

AR/057

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## SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR57

### REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA SALW (WEAPONS) DESTRUCTION

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 6 - SALW (Weapons) Destruction Programmes
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	OA 1 - Capacity Building OA 4 - Project Support OA 5 - Resource Mobilisation

## BACKGROUND

During 2005 the Government of the Republic of Moldova requested UNDP and SEESAC assistance and support to develop and implement a project for the destruction of confiscated, surplus and recovered small arms and light weapons (SALW). The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Federal Department of Defence generously funded the destruction of the weapons and components.



SEESAC, through liaison and co-operation with the Moldovan Ministry of Interior (Mol), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP Moldova, provided technical assistance for the development and implementation of this project. On 12 July 2005 the Government of Moldova and UNDP Moldova signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the destruction of SALW.

## SALW (WEAPONS) DESTRUCTION

The physical destruction of 1,657 weapons and 1810 weapon components took place on 29 July 2005 at the Chisinau industrial facility of S.A. "Aralit". The Moldovan Mol dismantled the SALW, established internal quality assurance systems and controlled all processes in accordance with the relevant national standards and RMDS/G.



The weapons were transported from Mol facilities to S.A. "Aralit" where they were converted into approximately 3.5 tonnes of scrap metal. Due to the low economy of scale the cost per weapon destroyed was **US\$ 5.20 per weapon** (US\$8,616), but it should be noted that the cost of destroying the additional components was zero. The Moldovan Mol provided transport and

security for the destruction project, and a notebook computer was supplied as part of the project to ensure accurate accounting during destruction. The destruction was monitored and verified by the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Mr. Ignacio Artaza and SEESAC Deputy Team Leader, Mr. Diman Dimov.



The project has resulted in drawing valuable public attention to the efforts of the Moldovan Mol to implement successful SALW control measures. The destruction of SALW received extensive coverage in the national media and the project contributed towards maintaining the political momentum for preparing a future amnesty initiative. As a confidence and security building measure it has provided tangible evidence to the civil population that recovered weapons will be destroyed and permanently taken out of circulation.

For further information on this event please contact Diman Dimov, Deputy Team Leader SEESAC, by telephone on (+381) (11) 344 6353 or by email at [diman.dimov@undp.org](mailto:diman.dimov@undp.org).



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