

# 13<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL MEETING OF SALW COMMISSIONS 13-14 April 2021, (Hybrid setup)

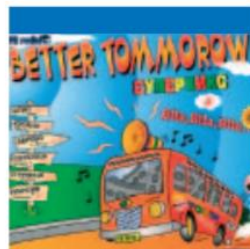
## SESSION II

Awareness, Voluntary Surrender and Legalization of Firearms

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## SASP 2

### SALW Awareness Support Pack



**SEESAC**

South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the  
Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

# Awareness

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Public  
Information



Risk Education



Advocacy and  
lobbying



Internal  
compliance



Sensitization and  
behaviour change

# When

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When new legal framework comes in place

- Public information regarding new procedures, regulations, laws, amnesty...

Based on problem analysis

- Domestic violence, illegal possession, celebratory fire, armed robberies

In support of an operation

- ILP against a particular OC

OR COMBINED

# Lessons Learned Voluntary surrender

- Extensive planning before any legalization or voluntary surrender campaign
- An awareness campaign has to accompany the legalization and voluntary surrender
- Adjust message and means of communication to the target group (based on the focus of the campaign and the age/gender/education/access to comms means of the audience)
- Messages need to be clear and concise
- Planning of the campaign based on funding available (campaigns can be seriously costly)
- Safety Management
- Awareness on misuse of the campaign for political messages/gains
- Planning of storage and destruction of surrendered weapons? Or any hazardous material that is surrendered?

# Lessons Learned Other

- Campaigning not very often used in support of coming in force of a new law to inform the public!
  - Specific weapons to be addressed
  - Magazines to be addressed
  - ....
- Possibility to open a continuous communication with legal weapons owners and inform or explain regarding certain problems and provide clarifications.
  - Internal compliance platform
- Awareness can be provided towards the danger of converted weapons!





Spill over  
effect from  
one  
jurisdiction  
to another

# Safety Aspects During

- Collection
- Record keeping
- Storage
- Transport
- Destruction

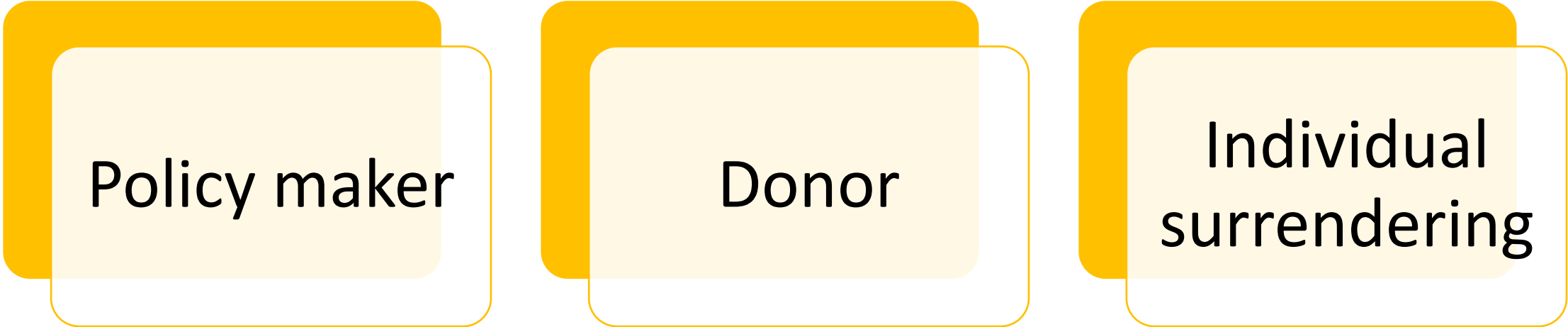


**Safety  
First**

ONE INCIDENT  
CAN DESTROY  
WHOLE  
INITIATIVE!



# Expectation Management



Policy maker

Donor

Individual  
surrendering

# DEACTIVATION

- According to new EU standards
- Not very much used in WB

# LEGALIZATION



- Under amnesty legalize weapons that belong to B and C category under special procedures – fast procedure

## Principle:

- Legal weapons are under control
- Few incidents with legally held weapons
- ATTENTION ON STORAGE!

# VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

## Amnesty Laws

Should not prevent  
seizure and confiscation


Integrated in new amendment laws

- Change in categorization, etc...
- Creating law abiding citizens



**PRESERVE  
ANONIMITY**

- **IND**: Buy-back - Croatia 90s
- **IND**: Weapons in exchange for incentives – North Macedonia 2003
- **COM**: Weapons in exchange for development - Albania
- **COM**: Weapons in competition for development - Albania
- **COM**: Weapons linked to development - ?
- **IND**: Without incentives – Serbia/Montenegro/BiH



Methods of  
incentives used  
for voluntary  
surrender over  
the years

# SEESAC plans

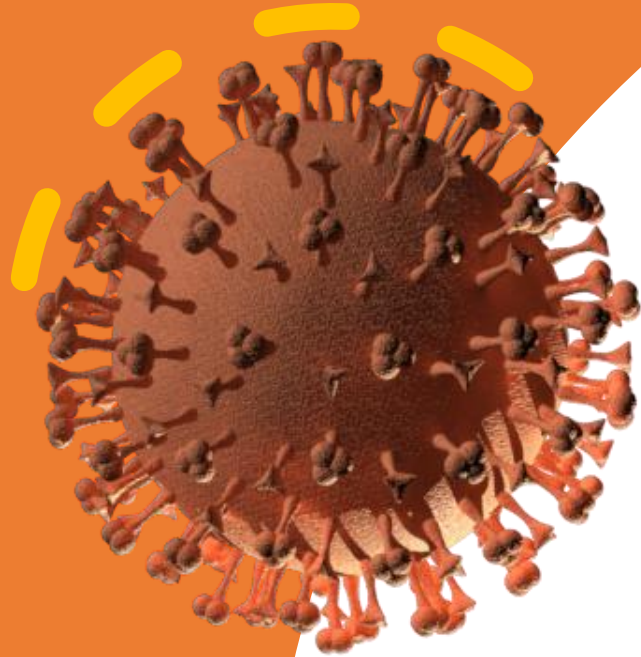
Research on perpetrators of firearms incidents

Proposal to establish regional task force and regional task force meetings

Targeted training sessions on development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of campaigns and development of guidelines

Support to implementation of awareness raising campaigns

Funded by EU Commission (DG NEAR)



# Challenge

Campaigning during COVID restrictive measures

# Questions