

Report

On implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Executive Summary

The implementation of the United Nations Program of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light weapons was a top priority in the Republic of Macedonia last year.

Widespread proliferation of illicit small arms is both a cause of insecurity and an indicator of insecurity and underlying societal processes. Consequently addressing the small arms issue in the Republic of Macedonia must be a longer term process. This must take place in parallel to the series of other processes that the country is undergoing at the moment.

The implementation of the United Nations Program of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light weapons was a top priority in Macedonia last year through implementation of the development of a law for voluntary surrender of weapons, ammunition and explosive materials and legalization of weapons. The establishment of a National Coordination Body, Operation Center, 6 Regional commissions and 123 commissions for the execution of a national program to implement the before mentioned law. The National program was implemented in all its aspects.

1. The collection has yielded much better results than many people had anticipated, indicating increased confidence among citizens of all communities in moving forward on the path towards a future of peaceful co-existence, stronger rule of law and Euro-Atlantic integration. A path leaving no room for illegal weapons. As per 15 December 7571 weapons have been surrendered while 5204 requests for weapons legalization have been received. The citizens, irrespective of community belonging, are the ones to be commended for this achievement.
2. Collecting and transporting weapons, ammunitions and explosives represent a safety hazard. In this regard, the action has taken place without any incidents. Especially the National Coordination Body, the Operations Centre and the local collection commissions are to be credited for this achievement. The international organizations involved in the observation of the collection process have provided positive feedback to the professionalism and success of this process.

3. More important, the collection initiative has provided the occasion for the accomplishment of a series of activities and results, providing a solid foundation for the continuation of the process of addressing illicit weapons in the country:
 - A comprehensive nationwide awareness campaign has been implemented. This created strong awareness among citizens about the small arms problem in the country and the need to take action have been registered.
 - Authorities and civil society obtained valuable experience through the implementation of a nation wide weapons collection processes and the related awareness activities. This was a result of national responsibility and action and will be valuable in the future.
 - Finally, but not least, the implemented initiative has demonstrated an unexpected preparedness to cooperation among all actors – central and local authorities, civil society representatives as well as the international community present in the country – without which the results mentioned could not have been achieved.

Suppression of illegal trafficking in weapons was realized through intensive actions to increase the detection of these activities. As a result of these actions last year 1134 weapons, 63.998 pieces of ammunition, 20,460 Kg of explosive materials were confiscated.

The way ahead

Implementation of a series of interventions addressing specifically the problem of illicit small arms in the country:

- Refining the legal framework on weapons possession. A draft on law on weapons has at this moment been developed and is in the second phase of the parliamentary procedure.
- Continuation of activities to control illegal manufacture, possession and trafficking and stockpiling of illegal weapons.
- Continuous awareness raising on the risks of weapons own by citizens.
- Development of a SALW strategy and action plan, and the integration of this strategy in the border management strategy and action plan.
- Continuous development of community policing
- Updating and integration of the weapons registration software in order to better control the weapons present in the country, trade, transit, retransmit as tracing of weapons.

- Initiating processes whereby the local communities, possibly through safer communities' plans and supportive measures, are assisted in identifying and overcoming the perceived needs for weapons.

A.) National level

1. National co-ordination agency

A national co-ordination agency does not exist for the moment in Macedonia, although a national co-ordination body was established on 27 June 2003 as described in the law on Voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials and legalisation of firearms. (Law published in Official Gazette on 04 June 2003) to oversee the 2003 amnesty and collection.

The National Co-ordination Body consisted of:

- The President of the Commission of Internal Policy and Defence, who was also assigned chairman of the National Co-ordination Body.
- Two members of the Parliament
- One representative of the Ministry of Interior
- One representative of the Ministry of Defence
- Two representatives from the citizens associations and Non Governmental Organisations
- The UNDP SACIM (Small Arms Control in Macedonia) project manager was invited to participate in the meeting as technical advisor.

Its task was:

- Creating a national program on General Security Enhancement through voluntary surrender of fire arms, ammunition and explosive materials within 30 days after the establishment.
- The National Program determined the aims and general principles of the National program, the strategic activities, raising public awareness (active media coverage of the problem of unauthorised possession of weapons, dissemination of relevant information), the starting day of the weapons collection, organising of the weapons collection in the field, organisation of stockpiling and destruction of weapons and financing of the National Program.
- The National Co-ordination Body had to oversee and co-ordinate the work of the Commission established. To co-operate with the competent state bodies, the bodies of the local government, as well as with the international organisations, non-governmental organisations and citizens associations.
- The National Co-ordinating Body had to report to the Parliament on their activities and the quantity of fire arms collected.
- The National Co-ordination Body had to control the commission of Historical, artistical and cultural value, which was established with an amendment to the before mentioned law on the 29th December 2003.

The National Co-ordination Body stopped to exist after giving the final report to the Parliament and destruction of the collected items in accordance with the law on 15 March 2004.

The National Co-ordination Body was situated in the Parliament.

The intent of forming a national co-ordination agency is included in the newly to be developed SALW strategy and action plan.

2. National point of contact

There has been a change in the appointment of the National Focal Point in Macedonia:

The existing National Focal Point was:

Ms Ruzica Zanteva-Angelova

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1000 Skopje

Tel: 0038923124001

Fax: 0038923124001

E-mail: mnrnato@mnr.gov.mk

The newly appointment National Focal Point:

Mr Marko Spirovski

Ministry of Interior

Section of International Cooperation.

Dimce Mircev bb

1000 Skopje

Tel: 0038923143191

Fax: 0038923142694

E-mail: MARKO_SPIROVSKI@moi.gov.mk

Mr Spirovski was appointed in March 2004.

The National Focal Point liaises with other States and the International Community in Macedonia on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action and other Instruments concerning SALW, such as the OSCE document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. His activities include the exchange of information with other States on national practices on SALW. He is participating in the working group established to develop the SALW strategy and Action Plan.

Activities since 2003:

-He participated at the UN First Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its aspects in New York July 2003, also at SEESAK Regional Steering Group meeting May 2004 in Belgrade, OSCE Regional Seminar for implementation of the Handbook of Best Practices on SALW, 1-2 June 2004 that took place in Skopje

3. Legislation, regulations, administrative procedures

i) What national laws, regulations and administrative procedures exist to exercise effective control over SALW in the following areas? (II.2)

- production
- export
- import
- transit
- retransfer

National Laws, Regulations and Decrees		
<i>Area:</i>	<i>Law/ Regulation/ Decree</i>	<i>Date</i>
Production	<p>????? ?? ?????????????? ? ?????? ?? √?????????????</p> <p>? √???? ??????</p>	<p>Official Gazette Nr 54 of 15 June 2002</p>
	<p>Law on the production of, and trade in, the Arms and Military Equipment (AME)</p>	
	<p>There is no home production of weapons in Macedonia.</p> <p>The law regulates the production of arms and is banning all arms and military equipment, which has been banned in accordance with international conventions.</p> <p>Administrative affairs in connection with the production and trade in AME shall be carried out by the Directorate for Special-Purpose Production of the Ministry of Economy.</p> <p>Production of AME may be carried out by a company on the basis of a prior approval to do so by the Government, provided it meets the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitable work environment and facilities for the storage of AME, appropriately trained personnel for the production, as well as technical and technological equipment and protection of the production of AME. 2. Proof of the provided quality control. This quality control does not exist for the moment in Macedonia. This phrase resulted from the ex-Yugoslavian law. The problem will be solved with the implementation of the new law on weapons, which is for the moment in draft version. 3. Provide an effective court order barring the company or the person in charge at the company from the performance of the activities has not been pronounced <p>The companies that are entitled to produce weapons are kept in a registry of the Ministry of Economy.</p> <p>Production companies are due to stop if they produce illegally.</p>	

	Web link: None	
Export	<p>????? ?? ?????????????? ? ?????? ?? √????????????? ? √????? ???????</p> <p>????? ?? nadvore{no ?????????? ????????? ?</p>	<p>Official Gazette Nr 54 of 15 June 2002</p> <p>Official Gazette Nr 45 of 28 June 2002</p>
	<p>Law on the production of, and trade in, the Arms and Military Equipment</p> <p>Law on external trade</p>	
	<p>Export/import licenses can be issued to trade companies with the fulfillment of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registration of the trade companies in the Court Register following the given approval by the Ministry of Interior. 2. On the bass of the approval given by the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Economy issues import/export license. 3. For the purposes of the actual import/export of the weapon on the border crossings, the permit from the MOI for crossing the state border is required, against prior provided opinion on the political expediency of the proposed export/import, from the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <p>Licenses for export/import are limited to twelve months, but are not limited in terms of quantity of trade; any violation of the regulations will result in the resident company being banned from dealing in weapons, either permanently or temporarily.</p> <p>The company has also to be registered by the Ministry of Economy.</p> <p>Macedonia is not exporting weapons or ammunition at the moment.</p>	
	Web link: none	
Import	<p>????? ?? ?????????????? ? ?????? ?? √????????????? ? √????? ???????</p> <p>????? ?? nadvore{no ?????????? ????????? ?</p>	<p>Official Gazette Nr 54 of 15 June 2002</p> <p>Official Gazette Nr 45 of 28 June 2002</p>
	<p>Law on the production of, and trade in, the Arms and Military Equipment</p> <p>Law on external trade</p>	

	<p>See export above For each individual import brand, type, calibre, quantity, country of manufacture, manufacturer, broker for each case must be specified in order the MOI to issue a license. In addition to this license, the actual importer export of a weapons consignment across the state border needs "certification of approval" from the MOI, following advice on the "political credibility of the country exporter" from the MOD and the MFA. Every import is strictly controlled by the competent authorities of the Ministry of Interior and Custom Service, providing the imported goods to reach the final destination and be stored safely. The importers keep precise registers about the weapons being imported.</p>	
	Web link: www.	
Transit	????? ?? ???????{?? ??????? ?	Official Gazette Nr 45 of 28 June 2002
	Law on external trade	
	The same regulations as for import are valid for the transit goods	
	Web link:	
Retransfer	????? ?? ???????{?? ??????? ?	Official Gazette Nr 45 of 28 June 2002
	Law on external trade	
	A company may freely buy goods and import them, or import them temporarily, for the purpose of re-exporting them, that is, it may by goods abroad and sell them abroad. The same procedures as import are valid.	
	Web link:	

ii) What national measures exist to prevent the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession of unmarked or inadequately marked SALW? How have these been implemented? (II.8)

iii) Please describe how national laws, regulations and procedures that impact on the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects are made public. (II.23)

All laws are made public through printing in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia.

Other laws concerning weapons

Area:	Law/ Regulation/ Decree
Possession	<p>????? ?? ?????????? ?, ??????????? ? ?????? ??????</p> <p>Law on Purchasing, possession and carrying of weapons Official Gazette of SRM Nr 27/72, 30/72, 18/76, 25/76, 22/81, 15/83, 51/88 and official Gazette of RM 26/93 and 49/03</p> <p>?????????k ?? ?????? c?? ?? ?????????? ?? ??????, ?????????????? ?? ?????? ? ?????????? ? ?????????? ? ? ?????? ?? ???????. Template for the example of the license, evidence of the weapons and ammunition, stockpiling and storing of weapons Official Gazette of SRM Nr 41/71 and 19/76</p>
Marking and tracing	<p>????? ?? ????????????? ? ?????????, ????????? ?????????????? ???????</p> <p>????? ? ????????</p> <p>Law on marking and tracing of firearms and weapons Official Gazette of SRM Nr 37 /73</p>
Research	<p>????????? ?? ?????????? ? ?? ????????</p> <p>Form of research on fire arms Official Gazette of SRM Nr 38/73</p>

<p>Voluntary Surrender</p>	<p>????? ?? ?????????? ?????????? ? ?????????? ?????? ??????, ????????? ? ?????????????? ?????????? ? ?? ?????????????? ?? ?????????? Law on voluntary surrender and collection of weapons, ammunition and explosive materials I for legalization of weapons. Official Gazette RM Nr 37/03 and 09/04</p> <p>?????na1?? ?????????? ?? ?????????????? ?? ??{????? ?????????? ?????? ????????????? ?????????????? ?? ?????? ??????, ?????????? ? ?????????????? ?????????</p> <p>National Program to improve the general security through voluntary surrender of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials Official Gazette RM Nr 51/03</p> <p>???????? ?? ?????????? ? ?? ?????????????? ? ?????????? ?? ????????????????????? ?????? ?? ?????????????? ? ?? ?????? ?? ?????????????? ????????????? ? ?????????? ?????????? ??????, ?????????? ? ?????????????? ????????? ? ?? ?????????????? ?? ??????????</p> <p>Decision to appoint the president and members of the Coordination Body for implementation of the law on voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials and for legalization of weapons. Official Gazette RM Nr 42/03 and 04/04</p> <p>???????? ?? ?????????????? ?? ?????????????????? ? ?????????? ?? ?????????????? ????????? ?? ?????????????? ?????????????? ? ?????????? ??????? ??????, ????????? ? ?????????????????? ?????????? ? ?? ?????????????? ?? ?????????? ? ?? ?????????? ?? ?? ?????????? ?? ?????????? ?? ?????????????? ?? ??c????????? ?????????? ?? ?????????????????? ?? ??{????? ????????????? ????? ?????????????? ?????????????? ? ?? ?????? ??????, ?????????? ? ????????????????? ??????????</p> <p>Decision to appoint the president and members of the local commissions on voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials and for legalization of weapons and for implementation of the public awareness campaign for realization of the national program to improve the general security through voluntary surrender and collection of firearms, ammunition and explosive materials. Official Gazette RM Nr 59/03</p> <p>???????? ?? ?????????????? ? ?? ?????????? ?? ?????????? ?? ?????????????????? ???????? ??????</p> <p>Decision for establishment of the Commission for valorisation of the surrender firearms Official Gazette RM NR 14/04</p>
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4. Law enforcement/criminalization

i) What national legislative or other measures exist to make the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of SALW criminal offences under domestic law? How have these measures been implemented? (II.3)

Besides the above mentioned laws there exist in Macedonia, The Law on Procurement, Possession and Carrying of arms (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia nr 25/72, 30/72, 18/76, 15/83, 51/88, and Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia nr 26/93.

Since December 2003 it is forbidden by law to carry weapons in public places in Macedonia.

The law is for the moment being redeveloped and the law on weapons is in the second phase of the legal procedure.

Possession: Weapons registered in Macedonia till June 2003.

Types of weapons	Natural Persons	Legal Entities	Shooting associations
Hunting Rifles	70.574	439	
Combined Hunting Rifles	391		
Semi Automatic Rifles	148		
Hunting Carbines	10.982	1.885	19
Carbines	2.140	2.700	207
Small Caliber Rifles	475	145	52
Pistols and revolvers	48.128	5.890	14
Air Arms	2.428	745	1.343
Air Guns	69	6	94
Semi Automatic Carbines	1	1.323	6
Flobers	9		
TOTALS	139.857	13.797	2.342

According to the latest information there are 132 hunting designations that are not on forest grounds and a total of 137 hunting associations in Macedonia. There are 55 security companies and 123 legal subjects registered.

Weapons registered in 2003 and in 2004

Type	2003 Natural Persons	2003 Legal Subjects	2004 Natural Persons	2004 Legal Subjects	Total
Army Rifle (*)	30	1	50	0	81
Hunting Carbine	456	2	55	6	1.014
Hunting Rifle	1.643	4	1.088	1	5.736
Small Calibre Rifle	117	6	199	2	324
Pistol	2.697	35	2.063	12	4.807
Small Calibre Pistol	30	0	29	1	60
Single barrelled Hunting Rifle	17	0	12	0	29
Carbine with scope	29	0	14	0	43
Combined Rifle	5	0	8	0	13
Air Rifle	91	7	460	21	579
Revolver	136	0	232	0	368
Air Pistol	2	0	1	0	3
Total	5.253	55	4.706	43	10.057

(*) Registered as antique weapon.

ii) Have those groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit SALW been identified, where applicable? What action has been taken under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals? (II.6)

There is a continuous control on individuals engaged in illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession as well as financing for acquisition.

The suppression of illegal trafficking in weapons was realised through intensive activities to increase the efficiency in detection of these activities, especially the more grievous forms of those crimes.

These actions resulted in 2003 resulted in:

	2002	2003
Criminal Acts	153	213
Perpetrators	215	238

Reporting Template

Weapons	1003	1134
Military weapons		398
Pistols		284
Revolvers		12
Rifles		23
Automatic/ Semi Automatic Rifles		66
Assault Rifles		4
Machine Guns		4
Sporting rifles		48
Hunting Rifles		114
Other Types of weapons		574
Hand Grenades		217
Hand Held Rocket Launchers		6
Grenades For RL		180
ATk Mines		7
Rounds of ammunition	21685	63998
Explosives		20,640 Kgrs

Since 1998 – 2003, a total of 9876 weapons (3119 military weapons, 219 sporting rifles, 571 hunting rifles) 5915 other types of weapons (industrial use, cold weapons, etc) and 477.894 rounds of ammunitions have been confiscated.

More specific cases are:

Case finalized in February when in the area of three villages in the vicinity of Struga in house searches and in open spaces 105 hand grenades, 6 automatic rifles, 1 pistol, 6,540 Kg of explosives and 11.170 rounds of ammunition were found (Materials were from Albanian Origin). Criminal charges have been raised against 2 individuals.

Case finalised in May when during a planned operation 2200 rounds of ammunition were found from Bulgarian Origin. (Interception on a smuggling route).

Penalties for illegal possession, manufacture, trade, etc..

1. For the person committing such offences according to the Article 31, paragraph under the Law for purchasing, possessing and carrying weapons, the fine is determined to be from 150.000 to 300.000 denars;
2. For the person committing such offences according to the Article 31 paragraph under the Law for purchasing, possessing and carrying weapons, the fine is determined to be from 15.000 to 45.000 denars;
3. For the person committing such offences according to the Article 31 paragraph under the Law for purchasing, possessing and carrying weapons the fine is determined to be from 30.000 to 45.000 denars;
4. For the person committing such offences according to the Article 32 paragraph under the Law for purchasing, possessing and carrying weapons the fine is determined to be from 15.000 to 30.000 denars
5. For the person committing such offences laid down in the Article 33 paragraph 1 under the Law for purchasing, possessing and carrying weapons, the fine is determined to be from 5.000 to 20.000 denars

For the person committing certain offences prescribed under the given law, beside the fine, some of the following security measures can be stated:

- Seizure of weapons and ammunition;
- Seizure of the license for weapons
- Seizure of the permission for production of weapons and ammunition.

According to the Criminal Code ("Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia" number 27/96, 80/99, 4/02, 43/03 and 19/04) for the person committing criminal act – unauthorized production, possession and trade with weapons or disperse materials, a punishment from one to ten years imprisonment is prescribed.

If the subject of this criminal act is greater amount of fire arms, ammunition or explosive materials, or fire arms, ammunition or explosive materials forbidden to the citizens, the perpetrator will receive at least five years imprisonment.

From the perpetrator of mentioned criminal act, all objects and devices for their production, transfer and distribution are seized.

iii) What national measures have been taken, including legal or administrative means, against activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations? (II.15)

The embargoes are agreed upon and recognized by decision of the government, there were no such cases registered in the last year.

5. Stockpile management and security

i) What national standards and procedures exist for the management and security of SALW stocks held by armed forces, police or other authorized bodies? (II.17)

When deciding on stockpile locations of explosives, weapons and ammunition, following elements are taken into consideration: distance from the motorways, populated areas, industrial objects, railway stations, lakes, dams, airports, as well as the quantity of explosives that is to be stored.

The regulation covering the stockpile security issues is prescribed in the Regulation on storage and handling with ammunition and in the technical manual on theft prevention of weapons and ammunition from the storing facilities. In order to obtain complete protection, physical and technical protection is prescribed (in the army with the army guard patrols) and appropriate fire protection and explosive protection measures are in place, with additional protection measures on the working site or intervention plans in a case of emergency. The doors of the storage facilities are protected with a metal grid and sealed accordingly, with an appropriate outdoor lighting system, guard service, additional protection fences and alarm system, which is not obligatory. Once the alarm system is in place it is checked regularly. There is no centralized system of monitoring in place. The weapons, parts of weapons and ammunition are stored separately. In the cases of reported losses or thefts, the law enforcement agencies are informed as well as the superior in command according to the chain of command in the army. Authorized personnel have access to the site in possession of a personal security clearance, and are capable and qualified in handling stockpiles. They are subject to regular training on related procedures, regulations and practices.

All the records are kept for unlimited period of time, and are subject to daily or periodically inspection. In case of emergency, a contingency plan is activated and this procedure is trained periodically. Rules on inspection to verify that storage fulfill the requirements prescribed by the internal regulations of the Ministry of Defence and the Law of Defence. Protection of the transport route is made according to the Law on transportation of

dangerous materials (Official Gazette nr 12/93) and is executed by armed escorts. Weapons and ammunition are stored separately.

Gearing up for NATO integration, the Macedonian Army at this moment is undergoing reforms such as the police forces taking over some duties from the Macedonian Army (Border brigade). The development of organization tables for the different peace time units and reserve units are part of this reform and will lead to a detailed calculation of surplus weapons, which Macedonia does not possess at the very moment.

ii) How often are stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies reviewed? (II.18)

All stocks are checked on a regular basis.

iii) How are those stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies that are surplus to requirements identified? (II.18)

Gearing up for NATO integration, the Macedonian Army at this moment is undergoing reforms such as the police forces taking over some duties from the Macedonian Army (Border brigade). The development of organization tables for the different peace time units and reserve units are part of this reform and will lead to a detailed calculation of surplus weapons, which Macedonia does not possess at the very moment.

6. Collection and disposal

There were no initiatives for disposal of surplus stocks of SALW, because due to reform of the Police and the Army, surplus calculation has still to be implemented.

7. Export controls

i) Please describe the system of export and import licensing or authorization, as well as measures on international transit, used by your country for the transfer of all SALW. (II.11)

For every import/export/transit the company needs a license for import/export/transit. The transport of the goods is being escorted by police forces following a mandatory route assigned to them by the Ministry of Interior. Weapons and ammunition are transported separately. The border troops are controlling and signing the required documents and verify the amount of weapons or materials coming into the country or going out of the country. (Import document).

ii) Please describe the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures used by your country to ensure effective control over the export and transit of SALW. How are these measures implemented? (II.12)

See initial part on legislation chapter 3.

iii) Does your country use authenticated end-user certificates for this purpose? (II.12)

A document is issued but it is not equal to an IIC (International Import Certificate)

iv) Does your country notify the original exporting State when re-exporting or retransferring previously imported SALW? (II.13)

No

8. Brokering

i) What national legislation or administrative procedures exist to regulate the activities of those who engage in SALW brokering within national jurisdiction and control? (e.g. registration of brokers, licensing or authorization of brokering transactions and appropriate penalties) (II.14)

Not existing.

9. Marking, record keeping and tracing

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Law on marking and tracing of firearms and weapons
Official Gazette of SRM Nr 37 /73

i) Does your country require licensed manufacturers of SALW to apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each weapon as an integral part of the production process? (II.7)

The Republic of Macedonia is not a producer of small arms and light weapons, and does not have a system in place for marking at the time of manufacture.

The only factory or the purposed production "Suvenir" manufactures ammunition and makes repairs and remodels a limited quantity of weapons, which are marked according to the standardised marking criteria.

The Ammunition has the head stamp "SMB" which was licensed to the factory in Yugoslavia.

v) How long are records kept on the manufacture, holding and transfer of SALW under your jurisdiction? (II.9)

Records on manufacture, holding and transfer are kept for unlimited time.

vi) What national measures exist for tracing SALW held and issued by the State? (II.10)

Criminal Police gets information from Interpol about weapons being traced or found abroad. When a weapon is found in Macedonia the Criminal Police informs Interpol. Also when a weapon is stolen or lost the Criminal police forwards a request to Interpol.

vii) Please give details of any steps taken by your country to cooperate in tracing illicit SALW, including the strengthening of mechanisms based on the exchange of relevant information. (III.11)

10. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)

i) Please describe any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes your country has developed and implemented, including the effective collection, control, storage and destruction of SALW. (II.21)

In 2001, Macedonia was the theatre of Operation Essential Harvest undertaken by NATO. The Task Force Harvest Mission was to collect the arms and ammunition voluntarily surrendered by the ethnic Albanian groups involved in the peace negotiations, and through this collection to assist confidence building in the broader peace process. Key tasks undertaken from the end of June to late September 2001 were the establishment of collection sites, collection of weapons and ammunition brought to the site by the insurgents, transportation and disposal of surrendered equipment.

Weapons Collected and Destroyed during Harvest

Machine Guns	483
Assault Rifles	3210
Support Weapons	161
Air Defence Systems	17
Tanks	4
Ammunition and Explosives materials	397,625

Police reservists, army reservists and the "Lions" were demobilised and all their weapons returned to the respective institutions: Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior.

ii) Please describe how your country has addressed the special needs of children affected by armed conflict, in particular the reunification with their family, their reintegration into civil society, and their appropriate rehabilitation. (II.22)

There were no cases of child soldiers in Macedonia

iii) Please describe any DDR programmes or activities that your country has supported. (II.30, 34)

A DDR course have been organised in Macedonia in 2004 training members of the Ministry of Defence.

11. Awareness-raising

i) Please describe any public awareness and confidence-building programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed and implemented (including the public destruction of surplus weapons and the voluntary surrender of SALW). (II.20)

ii) Please describe any education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has encouraged. (II.41)

A nation wide SALW Survey has been implemented in cooperation with UNDP and performed by Oklahoma University.

The baseline survey was one of the underlying basics for the development of the public awareness and collection operation.

A public awareness program has been implemented – details

Introduction

Activities to reduce the supply, demand and use of weapons in Macedonia are urgently required to reduce insecurity, unintentional death/injury among civilians and support the capacity of the state to provide essential services.

The current process initiated by the government culminating in voluntarily disarmament will contribute greatly to restoring trust and confidence between communities, take Macedonia one step closer to security and stabilization, and create the conditions for economic recovery and sustainable development.

Equity and neutrality are guiding principles for addressing the security concerns of the citizens in order to avoid perceptions that one community is unfairly targeted/benefiting to the detriment of the others.

Specific objectives include:

- 1) supporting national coordination and policies on small arms;
- 2) community sensitization and public awareness raising on the socio-economic costs of small arms use/availability
- 3) support to the development of a strategy for addressing cross-border weapons trafficking
- 4) piloting of a small arms approach within the community policing framework for Macedonia
- 5) and, formulation of a full multi-year program document to address small arms availability, trafficking and use through the approach of " Weapons in exchange for development"

Vision Statement

The public awareness campaign will address these objectives in a persuasive, but positive way.

The main goal of the campaign will be that the whole process is a process that is addressing all population in Macedonia without focusing on ethnicity, religion or political background. This is a national matter and everybody who lives in Macedonia should get involved.

Mission

To raise public awareness, sensitize communities and promote public participation in the national program on general security enhancement through voluntarily surrender of illicit weapons.

Due to the importance of engaging local communities and creating a climate of trust and confidence for voluntary weapons surrender and licensing, the project will support the implementation of an awareness raising and sensitisation campaign within the framework of the national program on general security enhancement through voluntarily surrender of illicit weapons. Key features of this campaign will include:

- Information: Dissemination of information on the rationale, modalities and procedures of the program and its contribution to addressing the negative impacts of small arms;
- Education: Increasing awareness among youth of the dangers of weapons, and the negative impacts on socio-economic and community well being;
- Dialogue: Fostering dialogue on common security and socio-economic issues between communities through appropriate for a; and

- Empowerment: Promoting the active participation and mobilization of citizens and community leaders in local planning processes for the national weapons collection and licensing program and beyond.

Objective

To raise public awareness, sensitise communities and promote public participation in the national program on general security enhancement through voluntarily surrender of illicit weapons.

Success Criteria :

- The national program widely publicized and debated as a public issue.
- Large number of independent civil society on small arms.
- Decreased number of accidents related to weapons in the target areas.

Intended Outputs

Comprehensive public awareness and sensitisation campaign on the national program designed and implemented.

Indicative Activities

- 1.1. Periodical public information sessions on the national program organized at the local and municipal levels, involving both Government authorities and civil society/community representatives.
- 1.2. In collaboration with relevant authorities and international agencies, and linked to other initiatives, organize a series of lectures, discussion groups and workshops in high schools/universities.
- 1.3. Informational and discussion programs on security and small arms issues (including a documentary), aired through local/national television and radio, as well as a series of articles on the impacts of small arms disseminated through local/national print media.
- 1.4. Awareness-raising campaign organized on the basis of slogans against weapons and violence using brochures, posters, t-shirts and publicity billboards in town.
- 1.5. Organization of large-scale public events (sport competitions, concerts, exhibitions, etc.) on the themes of the project.

Local/national capacities within civil society to undertake public awareness and sensitisation activities built.

Indicative Activities

- 2.1. Undertake an assessment of insecurity (and corresponding needs), armed violence and SALW in communities, using participatory and mass survey methodologies to develop baseline and performance indicators, and to strengthen local research capacities.
- 2.2. Select and train potential local community facilitators from the villages and towns of the target areas, including teachers, religious leaders, etc. (opinion leaders).
- 2.3. Training and guidelines on organizing campaigns, writing funding proposals and developing outreach and communication tools provided to local and national Macedonian NGOs.
- 2.4. NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations funded to implement small-base activities oriented at small arms reduction.
- 2.5. A series of workshops and briefings held with local and national journalists to increase awareness of small arms issues and facilitate constructive and sensitive reporting on the issue of small arms.

Dialogue and debate on small arms reduction issues initiated at the local/national levels.

Indicative Activities

- 3.1. Organize community meetings in selected villages and towns of the target areas to discuss public security and development concerns.
- 3.2. Establish an NGO coordinating committee to identify the role and activities of civil society in public awareness and sensitisation, and to develop a corresponding strategy at local and national levels.
- 3.3. Organize a workshop at the end of the preparatory phase to assess progress and finalize the long-term strategy for public awareness and community sensitisation. Participants will include national,

non-governmental and international stakeholders in Macedonia.

2. Strategy

The Overall Publication Awareness Campaign will be structured in the following way (AIDA System):

ATTENTION

INTEREST

DESIRE

ACTION

Attention:

Gain the attention of the population towards the campaign.

Interest:

The main objective of this part is to raise the interest of the population and to get the law and procedure out in an objective way without biases. This part will also address that it is an amnesty on national level.

Desire:

The objective of this part of the campaign is mainly to give examples and to show why it is good to hand over weapons.

Economical development, social development, and the stabilization | effect will be addressed.

Action:

The action part will be addressed after the amnesty period is open. This part is the persuasive part of the campaign and will mainly play on the psychological level.

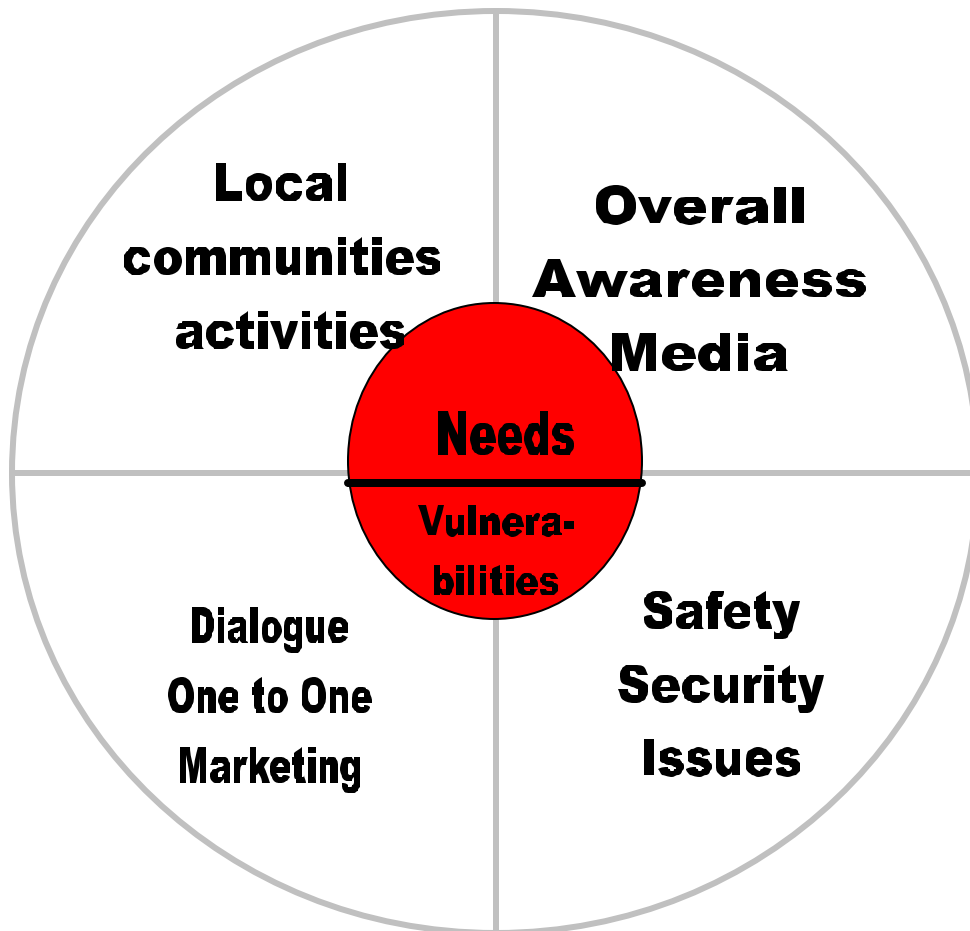
The campaign will also be implemented on multiple levels to have a bigger impact in the country

Main objective: "Weapons in Exchange for Incentives"

The needs addressed in the campaign will be mainly the three bottom levels of the table of MASLOV

1. **Safety and security**
2. **Social well being**
3. **Self-existence through employment**

Parts of the campaign:



Overall media Awareness media part

The media campaign:

The media campaign will involve all channels of media in Macedonia; national and regional. Television, radio, printed press, SMS and internet are the main vectors.

As products will be developed: Newspaper advertisements, video billboards, video clips, radio jingles and spots.

Daily press updates will be drafted and sent to the involved media by e-mail. Updated information about the program will 24/7/365 be available on the website yet to open in English, Macedonian language. A press center will be opened in early august in cooperation. The media association and the journalists association of Macedonia will be involved, briefed about their need to objective involvement in this program and based on regular basis to keep them online with UNDP and in favor of the program. An information telephone line for the press and the entire population will be opened from the press center to respond immediately to the forwarded demands. Contact addresses online and offline will be announced to have the same effect. The website will also serve as information database for the press to find easy and fast the information they want not only about the program, but also about the objectives and strategy of UNDP, SACIM and SEESAC. Links to other websites and case studies will be included.

The National Television of Macedonia will be asked to open forums with the National coordination body, the President of the Working body to explain their aim on national TV.

Documentaries and case studies will be broadcasted.

Media involvement will be enhanced by creating an award for the most contributive media station of institution.

Next to the general media involvement, a poster campaign is planned together with flyers and manual to ensure that the population will be very well informed not only about the law but also about the procedure at the collection points and the handling procedure of their weapons approaching the collection sites.

The IC (Concordia, EUMM and OSCE will be asked to help in disseminating this posters and flyers), next to local NGO's.

Key communicators and dialogue on local levels

A network of key communicators will be set up to inform, promote and give feedback of the campaign at UNDP levels in cooperation with the NGO's. The IC (Concordia, OSCE, and EUMM) will be asked to do the same at their daily or weekly contacts with their POC.

A link is being made with the Ministry of education to start a program in the schools to raise the awareness of youngsters, that have the feeling it is fashion to carry a rifle and even take it with to the schools.

We would at this stage to invite the principals and high officials in the country to promote this program at their level with the representatives of the Macedonian government or Macedonian institutional system. Messages on strategic level are included at the end of this document.

Local communities activities

UNDP will involve his nation wide network of key persons in the local communities to inform and promote the program at local population level. They will be trained and briefed how to address the local population, and how to promote the local communities to set up local activities in support of the program like sport events, media events, etc..

Regular newsletters will be sent to these local community key persons to keep them informed about the strategy we will follow and to increase their impact. They will also be asked to give feedback about the ongoing campaigns and their perceptions, in order to monitor the campaign.

The local community will be addressed with proposals to start discussion and focus groups in their communities.

Safety and security issues

Here we will try to eliminate the vulnerabilities, which are actually the need to have a weapon. Through detailed information, press releases addressing the security issues cross border traffic of weapons, etc.

Police, OSCE, Army, SEESAC should get involved in this stage.

Safety rules, safety guides and handling procedures will be provide to minimize the amount of incidents for legal gun holders.

Monitoring of the campaign

Baseline survey was used for the initial plan of the public awareness.

A second survey will be released after the first part of the preparatory phase. The main objective will be to know how well the beginning of the campaign: "When, Amnesty, and what is it?" has been spread around Macedonia.

A third survey will be issued at the end of the "Desire Phase" (end of September). The main objective will be to know how well the people are prepared to take part in the Amnesty.

A Fourth but smaller survey can be implemented during the collection period to see if the persuasive block is working.

A first field testing as pilot program is planned in the second week of August by the means of Concordia and OSCE, to get the first feedback at the early beginning of the campaign.

At all time, we must be prepared to counter negative propaganda. This means UNDP will have the monitor the daily news and come up with an immediate solution if the press is starting to write against the initiative.

Messages to implement (strategic level)

The main features and principles guiding this approach, including the present project, consist of:

- **Focus on public security:** Local communities and Macedonian civil society as a whole should be engaged and empowered in addressing public security concerns and supporting the strengthening of the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Government and local authorities in law-enforcement.
- **Equity and neutrality:** Security concerns in the communities of Macedonia should be equitably addressed to avoid any perceptions that a specific community is unfairly targeted/benefiting to the detriment of the other.
- **Phased implementation:** Initial activities should focus on creating the conditions and the groundwork for the upcoming process of voluntary weapons collection, and supporting the Government in its work on a legal framework and a national programme on general security enhancement through voluntarily surrender of illicit weapons.
- **Participatory approach:** Beneficiary needs and targets should be defined and addressed through a participatory approach, within the overall process of generating broad ownership among all project stakeholders (the Government, local communities and authorities as well as civil society).
- **Differentiated targeting:** Strategies to address armed insecurity should distinguish between the areas directly affected by armed

conflict (the mountainous villages, which have suffered property destruction and population displacement), and those where tensions did not spill over into armed violence (the larger ethnically mixed communities).¹

- **Partnerships:** In order to ensure the comprehensiveness and sustainability of the activities, attention will be given to the possibility of building on and complementing existing or planned initiatives of the government and other organizations working in the field.
- **Regional focus:** Effectively addressing the continued supply of weapons in Macedonia necessitates a regional focus based on coordination and cooperation between the Government and civil society of Macedonia and small arms initiatives in neighboring countries (Albania as well as Serbia and Montenegro).
- **Complementarity:** The project should complement the on-going process of stabilization in the country as a confidence-building mechanism. Voluntary weapons collection/destruction in this context will provide a tangible focus for inter-communal dialogue, serve to reduce perceived security threats and criminal activities, as well as highlight common benefits accruing from the simultaneous improvement of security and development prospects.

Line of persuasion will be used in the debates and the focus and discussion groups.

The weapon amnesty period is perfect opportunity to hand over anonymously the weapons of war. Prepare yourself to hand them over.

Weren't there deadly cases in the last 6 months to persuade you that weapons in the society are dangerous for you and your family? (Provide statistical material)

Information will be handed out when and where the collection points will be opened at the right time.

Media

Website:

- Open the website as constant information feeder to the press
- The website will contain daily press releases and background information to the press. Several links to other organizations that work on the same topic in the region.

¹ In the former, the focus could be concentrated more on re-establishing communication and cooperation between communities, reintroducing law and order (grass-roots peace building), and reducing the demand for weapons, while in the latter, the focus could be more on strengthening local dispute solving mechanisms and police capacities to prevent further destabilization (conflict prevention) and remove excess weapons from circulation.

- The website will also contain information for NGOs how to address the local communities and ready made training kits, presentations and guidelines for setting up a focus or discussion group.
- The website will as well legal as illegal gun holders. For the illegal gun holders they will be able to find the exact details of the law on amnesty and later on details about the collection itself. For the legal gun holders risk education will be implemented and safety guides will be available.
- Statistical material will have to convince the population and the media that it is really necessary to comply with the law.
- The website will also explain the objectives, program and the involvement of UNDP in this program.
- The website will contain a block with clear information about what is "Weapons for development" and when it is supposed to happen if it happens at all.

TV:

- A primary contact has been made with the national television MTV to assure their cooperation. MTV will support the program in all ways. Live discussion groups, forums, and documentaries will be produced to enhance the impact in the community.
- MTV will produce for us the video clips we want them to make and will support us with a television crew and creative director to come up with the right storyboard.
- Continuous negotiation is ongoing.
- The same cooperation will happen for the radio section of MTV which will produce radio jingles.
- The published material will be disseminated throughout the country and the local television stations.
- A contact list of TV journalists, radio journalists and media journalists will be made available by MTV in order to contact the lead journalists on the topic.

Journalists:

- A background briefing is planned for next week on Tuesday with all the journalists of the major channels in the region invited.
- NO CAMERAS and NO QUOTATIONS
- During the background briefing, part of the statistics will be released; information will be given on the program to avoid more misinformation going out.
- This should enhance the cooperation with the media in any case.
- These meetings will take place at regular times.
- A guest speaker from SEESAC will be present to speak on the topic on safety and security in the Balkans.

Press center

- Press center will be set up with all the necessary means to address and assist the press on the principle " Mutual dependence"
- Regular contacts with the spokesperson of MOI to speak with ONE VOICE.

Printed products:

- The initial production of products will be started.

Radio

- The initial contact list is ready, contacts has been made.

Local Community

The network of UNDP will be set in action to spread the information, and to promote the program.

The initial feedback will be received.

Activist presentations are released.

Connection with SACIM office established.

NGOS

The first NGOs will start their work or continue their work on the topic, with discussion groups, own press releases and education at the different target groups.

(There are for the moment 7 NGOs interested and prepared to work at the same topic.)

Dialogue and one –one communication

Concordia will start their support to UNDP in what is for UNDP called a "pilot program", feedback will be the first evaluation of the perception of the population. This pilot program will mainly take place in the crisis areas.

in coordination with this a meeting will be set up to have the same impact indicators and activity in the Macedonian population through involvement of OSCE and local NGOs.

Other activities planned:

Keep the media involved through feeding them different media events.

Safety and security: Development of safety guides on weapon handling and security issues at the collection points.

To have an overall decrease of the casualties due to weapon incidents:

Safety guides and handling procedures for legal gun holders.

To keep the anonymity during the press events; come up with a procedure for the media events related to anonymity.

Determination and finding of an Ambassador for the program: " NON – STOP"

Results of the awareness (according to the assessment visit of SEESAC and UNDP/BCPR)

Assistance to the Government in raising SALW awareness, sensitizing communities and promoting public participation in the national program on general security enhancement through voluntary surrender of weapons

Impact on public awareness and perceptions

As a result of the project's comprehensive media campaign, public awareness of the amnesty and collection programme was rated at 96%, a very high figure especially when taking into account the lack of time available. At this stage, support for the initiative was mixed. Using regular assessment techniques, the UNDP SACM team was able to track shifts in public opinion throughout the collection phase, and a final 'survey' of the impact that the SALW Awareness component of the project had had on communities throughout Macedonia was conducted once collection was completed. Although the data collected did show a steady increase in support for the collection process, it is not possible to objectively compare 'before' and 'after' results, as the initial SALW Survey² did not cover exactly the same areas. Additionally, the initial SALW Survey results were not available until after the project design phase; this was due to the tempo of operations imposed on the project by national political decisions and was outside their control.

SALW Survey is an important component in intervention planning and should be released to the project planning team as soon as is practically possible. Preliminary drafts should be shared with the project team as soon as they become available.

It is important that the initial SALW Survey and 'confirmatory' SALW Survey cover the same questions in order that a statistically valid comparison can be made.

As a result of the 'confirmatory' SALW Survey³, the following objective and qualitative statements can be made to support the success of a very sophisticated SALW Awareness component:

- 63% of the community believe that the SALW Awareness component changed public opinions towards SALW in a 'positive sense'.
- 68% of the community believe that shooting incidents decreased during the amnesty period.

² Conducted by the Small Arms Survey during mid 2003.

³ Full survey results, which are ethnically disaggregated, are available from the SACIM Project team.

- ❑ 61% of the community saw the amnesty process as a 'success'. (Interestingly over 80% of ethnic Albanian respondents believed it was a success).
- ❑ 83% of the community would support police action against illegal weapon holders now that the amnesty has finished.
- ❑ 96% of the community believe that the government should continue a SALW Awareness programme.
- ❑ 77% of the community believe that economic development would reduce the need to possess a weapon.

These 'confirmatory' SALW Survey results clearly demonstrate that the SALW component has had a more than significant impact on the community. It also seems to indicate that support for the initiative grew over time.

All partners and stakeholders expressed the opinion that the awareness-raising impact of the collection campaign had a deeper and more beneficial impact on security and safety than the actual collection of the weapons themselves. Nevertheless, it was generally felt that a weapons amnesty and collection was a highly effective SALW awareness raising tool.

Weapons collection processes have very limited impact without strong SALW awareness raising campaigns conducted before, during and after the collection period.

Development of sophisticated media analysis techniques

One of the major successes of the SACIM project has been the development of highly sophisticated media analysis systems to support the media operation and SALW awareness components. A full analysis of these systems is being undertaken as a joint SEESAC/SACIM project '**Media operations in support of SALW control interventions**', which should be available by April 2004 as a separate study report.

Analysis of media coverage, combined with regular perceptions surveys, facilitates more responsive programming during an ongoing initiative.

Participatory processes and collective perceptions

In view of the shortened timelines dictated by the government's priorities, it was not possible to fully develop the SALW awareness-raising component beyond a focus on individual perceptions through the media campaign. It may be that increased use of participatory processes, involving NGOs and civil society organizations in the awareness raising campaign, would have yielded more support for the initiative in the early

stages of the initiative, but it is not possible to assess the potential contribution of this component.

Further analysis and 'Survey' is necessary to identify the full impact on 'Knowledge, Education, Attitudes and Perceptions'.

A national program for voluntary surrender of weapons, ammunition and explosive materials and legalisation of weapons has been implemented in Macedonia from 01 Nov 2003 to 15 Dec 2003. The initiative was controlled by a national co-ordination body which established an operation centre which at its turn had to oversee 6 regional commissions which were divided in a total of 123 local commissions.

The local commissions were composed of 2 members of the local community, one member of the Ministry of Justice, one member of the Ministry of Defence and one member of the Ministry of Interior. The local commission were trained in public awareness, setting up and running a collection point and deal with emergency cases (A No-casualties handbook was developed and disseminated⁴ as a guideline). The main principles of the amnesty period, which was a humanitarian operation, for all inhabitants of Macedonia and run by inhabitants, were transparency, anonymity and security.

Casualties during collection phase

There were no casualties due to accidents with weapons or ammunition during the collection phase of the project. This is a commendable achievement, to which the technical advice provided by UNDP SACIM to the national government agencies made a substantial contribution. The team developed safety handbooks and guidelines, and their application was observed and monitored by an international monitoring effort.

The Safety Handbooks and Guidelines are made available to, and amended as necessary by, organizations conducting future collection activities.

International monitoring

UNDP SACIM, in partnership with the National Coordination Body (NCB), coordinated a system of observation and monitoring by international community representatives during the six-week collection phase. This included the submission of monitoring reports and remedial action being advised and taken where appropriate.

The Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) and reporting system developed during the SACIM project should be analysed and made available to future SALW collection activities.

⁴ Copy can be downloaded from www.smallarms.org.mk

The collection initiative ended on the 15th of December with the following results:

1. No casualties during the whole operation.
2. Weapons Collected

Rifles	3589	Total 7571 weapons
Pistols	2336	
Revolvers	458	
Machine Guns	27	
Mortars	2	
Rocket Launchers	55	
Grenades	60	
Bombs	797	
Mines	247	
Ammunition	100219	
Detonators	1151	
Imitators	106	
Explosive Materials	164	
Powder	1.5	
Others	1001	
Detonator Cable	497.65m	

The following ceremonial destructions took place:

All ammunition and explosive materials were destroyed at Krivolak training Area (27 - 31 December 2003).

Method used: Open pit detonation

A total of 3802 weapons were destroyed at this very moment:

1159 SALW were destroyed at Krivolak Training area.

Method used: Open pit detonation

On 15 March 2003:

2643 SALW were melted down at Maksteel Skopje.

Method used: Melting in foundries.

221 SALW of historical and cultural value were demilitarized and given to the Ministry of Culture for the National Museum.

A total of 3201 were legalized

37 SALW were destroyed at the Military compound in Skopje

Method Used: Crushing by vehicles and cutting

A total of, confiscated during the last year were destroyed in Stenkovac training area.

Method Used: Open pit detonation

The weapons collected during the collection initiative were daily collected at the collection points by transport of the Macedonian Army, and stockpiled and secured following the regulations and directives of the Macedonian Army awaiting destruction.

The methods used for destruction in Macedonia were:

Small ammunition up to .50: burning in a specially designed oven (kiln) and performed by trained personnel from the Macedonian Army.

Heavy ammunition and explosive materials: pyro-technical ignition

Weapons: Melting down in a steel oven.

B.) Regional level

1. Legally binding instruments

i) Has your country been involved in negotiations for the conclusion of legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects? (II.25)

Several workshops, seminars and studies have been carried out under the auspices of NATO/EAPC; UNDP and Stability Pact Europe South Eastern Europe Small Arms Clearinghouse (SEESAC); Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime (SECI Center); OSCE etc., all aimed at addressing this problem in the country and in the region.

Macedonia has expressed its readiness and commitment to fully cooperate particularly on regular level on the issue of SALW. The Government placed this issue on the top of its Programme's priorities, and strong public awareness is being developed. The country has actively participated in adoption and adhered to various international undertakings and instruments in different regional and international forums. In the UN framework, the country supported, respects and implements all UN relevant UNGA and UNSC resolutions.

ii) Where such instruments exist, please describe the steps your country has taken to ratify and fully implement them. (II.25)

Implementation of the National Program for Voluntary Surrender of weapons, ammunition and explosives and the legalization of weapons.

2. Moratoria and action programmes

i) Please give details of any support your country has given moratoria or similar initiatives on the transfer and manufacture of SALW, and/or regional action programmes to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit

trade in SALW in all its aspects (including cooperation with States concerned in the implementation of these initiatives). (II.26)

Macedonia has been cooperating with SEESAC and RACVIAC Zagreb in order to develop RMDS (Regional Micro Disarmament Standards) developed out of the lessons learned from the Amnesty initiative in 2003. It has also been cooperating with SEESAC on the Round Table on Weapons Laws and the harmonization in June 2004.

3. Regional Cooperation

i) Please describe any involvement your country has had in the establishment of subregional or regional mechanisms with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW across borders (in particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies). (II.27)

Hosting OSCE Regional Conference on 01-02 July 2004.

ii) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to encourage regional and subregional action on illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects in order to, as appropriate, introduce, adhere, implement or strengthen relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures. (II.28)

Within the Stability Pact, Macedonia has been active, advocating on several occasions for SALW control measures on a regional level, and hosting the first Regional Steering meeting in May 2002.

C.) Global level

1. International instruments against terrorism and crime

i) What existing international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime has your country ratified or acceded to? (II.38)

Macedonia signed the following international agreements

Stability Pact Implementation Plan	Regional	November 2001
UN Programme of Action		July 2001
OSCE Document on Small Arms		November 2000
OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition		December 2003

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings	
International Convention for Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism	
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation	
Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.	

2. International cooperation and assistance

i) Please give details of any assistance, including technical and financial assistance, your country has provided for purposes of supporting the implementation of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects as contained in the UN Programme of Action. (III.3, 6, 10, 14)

None

ii) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance mutual legal assistance and other forms of cooperation in order to assist investigations and prosecutions in relation to the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (III.13)

None

iii) Please give details of any assistance your country has provided to combat the illicit trade in SALW linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism. (III.15)

Cooperation with regional countries on illegal trafficking of drugs, women, weapons, etc... and the fight against organised crime.

iv) Please give details of your country's cooperation with Interpol for the purpose of identifying those groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (II.37)

Macedonia is reporting to Interpol on SALW tracing issues and organised crime.

v) Please give details of your country's use and support of Interpol's International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System database

(including providing relevant information on the illicit trade in SALW). (III.9)

Macedonia does not possess the IWETS system.

vi) Please give details of your country's cooperation with the UN system to ensure the effective implementation of arms embargoes decided by the UN Security Council in accordance with the UN Charter. (II.32)

None

vii) Please describe any steps your country has taken in cooperation with other states, or regional or international organizations, to develop common understandings of the basic issues and the scope of the problems related to illicit brokering in SALW. (II.39)

None

3. Cooperation with civil society and NGOs

i) Please give details of cooperation with civil society and non-governmental organizations in activities related to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, at the national, regional and global levels. (II.20, 40, 41; III.2, 18)

The Government has been working together with the NGOs and civil society during the entire preparation and execution of the amnesty program and the cooperation is still ongoing.

- Workshop in Skopje in May 2003 on SALW awareness
- Training to the local and regional commissions on SALW awareness and collection of weapons. (NO casualties handbook)
- Public debates on weapons collection and the new draft law on weapons.
- Participation of Macedonian NGOs in the RACVIAC training center on several occasions.
- Support to the launch of the SALW Monitor by Saferworld and SEESAC.
- Hosting of the Regional NGO workshop in June 2004 – Ohrid on SALW related issues.

4. Information exchange

i) Please describe any steps taken by your country to exchange information on national marking systems on SALW. (III.12)

Macedonia is reporting to UN/DDA and OSCE on laws on national marking systems and other related issues.

ii) Please give details of any information on, inter alia, SALW confiscated or destroyed within national jurisdiction, or other relevant information

such as illicit trade routes and techniques of acquisition, that your country has submitted to relevant regional and international organizations. (II.23)

Macedonia has a close cooperation through SECI Regional Center on Information sharing and in particular with Interpol, after the agreement and the presence of EUROPOL- Proxima in the country.

The Government signed in November 2002 a Memorandum of Police co-operation with United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) containing provisions on developing cooperation and information sharing on SALW related issues, in particular on illegal trafficking.

5. Training, capacity-building, research

i) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance cooperation and exchange of experience and training among competent officials, including customs, police, intelligence and arms control officials, at the national, regional and global levels in order to combat the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (III.7)

Macedonia is training newly appointed border policemen according to the newly developed border management and border action plan.

ii) Please describe any regional and international programmes for specialist training on small arms stockpile management and security that your country has developed or supported. (III.8)

None

iii) Please give details of any action-oriented research aimed at facilitating greater awareness and better understanding of the nature and scope of the problems associated with the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed or supported. (III.18)

Several nation wide surveys have been conducted with the approval and the cooperation of the official institutions:

- Nation wide survey from February – July 2003: UNDP
- Nation wide survey 2003: cooperation with Saferworld
- Survey ongoing on the root causes of the need and use of weapons in Macedonia.
- Analysis about the relations between SALW and blocking factor of human development.

6. Ongoing activities in Macedonia

1. Macedonia is implementing the border management strategy and action plan in accordance with the Schengen agreement.
2. Macedonia developed a new law on weapons which will replace the old law from 1972. The law is developed following European Standards. The new draft law can be found on www.smallarms.org.mk from 14 July 2004.
3. In cooperation with UNDP SACIM II small arms control is continuing in Macedonia through a twin track approach:
 - a. Safer Community Development
 - i. Addressing the root causes of the use and need of weapons, the program is implemented in pilot communities. The project makes a direct link between development and arms control, by addressing the primary concerns and vulnerabilities.
 - b. Direct assistance to the government
 - i. This element has different major parts:
 1. awareness raising and advocacy
 2. arms control through registration and development of software to have an integrated response by all institutions in Macedonia
 3. Develop a small arms strategy and action plan, closely linked to the border management strategy.
 4. Establishment of a national coordination agency, which will continuously improve the small arms control situation in Macedonia by implementing end user certificates, marking and tracing techniques, updating laws and implementing controls together with transparent reporting.