

SEESAC

South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

AR/013

01 August 2003

SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT 13

SALW AWARENESS SUPPORT PACK OUTREACH WORKSHOP

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 4 - SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 1 – Capacity Building SG 4 – Project Support SG 7 – Training Activities SG 8 – Research Activities

Rakitje, Croatia, 28-30 July 2003. In co-operation with RACVIAC, the *Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre*, SEESAC commenced the Summer 2003 'OUTREACH' process for its forthcoming 'SALW Awareness Support Pack (SASP)'. The 'OUTREACH' process was held in parallel to the RACVIAC 'Best Practice in Communication and Awareness Raising of Specific Arms Control Issues, using SALW as a Model' course. A range of experienced stakeholders from all South Eastern Europe countries, (journalists, NGOs, academia, international organisations and government), assisted in the peer review of the first draft of the SASP.

When completed in autumn 2003, the SASP package will consist of an operational handbook providing step-by-step guidance on how to conduct safe, efficient and effective SALW Awareness Programmes, and also provide supporting materials for users, such as a CD-Rom and training pack. SALW Awareness is a vitally important support to other SALW Control measures such as weapons registration and collection, as well as a stand-alone activity that can improve security levels. SEESAC's consultations across the region have revealed a huge demand for materials to support SALW Awareness Programmes.



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The goals of SASP are:

- ❑ to determine, continually develop and publicise best practices in SALW Awareness throughout SEE, thereby maximising the chances that future programmes are safe and effective;
- ❑ to provide tools and methods for conducting programmes that will streamline projects, saving time and resources;
- ❑ to increase regional expertise with regard to SALW Awareness among all actors involved in such activities; and
- ❑ to establish co-ordinated and integrated mechanisms for SALW Awareness Programmes, particularly with reference to the forthcoming 'Regional Micro-Disarmament Standards' (RMDS) which will allow SALW Awareness Programmes to be easily integrated into national Micro-Disarmament initiatives.

Over the two and half day workshop, participants thoroughly examined the first draft of the SASP handbook and supporting CD-Rom, giving comments, advice and criticism to SEESAC staff. Their enthusiasm and input have proved extremely valuable, and a revised



version of SASP is now being prepared for wider dissemination to other experts and stakeholders during August 2003. Having taken into consideration the views of the workshop participants and other regional stakeholders during summer 2003, SASP will be disseminated in all regional languages and field-tested.

From autumn 2003 SASP will be freely available on request to anyone wishing to carry out SALW Awareness Programmes in South Eastern Europe.

It will be updated and reviewed periodically and therefore its success will depend on the continual feedback of users and beneficiaries.

Adrian Wilkinson
SEESAC Team Leader

Office: +381 11 244 2902
Mobile: +381 63 217 350
Fax: +381 11 254 351
E Mail: adrian.wilkinson@undp.org
URL: www.seesac.org