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REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA SALW SURVEY

This report was written by Sharmala Naidoo, Independent Consultant and Dragan Božanić, SEESAC Gender and Research Project Officer. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Development Programme, the Regional Cooperation Council, or the European Union. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of the United Nations Development Programme, the Regional Cooperation Council, or the European Union concerning 1) the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities or armed groups; or 2) the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- List of Abbreviations ........................................................................................................ 4
- List of Tables, Boxes and Figures .................................................................................. 5
- Executive Summary ......................................................................................................... 9

1. INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................... 17
   - 1.1 Methodology ........................................................................................................ 18
   - 1.2 SALW Context ..................................................................................................... 18

2. Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey: Key Findings and Trends ......................... 21
   - 2.1 Distribution Survey ............................................................................................. 21
     - 2.1.1 State possession of Small Arms and Light Weapons ...................................... 22
     - 2.1.2 Legal Civilian Possession of Firearms ............................................................. 24
     - 2.1.3 Estimated Illegal Civilian Possession of Firearms .......................................... 29
     - 2.1.4 Firearms Holdings by Private Entities ............................................................. 29
     - 2.1.5 Collection and Destruction .............................................................................. 32
     - 2.1.6 Production and Legal Trade ............................................................................ 33
     - 2.1.7 Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons Transfers ............................................. 37
   - 2.2 Impact Survey ....................................................................................................... 40
     - 2.2.1 Firearm-Related Criminal Offenses .................................................................. 40
     - 2.2.2 Misdemeanors Inflicted with Firearms ............................................................. 42
     - 2.2.3 Homicides .......................................................................................................... 43
     - 2.2.4 Injuries ................................................................................................................ 47
     - 2.2.5 Accidental Deaths .............................................................................................. 48
     - 2.2.6 Domestic Violence ............................................................................................ 48
     - 2.2.7 Perpetrators ....................................................................................................... 53
     - 2.2.8 Suicides ............................................................................................................ 55
     - 2.2.9 Characteristics of the Incidents ....................................................................... 57
   - 2.3 Perception Survey ................................................................................................. 60
     - 2.3.1 Demographic Breakdown ................................................................................. 60
     - 2.3.2 Experience of Gun Use .................................................................................... 60
     - 2.3.3 Firearm Possession ............................................................................................ 64
     - 2.3.4 Community Safety ........................................................................................... 66

3. Recommendations for Policy Makers and Practitioners ........................................... 69

4. Gaps in the Survey Data ............................................................................................... 73

- Bibliography ................................................................................................................... 75
- Annex A: Structure of Small Arms and Light Weapons Distribution Questionnaire ...... 77
- Annex B: Structure of Small Arms and Light Weapons Impact Questionnaire .......... 83
- Annex C: Firearms Online Perception Survey Instrument ............................................ 85
## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEC</td>
<td>European Economic Community</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUML</td>
<td>EU Common Military List</td>
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<td>EUR</td>
<td>Euros</td>
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<tr>
<td>ML</td>
<td>Military List</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSSM</td>
<td>Physical Security and Stockpile Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>RDIT</td>
<td>Random Domain Intercept Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALW</td>
<td>Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<td>SEE</td>
<td>South Eastern Europe</td>
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<td>SEESAC</td>
<td>South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>US</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TABLES, BOXES AND FIGURES

Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 1</td>
<td>Total firearm holdings by state agencies, civilians and private entities, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2</td>
<td>Number of personnel employed by state agencies authorized to hold firearms, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3</td>
<td>Female representation within state agencies and authorization to carry firearms, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4</td>
<td>Civilian firearm license-holders by sex and license category, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 5</td>
<td>Number of registered firearms from natural persons under each category of available licenses/permits/authorizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 6</td>
<td>Total number of firearms held by private entities, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7</td>
<td>Value in EUR of arms and ammunition imports, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 8</td>
<td>Arms and ammunition imports by quantity and type, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9</td>
<td>Value in EUR of arms and ammunition exports, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 10</td>
<td>Realized arms and ammunition exports by type, number of licenses and destination, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 11</td>
<td>Firearm and ammunition exports by quantity and type, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 12</td>
<td>Summary of firearms and ammunition trafficked, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 13</td>
<td>Number of firearms trafficked by type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 14</td>
<td>Victims of firearm-related homicides, by sex and age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 15</td>
<td>Victims of injuries inflicted with firearms, by sex and age of victim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 16</td>
<td>Number of persons killed in the period 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1</td>
<td>Total firearm holdings by state agencies, civilians and private entities, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2</td>
<td>State agency personnel authorized to carry firearms by sex, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 3</td>
<td>Civilian firearm license-holders by category, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4</td>
<td>Firearm license-holders categorized by reason for acquiring weapons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 5</td>
<td>Firearm license applicants by age and year, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6</td>
<td>Total firearm license applicants, rejected applicants and revoked licenses, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 7</td>
<td>Number of cases of illegal firearm possession and confiscated firearms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 8</td>
<td>Total firearm holdings by private entities, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 9</td>
<td>The number of firearms held by private entities, 2012 vs. 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 10</td>
<td>Private shooting club and range visitors and members, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 11</td>
<td>Firearms and ammunition held by sales shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 12</td>
<td>Arms and ammunition brokered by quantity and type, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 13</td>
<td>Value in EUR of arms and ammunition imports and exports, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 14</td>
<td>Value in EUR of ML3 imports and exports, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 15</td>
<td>Firearm trafficking trends: Number of firearms trafficking cases and indictments, and the number of trafficked, seized and confiscated firearms, 2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 16</td>
<td>Number of criminal offenses inflicted with firearms, by year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 17: Distribution of firearm-related criminal offenses, 2012-2016
Figure 18: Three most frequent criminal offenses inflicted with firearms, by year
Figure 19: Number of misdemeanors inflicted with firearms, by year
Figure 20: Share of firearm-related homicides in total number of homicides, 2012-2016
Figure 21: Firearm-inflicted homicides, by year
Figure 22: Share of victims of homicides inflicted with firearms in the total number of victims of homicides, 2012-2016
Figure 23: Victims of homicides committed with firearms, by sex 2012-2016
Figure 24: Firearm-inflicted homicides by sex of the victim, by year
Figure 25: Victims of firearm-inflicted homicides, by sex and age, 2012-2016
Figure 26: Age structure of female and male victims of firearm homicides, 2012-2016
Figure 27: Number of injuries inflicted with firearms, by year
Figure 28: Victims of firearm-inflicted injuries, by sex and age, 2012-2016
Figure 29: People killed by family members, by sex, 2012-2016
Figure 30: Share of homicides committed by family members in the total number of homicides, by sex, 2012-2016
Figure 31: Share of victims killed by their intimate partner in the total number of people killed by family members, by sex, 2012-2016
Figure 32: Persons killed by family members using firearms
Figure 33: Prevalence of firearms in domestic homicides vs. all homicides
Figure 34: Share of victims of firearm-related homicides committed by intimate partner
Figure 35: Share of licenses/permit/authorization revoked on the grounds of domestic violence, 2012-2016
Figure 36: Number of revoked licenses, by year
Figure 37: Reported cases of the criminal offense of domestic violence
Figure 38: Perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses, by year
Figure 39: Perpetrators of criminal offenses committed with firearms, by sex, 2012-2016
Figure 40: Perpetrators of firearm-related homicides, disaggregated by age, 2012-2016
Figure 41: Gender differentiated effect of firearms on women and men, 2012-2016
Figure 42: Share of victims of firearm-related homicides committed by intimate partner
Figure 43: Share of victims of firearm-related homicides committed by intimate partner
Figure 44: Persons killed by family members using firearms
Figure 45: Number of deaths by type of firearm, 2012-2016
Figure 46: Number of deaths by type of firearm and by year
Figure 47: Frequency of firearm-related homicides according to location, 2012-2016
Figure 48: Share of victims of firearm-related homicides, by sex and location, 2012-2016
Figure 49: Firearm-related homicides, by month, 2012-2016
Figure 50: Firearm-related homicides, by month and sex of victim, 2012-2016
Figure 51: Experience of gun use
Figure 52: Experience of gun use by sex
Figure 53: Situations most frequently associated with experience of gun use
Figure 54: Timeframe for gun violence
Figure 55: Perpetrators of recent gun violence
Figure 56: Perceptions regarding guns at home
Figure 57: Gun ownership vs. experience of gun use
Figure 58: Gun ownership vs. timeframe of recent gun violence
Figure 59: Community safety perceptions
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, with support from the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), the Republic of North Macedonia’s Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) coordinated the collection of data on the distribution and impact of SALW within the country. In parallel, SEESAC conducted an online public opinion survey on perceptions on the use, possession and dangers of firearms in Southeast Europe, including in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The purpose of this general survey process was threefold: to identify trends in the distribution of SALW, particularly in relation to the type, quantity, possession, distribution, legal/illegal trade, production and movement of SALW; to identify trends in relation to the impact of SALW on citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia, particularly with regards to firearm-related incidents and their characteristics; and to gauge public perception regarding firearms use, ownership, violence and community safety.

This report analyzes the survey data collected for the 2012 to 2016 period, and outlines recommendations for policy makers and practitioners aimed at improving the safety, effectiveness and efficiency of interventions that address the illicit SALW trade, uncontrolled proliferation and/or misuse. The following is a brief summary of the survey’s key findings and recommendations.

• SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS/FIREARMS DISTRIBUTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Civilian firearm license-holders by category

- Category B: 37.6%
- Category C: 62.4%
- Category D: 0%

1 The publication of the report only in 2019 is due to a long process of data collection which involved coordination from a number of institutions, agencies and private entities as well as feedback on the survey findings and recommendations from the authorities involved.
The number of registered firearms held collectively by civilians and private entities in the country increased from 164,665 in 2012 to 186,091 in 2016, with the vast majority of firearms held by civilians (95.2% on average across all five years). Legal civilian firearm holdings increased steadily from 160,516 in 2012 to 173,704 in 2016, an increase of 8.2%, while the firearms held by private entities increased from 4,149 in 2012 to 12,387 by 2016. Due to the unavailability of data for key state agencies, notably the Ministries of Defense and Interior, and the police, it was not possible to report on the number of firearms they held during this period or to assess the extent to which their firearm holdings had increased or decreased.

The number of firearm license-holders in the Republic of North Macedonia increased steadily from 160,516 in 2012 to 173,704 by 2016, an increase of 8.2%. The majority of firearm license-holders held licenses for category C firearms, with an average of 62.7% over the five-year period. The overwhelming majority of civilian firearm license-holders, firearm license applicants and visitors to shooting ranges were men. While the number of female firearm license applicants was marginal in comparison, at less than 1% of all applicants, firearm license applications from women increased by 25% over this five-year period. Most firearm license applicants were between 36 and 60 years of age, and hunting was most commonly cited by firearm license-holders as the reason for firearm possession across all five years, at an average of 58.6%.

There were fluctuations in the number of state personnel authorized to hold firearms during the five-year period, from a low of 9,272 employed in 2013 to a high of 9,499 in 2015, the majority of which for all years were male.² There were few female personnel and even fewer females authorized to hold firearms.

² Based on data for the police, Customs and Forest Guards only; data for the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Justice was not available.
The total number of firearms held by private entities almost tripled over the survey period, from 4,149 in 2012 to 12,387 by 2016. Of the 12,387 firearms held in 2016, sales shops held 97.2% (12,041), 2.2% (268) were held by private security companies and 0.6% (78) belonged to shooting ranges. These figures do not include the data for shooting associations, which was not available. While the number of firearms held by private security companies and ranges were low with modest growth between 2012 and 2016, the number of firearms held by sales shops grew from 3,922 in 2012 to 12,041 by 2016, reflecting an increased demand for firearms during this period. The increase in the number of sales shops as well as the firearms and ammunition they held mirrored the increase in the number of firearm license-holders, registered firearms and firearm license applicants during this period, as well as the increase in shooting range members.

A total of 77 firearms were voluntarily surrendered between 2012 and 2016, while 878 firearms were legalized. While the police destroyed 2,108 firearms between 2012 and 2016, the Ministry of Interior destroyed 782 SALW in 2014.³ Data on firearm destruction carried out by the Ministry of Defense was classified during this period. One civilian firearm was lost between 2012 and 2016, while 173 firearms were stolen from civilians in total.⁴

Between 2012 and 2016, a total of 30.5 million units of ammunition were produced in the Republic of North Macedonia. Three brokering licenses were approved during this period, and a total of 18,366 ML1 category items and 27.8 million ML3 category items were brokered. The total value of imports on the civilian market over the five-year period was approximately EUR 569.9 million while the value of exports was EUR 180.5 million. The main destination countries for the country’s SALW exports included Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Turkey and the United States of America. Between 2012 and 2016, the Republic of North Macedonia widened the range of destinations to which it exported arms and ammunition, from only the European Union in 2012 to also Non-EU European countries and territories, North America, South Asia and the Middle East by 2016. The top arms export companies in terms of annual turnover during this five-year period included Sumbro Trade, Mikei, 11 Oktomvri, Icemak, Dimanco and Arsenal.

A total of 1,010 firearm trafficking cases were recorded between 2012 and 2016, and 962 firearms and 66,217 units of ammunition were reported as trafficked. 1,094 people were indicted for trafficking, of which 1,059 or 96.8% were male. The number of people indicted for trafficking annually fell from 217 in 2012 to 179 by 2016. Progress made in the number of trafficking cases recorded and the detection of trafficked firearms and seized firearms, between 2012 and 2015, was reversed. From 2015 to 2016, the number of recorded cases of firearm trafficking and the number of trafficked firearms fell, as did the number of seized and confiscated firearms and the number of people indicted for firearm trafficking.

⁴ Data on lost and stolen firearms from state agencies and private entities was classified.
**IMPACT OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

The number of firearm-related criminal offenses in the Republic of North Macedonia significantly decreased during the survey period from a peak of 415 offenses in 2013 to 301 in 2016. Firearms were predominantly misused in the context of unlawful manufacture, possession, carrying, and sale, accounting for more than half of the total firearm-related criminal offenses, followed by robberies with 22.7%. The lack of data on the type of ownership over the firearms used to commit criminal offenses limited an analysis of the risks that illegal firearms posed to the safety of citizens.

Men made up 99.5% of firearm owners and committed 97.7% of firearm-inflicted criminal offenses and 100% firearm homicides between 2012 and 2016. They also accounted for the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides (76%) but were proportionately more frequently perpetrators than victims of firearm misuse. Women, on the other hand, owned only a minor share of firearms (0.5%), made up 2.3% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses and 0% of homicides but were disproportionately represented among victims (24%).

Firearms were the most frequently used means of committing homicide during the survey period, accounting for approximately 3 in 5 homicides registered, and they were the weapon of choice in the homicides of both women and men, with 45% (18) of murdered women and 64.8% (57) of murdered men killed with firearms between 2012 and 2016. Men represented the majority of both victims and perpetrators of firearm homicides.

A total of 47 people suffered from firearm-inflicted injuries with men representing the overwhelming majority (78.7%) of those injured by firearms. At particular risk were men aged 36-60 who accounted for 40.4% of all injured victims.
The misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence was widespread and affected both women and men. Firearms were used in half of the homicides committed by family members, with men being more likely to be murdered with firearms than women, 57.1% and 42.9% respectively. On the other hand, intimate partner violence disproportionately affected women who accounted for all victims, and 80.0% of these women were killed with firearms. The presence of firearms in domestic violence and crimes against sexual freedom was rarely reported. In only 23 of the 4,048 cases of domestic violence was the presence of a firearm reported, while the misuse of firearms was reported in 4 of the 128 cases of criminal offences against sexual freedom. Out of 48,367 license applicants rejected in the period 2012-2016, none of them were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence. As for license revocation, out of the 1,511 licenses that were revoked for reasons of criminal record, 18.5% were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence.

Out of all suicides reported during the survey period, 13.8% were committed with firearms. Suicides were the most frequent form of firearm-related death (56.1%), including murders and accidental deaths.

Revolvers and self-loading pistols were the most widely used firearms in incidents with a fatal outcome, accounting for over 6 in 10 deaths. Firearm-related homicides were most frequently committed at home, in apartments or yards, followed by streets, sidewalks and parking lots. However, while women were overwhelmingly more likely to be killed by a firearm at home, men were equally at risk in private and public spaces. The periods October-December and July-August had the highest incidence of firearm-related murders, particularly for men.

### PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS REGARDING USE, POSSESSION AND DANGERS OF FIREARMS

Based on the main findings of the online perceptions survey, approximately 67% of respondents reported they had never had an experience with a gun, while 25% of respondents had personally experienced the use of a gun to some degree and 4% both used it and had it directed at themselves. Men were two times more likely than women to have experienced the use of a gun with 37% of men having had some form of direct personal experience with a gun – e.g. used a gun, had a gun...
directed at them, or both - compared to 14% of women. Hunting, sport and celebratory shooting were reported by both women and men as the primary situation when a gun was used. Women were more likely to report assault, domestic violence and intimidation and threats, while men more often reported professional reasons.

The majority of respondents (76%) said they would not own a gun. Of the respondents that stated they would not own a gun, the majority were women aged 45 to 54 (92%). Women (85%) were more likely than men (64%) to report they would not own a gun. The dominant respondents (42%) who would own a gun were men aged 16 to 34 and over 65. Respondents were more likely to feel that the presence of a gun at home would make them feel less safe (58%) than safer (42%). There were more men (49%) than women (37%) that said having a gun at home improves safety.

Twenty-four percent of respondents reported that they would own a gun. Respondents living in the capital city were slightly more likely to say they would own a gun, while those living in towns were the least likely. Respondents with no income were the most likely to report they would own a gun at 40% compared to other income groups (26% and less).

Self-protection/safety was a significant driver in gun ownership with almost half (46%) of the respondents stating that they would own a gun for “protection / safety” reasons. Any previous gun experience immediately increased the likelihood that a respondent would own a gun, and 60% of respondents who had a gun directed at them and 61% of those who had used a gun would own one. The readiness to acquire a gun also correlated with the period when the gun violence had happened. Respondents with recent violent experience were more likely to say that they would own a gun than those who had experienced violence further in past. Men (36%) would significantly more often than women (15%) own a gun, and this was valid across all age groups.

Ninety-five percent of respondents said they are aware of the penalties for illegal possession of guns and this trend held true across all age groups, except for respondents aged 65 years and over, where 85% of respondents reported that awareness. Respondents whose reasons for owning a gun were “for protection / safety” and “hunting and sport” were the most aware of the penalties for illegal possession of weapons, while the least aware were those respondents whose reasons for
owning a gun were “it inspires fear in others”, “everyone has one”, “tradition” and “a man should carry a gun”.

The overwhelming majority of female and male respondents believed that “more police presence”, “violence awareness campaigns” and “stricter gun control regulations” would be most effective in making a community safer. On average for all age groups, respondents felt the top most effective ways to make communities safer was to increase the presence of police/authorities, implement violence awareness campaigns and to enforce stricter gun control regulations.

In terms of gun influence, both women and men across all age groups believed the factors that promote gun use the most were videos showing guns, social media and news reports on gun-related incidents (31%).
1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) survey report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of arms control challenges faced by the Republic of North Macedonia and to propose recommendations for improving the safety of citizens and the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions that address illicit SALW trade, uncontrolled proliferation and/or misuse. This report summarizes the main findings and recommendations resulting from the SALW distribution and impact surveys carried out in the Republic of North Macedonia for the period 2012-2016 and a perception survey carried out by SEESAC in 2017. The report is aimed at policy makers and practitioners and is intended to inform the design and formulation of SALW control strategies, policies, legislation and activities in the Republic of North Macedonia.

Between 2004 and 2011, a series of national SALW surveys were carried out by different organizations in the Western Balkan region using a mix of methods to obtain data on small arms distribution and impact as well as public perception with regards to SALW. The methods used varied according to the organizations involved and were often not based on a standardized data collection approach that allowed for comparison of findings across the region. The timing of these surveys also preceded, in most cases, the establishment of the different SALW commissions in the region. Since these studies were conducted, no further national small arms surveys had been undertaken. In order to close this gap and facilitate the development of evidence-based SALW control policies and decision-making in the region, SEESAC has worked in collaboration with seven SALW Commissions to carry out a series of SALW distribution, impact and perception surveys, using a standardized methodology.

In February 2018, regional authorities committed to develop a Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW/firearms and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024. The Roadmap, formally adopted at the EU-Western Balkans Summit in London in July 2018, serves as a guiding and consensual document developed and owned by the regional authorities. This SALW survey report feeds into the Roadmap’s efforts to promote more accurate and updated data, disaggregated by sex and age, on SALW. It also contributes to improving the standardization, systematization and coherency of firearms data collection practices within the Western Balkans, and ultimately, the development of evidence-based policies that effectively tackle SALW misuse, proliferation and trafficking.

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5 This includes Saferworld, SEESAC, Small Arms Survey and UNDP, among others.
6 SEESAC has continued to produce thematic national and regional research reports on different SALW-related issues.
7 Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024, 10 July 2018.
1.1 Methodology

In 2017, SEESAC established a Regional Working Group, comprised of representatives from SALW control commissions in the region. The Regional Working Group was tasked with developing and agreeing on a methodology for a regional SALW survey. At a regional meeting held in Sabac, Serbia in September 2017, the Working Group discussed, reviewed and adopted the methodology for conducting SALW distribution and impact surveys. Data on the distribution and impact of SALW in the Republic of North Macedonia was collected and analyzed using standardized SALW distribution and impact questionnaires (see Annex A and B). The data collection process was coordinated by the Republic of North Macedonia’s SALW commission with technical support from SEESAC. The questionnaires included standardized questions to facilitate the collection of accurate and up-to-date data on the distribution and impact of SALW, and to improve the coherency, standardization and comparison of data across the region.

In addition to an analysis of the quantitative survey data, literature relevant to the Western Balkans region and the Republic of North Macedonia in particular was reviewed and analyzed. This included previous survey reports on relevant topics (e.g. civilian firearm possession, SALW trafficking, gender and SALW, etc). A review of legislation on weapons and export controls was undertaken to assess the provisions regulating firearm possession as well as trade. Relevant regional and international agreements, standards and conventions were also consulted.

In addition, SEESAC commissioned RIWI Corp., a global trend-tracking and prediction technology firm, to carry out a series of SALW perception surveys across the region, including the Republic of North Macedonia. RIWI used its patented Random Domain Intercept Technology™ (RDIT) to collect data on public perceptions regarding the use, possession, and dangers of firearms in Southeast Europe using an online survey. RIWI and SEESAC collaboratively drafted the perceptions survey instrument (see Annex C), with questions modularized and randomized to the largest extent possible. The survey instrument contained multiple modules with skip logic, so respondents would only see questions relevant to their previous answers, thus creating a fluid and personalized survey experience.

1.2 Small Arms and Light Weapons Context

The government of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted its first SALW control strategy in 2005. Shortly after, the legal framework regulating SALW control was harmonized with EU standards and regulations, which resulted in the adoption of a new law on weapons, which was later superseded by the 2010 Law on Weapons (herein referred to as Law 10-4024/10). Law 10-4024/10 regulates a range of areas including export licensing, marking, record keeping on licensing and civilian possession, among other things.

In May 2018, the government adopted a Law amending Law 10-4024/10, which was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 97/2018. The amendments have sought to align the legislation with the EU regulation 2015/2403 establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable, as well as Regulation 2018/337 of 5 March 2018. A bylaw aimed at full incorporation of the regulations was being drafted for regulation of the technical procedure for rendering weapons permanently inoperable. The 2018 amendments also increased the age limit for issuing approval for the procurement of short-barreled firearms with rifled barrels and long-barreled firearms with rifled barrels, to individuals who have turned 25 years of age, unless they have been active members of a shooting club for longer than two years. Furthermore, Article 12 of Law 10-4024/10 now includes a provision on domestic violence aimed at preventing and disabling individuals prone to violence in the family and in society to procure weapons.

In 2018, the government developed its Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy and 2017-2021 Action Plan. However, following a review of conclusions and recommendations contained in the submitted draft distribution and impact survey reports, it incorporated and revised its Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy and the 2017-2021 Action Plan accordingly, finalizing them by November 2018.

Section 2 of this report presents the findings from the SALW distribution and impact surveys carried out in the Republic of North Macedonia for the period 2012 to 2016 and a perception survey carried out by SEESAC in 2017.

2.1. Distribution Survey

This section summarizes the main findings from the SALW distribution survey. The number and type of firearms and ammunition held by state agencies, civilians and private entities in the Republic of North Macedonia is analyzed, in addition to the SALW collection and destruction activities undertaken by the Government. Findings regarding the country’s SALW production, trade and illicit trafficking are also presented.

Table 1: Total firearm holdings by state agencies*, civilians and private entities, 2012 – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>160,516</td>
<td>165,153</td>
<td>168,778</td>
<td>171,388</td>
<td>173,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private entities</td>
<td>4,149</td>
<td>6,587</td>
<td>8,629</td>
<td>10,474</td>
<td>12,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>164,665</td>
<td>171,740</td>
<td>177,407</td>
<td>181,862</td>
<td>186,091</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that data on the active firearms held by state agencies was considered classified information.

As Table 1 illustrates, the number of firearms held by civilians and private entities increased from 164,665 in 2012 to 186,091 in 2016, with the vast majority of firearms held by civilians (95.2% on average across all five years). Legal civilian firearm holdings increased steadily from 160,516 in 2012 to 173,704 in 2016, an increase of 8.2%, while the firearms held by private entities increased by 198.6%, from 4,149 in 2012 to 12,387 by 2016. Due to the unavailability of data for key state agencies, notably the Ministries of Defense and Interior, and the police, it was not possible to report on the SALW holdings of state agencies or to assess the extent to which their firearm holdings had increased or decreased during this period. As data on the firearm holdings of state agencies was classified, the annual totals presented in Table 1 are underestimates.
2.1.1 State possession of Small Arms and Light Weapons

This section provides an overview of the firearms held by some key state institutions within the Republic of North Macedonia. However, some or all data for the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Justice, and the police was not available (n/a) for confidentiality reasons. Only data on the number of surplus police firearms was available, as was some data on the number of personnel they employed and authorized to hold firearms.

Table 2: Number of personnel employed by state agencies authorized to hold firearms, 2012-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE AGENCY</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Defense</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>8,540</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>8,433</td>
<td>677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministries of Internal Affairs</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1,021</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Guards</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total disaggregated by sex</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>10,070</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>9,921</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,806</td>
<td>10,663</td>
<td>10,611</td>
<td>10,436</td>
<td>11,778</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There were fluctuations in the number of state personnel authorized to hold firearms during the five-year period, from a low of 9,272 employed in 2013 to a high of 9,499 in 2015, the majority of which for all years were male.\(^{11}\) The total number and percentage of male personnel authorized to hold firearms fell from 91.7% in 2012 to 89.4% by 2016. There were few female personnel and even fewer females authorized to hold firearms. This may be an indication that the majority of positions held by women were not at the professional/expert level.

Table 3 illustrates that of the female personnel employed by state agencies, less than half were authorized to carry firearms with the exception of the police for which 67.4% of all female police officers were authorized to carry firearms.

Table 3: Female representation within state agencies and authorization to carry firearms, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE AGENCY</th>
<th>Number of personnel that is female</th>
<th>Number of female personnel authorized to carry firearms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Defense</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>1403</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Guards</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Services</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{11}\) Data for the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Justice was not available.
While the number of police personnel grew by 1.7% over this period, from 9,324 in 2012 to 9,484 by 2016, the number of staff authorized to carry firearms fell by 1%, from 8,547 in 2012 to 8,461 in 2016. However, the number of female police officers authorized to carry firearms increased from 745 in 2012 to 945 by 2016 (26.8%). The Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel also increased during this period, as did the number of Forest Guards.

For those state agencies where data was available, it was clear that men were employed in greater numbers than women and were more likely to be authorized to hold firearms than their female colleagues. This was particularly the case for Customs and Correctional Services.

### 2.1.2 Legal Civilian Possession of Firearms

The number of firearm license-holders increased steadily from 160,516 in 2012 to 173,704 by 2016, an increase of 8.2%. The overwhelming majority of firearm license-holders across all five years were male, with the percentage of female firearm license-holders remaining at 0.5% throughout. The majority of firearm license-holders held licenses for category C firearms, with an average of 62.7% over the five-year period. The remaining firearm license-holders held licenses for category B firearms, at 37.3%. Under Law 10-4024/10, category D weapons are not considered as SALW and were therefore not included in this survey. Approximately 62.9% of men owned firearm licenses for category C firearms across all five years, while an average of 74.2% of women owned category B firearm licenses, indicating a gender difference in the type of license held. However, in terms of age, the majority of both male and female license-holders fell within the 36 to 60 age category in 2016 (54.8%), while 34.2% were aged 18 to 35.
### Table 4: Civilian firearm license-holders by sex and license category, 2012-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>58,195</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>60,636</td>
<td>639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>101,535</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>103,700</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>159,730</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>164,336</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hunting was the most commonly cited reason by firearm license-holders for possession of a firearm license across all five years, at 57.6% in 2016. The second most popular reason was sport, cited by 20.5% of firearm license-holders in 2016, while 19.4% cited self-protection. Only four firearm license-holders cited collection purposes across all five years. Men overwhelmingly chose hunting, followed by sport and self-protection, while women overwhelmingly cited self-protection first, at all ages, followed by hunting and sport. The number of inherited firearms also increased, and hunting was the most commonly cited reason for possession of inherited firearms, mirroring the trend for possession of firearm licenses.

### Figure 4: Firearm license-holders categorized by reason for acquiring weapons

![Figure 4: Firearm license-holders categorized by reason for acquiring weapons](image_url)
The number of registered civilian firearms increased from 165,815 in 2012 to 179,151 by 2016, with an 8% increase overall.\(^\text{12}\) During all five years, the number of registered category C firearms was the highest, with an average of 61.3% of the total registered firearms across the five-year period. The number of registered category C firearms increased by 5.6% from 103,613 in 2012 to 109,940 by 2016, while the number of category B firearms increased by 12.1%, from 62,202 in 2012 to 69,711 in 2016. According to Law 10-4024/10, it is possible to register up to 10 category B or C weapons.

Between 2007 and 2016, 40,974 weapons were re-registered by the government in accordance with Article 86 of Law 10-4024/10, in order to review and have accurate records on registered civilian weapons, according to the weapons categorization provisioned by the law.

### Table 5: Number of registered firearms from natural persons under each category of available licenses/permits/authorizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>62,202</td>
<td>64,368</td>
<td>66,392</td>
<td>67,801</td>
<td>69,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>103,613</td>
<td>94,301</td>
<td>108,078</td>
<td>109,737</td>
<td>109,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>165,815</td>
<td>158,669</td>
<td>174,470</td>
<td>177,538</td>
<td>179,151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mirroring the increase in the number of firearm license-holders and the number of registered firearms between 2012 and 2016, the number of firearm license applicants also increased during this period from 12,083 to 34,035. There was a notable increase in the number of firearm license applicants from 19,809 in 2013 to 32,449 in 2014, an increase of 63.9%. The majority of firearm license applicants remained overwhelmingly male (99%) over the five-year period. While the number of female firearm license applicants remained marginal, they increased from 199 in 2012 to 254 in 2016 (27.6%), while the number of male firearm license applicants increased by a significant 184.3%, from 11,884 in 2012 to 33,781 by 2016. The majority of female applicants were in the 36 to 60 age category across all five years. In contrast, 78.4% of male firearms license applicants in 2012 were aged 18 to 35, but this fell to 41.9% by 2016, with 54.7% in 2016 aged 36 to 60.

\(^{12}\) According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, these figures include weapons that were subject to re-registration. The re-registration procedure as of 2016 recorded re-registration of 40,974 pieces of weapons.
Mirroring the rise in the number of firearm license applicants, the total number of rejected firearm license applicants also increased during this period from 8,063 in 2012 to 11,752 by 2016. In 2012, 66.7% of firearm license applications were rejected, which fell to 34.5% by 2016, indicating a fall in the percentage of rejected applications over time. The number of rejected female applicants increased from 56 in 2012 to 74 in 2016 (32.1%). Rejected male applicants numbered 8,007 in 2012 and increased to 11,678 in 2016.

Throughout the survey period, no applications were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence, which is surprising given the high incidence of domestic violence in the country and the fact that Article 12 of Law 10-4024/10 allows for the rejection of a firearm license application on the basis of ‘disturbed family relations’.

13 Women in the country are disproportionately affected by domestic violence; 82% of survivors are women while 93% of those convicted for domestic violence are men. According to a SEESAC report on Gender and SALW in South East Europe, 41% of women murdered in the country between 2011 and 2015 were murdered within the domestic context by their intimate partner, and 73% of these murders involved firearms. Source: Božanić, 2016; S. Mirceva, V. Caceva, H. Kenig. Voice for Justice: Assessment of court procedures for domestic violence cases with special focus on managing the cases from the gender perspective. Institute for Social, Political and Legal Research, ISSPI, Skopje, 2014.

14 Following the May 2018 amendment to Law 10-4024/10, Article 12 now states that the relevant authorities can also reject firearm license applications based on domestic violence grounds.
A total of 4,636 firearm licenses were revoked during this period, of which 99.8% belonged to men. The number of revoked firearm licenses fluctuated and fell during the five-year period, from a high of 1,851 in 2012 to 854 by 2016. While the number of firearm license-holders, registered firearms and firearm license applicants increased during this five-year period, the number of revoked firearms did not increase and may reflect weak enforcement of Article 42 of Law 10-4024/10.

Misdemeanors were the main reason across all five years for the revocation of licenses at 85.8% (1,588) in 2012 and 50.1% (428) in 2016. In 2012, 246 licenses were revoked due to criminal records (13.3%) but this increased to 388 by 2016 (45.4%). A total of 67 licenses over the five-year period were revoked due to health/medical unfitness and a further 49 for ‘other’ reasons. A marginal 2.4% were revoked in 2012 on domestic violence grounds, but this increased to 7.9% by 2016.\footnote{Amendments to the 2015 law on the prevention of and protection from domestic violence stipulates that when there is information that domestic violence has been committed by a person in possession of firearms or who has access to and handles firearms on an official basis, e.g. a police officer, security guard, etc., then the authorities need to be informed in order to take measures to have the firearms temporarily confiscated. Source: Republic of North Macedonia. Sixth Periodic Report on the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 13 June 2017.}

Lost and Stolen Firearms

One civilian firearm was reported lost in 2015, while 173 were reported stolen from civilians between 2012 and 2016. An average of nine to twelve firearms were stolen annually between 2012 and 2015; however, a total of 131 firearms were stolen in 2016. Data was unavailable regarding the number of firearms lost and stolen from state agencies and private entities.
2.1.3 Estimated Illegal Civilian Possession of Firearms

The government authorities did not have any data regarding the estimated number of illicit firearms in civilian possession. The number of cases of illegal possession of firearms fell overall from 128 in 2012 to 86 in 2016 (-32.8%), with a total of 483 cases over the five-year period. The number of confiscated firearms fluctuated, from 76 in 2012 to 58 in 2016, with a total of 329 confiscated firearms for the five-year period. There were no temporarily confiscated firearms during this period.

**Figure 7: Number of cases of illegal firearm possession and confiscated firearms**

![Graph showing the number of cases of illegal firearm possession and confiscated firearms from 2012 to 2016.](image)

**2.1.4 Firearms Holdings by Private Entities**

**Figure 8: Total firearm holdings by private entities**

![Pie chart showing the percentage of total firearm holdings by private entities.](image)
In 2016, private entities held a total of 12,387 firearms, of which sales shops held 12,041 (97.2%), private security companies held 268 (2.2%) and shooting ranges held 78 (0.6%). The total number of firearms held by private entities almost tripled over the survey period, from 4,149 in 2012 to 12,387 by 2016, an increase of 198.6%. As these figures do not include data for shooting associations, the annual totals are likely to be higher.

Table 6: Total number of firearms held by private entities, 2012-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Security Companies</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Associations*</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranges</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales shops</td>
<td>3,922</td>
<td>6,326</td>
<td>8,315</td>
<td>10,166</td>
<td>12,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,149</td>
<td>6,587</td>
<td>8,629</td>
<td>10,474</td>
<td>12,387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Macedonian Sport Shooting Federation did not have any data regarding the number of firearms it held during this period.

While the firearm holdings of private security companies and shooting ranges were low with modest growth between 2012 and 2016, the number of firearms held by sales shops grew by 207%, reflecting an increased demand for firearms during this period.

The number of private security companies increased by 32.8% during this period from 229 in 2012 to 304 by 2016, as did the number of staff authorized to carry firearms, which increased from 108 in 2012 to 184 by 2016 (70.4%). All of the staff employed by private security companies and authorized to hold firearms in 2016 were male. The number of firearms held by private security companies increased by 58.6% from 169 in 2016 to 268 by 2016.
The number of firearm shooting clubs, the number of firearms they held (233) and the number of annual visitors and members remained stable throughout the five-year period. While the number of shooting ranges and the staff they employed also remained stable during this period, the number of members increased significantly from 712 in 2012 to 3,866 in 2016. The number of firearms held by ranges increased from 58 in 2012 to 78 in 2016. Both male and female visitor numbers fell over this five-year period, with female visitors falling from 1,365 in 2012 to 1,281 in 2016, and male visitors falling from 4,238 in 2012 to 3,773 by 2016. While some visitors may have become members, helping to partially explain the increase in membership numbers and the fall in visitor numbers, it is clear that shooting range membership increased in popularity over this period.

The number of sales shops increased from 27 in 2012 to 32 by 2016, while the number of firearms they collectively held also increased from 3,922 in 2012 to 12,041 in 2016. In 2012, sales shops held 2.3 million units of ammunition, which increased to just over 10 million units in 2016. The increase in the number of sales shops as well as the firearms and ammunition they held mirrored the increase in the number of firearm license-holders, registered firearms and firearm license applicants during this period, as well as the increase in shooting range members.
Sales of firearms to civilians increased by 69.6% over the five-year period, from 2,377 firearms sold in 2012 to 4,031 sold in 2016, the majority of which were category B. A total of 15,989 firearms were sold to civilians during this five-year period. Overall, the number of category B weapons sold increased from 1,193 in 2012 to 2,653 by 2016, as did the number of category C weapons which peaked in 2015 at 1,345. The number of category D weapons sold fell from 292 in 2012 to 85 in 2016.

Sales shops sold a total of 2,997 firearms to legal entities during the five-year period. Sales increased from 289 sold in 2012 to 905 in 2016, the majority of which were category B firearms. The total annual turnover of firearm sales shops increased from 129.8 million Macedonian Denar (MKD) in 2012 to MKD 392.9 million by 2016.

2.1.5 Collection and Destruction

A total of 77 firearms were voluntarily surrendered and 878 firearms were legalized during the five-year period. In 2010, legislative amendments were passed which gave civilians in possession of illicit firearms a year to either hand over their firearms to the authorities or to legalize them.

While the police destroyed a total of 2,108 firearms between 2012 and 2016, the Ministry of Interior destroyed 782 SALW in July 2014 as part of international gun destruction day.¹⁶ Data on firearms destruction carried out by the Ministry of Defense was classified during this period. In addition to firearm destruction, security upgrades were carried out in 2015 and 2016 to state

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storage sites in Orman and Erebino with assistance from the UNDP SEESAC in order to improve the security of firearm and ammunition stocks.17

2.1.6 Production and Legal Trade

Production

While the Republic of North Macedonia did not produce firearms between 2012 and 2016, ammunition production did take place, increasing from 878,750 units produced in 2012, peaking at 11.4 million units in 2014 and then falling slightly to 8.9 million by 2016, an overall increase of 917.6%. Between 2012 and 2016, a total of 30.5 million units of ammunition were produced. Annual turnover for the production of ML3 military goods fluctuated but increased overall, from a low of EUR 101,056 in 2012 to a high of EUR 815,298 by 2016, with a total value of EUR 2.7 million over the five-year period. There was no evidence reported of illicit production of firearms.

Brokering

The number of arms brokers increased from 7 in 2012 to 11 in 2016, with a total of three brokering licenses approved during the survey period. The number of ML1 category items brokered during this period increased from 2,374 items in 2012 to 4,851 in 2016. While no ML2 category items were brokered, the quantity of brokered ML3 items also increased from 1.26 million items in 2012 to 6.5 million by 2016. The quantity of brokered ML3 items peaked in 2014 at 11.9 million.

Figure 12: Arms and ammunition brokered by quantity and type

![Figure 12: Arms and ammunition brokered by quantity and type](image_url)

Imports
A total of 566 arms import authorizations were granted during this period, of which 98.7% or 559 were realized. The number of import authorizations that were both granted and realized peaked in 2015 at 141 and 134 respectively but fell in 2016 to 73 and 74.\(^\text{18}\) The value of arms and ammunition imports on the civilian market fluctuated during this period, from EUR 107.8 million in 2012, peaking at EUR 148.0 million in 2015 and falling to EUR 80.6 million by 2016. The total value of imports over the five-year period was approximately EUR 569.9 million. There were no temporary imports during this period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 7: Value in EUR of arms and ammunition imports, 2012-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value of imports (civilian market)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of ML1 category items imports fluctuated between 2012 and 2016, from 1,221 items in 2012, peaking in 2014 with 1,676 items but then falling to 1,208 by 2016. A total of 7,163 items were imported during this period. While no ML2 category items were imported, a total of 6.6 million ML3 items were imported over the five-year period, which peaked in 2014 at 1.7 million but fell to 1.2 million by 2016.

\(^{18}\) Import authorizations realized in 2016 (74) were higher than those granted (73) due to the transfer of an issued authorization from the previous year.
Table 8: Arms and ammunition imports by quantity and type, 2012-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ML1</td>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>1,654</td>
<td>1,676</td>
<td>1,404</td>
<td>1,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML3</td>
<td>1,213,935</td>
<td>1,034,454</td>
<td>1,746,375</td>
<td>1,355,375</td>
<td>1,222,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exports

The number of export authorizations granted during the five-year period was 65, of which 92.3% or 60 were realized. The number of realized export authorizations peaked in 2015 at 15 but fell to 11 by 2016. The total value of arms and ammunition exports during this period was EUR 180.5 million. Export authorizations realized in 2012 and 2013 were larger than export authorizations granted those years due to the transfer of issued authorizations from the previous years. The value of exports increased from EUR 793,939 in 2012, to EUR 90 million in 2015, then fell to EUR 34 million by 2016. There were no temporary exports during this period.

Table 9: Value in EUR of arms and ammunition exports, 2012-2016

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value of exports</td>
<td>793,939</td>
<td>27,231,027</td>
<td>90,126,547</td>
<td>28,244,025</td>
<td>34,113,338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main destination countries for the country’s SALW exports included Bulgaria (2013-14), United States of America (US) (2014), Czech Republic and Germany (2015), and Turkey and Slovakia (2016).

Table 10: Realized arms and ammunition exports by type, number of licenses and destination, 2012-2016

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ML1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML3</td>
<td>3 licenses: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France</td>
<td>2 licenses: 1 Bangladesh and 1 US</td>
<td>9 licenses: 4 EU, 2 North America, 1 Iraq, 1 Bangladesh, 1 non-EU European or territory</td>
<td>9 licenses: 4 EU, 4 non-EU European or territory, 1 South Asia</td>
<td>12 licenses: 3 EU, 1 North America, 8 non-EU European or territory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As Table 10 illustrates, the Republic of North Macedonia widened the range of destinations to which it exported arms and ammunition, from the European Union in 2012 to also Non-EU European countries and territories, North America, South Asia and the Middle East by 2016. The top arms

19 Figures for this table are based on the SEESAC Regional Arms Export Reports for years 2012 to 2016.
export companies in terms of annual turnover during this five-year period, included Sumbro Trade (all years), Mikei (2012-13), 11 Oktomvri (2013), Icemak (2014 and 2016), Dimanco (2014) and Arsenal (2016).

**Table 11: Firearm and ammunition exports by quantity and type, 2012-2016**

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<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ML1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,590</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML3</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>2,822,000</td>
<td>10,146,000</td>
<td>2,903,400</td>
<td>5,325,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between 2012 and 2016, no ML1 category weapons were exported, and only 2,590 ML2 category weapons were exported in 2014. The export of ML3 category items fluctuated, from 52,000 items exported in 2012, peaking at a significant 10.1 million items in 2014 and then falling to 5.3 million items by 2016. In total 21.2 million ML3 items were exported during this five-year period.

While no ML1 category weapons were transited through the country, 1,750 ML2 items were transited between 2015 and 2016. A total of 213.3 million ML3 items were transited through the Republic of North Macedonia during the survey period. The number of transited ML3 items fluctuated from a low of 13.3 million items in 2013 to a high of 64.0 million items in 2015. No weapons were transshipped during this period.
2.1.7 Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons Transfers

The number of confiscated firearms fluctuated during the survey period, but fell by 23.7% from 76 in 2012 to 58 in 2016, with a total of 329 firearms confiscated in total. No firearms were temporarily confiscated during this period. The number of seized firearms also fluctuated and fell, from 180 seized firearms in 2012 to 143 by 2016. A total of 978 firearms were seized during this period, for which no domestic or international trace requests were sent.

Between 2012 and 2016, the Republic of North Macedonia was a destination, source and transit country when it came to firearm trafficking. The authorities identified a trend in 2012 whereby registered companies engaged in illegal sales of firearms and ammunition through the falsification of documents, including false declarations of thefts, in order to export firearms illegally. A total of 1,010 firearm trafficking cases were recorded between 2012 and 2016, which fluctuated and fell overall, from 184 cases in 2012 to 178 cases by 2016. During this period, 962 firearms were trafficked. A further 16 firearms were recorded as trafficked by the Customs Administration bringing the total number of trafficked firearms during this five-year period to 978. A total of 66,217 units of ammunition was also reported as trafficked.

In 2012, seven border crossing points reported firearm trafficking and this increased to 21 by 2016. A total of two firearms were reported as trafficked in 2012, which increased to 34 in 2013 but fell to a surprising low of three by 2016. The country had two airports during this period, and one airport-related firearm trafficking incident was reported in both 2012 and 2014, both involving ammunition, while in 2016, 15 firearms and 58 units of ammunition were reported trafficked. While no survey data was available regarding the number of green and blue border crossings and the number of firearm trafficking reports made, it has been widely reported that firearms were trafficked in and out across land borders in small quantities via vehicles, mainly through green borders with Albania, Kosovo* and Serbia, but also Greece and Bulgaria.

The number of people indicted for trafficking fell by 17.5%, from 217 in 2012 to 179 by 2016. A total of 1,094 people were indicted for trafficking, of which 1,059 or 96.8% were male. Given the high number of estimated illicit SALW within the country and the regional firearm trafficking dynamics, the number of annual convictions for firearm trafficking remained low and mirrored the low conviction rates for organized crime in the country.

---

20 UNODC. Study on Firearms 2015: A study on the transnational nature of and routes and modus operandi used in trafficking in firearms. Vienna, 2015, p.49.
* For the United Nations Development Programme, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
Table 12: Summary of firearms and ammunition trafficked, 2012-2016

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<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases of firearm trafficking recorded</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms trafficked</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm ammunition trafficked</td>
<td>9,062</td>
<td>17,900</td>
<td>10,723</td>
<td>22,827</td>
<td>5,705</td>
<td>57,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border crossing points where firearms</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trafficking was reported</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms trafficked on border crossing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of airports</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking incidents at airports</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms trafficked at airports</td>
<td>50 bullets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45 bullets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>58 bullets</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the 978 firearms trafficked between 2012 and 2016, 363 (37.1%) were pistols, 207 (21.2%) were shotguns, 135 (13.8%) were machine guns and 108 (11%) were categorized as ‘other’. In addition, 53 revolvers, 25 rifles, 47 submachine guns, 20 air rifles and 20 blank firing weapons were trafficked.

Table 13: Number of firearms trafficked by type

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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of pistols</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of revolvers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of rifles</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of shotguns (smooth bore)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of submachine guns</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of machine guns</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of air rifles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of blank firing weapons</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammunition in cartridge cases/Ammunition for flare weapons</td>
<td>9,062</td>
<td>17,900/15</td>
<td>10,423/70</td>
<td>22,832</td>
<td>5,705/125.00</td>
<td>57,352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to Europol, illicit firearm dealers often take advantage of different national legislation to legally acquire deactivated firearms or blank firing weapons and then convert them into lethal firearms.\textsuperscript{23} For example, between 2010 and 2013, Germany reported the arrival on its territory of an increasing number of trafficked firearms originating from the state security services, and this included deactivated firearms that had been converted.\textsuperscript{24} Between 2012 and 2016, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was a destination country for converted weapons. Gas and/or signal pistols were trafficked into the country and then converted illegally to fire explosive ammunition through clandestine workshops run by organized criminal groups, and then sold within the country or trafficked out again.\textsuperscript{25} The authorities noted a specific trend in the trafficking of converted weapons into the country, often gas or signal pistols purchased from Turkey, which were then converted and resold for EUR 100-150/piece or trafficked to Western Europe and Scandinavia and sold for EUR 300-500/piece on the black market.\textsuperscript{26}

Figure 15: Firearm trafficking trends: Number of firearm trafficking cases and indictments, and the number of trafficked, seized and confiscated firearms


\textsuperscript{24} UNODC. Study on Firearms 2015: A study on the transnational nature of and routes and modus operandi used in trafficking in firearms. Vienna, 2015, p.40.

\textsuperscript{25} UNODC. Study on Firearms 2015: A study on the transnational nature of and routes and modus operandi used in trafficking in firearms. Vienna, 2015, p.51.

\textsuperscript{26} UNODC. Study on Firearms 2015: A study on the transnational nature of and routes and modus operandi used in trafficking in firearms. Vienna, 2015, p.51.
As Figure 15 illustrates, progress made in the number of trafficking cases recorded, detection of trafficked firearms and seized firearms between 2012 and 2015, was reversed. From 2015 to 2016, the number of recorded cases of firearm trafficking and the number of trafficked firearms fell, as did the number of seized and confiscated firearms and the number of people indicted for firearm trafficking.

2.2 Impact Survey

2.2.1 Firearm-Related Criminal Offenses

A total of 1,833 criminal offenses committed with firearms were registered in the Republic of North Macedonia between 2012 and 2016. In 2013, the number of firearm-related criminal offenses increased by 15.9%, from 358 in 2012 to 415 in 2013. However, the number of criminal offenses fell to its lowest level in 2016 at 301 firearm-related criminal offenses. Overall, the number of firearm-related criminal offenses decreased by 27.5% between 2013 and 2016.

Firearms were most frequently misused in the context of unlawful manufacture, possession, carrying, and sale, accounting for 53% of firearm-related criminal offenses. This was followed by robbery (22.7%) and causing of general danger (8%). Other criminal offenses had a lower prevalence, ranging from 0.1% to 3.9%.

27 Data was provided for 20 categories of criminal offenses inflicted with firearms. The typology of criminal offenses used in this survey refers to criminal offenses that are common to most of the criminal codes in South East Europe. However, respondents were given the opportunity to add or change the list according to their criminal code. Thus, five new categories were added in this survey, namely counterfeiting of firearms, violence, kidnapping, illegal arrest and terrorism.
Figure 17: Distribution of firearm-related criminal offenses

Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying and Sale of Firearms and Explosives: 53%
Robbery: 22.7%
Causing of General Injury: 8%
Threat by Dangerous Implement in Brawl or Quarell: 3.9%
Attempted Murder: 3.5%
Murder: 3.3%
Violence: 1.4%
Domestic Violence: 1.3%
Making and Obtaining Weapons and Tools intended for Committing an Offence: 0.5%
Serious Bodily Harm: 0.5%
Attack on an Official in Performance of Duty: 0.3%
Illegal arrest: 0.3%
Light Bodily Injury: 0.3%
Kidnapping: 0.2%
Preventing an Official in Discharge of Duty: 0.2%
Counterfeiting of Firearms: 0.2%
Terrorism: 0.1%
Plotting of Offences against the constitutional order and security: 0.1%
Aggravated Murder: 0.1%
Aggravated theft: 0.1%
The *unlawful manufacture, possession, carrying, and sale of firearms and explosives* was also the most frequently recorded criminal offense throughout the survey period. The number of robberies committed with firearms remained at a fairly constant level of approximately 70 incidents per year, apart from 2013 when the figure increased to 127, representing 30.6% of the total number of firearm-inflicted criminal offenses in that year. The misuse of firearms to cause general danger leveled off during the survey period.

Given that the type of ownership, whether legal or illegal, of the firearm used in criminal offenses was not recorded by the Ministry of Interior during the survey period, an analysis of the misuse of illegal firearms and the risks they pose to safety could not be conducted.

### 2.2.2 Misdemeanors Inflicted with Firearms

A total of 253 misdemeanors[^28] inflicted with firearms were reported during the survey period. The number of registered misdemeanors decreased more than three times between 2012 and 2015, from 95 misdemeanors in 2012, to a low of 30 in 2015, slightly increasing again in 2016 to 34, but still well below the highest value recorded.

[^28]: Misdemeanors refer to unlawful minor wrongdoings that are not prescribed under the Criminal Code or other laws on criminal offenses. A firearm-related offense is classified as misdemeanor as per the national legislation, and may be sanctioned by prison sentence, penalties, a fine and precautionary measures.
2.2.3 Homicides

Firearms were the most frequently used instrument for committing homicide between 2012 and 2016, with 58.6% of the homicides (or 75 out of 128) involving firearms.

The highest number of firearm-related homicides was reported in 2014, followed by a steep decrease in the next two years; they reached a low in 2016 when 6 homicides committed with firearms were registered.
In the overall structure of women’s and men’s homicides, firearm-related deaths were common for both women and men. Two-thirds of the murdered men and slightly less than every second murdered woman were killed with firearms.

Figure 21: Firearm-inflicted homicides, by year

Men represented the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides, accounting for 76.0% of all homicides. This translates into 57 reported cases of firearm-related homicide in which the victim was a man and 18 cases in which the victim was a woman.
The highest number of men murdered with firearms was recorded in 2015 at 16 homicides, which was more than four times the lowest value registered in 2016 (4). The number of murdered women reached its highest value in 2014 at 7, followed by a consistent decline in 2015 and 2016 to 2 homicides.

Forty percent of firearm homicide victims were in the 19-35 age group, while 38.7% were in the 36-60 age group and significantly less were aged 61 and over at 12%. Eight percent of all victims were under age. This age distribution held particularly true for men. In absolute values, men aged 19-35 accounted for the highest number of firearm-related homicide victims, followed by men aged 36-60. For women, the ranking was reversed with more women aged 36-60 killed with firearms.
Table 14: Victims of firearm-related homicides, by sex and age

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>W M Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-18</td>
<td>1 1</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>0 2</td>
<td>0 2</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>1 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-35</td>
<td>1 6</td>
<td>1 4</td>
<td>4 4</td>
<td>0 8</td>
<td>0 2</td>
<td>6 24 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-60</td>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>2 6</td>
<td>2 5</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>9 20 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61+</td>
<td>0 1</td>
<td>0 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>0 1</td>
<td>1 0</td>
<td>2 8 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total W/M per year</td>
<td>4 12</td>
<td>3 10</td>
<td>7 15</td>
<td>2 16</td>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>18 57 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 13</td>
<td>22 18</td>
<td>6 75</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These 19-35 and 36-60 age groups together accounted for 83.3% of the total number of women and 77.2% of the total number of men who were killed with firearms.

Figure 25: Victims of firearm-inflicted homicides, by sex and age

Figure 26: Age structure of female and male victims of firearm homicides
2.2.4 Injuries

During the survey period, a total of 47 people suffered injuries inflicted with firearms. The highest number of injuries was recorded in 2012 at 15 injuries, but bottomed out at 2 injuries in 2014, only to increase again to 13 by 2016.

Figure 27: Number of injuries inflicted with firearms, by year

[Graph showing the number of injuries inflicted with firearms, by year, from 2012 to 2016.]

Men represented the overwhelming majority of those injured by firearms, and 37 or 78.7% of all victims of firearm-inflicted injuries were men. Also, 10 women were reported as injured by firearms between 2012 and 2016, representing 21.3% of all cases. At particular risk were men aged 36-60 who accounted for 40.4% of all injured victims, followed by men aged 19-35 at 23.4%.

Figure 28: Victims of firearm-inflicted injuries, by sex and age

[Pie chart showing the distribution of victims by sex and age group: Men 0-18: 40.4%, Women 0-18: 8.5%, Men 19-35: 23.4%, Women 19-35: 8.5%, Men 36-60: 6.4%, Women 36-60: 4.3%, Men 61+: 6.4%, Women 61+: 2.1%]

29 The number of persons injured with firearms refers to the individuals injured after a crime of “attempted murder” with a firearm was committed.
Table 15: Victims of injuries inflicted with firearms, by sex and age of victim

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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61+</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total W/M</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.5 Accidental Deaths

Within the survey period, 4 accidental deaths\(^{30}\) inflicted with firearms were reported. All of the victims were men, two of whom were under-age.

2.2.6 Domestic Violence

Homicide by family members

Every third homicide in the Republic of North Macedonia was committed in the domestic context. From 2012 to 2016, 42 people were killed by family members, whether by firearm or by different means, representing 32.8% of all homicides in the country. Domestic violence affected both women and men, with men accounting for 64.3% of the persons killed by family members during the survey period (27), and women accounting for 35.7% of the victims (15).

Figure 29: People killed by family members, by sex

---

\(^{30}\) Accidental death is defined as any death that occurs as the result of an accident. It refers to a death resulting from an event that was unanticipated by everyone involved. It is not intended, expected, or foreseeable. Firearm-related accidental deaths refer to situations when one or more persons is accidentally shot and killed. Accidental death does not include murder or suicide.
At the same time, homicides by family members accounted for approximately a third of both female and male homicide victims, with the percentage slightly higher in the case of women, 37.5%.

**Figure 30:** Share of homicides committed by family members in the total number of homicides, by sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2016</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Homicides by intimate partner**

Out of all homicides committed in a domestic context, 23.8% were committed by an intimate partner. Intimate partner violence with a lethal outcome disproportionately affected women, with a striking gender differentiation. Women accounted for all victims of intimate partner homicides with no cases reported of men killed by their intimate partner during the survey period. Intimate partner homicides accounted for the overwhelming majority (66.7%) of the female homicides committed in a domestic context.

**Figure 31:** Share of victims killed by their intimate partner in the total number of people killed by family members, by sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2016</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Furthermore, every fourth woman murdered during the survey period was murdered by her former or current intimate partner.

**Table 16: Number of persons killed in the period 2012-2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of murders</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of persons killed by family members</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of persons killed by family members with firearms</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of persons killed by their intimate partners</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of persons killed by their intimate partners with firearms</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Firearms misuse in domestic violence**

During the survey period, the misuse of firearms in domestic violence was widespread, as every second person murdered within a domestic context was killed with a firearm. Such a high share of persons murdered with firearms reflects the high lethality of firearms in the domestic context. In absolute values, men represented the majority of victims of firearm-inflicted deaths committed by family members. During the survey period, 12 men were killed by a firearm in a domestic environment compared to 9 women killed in the same context.

**Figure 32: Persons killed by family members using firearms**

However, the presence of firearms in the context of domestic violence was more likely to result in a lethal outcome for women than for men. Sixty percent of women and 44.4% of men were murdered by family members using firearms. This trend is different than the prevalence of firearms in all homicides, in which case firearms were more frequently the weapon of choice in the murder of men than that of women.
Even more frequently, firearms were the weapon of choice when intimate partner homicide was committed during the survey period. Between 2012 and 2016, 8 out of the 10 intimate partner homicides reported were committed with a firearm and all victims were women.

Out of 48,367 firearms license applicants that were rejected between 2012 and 2016, none of them were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence. Yet in contrast, domestic violence was an overwhelmingly common reason for the revocation of firearm licenses.31 Of the 1,511 firearms

31 Note that an amendment made to the Law on Weapons in May 2018 now specifically stipulates that firearm license applications can be rejected on the grounds of domestic violence.
licenses that were revoked for criminal records during the survey period, 18.5% or 278 were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence and all of these licenses belonged to men.\textsuperscript{32}

Since 2012, the number of licenses revoked on the grounds of domestic violence steadily increased, from 44 to 69 revoked licenses annually, over the five-year period.

\textbf{Figure 35: Share of licenses/permit/authorization revoked on the grounds of domestic violence}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure35}
\caption{Share of licenses/permit/authorization revoked on the grounds of domestic violence}
\end{figure}

\textbf{Figure 36: Number of revoked licenses, by year}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure36}
\caption{Number of revoked licenses, by year}
\end{figure}

32 The number of revoked licenses includes revoked permits and authorizations.
A review of the reported cases of domestic violence and crimes against sexual freedom\textsuperscript{33} indicates that the presence of firearms is rarely reported. Out of 4,048 cases of domestic violence that were registered between 2012 and 2016, firearm misuse was reported in only 23 cases. Firearm misuse was reported in only 4 of the 640 cases of criminal offence against sexual freedom.

**Figure 37: Reported cases of the criminal offense of domestic violence**

![Graph showing reported cases of domestic violence](image)

- Red line: Report cases of the criminal offence of domestic violence
- Blue line: Cases of criminal offence of domestic violence in which the misuse of firearms was reported

### 2.2.7 Perpetrators

The number of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses fluctuated during the survey period and fell in 2016 by almost 30% compared to the previous year.

**Figure 38: Perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses, by year**

![Bar chart showing perpetrators](image)

- 2012: 360
- 2013: 347
- 2014: 354
- 2015: 380
- 2016: 271

\textsuperscript{33} Crimes against sexual freedom include the following criminal offenses: rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual intercourse with a helpless person, sexual intercourse with a child, sexual intercourse through abuse of position, mediation in prostitution and other prohibited sexual acts.
During the survey period, 1,672 or 97.7% of criminal offenses were committed by men, while 39 or 2.3% were committed by women.

**Figure 39: Perpetrators of criminal offenses committed with firearms, by sex**

![Pie chart showing 97.7% men and 2.3% women.]

In 16 out of the 20 categories of criminal offenses, all perpetrators were men, while in the other categories, men accounted for over 90% of the perpetrators. As documented below, all perpetrators of domestic violence were men, which indicates that all of the male victims of firearm homicides committed in a domestic context were killed by male family members.

Men also dominated among perpetrators of homicides committed with firearms and accounted for 100% of all perpetrators of murders and aggravated murders. The majority of the male perpetrators of firearm-related homicides were aged 36-60, followed by those aged 19-35. These two age groups together accounted for over 80% of the total number of those who committed murder using firearms.

**Figure 40: Perpetrators of firearm-related homicides, disaggregated by age**

![Bar chart showing age groups with percentages.]

- 0-18: 1.5%
- 19-35: 38.5%
- 36-60: 44.6%
- 61+: 15.4%
Figure 41: Gender differentiated effect of firearms on women and men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearm owners</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrators of firearm-related homicides</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of firearm-related homicides</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 41 illustrates how the effect of firearms on women and men differed along gender lines during the survey period. In the Republic of North Macedonia, men made up 99.5% of firearm owners and committed 97.7% of firearm-inflicted criminal offenses and 100% of the firearm homicides between 2012 and 2016. They also accounted for the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides (76%) but were proportionately more frequently perpetrators than victims of firearm misuse. Women, on the other hand, owned only a minor share of firearms (0.5%), made up 2.3% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses and 0% of homicides but were disproportionately represented among victims (24%).

In the period 2012-2016, there were 20 members of state agencies who committed criminal offenses with firearms, 19 of which were men; 2 of these men committed homicide using firearms.

### 2.2.8. Suicides

Of the 730 suicides recorded during the survey period, 101 or 13.8% of all suicides were committed with firearms.\(^3\) However, in terms of firearm misuse, suicides accounted for the majority of all firearm-related deaths at 56.1%, followed by murders (41.7%) and accidental deaths (2.2%).

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\(^3\) Sex-and age-disaggregated data regarding the number of firearm-inflicted suicides have not been provided for this survey.
Between 2012 and 2016, the number of firearm-related suicides followed a steady trajectory, apart from 2015 when the number of suicides fell by 38.1% to 13 suicides, compared to the 21 suicides that took place in 2014.
2.2.9 Characteristics of the Incidents

Between 2012 and 2016, revolvers and self-loading pistols were the most widely used firearms in incidents with a fatal outcome, accounting for over 6 in 10 deaths. Rifles, carbines and shotguns came second and accounted for 1 in 5 deaths, while deaths by assault rifles and light machine guns represented 18.3% of deaths. There were no reported cases of deaths inflicted with submachine guns or blank-firing weapons during the survey period.

However, this trend oscillated between 2012 and 2016. While revolvers and self-loading pistols were responsible for the majority of deaths during the survey period, the percentage varied between 41.7% in 2013 to almost double that in 2014. Rifles, carbines and shotguns, and assault rifles and light machine guns accounted for relatively similar percentages ranging from 9.1% in 2014 to 33.3% and 25% respectively, in 2013.

Figure 45: Number of deaths by type of firearm

Figure 46: Share of deaths, by type of firearm and by year
Firearm-related homicides were most frequently committed at home, in apartments or in yards, followed by on streets, sidewalks and in parking lots. More than 2 in 5 firearm-related deaths were committed in private spaces. The following most frequent spaces were forests, fields and uninhabited areas, as well as cafes, restaurants, clubs and hotels.

While women were overwhelmingly more likely to be killed by a firearm at home, men were equally at risk in private and public spaces. Of the 18 women killed by firearms during the survey period, 12 women were killed in their home, apartment or yard, while 3 women were killed on the street, and 2 in forests, fields or uninhabited areas. An equal number of men (18) were killed at home, in apartments or yards, as well as on streets, sidewalks and parking lots.
The highest incidence of firearm-related murders took place in July and November, followed by April, October and December.

**Figure 49: Firearm-related homicides by month**

The highest number of male victims of firearm-related murders took place from July to August, and October to December, while women were most at risk in April, July and November.

**Figure 50: Firearm-related homicides, by month and sex of victim**
2.3 Perception Survey

The perception survey was conducted online and asked a range of questions relating to exposure to firearm use, possession and community safety. The following is a summary of the key findings from the SALW perceptions survey in North Macedonia.

2.3.1 Demographic Breakdown

A total of 13,106 respondents in the Republic of North Macedonia accessed the online perception survey, of which 2,666 completed it in full. The majority of respondents were aged 25-44, with a roughly equal representation of women and men. Fifty-three percent of the respondents were working full time, and 15% were looking for work. Most of the respondents were clustered in towns (46%), the capital region (31%) and villages (17%). Forty-five percent of respondents had a secondary education level, while 30% had a Bachelor’s degree. Regarding socio-economic status, 45% of respondents reported a monthly household income of EUR 200-500, and 30% reported earning more than EUR 500/month.

2.3.2 Experience of Gun Use

When surveyed, 67% of respondents reported they had never had an experience with a gun, 25% of respondents had personally experienced the use of a gun to some degree and 4% had both used one and had one directed at themselves. Men were two times more likely than women to have experienced the use of a gun.

Figure 51: Experience of gun use

Have you ever experienced the use of gun?

- Yes, I have had a gun directed at me: 7%
- Yes, I have used a gun: 14%
- Yes, I have both used a gun and had one directed at me: 4%
- Yes, but indirectly: 3%
- No, but someone close to me has: 6%
- No, not at all: 67%
Thirty-seven percent of men had some form of direct personal experience with a gun – e.g. used a gun, had a gun directed at them, or both – compared to 14% of women. The differences between men and women were particularly significant in terms of firearm usage with 22% of men having used a gun compared to 8% of women. Men were also 2.5 times more likely to have had a gun directed at themselves compared to women.

**Figure 52: Experience of gun use by sex**

*Have you ever experienced the use of a gun?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No, not at all</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, but someone close to me has</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, but indirectly</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, have both used a gun and had one</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>directed at me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I have used a gun</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I have had a gun directed at me</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hunting, sport and celebratory shooting** were reported by both women and men as the primary situation when a gun was used. Women were more likely to report assault, domestic violence and intimidation and threats, while men more often reported professional reasons. Across all age groups, the majority of respondents did not have any previous experience with a gun and those who did have direct experience were aged 35-44. Respondents with lower or no income were more likely to have had a gun pointed at them. Forty-five percent of those that had previous gun experience reported incidents that were violent or perceptibly dangerous.
The most frequent experience with a gun reported was in a hunting/sporting setting (21%), followed by celebratory shooting (11%) and professional reasons (9%).
Apart from the 32% of respondents who didn’t know when the most recent act of gun violence had happened, 18% of respondents reported that the most recent act of gun use occurred more than 15 years ago and within the year of the survey.

The police and/or military were identified as the dominant group which had committed the most recent act of gun violence, at 12%. Although half of the respondents did not provide information about who committed the act of violence, men most frequently (15%) reported “police and military”, while women most often reported “thief” (10%). The second most frequently reported perpetrators of gun violence were “partners” and “ex-partners” equally at 9%. The majority of gun violence related to the police or military reportedly took place 15 or more years ago (48% in total).
2.3.3 Firearm Possession

The majority of respondents (76%) said they would not own a gun; of these respondents, 92% were women aged 45 to 54. Women (85%) were more likely than men (64%) to report they would not own a gun. The dominant respondents (42%) who would own a gun were men aged 16 to 34 and over 65. Of the respondents who would not own a gun, 61% said they did not need one (60% of women, 62% of men) and 20% considered it unsafe to have a gun (20% of women, 19% of men). Women were two times more likely than men to report that they did not know how to use a gun.

Respondents were more likely to feel that the presence of a gun at home would make them feel less safe (58%) than safer (42%). There were more men (49%) than women (37%) that said having a gun at home improves safety. While men were almost equally divided on whether having a gun at home would make them feel safer or less safe, 63% of women said they would feel less safe with a gun at home. The dominant respondents who said they would feel safer with a gun at home were men aged 16-24 (60%), while the dominant respondents who felt less safe with a gun at home were women aged 45-54 (74%).

Respondents living in the capital city were slightly more likely to say they would own a gun, while those living in towns were the least likely. Most of the respondents in each type of settlement said they would own a gun for their protection/safety. Respondents with no income were the most likely to report they would own a gun at 40% compared to other income groups (26% and less). Hunting and sport were significant drivers of firearm possession, particularly among the rural population.

Factors linked with the demand for firearms

Twenty-four percent of respondents reported that they would own a gun. The following factors were identified as being positively correlated with the demand for firearms:

- Protection/Safety: The pursuit of improving one’s safety was a significant driver in gun ownership. Almost half (46%) of the respondents stated that they would own a gun for “protection / safety” reasons. Even though they would feel safer at home, 53% of respondents would still not own a gun.
• **Previous experience of gun use**: Any previous gun experience immediately increased the likelihood that a respondent would own a gun. 60% of respondents who had a gun directed at them, and 61% of those who had used a gun would own one themselves. Only 13% of those who had never experienced the use of a gun would own a gun.

**Figure 57: Gun ownership vs. experience of gun use**

*Would you personally own a gun vs Have you ever experienced the use of a gun?*

The readiness to acquire a gun also correlated with the period when the gun violence had happened. Respondents with more recent violent experience were more likely to say that they would own a gun than those who experienced violence further in the past. Sixty-eight percent of respondents who experienced gun use in the past year would own a gun, which percentage decreases if the violent experience was further in time, to 45% of those who experienced gun violence more than 15 years ago.

**Figure 58: Gun ownership vs. timeframe of recent gun violence**

*Would you personally own a gun vs When was the most recent act of gun violence?*
• **Hunting**: Hunting was also a driver of gun possession, with 22% of respondents citing hunting/sport as a reason to own a gun. Men were two times more likely to choose hunting/sport than women (26% and 13% respectively).

• **Sex and age**: Men (36%) would significantly more often than women (15%) own a gun, and this was valid across all age groups. The dominant respondents (88%) who would not own a gun were women aged 55-64, while men aged 16-34 and 65 and over were the most likely to state that they would own a gun. Fifty-one percent of women and 43% of men would own a gun for protection and safety. Men were two times more likely than women to cite hunting and sport as reasons for gun ownership. Additionally, men (7%) were also more likely than women (4%) to refer to tradition as a reason for gun ownership.

### 2.3.4 Community Safety

Ninety-five percent of respondents said they are aware of the penalties for illegal possession of guns. Both women and men were well aware of the penalties involved with illegal gun possession at 93% and 96% respectively. This trend held true across all age groups, except for respondents aged 65 and over, where 85% of respondents reported awareness.

Ninety-four percent of those who would own a gun were aware of the penalties for illegal possession. Respondents whose reasons for owning a gun were “for protection / safety” and “hunting and sport” were the most aware of the penalties for illegal possession of weapons, while the least aware were those respondents whose reasons for owning a gun were “it inspires fear in others”, “everyone has one”, “tradition” and “a man should carry a gun”. Respondents living in suburbs tended to be the least aware of penalties (86%) while those living in the capital cities were the most aware (97%). Those with no income were less likely to be aware of penalties – 60% compared to 74% and more for other groups.

The overwhelming majority of respondents across all experiences of a gun believed that “more police presence”, “violence awareness campaigns” and “stricter gun control regulations” would be most effective in making a community safer. Only 5% of respondents believed that “more people owning guns to protect themselves” would be the most effective solution to making communities safer.

![Figure 59: Community safety perceptions](image)
Across all age groups, respondents did not feel that gun possession was the best way to improve safety in their community. On average for all age groups, respondents felt the top three most effective ways to make communities safer was to increase the presence of police/authorities, implement violence awareness campaigns and to enforce stricter gun control regulations.

In terms of gun influence, both women and men across all age groups believed the factors that promote the use of guns the most were videos showing guns and social media and news reports on gun-related incidents (31%).
3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

Firearm misuse, proliferation and trafficking remain key concerns in the Republic of North Macedonia, especially given links to wider problems with organized crime and concerns about future stability and the rule of law. While the government authorities have made some progress in trying to address these complex challenges, there are several areas where renewed effort is required. The purpose of the following recommendations, aimed at policy makers and practitioners, is to encourage greater progress on several additional fronts.

Data Collection and Analysis

The following steps should be undertaken to further improve the quality of firearms/SALW-related data that is regularly collected:

- Ensure that data on the type of firearm ownership is regularly collected and fully integrated into administrative data-keeping practices and included in templates for the data keeping and recording of each firearm related incident.
- Ensure that data-keeping practices provide sex and age disaggregated data on suicides committed with firearms.
- Ensure that data on injuries is not limited to cases of injuries inflicted during an attempt of murder, as is practiced now, but that it also includes other criminal offenses committed with firearms that result in injuries.
- Ensure that data-collection methodology and the accompanying standard operating procedures are based on regional good practices that are alligned with International Small Arms Control Standards/MOSAIC and Regional Micro-Disarmament Standards and Guidelines so that coherent and comparable data is generated.
- Produce firearm-risk analysis based on collected data and trends documented in this report and develop, in consultative process, hands-on recommendations for both decision and policy makers as well as for the first line responders in order to improve the operational response to identified risks and enhance prevention efforts.
- Fully integrate the activities above in the action plan for the implementation of the SALW control strategy and ensure budgeting for the implementation of the activities mentioned above.
- Declassify data on the SALW holdings of state agencies in order to facilitate analysis and develop evidence-based SALW control policies and programs. Follow the example of authorities elsewhere in the region who have demonstrated considerable transparency in this regard.
− Build on the efforts undertaken through this survey and continue to ensure the regular collection and analysis of data on small arms and security trends in the country. Draw upon the technical expertise of SEESAC to further strengthen government capacity in SALW data-collection methodologies and to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practice within the region. Ensure that data is collected for all weapon categories.

− Conduct in-depth research into SALW trafficking in order to obtain accurate data on trafficking dynamics, actors and trends, including the scale, pattern and routes of illicit trafficking, as well as the dynamics related specifically to firearm reactivation and conversion. The research should assess the extent to which trafficked ammunition has resulted from leakages through ammunition production companies and/or via other means. This data can then be used to develop context-specific and evidence-based policies that specifically tackle SALW misuse, proliferation and trafficking.

**Awareness-raising**

− Given the fact that civilian firearm possession is male-dominated, particularly among middle-aged men, develop SALW awareness-raising and behavior change programs that specifically target this segment of the population, in addition to the wider population, and continue to encourage the voluntary surrender of illicit firearms. Promote societal dialogue regarding firearm use among men, conceptions of masculinity and cultural norms, as well as the links to domestic violence.

− Given the increasing popularity of shooting ranges in the country, target shooting range members, visitors and staff with focused campaigns to raise awareness of the risks associated with SALW misuse and proliferation, and training on anger management and conflict resolution. Monitor enforcement of regulations with regards to safe storage of SALW and ammunition held by these private entities, as well as sales shops.

− Widespread evidence indicates that the presence of a gun in domestic contexts increases the risk of a lethal outcome for women.\(^3\) Given the high incidence of domestic violence, and the rising number of firearm license holders, it is surprising that no firearm license applications were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence between 2012 and 2016. This may partly be explained by an under-reporting of domestic violence cases. Nonetheless, conduct research to determine the reason for this and implement the recommendations. Sensitize government officials responsible for firearm licensing and license revocations in this regard.

**Legislation**

− Amend Law 10-4024/10 to include a definition of permanent deactivation of firearms and include punitive measures for passing off firearms as deactivated when they do not comply with the legislative requirements, when an attempt is made to reactivate a deactivated item, and when forging or attempting to forge a certificate of deactivation compliance or use falsified

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markings of deactivation. The Law on Weapons should take into account the potential for the import and export of such items and ensure alignment with new EC regulations passed in 2018.36

– Law 10-4024/10 allows civilians to possess firearms for self-protection purposes. Amend the law to clearly define what type of proof must be presented and to require all civilian firearm license-holders to store their firearms unloaded, in order to reduce the risk of firearms being used in domestic contexts. Also amend Law 10-4024/10 so that Articles 12 and 42 specifically cite domestic violence as the basis for denying a firearm license application and revoking a firearm license.

Enforcement

– Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officials, particularly border authorities, to detect, confiscate and seize illicit SALW. Conduct an assessment to determine why trafficked firearms reporting and firearms confiscation and seizure rates are low, particularly at border crossings.

– Improve the capacity of law enforcement authorities to effectively and systematically send trace requests for seized, confiscated, surrendered and legalized firearms, both domestically and internationally. Conduct an assessment to determine if additional training, resources and/or equipment are needed and implement the recommendations of this assessment.

– Ensure state agencies and private entities systematically document the number of lost and stolen weapons. Despite a spike in the number of stolen civilian firearms in 2016, overall the number of lost and stolen civilian firearms remained low between 2012 and 2016. Conduct research to determine the reasons and implement the recommendations.

Firearm-Related Incidents

SALW proliferation presents a serious risk for the security of citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia and firearms are often misused to perpetrate criminal offenses, in particular to unlawfully manufacture, possess, carry, and sell firearms and explosives and conduct robberies. Firearms are also misused to commit homicide and in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence. In order to address the adverse effects of SALW, it is recommended to:

• Review the cases of unlawful manufacture, possession, carrying, and sale of firearms and explosives to understand the most recurrent phenomenon and particularly review the cases of unlawful manufacture and sale in order to take immediate measures;

• Establish standard operating procedure to regularly review each homicide and accidental death based on fatality review methodologies in order to identify factors leading to firearm misuse in such incidents.

• Follow the trends in the number of firearm-inflicted homicides to determine whether the sharp decrease in 2016 is maintained in the following years.

• Conduct a review of the accidental deaths reported to understand whether the figures correctly reflect the reality or if there is a case of under-reporting or mis-recording of data.

• Conduct thorough analysis of suicides committed with firearms and determine how the availability of firearms is related to suicide rates, develop recommendations on how to prevent the misuse of firearms when suicide is committed and integrate this into prevention programs and public health strategies, including awareness raising programs.

• Given the fact that men account for the overwhelming majority of both perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses and victims of firearm misuse, develop and implement awareness-raising and behavior change programs that specifically target this segment of the population, in addition to the wider population. Promote societal dialogue regarding firearm use and misuse among men, conceptions of masculinity and cultural norms, as well as the links to domestic violence.

• Bearing in mind the disproportionate exposure of young men to risk-taking behavior, specific and contextualized preventive programs addressing young men should be developed and piloted.

• Identify the reasons why throughout the whole survey period there were no reported cases of domestic violence being the grounds for the rejection of license applicants to understand whether the figures correctly reflect the reality or whether there is a case of under-reporting or mis-recording of data.

• Identify the reasons behind the low number of reported misuses of firearms in criminal offenses of domestic violence and criminal offenses against sexual freedom.

• Establish a standard operating procedure to conduct domestic violence fatality reviews of each domestic and intimate partner homicide committed with firearms to identify possible gaps in institutional response leading to the lethal outcome. In this sense, ensure that data on the number of revoked licenses on the grounds of domestic violence is all gathered and properly recorded.

• Based on this analysis, review the license application process and provide training to competent officials to ensure that security vetting and background checks fully take into account the specificities and gender-based nature of domestic and intimate partner violence.

• Consider strengthening the procedures for revoking firearm licenses and rejecting firearm applications on the grounds of domestic violence.

• Implement campaigns to raise the awareness on the dangers of the misuse of firearms, especially in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence.

• Review current risk assessment tools and provide training for front line officers to ensure they duly address the specific risks related to the presence of firearms in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence.
4. GAPS IN THE SURVEY DATA

This survey sought to provide a comprehensive picture of the impact of firearms on the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia, based on official data provided by the Ministry of Interior with support from other relevant institutions. Although the authorities managed to provide the majority of data and ensure the reliability of the information, there were several areas for which data was unavailable and/or not provided. It should be noted that a significant amount of the data on the SALW holdings of state agencies was classified, making it difficult to conduct analysis and formulate recommendations. Additional data was unavailable for some private entities on lost and stolen firearms and for some aspects of firearm trafficking.


SEESAC

‘The rife has the devil inside’: Gun culture in South East Europe, Belgrade, 2006.


**Agreements, Decisions, Laws, Standards and Regulations**


Government of Macedonia
ANNEX A:
STRUCTURE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
DISTRIBUTION QUESTIONNAIRE

The following is a list of the questions contained in the SALW Distribution Questionnaire circulated to the Republic of North Macedonian SALW authorities.

1. CIVILIANS
   1.1 Number of firearm license holders under each category of available licenses, disaggregated by sex of license holder
   1.2 Total number of firearm license holders (natural persons) (cumulative until 31 December 2016), disaggregated by sex and age of license holder
   1.3 Number of registered firearms from natural persons under each category of available licenses/permits/authorizations
   1.4 Number of firearm license holders categorized by reason for acquiring weapons (natural persons), disaggregated by sex of license holder
   1.5 Number of firearms categorized by reason of possession (natural persons)
   1.6 Number of firearms inherited categorized by reason of possession (natural persons) – OPTIONAL
   1.7 Number of firearms inherited categorized by reason of possession (natural persons) – OPTIONAL
   1.8 Number of rejected applicants disaggregated by sex
   1.9 Number of persons whose license/permit/authorization was revoked, for each year and on what grounds, disaggregated by sex
   1.10 Number of firearms per person (only categories B and C) disaggregated by sex of firearm owner
   1.11 Estimated number of firearms (if any) illicitly held by civilians

2. STATE AGENCIES
   2.1 Ministry of Internal Affairs
      2.1.1 Total number of personnel disaggregated by sex
      2.1.2 Number of personnel authorized to carry firearms disaggregated by sex
      2.1.3 Number of firearms held by MoI in active use
      2.1.4 Number of firearms held by MoI in reserve
      2.1.5 Number of surplus firearms
      2.1.6 Number of surplus firearm ammunition
      2.1.7 Number of surplus firearms destroyed
      2.1.8 Number of surplus firearm ammunition destroyed

   2.2 The Police
      2.2.1 Total number of personnel disaggregated by sex
      2.2.2 Number of personnel authorized to carry firearms disaggregated by sex
2.2.3 Number of firearms held by the Police in active use
2.2.4 Number of firearms held by the Police in reserve
2.2.5 Number of surplus firearms
2.2.6 Number of surplus firearm ammunition
2.2.7 Number of surplus firearms destroyed
2.2.8 Number of surplus firearm ammunition destroyed

2.3 Ministry of Defense
2.3.1 Total number of personnel disaggregated by sex
2.3.2 Number of personnel authorized to carry small arms and light weapons (SALW) disaggregated by sex
2.3.3. Number of SALW held by MoD in active use
2.3.4. Number of SALW held by MoD in reserve
2.3.5 Number of surplus SALW
2.3.6 Number of surplus SALW ammunition
2.3.7 Number of surplus SALW destroyed
2.3.8 Number of surplus SALW ammunition destroyed

2.4 Forest Guards
2.4.1 Total number of personnel disaggregated by sex
2.4.2 Number of personnel authorized to carry firearms disaggregated by sex

2.5 Customs
2.5.1 Total number of personnel disaggregated by sex
2.5.2 Number of personnel authorized to carry firearms disaggregated by sex

2.6 Ministry of Justice
2.6.1 Total number of personnel disaggregated by sex
2.6.2 Number of personnel authorized to carry firearms disaggregated by sex

2.7 Correctional Services
2.7.1 Total number of personnel disaggregated by sex
2.7.2 Number of personnel authorized to carry firearms disaggregated by sex

3. PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES
3.1 Number of private security companies in operation
3.2 Number of personnel in private security companies authorized to carry firearms during their work duties disaggregated by sex
3.3 Number of firearms held by private security companies
4. PRIVATE SHOOTING CLUBS
4.1 Number of PSC
4.2 Number of firearms held by PSC
4.3 Number of personnel in PSC authorized to carry firearms, disaggregated by sex
4.4 Number of members of PSC, disaggregated by sex
4.5 Number of visitors to shooting clubs, disaggregated by age and sex

5. SHOOTING ASSOCIATIONS
5.1 Number of associations
5.2 Number of firearms held by shooting associations
5.3 Number of personnel in shooting associations authorized to carry firearms, disaggregated by sex
5.4 Number of members of shooting associations, disaggregated by sex

6. RANGES
6.1 Number of ranges
6.2 Number of firearms held by ranges
6.3 Number of personnel in ranges authorized to carry firearms, by sex
6.4 Number of members of ranges, by sex
6.5 Number of visitors to shooting ranges, by age and sex

7. SALES SHOPS
7.1 Number of sales shops
7.2 Number of firearms possessed by sales shops
7.3 Number of firearm ammunition possessed by sales shops
7.4 Number of firearms sold by sales shops to natural persons by category:
7.5 Number of firearms sold by sales shops to legal entities by category:
7.6 Annual turnover

8. MANUFACTURE
8.1 Legal manufacture
8.1.1 Number of authorized firearm manufacturers
8.1.2 Number of firearm ammunition (cartridges) produced
8.1.3 Value of annual turnover for all manufactures in ML1
8.1.4 Total number of persons employed by all authorized firearm manufacturers

8.2 Illegal firearm production
8.2.1 Number of reported cases of illegal firearm production
8.2.2 Number of firearms illegally produced and confiscated
8.2.3 Number of illegal firearm production workshops discovered
8.2.4 Number of illegal firearm conversion workshops discovered
8.2.5 Locations of illegal firearm production workshops
8.2.6 Locations of illegal firearm conversion workshops
9. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS
9.1 Number of registered firearm brokers
9.2 Number of brokering licenses for firearm trade agreements issued
9.3 Number of import authorizations granted
9.4 Number of import authorizations realized
9.5 Value of imports (civilian market)
9.6 Number of export authorizations granted
9.7 Number of export authorizations realized
9.8 Value of exports
9.9 Number of temporary imports
9.10 Number of temporary exports
9.11 Main destinations of exports
9.12 Main exporting companies (top 3 among producers according to the annual turnover)
9.13 Quantity and types of firearms and ammunition brokered, ML1, ML2, ML3, 2012-2016
9.14 Quantity and types of firearms and ammunition imported ML1, ML2, ML3, 2012-2016
9.15 Quantity and types of firearms and ammunition exported ML1, ML2, ML3, 2012-2016
9.16 Quantity and types of firearms and ammunition transited ML1, ML2, ML3, 2012-2016
9.17 Quantity and types of firearms and ammunition transshipped ML1, ML2, ML3, 2012-2016

10. LOST AND STOLEN FIREARMS
10.1 Lost by state agencies
10.2 Stolen from state agencies
10.3 Lost by legal entities
10.4 Stolen from legal entities
10.5 Lost by natural persons
10.6 Stolen from natural persons

11. ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND CONFISCATION
11.1 Number of cases of illegal possession of firearms
11.2 Number of confiscated firearms
11.3 Number of temporarily confiscated firearms

12. TRAFFICKING
12.1 Number of cases of firearm trafficking recorded
12.2 Number of firearms trafficked
12.3 Number of firearm ammunition trafficked
12.4 Number of border crossing points
12.5 Number of border crossing points where firearm trafficking was reported
12.6 Number of firearms trafficked on border crossing points
12.7 Number of green border crossing points
12.8 Number of green border crossings where firearm trafficking was reported
12.9 Number of firearms trafficked over green borders
12.10 Number of blue border crossing points
12.11 Number of blue border crossings where firearm trafficking was reported
12.12 Number of firearms trafficked over blue borders
12.13 Number of airports
12.14 Number of trafficking incidents at airports
12.15 Number of firearms trafficked at airports
12.16 Number of persons indicted for firearm trafficking
12.17 Number of firearms trafficked by type

13. SEIZED AND TRACED FIREARMS
13.1 Total number of seized firearms
13.2 Number of seized firearms traced domestically – trace request sent but no match/hits identified
13.3 Number of seized firearms traced domestically – trace request sent with match/hits identified
13.4 Number of seized firearms traced internationally – trace request sent but no match/hits identified
13.5 Number of seized firearms traced internationally – trace request sent with match/hits identified

14. LEGALIZED FIREARMS
14.1 Total number of legalized firearms
14.2 Number of legalized firearms traced domestically – trace request sent but no match/hits identified
14.3 Number of legalized firearms traced domestically – trace request sent with match/hits identified
14.4 Number of legalized firearms traced internationally – trace request sent but no match/hits identified
14.5 Number of legalized firearms traced internationally – trace request sent with match/hits identified

15. VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED
15.1 Total number of voluntarily surrendered small arms
15.2 Number of voluntarily surrendered light weapons
15.3 Number of voluntarily surrendered SALW traced domestically, trace request sent but no match/hits identified
15.4 Number of voluntarily surrendered SALW traced domestically, trace request sent with match/hits identified
15.5 Number of voluntarily surrendered SALW traced internationally, trace request sent but no match/hits identified
15.6 Number of voluntarily surrendered SALW traced internationally, trace request sent with match/hits identified
ANNEX B:
STRUCTURE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. INCIDENTS INFLECTED BY FIREARMS- AND THE TYPE OF OWNERSHIP
   1.1 Criminal offenses inflicted by firearm by the type of firearm ownership: Legal and/or Illegal
   1.2 Misdemeanor inflicted by firearm by year

2. FIREARM-RELATED INCIDENTS
   2.1 Total number of murders (not only with firearms) disaggregated by sex of victim
   2.2 Number of murders inflicted with firearms disaggregated by sex and age of victim
   2.3 Number of injuries inflicted with firearms disaggregated by sex and age of victim
   2.4 Number of accidental deaths inflicted with firearms disaggregated by sex and age of victim
   2.5 Intimate partner murders disaggregated by sex of victim
   2.6 Misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence and crimes against sexual freedom

3. PERPETRATORS
   3.1 Number of perpetrators disaggregated by sex of perpetrator and type of firearm-related criminal offense
   3.2 Number of perpetrators of firearm-related murders disaggregated by sex and age of perpetrator
   3.3 Number of criminal offenses inflicted with firearms by the members of state agencies, disaggregated by sex of perpetrator

4. SUICIDES
   4.1 Suicides disaggregated by sex and age

5. CHARACTERISTICS OF INCIDENTS
   5.1 Number of deaths by type of firearm used for each year
   5.2 Number of individuals murdered with firearms by location and disaggregated by sex of victim (for each year)
   5.3 Number of firearm-related incidents resulting in murder and injury disaggregated by month when they were committed and sex of victim
### ANNEX C: FIREARMS ONLINE PERCEPTION SURVEY INSTRUMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ALBANIAN</th>
<th>MACEDONIAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your opinion is important to us. Thank you for your participation.</td>
<td>Opinioni juaj është shumë i rëndësishëm për ne. Ju falnderojmë për pjesëmarrjen.</td>
<td>Вашето мислење ни е важно. Ви благодариме за учеството.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please select your preferred language:</td>
<td>Ju lutem zgjidhni gjuhën e preferuar:</td>
<td>Изберете јазик на кој ќе одговарате:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albanian</td>
<td>Shqip</td>
<td>Македонски</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q0 16+ What is your age and gender?</td>
<td>Cila është mosha dhe gjinia juaj?</td>
<td>Наведете ги Вашата возраст и пол?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Mashkull</td>
<td>мушки</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Femër</td>
<td>женски</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Module A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Anchored</th>
<th>Generally, do you feel that your neighborhood is:</th>
<th>Në përgjithësi mendoni se lagjja juaj është:</th>
<th>Општо земено, како би ја оценилеше вашата населба:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very safe</td>
<td>Shumë e sigurtë</td>
<td>Многу безбедна</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>E sigurtë</td>
<td>Безбедна</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Somewhat unsafe</td>
<td>Disi e pasigurtë</td>
<td>Не баш безбедна</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very unsafe</td>
<td>Shumë e pasigurtë</td>
<td>Многу небезбедна</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Anchored</th>
<th>Over the last 4 years, has the level of safety in your community:</th>
<th>Gjatë 4 viteve të fundit, niveli i sigurisë në komunitetin tuaj është:</th>
<th>Изминативе 4 години, дали безбедноста во вашата заедница:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>Përmirësuar</td>
<td>Се има подобрено</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stayed about the same</td>
<td>Pothuajse në të njëjtin nivel</td>
<td>Остана на исто ниво како порано</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Become worse</td>
<td>Përkeqësuar</td>
<td>Се влоши</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Module B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q3a</th>
<th>Q3a+b+c randomized order</th>
<th>Are you currently employed?</th>
<th>A jeni i punësuar aktualisht?</th>
<th>Дали сте вработени во моментов?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, full-time</td>
<td>Po, me kohë të plotë</td>
<td>Да, со полно работно време</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Q3b</td>
<td>Q3c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is your marital status?</strong></td>
<td>Cili është statusi juaj civil?</td>
<td>Каква е Вашата брачна состојба?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single, never married</td>
<td>Beqar/e, asnjëherë i/e martuar</td>
<td>Не сум во брак</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>I/E martuar</td>
<td>Во брак сум</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>I/E ve</td>
<td>Вдовец/вдовица</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced / Separated</td>
<td>I/E Divorcuar/Ndarë</td>
<td>Разведен(а) / Разделен(а)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Q3b</th>
<th>Q3c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where do you live?</strong></td>
<td>Ku jetoni?</td>
<td>Каде живеете?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Në kryeqytet</td>
<td>Во главниот град</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Qytet</td>
<td>Во град</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Fshat</td>
<td>Во село</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb</td>
<td>ne periferi</td>
<td>Во предградие</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Module C**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Q4a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Have you ever experienced the use of a gun?</strong></td>
<td>A keni pasur ndonjë eksperiencë me përdorimin e armëve?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yes, I have had a gun directed at me</td>
<td>Po, më kanë drejtuar armën</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yes, I have used a gun</td>
<td>Po, kam përdorur armë</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yes, I have both used a gun and had one directed at me</td>
<td>Po, edhe kam përdorur armë dhe më kanë drejtuar armën</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yes, but indirectly (witnessed)</td>
<td>Po, por në mënyrë indirekte (dëshmitar)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q4b**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Q4b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Which of the following best describes the situation in which you have MOST FREQUENTLY experienced gun use?</strong></td>
<td>Cila nga të mëposhtmet e përshkruan më së miri situatën në të cilën keni provuar MË SHPESH përdorimin e armëve?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Only if experienced (first 3 options in 4a)</td>
<td>Koja od следниве понудени опција најдобро ја опишувала ситуацијата во која НАЧЕСТО сте имале искуство со употреба на оружје?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ANNEX C: FIREARMS ONLINE PERCEPTION SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

1. **Q4c** Armed robbery  
   **Grabitje me armë**  
   Вооруженный грабеж

2. **Q4c** Intimidation and threats  
   **Kanosje dhe kërcënëm**  
   Заплашувание и закани

3. **Q4c** Riot or protest  
   **Në trazira ose protesta**  
   Демонстрации или протесты

4. **Q4b** Domestic Violence  
   **Dhunë në familje**  
   Семейное насилие

5. **Q4c** Ethnically motivated  
   **Me motivacion etnik**  
   Этнически мотивированные

6. **Q4c** Sexual violence  
   **Dhunë seksuale**  
   Сексуальное насилие

7. **Q4d** Assault  
   **Sulm**  
   Напад

8. **Q4c** Property Issues  
   **Konflikt pronësie**  
   Наметнути финансовый контроль

9. **Q4d** Hunting or Sport  
   **Gjueti ose sport**  
   Лов или спорт

10. **Q4c** Sexual violence  
    **Dhunë seksuale**  
    Сексуальное насилие

11. **Q4d** Impose financial control  
    **Kontroll financiar**  
    Наметнути финансовый контроль

12. **Q4b** Assault  
    **Sulm**  
    Напад

**Q4bb**  
Who committed the gun violence?  
Kush e kreu aktin e dhunës?  
Кој го извршил насилството со оружјето?

- **Q4b partner**  
  - Husband or Boyfriend  
    **Bashkëshort ose i dashur**  
    Сопруг или момче

- **Q4b partner**  
  - Wife or Girlfriend  
    **Bashkëshorte ose e dashur**  
    Сопруга или девојка

- **Q4d**  
  - Father  
    **Babai**  
    Татко

- **Q4d**  
  - Mother  
    **Mamaja**  
    Мајка

- **Q4d**  
  - Brother  
    **Vëllai**  
    Брат

- **Q4d**  
  - Sister  
    **Motra**  
    Сестра

- **Q4d**  
  - Female Relative  
    **Kushërirë**  
    Женская родственница

- **Q4d**  
  - Male Relative  
    **Kushëri**  
    Машка родственница

**Q4b partner**  
Which best describes what the gun was used for?  
Mund të thoni cili opsion e përskruan më mirë nëse arma u përdor për:  
Што од следниве опции најдобро описува за што било користено оружјето?

- **Assault**  
  **Sulm**  
  Напад

- **Sexual violence**  
  **Frikësim apo Kërcënëm**  
  Заплашувание и закани

- **Impose financial control**  
  **Kontroll financiar**  
  Наметнути финансовый контроль

- **Limit movement and contacts**  
  **Kufizim levizje apo komunikimi**  
  Ограничение на движение и контакты

- **Intimidate and threaten**  
  **Dhunë seksuale**  
  Сексуальное насилие

- **Other**  
  **Tjetër**  
  Друго
### Q4c
**Who committed the MOST RECENT act of gun violence?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Close family/relative</th>
<th>Familjar/i afèrm</th>
<th>Член од семејството/друг родина</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighbor</td>
<td>Fqinj</td>
<td>Сосед</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thief</td>
<td>Hajdut</td>
<td>Крадец</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police or military</td>
<td>Polic ose ushtar</td>
<td>Припадник на полицијата или војската</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>Kriminalë</td>
<td>Друг криминалеч</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Partneri</td>
<td>Партнер</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-partner</td>
<td>Ish partneri</td>
<td>Поранешен партнер</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend / Acquaintance</td>
<td>Miq / Të njohur</td>
<td>Пријател / познаник</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown / Don’t know</td>
<td>I panjohur / Nuk e di</td>
<td>Непознато лице / не знам</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Q4d
**When was it?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within this year</th>
<th>Brenda këtij viti</th>
<th>Оваа година</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 years ago</td>
<td>1 deri në 5 vjet më parë</td>
<td>Во интервалот од пред една до пет години</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 15 years ago</td>
<td>6 deri në 15 vjet më parë</td>
<td>Во интервалот од пред шест до петнаесет години</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 15 years ago</td>
<td>Më shumë se 15 vjet më parë</td>
<td>Пред повеќе од 15 години</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / can’t remember</td>
<td>Nuk e di / nuk e mbaj mend</td>
<td>Не знам / не можам да се сетам</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Q4e
**Who do you feel is committing more gun crimes in your community?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juveniles</th>
<th>Të rinjtë</th>
<th>Малолетници</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Të rriturit</td>
<td>Возрасни</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both equally</td>
<td>Të dyja palët njësoj</td>
<td>И двете групи подеднакво</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Module D

#### Q5a
**Randomize Q5a + b + c**

**Which of the following would be most effective to making your community safer?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More police or authorities present</th>
<th>Prania më e lartë e policisë ose e autoriteteve</th>
<th>Поголемо присуство на полицијата или други државни органи</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violence awareness campaigns</td>
<td>Fushatat ndërgjegjësuese rreth dhunës</td>
<td>Кампањи за подигнување на свеста против насилството</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stricter gun control regulations</td>
<td>Rregulla më strikte për kontrollin e armëve</td>
<td>Построги прописи за контрола на оружјето</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More people owning guns so that they can protect themselves</td>
<td>Numër më i lartë i personave që zotërojnë armë që të mund të mbrojnë veten</td>
<td>Повеќе луѓе да поседуваат оружје за да можат да се заштитат</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cili nga opsionet e mëposhtëm do të ishte më efikas për ta bërë komunitetin tuaj më të sigurë?**

**Која од следниве мерки би ја направило вашата заедница побезбедна?**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q5b</th>
<th>Randomize Q5a + b + c</th>
<th>Would having a gun at home make you feel:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Safer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less safe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q5c</th>
<th>Randomize Q5a + b + c</th>
<th>Would you personally own a gun?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If yes go to Q5d</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Po</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If no go to Q5e</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Jo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q5d</th>
<th>anchor behind Q5c. If Q5c = yes</th>
<th>What would be the main reason for owning a gun?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For protection/safety</td>
<td>Për mbrojtje/siguri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Everyone has one</td>
<td>Të gjithë e kanë një</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF A MAN</td>
<td>A man should carry a gun</td>
<td>Burri duhet të mbajë armë</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF A WOMAN</td>
<td>A woman should carry a gun</td>
<td>Gruaja duhet të mbajë armë</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It inspires fear in others</td>
<td>I fut frikën të tjerëve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hunting and sport</td>
<td>Gjueti dhe sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tradition</td>
<td>është zakon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Tjetër</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q5e</th>
<th>Anchor behind Q5c. If Q5c = No/ Unsure</th>
<th>What is the main reason you would not own a gun?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not legal in my country</td>
<td>Nuk është e lligjshme në vendin tim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don’t need one</td>
<td>Nuk më nevojitet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It’s unsafe to have a gun</td>
<td>Nuk ndihem i/e sigurtë me armë</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Can’t afford one</td>
<td>nuk mund ta perballoj ekonomikisht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don’t know how to get one</td>
<td>Nuk di si ta marr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don’t know how to use one</td>
<td>Nuk di si ta përdor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Tjetër</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Module E

**Q5f** Anchor at end of Module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you aware that there are penalties for illegal possession of weapons?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q6** MULTISELECT

Which of the following most promotes the use of guns? (Select the top two)

- Pictures or posters of guns
- Social media
- Videos showing guns, incl. movie trailers and music videos
- Music lyrics about guns
- News on firearm-related incidents
- Seeing friends or other people with guns
- Pro-Gun lobby groups

### Module F

**Q7a** Randomize Q7a+b+c

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Нëntëvjeçar</th>
<th>Основно</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>I mesëm</td>
<td>Средно</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-secondary vocational training</td>
<td>Formim profesional pas shkollës së mesme</td>
<td>Више стручно образование</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>Diplomë Bachelor</td>
<td>Факултет</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree or higher</td>
<td>Diplomë Master ose më lart</td>
<td>Магистериум или повисок степен</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q7b** Randomize Q7a+b+c

Including yourself, how many people live in your home?

<p>| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q7c</th>
<th>Randomize Q7a+b+c</th>
<th>In Euros, what is your monthly household income?</th>
<th>Cilat janë të ardhurat tuaja familjare në euro?</th>
<th>Колку изнесуваат месечните приходи во вашето домашнство изразени во евра?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No income</td>
<td>Nuk kam të ardhura</td>
<td>Без приходи сме</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less than 200 EUR</td>
<td>Më pak se 200 euro</td>
<td>Помалку од 200 EUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200-500 EUR</td>
<td>200-500 euro</td>
<td>200-500 EUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More than 500 EUR</td>
<td>Më shumë se 500 euro</td>
<td>Повеќе од 500 EUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>Faleminderit</td>
<td>Ти благодарим</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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a) Оружје -- Република Северна Македонија -- 2012-2016 -- Статистика
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