



General Intelligence and  
Security Service  
*Ministry of the Interior and  
Kingdom Relations*



The level of threat to the Netherlands and Europe increased during 2016, with the dominant factor being the risk of terrorism associated with the conflict in Syria and Iraq. Another threat is the danger posed to the integrity of the Dutch political process by cyberattacks and clandestine influencing.

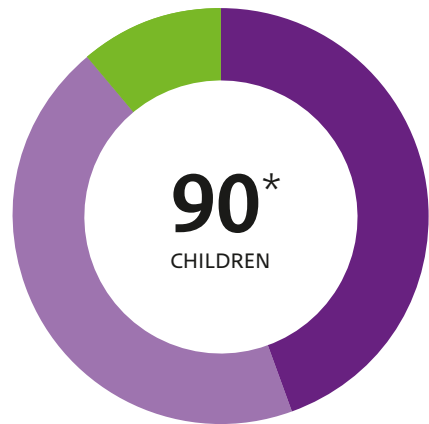
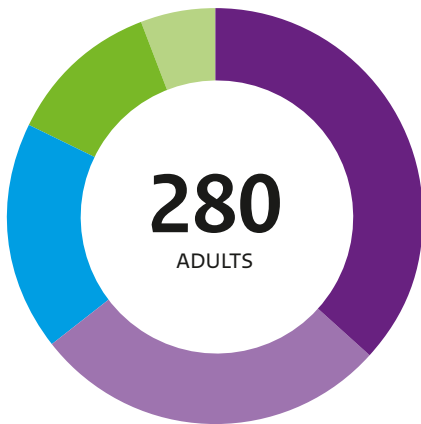
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For more information about AIVD activities and investigations,  
read the annual report at [www.aivd.nl/jaarverslag2016](http://www.aivd.nl/jaarverslag2016).

# Jihadists at home and abroad

Although the number of Dutch jihadists travelling to the conflict area in Syria and Iraq continued to rise in 2016, the increase was less than in previous years. The AIVD expects the number of returnees to gradually increase as ISIS comes under ever greater pressure in Syria and Iraq.

## DEPARTURES AND RETURNS



Departed ■ male | ■ female  
Returned ■ male | ■ female  
■ Deceased

■ Taken from the Netherlands  
■ Born abroad  
■ Returned

## STAY-AT-HOME JIHADISTS



Many hundreds of people in the Netherlands sympathise with ISIS or Al-Qaeda but are unable or unwilling to travel to areas under their control. Some have decided to engage in their struggle on home soil, either inspired or in some cases encouraged by jihadist groups abroad.

\* The actual number of Dutch children in Syria and Iraq is likely higher, as it is difficult to determine the number of children born abroad.

# Jihadist threats in the Netherlands and Europe

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Recent jihadist attacks in the West often involved jihadists sent by or receiving direction from operatives in ISIS territory. These attacks were aimed against easy targets with little to no security. In for instance Brussels, Istanbul, Nice and Berlin, the targets were public locations like shopping centres, airports and entertainment districts. Also in the Netherlands, the threat of terrorism has prompted additional security precautions.

## Rotterdam 27 March

A man believed to be a member of a French/Belgian terrorist cell is arrested.

## Schiphol 30 July

The Dutch government increases security around Amsterdam Schiphol Airport in response to indications of a possible terrorist threat.

## Rotterdam 9 December

A man is arrested and a Kalashnikov, ammunition and ISIS propaganda are found at his home.

## International developments and national security

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Political developments in countries on the European borders added to the worsening threat profile in 2016. Political ambitions and state actions can directly or indirectly constitute a threat to Dutch security interests. As in other years, the AIVD also informed the government about these types of developments in 2016.

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# Cyberthreats

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More and more countries are carrying out digital attacks. These digital attacks are more extensive, complex and professional than ever before. State actors use these attacks for strategic purposes, such as influencing conflicts and elections.

Digital attacks are extremely costly: theft and sabotage of economic top sectors threaten our ability to innovate and compete and affect Dutch earning power.



# Clandestine political influencing

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A type of espionage that is frequently used by foreign powers is the clandestine political influencing of decision-making processes and public opinion and perception. These activities were much in evidence in 2016.

The circulation of disinformation and propaganda plays an important role in this arena, where the internet has made it far easier for covert actors to extend their reach and impact.

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# International co-operation

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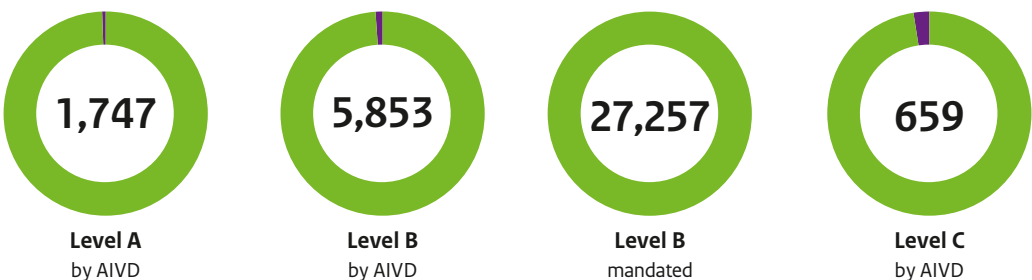


The EU Counter Terrorism Group (CTG) has established a physical platform where intelligence officers from security services in the EU, Norway and Switzerland meet on a daily basis. Additionally, they set up a database in which all the member services pool their information about identified European foreign fighters in jihadist conflict zones. This co-operation has led to several operational successes in 2016.

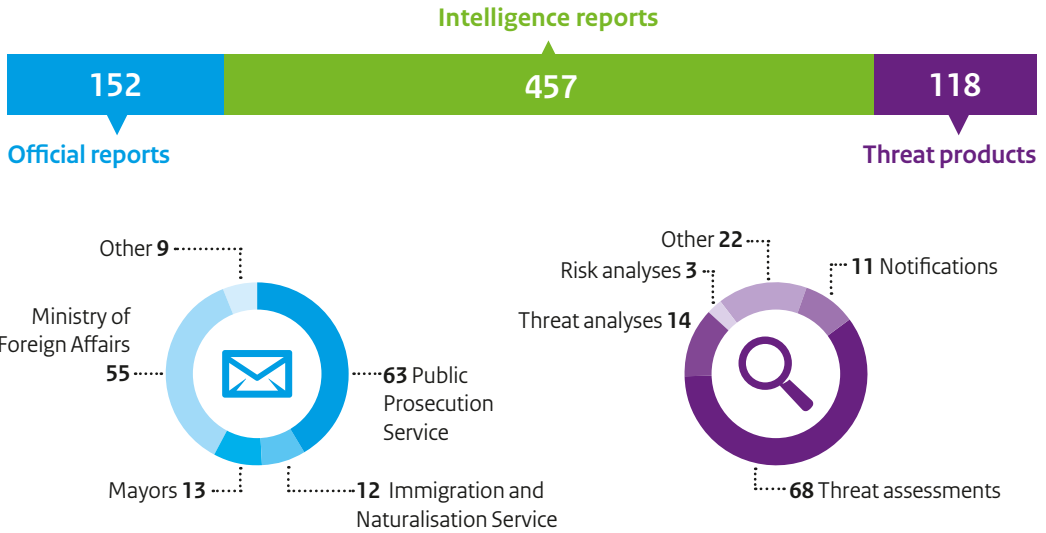
# Security screening

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The AIVD and mandated organisations (the National Police Service and the Royal Military Constabulary) conducted over 35,000 security screenings of persons (hoping to be) in positions involving confidentiality in 2016. More than 8,000 rulings on the issuance of a certificate of no objection were delivered by the service itself, including approximately 800 refusals.



# AIVD products



# People and resources

The AIVD welcomed more than 240 new colleagues in 2016. In 2015 the government made extra funds available to expand capacity to counter the increasing threats against our nation.

## FORMATION

2016



**1,768 FTEs**

## EXPENDITURE



**229 million**