## Measures to reduce vulnerabilities that can be exploited to commit crime

The police's mission is to combat crime and to protect the public. Prevention is a core element in our efforts, and requires robust information and targeted prioritisation of resources. Intelligence and investigation data provide valuable information about vulnerabilities that criminals can exploit, and very often it is actors other than the police who must take action to reduce them.

One of the biggest challenges in 2024 has been reduced mutual trust in society. Criminal actors exploit vulnerabilities to carry out massive scams, manipulate public registers, commit employer crime, tax fraud and fisheries crime. To combat this crime and to protect individuals, businesses and the industry, public institutions and our shared resources, Økokrim has been a proponent of joint preventive measures including private- and

Photo: Pixabay

public-sector organisations and NGOs. The aim is to implement preventive measures as early in the value chain as possible, and to close security gaps.

In 2025, Økokrim will prioritise measures to reduce the amount of serious fraud against public agencies and benefit fraud, e.g. by focusing on register manipulation (see page 29). We will continue the close cooperation with the private sector to reinforce our defences against financial crime.

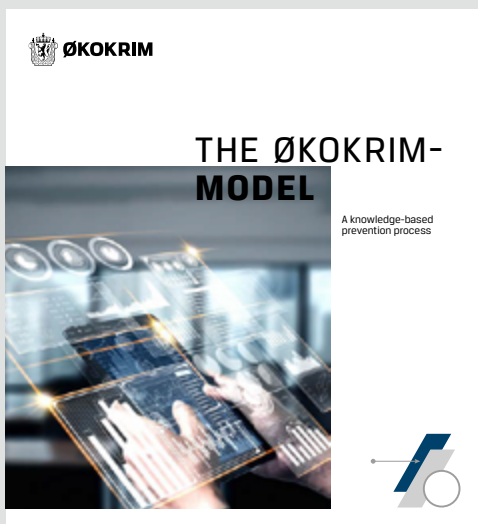
## Prevention's place in the organisation

Prevention is about developing and implementing measures that reduce crime. These measures must be based on robust knowledge about current challenges and the vulnerabilities and mechanisms that criminals exploit. To ensure a sys-

tematic and knowledge-based approach, Økokrim has given prevention a prominent place in the organisation with the same importance as intelligence gathering, investigation and prosecution. Effective prevention often requires a different approach than traditional policing, and a particular focus on specification and prioritisation of targeted measures.

Development of preventive measures is based on information obtained through a combination of intelligence gathering, investigations and other internal and external sources. Close cooperation with public- and private-sector actors also provides information about vulnerabilities and effective measures to reduce crime.

A thorough understanding of current threats and developments enables us to identify who is best placed to implement various measures. Thus, it is



## The Økokrim model

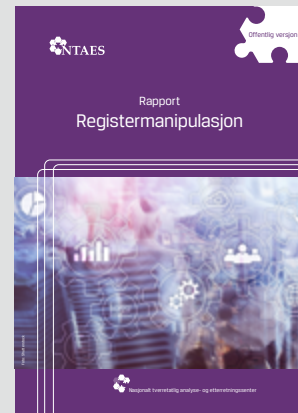
Crime prevention requires a systematic approach and clear specification in order to succeed. Økokrim has therefore developed a model for systematic and inclusive implementation of preventive measures. The model emphasises close cooperation between public and private sector actors to improve prevention in both sectors.

[Read about the model on okokrim.no](https://www.okokrim.no) →

## Register manipulation

The National Joint Analysis and Intelligence Centre report on register manipulation is being followed up by a cross-agency collaboration to reduce opportunities to manipulate public registers in order to commit fraud or to commit benefit fraud by systematic feeding of incorrect data. Økokrim contributes with proposed measures designed with the help of the Økokrim model and with prevention resources. The collaboration is expected to result in concrete projects in 2025.

[Read about the report on ntaes.no](https://ntaes.no) →



possible to implement targeted preventive measures and close security gaps before they are exploited by criminal actors.

### An example

Since autumn last year, Økokrim has collaborated with public agencies to develop measures to reduce and close vulnerabilities in the transport industry.

### Prevention of fraud

On Økokrim's initiative, a national expert group on digital fraud was established in 2023. The group is chaired by the Norwegian Communications Authority with participants from the telecoms service providers, the National Reference Database and Økokrim, with observers from the Norwegian Business and Industry Security Council, the National Security Authority, Finance Norway and the Norwegian Digitalisation Agency.

Contributions from private and public sector partners have been key to closing vulnerabilities that facilitate crime in 2024.

Through the group, Økokrim has helped identify and call attention to vulnerabilities in the Norwegian telecoms infrastructure. This work has led to implementation of several effective measures which resulted in a marked reduction in the number of scam calls to Norwegian phone numbers in 2024. Also, fewer Norwegian businesses are misused in SMS fraud campaigns compared to previous years.

Development and implementation of measures is a continuous process, and this is a good example of how close cooperation between the private and public sectors can strengthen our total defences against crime.



Criminal  
investigations

# Criminal investigations

## Cases investigated by Økokrim

Investigations are key to combating financial and environmental crime. These crimes cause society, businesses and individuals considerable damage and economic loss.

In deciding whether a case qualifies as "serious", Økokrim considers its complexity, the amount involved and links abroad, its preventive and deterrent effect, and the potential for recovering assets.

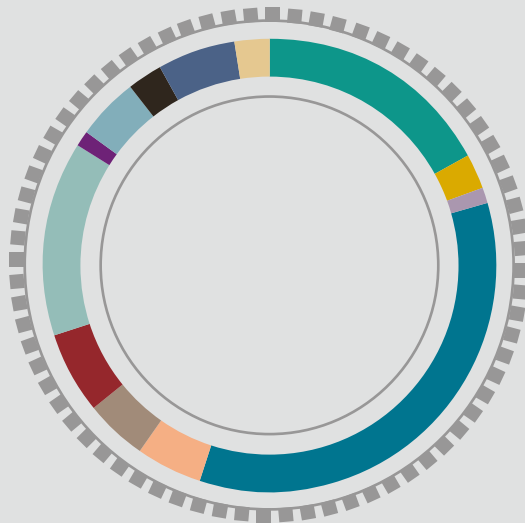
Økokrim is authorised to issue and carry out search warrants and seizure orders, and to apply other coercive measures. We also interview suspects and witnesses. During this phase, the suspect is often formally considered a person charged. Økokrim also assist the local police in their investigations and maintains close cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies. As a national public prosecutors' office, Økokrim can take in and select cases from everywhere in Norway, in line with the Director of Public Prosecutions' directions and prioritisations.

The average processing time in 2024 was 390 days. At any



Photo: Pixabay

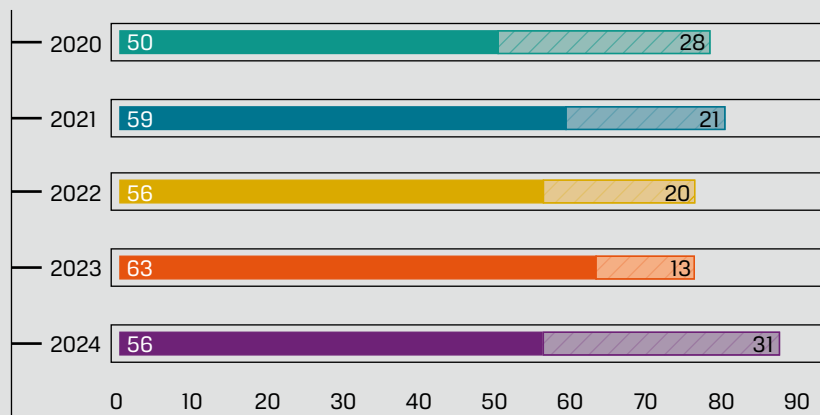
## Økokrim's cases in 2024



- Fraud
- Embezzlement
- Debt-related crime (accounting)
- Tax - VAT - customs duties
- Securities trading - finance
- Corruption
- Breach of trust
- Handling of proceeds of crime - money laundering
- Document forgery\*
- Financial crime - other\*
- Cybercrime - other
- Pollution
- Crimes against nature
- Employer crime\*
- Other environmental crime
- Other

\* No colour means 0 recorded cases.

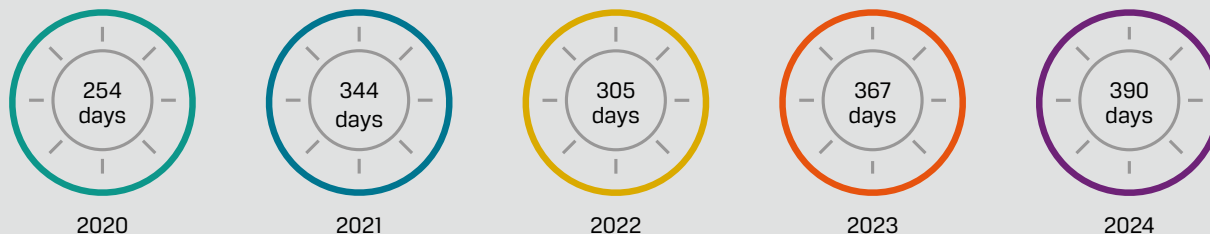
## Cases investigated by Økokrim



Light shaded colour:  
New Økokrim cases

Dark colour:  
Ongoing Økokrim cases

## Case processing time



given time, Økokrim has multiple ongoing investigations, all selected based on the criteria set out in the Prosecution Instructions chapter 35. As a rule, we do not comment on ongoing cases unless they are already publicly known or a prosecution decision has been made. More information about our cases in 2024 can be found under «Prosecutions and decisions» on page 41 et. seq.

## Digital forensics

Digital evidence plays an increasing role in criminal proceedings, something which requires technological skills and capacities.

The Digital Forensics and Innovation Department offers a wide range of services to underpin investigations in Økokrim and the rest of the police. The department offers technological expertise in handling and analysing digital evidence, which is essential in detecting and combating financial and environmental crime.

## Cryptocurrency team

Criminals increasingly use cryptocurrency to transfer and launder proceeds of their illegal activities. The police require substantial resources and technical skills to be able to trace and recover assets that have been converted into cryptocurrency.

Our cryptocurrency team has in 2024 participated in several of Økokrim's own investigations and also assisted local police and other specialist agencies with their inquiries. The team has also held several talks internally in the police and for external partners. The team has developed tools for collating and processing data received from external service providers related to cryptocurrency, and has cooperated with foreign law enforcement partners through, among other things, workshops and training sessions, and cryptocurrency examinations.

## Digital tools

Økokrim has for many years collaborated with suppliers of hard- and software digital investigation tools. Last year, the Digital Forensics and Innovati-

on Department worked with the supplier of one of our primary digital investigation tools to develop new functionalities. Together, they among other things developed state-of-the-art functionality for sorting out legally privileged material. We also regularly share our experience with the suppliers and other users.

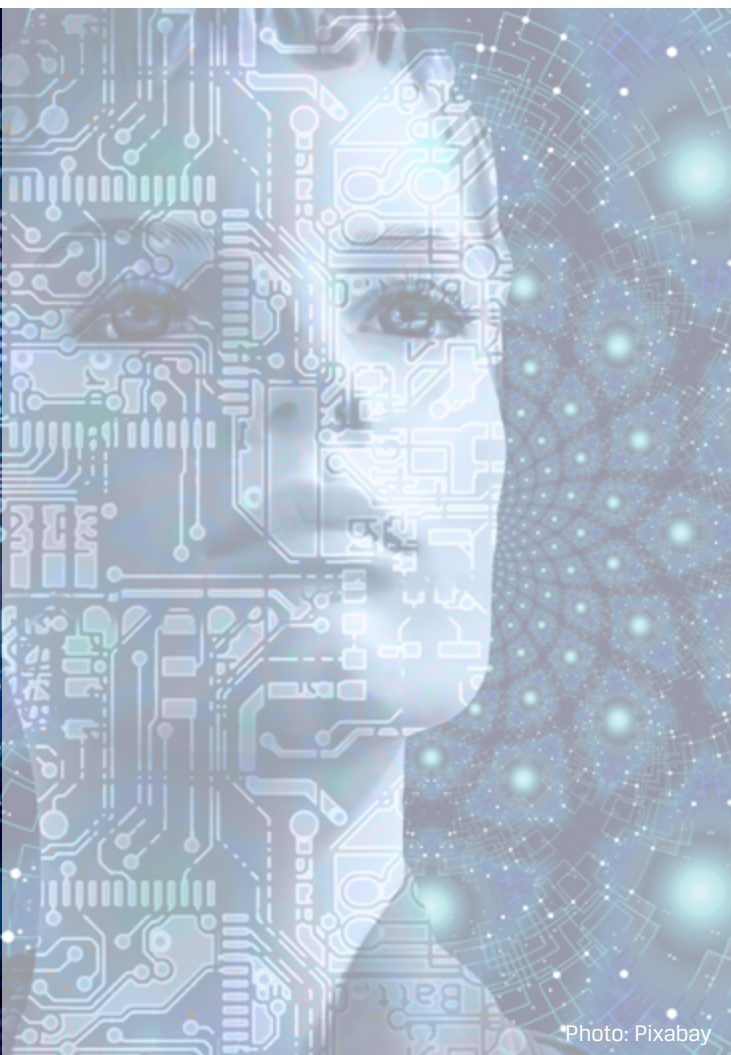


Photo: Pixabay

## Digital investigative support


Last year, digital investigative support was set up as a strategic project aimed at standardising and speeding up processes and methods for handling seized digital material. The project will study the whole process, from search, seizure and preservation of digital evidence to presentation in court. The purpose is to ensure that digital evidence is handled in an efficient, more precise and verified process.

The project is made up of experts from the Digital Forensics and Innovation Department and the Criminal Investigation Department so that they can develop new methods and tools designed to meet future challenges in a multi-disciplinary environment. This way of collaborating strengthens both Økokrim's operational capacity and our technological development.

The project represents a significant boost to our handling of seized digital material and has potential to create significant gains. By streamlining processes and the use of our resources, we hope to reduce our processing time. Innovation and development of new skills and expertise are at the core of the project, something which will make us better able to meet future challenges in digital forensics.



Photo: metamorworks/iStock



**||** *The amount of assistance provided to the districts increased last year.*

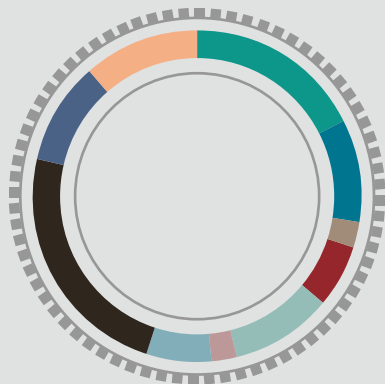
## Assistance and expertise stewardship

All police districts have an assigned contact at Økokrim who coordinates requests and assistance between the district and us. The contact replies to inquiries and refers to personnel at Økokrim with the most relevant skill set to reply.

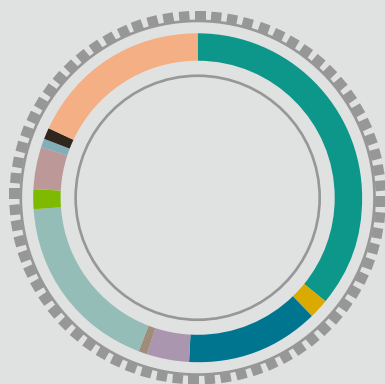
Økokrim meets with each police district once a year to discuss their biggest financial and environmental crime challenges and their most important ongoing prosecutions. Present at these meetings are the local financial crime teams, the responsible police prosecutors and representatives of the regional public prosecutors' office. Økokrim meets with the district's contact and the public prosecutors on the various cases, something which makes it possible to make rapid decisions about any assistance from Økokrim.



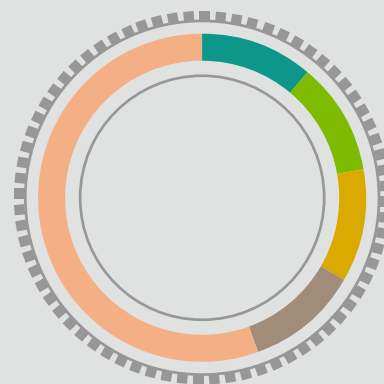
### Assistance to local police districts



### Assistance to foreign authorities (MLAT Requests)



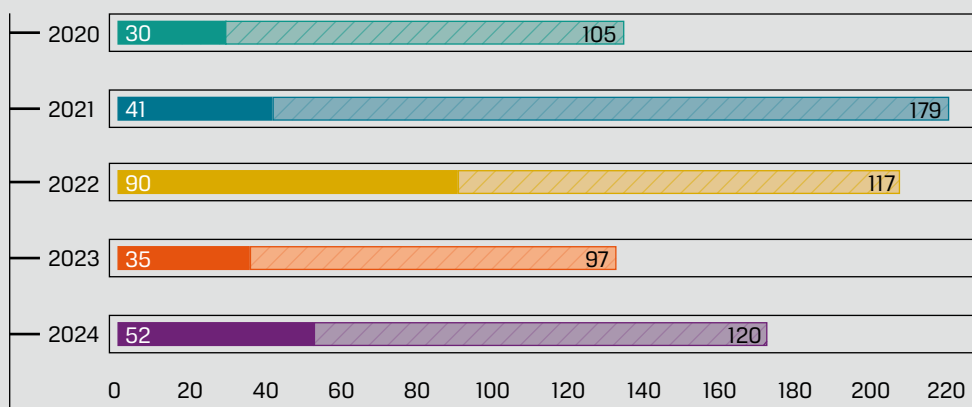
### Assistance to others



- Fraud
- Corruption
- Cybercrime - other\*
- Embezzlement
- Breach of trust
- Pollution
- Debt-related crime (accounting)
- Handling of proceeds of crime - money laundering
- Crimes against nature
- Tax - VAT - customs duties
- Document forgery
- Employer crime\*
- Securities trading - finance
- Financial crime - other
- Other environmental crime
- Other

\* No colour means 0 recorded cases.

### Assistance cases



Light shaded colour:  
New assistance cases

Dark colour:  
Ongoing assistance cases

## Investigative assistance

There is an increased demand for specialised investigative skills both nationally and internationally, something which is reflected in the rising number of ongoing support cases. One of Økokrim's core tasks is to assist the local police districts and foreign law enforcement with cases within our remit.

### Investigative assistance to police districts

Økokrim's assistance to the police districts ranges from short and limited to long-term assignments

requiring active assistance from our employees over time. This flexibility makes it possible to tailor the assistance to local needs and prioritise our resources to where they are most needed.

The amount of assistance provided to the districts increased last year. This emphasises the increasing demand for both capacity and skills in investigating and prosecuting financial and environmental crime. The police districts have over time experienced problems in building up sufficiently robust financial and environmental crime teams, something which makes Økokrim's assistance all

Total new assistance cases

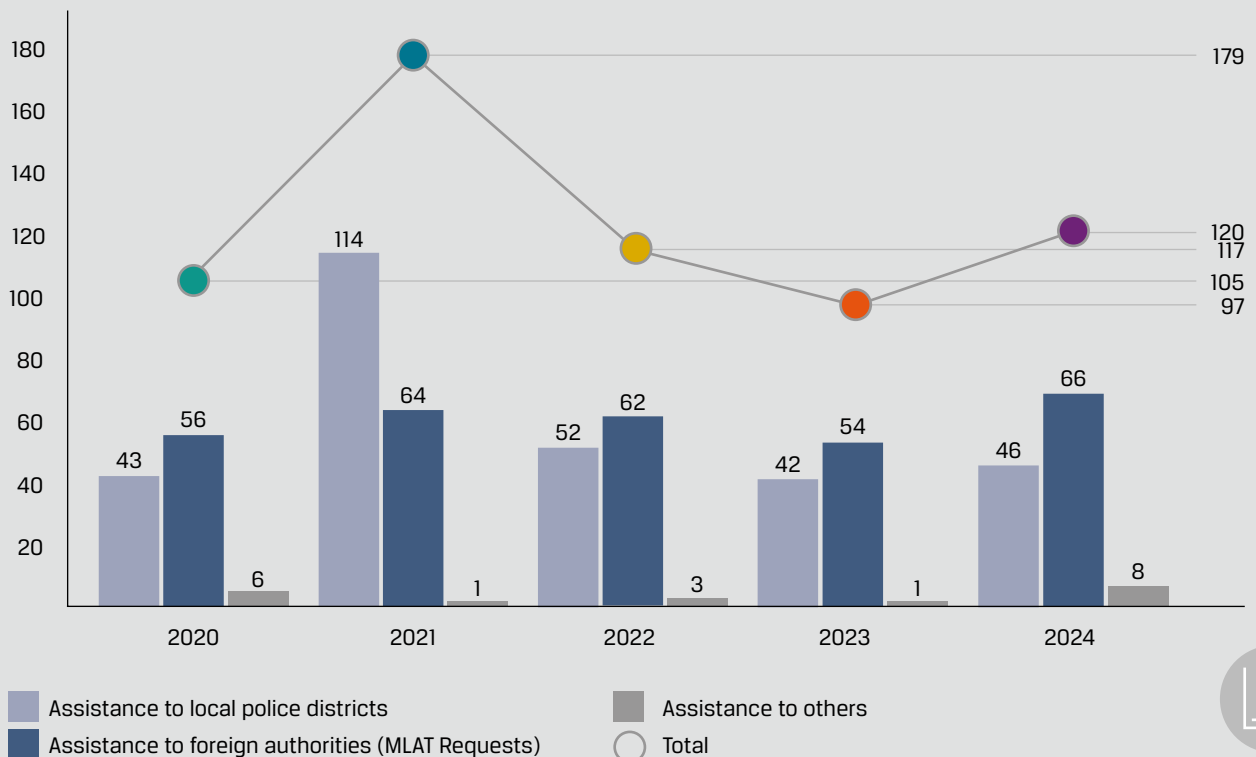




Photo: metamorworks/iStock

the more important. Our assistance covers a wide range of cases, with a concentration on fraud and crimes against nature, in 2024 like the year before.

We will continue to develop our assistance to meet developments in crime and the challenges the districts face. Crime's increasing complexity requires continuous development of our skill sets and close cooperation between Økokrim and the districts. We work actively to strengthen our dialogue to ensure that we are available for advice and operational support whenever needed.

The aim is to contribute to more effective and targeted repression of financial and environmental crime.

### **Assistance to foreign law enforcement**

Every year, Økokrim receives a number of inquiries from foreign law enforcement to conduct investigative measures in Norway. These inquiries concern cases where foreign law enforcement are investigating offences committed by their own citizens and businesses. The requests vary in scope – from obtaining information and minor investigative steps to major operations and time-consuming investigations.

Crime is increasingly globalised, and financial transactions, corporate structures and digital fraud cross national borders. This development has led to an increase in the number of inquiries received from abroad and, consequently, our assistance to foreign partners. This emphasises the importance of close and efficient international cooperation.

Økokrim received 66 letters of request from foreign partners in 2024, up from 54 in 2023. In particular, the number of requests relating to fraud has increased. Many of these cases concerns foreign perpetrators who are under investigation by their national police for having defrauded Norwegian nationals. This development underlines the importance of continued work to prevent digital fraud.

### **Example request**

In September 2024, Økokrim received a request from the Swedish Economic Crime Authority in a matter concerning manipulation of the share price of a Swedish company. The trading was committed by a Norwegian national, and Swedish authorities wanted Økokrim to interview the suspect. The interview was conducted by our assistance team with the support of an internal securities market specialist.

### **Assistance in environmental crime cases**

Økokrim is nationally responsible for environmental crime and employs several specialists in the field. This helps ensure that environmental crime cases are processed in a uniform and proper way.

In 2024, Økokrim assisted the police districts in investigating and prosecuting criminal cases concerning, inter alia, pollution, illegal fishing, animal welfare, aquaculture, hunting and logging. One of the cases concerned violation of the Nature Diversity Act, specifically illegal collection and sale of birds' eggs. The case involves several police districts and also has links abroad.

Økokrim has also assisted local police in cases involving violation of the Cultural Heritage Act. Such offences may cause irreparable damage to our cultural heritage.

Our assistance also includes strengthening and developing the local environmental crime teams, publishing of our trade magazine Miljøkrim, and cooperation with colleagues abroad.





## 56,000 birds' eggs seized in joint action

In a joint action initiated in November 2023, local police and Økokrim intervened several places in Norway against a presumed network of egg thieves that collects and sells eggs of endangered species.

The activities we uncovered represent the most serious case of illegal egg collection so far, and one of the most serious cases of fauna crime ever in Norway. The most serious offences carry a maximum sentence of 6 years' imprisonment. Økokrim coordinated the raids and provided necessary assistance, and is responsible for investigating three of the cases and coordinating the investigations of the remaining cases. Some of these cases extend beyond our national borders.

Photo: Case file

## Prosecution assistance

Økokrim advises the police districts and regional public prosecutors' offices in prosecution matters. In 2024, Økokrim's public prosecutors assisted in various types of cases, among them corruption, money-laundering, handling proceeds of crime, self-laundering, tax fraud and environmental crime.

Økokrim provides extensive assistance in tax fraud cases and is involved in the majority of tax crime cases handled by the Norwegian police and prosecuting authority. This is also true for environmental crime cases, in which Økokrim plays a key role. Assistance in other areas is more sporadic and needs-driven.

Our experience working with the local police is that the biggest challenges often involve prosecution issues. This is due to the complexity of the cases and the difficult legal issues involved. Our assistance has therefore become more targeted in that direction.

Økokrim has also held training sessions with local police and public prosecutors with a focus on provisions covering tax fraud, money laundering, handling proceeds of crime, embezzlement and confiscation in order to build prosecution skills in these areas.



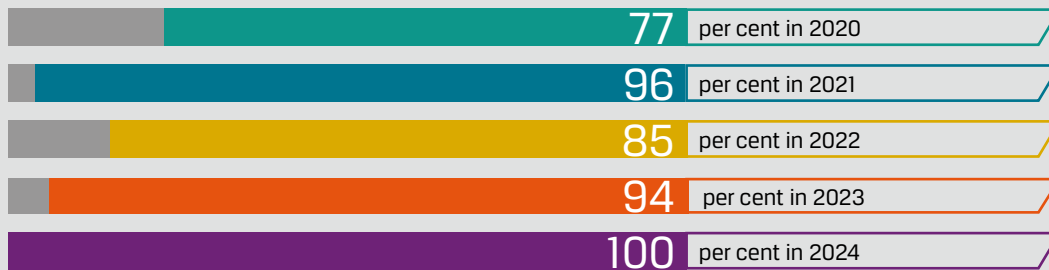
Photo: Pixabay



## Prosecution decisions

When the investigation is over, criminal cases have several alternative outcomes: Prosecution can be dropped, the suspect can be issued a penalty notice or indicted for trial. Økokrim's conviction rate in 2024 was 100%. Økokrim will only indict someone for trial if the prosecutor in charge of the case is satisfied that the suspect is guilty and believes that this can be proven in court. Once an indictment has been issued, a trial date is set. The defendant can be found guilty or acquitted, in whole or in part. The case is heard by the District Court in the first instance, but the outcome may be appealed to the Court of Appeal in the second instance and then, finally, to the Supreme Court. Økokrim prosecutes court cases in all instances. Økokrim's cases tend to be cases of public inte-

## Convictions



rest, and the courts often justify their decisions with the need for general deterrence.

Through the criminal investigations and prosecutions conducted, Økokrim acquires a great deal of knowledge that would otherwise not have been available to us. This knowledge is put to active use in Økokrim's role as expertise steward and, not least, in the effort to prevent or limit the possibility of similar offences happening again.

### Fisheries crime

In 2024, a fisherman confessed to having left 45 fishing nets unattended in the sea for four months. When the Directorate of Fisheries drew the nets, they found scores of dead fish and crabs, and 23 drowned porpoises.

Net fishing is legal, but when the nets are left unattended, the fish and animals caught in the nets are subjected to unnecessary stress and suffering.

The perpetrator, a skipper on a fishing boat, was convicted of fishing in a manner contrary to animal

welfare, having abandoned animals in a helpless state, and violation of his duty to attend his nets. After deduction for his confession and the long processing time, the skipper was sentenced to 30 days in prison and a fine.

### Pollution

A Norwegian company based in Stavanger was in 2024 fined for illegal export and beaching of two ships. In December, the company accepted a NOK 8 million fine for violation of the Pollution Control Act.

Both ships had been employed in the North Sea for several years, but sailed from Norway shortly before reaching the age limit for operating in Norway of 20 years. The ships were beached in India and broken up between 2018 and 2020.

Environmental crime harms both the environment and our economic system. The beaching and breaking up of obsolete ships is a major, international environmental problem that causes tremendous harm to the environment, particularly local ecosystems. However, it is more profitable to scrap

ships in India, as steel prices there are far higher than prices in Europe and Turkey. This type of environmental crime is therefore also financial crime.

The fine was issued in June 2024 and was initially not accepted by the company. Hence, the case went to court, and a four-week trial was scheduled to commence in January 2025. The trial was dropped when the company accepted the fine, acceptance of which has the legal effects of a sentence. The company has stressed that they do not admit criminal liability. The matter was reported by the Norwegian Environment Agency.

### **Digital fraud**

In 2024, a Malaysian man was handed a record sentence for attempted digital fraud in a case where the appeal court increased the sentence by 50% to 4.5 years after a 20% confession deduction. Without the deduction, the sentence would have been 5 years and 9 months. The case exemplifies that Økokrim also appeals to obtain stricter sentences in test cases. Strict sentences for attempted fraud is important to demonstrate the seriousness of such offences.

The man tried to defraud 244,000 individuals in Oslo and Bergen. He was first suspected of espionage, as he was driving around in the centres of Oslo and Bergen with an IMSI catcher. The Police Security Service, which initially investigated the case, found out that this was a case of fraud and transferred it to Økokrim. If he had succeeded in defrauding all 244,000 persons, total losses could have amounted to NOK 2 billion. He was also convicted of being part of an organised crime group. 103 of the attempted frauds succeeded.

### **SMS fraud**

Two Romanians were convicted of aggravated frauds and ID theft in summer 2024 in a case with 423 Norwegian victims.

The scammers targeted Norwegian users of the Public Roads Administration's online self-service portal for buying and selling vehicles. Using technologically sophisticated and ingenious methods, the offenders attempted to defraud their unwitting victims of more than NOK 10 million.

Through thorough investigation, international police cooperation and a successful working relationship with the business sector in Norway, the offenders were finally identified, arrested and sentenced to 3.5 and 4.5 years in prison.

### **Money laundering**

In 2019, Økokrim started investigating an international money-laundering network together with Belgian and Finnish police. Illegal proceeds were laundered through accounts in multiple countries, of which NOK 24 million passed through banks in Norway. The money represented proceeds of fraud committed in Belgium, Singapore and Denmark. The kingpins were identified and extradited from the United Kingdom, and all three were convicted in Norway and Belgium. The operation was professional, the network controlled a number of bank accounts in several countries, and could at short notice produce contracts, invoices and other documents to give the transactions a semblance of legitimacy. In June 2024, the last two defendants were convicted at Borgarting Court of Appeal and all judgments are now final. Five persons were convicted in Norway and three more in Belgium. There are also ongoing cases in Finland in the matter.

## Asset recovery

A Russian national was in 2024 sentenced to suffer confiscation of NOK 72 million by Agder Court of Appeal. The case stands out because Økokrim submitted a case to the court only with a claim for an order to confiscate proceeds received in Norway from unknown primary crimes committed abroad by a perpetrator living abroad. The court found it proven that any legal provenance could be excluded and that the money, which was seized in 2014, was proceeds of crime to be confiscated.

The money had mostly been transferred by companies abroad controlled by a person involved in what appeared to be legal logistics operations. The money was transferred by companies in tax havens to bank accounts in Norway from accounts held by other companies controlled by the same person that had received the money from persons and companies in Russia. The investigation led Økokrim to countries like Cyprus, Latvia and Switzerland.

The criminal activity was discovered through STRs forwarded by banks in Norway to the FIU at Økokrim, and which provided reason for opening a case.

The confiscation order was appealed to the Supreme Court, which refused to allow the appeal, and the money was passed to the treasury.

## Bankruptcy crime

A former chair of the board was by Borgarting Court of Appeal sentenced to eight months' imprisonment for serious bankruptcy crime. He also lost the right to hold positions of chair of the board and managing director for five years. He was con-

victed for failing to file for bankruptcy despite the company being insolvent without hope of turning the business around.

As an aggravating circumstance, the court highlighted the fact that companies that had paid in advance suffered major losses. The defendant continued running the company while being fully aware that the operation increasingly was based on deferred income, which increased by up to NOK 35 million from the time when he was legally obliged to file for bankruptcy until bankruptcy was filed for. The liquidator of the estate found that several thousand customers lost money this way.

The defendant appealed the sentence passed by the district court.



Photo: Yevhen Fedoryshyn / iStock

The appeal court reduced the sentence from 10 to 8 months' imprisonment. The case demonstrates that board members can be sentenced to prison if continuing operations at the creditors' expense.

### Tax fraud and employer crime

A father and son were in 2024 handed prison sentences for aggravated tax fraud and accounting violations. The two worked as itinerant painters who took jobs in various places in Eastern Norway in 2020 and 2021. The business was conducted through two sole proprietorships registered to two of the father's daughters, who in this way were misused as fronts. In all, they failed to report NOK 8 million in income for taxation.

The father was sentenced to two years, while the son was sentenced to one year and eight months in prison. The father was also sentenced to suffer confiscation of cash and three Rolex watches, while the son was sentenced to suffer confiscation of two Rolex watches, a Mercedes AMG and more than NOK 1.6 million. Total confiscated value amounts to more than NOK 4 million. The men enjoyed an expensive lifestyle despite never having reported income or wealth to the tax authorities.

Very many customers believed the firms to be serious businesses, and the case shows how hard it can be for customers to spot crooked actors. The customers were invoiced including VAT and paid via bank transfer. The defendants took pains to make the business appear serious and give the impression that VAT was paid. The court found this to be clearly aggravating circumstances.

This is the first conviction secured in a range of cases reported by the Norwegian Tax Administration in which sole proprietorships are used for short time periods by craftsmen. The common denominator is that the businesses acquire customers via visits or advertised tenders. The owner of the business is often a nominee and no accounts are kept or VAT and income reported to the authorities. The businesses do not have official employees and the workers are foreigners.

Final decisions	Judgments	Fines
Fraud	8	
Embezzlement		
Debt-related crime (accounting)	1	
Tax - VAT - customs duties	2	
Securities trading - finance		
Corruption		
Breach of trust	1	
Handling of proceeds of crime - money laundering	13	
Document forgery		
Financial crime - other		
Cybercrime - other	1	
Pollution		1
Crimes against nature		
Employer crime		
Other environmental crime	1	
Other	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>



Photo: Pixabay

## Interdisciplinary cooperation

Very many actors, public and private, both Norwegian and foreign, cooperate on the defence against financial and environmental crime. The fight is conducted through criminal cases, intelligence work and prevention. Among other things, Økokrim's cooperation with national and foreign actors was strengthened through more efficient information sharing. Interdisciplinary cooperation and improved information sharing are key elements in the Government's white paper against financial crime, which was published in 2024.

### National cooperation

#### Criminal cases

In criminal cases, cooperation takes place either through employees of the agency in question taking part in the investigation or by the agency providing assistance, particularly by providing information. Cooperation in criminal cases takes place in all Økokrim's fields and is important for both the quality and efficiency of the work.

## **Cooperation agreements**

Økokrim has cooperation agreements and meetings with a number of government agencies, inter alia the Food and Safety Authority, the Environment Agency, the Financial Supervisory Authority, the Directorate of Fisheries, the Coastguard and the Public Roads Administration, which all contribute to good inter-agency cooperation.

## **Employer crime**

The Labour Inspection Authority, the Labour and Welfare Administration, the Tax Administration and the police cooperate extensively to combat employer crime on both national and regional level. The purpose is to fight employer crime by drawing on the total number of measures and sanctions available to the participants. Økokrim participates on behalf of the National Police Directorate, and has in 2024 contributed to the development of relevant legislation.

## **The Central Cooperation Forum**

The Central Cooperation Forum comprises the directors of the Labour Inspection Authority, the National Police Directorate, the Tax Administration, the Customs Service and the Labour and Welfare Administration, in addition to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Økokrim. The purpose is to strengthen inter-agency cooperation to prevent and combat financial crime, including employer crime.

Last year, the forum focused on the white paper against financial crime, inter-agency cooperation, employer crime and register manipulation.

## **Fisheries crime**

Økokrim and the Directorate of Fisheries signed an agreement formalising our cooperation in autumn 2024. The purpose is to prevent fisheries crime by uncovering vulnerabilities and by inviting other private- and public-sector actors to reduce the criminals' room for manoeuvre.

## **Business and industry**

The FIU at Økokrim is an active participant in the public/private sector cooperation against financial crime, which was established in 2021 to improve coordination and create a joint platform for information sharing between the financial services sector and public authorities. By sharing information about *modi operandi*, trends, challenges and risk-mitigation measures, the obliged entities and the authorities can deliver a better and more targeted effort against money laundering and financing of terrorism. This cooperation has since been expanded to include fraud and other types of financial crime.

The cooperation involves regular meetings, web seminars and various projects that increase knowledge and improve prevention.

## **Auditors, accountants and lawyers**

Økokrim holds regular meetings with the auditors', accountants' and lawyers' trade associations, and has in 2024 also contributed training, articles, guidance and other skill and awareness-raising measures for these professions.

## **Guidelines for issuing fines in corruption cases**

Økokrim has in 2024 prepared proposed guidelines for fines issued to businesses by the prosecuting authority in corruption cases that fall under the OECD convention. In that process, meetings have been held with and background information obtained from multinational corporations, management consulting companies and law firms specialising in compliance. The final guidelines will be approved by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

## **Internships at Økokrim**

Employees from the Tax Administration and, from 2025, the Financial Supervisory Authority do short-term internships at Økokrim. The purpose is to improve cooperation and ensure good and efficient information sharing. Økokrim also has interns from other branches of the police and the prosecuting authority.

## **International cooperation**

Like society in general, crime is increasingly globalised. Økokrim therefore has extensive cooperation with our colleagues abroad. We need help from foreign law enforcement in many of our investigations, as they need help from us in theirs. In addition, Økokrim is present at a number of international forums on criminal proceedings, intelligence and prevention.

## **Europol and EMPACT (European Multi-disciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats)**

Økokrim has been given national coordination responsibility for fraud (OAP OFS), money laundering and asset recovery (OAP CFMLAR). Økokrim also is active in several cooperation projects within finan-

cial crime, inter alia corruption and fraud, which are working with large, multinational IT companies to prevent fraud being committed on their platforms.

Within environmental crime, Økokrim in 2024 took part in four operations within the Europol EMPACT Envicrime cooperation, inter alia with a focus on nature and fauna crime and illegal trading in waste. We also took part in various forms of cooperation regarding illegal trade in pets, fauna crime, development of guidelines within CITES, handling of live animals and art and cultural crime.

## **Nordic cooperation**

Økokrim cooperates with the Nordic police and prosecuting authorities in criminal cases, intelligence and prevention. Two joint reports were published in 2024, see page 55. The report «Cashing Out» discussed cross-border money laundering through cash smuggling. The second report, «Nordic threat assessment on online fraud 2024», was about how the Nordics can join forces to combat digital crime. The Nordic anti-fraud cooperation forum has been established with Økokrim as a member, in addition to cooperation in other areas. Like in previous years, the annual meeting between the heads of Økokrim's Nordic counterparts was held in 2024.

## **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

The FATF is an international organisation founded in 1989 by the G7 countries which plays a leading role in international efforts against money laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Norway participates in the FATF cooperation with a multiagency delegation with the FIU as a permanent member.



## **Egmont Group**

The Egmont Group is an international association of 166 national FIUs which aims to combat money-laundering, financing of terrorism and associated crime. The FIU at Økokrim is Norway's member of the Egmont Group. The cooperation covers everything from information sharing for operational analysis efforts to policy development and preparation of guidelines for the various FIUs' work.

## **EU-FIU Platform**

The European Commission holds regular meetings to improve coordination of the FIUs in the EU and

EEA countries. The FIU at Økokrim takes part in this cooperation and meetings in the «EU-FIU Platform».

## **Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network**

Økokrim is represented in the Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN), which is an international network with the purpose of improving efficiency in international asset recovery cooperation.

## **OECD**

Økokrim is represented in several forums under the OECD against corruption, tax fraud and other crime, inter alia the Working Group on Bribery (WGB), Law Enforcement Officials working group (LEO), Global Law Enforcement Network (GLEN) and Task Force on Tax Crime (TFTC).

## **OSCE**

The Heritage Crime Task Force aims to increase knowledge about and interaction between member countries in the areas of art and cultural-heritage crime. The task force is an integrated part of the Department for Transnational Threats of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Its primary aim is increased knowledge about and work directed at the current conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan and the Middle East. Økokrim has in 2024 held training courses in financial intelligence at workshops in Malta and Antalya. The courses were prepared to increase knowledge about how illegal trading in art, antiquities and cultural-heritage objects can be used to launder money and finance terrorism.

## NA-FIG

NA-FIG (North Atlantic Fisheries Intelligence Group) is an organisation dedicated to the surveillance and analysis of the fisheries sector in the North Atlantic Ocean. The purpose of NA-FIG is to gather and share intelligence about fisheries policies, administration of natural resources, trade and other topics relevant to support sustainable fisheries. Through shared analyses, the group seeks to uncover vulnerabilities throughout the value chain in the fisheries industry. Økokrim represents the Norwegian police in the organisation.

## Blue Justice Initiative

Norway launched the Blue Justice Initiative in 2019

to promote implementation of the international declaration on cross-border fisheries crime (the Copenhagen Declaration). The initiative intends to help countries prevent fisheries crime. The initiative is being followed up by the UN Development Programme and involves cooperation between a number of Norwegian agencies and international partners. In autumn last year, Økokrim was present at a seminar organised by the Blue Justice Initiative to contribute knowledge via the Blue Justice Community platform. Our efforts will be stepped up in 2025 to provide member countries in the Blue Justice Community with knowledge about and guidance in the prevention of crime using tools like the Økokrim model.



Photo: Pixabay



# Communication and information sharing

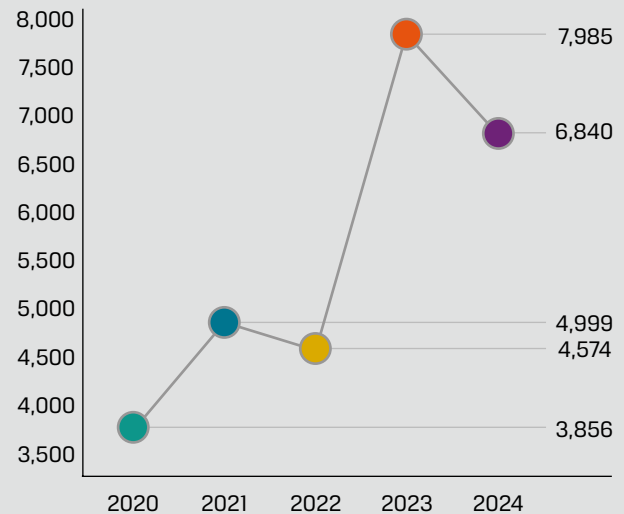
Openness and transparency build and maintain trust between the police and general society. Økokrim wants to contribute to informed public discourse. We also work to prevent and hinder crime through information and communication. Public interest in financial crime is great and increasing, and the media are increasingly directing their attention towards nature and environmental crime.

## Media inquiries and articles about Økokrim

The number of media inquiries received by Økokrim increased from 695 in 2023 to 716 in 2024. In addition, the public prosecutors mostly handle media inquiries in the cases that they are in charge of.

In 2023, Økokrim was mentioned in almost 8000 articles – a record number. An important reason were the many cases involving politicians. This was a big jump from previous years, when the number of articles varied between 3850 and 5000. The number of inquiries stayed high in 2024, with about 6840 articles.

Media coverage



Source: Retriever. The figures deviate somewhat from those in the 2023 report because they were retrieved differently.



The inquiries and articles are mostly about ongoing criminal cases, but also about general subjects. We publish public reports about crime in our fields of expertise, inter alia a threat assessment on the illegal economy in autumn 2024 that received much attention. The two Nordic reports published the same autumn about fraud and the use of cash in the illegal economy generated much media attention.

### **Most inquiries are about fraud**

Most of the inquiries we receive are about scams and fraud. The inquiries are about various types of digital scams, e.g. SMS, internet and romance scams, investment fraud, deepfakes and money mules.

Also we received many inquiries about large, ongoing cases of great media interest, e.g. the trial of the former president of the International Biathlon Union in the district court early in 2024. There was also a lot of interest in the investigations of two former cabinet ministers, which were dropped early in the year.

### **Communication as a means of preventing crime**

The Government believes in Økokrim. This is also demonstrated by the media's interest in Økokrim, e.g. at the opening of the fraud unit in October and tax fraud project in November.

Økokrim employs communication as a means of preventing crime. We release most indictments and judgments to the media as a general deterrent.

Also, Økokrim has set up a prevention unit that works in accordance with the «Økokrim model». In addition to closing vulnerabilities in collaboration with other agencies, corporations and other organisations, we also actively publish our results and warn against modes operandi.

Last year, in cooperation with the telecoms service providers and the Norwegian Communications Authority, we managed to put in place several effective measures to prevent spoofing, i.e. scam calls from hijacked telephone numbers. This is an example of successful prevention in which active communication to the public was a key element.

## Social media

Økokrim is present on social media, primarily through our LinkedIn account. On LinkedIn we can reach important target groups, e.g. professionals, business and industry, other government agencies and potential employees. Our followers have grown from 16,000 to 29,000 over the last two years.

In 2024, we made 57 posts on LinkedIn. We are also present on Instagram and Facebook. In 2024, we shared 13 posts on Instagram and 18 on Facebook.

Økokrim stopped posting on X in October 2024 when the police started using the police log to communicate with the public.



ØkokrimNorge



Økokrim



okokrimnorge



okokrim.no

Photo: Pixabay

# Publications

February



Topic report – Employer crime in a family network

*To order the report, direct your inquiry to the FIU.*

June



Interim report on employer crime – first four months 2024

March



Annual Report 2023 – FIU



Trade magazine "Miljøkrim" 1/2024

April

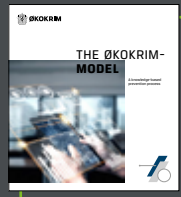


Annual Report 2023 – Økokrim



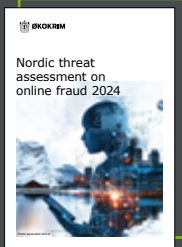
Newsletter – Suspicious transaction reports – For accountants

August



The Økokrim model

## September



Nordic threat assessment on online fraud 2024



NTAES – When wages are not paid



List of indicators – sexual offences against children

*To order the report, direct your inquiry to the FIU.*

## November



Cashing Out 2024

## October



Økokrim's threat assessment 2024

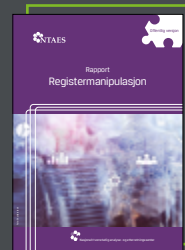
## December



Trade magazine "Miljøkrim" 2/2024



Newsletter – Suspicious transaction reports – For auditors

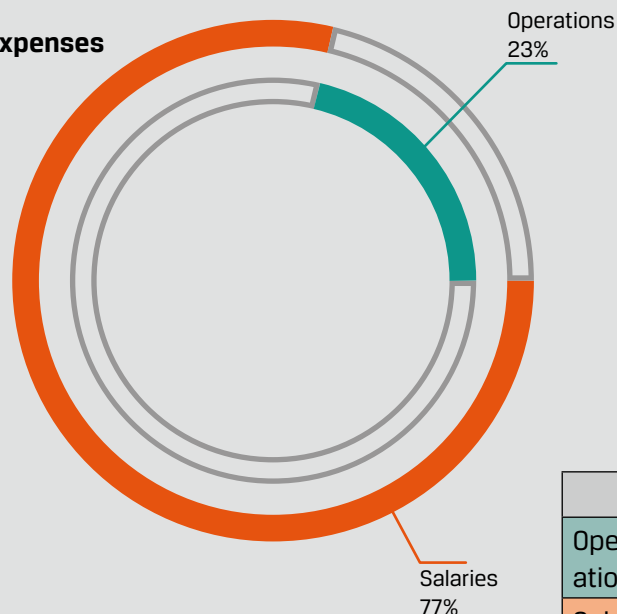


NTAES – Register manipulation

# Key figures

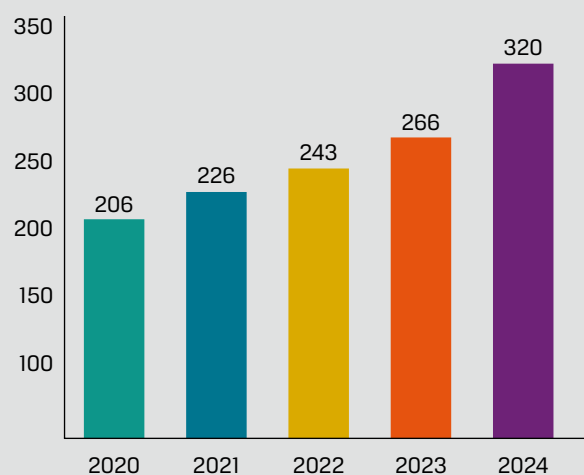


## Salaries and operating expenses



	2022	2023	2024
Operations	23%	18%	23%
Salaries	77%	82%	77%

## Evolution of the budget (in mill NOK)



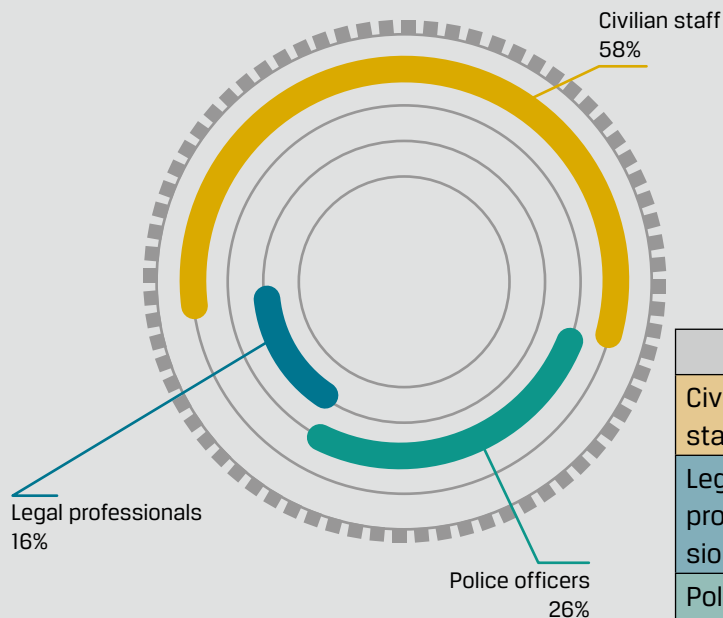
## Budget

Økokrim has in recent years been allocated funds to strengthen our efforts against fraud, criminal networks, money laundering and corruption.

From 2020 to 2024, Økokrim's budget has increased from NOK 206 million to 320 million. 77% of our funds were spent on personnel costs last year and 23% on operations.

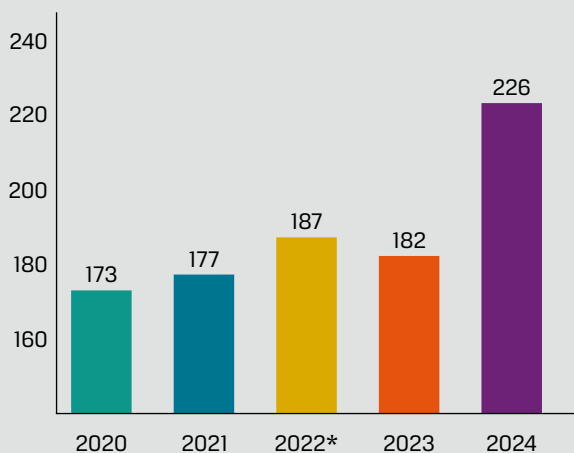


## Composition



	2022	2023	2024
Civilian staff	53%	55%	58%
Legal professionals	18%	19%	16%
Police officers	29%	26%	26%

## Evolution of full-time equivalents



\* Figure corrected from the 2022 annual report.

## Human resources

From 2020 to 2024, the number of full-time equivalents has increased from 173 to 226. The increase in 2024 was from 182 to 226 FTEs. The increase is part of the crackdown on financial crime. The share of police officers, legal and other professionals has been relatively stable the last three years.

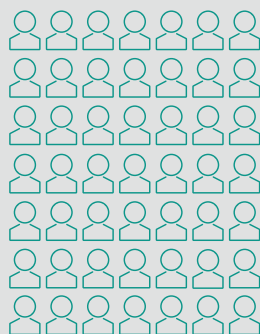
## Gender balance



**...among employees:** The gender balance has in recent years been stable around 50%.

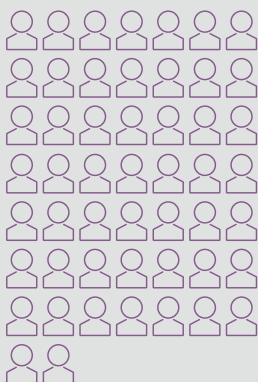
# 49%

Men



# 51%

Women



	2022	2023	2024
Men	51%	52%	49%
Women	49%	48%	51%

**...among managers:** Gender balance in the management team has shown a positive development in recent years. From 2022, the share of female managers has increased from 26% to 44% in 2024. 56% of our managers in 2024 were men.

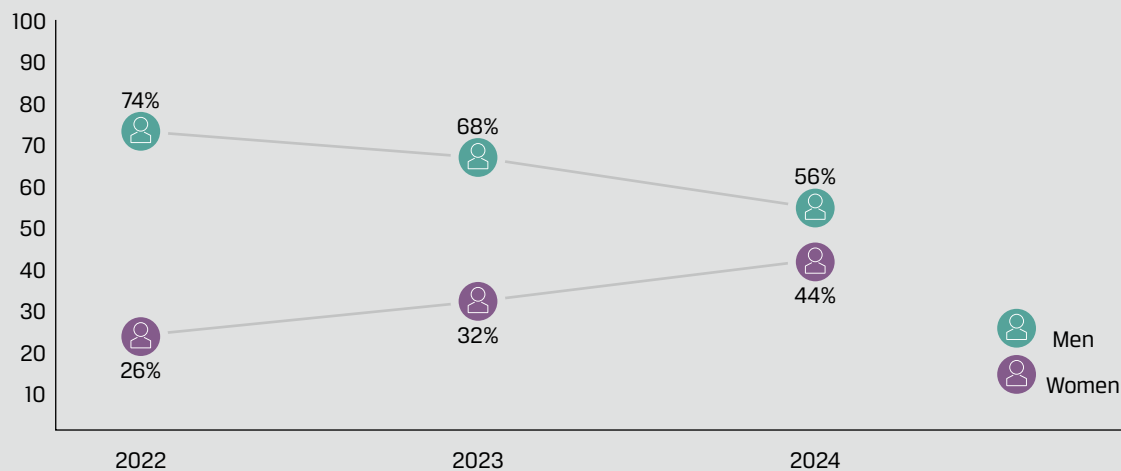




Photo: Asbjørn Vigane



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