The SEE SALW Monitor is a major ongoing project that develops an annual report designed to provide an overview of the progress made by each country within the region towards fulfilling its commitments on SALW. It was commissioned by SEESAC, and researched and written independently by the London-based NGO Saferworld during Spring 2005. National Focal Points for SALW were given the opportunity to comment on the final draft.

The SEE SALW Monitor was launched during the Bi-Annual Meeting of States of the UN Programme of Action on SALW in New York on Thursday 14 July 2005. The launch also provided an opportunity for participants from governments, NGOs and the international community to engage in public discussion on steps forward and to re-evaluate needs and priorities. The report consists of four main sections:

- An introduction;
- Analysis of each country’s progress in each of the areas of activity covered by the RIP;
- An overview of donor support for SALW projects in the region; and
- Annexes containing relevant documents and additional information.

Each country assessment in the report provides introductory material on the ‘SALW problem’ and ‘SALW policy and practice’ for that country, and then includes sections on:

- Legislative and regulatory issues;
- SALW transfers;
- SALW collection programmes and capacities;
- SALW destruction programmes and capacities;
- SALW stockpile management programmes and capacities;
- SALW awareness activities;
- SALW survey activities;
- Civil society involvement in SALW interventions;
- Cross-border SALW control initiatives;
- SALW management information and exchange systems and protocols; and
Additional SALW-related activities.

The report recognises continued significant improvements in SALW practice across SEE, with increased activity from national authorities, international organisations and agencies as well as NGOs on the issue. It also identifies the need for further efforts to:

- Reform and harmonise legislation;
- Strengthen borders and combat smuggling;
- Destroy weapons and ammunition;
- Improve stockpile security;
- Engage in further collection initiatives;
- Raise awareness on SALW;
- Increase the role of civil society;
- Improve transparency;
- Increase co-ordination between SALW initiatives; and
- Integrate SALW better into the processes of development and security sector reform.

The report can be downloaded in whole or in part from the SEESAC (www.seesac.org) and Saferworld (www.saferworld.org.uk) websites. Hard copies of the report are available upon request from the SEESAC Awareness Officer, Anya Hart-Dyke, who can be contacted on (+381) (11) 244 2902 or by email at anya.hartdyke@undp.org.

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