The Small Arms and Light Weapons Awareness Support Pack (SASP 1) was developed by SEESAC in 2003 as part of its SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy, which forms a fundamental component of the SALW Control process. SASP 1 has enjoyed wide distribution and use since then, both within the international community and amongst local non-governmental organisations working at community level, throughout South East Europe (SEE) and beyond.

Consisting of a handbook and a CD-ROM, SASP serves as a manual for carrying out SALW Awareness activities, primarily in support of SALW Control interventions and as part of stand-alone Risk Education. It guides the project manager step-by-step through the programme cycle and is supplemented by case studies drawn from actions all over the world.

The time has come for SASP 1 to be revised. There have been many more initiatives globally since 2003, which have sought to control the number of SALW in circulation through voluntary weapons collection. The profile of SALW Control issues has been raised among the general public through the use of very innovative campaigns. New curricula have also been developed to educate school children on the risks of SALW, and also weapon holders on the need for safer behaviour. More specifically since 2003, SEESAC has supported several activities, which further contributed to developments in the field of SALW Awareness:

- The launch of the Safer Community Plans in two communities in North West Macedonia (2004) with the specific aim of using participatory measures to reduce the perceived need for guns;
SASP Tests in North East Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (2004) to provide feedback to regional stakeholders on best practices in applying the SASP model in SALW Awareness activities, as well as to build up the capacity of local NGOs who implemented the projects;

SASP Outreach workshops in Zagreb, Skopje, Tirana and Chisinau (2004) for the purpose of supporting stakeholders in South Eastern Europe in conducting SALW Awareness activities as well as gathering feedback on SASP;

A Study Report on SALW Awareness in Schools (2005) which recognises the need for SALW Risk Education to be integrated into the National Curriculum and offers guidance on how to design such a Curriculum;

The launch of the South East European Network on the Control of Small Arms (SEENCA) (2005) whose primary objective is the sharing of information on SALW Control interventions in SEE; and

A Study Report on Mine Risk Education and SALW Awareness (2005) to determine the ways in which the two fields conflict, identify synergies and where there are possibilities for sharing lessons learned.

SASP 2 will shortly be available to download from the SEESAC website. For further information and to obtain an electronic copy, or to request SASP 2 in regional languages, please contact Ms. Ana Martinovic, SEESAC Communications Officer, ana.martinovic@undp.org or Anya Hart-Dyke, SEESAC Awareness Officer anya.hartdyke@undp.org.