Country case: Whistleblower hotline in Austria

Description

In March 2013, the Ministry of Justice set up a whistleblower hotline on the homepage of the Public Prosecutor’s Office against Corruption and White Collar Crime. As of September 2013, approximately 590 notifications were submitted via the platform. Only 53 of those notifications were not relevant. The whistleblower hotline has a test phase of two years.

The Federal Ministry of Justice’s whistleblowing website enables investigators from the Public Prosecutor’s Office against Corruption and White Collar Crime (Zentrale Staatsanwaltschaft zur Verfolgung von Wirtschaftsstrafsachen und Korruption, WKStA) to get in direct contact with whistleblowers, with the anonymity of the latter being assured. In that event, the whistleblower is entitled to decide whether he/she would like to remain anonymous or to identify him/herself to the investigators.