As a key part of its mandate, SEESAC is responsible for the provision of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) management information, exchange and awareness mechanisms in South Eastern Europe. SALW communications and awareness is a fundamental component of the SALW Control process, involving the use of professionally developed ‘core messages’ and influential dissemination strategies to shape the perceptions, impart knowledge and change the behaviour of the civilian community toward SALW. Therefore as part of the SEESAC communications strategy funding support and technical assistance has been provided to a Stability Pact initiated series of documentaries focusing on the human security challenges in SEE. The series of documentaries will primarily focus on border management, SALW control, legislation and organized crime.

The documentaries are being filmed and produced by the South East Europe TV Exchange (SEETV). This is a non-profit media organisation that aims to offer a platform for regional TV collaboration on topics of regional interest, as well as relating to future Euro-Atlantic integration. Various European Governments through the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe fund the organisation and it is one of the Regional Capacity Development initiatives.

‘A Lethal Legacy’ is a 25-minute documentary aimed at informing the general public not only on the general dangers of small arms and light weapons, but also on the impact on human security. The documentary focuses on FYR Macedonia, Albania, South Serbia and Kosovo and illustrates the ‘spill over effect’, which occurs when regional conflicts are exacerbated by weapons proliferation across borders. This film is not about the causes of conflict, but the legacy of weapons proliferation during and after periods of conflict.

Since its completion the documentary has already been aired by TV Alsat, a leading news channel in Albania with network coverage in FYR Macedonia and Kosovo too. In collaboration with SEETV, the Documentary will be distributed to all affiliate channels of SEETV in South Eastern Europe and all the National Television Stations in the region. It is also hoped to raise major international media interest in showing the programme.

The official launch of ‘A Lethal Legacy’ will take place in the second week of July in New York during the Second Bi-annual Meeting of States of the UN SALW Programme of Action.
A copy of ‘A Lethal Legacy’ in DVD format may be obtained on request from the SEESAC Communications Officer, Ana Martinovic, (ana.martinovic@undp.org).

Adrian Wilkinson
SEESAC Team Leader

Office: +381 11 344 6353
Mobile: +381 63 217 350
Fax: +381 11 344 6356
E Mail: adrian.wilkinson@undp.org
URL: www.seesac.org