



SEESAC

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

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT 16 COMMUNITY BASED POLICING REPORT

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 5 - SALW Collection Programmes
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 4 - Project Support SG 8 - Research Activities

Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 15 September 2003. SEESAC has a responsibility within its mandate to advise on legislative issues and the collection and registration of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and to provide support to projects relating to the control of SALW within the South Eastern Europe region.

This study was conducted as part of a three-phase project in support of the work of the UNDP Albania Support to Security Sector Reform (SSSR) project. This report signifies the conclusion of the first phase of this project; the second phase, to develop an operational framework document for the Albanian Police has now commenced and phase three, which is still under development, could consist of an independent evaluation.

Over the last few years the SALW intervention activities of UNDP Albania have led to the development of new operational theories to support appropriate SALW interventions. This particular project is the first time that community-based policing in support of SALW activities has been examined.

Community-based policing is increasingly being recognised as the most appropriate philosophical foundation for democratic policing. It is also recognised as an approach to policing that meets many of the post-conflict safety and security challenges. It is, however, important to bear in mind that community-based policing is not a one-off effort, but a long-term strategic approach, and as such it needs to be implemented in a sustainable and systematic way. This approach is based on respect for human rights, accountability, and the need for effective police operations to be conducted in a partnership with the communities who are the recipients of the public service provided by the police.

Saferworld police consultants with significant experience of community-based policing projects conducted the research for the study. The research drew on consultations with various agencies within Albania, together with the experiences of other international organisations. The result is this study, which recommends the principles and philosophy for community-based policing in support of SALW interventions; it will shortly be available on the SEESAC website (www.seesac.org).



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