

Wednesday, 17 April 2013

@ f in t

Life-saving action: Collecting and destroying guns in Bosnia and Herzegovina

by Djordje Milosevic, SEESAC intern
@djordje_fpn

In late March, UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized consultations about a possible campaign for the **collection** and **destruction** of **illegal weapons** and **unexploded ordnance**.



Representatives of the Cantonal Ministries of Interior, Brcko District Police and the Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska gathered in snowy Vlačić, a beautiful mountain site located at the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The significance of this meeting is only strengthened by recent history of Bosnia and Herzegovina – the country most affected by wars following the collapse of Yugoslavia in 1990s.

As in any war, ordinary citizens were those who suffered the most. Thousands of innocent people were killed on all sides. Full reconciliation is still a work in progress.

The country still has a **large number of illegal weapons and mines** that remain in the hands of ordinary citizens. By its very nature, the number of illegal weapons in the population is very difficult to measure. It is estimated that there is between 140,000 and 750,000 illegal weapons in the hands of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The fact that the problem is recognized by the representatives of the police and that they showed a desire to work on it together is encouraging. However, more work is needed.

During the meetings, participants shared experiences, asked interesting questions and exchanged advice.

I was particularly interested in the insights from **Krunoslav Katic**, our colleague from UNDP in Croatia, who shared his experiences with raising awareness about illegal weapons and their collection in Croatia.

“Each collected and destroyed rifle or pistol can save someone’s life” he said.

Apart from the commitment of police officers, we need political support to implement these actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Politicians, as legitimate representatives of the people, should be dedicated to solving this problem soon.

One of the first steps would be the adoption of an **amnesty law**, which would allow citizens who are in possession of illegal weapons to **surrender them without legal consequences**.

A good example of such a law and subsequent practice is currently being enforced in Croatia.

With help and expertise of the international community, I sincerely hope that 2013 will be the year when citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina **voluntarily surrender** their weapons and make their home, their community and their country, **safer**.

← Back

Telephone:
(+381) 11 415 5300
Fax: (+381) 415 5499
E-mail: seesac@undp.org

[Disclaimer](#)

[Vacancies](#)
[Procurement](#)
[Contact](#)
[Who we are](#)
[Publications](#)

This website is funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of UNDP SEESAC and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

SEESAC.org ©2024

This site uses cookies for better performance and user experience. Do you agree to use of cookies?

Find out more

I agree	I don't agree
---------	---------------

Cookies on our web page

What is Cookie?

A cookie is a small piece of data sent from a website and stored in a user's web browser while a user is browsing a website. When the user browses the same website in the future, the data stored in the cookie can be retrieved by the website to notify the website of the user's previous activity.

How do we use cookies?

A visit to this page could generate the following types of cookie.

Strictly necessary cookies

These cookies are essential in order to enable you to move around the website and use its features, such as accessing secure areas of the website. Without these cookies services you have asked for, like shopping baskets or e-billing, cannot be provided.

2. Performance cookies

These cookies collect information about how visitors use a website, for instance which pages visitors go to most often, and if they get error messages from web pages. These cookies don't collect information that identifies a visitor. All information these cookies collect is aggregated and therefore anonymous. It is only used to improve how a website works.

3. Functionality cookies

These cookies allow the website to remember choices you make (such as your user name, language or the region you are in) and provide enhanced, more personal features. For instance, a website may be able to provide you with local weather reports or traffic news by storing in a cookie the region in which you are currently located. These cookies can also be used to remember changes you have made to text size, fonts and other parts of web pages that you can customise. They may also be used to provide services you have asked for such as watching a video or commenting on a blog. The information these cookies collect may be anonymised and they cannot track your browsing activity on other websites.

4. Targeting and advertising cookies

These cookies are used to deliver adverts more relevant to you and your interests. They are also used to limit the number of times you see an advertisement as well as help measure the effectiveness of the advertising campaign. They are usually placed by advertising networks with the website operator's permission. They remember that you have visited a website and this information is shared with other organisations such as advertisers. Quite often targeting or advertising cookies will be linked to site functionality provided by the other organisation.

Cookie management

Cookies can be managed via the web browser settings. Please, see your browser help how to manage cookies.

On this site you can always turn cookies on/off on menu item "Cookie Management".

Website management

This website is managed by:

The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)

