COORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION, MISUSE AND TRAFFICKING OF SALW/FIREARMS AND THEIR AMMUNITION

- Taking stock of progress, information exchange, knowledge transfer and standardization through the organization of 6 regional Roadmap coordination meetings.
- Provide expert and technical support to monitoring the implementation of the Roadmap by supporting the organization of up to 12 local Roadmap coordination meetings.
- Capacity assessment for Roadmap implementation through midterm evaluation.
- Ensure outreach and visibility of the Roadmap through the establishment of an online platform, stakeholder engagement and awareness raising.

SUPPORT FOR HARMONIZATION OF WESTERN BALKANS AUTHORITIES’ ARMS CONTROL LEGISLATION WITH THE EU REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

- Assess the level of harmonization through an assessment and gap analysis.
- Provide on-demand expertise on legislation and policy updates at both regional and national levels through the organization of 3 regional and 6 thematic workshops for the Roadmap beneficiaries and provision of technical expertise.
- Provide an easy-reference guide for SALW/firearms control legislation in the region through the translation of arms control legislation and update of SEESAC’s online law compendium.
- Support integration of gender perspective in SALW control through technical advice, gender screening of the legal framework and the continuation of the gender coach programme.
- Strengthen capacities of SALW Commissions for outreach and advocacy through training on media strategy development.

COUNTER ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS, THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, UKRAINE AND BELARUS

- Assess needs of the border and criminal-police services of the Western Balkans through a detailed analysis of challenges and needs in countering illicit arms trafficking.
- Further develop capacity of ballistics experts and investigators for addressing cross-border firearm-related criminality by building on the current work on the establishment of the Firearms Focal Points through practical support for information sharing and analysis, and implementation of a pilot operational ballistic information-exchange structure.
- Assess capacities of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus for selected aspects of SALW control focusing on legal and policy frameworks, physical security and stockpile management capabilities, border control, the criminal police and the judicial response to trafficking and the misuse of firearms.
The EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1788 in support of the South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans was adopted on 19 November 2018.

The Roadmap envisages the Western Balkans as a safer region and an exporter of security where comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms, fully harmonized with the EU and other international standards, are in place to identify, prevent, prosecute, and control the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

The EU provided EUR 4,002,587 for the period 2019-2021.

The project’s geographic scope is the Western Balkans, with direct project beneficiaries being Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia. In addition, the project will seek to continue support to the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus, which are dealing with similar SALW control challenges, through the transfer of knowledge and experiences gained and best practices developed in the Western Balkans since 2002.


* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).