

# Annual review 2024



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# 1. Introduction

Combating crime is a core function of governance and a core task of each police force. Due to the characteristics of stations, trains and railway infrastructure, policing the railway environment requires a specialised approach.

The working groups, which are the heart of RAILPOL, are always adapting themselves and studying new topics with new approaches in order to answer social issues. New technologies and the speed of information dissemination are always challenging the work of the police.

As an operational association, RAILPOL focuses on operations and exercises. 5 major operations and now 2 exercises are organised per year.

The key principles of RAILPOL are described in its mission and vision;

## **Mission:**

*"The mission of RAILPOL, is to strive for a safe and secure rail-transport by establishing cross-border law enforcement co-operation on the main European railway corridors."*

## **Vision:**

*"RAILPOL is the platform for cross-border law enforcement co-operation to tackle transnational crime and other security issues in the European railway environment."*

RAILPOL's promotion video, showing the association and its operational activities, can be found by clicking the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1PlekZQBfA>

Police are not the only ones to be in charge of security, that's why cooperation with the other partners/stakeholders is a major element in RAILPOL's strategy. Creating links and working in a multidiscipline approach is always on our agenda. Some examples are: participating in EU projects, presenting the association and activities to stakeholders, strengthening the cooperation with partners such as COLPOFER, the association of the security services of the railways, and the UIC, the international organisation of railway operators.

In 2024, RAILPOL has developed its visibility of RAILPOL in social media and website to further promote the work done by the chairs and the members.

RAILPOL's expertise related to policing the railway environment had its value by providing advice/support to the European Commission. Also, the cooperation with the other police networks on the European infrastructure like AQUAPOL, ROADPOL and AIRPOL is a continued investigation.

This annual review provides the most important achievements of RAILPOL in 2024.

On behalf of the RAILPOL Management,

Elisa SIDGWICK  
Executive Director of RAILPOL



## 2. Operational results

Operational activities in the field are one of the major goals of RAILPOL. During the past years, RAILPOL expanded and professionalised these operational activities with increasing results. Explanations as well as some results are showed below.

In 2024, RAILPOL held several operations: the **Crime Prevention Week (CPW)** which is the new name of the previous 24 RAD Blue from the Working Group Crime and illegal migration, **Active Shield** from the Working Group Counter terrorism and the **Rail Action Week (RAW)** from the Working Group Railway Accidents and other major incidents.



### 2.1. Crime Prevention Week

During the **Crime Prevention Week**, the participating countries worked on one specific topic, like aggression, drugs, weapons, ID checks, pick-pocketing, graffiti etc. 2 CPW are organised twice by year, during one week and the members are free to decide the duration of the operation during the week.

In 2024, the CPW operations were held on the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> April, which red line was drug related crime on trains and stations, and the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, which red line was thefts on trains and stations.

Beside the common topic, participants worked on their own national priorities.

[OVERALL RESULTS APRIL 2024](#)

[OVERALL RESULTS NOVEMBER 2024](#)





## 2.2. Active Shield

Active Shield is organised twice a year during 24 hours. This operation is focused on the prevention of terrorism by checking passengers, trains, railways stations, luggages and lockers, mainly on explosives.

In 2024, the Active Shields were held on the weeks of 23 and 24 January and 27 and 28 June.



### RAILPOL

Working Group Counter Terrorism in the RAIL Sector  
Rail Action Day **Active Shield 23-24 January 2024**

Participating Countries	Police Officers	Number of checked stations	Number of checked trains	Number of checked persons	Arrested reported persons	Checked baggage	ADDITIONAL MEANS			Left luggage in station	Checked automatic lockers	Cases with detected explosives devices
							Dog	Metal detector	Explosive detector			
14	15 358	6 689	6 907	43 328	681	7 056	11 (Countries)	4 (Countries)	5 (Countries)	895	1000	0



### RAILPOL

Working Group Counter Terrorism in the RAIL Sector  
Rail Action Day **Active Shield 27-28 June 2024**

Participating Countries	Police Officers	Number of checked stations	Number of checked trains	Number of checked person	Arrested reported persons	Checked baggage	ADDITIONAL MEANS			Left luggage in station	Checked automatic lockers	Cases with detected explosives devices
							Dog	Metal detector	Explosive detector			
13	14 030	4 592	5 332	35 501	254	7 466	12 (Countries)	4 (Countries)	2 (Countries)	207	267	0

## 2.3. Rail Action Week

This operation, which is held once a year during one week, is focused on both security and safety. The aim of the RAW is to prevent accidents/incidents and to increase safety on and around the railways. The RAW is also focused on general threats, dangers and crimes related to crime environment. I could be actions like controls at level crossings, information at schools, alcohol testing of railway staff but also checks on critical infrastructure and of transport of dangerous goods.

In 2024, the RAW was organised on the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.



**RAILPOL - WG Railway Accidents**  
**Rail Action Week 23 - 29 September 2024**

<b>GENERAL</b>	
Number of police officers deployed in RAW	<b>22.480</b>
Number of other partners (e.g. railway/security agencies) deployed in RAW	<b>1.298</b>
<b>Railway crossings</b>	
Number of checked railway crossings	<b>6.976</b>
Number of checked pedestrians/ cyclists	<b>8.764</b>
Number of checked vehicles	<b>8.401</b>
<b>Consumption of alcohol (drugs) by railway staff</b>	
Number of train drivers checked on alcohol (drugs)	<b>523</b>
Positive checks:	<b>0</b>
Number of other railway staff checked on alcohol (drugs)	<b>526</b>
Positive checks:	<b>2</b>
<b>Crossing the tracks where it is forbidden</b>	
Number of person fined / reported	<b>494</b>
<b>Damages to or destruction of railway signs, signalling equipment essential to the safety of traffic, but also information equipment for passengers</b>	
Number of persons discovered while causing damages	<b>9</b>
Number of discovered damages	<b>105</b>
<b>Damages or destruction of wagons interior, especially of the equipment essential for the operation of the wagon</b>	
Number of detected persons causing damages	<b>5</b>
Number of Cases	<b>38</b>
<b>Opening of wagon's doors before train stops and getting in and out of the moving train</b>	
Number of cases	<b>13</b>
<b>Carrying out prohibited or unlawful activity or activity that threatens the railroad operation or the safety in rail environment</b>	
Number of cases	<b>165</b>
<b>Checking the critical places on the railroad (tunnels, bridges and others)</b>	
Number of performed checks	<b>8.800</b>
<b>Trains with dangerous goods</b>	
Number of trains checked	<b>71</b>
<b>Prevention measures in the event of threats on rail facilities (increased visible presence on railway facilities to increase safety awareness (e.g. sensitising travellers, safety distance on the platform))</b>	
Number of Police Officers employed:	<b>4.216</b>
Number of sensitized passengers:	<b>58.435</b>
<b>Public relation measures (Information about RAW etc. )</b>	
Flyers	<b>6</b>
Gadgets	<b>1</b>
Info point	<b>1</b>
Voice announcements	<b>5</b>
Billboards	<b>1</b>
School lessons	<b>5</b>





### 3. Exercises

#### 3.1. RAILEX

Another operational activity is RAILEX, a major exercise in the railway environment organised by the Working Group Public Order.

RAILEX XII was held in Slovenia in September 2024. The main topic was "Communication with demonstrators". 6 countries were involved: Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Serbia, Austria and Spain. 6 teams of 8 police officers each have worked on different scenarios in order to maintain public order during various situations: explosion on a train, an armed person in a station, demonstrators blocking a station or escorting migrants to the station...

Different means were deployed for the training: water-canon, helicopter, horses, dogs..



#### 3.2. RAIL-INVEST

In September 2024, the Working Group Railway Accidents organised the third edition of the RAIL-INVEST in Romania (Cluj-Napoca).

The goal of this exercise is to make the investigators of railway accidents work together and learn from each other.

The exercises were covered by the local and national media and were also an opportunity to promote the work of RAILPOL.



## 4. Working Groups

RAILPOL is an operational association with its backbone, the Working Groups. Organising operational actions, as mentioned above, are an important part of RAILPOL's Working Groups.

The 5 Working Groups are namely:

- Crime and Illegal Migration;
- Public Order;
- Counter Terrorism;
- Police Investigations in Railway Accidents and other major Incidents;
- Strategic Analysis.

In 2024, each Working Group has organised yearly its 2 annual meetings of one and a half days each. During the meetings, they exchanged best practices and shared information but also drew up recommendations, analysed reports and organised joint international days of action.

All RAILPOL members are represented in one or more Working Groups. In this paragraph, you will find some details of the activities of the Working Groups.

### 4.1. Crime and Illegal Migration

The Working Group Crime and Illegal Migration aims to contribute, together with the participating Member States, to combating organised cross border and national crimes, committed within the European rail environment. They monitor new phenomena and set out to find solutions for and exchange best/good/bad practices. They also exchange current affairs for monitoring the influx of migrants and their way of travelling through Europe.

During their meetings in 2024, the Working Group discussed the two main topics

- Technical means for the detection of illegal migrants on freight trains
- Graffiti in the railway environment

Were also discussed :

- Electrical accidents connected with the illegal migration on the freight trains,
- New security measures on train stations
- Beit-bag project in the Netherlands
- Attack on the French rail network
- Detection of fraud documents
- Evaluation of Crime prevention week operations





## **4.2. Public Order**

The Working Group Public Order deals with the examination and exchange of “best practices”, measures and information related to public order issues (e.g. demonstrations, sports events) within the railway environment. The specific infrastructure needs special attention. There is always the aspect of safety. The focus of this Working Group lies in determining and studying causes of public disorder and hazards due to mass transits during different events and how law enforcement units could handle these situations more effectively.

Some of the main topics, handled by this Working Group in 2024 are:

- Preparation of the RAILEX
- Developing the RAILEX Observations
- Renewing the overview ‘Public orders structures within member States’
- Establishing a comparative analysis of used non-lethal equipment

## **4.3. Counter Terrorism**

The railway system goes along with the trend of terrorism in Europe and has been the target of terrorist attacks. Being a public, open and crowded environment, it offers an ideal opportunity for terrorists. The role of the Railway Police Forces is usually related to the three pillars of security in the railway environment: deterrence, detection and resilience.” Therefore, there is an alignment of the WG CT’s work, with the areas related to these pillars.

The work of the Working Group is to provide preventive and affordable solutions to reduce the terrorist threat and risk in the railway environment. Since security strategies should include prevention and response, the Working Group is a relevant platform regarding the sharing of preventive measures to allow countries to adapt solutions that may contribute to common European security.

In 2024, the working group worked on the topics of:

- Protecting public spaces and critical infrastructures
- Major attacks : lessons learned from Spain and Belgium
- CBRN-E threats
- European rules regarding transnational trains
- Implementation of advanced technologies in railway security
- Cross-border intelligence sharing mechanisms
- Development of upgraded guidelines for rail security systems focusing on cyber and physical threats



#### **4.4. Police investigations in railway accidents and other major incidents**

This Working Group deals with the police investigation of rail accidents and incidents. Furthermore, the WG analyses and evaluates the development and structure of the railway sector with its operational interoperability in Europe. The work of the group is focused on best practice/exchange of experience in rail accident investigations but also in analysing and assessing threat scenarios in the railway system in Europe. The group has also a focus on the terrorist threat situation and other conceivable attacks in the railway sector. In this context the WG considers, that security and safety are linked in the field of railway transport, and therefore strong cooperation with the different involved stakeholders is needed.

In 2024, the following main topics were handled:

- Manual of understanding (MoU) with the Network of National Investigation Bodies (NIB)
- Digitalization in railway system
- Train collision with animals
- Safety measures
- Case studies
- Exercise "RAILINVEST" training for advanced railway accident investigators Rail Action Week (RAW) 2024 aimed at the security of the railways

#### **4.5. Strategic Analysis**

The WG Strategic Analysis focused is activities to provide the RAILPOL members and the Working Groups with useful information in order to plan priorities, strategies and activities through a deep analysis of criminality, its trends and the growth over the years, in the railway environment

The information acquired during the analyses helps in creating a product that informs and drives intelligence-led policing and international cooperation between members and EU partners.

The results of analyses, which also include a wide and long-term view of several factors and information about the international and cross-border threats are a key point for the members and their organisation to plan police measures and develop strategies

During, but also outside this meeting the members of the working group compiled a "RAILPOL General report 13". This is an analysis of the offenses from 2019 to 2023 in the railway environment with a focus on the main crimes who affect this specific area of mobility, their trends, as well increasing and decreasing during the last years.



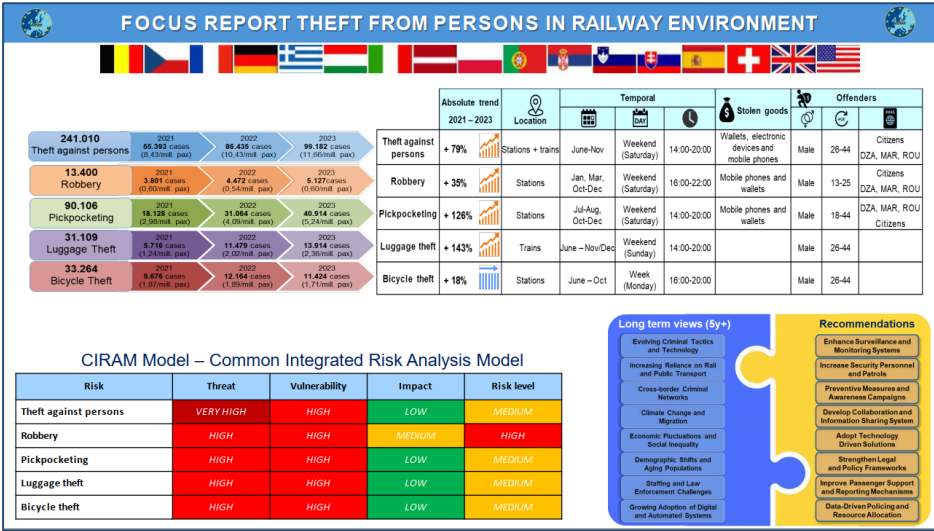
The aim of this strategic report consists in the early detection of criminal trends and phenomena and, if necessary, to investigate them more deeply. In addition, the report seeks to assess the new needs of data collection and analysis.



Click on the infographic !

The Working Group also worked on the Focus report on the topic of “Theft from persons in the railway environment”. This is a detailed report considering detection of criminal trends and phenomena and, if necessary, to investigate them more deeply, with a special focus on the occurrences that seem to be common problems.

Beside the focus report which is an internal document and can't be shared, the Working group created an infographic with the main information and can be communicated to partners.



Click on the infographic !

### 5. Management

In 2024, the Management team still stable. Besides the President and the Secretary General, the RAILPOL Management consist of 4 persons: the Managing Director, the Executive Director, the Communication officer and the Management assistant. The team made on short presentation on the website in the part reserved for members.



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Except for the Managing Director, the RAILPOL Management was made available and financially supported by the French National Police.

It has been a choice of the French presidency to hire someone fully dedicated to the communication of RAILPOL.

## **5.1. General**

RAILPOL consist of 25 member States from different European countries including three associated members from the United States (US Transport Security Administration and Amtrak police department) and Canada (VIA Rail Canada police service). The membership of several other interested European countries is still in progress.

## **5.2. Activities**

### **a. Internal**

To manage and coordinate the internal aspects of RAILPOL, the management organised and/or participated in several meetings:

- Meetings Strategic Council (Heads of service)
- Meetings Coordination Group (Management and chairs Working Groups)
- Meetings Working Groups
- Meetings Management Team

## **Questionnaires**

As already mentioned above, sharing information and exchanging best practices are important aspects of the RAILPOL association. One of the means to accomplish those aspects is the use of questionnaires among the RAILPOL members. RAILPOL held several questionnaires on different topics, such as a survey on Artificial intelligence in the railways or train collision with animals...The outcome of the questionnaires were shared among all RAILPOL members and, in adapted form, to relevant stakeholders.

## **RTIL**

In 2024, RAILPOL has activated the Real time information line (RTIL) in cooperation with COLPOFER in order to have a picture of the behaviour of the travellers and to adapt the police reaction for 2 major events: the European football championship in Germany and the Olympic Games in France. All the neighbouring countries have taken part of the system and RAILPOL was the coordination centre.

## **Financial**



Starting 1 July 2022, for a period of 48 months, RAILPOL received a direct grant from the European Commission. This grant covered a large part of the costs made by RAILPOL to execute all her activities.





**Communication** is an important topic within RAILPOL. The internal part of the website is regularly updated with documents, articles, recommendations and a newsletter is sent monthly to members. The website also contains all the internal documents that are useful to members and Chairs of the working groups (manual and roadbooks.)

To keep the contact with the public, news is shared on the Facebook and LinkedIn RAILPOL accounts. After every meeting, operations or exercises a communication is done on social media and a press release is systematically published after operations and exercises.



RAILPOL also shares some contents on the part of the website of the European Commission dedicated to the police networks.

## b. External

The RAILPOL initiative to establish cooperation between the police networks working on the European infrastructure, the so-called European police networks in the transportation sector is getting more concrete. Besides strategic cooperation, further steps will be taken in the future to come to operational cooperation. This cooperation was formalised in 2022, by the signing of a Letter of Intent between RAILPOL, AIRPOL, AQUAPOL and ROADPOL. In 2024, 2 meetings were held in Stockholm and in Paris.

Also, cooperation with other (European) law enforcement networks as well as DG Home is always on RAILPOL's agenda. Within this framework, RAILPOL participated in 2024 in the Working Group Law Enforcement Network (LEN-WG) and the EU Forum for Protection of the Public Spaces organised by DG-Home.

RAILPOL is a privileged contact for DG-Home.  
<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/pps/items/715174/en>





Beside its regular participations in the LAND-SEC and RAIL-SEC meetings organised by DG-Move, RAILPOL has also spread among its members a survey from DG-Move about the priorities for the transport security for the new mandate of the European Parliament.

## **Cooperation**

RAILPOL strives for cooperation with different stakeholders and other police organisations/networks (COLPOFER, UIC, CIPRE...). In 2024, members of the Management represented RAILPOL during several meetings to give presentations, exchange information, give advice as well investigate closer cooperation.

In 2024, RAILPOL has organised the first Symposium with COLPOFER in Brussels. The goal of this day, focused on the Eurostar environment, was that police and the security services of the railways exchange their experience about defined topics.

## **6. Final comments**

### **6.1. General**

2024 was a year of success and growth for RAILPOL. More representatives have participated in the meetings and we have felt a better involvement of the members, which is a good feeling after some uncertain years where chairs and Management had to make a lot of efforts to maintain the activity of RAILPOL.

RAILPOL values the cooperation with other parties. Security is not only a police task but a multidisciplinary one, with other responsible parties. RAILPOL is and will focus on the cooperation with stakeholders, the European Commission and continue to support other European projects on security in the railway environment.

RAILPOL is a successful association. Some indicators are:

- The types, numbers and results of control operations;
- The development in relation to joint trainings;
- The exchange of good practice and information;
- The evaluation by the Strategic Council on the impacts of activities and results.

### **6.2. Future**

RAILPOL will stay active to improve the regular police work in the European railway environment. RAILPOL will do this by aligning its activities with the changing security situation in Europe. Especially focussing on protecting soft targets, public spaces and critical infrastructure, but certain also on illegal migration, cybercrime and mobile organised crime groups. New challenges are waiting like expanding the RAD's and other operational activities.



A pilot of training to respond to Active attacker will be launch, a new edition of the Symposium with COLPOFER will be organised and a Workshop with the UIC on “Fighting Human trafficking in the Rail environment” is also in the agenda.

RAILPOL remains now and for the future a solid network with active members, support from the European Commission and promoting public-private partnership. In this way, we want to make Europe more secure for our citizens



*“RAILPOL is on the right track”*



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## Annex 1 – OVERALL CRIME PREVENTION WEEK April 2024



### RAILPOL

27th Crime Prevention Week  
8th - 14th April 2024

Participating Countries	GENERAL							MIGRATION		METAL THEFT		
	Number of police officers employed	Railway staff	RED LINE			Number of checked stations	Number of checked trains	Number of illegal stay	Number of illegal entry	Number of checked metal depots scrapyards	KG, of stolen copper seized recovered	KG, of stolen metal seized recovered
			SIMPLE ID CHECKS	Number of persons with criminal records	Number of wanted persons traced							
<b>19</b>	<b>28.592</b>	<b>1923</b>	<b>83.936</b>	<b>9033</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>11.236</b>	<b>10.952</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,078</b>

CRIMES (people arrested or reported to the court)																
Copper Theft	Copper Receiving	Theft Pickpocketing	Robbery	TRAINS			STATIONS			Trafficking of human beings	Graffiti damages vandalism	Theft from cargo train	Violence aggression against railway staff	Violence aggression against railway passengers	Violence aggression against police officers	Other crimes
				Number of people arrested/reported for drug related crimes	Hard drug seized in grams	Soft drugs seized in grams	Number of people arrested/reported for drug related crimes	Hard drugs seized in grams	Soft drugs seized in grams							
<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>798</b>



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## Annex 2 – OVERALL CRIME PREVENTION WEEK November 2024



### RAILPOL

28th Crime Prevention Week  
4th - 10th November 2024

Participating Countries	GENERAL						MIGRATION		METAL THEFT			
	Number of police officers employed	Railway staff	RED LINE			Number of checked stations	Number of checked trains	Number of Illegal stay	Number of Illegal entry	Number of checked metal depots scrapyards	KG, of stolen copper seized recovered	KG, of stolen metal seized recovered
			Number of ID-CHECKS	Number of persons with criminal records	Number of wanted persons traced							
16	23.519	1.507	62.143	5.455	331	7.615	7.780	680	113	1.254	100	0

CRIMES (people arrested or reported to the court)															
THEFTS FROM PERSONS		Number of people arrested/reported for drug related crimes	Soft drug seized in grams	Hard drugs seized in grams	Copper Theft	Copper Receiving	Theft Pickpocketing	Robbery	Trafficking of human beings	Graffiti damages vandalism	Theft from cargo train	Violence aggression against railway staff	Violence aggression against railway passengers	Violence aggression against police officers	Other crimes
Number on thefts on trains and stations reported	Number of arrested people for thefts														
106	43	87	567	45,6	9	0	66	12	0	46	1	41	48	110	304



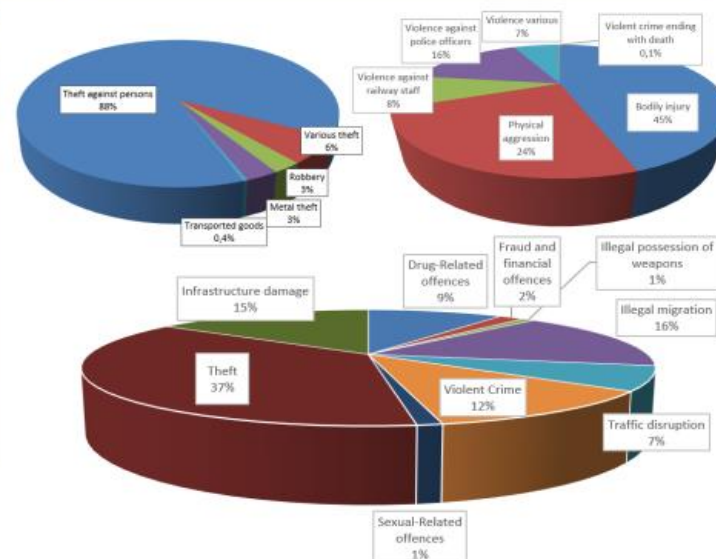
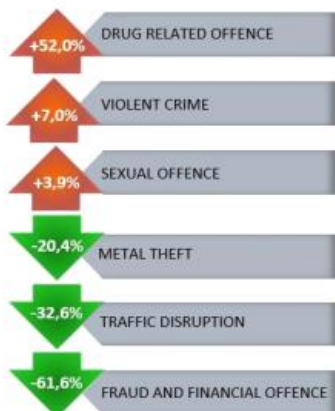
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## Annex 3 – INFOGRAPHIC GENERAL REPORT 2023



**RAILPOL**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF NATIONAL POLICE FORCES

# Crime within the European railway environment in 2023



### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Plan the appropriate initiatives to prevent and tackle crime in general and crime organisations
- Ensure data availability and practice a professional and active risk management
- Promote regular contact and information sharing between the railway environment security stakeholders
- Invest in training related to the prevention of emerging threats
- Invest in adequate equipment for government and private security agencies
- Deeply analyse the impact of new technologies such as AI, in the railway environment
- Raise awareness of the police officers concerning behaviour in public and communication challenges
- Increase the international police collaboration and continue to develop the "Schengen Information System"
- Take the appropriate measures to eliminate "blind spots"



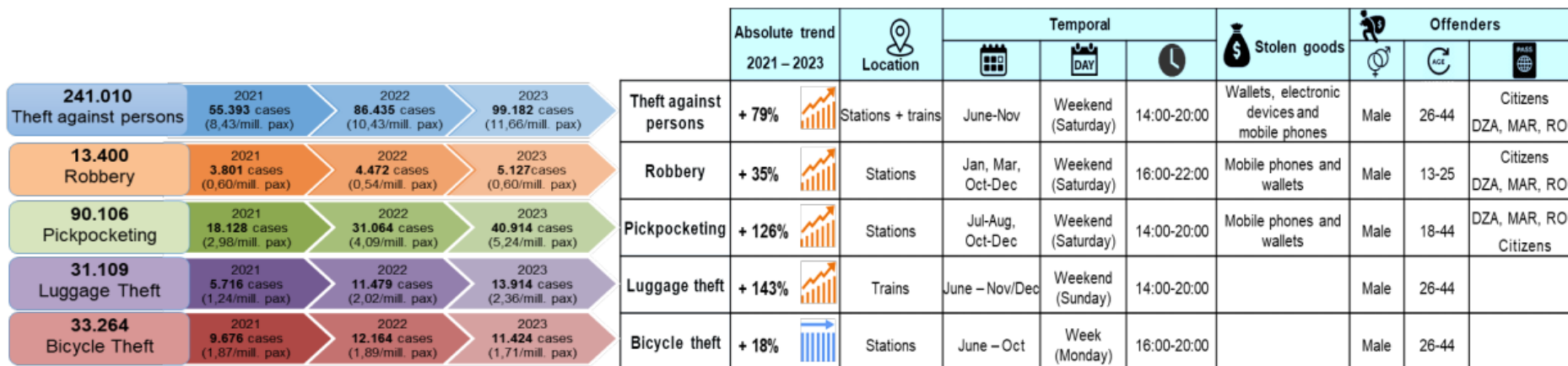
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## Annex 4 – INFOGRAPHIC FOCUS REPORT 2024

# FOCUS REPORT THEFT FROM PERSONS IN RAILWAY ENVIRONMENT



### CIRAM Model – Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model

Risk	Threat	Vulnerability	Impact	Risk level
Theft against persons	VERY HIGH	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM
Robbery	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH
Pickpocketing	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM
Luggage theft	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM
Bicycle theft	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM



#### Long term views (5y+)

- Evolving Criminal Tactics and Technology
- Increasing Reliance on Rail and Public Transport
- Cross-border Criminal Networks
- Climate Change and Migration
- Economic Fluctuations and Social Inequality
- Demographic Shifts and Aging Populations
- Staffing and Law Enforcement Challenges
- Growing Adoption of Digital and Automated Systems

#### Recommendations

- Enhance Surveillance and Monitoring Systems
- Increase Security Personnel and Patrols
- Preventive Measures and Awareness Campaigns
- Develop Collaboration and Information Sharing System
- Adopt Technology Driven Solutions
- Strengthen Legal and Policy Frameworks
- Improve Passenger Support and Reporting Mechanisms
- Data-Driven Policing and Resource Allocation

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