

Ombudsman report finds police numbers insufficient, training issues

Police numbers are "insufficient" and there are issues with police personnel training, Ombudsperson Renate Weber declared on Wednesday on the occasion of the release of the institution's special report on the Romanian Police General Inspectorate's personnel deficit and its logistic equipment.

"We found that there are actually not enough police officers, and there are obvious issues with their training. Depending on the victim categories, training should be specific to each such situation type, and we also tackled issues with the equipment available or rather unavailable to them," Weber explained.

According to the report, the answers of the County Police Inspectorates reveal that most of them face staff shortages and undersizing of precinct crews, which affect either their activities with the public, or the optimum maintenance of public order and safety.

The staff shortage is often due to objective causes, such as retirement, relocations, secondments. The number of requests for relocation to the home counties is particularly high, as most employed police officers hail from other parts of the country and want to return home or to a place they consider to have better prospects.