ØKOKRIM
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John Petter Reinertsen, Samfoto (front page, pp. 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 20)
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Design: Marit Jørgensen, PDC Tangen
Print: PDC Tangen
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ØKOKRIM

Den sentrale enhet for etterforsking og påtale av økonomisk kriminalitet og miljøkriminalitet
What is ØKOKRIM?

ØKOKRIM is the Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime and was established in 1989.

ØKOKRIM has a dual role: it is a specialist agency within the police and a national prosecuting authority. The formal rules about ØKOKRIM can be found in chapter 35 of the Prosecution Instructions.

ØKOKRIM has the following strategic aims:

→ to detect, investigate and prosecute crimes and appear for the prosecution in court
→ to assist domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies and prosecuting authorities
→ to increase the level of expertise among the employees of the police and prosecuting authorities in Norway and to disseminate information
→ to gather criminal intelligence and to receive and process suspicious transaction reports
→ to act as a consultative body for national and supervisory authorities
→ to participate in international co-operation initiatives
King in Council

Ministry of Justice

National Police Directorate

ØKOKRIM
(6 specialist agencies within the police)

Police district
(27 police districts)

Director General of Public Prosecutions

Public Prosecutors' Office
(10 regional public prosecutors' offices)

Criminal cases:

Administration and funding:
ØKOKRIM’s position within the police and prosecuting authorities

ØKOKRIM is one of six specialist agencies within the police and one of twelve public prosecutors’ offices (of which ten offices are regional). Please see illustration on the left.

As a police agency, ØKOKRIM reports to the National Police Directorate regarding administration and funding. When it comes to prosecution of criminal cases, ØKOKRIM reports to the Director General of Public Prosecutions.

The police districts are not subordinate to ØKOKRIM, which means that ØKOKRIM cannot direct a police district to investigate a case.
Norway is a good country to live in and has many important and valuable assets. Crime poses a threat to these assets. By fighting crime, ØKOKRIM helps protect important assets that belong to society as a whole. Protection of important assets is ØKOKRIM’s vision.

ØKOKRIM’s main objective is to do all it can to prevent crime and ensure law and order in its areas of responsibility.

We have found that crime is best prevented through work on concrete criminal proceedings (both our own cases and cases where we assist others), as this signals to the public that breaking the rules in these areas entails a risk of punishment. Most of ØKOKRIM’s resources are spent on work on concrete cases.

ØKOKRIM’s employees shall adhere to our four core values in their relations with their colleagues and others, namely: we shall be honest, professional, committed and inclusive.
ØKOKRIM has a flat organisational structure. The Director and Deputy Director are supported by the executive group which consists of the head of the Administration Department, the head of the Press and Information Department, a chief superintendent, a senior adviser with qualifications in finance and a senior public prosecutor.
Investigations are conducted by fixed, multidisciplinary teams. Each team has its special area of responsibility. The main task of most of the investigation teams is to investigate and prosecute cases initiated by ØKOKRIM itself. The Assistance Team offers assistance to the police districts. Other teams – particularly the Environment Team and the Assets Confiscation Team – also offer assistance within their special fields. The Money Laundering Team receives and processes reports on suspicious transactions and other intelligence information. As a rule, an investigation team consists of

- a team leader (senior public prosecutor)
- a police prosecutor
- investigators with police training
- investigators with qualifications in finance (auditors, commerce graduates)
- an executive officer

In addition to the investigation teams, ØKOKRIM has two advisers working on organisational development, a press and information department, an IT department and an administration department. The Administration Department consists of three sections: The Personnel Section, the Finance Section, and the Records Section. Please see ØKOKRIM's organisational chart.
ØKOKRIM’s cases

ØKOKRIM investigates cases that are substantial, complex, serious and/or of a fundamental nature. Many of these cases have ramifications for other countries. ØKOKRIM handles cases of a fundamental nature, including cases that lead to the development of case law within a certain area. ØKOKRIM handles a limited number of selected cases. ØKOKRIM’s director and deputy director decide which cases should be handled by ØKOKRIM.

ØKOKRIM and other police units co-operate with the surveillance authorities, the business sector and others in combating economic and environmental crime. The cases are reported to ØKOKRIM by the surveillance authorities (e.g. the Inland Revenue Service, the Banking, Insurance and Securities Commission, the Norwegian Competition Authority, the Customs Service, the Directorate for Nature Management, the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority), other public authorities, local police/prosecuting authorities, the Director General of Public Prosecutions, trustees in bankruptcy, private individuals.

ØKOKRIM may also institute criminal proceedings on its own initiative or on the basis of suspicious transaction reports received from banks and other financial institutions.
Assistance

Most cases regarding economic crime and environmental crime are investigated by the police districts. On request from the police districts in Norway, ØKOKRIM offers assistance in the investigation of criminal cases. The type of assistance varies from a few hours' advice by a single ØKOKRIM employee to several months' investigation assistance from a number of ØKOKRIM employees. ØKOKRIM also assists police districts in assessing whether to institute criminal proceedings. In a few cases, ØKOKRIM appears for the prosecution in court on behalf of police districts. Furthermore, ØKOKRIM offers assistance in other criminal cases where financial investigation is relevant, inter alia in order to ensure that the proceeds from criminal offences be confiscated. ØKOKRIM's assistance also includes executing letters rogatory and providing such assistance as requested by police authorities in other countries.

In assisting the police districts in their investigative work, ØKOKRIM contributes to developing their expertise, thereby increasing their ability to handle a wider range of cases independently. ØKOKRIM has offered assistance to many police districts in establishing multidisciplinary teams, tasked with investigating economic crime.
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Kostnadt
ordinært resultat

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Economic crime includes

- gross fraud
- social security fraud/misuse of governmental subsidies
- violation of the Accounting Act
- violation of the Insolvency Act
- tax evasion
- offences related to the stock market and securities trading
- violation of the Competition Act
- corruption, breach of trust, and embezzlement
- money laundering (handling of stolen property)
One of ØKOKRIM’s tasks is to receive and process suspicious transaction reports pursuant to the Money Laundering Act. Undertakings and legal persons obliged to report to ØKOKRIM are financial institutions (such as banks, stock broking firms, insurance companies), lawyers, estate agents, state authorised and registered public accountants, bookkeepers, and dealers in valuable objects who receive cash payment of NOK 40 000 or more. ØKOKRIM and the rest of the police force use these reports for intelligence purposes in their investigative work.
Environmental Crime

Environmental crime includes

- illegal pollution (including handling of dangerous waste)
- natural environmental crime (e.g. illegal hunting and trapping, illegally disturbing protected areas)
- cultural heritage crime (e.g. removing or damaging protected monuments/sites and violation of the Planning and Building Act)
- crime related to the working environment (e.g. insufficient training, inadequate safety procedures or defective equipment that may cause death or personal injury)