NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AGENCY
OF THE CRIMINAL POLICE AND INVESTIGATION SERVICE
POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

2025
ANNUAL REPORT
NCOZ

EN

ENGLISH EDITION

EN
ENGLISH EDITION

2025 ANNUAL REPORT NCOZ

Published by: NCOZ PO BOX 41/NCOZ 156 80 Prague 5 – Zbraslav

Edited by: NCOZ Public Relations & Prevention Department
Office of the Director and Criminal Analysis Division

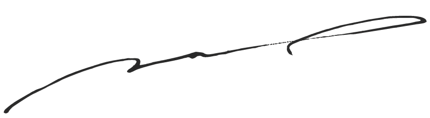
NCOZ Spokesman: Col. Jaroslav Ibehej
Contact: ncoz.tisk@pcr.cz
Images and infographics: NCOZ
Stock photo: pixabay.com, unsplash.com, ChatGPT and Copilot

This report contains information related to the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025
Text deadline 31 May 2026

CONTENTS

FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR

Dear readers, in 2026, when this report is published, the NCOZ will have been in existence for 10 years. This is an opportunity to evaluate how much the world of organized crime has transformed and how an institution enforcing the rule of law should respond.



Jiří Mazánek
Brigadier General

Director of the
National Organized
Crime Agency

Even now, it can be stated corruption remains the main form of organized crime in the Czech Republic, speaking primarily of domestic corruption. It is focused on unlawful enrichment from public budgets, often also by intruding into the structures of public authorities and political powers. Organized groups operate and come up with new modi operandi also in the areas of tax crime, money laundering, and human trafficking.

A modern criminal is no longer a murderer in a balaclava and a leather jacket. It is rather an analyst and investor using AI tools to deceive you and depositing profits into luxury apartments before law enforcement authorities manage to respond. If we want to keep pace with them, we must ask ourselves whether our legislation is flexible enough to stop wealth being turned into anonymous assets or real estate investments online virtually in seconds. If not, security risks will only continue to grow.

The modern underworld no longer functions as closed and hierarchical gangs. And it is also no longer just a clientelistic "bunch of tennis friends". The predominant model of 2025 is the so-called "Crime-as-a-Service" (CaaS). Professional criminal groups have transformed into highly specialized service organizations. If an international syndicate needs to launder money, procure forged ID documents, or launch a cyberattack, it does not handle it on its own, but "hires" a specific module from other professionals.

Cyber-enabled crime no longer constitutes just a fraction of cases, but permeates all forms of organized crime. Perpetrators systematically exploit switching between technologies to "break" their digital trace.

Criminal networks are capable of moving millions of crowns in cash and cryptocurrencies every day, staying off the radar of any regulation. The Czech Republic shall focus on the issue of money laundering and toxic capital. The combination of possible anonymity of ownership, weak control over the fulfilment of administrative obligations, and the influx of Russian-speaking and Ukrainian criminal groups creates an environment where "dirty" capital feels safe.

For us to be able to pursue organized crime wherever it goes, the unambiguous answer is the development of our own expert capacity, our own specialization in all our activities, constant incursion into the criminal environment, and pressure and participation in promoting more effective forms of police work and legislation.

REPORT SUMMARY

The 2025 NCOZ Annual Report reflects a fundamental transformation of the organized crime world. A modern offender has an expert level of knowledge and exploits the opportunities of technological advancement.

Crime-as-a-Service (CaaS) has become a predominant trend of 2025. Criminal groups have transformed into specialized service organizations. Instead of closed hierarchical gangs, these structures act as providers of specific "modules" – for example, money laundering, securing forged documents, or executing cyberattacks on demand. Today's cybercrime is present throughout all forms of organized crime, with perpetrators routinely using encrypted platforms and cryptocurrency mixers to cover their digital tracks.

As of December 2025, NCOZ reports a total of 280 open criminal cases. During the year, 406 natural persons and 72 legal entities were prosecuted.

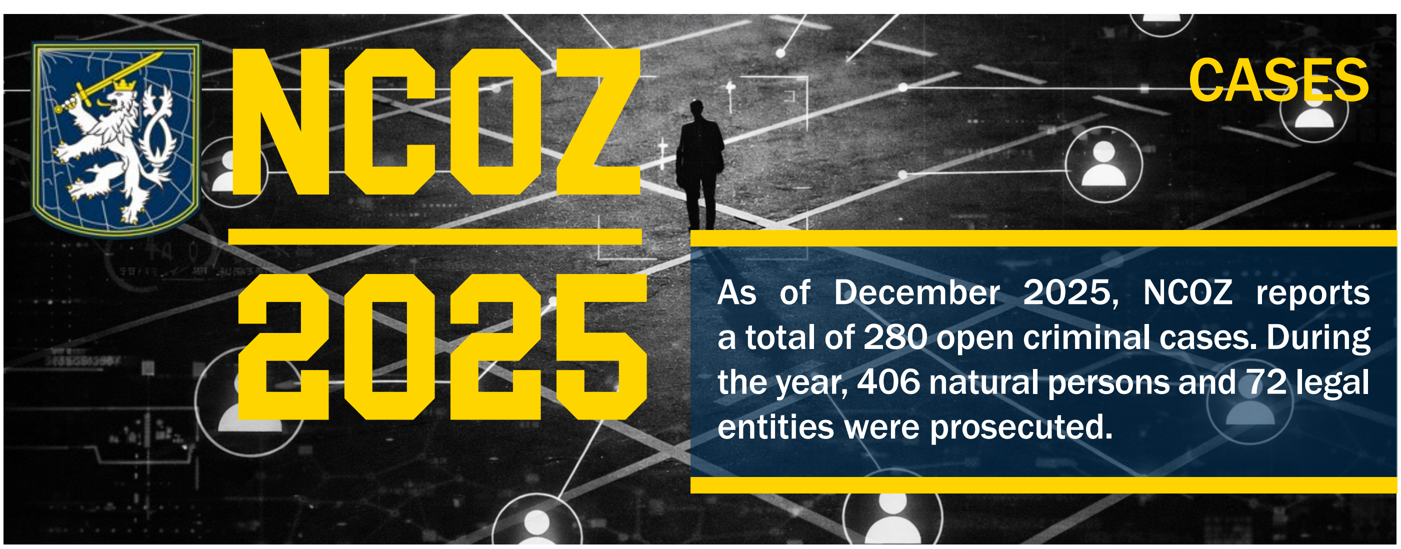
The total value of assets seized by the Police of the Czech Republic reached CZK 7.23 billion, of which the NCOZ alone accounted for CZK 3.92 billion. In the area of virtual assets (BTC, ETH, etc.), NCOZ seized approximately CZK 1.3 billion.

The agency also enhanced its cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), dealing with 29 joint cases in 2025.

Serious economic crime and corruption account for 54% of NCOZ's open cases.

Domestic corruption focuses on unlawful enrichment from public budgets, particularly in the areas of construction, healthcare, and IT. This is represented by the SIGELIUS case related to the healthcare sector.

Within tax fraud, the highest volumes of damage arise in international trade, especially in the import of Asian goods (electronics, cars, textiles), which, after customs clearance, disappear to "dead" buyer companies and end up on the black market. This model is represented by the ZÁBLESK case, which has become a record case in the agency's history. The damage in



electronics trading exceeded CZK 4.7 billion.

Another type of tax criminality is represented by the CESAR case concerning landfill fees, with a damage of approximately CZK 3.7 billion caused through incorrect waste reporting, which resulted in depriving municipalities and the state of statutory fees.

In addition to the "classic scheme" of investment fraud, represented in this report by the ARISTOKLES case, NCOZ case officers are also encountering new methods in investment fraud and money laundering, which will likely appear in annual reports for the coming years.

An example could be the method described as "Pig-Butchering" – a long-term psychological manipulation used by perpetrators to build a grooming relationship with victims to subsequently deprive them of their life savings via fake investment platforms.

In the area of money laundering, criminals are shifting to decentralized finance (DeFi) and are using non-fungible tokens (NFTs) for artificial asset value inflation and concealing their origin.

In this annual report, NCOZ also pays more attention to human trafficking and illegal employment. This often takes place within a so-called “client system”, where unlicensed labour intermediaries take a portion of migrants' wages and fees for "protection".

Significant NCOZ operations include the PENZION case (trafficking in women from Vietnam forced into prostitution in Germany), or operation MOGUL aimed at labour exploitation in the Ústí nad Labem Region. NCOZ also combats these phenomena through the preventive campaign named "Work in Chains".

The security situation in the CR continues to be affected by the Russian aggression in Ukraine, as evidenced by a rise in cases of international sanctions violations (e.g., export of mining machines to Russia via intermediaries) and corruption in arms procurement.

A remaining risk is the influx of toxic capital and post-Soviet criminal structures seeking opportunities to invest their dirty money into Czech real estate.

NCOZ

SEIZED ASSETS

The total value of assets seized by the Police of the Czech Republic reached CZK 7.23 billion, of which the NCOZ alone accounted for CZK 3.92 billion. In the area of virtual assets (BTC, ETH, etc.), NCOZ seized approximately CZK 1.3 billion.

1,30 BLN CZK

NCOZ – STRUCTURE

National Organized Crime Agency (NCOZ) is a law enforcement agency with national jurisdiction, formed within the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police of the Czech Republic.

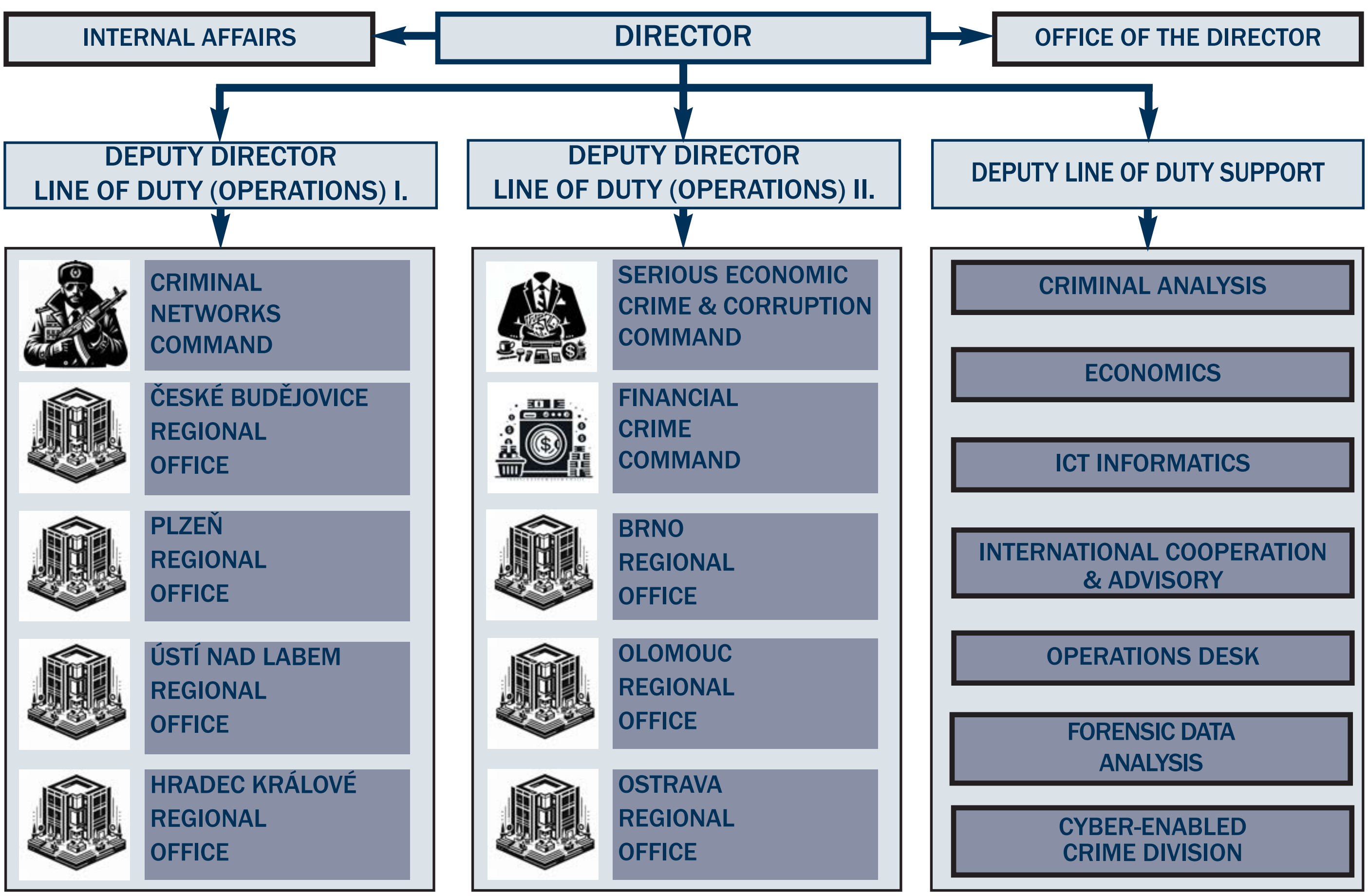
The agency consists of executive divisions (sections/commands and regional offices) and supporting departments. There are three commands: Criminal Networks Command, Serious Economic Crime & Corruption Command and Financial Crime Command.

The agency's leadership as well as individual specialised commands are based in Prague along with supporting departments providing criminal intelligence analysis, forensic data analysis, administrative support, logistics and international cooperation. As of 1 August 2018, Col. Jiří Mazánek, the former director of the agency's Serious Economic Crime & Corruption Command, was appointed the Director of the NCOZ.

Within its responsibility, the NCOZ specialises in the detection of organised crime, financial crime, serious economic crime and corruption. Within a defined range, the agency is also a coordination, advisory and supervisory body in relation to other departments and units within the Police of the Czech Republic.

By detecting and investigating organised crime, the NCOZ contributes to the security of the state. In accordance with the established subordination, the agency is involved in the fulfilment of tasks assigned to the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior. Apart from its tasks within criminal proceedings, the Cyber-enabled Crime Division also provides expert advisory and support in the area of seizure and tracing of cryptocurrencies, both to other departments of the agency and other units of the Police of the Czech Republic alike.

On regional level, the activities of the agency are delegated to its regional field offices, which primarily deal with organised crime committed in the respective area. These offices are located in České Budějovice, Plzeň, Ústí nad Labem, Hradec Králové, Brno, Olomouc and Ostrava.



JURISDICTION

The NCOZ is a specialised agency of the Police of the Czech Republic with national jurisdiction, which deals with criminal cases of utmost gravity. NCOZ's subject-matter jurisdiction is determined by whether the crime is either related to high damage or has been committed by a so-called “special entity” or an organised criminal group. More than a half of the cases fall within the jurisdiction of the High

Representatives of central government bodies

Criminal activity related to the exercise of powers by representatives of government bodies in their capacity as minister, deputy minister, MP, senator, director of a state office and his/her deputy.

Representatives of regional government bodies

Criminal activity related to the exercise of powers by representatives of regional governments in their capacity as a governor and his/her deputy.

Judges and public prosecutors

Criminal offences committed by judges and prosecutors in connection with the exercise of their jurisdiction.

Harming financial interests of the European Union

Criminal offences related to the use of financial support from EU funds.

Tax crime and serious economic crime

Tax crime and serious economic crime with damage exceeding CZK 150 million.

Money laundering and violating international sanctions

Crimes related to the laundering of criminal proceeds and violations of international sanctions.

Organized criminal groups

Criminal activities of organized criminal groups pursuant to Section 361 of the Criminal Code, or particularly serious and organized crimes in the areas of:

- Extortion
- Violent crimes
- IEDs used against life, health or property
- THB Human trafficking
- Illegal migration
- Crimes against currency and means of payment

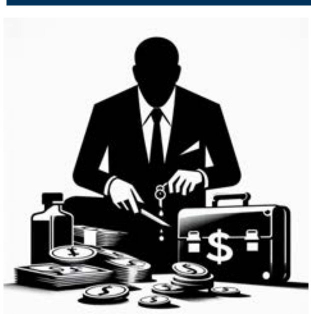
Within its remit, the NCOZ fulfils the tasks of

Asset Recovery Office in the Czech Republic

Designated office to combat tax evasion and tax-related crime

Designated central office for tackling money counterfeiting

Organized crime is a group-conducted criminal activity the preparation, way of execution or consequence of which:



1) may pose a threat or threatens the execution of public administration based on the principlesof a democratic rule of law or
2) heads towards the denial or denies fundamental human rights or otherwise interferes the constitution order or
3) harms the economic interests of the state and its critical infrastructure or
4) may cause harm or harms particularly vulnerable victims or
5) may cause or causes an extensive damage to life or property or
6) is of international character

Because of the high social danger, conspiratorial and organized nature, deployment of special police forces is required to detect this type of crime.

NCOZ
NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AGENCY
OF THE CRIMINAL POLICE AND INVESTIGATION SERVICE
POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

BECOME AN NCOZ OFFICER

Do you want to protect the security of the Czech Republic and fight against organized crime? We work on the most serious and complex cases with top professionals at home and abroad, using state-of-the-art technology. We are looking for new female and male colleagues who want to join us in working for the safety of citizens and the protection of their rights.

CONTACT FOR APPLICANTS: NCOZ.PERSONALNI@PCR.CZ

NCOZ IN 2025

The timeline illustrates the main NCOZ cases in 2025. More detailed information can be found online in the press release overview. All press releases published by the NCOZ Public Relations & Prevention Department are available in full on the website of the Czech Police.

JANUARY

9 January

Venture Invest Inc. Investment Fraud

NCOZ criminal investigators initiated criminal prosecution against one individual for the criminal offense of fraud under Section 209 (1) (5a) of the Czech Criminal Code. As a representative of the company Venture Invest Inc. and other business companies, the accused is believed to have defrauded at least 60 victims of their funds amounting to CZK 368.16 million under the pretext of high and short-term appreciation – up to 70% – of the invested money. Extracted funds were subsequently transferred channelled to other bank accounts, while their further use was concealed by the accused person through purported investments operations conducted with legal entities most of which ceased to exist shortly thereafter.

24 February

CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AT THE MOTOL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Based on its own intelligence, an investigation was opened by the NCOZ, targeting a group of persons suspected of corruption related to public procurement funds at the Motol University Hospital in 2023. According to the detectives' findings, the suspected persons systematically exploited public procurement funds by demanding unlawful financial benefits in exchange for the opportunity to execute public contracts, subsequently obscuring the origin of these benefits. This serious corrupt conduct is believed to have affected, among other things, the implementation of projects funded or co-financed from the EU budget with a total value exceeding CZK 4 billion (EUR 160 million).

Police officers proceeded with the intervention against the suspects in the early morning hours of 24 February 2025, having gathered a sufficient amount of evidence. 22 individuals had been detained, 16 of which were subsequently charged. Within the criminal proceedings, NCOZ investigators carried out 60 enforcement operations, including 46 house searches and searches of other premises, in course of which evidence was collected. In cooperation with other police units, more than 350 NCOZ officers participated in the raid.

During the operation, criminal prosecution was brought against 16 natural persons. The charges include harming the financial interests of the European Union, subsidy fraud, accepting a bribe, bribery, indirect bribery and money laundering (depending on the extent of participation of individual persons in crime). At a later stage of the investigation, another seven legal entities and three natural persons were added to the list, meaning that a total of 19 natural persons and seven legal entities are currently being prosecuted. Within the criminal proceedings, property of the accused worth over CZK 468 million has been seized.

In the event of a final conviction, the accused may receive a prison sentence from two to sixteen years. The case is supervised by the Delegated Prosecutor of the EPPO Ms Zdeňka Pavlásková.

MARCH

4 March
A Crackdown on an International Group of VAT Fraudsters

The European EPPO prosecutot, in cooperation with NCOZ, carried out an operation in a case of a suspected VAT fraud with damage exceeding CZK 335 million. EPPO coordinated a crackdown in the Czech Republic and Latvia against a group of persons suspected of VAT tax frauds when (upon) trading in used mobile phones. This group is believed to have intentionally abused a special tax regime that allows taxing only the dealer's profit margin if the goods originate from the EU. In this case, however, this condition was not met, as it was proven that the devices originated from the USA. NCOZ investigators detained Two individuals suspected of this criminal activity in the Czech Republic were arrested (In the Czech Republic NCOZ investigators detained 2 individuals suspected of this criminal activity). Another three were detained in Latvia. All detained persons were charged with tax fraud.

6 March
RP Invest – A CZK 700 million Investment Fraud

NCOZ case officers initiated an extensive operation targeting a group of legal entities known as RP Invest. In this case, fraudsters swindled at least 150 clients out of money under the pretext of an advantageous appreciation of deposits. The caused damage has reached approximately CZK 700 million. In this case, criminal prosecution was initiated against one individual for the criminal offense of fraud.

12 March
BLUM – A Group Organizing Illegal Migration

NCOZ detectives carried out an operation in a criminal case codenamed BLUM. The case concerned the transports of illegal migrants via Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic to the destination country, usually Germany, or other Western European countries. The organized group is believed to have operated mainly in the areas of Břeclav and Brno-venkov (Southern Moravia). For Illegal transports of persons that had been proven and documented, the accused organizer was receiving financial compensation, as did other smugglers who had been physically transporting the illegal migrants. One foreigner was charged with the crime of organizing and facilitating the illegal crossing of the state border.

19 March
Tax Evasion Upon Import of Jewellery with Damage of approx. CZK

NCOZ case officers finalized the investigation of an extensive tax evasion case in a record-breaking time. The case concerned the import of jewellery from Turkey. In cooperation with the Czech Customs Administration, twelve suspects were charged in June 2024 with the criminal offenses of participation in an organized criminal group and tax evasion. The charges relate to untaxed trading in gold jewellery worth at least CZK 1.142 billion imported from Turkey to other EU member states via the Czech Republic. The total damage caused to the state is estimated at CZK 240.84 million.

APRIL

1 April
Fraudulent Acquisition of EU Subsidies for Technological Equipment

NCOZ investigators carried out acts of criminal proceedings related to fraudulent drawing of EU subsidies amounting to approximately EUR 4.4 million (CZK 110 million). In the case, four natural persons and three legal entities are facing charges of subsidy fraud and harming the financial interests of the European Union. The accused are believed to have conspired with the aim of receiving EU financial support for the acquisition of technological equipment from the European Regional Development Fund for a company controlled by them. Subsidy applications were misrepresented with false and misleading figures, including an intentional overpricing of the acquisition costs for machine equipment. The accused acted via a scheme of interconnected foreign companies they kept under their factual control. The projects in question were administered by the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade within the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (OP EIC). The accused are believed to have extracted funds exceeding CZK 110 million.

9 April

PENZION – International THB Group for the Purpose of Prostitution

Three individuals suspected of human trafficking and organizing and facilitating the illegal border crossings were arrested in the Czech Republic. The operation was conducted by NCOZ in cooperation with the German Federal Police. In connection with an organized group operating in multiple states, at least in the territories of Vietnam, Germany, Poland, and Lithuania, the perpetrators addressed female victims. On the pretext of arranging jobs to them, women were tricked into travelling from Vietnam to the EU. Having exploited the distress and dependence of victims caused mainly by the language barrier, lack of social contacts and falling into a difficult-to-repay debt ranging from USD 10 – 39,000.00 for covering travel costs, securing visas, accommodation, and transportation within EU member states. The traffickers forced them to slave-labour as prostitutes in Germany. At their places of residence, the offenders were placing and updating sex-for-money advertisements on dedicated websites. They were intentionally inducing a situation that the victims' debts towards the organized group could never be covered by earnings from legal employment on the labour market, to which victims had no factual access anyway. This made the victims completely dependent on the suspects and forced them to prostitute themselves to be able to pay back their debts as quickly as possible. The suspects profited from the situation by touring the respective private apartments around Germany and collecting prostitution profits ranging from EUR 6,000 to 12,000 a week. They were keeping half of the money for themselves while the other half was sent to the victims' families from the infamous SAPA market in Prague. The apprehended traffickers were surrendered to Germany.

10 April

Arrest Of a Prosecuted Judge in Croatia

In cooperation with Croatian judicial authorities, NCOZ officers facilitated the surrender of a judge of the Regional Court in Brno to the Czech Republic. The judge was arrested in Croatia on 17 March 2025 by virtue of a European Arrest Warrant issued by Czech law enforcement authorities. Following his surrender to the Czech Republic, he was charged with fraud pursuant to Section 209 of the Criminal Code. According to the recent findings, the accused is believed to have unlawfully obtained financial resources from several individuals from within 2022-2025. The damage caused has exceeded CZK 12 million.

MAY

5 May

MOGUL – Modern-Day Slave Drivers in the Ústí nad Labem Region

As part of a case codenamed MOGUL, NCOZ officers arrested a group of individuals suspected of involvement in human trafficking through labour exploitation in the Czech Republic. The criminal activity had been taking place since at least 2013 in the Ústí nad Labem Region, particularly around the town of Štětí.The group is believed to have exploited the difficult life circumstances of victims originating from underprivileged backgrounds. The victims were reportedly forced to perform various forms of manual labour (such as waste sorting and maintenance of property owned by the accused) without receiving adequate financial compensation. Some of the victims were even turned into so-called domestic servants.The accused are believed to have used both psychological pressure and physical violence. The group's criminal activity has resulted in illicit profits amounting to several million Czech crowns (CZK).

22 May

A Group of Pimps Arrested

NCOZ detectives arrested a group of individuals suspected of committing the offence of prostitution-related exploitation. According to the case officers' findings, the criminal activity was being committed from at least September 2019 until March 2024 at several locations throughout the Czech Republic. Acting as members of an organised criminal group, the suspects recruited and offered women for prostitution to obtain unlawful financial gain. For this purpose, they have arranged apartments and other premises to be used as prostitution venues, particularly in guesthouses. They also believed to have been providing related advertising, transportation of prostitutes to the premises and other necessary services. The suspects profited from the earnings of their victim prostitutes by collecting either a 50% share of their income or receiving daily fee of CZK 1,500 per victim. This way, the accused are believed to have gained unlawful profits amounting to at least CZK 460,000. Ten individuals have ended up charged with the crime of pimping.

28 May

A CZK 14.5 Million Subsidy Fraud

Criminal prosecution of two individuals was initiated by the NCOZ in connection with the unlawful acquisition of funds from the budgets of the European Union and the Czech Republic amounting to approximately CZK 14.5 million.The suspects are alleged to have committed the offence by submitting false documentation in support of subsidy applications. The criminal proceedings are being conducted for the offences of Harming Financial Interests of the European Union under Section 260 of the Criminal Code; Subsidy Fraud under Section 212 of the Criminal Code; and Obtaining an Advantage in the Award of a Public Contract, Public Tender or Public Auction under Section 256 of the Criminal Code.

JUNE

11 June

VAT Evasion in the Provision of Security Agency Services

NCOZ investigators carried out investigative actions in a case concerning value-added tax (VAT) evasion. The case involved fictitious taxable transactions, primarily in the field of services provided by private security agencies. Subsequently, four individuals were charged with the criminal offence of tax evasion, having caused damage of approximately CZK 34 million. NCOZ officers conducted operations in the Plzeň, Karlovy Vary and Ústí nad Labem regions. Several house searches were carried out, and a total of eight individuals were detained.The case is supervised by the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Ústí nad Labem.

13 June

LARGE-SCALE TAX EVASION IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

NCOZ detectives concluded the investigation of a large-scale tax fraud case related to waste management operations. An indictment motion was sent to the High Public Prosecutor's Office, targeting one legal entity suspected of tax evasion.

The target company is held responsible for having reported up to 94% of waste deposited at several landfill sites as "landfill construction use" instead of reporting it as ordinary waste subject to statutory fees. By doing so, the company is believed to have failed to collect waste disposal fees from waste producers. These fees constitute a revenue for the affected municipalities and, in the case of hazardous waste, for the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic. The resulting damage amounted to approximately CZK 3.7 billion, of which about CZK 1.4 billion was suffered by municipalities and CZK 2.3 billion by the State Environmental Fund. The case concerns landfill sites located in the municipalities of Benátky nad Jizerou, Čáslav, Hořovice and Mšeno.

NCOZ case officer filed an indictment motion, raising charges of large-scale tax evasion. The indictment was filed by a prosecutor of the High Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague in October 2025.

19 June

Twenty Suspects Charged with Tax Evasion

As a result of cooperation within the framework of the Tax Cobra Task Force and a jointly established investigation team of the NCOZ and the General Directorate of Customs, charges were brought against a group of 20 individuals. The suspects have been charged with the offence of tax evasion committed for the benefit of an organised criminal group.Two separate groups have received unlawful profit of at least CZK 43 million by committing VAT fraud, the investigators concluded. By using a network of specially established shell companies and conducting fictitious business operations, tax fraudsters are believed to have systematically been reducing the VAT liability to their customers located at the end of fraudulent chains. These legal entities reported real high turnovers from their business activities, thereby incurring a high tax liability. This tax liability was being falsely reduced through the fraudster groups. In cooperation with the Customs Administration, dozens of houses and premises were searched in a joint raid as a part of criminal cases codenamed TOMAHAWK, KAVAL, and SIDNEY. 16 persons were arrested in the course the operation. Approximately CZK 11 million in cash, approx. CZK 12 million in bank accounts, two real estates, luxury goods (watches, bracelets, etc.) and three vehicles were seized. The mentioned criminal cases are supervised by the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Brno.

25 June

Corruption in Handling Traffic Offenses

Under the supervision of the Public Prosecutor of the District Public Prosecutor's Office for Prague 4, acts of criminal proceedings were carried out by the NCOZ regarding an investigation of alleged corruption. The case involved unlawful interference with administrative traffic offense proceedings. Seven suspects were detained and subsequently charged, including two public officials and one advocate. Procedural acts targeted, among other locations, the headquarters of the Prague 12 Municipal District Office.

JULY

4 July

International Tax Evasion in Electronics Trading

NCOZ criminal investigators participated in an international operation concerning large-scale organized VAT evasion in electronics trading with a damage of approx. EUR 10 million. The criminal proceedings are conducted by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Germany. Acts of criminal proceedings took place simultaneously in Belgium, Poland, and the Czech Republic. One suspect was arrested here by NCOZ officers on the grounds of a European Arrest Warrant and one house was searched. The detained person who is believed to be the main orchestrator of the tax fraud scheme was surrendered to Germany.

24 July

Manipulation of public contracts in the Public Transport Company

NCOZ officers filed an indictment motion against ten natural persons and sixteen legal entities in connection with corruption and manipulation of public contracts signed by the Public Transport Company of the Cities of Liberec and Jablonec nad Nisou (DPMLJ). Charges include, inter alia, securing an advantage in public procurement, at a public tender and public auction, harming the financial interests of the European Union, accepting a bribe and bribery. All defendants are prosecuted at large. Within this case, plea bargains with four natural persons and three legal entities were negotiated by the supervising public prosecutor.

AUGUST

16 August

THE BITCOIN CASE

With the consent of the public prosecutor of the High Public Prosecutor's Office in Olomouc, the prosecution of one natural person was initiated by the NCOZ on 16 August 2025 for a bitcoin trade-related crime. The accused person is held liable for concealing criminal origin of the virtual currency which is believed to originate from illegal darknet business operations. Dated 2025, the misconduct subject to investigation also concerns bitcoins donated to the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic. To date, the accused person has been prosecuted in custody. In the course of the seizure and confiscation measures, bitcoins of the Ministry of Justice kept in the wallet of the Office for Government Representation in Property Affairs were seized as proceeds of crime.

THE SUPERVISION OVER THE OBSERVANCE OF LEGALITY IN THE PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS IS EXERCISED BY THE HIGH PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN OLOMOUC, WHICH HAS RESERVED THE RIGHT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC IN THIS CRIMINAL CASE.

SEPTEMBER

3 September

Charges Raised for International Sanctions Violation

NCOZ investigators initiated the criminal prosecution of six natural persons and one legal entity for the criminal offense of violating international sanctions. The case concerns the export of a total of seven mining machines listed on the EU sanctions list to Russia (in 2023–2024). The machines are believed to have been exported from the Czech Republic to Russia via intermediaries in third countries.

4 September

Indictment in connection with Public Contracts

NCOZ initiated criminal prosecution of eight natural persons and three legal entities. The case is related to small-scale public contracts previously awarded by a contributory organization of the Moravian-Silesian Region. A former representative of the regional administration and an employee of the regional contributory organization are among the accused. Investigators believe that in 2022 – 2023, tender conditions were manipulated to allow selected contracts being awarded to the same bidder. Subsequently, bribes in the order of hundreds of thousands of CZK were received as a compensation for the awarding of these contracts. The accused face charges related to public contracts, bribery, accepting a bribe and subsidy fraud. In the event of a final conviction, they are liable to imprisonment for a term of five to ten years.

10 September

Charges Brought in Relation to EU Co-Funded Public Contracts

In cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), NCOZ carried out acts of criminal proceedings concerning public procurement procedures manipulations related to construction contracts co-financed from the budgets of the Czech Republic and the EU (via the European Regional Development Fund). Public contracts subject to the investigation were awarded in 2022-2025 and concerned the modernization of a school kitchen in the Plzeň Region and preparation of an investment project for the reconstruction of the former municipal baths in Plzeň. Case officers concluded that the procedure had been manipulated to favour pre-selected competitors and to allow a fraudulent misuse of public funds by a legal entity responsible for the preparation of this project. These contract manipulations resulted in a damage of approx. CZK 22 million. Charges were brought against nine individuals and two legal entities for subsidy fraud, securing an advantage in public procurement, harming the financial interests of the European Union, and fraud.

19 September

Renting of apartments in Havířov – seven suspects charged

NCOZ initiated the criminal prosecution of seven natural persons. The case is related to the renting of apartments owned by the Statutory Town of Havířov to pre-selected individuals to the detriment of ordinary applicants. There are four public officials among the accused. From 2019 to 2023, the accused were deliberately bypassing internal regulations of the conditions for renting municipal apartments and favoured selected individuals at the expense of r regular applicants. The accused face criminal prosecution for securing an advantage in a public tender and abuse of authority by an official. In the event of a final conviction, the defendant may serve a prison sentence from two to eight years.

OCTOBER

1 October

Indictment Motion Regarding a Parking House in Pardubice

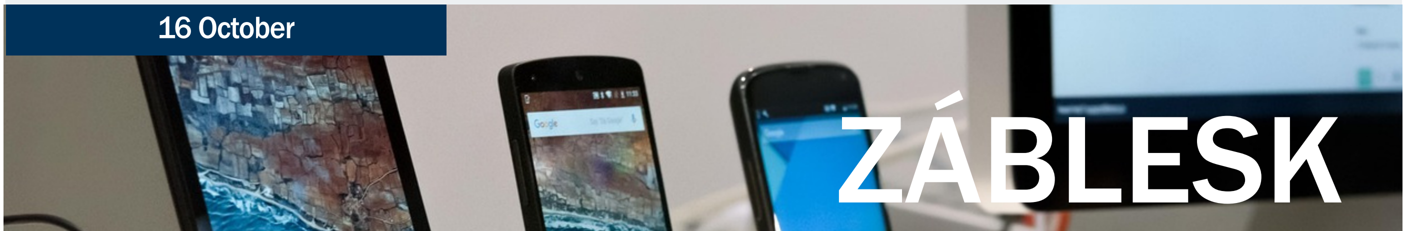
NCOZ case officers filed an indictment motion against six suspects. The case relates to the manipulation in selection of a contractor and technical supervisor for the construction of a parking house in Pardubice. Fraudsters attempted to eliminate one competitor from the parking house tendering process, trying to favour another bidder at the same time. In the selection of technical supervision, two bidders, reported to be cheaper than the contract-winning entity, were unlawfully excluded. This caused damage of CZK 627,990 to the Pardubice Development Fund (Rozvojový fond Pardubice – a legal entity acting as the municipal property and investment agency). Suspects are prosecuted for the criminal offenses of securing an advantage in public procurement and breach of duty in the administration of another's property.

2 October

Public Contracts for Transport Structures – Five Suspects Charged

NCOZ initiated the criminal prosecution of five individuals in connection with three public contracts awarded by the Road Administration and Maintenance of the South Moravian Region. Awarded in 2023, these public contracts were of estimated value up to CZK 100 million (excl. VAT) upon the initiation of the procurement procedure. This case is related to other criminal cases concerning public contracts for transport structures in the Olomouc Region, in which charges were brought earlier in November 2023 and in November 2024. However, these cases are investigated separately. The unlawful conduct of the accused is qualified as securing an advantage in public procurement pursuant to Section 256 of the Criminal Code. Additional charges of accepting a bribe pursuant to Section 331 of the Criminal Code apply to two of the suspects.

16 October



VAT EVASION IN ELECTRONICS IMPORT WITH A RECORD-BREAKING DAMAGE OF CZK 4.7 BILLION

On 13 October 2025, NCOZ detectives carried out a targeted operation within the case code-named ZÁBLESK, in close cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

The case concerns a VAT fraud scheme at an extremely large scale, related to trade in electronics. The resulting tax gap is currently estimated at more than CZK 4.7 billion.

A group of suspects is believed to have imported electronics from third countries (especially from the USA, United Arab Emirates, and Hong Kong) to the EU using a network of legal entities based in the Czech Republic. These entities were formally declaring intra-EU deliveries to customers from Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia. In reality, however, these legal entities have never carried out any business activity. They never received nor paid for any goods. The electronics in question is believed to have been supplied to other end customers which remain unknown to date.

Within the intervention, 19 house searches and searches of other premises were carried out. Concurrently, similar operations took place in Poland in cooperation with EPPO Katowice and in Slovakia.

Ten persons were detained, seven of whom were charged with aggravated tax evasion. Six persons were taken into custody on 15 October 2025. In the event of a final conviction, the accused are facing prison sentences ranging from 5 to 10 years.

In the given case, CZK 42 million worth of assets were seized from the suspects. Within the Tax Cobra cooperation framework, the investigation was supported by the General Financial Directorate and by the Financial Analytical Office (FIU). It is a criminal case with the highest damage (CZK 4.7 billion) ever recorded in the NCOZ history.

This is a case with the highest damage in the history of the NCOZ:

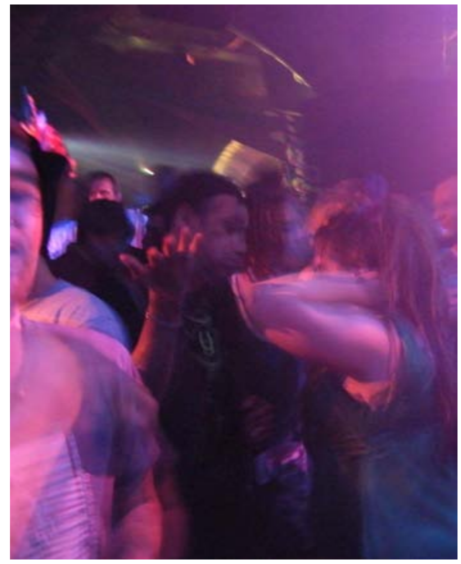
CZK 4.7 BILLION

42 million CZK worth of assets were seized from the suspects.

21 October

Indictment Motion Against 14 Female Suspects for Pimping

A motion for indictment of fourteen females was filed by NCOZ case officers in connection with profiting from prostitution carried out abroad. In early 2016, part of the accused women is believed to have established an underground community of mutually cooperating persons. The group intended to profit from facilitating prostitution of another in Great Britain (Northern Ireland in particular) and the Republic of Ireland. It was concluded that the whole community had been involved in the recruitment of prostitutes, establishing contact and communication with customers, transport, accommodation, and advertising of the provided sexual services. Within the group, there were so-called operators (other accused women) responsible for shift planning and directing clients to individual prostitutes. Sex workers were handing over an agreed part of their earnings to the main organizers. This way, the group received and shared a financial amount exceeding CZK 10 million. All women are charged with procuring/pimping committed for the benefit of an organized criminal group and participation in an organized criminal group.



24 October

Extensive International Operation Against VAT Evasion

Under the supervision of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), NCOZ officers participated in an extensive international operation concerning value-added tax evasion in small electronics trade with a damage of EUR 48 million. The criminal proceedings in this matter are conducted by the European Public Prosecutor's Office in Germany. The coordinated intervention took place in several European countries. On 22 October 2025, several houses and other premises were searched and witnesses were interviewed by NCOZ officers at the request of the EPPO office in Munich, Germany.

30 October

Evasion of Tax and Social Security with a Damage of CZK 206 Million

NCOZ investigators carried out acts of criminal proceedings to seize property within the case code-named BOHATÝR. Already in 2021, criminal prosecution of five natural persons was initiated in connection with the evasion of personal income tax advances, social security and public health insurance contributions with a damage of CZK 8 million. The accused were employing foreign nationals in the Czech Republic, primarily workers from Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania, both in the form of temporary agency employment and as direct employers. Employees were paid their wages for the work done but at the same time, statutory payroll deductions were not paid to the state. In the course of the investigation, a significant amount of additional evidence was secured, which ultimately led to an increase in the total damage to over CZK 206 million. While one person was charged, the prosecution of the other five suspects (already charged in 2021) was extended for aggravated tax evasion.

PRÁCE V ŘETĚZECH
WORK IN CHAINS

NCOZ preventive campaign aimed at the victims of labour exploitation

Call for FREE: La Strada (Mon-Fri 10-16/14 h)
800 077 777, in case of emergency
158 or **112 (24/7)**
(or ask someone to make the call for you).

Zastav to/STOP:

31 October

KLONDAJK – Charges Against a Group of Migrant Smugglers

Thirteen suspects were charged with smuggling illegal migrants by the NCOZ. An international organized group of perpetrators arranged the transport of illegal migrants from Southeast Asia through Hungary and Romania to Germany. Code-named KLONDAJK, the NCOZ has been dealing with the case since 2024. The members of the organized group are believed to have been acting as so-called coordinators, drivers and providers of food, protection and a hidden background during the illegal stay of migrants on the territory of the Czech Republic. They have been knowingly participating in activities related to the illegal crossing of the Czech border or EU member state by illegal migrants, in violation of valid legal regulations determining the entry or stay of foreigners. Migrant smugglers must have been aware of the fact that transported persons did not possess a valid travel document with a visa necessary for entry or a residence permit. During the transports with no border check performed, they intentionally abused the lifting of checks at the state borders within the Schengen Area, by which the transported persons violated the conditions for entry and stay on the territory of the Czech Republic within the meaning of the applicable provisions of the czech Act on the Residence of Foreigners in the Territory of the Czech Republic and the Regulation of the EU (Schengen Borders Code). Each member of the organized group participated in fulfilling partial tasks as a part of a planned and organized chain of activities. Illegal crossings of the Czech state border of at least 63 illegal migrants were organized this way, for which the group collected transport fees in the order (amounts) of hundreds of EUR per transport. All suspected persons were charged with organizing and facilitating the illegal crossing of the state border.

NOVEMBER

6 November

Illegal Migrant Smuggling Charges Against Three Suspects

NCOZ case officers charged three persons with smuggling illegal migrants. A group of persons is believed to have been transporting foreigners (mostly of Arabic origins) to other EU countries. According to our conclusions, the accused were renting trucks in various EU countries, which they subsequently equipped with false international transport documents. Once illegal migrants were boarded, smuggling vehicles were sealed to prevent the border force officers from entering the cargo area during a border check, or possibly a random check. Foreigners residing in the Czech Republic were usually hired as drivers. At least EUR 4,500 were collected by the smugglers for facilitating transport of one person. NCOZ investigators charged three persons with the criminal offense of organizing and facilitating the illegal crossing of the state border.

13 November

Public Contracts – Twelve Natural Persons and Five Legal Entities

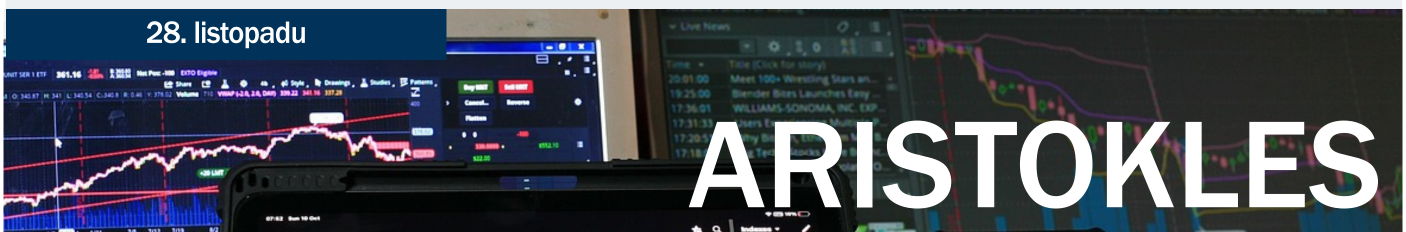
NCOZ detectives charged twelve natural persons and five legal persons in connection with the manipulation of public contracts. The criminal activity is believed to have been committed since 2015 by influencing small-scale public contracts awarded by the Road and Motorway Directorate (state company) and by three municipalities. NCOZ case officers had been dealing with the case since 2025. In November 2025, a coordinated operation took place in the Hradec Králové Region, Pardubice Region and the city of Prague. The criminal prosecution is conducted for the criminal offenses of securing an advantage in public procurement, money laundering and abuse of authority by an official.

14 November – Investment Fraud for Over CZK 620 million

NCOZ case officers filed an indictment motion targeting four natural persons for aggravated fraud. From early 2017 to March 2021, the accused (three of whom are Czech citizens) are believed to have extracted more than CZK 796 million worth of funds from at least 1,559 victims located mostly in Prague. The damage caused has reached at least CZK 622,88 million. Victims were scammed under the pretext of establishing trust funds. Fraudsters primarily abused the fact that trust funds are not subject to the supervision of the Czech National Bank as the financial market regulator. Their true objective was to collect funds under a false promise of a guaranteed 9% return profit on deposits.

24 November – Tax Evasion – Seizure of CZK 384 million

NCOZ carried out a large-scale operation aimed at detecting serious economic crime in the area of tax frauds. Criminal prosecution of two natural persons and one legal entity was initiated on the suspicion of evading corporate income tax. Recent findings suggest that the director of the business entity unlawfully claimed amounts from booked pro forma invoices as tax-deductible expenses. However, none of the goods listed on these documents were either delivered or collected in the respective taxation periods. This conduct led to an artificial reduction of tax base and tax liability of the company, resulting in an unlawful corporate income tax gap of at least CZK 130 million for the 2023-2024 taxation period.



A HALF-BILLION CZK INVESTMENT FRAUD – INDICTMENT MOTION AGAINST FOUR SUSPECTS

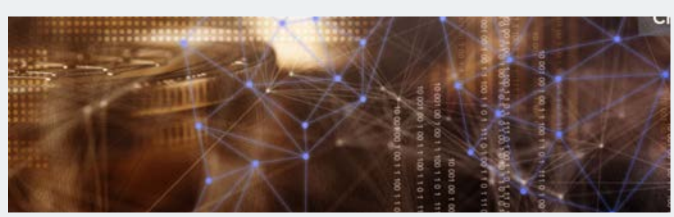
NCOZ case officers finalized a case by motion to indict four suspects concerning criminal activities of the group of companies covering the PlatonLife project. The case file was submitted to the Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague.

Over the three years of investigation, criminal prosecution of four suspects has been initiated for the charges of aggravated fraud. The determined damage has reached CZK 540 million. 2 732 victims were identified.

The fraud scheme dates back to 2018-2022. Future victims were offered a purchase of a digital cryptocurrency in the form of the PlatonCoin token and an entry into the PlatonLife ecosystem, where the appreciation of money invested was to be made possible. Funds collected from the clients were not used to develop the project as economically viable, even in the future. Suspects have never performed any other profit-making activity that would secure the offered return. On the opposite, they are believed to have used the acquired funds to enrich themselves and others.

During the investigation, a large volume of evidence has been collected, resulting primarily from house searches and searches of other premises, expert examinations, analysis of digital evidence and financial flows but also established from cooperation with natural persons and legal entities. Furthermore, approximately CZK 10 million worth of criminal proceeds were seized, primarily as funds deposited on bank accounts.

The case is supervised by the Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague. Defendants are facing prison sentences of up to 10 years if found guilty.



DECEMBER

2 December

LENS – Indictment Motion in the Czech Casting Case

NCOZ officers concluded the investigation of the LENS case, which concerned the creation of pornographic images presented online under the name Czech Casting. The investigation focused on the activities of an organized group advertising job offers in 2016-2019, presented as photo shootings for women over 18 years of age. According to the conclusions of criminal investigators, however, these offers were merely a cover for the production and subsequent distribution of pornographic images. In a targeted operation, ten persons were detained and nine were charged in 2020. Case officers finalized the investigation of the case and submitted the case file material to the Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague with a motion to indict the suspects for human trafficking and, for some of the accused, even for rape.

16 December 2025

BANDITA – International Group of Pimps

NCOZ detectives charged eight suspects with pimping in the case code-named BANDITA. The criminal activity was being conducted since 2022 in nightclubs located in the districts of Domažlice and Klatovy. Two organized groups are believed to have recruited and lured women, especially from Latin America and Southern Europe, into working as "companions". Group members booked and purchased flight tickets for the sex workers, and further arranged their accommodation and transport in the Czech Republic (from Václav Havel Airport Prague to nightclubs as well as within the escort services offered by the clubs). The women provided sexual services for money, while the accused (six Czech nationals and two foreigners) profited from the prostitution operated in this way.

9 December

INVESTIGATION OF AN ORGANIZED PIMPING GROUP FINALIZED

NCOZ criminal investigators proposed filing an indictment against nine natural persons and one legal entity in connection with operating about forty advertising websites and subsequent profiting from prostitution.

Code-named MARKÝZ, the case had been dealt with since 2022. In October 2023, the criminal prosecution of eight natural persons and one legal entity was initiated. Within the criminal proceedings, the targeted advertising websites were also made inaccessible. Later in the investigation, the criminal prosecution was extended to include one more individual.

All subjects (natural persons and the legal entity) are prosecuted for pimping and participating in an organized criminal group. The primary purpose of this group consisted in promoting sexual services for financial compensation (prostitution), for which pre-determined financial amounts were to be collected. The investigation concluded that the group operation had resulted in unlawful profit of some CZK 75 million.

One of the accused is facing additional charges of rape, sexual coercion, bodily harm, abuse of a person living in a shared dwelling, endangering the upbringing of a child, illicit production and other handling of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons, possession of a narcotic and psychotropic substance and poison, extortion, unauthorized procurement, forgery and alteration of a payment instrument, and illicit arming. This person is prosecuted in custody.

One accused natural person is facing a prison sentence of up to 12 years in the event of a final conviction; the other accused natural persons may be subject to imprisonment for a term of up to 10.5 years. The accused legal person is facing a penalty of forced dissolution.

CASE STATISTICS

INVESTIGATION OPENED

88 CASES

Initiation of criminal proceedings: An official record pursuant to Section 158 (3) of the Criminal Procedure Code filed in a total of 88 cases of suspected criminal activity reported.

49 INTEL

. 49 cases (55%) resulted from Agency's own field intelligence operations.

55 %

CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS LAUNCHED

92 CP

92 CASES Initiation of criminal prosecution: resolution on the initiation of criminal prosecution according to Section 160 (1) and (5) of the Criminal Procedure Code in a total of 92 cases of criminal activity. Within this, the following were charged:

406 NP natural persons

72 LE legal entities

INDICTMENT MOTIONS & PLEA AGREEMENTS

51 IM + 25 PAs

Motions to submit an indictment were submitted in relation to 51 cases. Within these cases, indictment proposals addressed:

241 NP IM natural persons

9 LE IM legal entities

Plea and sentencing agreements were negotiated in 25 cases. Of these, they concerned:

31 NP PA natural persons

5 LE PA legal entities

OPEN CASES

Open cases by crime area(s) as of December 31, 2025:

CRIMINAL NETWORKS	48
SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRIME & CORRUPTION	152
FINANCIAL CRIME	73
CYBER-ENABLED CRIME	7
NCOZ CASES TOTAL	280

Total 280 criminal case files

The number of criminal case files conducted at the end of 2025. Total: 280 open criminal case files. Numbers of criminal case files:

2019	320
2020	285
2021	282
2022	267
2023	255
2024	284
2025	280

Overview of case files supervised by EPPO

2020	3
2021	5
2022	8
2023	17
2024	24
2025	29

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The importance of the NCOZ's international cooperation in the fight against organized crime continued to grow in 2025. A number of the Czech Republic's activities (including the activities of the NCOZ) were influenced by the fact that we are an EU Member State. In addition, as the trend of significant changes in the security situation in the EU continued last year, this was also reflected in the development of organized crime.

In 2025, the significance of this form of crime as a threat to the EU was demonstrated by numerous steps taken by Member States and EU institutions aimed at responding to this dangerous form of crime. The NCOZ paid adequate attention to both operational cooperation with foreign partners and legislative and non-legislative measures aimed at combating organized crime adopted at the level of individual Member States and the entire EU. The same can be stated about the measures introduced in democratic third countries. Considerable importance was also attached to cooperation with Interpol.

Also in 2025, a number of parameters influencing the activities of the NCOZ were shaped by EU legislation. It can be expected that further EU acts will be adopted in the coming years. This will significantly influence the activities of the NCOZ and the actions taken against organized crime, corruption, etc.

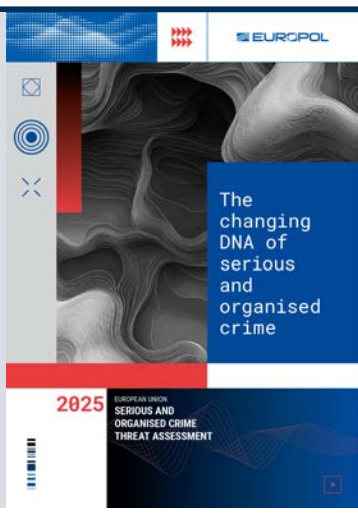
In April 2025, a new ProtectEU – the European Internal Security Strategy was introduced by the European Commission. The strategy sets out main goals and measures for strengthening the security and resilience of the EU in the years to come. It aims to strengthen the capabilities of Member States in protecting European societies and democracies from growing threats, including organized crime. Anew, security aspects (i.e. including combating organized crime) shall be systematically taken into account in all EU policies.

In 2025, the concept of so-called "High-Risk Criminal Networks" (HRCN) was further developed in the EU. In this context, new trends and technologies, changes in online environment, and other variable elements having a significant impact on the changes and globalization of organized crime were also mentioned. In 2026, Europol is expected to present a new report focused on this topic. The NCOZ participated in its preparation.

Last year, the European Commission started assessing the impact of EU legislation in the field of organized crime, focusing on the impact of the current setup of the fight against the threat of organized crime in the EU.

At the same time, a new mandate for Europol is being prepared. By the end of 2026, a new EU anti-corruption strategy is to be presented. As a part of the European Interoperability Framework, a gradual launch of extensive EU information systems is underway. These may provide added value for security forces, including our agency.

In 2025, the NCOZ cooperated closely with a number of countries, especially with EU Member States. In addition to a common legal basis in the area of international judicial cooperation, direct legal contact,



EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment

SOCTA 2025

In March 2025, Europol's SOCTA 2025: The Changing DNA of Serious and Organised Crime report was published. In the document, the following areas of crime are considered key risks in the field of organized crime: cyberattacks, online fraud, child sexual exploitation, illegal migrant smuggling, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, and environmental crime connected to waste. The NCOZ participated in the preparation of this material.

the possibility of discussing individual cases within Eurojust, joint investigation teams (JITs), and meetings of contact points of specialist networks are considered great benefits.

Intensive cooperation between the NCOZ and certain third countries (e.g. the United Kingdom) also took place. Cooperation with other countries was handled on an ad hoc basis. Its forms were influenced by actual needs, the structure of local authorities in the requested country and their competencies.

In 2025, intensive cooperation continued between the NCOZ and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). Given its defined jurisdiction focused on the protection of European finances in the area of subsidy and tax fraud, the EPPO plays a significant role in suppressing tax criminality within the EU. In its 2025 annual report, the EPPO warned citizens and institutions about an extraordinary scale of fraud schemes harming EU interests. It was stated that organized crime was heavily involved in these activities.

International cooperation issues, international activities and the performance of police activities in areas falling within the jurisdiction of the Agency were internally supervised by the International Cooperation and Advisory Department (OMSM). International cooperation and related activities were coordinated via relevant organizational units of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic. The department assisted within cross-border operations with specialized foreign police forces, as well as coordination meetings and procedural acts both home and abroad. Support was also provided at JIT team meetings under the auspices of Eurojust, operational meetings and gatherings, often under the patronage of Europol.

In 2025, NCOZ officers participated in the implementation of projects within the Official Development Assistance and in EU-funded projects. The NCOZ took part in a number of activities carried out under the EMPACT platform.

NCOZ officers travelled abroad in order to support combatting organized crime. In this regard, a visit of the NCOZ leadership to Italy in September 2025 may be mentioned. A Memorandum of Understanding and Mutual Cooperation was signed with the Italian Guardia di Finanza during this business trip.

Last year, the Agency continued to benefit from the activities of police liaison officers. As in previous years, regular meetings were held throughout the year for the purpose of exchanging information and handling requests with authorized personnel or police liaison officers of foreign security forces as well as Czech police liaison officers deployed abroad.

The Asset Recovery Office (ARO) team played a significant role in international cooperation. It must be noted that – apart from detecting and investigating crime within its subject-matter jurisdiction – the Agency is also a specialized department for tracing and seizing criminal proceeds. Through its international office, the NCOZ executes the duties of the Asset Recovery Office in the Czech Republic.

In 2025, a representative of the agency's International Cooperation Division stood for the Police of the Czech Republic as a Point of Contact within the CARIN network (an international information network that brings together authorities working for institutions dealing with seizure and recovery of criminal proceeds). One of the main goals of the network is to foster cooperation and exchange of information in the area of tracing and seizure of illicit proceeds.

EPPO – EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR OFFICE

The main task of the EPPO is to protect selected financial interests of the European Union by means of criminal law. Its jurisdiction covers corruption and fraud-related conduct linked to European funds amounting to more than EUR 10,000.00 and cases of cross-border VAT fraud with damage exceeding EUR 10 million. The EPPO represents the public interest and operates independently of national governments, the European Commission, and other EU agencies. Delegated European Prosecutors work within the structure of their national judicial authorities but remain independent in the performance of their duties. The Czech Republic has one European Prosecutor in Luxembourg and nine Delegated European Prosecutors in based in their home country. In total, there are ten prosecutors for the Czech Republic in the EPPO.

TRENDS OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Organized crime in the Czech Republic is changing its strategy. Instead of violence, digital professionalization is on the rise. Old-school 1990s gangs and clientelist corrupt groups are being replaced by highly specialized structures operating on the "Crime-as-a-Service" principle. The centre of the underworld is shifting to computer monitors and sophisticated economic machinations on an international scale. Economic crime remains the dominant form of organized crime – corruption, tax fraud, money laundering, human trafficking. In response to the state's detection tools, economic crime has become highly specialized.

The development of tools available to the rule of law to detect criminal activity also brings about the professionalization of organized crime and the development of the "Crime-as-a-Service" industry. Professional criminal groups focus on delivering specific services on demand, such as value transfers, money laundering, and the provision of forged documents.

This tendency is primarily a response to a number of legislative measures in the fight against organized crime and corruption, as well as new investigation methods used by the police. Today's trend are different forms of organized crime growing together. This is clearly visible in human trafficking in connection with illegal employment, crossing tax crime on their way.

Trends can also be read from the statistics of cases handled by the NCOZ in 2025. Out of a total of 280 cases, serious economic crime and corruption dominated (54%), followed by financial crime (26%) and activities of criminal networks, including human trafficking (17%).

VIOLENCE

In general terms, violent crime is generally assessed as declining. However, isolated cases point to the threat that directed violence may appear in connection with the proceeds from economic crime. Either it is a service with the aim of appropriating illicit profits or supporting competition and battle for territory. This targeted Violence-as-a-Service (VaaS) may even be of significant cross-border nature.

CORRUPTION

Corruption still has the basic manifestations of clientelistic networks or bribery. Speaking of public procurement, construction, healthcare and IT services remain the highest-risk areas. Administrative proceedings get influenced directly by government officials at various levels who manipulate official decisions in exchange for a bribe.

There is a constant effort to invade the centres of decision making at all levels where there is a representative democracy and governance as

CORRUPTION

Corruption still has the basic manifestations of clientelistic networks or bribery. Speaking of public procurement, construction, healthcare and IT services remain the riskiest areas. Administrative proceedings get influenced directly by government officials at various levels who manipulate official decisions in exchange for a bribe. There is a constant effort to gain influence over the centres of decision making at all levels where there is a representative democracy and governance as substantial financial resources or other values are distributed even at the municipal and city levels.

substantial financial resources or other values are distributed even at the municipal and city levels.

As for the domestic corruption, it is shaped by the infiltration of particular economic interests into the process of political decision-making regarding public budgets. Criminal activity is connected to the distribution of public funds in the areas of public procurement and subsidies, tender manipulations, and the abuse of information and influence. In terms of high impact and damage, the sectors of IT, construction, healthcare are particularly vulnerable, along with all subsidy programs.

TAX CRIME

Tax crime primarily involves taxation in international trade in goods. Evasion of VAT appears upon the import of Asian goods (electronics, textiles, cars) which disappear from the sight of authorities after customs clearance, ending up on the black market or in online marketplaces.

The damage to the state arises during the import of goods, especially from Asian countries. The scheme is often similar: following the EU customs clearance, the goods (electronics, cars, or textiles) are reported to be delivered to unreachable shell companies, being sold on the black market or via online marketplaces. In this way, these goods go off the radar of government authorities while no VAT is remitted. It may also involve other goods (gold jewellery, mobile phones). It is assumed that customs duties are also evaded in connection with this import, mainly by undervaluation. This is the area of crime affecting all EU member states.

There is a noticeably increasing trend of criminal activity in connection with employment. This involves the evasion of mandatory levies, which weakens the stability of the pension and social security system, or the illegal employment of foreigners.

At the same time, other types of criminal behaviour are attached to this type of criminality – forgery, human trafficking, etc. In the area of employment, the use of company chains issuing fictitious invoices persists.

OFF-BANK TRANSACTIONS

This tax crime is followed by so called money services – a term used in the Asian community for informal value transfer systems. Criminal groups organize transfers of billion-crown amounts outside the banking system to avoid in transactions anti-money laundering (AML) control mechanisms.

INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS

The security situation in the Czech Republic is significantly affected by the Russian aggression in Ukraine. We record and detect cases of international corruption in connection with deliveries of arms and regarding violations of the sanction regime.

Before 2014, there were only isolated cases related to sanction violations. In the course of 2025, it has turned into a fast-growing issue in the NCOZ agenda, with a very significant increase in detected and investigated cases.

MONEY LAUNDERING

The relocation of post-Soviet criminal structures to the Schengen area poses a major threat. The influx of toxic capital makes room for additional negative externalities and deformations of the economic environment.

Speaking of the areas of ML, illegal employment, and immigration policy, if appropriate legislative measures and tools are not adopted in the future, complemented by the modernization and streamlining of the activities of the relevant parts of the state administration and security forces, there is a threat of an increase in this type of crime in the Czech Republic.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

TREND OF 2025

In combating human trafficking, NCOZ detects an increase in profiting from the prostitution of women originating primarily from Asia and Latin America.

This trend is driven by the social, security, and financial conditions of the source countries, which force these women to travel for a limited time to the Czech Republic or other European countries on tourist visas. Here, they often become what is called "occasional prostitutes" in the sense that after repaying the debt for the flight ticket to the perpetrators, they try to send the earned money to family members in their home countries and improve the economic situation of their families.

Some women realize they are traveling to Europe for the purpose of turning to sex workers. In some cases, they are offered jobs such as waitresses, models, or shop assistants while still in their home countries. They only learn the true purpose of the trip upon their arrival.

In this regard, perpetrators often use the so-called "pink hand" method: the victim is recruited by a person they know, often another current or former victim. This method, exploiting natural trust, proves to be very effective.

For entry into the Schengen area, women use tourist visas, allowing them to stay for a maximum of 90 within 180 days. During this time, they are often transported not only within cities of a specific country but also across the border so that they represent novelty or exclusivity for potential customers in a specific location. The organizers and perpetrators then arrange erotic advertising. After 90 days, the women return to their country of origin. Alternatively, for economic reasons associated with the trip to Europe, they may be moved to non-Schengen countries (e.g., to the Western Balkans region), where commercial sex is again provided. After the expiration of another 90 days, they return to Schengen area countries.

A specific feature of working with victims of sex exploitation is a huge distrust towards the police but also other actors offering help to these persons, e.g. particular NGOs. This is primarily caused by these women's own bad experiences with the work of the police in their home countries. However, the reluctance to cooperate is also caused by the fear of self-incrimination, as the victims are very often aware that they must not be engaged in any gainful activity while staying on tourist visas.

NCOZ officers encounter this tendency not only in the course of their duties. As meetings with European partners within the EMPACT project imply, this has evolved into a pan-European trend.

RECOVERY OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDS AND ASSET CONFISCATION

The year 2025 is marked by a change in criminal infrastructure in relation to money laundering. For the NCOZ, this means the necessity to adapt investigative procedures and the subsequent seizure of assets with a focus on breaching anonymity in blockchain transactions. This brings the necessity to identify new modi operandi and risks to the country's internal security in the area of digital assets.

In 2025, there is a fundamental change in criminal infrastructure in relation to money laundering, which requires the adaptation of police procedures to de-anonymize blockchain transactions.

TECHNOLOGICAL OBSTRUCTION AND ANONYMIZATION

Investigations encounter a high degree of technological advancement of organized groups that deliberately destroy digital evidence. Cryptocurrency mixers and privacy coins (privacy-focused currencies) are routinely used, which make blockchain analysis impossible or significantly more difficult. There is a shift in the coordination of criminal activity to encrypted platforms such as Signal or Discord, where law enforcement authorities have only limited or no access.

CRYPTOASSETS AND DEFI

Perpetrators are shifting to decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms. Tools for money laundering are diversifying (NFTs and Tokens). Perpetrators are abandoning classic cryptocurrencies as the only tool and switch to non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and utility tokens. These digital assets are used to artificially inflate value and obscure the origin of funds, thereby complicating the tracing of the flow of assets. The use of cryptocurrency mixers and privacy-focused currencies, such as Monero (XMR), has become a common standard for perpetrators.

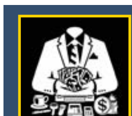
A new obstacle is the change of criminal activities to DeFi platforms. This involves the absence of an authority as these decentralized exchanges and lending platforms have no central administrator or headquarters. Traditional tools of criminal proceedings (e.g., seizure orders addressed to a specific institution) are ineffective here. Seizing crypto assets on these platforms is technically and legally extremely demanding due to the complexity of legal assistance procedures. In most cases, it is difficult to determine the registered office of the entities, etc.

CONDUIT ACCOUNTS

Closely related to the issue of the penetration and establishment of foreign-language criminal networks is the entry of criminal capital. Among many other forms, it appears in the Czech Republic also in the form of a long-term phenomenon of significant financial flows from the post-Soviet region through the Czech Republic via so-called conduit accounts.

A portion of these flows remains in the Czech Republic in the form of investments. Domestic foreign-language criminal networks are known to participate in the management of these assets on behalf of foreign criminal authorities. The effectiveness of interventions against this type of money laundering may be strengthened in the future by the much-debated amendment to the legislative framework (e.g., in relation to the obligatory detection of a predicate criminal offense committed abroad).

Bank accounts are usually set up for newly established legal entities solely for the purpose of the so-called flow of financial funds, so that they can be legalized in their country of origin through fictitious foreign business operations.



NEW MODI OPERANDI IN INVESTMENT FRAUD – "PIG-BUTCHERING"

It is a sophisticated method of social engineering. The so-called "Pig-Butchering" Scam is currently trending among fraud schemes. Unlike previous quick frauds, this is a long-term, psychologically sophisticated manipulation of the victim. The pitfall lies in the fact that the perpetrators build a trusting relationship with the victims and subsequently guide them to join fake investment platforms, or offer them seemingly advantageous investments in the crypto world. High volumes of financial funds are extracted from the victims and subsequently laundered through complex chains of transactions, which complicates their timely detection and freezing. The high social danger lies in the targeting of life savings. The loss of assets, with damage in the millions of CZK per person, leads to existential crises for the victims.

ASSET RECOVERY STATISTICS

In terms of the volume of secured assets and the qualification of criminal offenses, the most significant values were seized within investment, tax, and subsidy fraud cases. Furthermore, there were corruption-related criminal offenses connected with the manipulation of public procurement, drug-related criminality, and money laundering. The type and nature of seized assets remain highly diverse – besides traditional financial funds in cash or in bank accounts, real estate, vehicles, and electronics, they include works of art, virtual assets, receivables (e.g., from leasing contracts) and securities, including assets allocated to trust funds.

In 2025, virtual assets (BTC, ETH, DOGE, etc.) were seized by police authorities in a number of cases, both at the level of units with national jurisdiction (NCOZ) and Regional Police Directorates. Their reported value amounts to approximately CZK 1.3 billion. For many police departments, seizures of virtual assets have already become a relatively common part of the activities.

A number of cases in which assets were successfully seized abroad (Spain, Italy, Montenegro, etc.) can be judged positively.

In relation to the issue of corruption connected with military contracts in Ukraine, it can be stated that at the end of 2025, the NCOZ Tax Crime Division carried out an operation regarding the evasion of corporate income tax (fraudulent claiming of manifold higher costs), which was connected with the sale/delivery of drones to Ukraine. In this case, some CZK 330 million worth of funds were secured in a bank account by the investigating authority.

OVERVIEW OF SECURED ASSETS AND FINANCIAL FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2025 TO 31.12.2025

Regional Police Directorates	CZK 3.20 billion
National Organized Crime Agency (NCOZ)	CZK 3.92 billion
National Drug Headquarters (NPC)	CZK 0.12 billion
POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC TOTAL	CZK 7.23 billion

Value of secured assets 2023–2025	YEAR 2023	YEAR 2024	YEAR 2025
NCOZ	6 209 465 734 CZK	1 483 395 092 CZK	3 917 616 233 CZK
NPC	143 031 646 CZK	140 989 972 CZK	115 083 104 CZK
Regional Police Directorates	2 473 641 872 CZK	4 142 306 375 CZK	3 199 880 724 CZK
TOTAL FOR THE CZECH POLICE	8 826 139 252 CZK	5 766 691 439 CZK	7 232 580 061 CZK
BALANCE OF ASSETS AFTER REVOCATION OF SEIZURE	6 365 649 574 CZK	5 455 227 333 CZK	6 814 163 320 CZK

Note: The value of narcotic and psychotropic substances seized by the National Drug Headquarters (NPC) amounts to approximately CZK 438.03 million according to minimum estimates. The value of these illegal substances is not officially reported in the statistics of seized property.

ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT

Illegal employment represents a serious security, economic, and social problem that has a direct impact on the functioning of the labour market, public budgets, and the internal security of the Czech Republic. It is not an isolated occurrence, but a complex phenomenon closely interconnected with illegal migration, developments within foreign diasporas, organized crime and tax crime as well as the execution of administrative agendas and control activities of public administration.

In addition to the economic impacts, illegal employment disrupts the working conditions of employees, who are deprived of legal protection. Simultaneously, the business environment is being distorted. Illegally employing businesses gain an unfair competitive advantage due to lower costs, thereby harming honest employers and the entire labour market.

For organized crime, illegal employment is a fundamental source of profits, criminal opportunities, and a tool of control over the workforce and entire communities. A typical manifestation is the existence of so-called black and grey employment agencies, which provide a workforce through subcontracting chains to market segments with low attractiveness for the majority Czech population.

Special attention must be paid to the so-called client system within certain foreign communities. Here, illegal labour intermediaries use coercive practices and systematically collect a portion of the wage, fees for "protection", or for securing work or accommodation. In this way, they build influence over the working but also the personal lives of foreign employees. This fact makes their integration into society significantly more complicated, strengthening the emergence of closed communities with low trust towards state institutions.

Labor intermediation is considered a key sub-area of illegal employment. Alongside employment agencies subject to legal regulation, there are many illegal entities or only formally existing employment agencies operating on the labour market which factually circumvent legal regulations. Such unfair practices result in a system combining low labour costs, high flexibility and minimal regulation, which again favours illegal activities.

The insufficient level of legal regulation of employment agencies, the predominantly formal position of their responsible representatives, and the existence of so-called shell companies create conditions for the long-term functioning of the "grey economy". Its characteristic features primarily include the dilution of formal legal responsibility and the systematic exploitation of existing legal loopholes. This situation is further exacerbated by the obsolescence of the legislative framework and an insufficiently flexible and coordinated response from the public administration.

The goal of the state must therefore be a systematic reduction of these phenomena through the strengthening of control mechanisms, effective law enforcement, and the restriction of space for the operation of organized crime. At the same time, it is necessary to focus on the protection of victims of exploitation while supporting the integration of foreigners. This should prevent the parallel structures conducting illegal activities from emerging.

Illegal employment is closely interconnected with other criminal activity as well. This primarily includes illegal migration with employment used as a pretext justifying a stay in our territory. Furthermore, there are forgery of documents, tax crime or money laundering. A particularly serious form is labour exploitation, which may grow even into modern forms of slavery. Victims are subjected to abuse, relations of dependence and even violence, while proving these cases is considerably complicated. Therefore, in practice, criminal prosecution is applied primarily to the most serious forms of such conduct.

PROPOSED ACTION

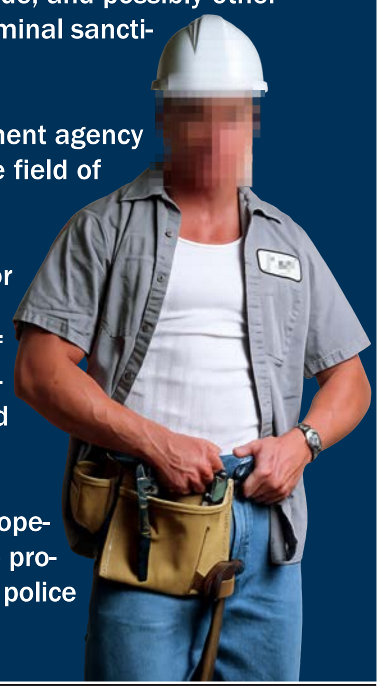
Given the complexity of this phenomenon, changes in the following areas shall be considered to improve the capabilities of law enforcement authorities:

- Legislative clarification and supplementation of the constituent elements of selected criminal offenses, in particular under Section 340 and Section 342 of the Criminal Code (in relation to illegal migration), as well as the criminal offense of human trafficking under Section 168 of the Criminal Code and the criminal offense of evasion of taxes, fees, and similar mandatory payments under Section 240 of the Criminal Code, and possibly other related criminal offenses, including the concurrent tightening of criminal sanctions for these unlawful acts.

- Tightening of control obligations towards the end users of employment agency services. Tightening of licensing conditions for entrepreneurs in the field of employment agency mediation.

- Recodification of the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals or amendment of the existing legislation – digitalization, clarification of the extensively perceived principle of proportionality, tightening of conditions for foreign nationals who pose a security risk (e.g., perpetrators of criminal offenses, persons associated with organized crime).

- Broadening the scope and further strengthening the efficiency of cooperation between partners in public administration and security – the project Cobra 26 framework, including the development of international police cooperation in this particular area.



NCOZ PREVENTIVE CAMPAIGN

WORK IN CHAINS

The National Crime Agency, which is responsible for investigating human trafficking and illegal migration, has launched a new prevention campaign. Its aim is to raise awareness of the issue not only among the general public but also within the police force itself, as officers may come into contact with potential victims in the course of their everyday duties.

Named "Work in Chains", the project focuses on the issue of human trafficking, which is the most serious form of crime that threatens human rights, freedom and integrity, turning victims into things.

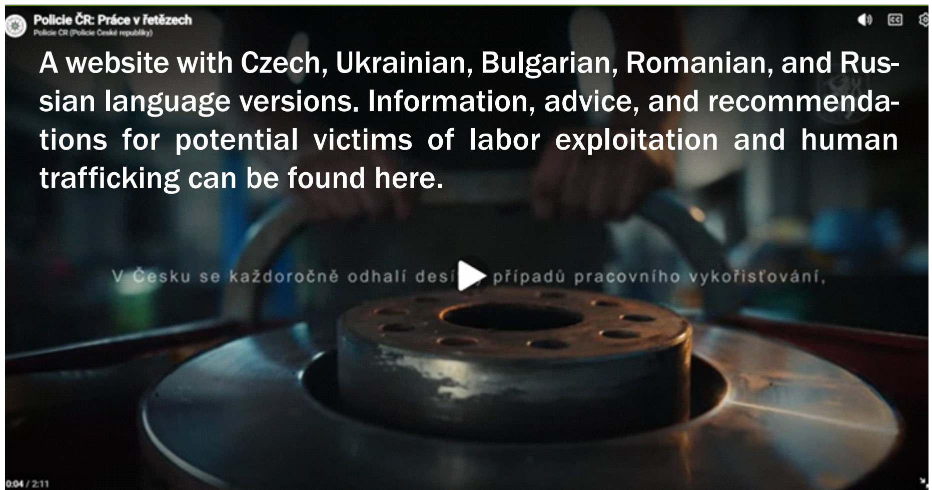
This crime targets a diverse group of people and uses increasingly sophisticated methods of pressure on the victim with the intention of exploiting them. This issue is fostered by, among other things, illegal migration, the political situation in the world, economic instability and low financial literacy. Perpetrators take advantage of the victim's trustworthiness, their difficult social situation and ignorance of the legal environment.

Victims (not only from abroad, but also Czech nationals) often find themselves in a situation where they are deprived of their fundamental rights, in debt and forced to perform work or provide services under the threat of physical *violence or other harm.*

The project includes information materials, a video, and a cooperation framework with NGO partner organizations assisting victims. The public should be cautious especially when accepting job offers from abroad and inland through unknown intermediaries.

It is crucial to verify the employer, have a valid employment contract, and maintain contact with family and friends. Only early recognition of the risk can prevent a person from becoming a victim of human trafficking.

Every year, the NCOZ deals with several dozen cases of human trafficking. However, the estimated actual number is much higher. Most often, the victims are persons in difficult life situations, homeless persons and persons with no family background, lacking knowledge of the system and language. persons with illegal residence, single mothers, or those dependent on addictive substances or another person. This criminal offense is committed both against adults and children and can happen to any of us. Victims of human trafficking may then work in our favourite bistro, massage parlour, or at a nearby construction site or factory.



policie.gov.cz/clanek/prace-v-retezech

CONTACTS

NCOZ

**NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AGENCY
OF THE CRIMINAL POLICE AND INVESTIGATION SERVICE
POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

NCOZ CONTACTS
Mailing address: PO BOX 41/NCOZ, 156 80, Praha 5 – Zbraslav
Data box: eesyd9x
Telephone: 974 842 683
e-mail: epodatelna.policie@policie.gov.cz

MEDIA CONTACTS:
NCOZ Spokesperson: Col. Jaroslav Ibehej
e-mail: ncoz.tisk@pcr.cz

RECRUITMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES:
e-mail: ncoz.personalni@pcr.cz

2025
ANNUAL REPORT
NCOZ
NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AGENCY
OF THE CRIMINAL POLICE AND INVESTIGATION SERVICE
POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC