

Economic crime in the Nordic region 2011

The 2011 Global Economic Crime Survey was completed by 323 companies from Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. We have taken this opportunity to highlight a selection of the characteristics of economic crime in the Nordic countries, as we believe that, due to certain similarities in the operating environment and corporate culture between the Nordic countries, these countries will also face similar challenges with regards to economic crime.

Fraud in the Nordic countries

When comparing the overall results of the Global Economic Crime Survey 2011 with the results for the Nordic countries alone, it is clear that the Nordic countries are, on the whole, confronted with the same issues as the rest of the world. However, our methods of dealing with these issues, as well as our perception of the threats, may be somewhat different.

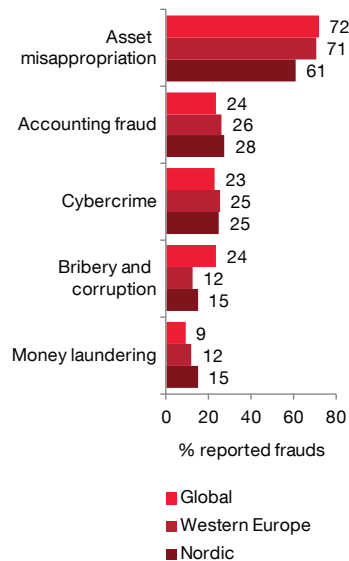
Of the 323 Nordic respondents to our survey, 27% reported having been the victim of one or more economic crimes in the past 12 months. This constitutes a high level of fraud in the Nordic countries, even though the level is slightly lower compared to Western Europe (30%) and to the global figure (34%).

The top three economic crimes in the Nordic region are asset misappropriation (61%), accounting fraud (28%) and cybercrime (25%). Looking back at the 2009 results, accounting fraud was on the rise, but, this year, the Nordic region has experienced a decrease in accounting fraud, whereas cybercrime has increased in line with Western Europe and the global trend.

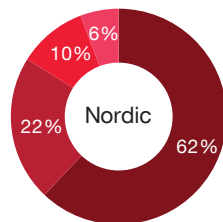
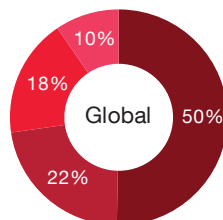
Types of economic crime – top 5

The survey indicates that the Nordic countries report a higher occurrence of money laundering than both Western Europe and the global figure. The same was true in surveys undertaken during previous years.

Part of the explanation for this situation may be that financial institutions are strictly regulated in the Nordic countries. In addition, a strong belief in legislation is a part of the Nordic culture. Therefore, the financial institutions in the Nordic countries tend to live up to the obligations stipulated by the money laundering legislation.



Fraud Detection



- Corporate controls
- Corporate culture
- Beyond influence of management
- Other

When comparing the manner in which fraud has been detected, the Nordic countries have, over the last 12 months, been particularly efficient with regard to corporate controls such as internal audit and suspicious transaction reporting. The strong corporate culture in the Nordic region is illustrated by the fact that fraud was

detected by corporate controls in 62% of cases, in comparison with 50% globally. However, it is worth noting that detection from cultural methods such as tip offs or whistle blowing systems constituted 22% of the cases both in the Nordic region and globally.

Cybercrime from a Nordic perspective

Our survey indicates that cybercrime has emerged as one of the top three economic crimes in the Nordic countries. The high level of cybercrime in the Nordic countries may be explained by the fact that the Nordic countries appear to be better prepared for cybercrime than the rest of the world, in terms of, for example, in-house capabilities to prevent and detect cybercrime.

Compared to the rest of the world, the Nordic countries seem reluctant to monitor social media, as proven by 61% of the Nordic respondents stating that they do not monitor social media. Reasons for this may include the strong culture and legislation related to the protection of personal data in the Nordic countries.

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