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Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP  
**Federal Office of Police fedpol**

# Invia fedpol 2024–27



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*The word 'Invia' is derived from the Romansh term 'in via'. It is used colloquially in the Puter and Vallader dialects to mean that something is 'on the way'. This document's title therefore reflects its purpose: to define fedpol's priorities for the next four years and describe the path on which it is embarking.*

# Invia fedpol 2024–27

fedpol's mission is to combat terrorism, violent extremism, organised crime, other forms of serious crime and economic crime, not just in Switzerland but also internationally. fedpol also ensures the safety of people and property under federal and international protection, and is responsible for national and international police cooperation and information-sharing. It thus plays a key role in safeguarding national security, protecting democracy and upholding the rule of law.

Invia fedpol 2024–27 sets out fedpol's priorities for the next four years.

Crime does not respect borders or abide by rules. Criminals are forever employing new methods and technologies, including virtual space and digital resources, which is changing the criminal landscape and the way in which crime is committed. Switzerland, a politically stable and prosperous country in the heart of Europe, is particularly attractive for organised crime.

Organised and serious crime, including terrorism and violent extremism, can only be combated through close cooperation at national and international level and the mutual exchange of information. Sharing and analysing information are essential for gaining an insight into criminal phenomena and a comprehensive situational picture. This is the basis for a targeted and effective deployment of resources and ultimately for successful policing.

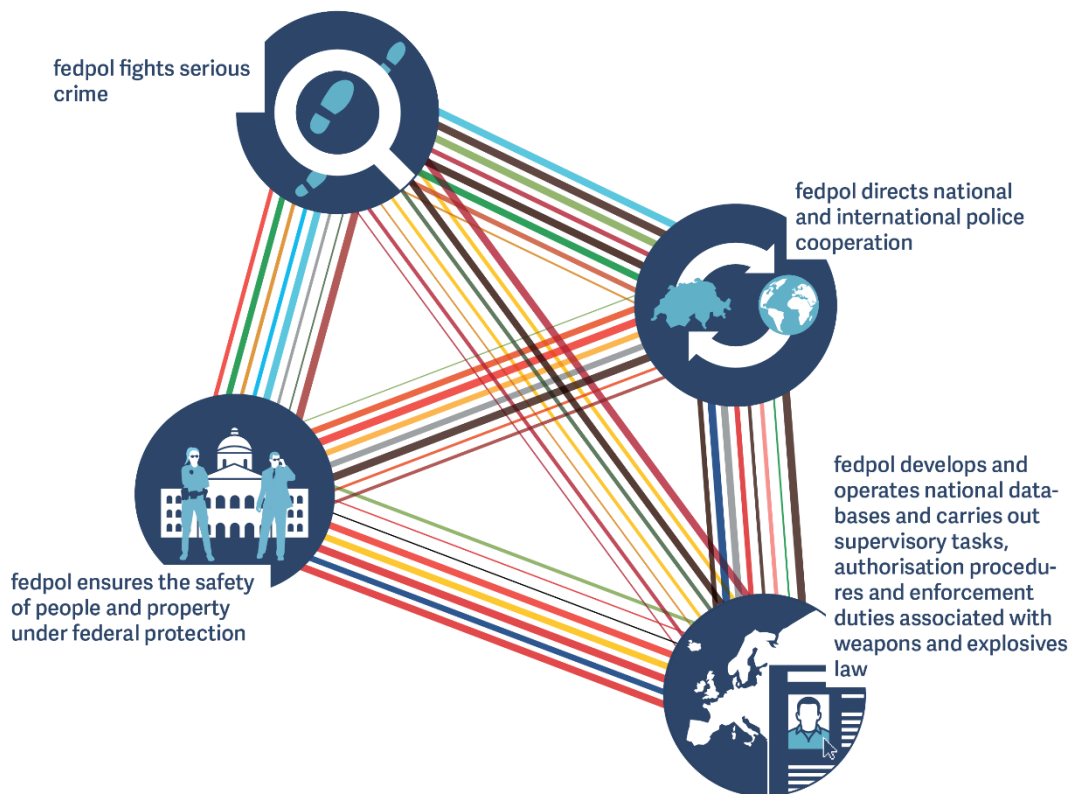
fedpol's tasks are determined by legislation; its activities are determined by the situation. To fulfil its numerous tasks, fedpol must be forward-looking, innovative and interconnected. It must anticipate criminal trends and actively disrupt criminal structures: it must be one step ahead of the criminals.

fedpol enjoys a high degree of trust among the public and at the political level – and that is how it should stay.

# Vision

**fedpol on duty for Switzerland – anytime & anywhere**

# Mission



## **fedpol fights serious crime**

fedpol fights terrorism and violent extremism, organised crime and economic crime with preventive measures, investigations, national and international police cooperation and specialised databases.

## **fedpol ensures the safety of people and property under federal protection**

Together with the cantonal police forces, fedpol ensures the safety of the members of the federal government and Parliament, federal judges and officials, and people subject to protection under international law. It is also responsible for the security of federal buildings and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Switzerland. In

addition, fedpol is responsible for the training and deployment of air marshals on board Swiss aircraft. It also manages the National Witness Protection Unit, which runs protection programmes for witnesses in danger, on behalf of the federal and cantonal public prosecutor's offices.

**fedpol develops and operates national databases and carries out supervisory tasks, authorisation procedures and enforcement duties associated with weapons and explosives law**

fedpol develops, operates and interlinks databases to search for, investigate and biometrically identify persons, and makes these databases available to federal and cantonal prosecution, security and migration offices. It is the supervisory and licensing body for weapons and explosives, and issues identity documents for Swiss citizens.

**fedpol directs national and international police cooperation**

fedpol provides its partners day and night with the tools they need to fight crime effectively. It coordinates and manages national and international investigations and searches and, together with the cantons, coordinates and manages police emergencies such as kidnappings, hostage-taking, extortion and terrorist attacks.

# Objectives 2024–27

fedpol has set the following objectives in order to fulfil its mission:

**fedpol** and its partners identify the early stages of radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism, and take effective counter measures.

**fedpol** is equipped for dealing with terrorist attacks and emergency situations.

**fedpol** applies preventive, cooperative and repressive measures to disrupt organised crime structures in Switzerland.

**fedpol** identifies and combats modern forms of economic crime.

**fedpol** protects the members of the federal government and ensures their safety when carrying out their duties in Switzerland and abroad.

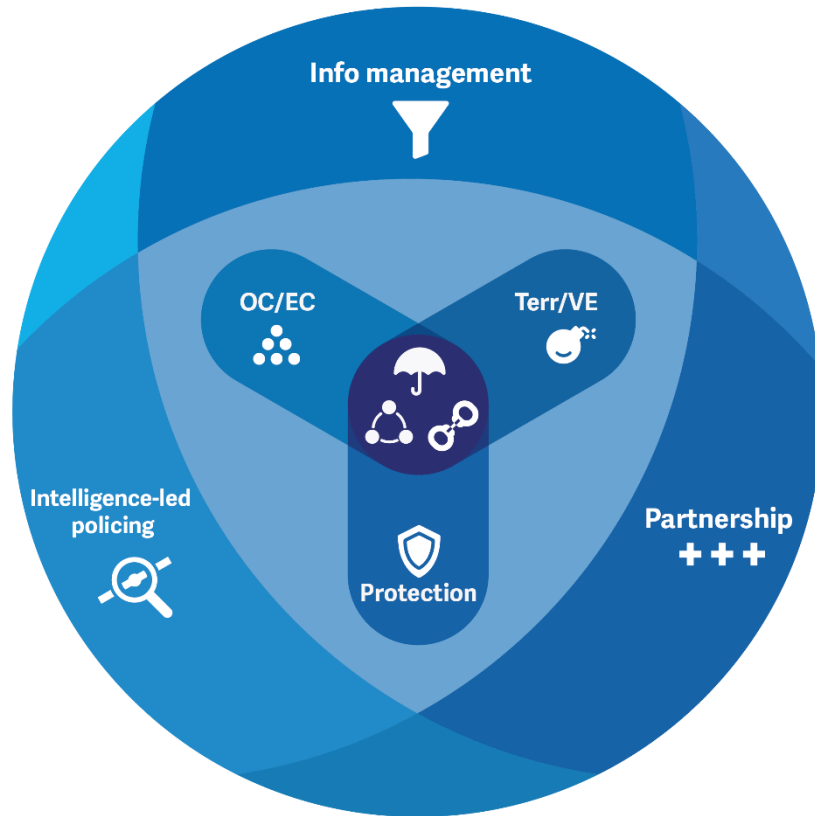
**fedpol** ensures the safety of diplomatic missions and their personnel in Switzerland, as well as persons afforded protection under international law.

**fedpol** is a dependable national and international partner at all times.

**fedpol** ensures that explosives, pyrotechnic objects, war materiel, air-pressure and other new types of weapon are used in compliance with the legal provisions.

**fedpol** provides Switzerland with high-performance, reliable biometric instruments that are interoperable at national and international level.

## Fields of action, focus areas, working principles



**Invia fedpol 2024–27** is based on fedpol’s legal mandate, comprising a core mandate with three fields of action, three focus areas and three working principles.



## Three fields of action

### **Prevention – Cooperation – Repression**

At the heart of effective crime prevention are three fields of action: prevention; cooperation; repression. These three fields of action apply to three focus areas: organised crime/economic crime; terrorism/violent extremism; protection/security. They are based on three working principles: information management; partnership; intelligence-led policing.

This model requires a global approach to combating crime that includes all relevant partners and stakeholders.

## Three working principles

### **Intelligence-led policing**

In the face of increasingly complex challenges and limited resources, the principle of intelligence-led policing focuses on the ability to analyse large amounts of information, to use it to create strategic and operational situational pictures and to anticipate future trends in crime. This provides the basis for effective strategic and operational decisions and the efficient use of resources in all fields of action.

### **Partnership**

Radicalisation, usually a prelude to violent extremism and terrorism as well as organised and economic crime, frequently remains hidden. Victims often avoid cooperating with the police for fear of reprisals, retaliation, lack of trust in state institutions or because they themselves profit from the offence. The challenge for the police is to detect and investigate such offences nonetheless. Cooperation with the private sector (businesses, NGOs, universities, etc.) and other authorities besides the police (migration offices, commercial registers, land registries, labour inspectorates, food inspections, educational institutions, etc.) has proven useful and will continue.

## **Information management**

Data compliance: fedpol ensures that it processes data in accordance with the law. Effective data and information management is essential for fighting crime successfully and fulfilling fedpol's mission. It is crucial that the right information reach the right place at the right time and in the right way.

Data governance: Sustainable data management ensures that information and data are used and processed correctly. Fedpol ensures that the data it handles is secure and private through a mix of technical measures, organisational regulations and internal standards for fedpol staff that handle data.

## **Three focus areas**

### **Terrorism and violent extremism**

In recent years, Europe has been hit repeatedly by terrorist attacks. The key perpetrators of jihadist-motivated terrorism worldwide are Islamic State and Al-Qaeda or their offshoots. Other Islamist-motivated groups include the Lebanese Hezbollah and the Palestinian Hamas. According to the Federal Intelligence Service (FIS), the threat of terrorist attacks in Europe, including Switzerland, remains high. In addition, the terror threat has become more diffuse, with radicalisation taking place increasingly on the internet and via social media.

The terrorist threat comes primarily from radicalised individuals who commit acts of violence using the simplest methods and means, such as knives or vehicles. Potential perpetrators include individuals – also minors – who have been radicalised in Switzerland, returnees from conflict zones, migrants who are radicalised abroad and arrive in Europe through migration flows and jihadists released from prison. However, radicalised individuals from other ideologies can also commit terrorist attacks, as a look at our European neighbours shows. The most common forms of terrorist activities in Switzerland are terrorist financing and propaganda.

When dealing with violent extremism it is necessary to distinguish between right-wing extremism, left-wing extremism and monothematic extremism. Sometimes the boundaries between violent extremism and terrorism are blurred: actors may feel that they belong to different, contradictory ideologies, making it difficult to clearly categorise them. The actions of violent extremists may have various objectives, depending on the group and its ideology, or be influenced by the situation in Switzerland, Europe and the world. Besides ideology, personal circumstances and mental illness can also play a role.

## **Organised crime and economic crime**

International drug trafficking continues to be the core business of organised crime in Switzerland. The country is not only a major sales market, but also an important transit country for illegal drugs. It is also a manufacturing site for cannabis products and plays a significant logistical role in the transport of large quantities of cocaine.

Organised crime groups are also heavily involved in human trafficking, arms trafficking and money laundering. Human trafficking is carried out by groups of very different origin; the networks are mainly transnational and the perpetrators usually have the same ethnic background as the victims. Groups from Asia (China, Vietnam), Southeast Europe and Italy are involved primarily in human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, which affects many sectors and branches of the Swiss economy.

In European comparison and in relation to its size there is a strong presence in Switzerland of criminal organisations from Italy, in particular the 'Ndrangheta, which has several consolidated structures throughout the country. Italian criminal organisations in Switzerland are active in various areas of crime; their main focus is on cocaine trafficking, but they are also involved in arms and human trafficking as well as money laundering.

Criminal groups from Southeast Europe are mainly engaged in the narcotics trade, particularly in cocaine trafficking. They also commit property offences. Nigerian groups are also involved in narcotics trafficking, besides human trafficking and fraud.

Other domestic criminal groups include motorcycle gangs. The gangs fight each other over influence and are often involved in violent offences, including narcotics- and weapons-related crime.

In addition, a number of groups are active in Switzerland that are not based in the country. They often come from European countries such as France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Romania and travel to Switzerland specifically for the purpose of committing offences. Their repertoire includes blowing up ATMs or robbing gun or jewellery shops. Immediately after the act, they retreat across the border.

Many forms of crime are on the increase, for example economic crime, particularly insider trading and market or price manipulation, and cybercrime. Cybercrime is mostly property crime committed using digital means and is usually considered a form of organised crime. The perpetrators operate mainly from abroad, are well organised and work according to a division of tasks.

Paedophile crime is also on the rise, as demonstrated by the ever-growing number of reports received from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). fedpol triages these reports and forwards them to the cantons for follow-up action.

Switzerland's financial centre continues to be affected by the infiltration of illegal money, as reflected in the steady rise of suspicious activity reports to the Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland (MROS). Money laundering is often linked to organised crime, particularly drug trafficking. The most frequently reported predicate offences are fraud, followed by forgery. Internationally active Swiss companies also see themselves repeatedly confronted with accusations of corrupting foreign public officials. All these cases lead to considerable reputational damage for Switzerland as a business location and financial centre.

### **Protection and security**

fedpol plays a central role at home and abroad in protecting democratic institutions. This includes ensuring the safety of individuals (federal magistrates, members of the Federal Assembly, employees of the Federal Administration who are at risk, persons protected under international law) and the security of buildings (federal buildings and diplomatic missions).

The increasing polarisation of Swiss society in recent years is changing the security landscape and having a fundamental impact on fedpol's protection mandate. Not only are threats against federal councillors increasing both in number and intensity, members of parliament are also subject to ever more hate speech. Threat analysis and management are therefore increasingly important. fedpol continuously monitors the situation and takes the necessary measures in collaboration with the cantonal police forces to ensure the safety of people and buildings in line with individual needs of each. In addition to specific protective measures, fedpol also provides support and advice to those in need of protection as well as to federal administrative units and foreign diplomatic missions in Switzerland.

Switzerland is a prime location for international organisations, conferences and events. Its reputation as a safe country for high-level international exchanges is thanks in no small part to fedpol: together with its federal and cantonal partner authorities, fedpol assesses the security situation for each event and implements the necessary protective measures for the relevant locations and for individuals afforded protection under international law.

International commercial air traffic is of major importance for the economy and tourism. Security officers trained and deployed by fedpol work together with local authorities at high-risk destinations abroad to ensure security both on the ground and on board Swiss aircraft.

In order to prosecute crime, the prosecution authorities depend on witnesses who are willing to testify. Where a witness may be in danger as a result of their testimony and procedural protective measures are no longer sufficient, the cantonal public prosecutor's offices or the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland can

apply to fedpol for the inclusion of a witness in a protection programme, which enables their co-operation in criminal proceedings. Witness protection is an important part of combating serious crime, terrorism and criminal organisations and is part of the international standard in fighting crime.