

# SEESAC

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

AR/005

19 May 2003

## SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT

### UNDP PODGORICA/SEESAC SALW NGO TRAINING,

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| SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA      | FA 4 - Public Awareness and Communications Strategy    |
| SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY | SG 1 – Capacity Building<br>SG 7 – Training Activities |

**Petrovac, Republic of Montenegro, 17-19 May 2003.** The uncontrolled proliferation and illicit trafficking of SALW remains a serious problem in South Eastern Europe. As potentially influential members of civil society, NGOs have an important role to play in the fight against SALW proliferation. SEESAC is establishing partnerships to assist NGOs in evaluating and developing their capacities to take part in the wider SALW debate.

A seminar entitled ‘*Small Arms and Light Weapons - NGO Training*’ took place from 17 - 19 May 2003 in Petrovac, Montenegro. The event was organised by the UNDP SALW Programme in Montenegro with valuable input from the UK NGO Saferworld. The event was funded from SEESAC core funding.



The seminar gave over twenty individuals from ten NGOs based in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, two regional and one international NGOs, a chance to learn more about the problem of SALW proliferation, both globally and within the region. Such guidance is important as one of the first steps to improve information dissemination and public awareness among local communities. Although SALW problems are widespread in the SE Europe region, they are still not widely publicised and debated as a public issue. An important dimension of SALW programme development is the establishment of a network of local NGOs who may in future exchange information on, develop and implement SALW related projects.

Presentations, exercises and discussions took place on subjects such as ‘advocacy’, ‘the impact of SALW’, ‘data collection’ and ‘working with the media’. During interactive

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sessions NGO representatives were able to share experiences of working on SALW issues, and discuss the opportunities and responsibilities of such work.



At the end of the NGO representatives were given a chance to evaluate the training event using evaluation questionnaires. Interpretation of the questionnaires indicates that most participants felt they now had a better understanding of the issue and considered the seminar worthwhile and a success.

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