



CONTRIBUTION BY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Roadmap

for a sustainable solution the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans¹

¹ *Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by SEESAC for the purpose of collecting information regarding the ongoing projects and activities contributing to small arms and light weapons (SALW) control in the Western Balkans and to be distributed during the 13th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting that will be held on 8-9 July 2024, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

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² For the United Nations Development Programme, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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INTRODUCTION

The following inputs received from international and regional partners have been collected for the purpose of sharing information regarding projects and activities contributing to small arms and light weapons (SALW) control in the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap, covering the period from the start of the project to December 2024. According to the inputs received, **36 projects are currently under implementation**. The latest list of closed projects, can be found instead in the [previous document with inputs from international organizations](#) published ahead of the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting.

- **As of 31 December 2024, 26 fully funded** and **10 partially funded** projects have been implemented; **38** projects have been reported as completed since the start of the Roadmap implementation.
- **Fully funded projects** that are currently under implementation amount to approximately EUR 40,7 mln, while **partially funded projects** amount to approximately EUR 15,5 mln.³
- The total number of projects supported by the [UN's Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#) reached 25, at a cumulative value of USD 28,5 million. Out of these, 16 projects were completed by December 2024, while 9 projects are under implementation.
- The amount of funds granted from 2018 until 31 December 2024 for projects directly contributing to the Roadmap is estimated approximately over **EUR 90 mln**.
- Since 2018, 20 implementing partners have supported the authorities in the implementation of the Roadmap.
- In terms of contributions by projects currently under implementation to each goal of the Roadmap, in brief:
 - **10 projects** are contributing to the implementation of **Goal 1**,
 - **14 projects** are contributing to the implementation of **Goal 2**,
 - **23 projects** are contributing to the implementation of **Goal 3**,
 - **14 projects** are contributing to the implementation of **Goal 4**,
 - **11 projects** are contributing to the implementation of **Goal 5**,
 - **6 projects** are contributing to the implementation of **Goal 6**,
 - **15 projects** are contributing to the implementation of **Goal 7**.⁴

³ Figures are based on voluntary information provided by international organizations in advance of the 13th Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting.

⁴ To be noted that one project can contribute to more than one Roadmap Goal.

FULLY FUNDED PROJECTS

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>BAFA (Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control)</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>EU Council Decision 2023/2539/CFSP on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls (COARM VI)⁵</i> <i>European External Action Service, Directorate for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention, E-mail: NonProliferation-Disarm@eeas.europa.eu</i> <i>Ms. Sandra Raca, Head of Division 225 – Outreach Projects/Policy, E-mail: Sandra.Raca@bafa.bund.de</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>December 2023 – January 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>According to Art. 6 of the Annex of the Council Decision 2023/2539/CFSP; Among others: South East Europe (Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia,)</i>
DONOR	<i>European Union, co-financed by the German Federal Foreign Office and BAFA</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 682,464
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Article 1 of the Council Decision 2023/2539/CFSP Promoting effective controls on arms export by third countries, in accordance with the principles set out in Common Position 2008/944/CFSP and in the ATT, and seeking, where appropriate, complementarity and synergies with Union assistance projects in the field of export controls and dual use goods.

⁵ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because its beneficiaries extend beyond those of the Roadmap.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting countries' efforts at national and regional level to render trade in conventional weapons more responsible and transparent, and to mitigate the risk of the diversion of arms to unauthorized users.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Assistance Kosovo 27-28 February 2024, online. Cross-Regional Workshop for Western Balkan and Eastern Europe 15-17 May 2024, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Outreach Event for the Serbian Defence Industry, 11 September 2024, Belgrade. Study Visit for Montenegro to Estonia, 25-26 September 2024, Tallinn. Peer-to-Peer Study Visit for Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan to Albania 24 - 26 September 2024, Tirana. Workshop on transfer of technology for Kosovo and North Macedonia 12 November Pristina. Legal Assistance Workshop for Kosovo 13 November 2024 Pristina Peer-to-Peer Study Visit for Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan to Bosnia and Herzegovina 3.- 5. December, Sarajevo.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A See the new COARM VII Project below for 2025 plans.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>British Embassy in Tirana⁶</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>UK assistance to the Albanian Police and Justice System in the Field of Forensic Science⁷ Mr. Richard BONE, Program Manager, E-mail: Richard.bone@fcdo.gov.uk</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>2023-2026 with possibility of extension</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Albanian State Police, Albanian State Police Scientific Police Institute, General Prosecutor's Office</i>
DONOR	<i>United Kingdom</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	Approximately GBP 6,000,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	<p>The project is focused on providing technical assistance and does not plan any significant capital spend on equipment, etc.</p> <p>While there is a need for better equipment in the National Forensic Lab as well as improved CSI facilities, before this is provided, the structural and institutional obstacles that currently hinder raising standards need to be addressed (see below).</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albanian forensic evidence collection and analysis meet and comply with the accreditation criteria ISO 17025 and allow for membership of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). • Albanian police and criminal justice professionals comply with the accreditation criteria ISO 17020 for Crime Scene Investigation (CSI). Albania builds and continues to populate a National DNA Database within an appropriate legal framework and to ISO standards. • A legal and regulatory framework for the development and use of forensic and biometric evidence embedded within the Albanian Government and Justice system.

⁶ The inputs presented in this document are as received in November 2024 from the British Embassy in Tirana ahead of the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting held on 10-11 December 2024 as no new inputs have been received.

⁷ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased capacity for the identification of individuals through biometrics. Improved Albanian criminal record management, criminal conviction, arrest and deportation data are more accurately attributed to the correct individual. <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in the technical capabilities of Albanian Police forensics and CSI with services adequately resourced and staffed by appropriately trained experts who have secured, demonstrated and maintained the necessary competence for their role. Improved understanding and use of forensic evidence by justice professionals who demonstrate awareness of the varied weight of evidence provided by forensics; better management of crime scenes with fewer unnecessary submissions. A regulatory framework that enables the use and sustainment of forensic science widely in the Criminal Justice System. An increased capacity for the identification of individuals through biometrics and improved and integrated record-keeping within Albania.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (AME) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of October 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of CSI capacity and recommendations for future CSI development (these have been accepted by the ASP). Assessment of the requirements to develop a National Forensic Strategy. Commencement of the implementation of a Quality Management system within the National Laboratory. Commencement of competency testing for CSI staff. Provision of a DNA reference line laboratory.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<p>The ASP has received considerable training and equipment provision for many years; despite this, forensic and CSI standards remain low. The reasons for this are structural and cannot be solved by training alone- it requires a change of culture and internal processes. The project is focusing on changing these.</p>

	<p>The new Police Law, passed in July 2024, removes the right of the police to take DNA from arrested persons other than in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code. The practical outcome of this is that the Albanian DNA Database will not develop further.</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting the ASP in developing the sub-legal act on the ‘Functioning, Management and Administration of the National Laboratory’, which is required to be developed by the new Police law. • Facilitating the work of the CSI development working groups. • The embedded scientific adviser at the National Laboratory will continue to assist the laboratory staff in implementing a Quality Management System and implementing the corrective actions required to raise standards to facilitate ISO accreditation.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) Project⁸</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>EU Policy Cycle 2022-25 against organized and serious crime</i></p> <p>Strategic goal 8: <i>Cooperation with non-EU partners (non – EU countries, international organisations and partners).</i></p> <p>Operational action 8.1 OAP 2022: <i>Cooperation with the South-East Europe: Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine.</i></p> <p><i>Activity contact point: Mr. Carlos del Moral Tomlinson, Action Leader Operational Action 8.1. Empact Firearms, JAD SEE Coordinator, Guardia Civil, E-mail: carlostimlinson@guardiacivil.es EMPACT email: firearms@guardiacivil.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>2021-2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Bulgaria, Croatia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Estonia, France, Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Switzerland, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia.</i>
DONOR	<i>European Union, lead by Spain</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUR 300,000 EMPACT FIREARMS high-value grant. • EUR 3,000 to 60,000 under specific operational request. Operational funding is supported by the Low Value Grant and Easter Partnership, the latter of funds is exclusively aimed at Eastern European countries. • From 2025: ISF FORTIFY (EUR 3.000.000)
FUNDING GAPS	<i>Low level of flexibility to reallocate funds</i>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project aims to combat firearms trafficking by implementing various Operational Actions outlined in the 2024-2025 Operational Action Plan. These actions address identified needs within jurisdictions, EU Member States, and international partners, including SEESAC. The operational actions have a comprehensive approach from the operational and strategic response to the external dimension, capacity building, innovation and prevention, by developing activities addressed by the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal intelligence picture;

⁸ The inputs presented in this document are as received in November 2024 from EMPACT ahead of the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting held on 10-11 December 2024 as no new inputs have been received.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations and judicial response, with a specific focus on high-risk criminal networks (HRCN) and key individuals; • Coordinated controls and operations targeting the online and offline trade in illicit goods & services; • Criminal finances, money laundering and asset recovery; • Document fraud; • Capacity building through training, networking and innovation; • Prevention and harm reduction, assistance to victims, awareness raising; • External dimension: cooperation with non-EU partners; • Administrative approach.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	<p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives. (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen tasking, coordination and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation. • Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase the number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of October 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMPACT FIREARMS Kickoff meeting, 7th February 2024, The Hague. • SEE JAD 2023 debriefing meeting. The meeting was held online on 11-12 June 2024. • EMPACT Firearms Strategic Meeting, 15 June 2024, EUROPOL. • Coordination meeting with the Authorities of Bosnia & Herzegovina to supervise the Coordination Center Facilities for the operational phase of the JAD SEE under the EMPACT FIA, 18-19 June 2024. • EMPACT FIA - 2nd quarterly expert meeting on the impact of Russian aggression against the UA on firearms trafficking & Handbook addendum implementation, Warsaw, 20 June 2024. • Workshop with CEPOL to SEE region to implement JAD, Poland, September 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory meeting of the SEE JAD 2024, which took place on 11 September 2024 in online format. • Workshop with OSCE, SEESAC and EMPACT in relation to control of firearms trafficking, lessons learned from WB to UA, Kiev, Ukraine, September 2024. • JAD SEE implementation of the operational phase, including the development of the Cyberpatrol, 20-27 October 2024.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the main challenges is securing funding not only for experts from the Western Balkans, Ukraine, and Moldova, but also for EU officials involved in various actions. This difficulty has necessitated holding in-person meetings in an online format. Another challenge is avoiding event duplication between EMPACT and other SEESAC activities, requiring efforts to prevent scheduling conflicts, which sometimes leads to online meetings or postponements. Additionally, there is the challenge of language barriers, as the need to use English as the working language without available budget for translation services can hinder effective communication and participation.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post operational phase analysis and support, JAD SEE 2024. • Online strategic meeting, EMPACT FIREARMS (TBD).

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>EMPACT FIA 2024 - OA 6.3 (led by Frontex)</i></p> <p>Further development of the firearms detection activities, updates, translations and implementation of the Handbook on Firearms for LEA, Border Guards and Customs in EU, WB and international version, with the implementation of the Firearms Course and Train the Trainer sessions to facilitate constant use and implementation of the Handbook on Firearms among respective participating countries. Promotion of the handbook application in all relevant OA's.</p> <p>Operationalisation of the addendum recommendations on the impact of RU aggression on UA on firearms trafficking. Enhancing and strengthening capabilities in detecting and accessing sophisticated vehicle concealments used in trafficking illicit goods (weapons/drugs/money).</p> <p>Contact point: Mr. Adam Piotrowski, Action Leader Operational Action 8.5. Empact Firearms, FRONTEX, E-mail: Adam.Piotrowski@frontex.europa.eu</p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>2022- ongoing</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>WB jurisdictions, EUBAM MD/UA, Moldova, Ukraine, EU Member States</i>
DONOR	<i>European Union</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	N/A
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of materials from partners on firearms and ammunition trafficking seizures for possible updates of the WB version of the handbook. • Organization of workshops concentrated upon developing capacity building activities linked to the regional Western Balkan version of the Handbook on firearms, such as firearms detection course and Train the Trainer to be applied at the BCP levels. • Translation and distribution of the Western Balkans version of the handbook in the respective languages.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore possibilities for further updates/versions of the Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs especially in relation to specific modus operandi in cooperation with SEESAC, Border Police forces and Customs authorities and based on the results of the operations implemented under EMPACT Firearms and emerging threats from border perspective as well as based on regular contributions from Border and Customs authorities. • Using and testing the Handbook in operational actions, including EMPACT Firearms Priority related in order to apply in the field and gather feedback for further possible developments. • Collection of the data related to the firearms trafficking cases in WB via WB-RAN created by Frontex.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization and distribution of the regional WB version of the Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs in PDF and hard copies to all WB jurisdictions in coordination with SEESAC. • Beginning of translation of the Handbook into the respective WB languages with the support of SEESAC. • Workshop on new challenges in countering firearms trafficking (including impact and the potential threat of the weapons trafficking from Ukraine and the nexus between firearms trafficking, illicit possession and migrant smuggling in the Western Balkans (Belgrade, 4-5 May 2023). • Firearms Detection Courses (FDC) for WB jurisdictions implemented in coordination with SEESAC as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-16 June 2023, Kupari, Croatia - FDC for BA, • 19-23 June 2023, Kupari, Croatia - FDC for RS officers, • 10-14 July 2023, Zagreb, Croatia - FDC for AL/XK* officers (joint activity), • 17-21 July 2023, Zagreb, Croatia - FDC for MK officers, • 23-27 October 2023, Kupari, Croatia - FDC for ME officers. • Workshops on Vehicle Concealments held in Brussels, 24-25 September 2024.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	Insufficient human resources to implement further dedicated activities for WB, e.g. Firearms Detection Courses.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the Trainer Advanced vehicle concealment workshop and CBC Action Days – October 2025. • Industry Days on Cross Border Crime, reinforcing capabilities to effectively counteract firearms trafficking – October 2025. • Implementation of JAD SEE 2025 in the Western Balkans region under ongoing Joint Operations. Dedicated activities for the intel phase of JAD SEE concerning the WB arms smuggling corridor to EU MSs. • Further exploration of the firearms trafficking/migrant smuggling nexus via dedicated questionnaires and data collection upon JAD Danube 10 implementation. • WB RAN meetings with all 6 Western Balkan jurisdictions and issuance of Western Balkans quarterly reports.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>IPA III Regional Programme: EU Regional Support to strengthen border security capacities in the Western Balkans⁹</i> <i>Contact point: Mr. Adam Piotrowski, Action Leader Operational Action 8.5. Empact Firearms, FRONTEX, E-mail: Adam.Piotrowski@frontex.europa.eu</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>2023 - 2026</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Western Balkans jurisdictions</i>
DONOR	<i>European Union</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	<i>EUR 7,000,000</i>
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	<i>N/A</i>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of Western Balkans Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategies with European Integrated Border Management (EIBM);

⁹ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalization of Status Agreements; • Developing National Coordination Centers (NCCs) in the context of EUROSUR; • Technical component – delivery of technical equipment for border checks and for border surveillance, and for NCCs.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activity directly connected with firearms: Promotion of the regional Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs Officers in the Western Balkans.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority setting among partners.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the regional Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs Officers in WBs.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST)¹⁰</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Western Balkan Criminal Project (WBCJ)</i> <i>Contact point: Ms. Azra Ikovic, E-mail: azra.ikovic@eurojust.europa.eu</i>
PROJECT DURATION	2022-2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Western Balkan judicial and law enforcement authorities
DONOR	European Union (Pre-accession Assistance IPA III instrument)
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 6,000,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Enhance operational and strategic cross-border cooperation within the Western Balkans and between the region and the EU on fighting organised crime and terrorism using modern tools and instruments.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encourage new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	By supporting cross-border investigations and prosecutions in the area of weapon trafficking, the project contributes to fighting illicit trade and flows of weapons, essential components, ammunition and explosives in the Western Balkans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, the project supported one joint investigation team between 2 Western Balkan jurisdictions on weapon trafficking, including through equipment, support to special investigative measures and action days leading to the arrest of dozens of suspects and illicit weapons such as pistols, long guns, hand grenades and ammunition.

¹⁰ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project also supported the WB authorities in two other cross-border cases with EU Member States involving weapon trafficking. Investigations are ongoing.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	Support to ongoing and future investigations upon request of the WB authorities.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)¹¹</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Western Balkans Partnership Against Crime and Terrorism - WB PACT II Contact point: Mr. Gheorghe Despa, E-mail: gheorghe.despa@cepol.europa.eu</i>
PROJECT DURATION	01 April 2024 – 31 March 2028
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia</i>
DONOR	European Union, represented by the European Commission
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 6,000,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The overall objective of the Project is to enhance the operational and strategic capacities of authorities in the Western Balkans to fight organised crime and terrorism.</p> <p>The action has two specific objectives:</p> <p>The first objective is to strengthen operational cooperation within the Western Balkans and between the region and the EU on organised crime and terrorism using the expertise of the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies.</p> <p>The second objective is to enhance the Western Balkans' strategic cooperation and the use of coherent approaches in addressing challenges related to organised crime and terrorism.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 3: By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3:

¹¹ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<p>The Project organized a national training on firearms trafficking in Belgrade, Serbia, from 16–20 December 2024, in partnership with the Serbian Ministry of Interior. The training improved investigations into poly-criminal organised crime groups by strengthening intelligence analysis, international cooperation, and police-prosecutors coordination. Topics included darknet arms sales, cryptocurrency use, encrypted communications, inter-agency data sharing, and public-private collaboration. Workgroup discussions addressed the link between firearms crime and terrorism, financial investigations, and the importance of informal communication in threat mitigation. Representatives of police, customs, and prosecution authorities took part in the activity.</p>
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a training on firearms trafficking in Podgorica, Montenegro, from 15–19 September 2025, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior of Serbia. The key topics will include illegal trade in firearms, inter-agency cooperation: (sub)regional and international, document fraud and links to terrorism.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>GIZ, Italian Ministry of Interior, Civipol, Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC)¹²</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>EU Support to strengthen the fight against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans (EU4FAST);</i> <i>Contact point: Mr. Oliver Janser, GIZ Project Manager, E-mail: oliver.janser@giz.de</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>02/06/2023 - 31/05/2027</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Western Balkan Ministries of Interior, Ministry of Security, Ministries of Human Rights and Refugees, Ministries of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Public Prosecution offices, Police agencies, Financial Intelligence Units, Local and international NGO's, social services
DONOR	EU, BMZ, Italian Ministry of Interior, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 39,303,022
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The Overall objective of the action is to strengthen the rule of law in the Western Balkans. The specific objective of the action is to improve the conditions for preventing and combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S (pls specify the goal/s)	Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encourage new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms.

¹² This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU4FAST supported several meetings in Bosnia and Herzegovina between law enforcement agencies and the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to determine the most effective approach for confronting armed migrant smuggling groups from Afghanistan, which pose a significant security threat. EU4FAST also supported meetings between EUROPOL/EMSC, EU Member States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other Western Balkan (WB) jurisdictions to discuss strategies for jointly confronting these armed criminal groups, which currently operate primarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania, as well as in other EU countries. • To more effectively counter armed smuggling groups from Afghanistan, EUROPOL established the Operational Task Force Zebra (OTF Zebra). This was the result of discussions and agreements made during several meetings supported by EU4FAST, the last of which was held in Sarajevo on May 7-8 2024. • JAD SEE 2024 – Command and Coordination Centre (Sarajevo) A Command and Coordination Centre was established in Sarajevo for the operational phase of Joint Action Day South-East Europe (JAD SEE) 2024, with EU4FAST as co-action leader. It involves operational support to the Western Balkans 6 (WB6), Moldova, Ukraine, Türkiye, and two EU Member States, in cooperation with SELEC. From the Coordination Centre in Sarajevo, colleagues from 26 countries took decisive action against key criminal threats in the region. The JAD SEE 2024 Operation „Danube“ targeted multiple criminal threats, including trafficking in human beings, migrant smuggling, drug and illegal firearms trafficking, and the fight against high-risk criminal networks. As a result of the massive operation, 796 individuals were arrested, 316 investigations initiated and 442 weapons seized. Within this operation, performed under the motto “Uniting Forces Against Organised Crime”, 31,109 officers on duty performed 655,914 checks on entities, which included 516,153 persons, 152,284 vehicles, 4,985 postal packages and 1,181 premises.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<p>In terms of challenges, firearms smuggling continues to be a significant concern, particularly in Moldova, Ukraine, and the WB6. Availability of SALW in the WB6 is still estimated as high, with gas-powered weapons imported to the region, detection of firearms in possession of/circumstances indicating the involvement of migrant smugglers, etc. EU4FAST is supporting cooperation between the EU and WB6 jurisdictions in the context of EMPACT OAP FIA (firearms), led by Spain.</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the Planning Meeting for the Joint Action Day South East Europe (JAD SEE) 2025, focused on the Intelligence and Operational Phase (OA 8.1 & 3.1 EMPACT FIA) on 10-11 June in Tirana.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue supporting EUROPOL/EMSC, and Western Balkan jurisdictions in implementing OTF Zebra. <p><i>EU4FAST is continuing the support to increase the active and meaningful participation of WB partners in EMPACT and, where possible, to encourage/realise co-leadership of WB partners of OAs under the five OAPs, including FIA, particularly important in preparation for the upcoming new EMPACT cycle. Firearms and explosives will likely continue to be a priority in the new EMPACT cycle 2026-27 and we are looking to further strengthen the WB6 participation due to the link between migrant smuggling and use of firearms (esp. due to the use of firearms by networks of Afghan migrant smugglers active in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania; also addressed through EU4FAST support to OTF Zebra).</i></p>
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>ITF Enhancing Human Security</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Conventional Weapons Destruction and Physical Security and Stockpile Management in Montenegro¹³</i> <i>Contact points: Mr. Blaž Mihelič, E-mail: blaz.mihelic@itf.si, Mr. Andrej Golob, Project Manager, E-mail: andrej.golob@itf.si</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>2017-2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministry of Interior - Emergency Management Directorate of Montenegro Ministry of Defense of Montenegro</i>
DONOR	<i>United States of America</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 4,850,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)</p> <p>1. Reduce stockpiles of surplus, obsolete and/or hazardous Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Ammunition Stockpiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destroy, dispose and/or demilitarize outdated and/or hazardous ERW – Ministry of Interior. • Demilitarize outdated and/or hazardous ammunition stockpiles – Ministry of Defense. <p>2. Improve conventional weapons and munitions stockpile security and management in Montenegro.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve conditions of storage facility Rogami of inappropriate and/or outdated ERW – Ministry of Interior. • Capacity Development – ERW and EOD Training, equipment provision – Ministry of Interior.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	<p>Goal 6 - Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.</p> <p>Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</p>

¹³ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically destroy all surplus stockpile FAE in an environmentally benign manner. • Systematically and publicly destroy all seized FAE. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
<p>CURRENT ACTIVITIES (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<p><u>Disposal and/or demilitarization of unexploded ordnance (UXO) for Ministry of Interior Mol MNG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of stored outdated and/or hazardous UXO in Podgorica/Rogami facility from the beginning of the project until April 2024 – in total 92.61 tons (T) were disposed of. <p><u>Demilitarization of ammunitions for Ministry of Defense</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By October 2024 - a total of 64.73 T (203.351pcs) of various surplus ammunition was demilitarized under MoD surplus ammunitions list project. Project finalized. <p><u>Safety and Security Adaptation of UXO storage facilities in Podgorica/Rogami - Ministry of Interior Mol MNG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase one - completed (project design) • Phase two - Phase two - completed in 2025 (construction of plateau with supporting technical elements and equipment and construction works). <p><u>Capacity Development for the Ministry of Interior, Directorate for Emergency Situations, Department for UXO – Technical Support / Equipment provision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment for disarming the UXO in the low order technique Montenegro Ministry of Interior – Directorate for Emergency Management – Department for UXO was delivered and activities finalized. • ERW/UXO transport vehicle – equipment purchased and delivered to Montenegro Ministry of Interior – Directorate for Emergency Management – Department for UXO was finalized. • The training project (consisting of IMAS EOD L2, L3 and L3 Maritime) for four employees of Mol Department of UXO commenced in end June and was in levels' segments performed by mid-September 2020.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025</p>	<p>All activities will be finalized in first half of 2025.</p>

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>ITF Enhancing Human Security</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) support in Albania Mr. Blaž Mihelič, Project Manager, E-mail: Blaz.Mihelic@itf.si Ms. Nataša Uršič, Project Manager, E-mail: Natasa.Ursic@itf.si</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>1 September 2024 - 31 December 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministry of Interior of Albania</i>
DONOR	<i>United States of America</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 500,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The primary objective of the project is to improve capacity of Ministry of Interior (MOI) to manage and store conventional weapons and ammunition. Construction of storage facility.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 7 - Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation Phase • The ITF-MoI Albania MoU developed and signed. • The technical specifications prepared.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for Offers for detailed technical project documentation/project design for construction of the facility for temporary storage of collected SALW • Project design for construction of the facility for temporary storage of collected SALW preparation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call for Offers procedure for the construction of the facility for temporary storage of collected SALW.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	NATO
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Developing institutional capabilities for good governance, accountability and prevention of corruption in the process of life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition: Lessons learned and good practices from Bosnia and Herzegovina.</i> <i>Dr. Nadja Milanova, E-mail: milanova.nadja@hq.nato.int</i>
PROJECT DURATION	2022-2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence, Jurisdictions in the South Eastern Europe</i>
DONOR	<i>Switzerland (earmarked funding within the NATO BI Trust Fund)</i>
PROJECT FUNDING AMOUNT	Estimated EUR 60,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw upon the lessons learned from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of accountability and life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and develop a methodology to analyse good governance risks in this area and possible solutions. • Produce an actionable and practical intervention toolkit in the form of a handbook for institutionalising good practices of DIB/AC to include inter alia tailored “knowledge materials” on BI, good governance and arms control for the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition as one of the functional area across the DIB/AC spectrum. • Build national capabilities for strengthening accountability and good governance in the process of life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 4 - Significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy. • Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange good practices with a specific focus on the areas defined in the Roadmap. Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy, reinforce outreach and reach messaging multipliers. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacities of relevant state institutions (ministries of defence, armed forces) to recognize risks of poor governance and their negative impact and establish good practices to address those risks in Life Cycle Management of SALW and ammunition (where relevant).
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a series of experts’ meetings to identify expertise and set up the project platform (December 2020 – December 2021). • First field mission to officially start the project with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence and to validate the research scope of the project with the main national stakeholders, conducted in April 2022. • Second field mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue research in meetings with main national stakeholders, analyse national experience, and consult the international community, namely EUFOR, OSCE Office to Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNDP in Sarajevo, conducted in June 2022. • A series of online meetings with the international community, i.e. OSCE Office to Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP in Sarajevo, SEESAC/UNDP and the Halo Trust, conducted in August 2022. Validation of findings and analysis of the experience, lessons learned and good practices of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the purposes of developing the handbook (September – November 2022). • At the end of 2022, the first stage of the project was completed with a summary of the experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the development of the outline for the handbook. • June 2023: Meeting at NATO HQ Brussels with the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ammunitions Management Advisory Team (AMAT) to discuss the development of the handbook. • Second half of 2023: Setting up the framework for the second stage of the project focused on the Handbook drafting, completion and production. • First half of 2024: Draft Handbook developed by AMAT. • Second half of 2024: Review of the draft Handbook.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<p>N/A</p>

ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025 - a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina for exchanges on the draft handbook. • 2025 – finalization of the draft handbook. • End of 2025 - planned completion of the handbook and production.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>NATO</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>Upgrade of Arms Rooms of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p><i>Ms. Renata Zaleska, Programme Manager for DCB BiH, E-mail: zaleska.renata@hq.nato.int</i> <i>Mr. Nicholas Minogue, Officer, ADN/PASP, NATO IS, E-mail: minogue.nicholas@hq.nato.int</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>TBD</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina: Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces</i>
DONOR	<i>NATO (Allied nations through DCB Trust Fund contributions)</i>
PROJECT FUNDING AMOUNT	<p>Total amount: TBD</p> <p>Preliminary Phase: EUR 46,525</p>
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	<i>N/A</i>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the BiH MoD and AF in upgrading the security of identified Armed Forces units' arms rooms up to international standards. • Decrease the risk of loss and diversion of SALW and their ammunition in coordination with the Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives Master Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial pre-feasibility assessment in October 2019 to determine the overall issue and understand the requirements. • Reached out to potential donors (December 2021).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial draft planning based on the prioritization of the arms rooms by BiH. • Prioritization of arms rooms in five groups and initial cost estimate (2022). • Development of the project proposal (2023). • Identification of the implementing partner. • Development of the project proposal for the Preliminary Phase of the project. • Implementation of the Preliminary Phase of the Project (October 2024).
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of project proposal for the follow-on phases based on the findings of the Preliminary Phase (Q2). • Start of implementation of the follow-on phase (late 2025).

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Physical Security and Stockpile Management/SALW/ammunition capacity enhancement Project</i> <i>CPT Levente Tóth, Activity Manager, Cooperative and Security Environment Pillar,</i> <i>E-mail: ltoth@racviac.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>From 2020 onward</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Jurisdictions of the region (RACVIAC jurisdictions, beneficiaries of the Roadmap)</i>
DONOR	<i>RACVIAC, in-kind contributions from ITF, UNODA, AMAT</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	N/A
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To keep a focus on the life cycle management of SALW and ammunition issue as a continuation of capacity building in PSSM of armed forces in the region through the RASR process. The Roadmap projects/activities due to the need to address arms trafficking and illicit possession of firearms have a larger focus on law enforcement than armed forces, therefore the activity will aim to target armed forces throughout the region in further improving the capacities related in particular to stockpile security and safety, including ammunition surveillance. At least one annual (educational) event is to be devoted to this particular aspect in the future (from 2020 ongoing) with the aim of keeping regional cooperation focused on this specific – military – side of the issue. A RACVIAC PSSM activity would be able to contribute filling these capacity gaps in the future in this way contributing to the Roadmap implementation as well.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the capacities of relevant state institutions (armed forces, law enforcement, forest guards, customs, correctional services) to establish inspection systems and implement Life Cycle Management of SALW and ammunition (where relevant).

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Security and Stockpile Management Seminar “Current PSSM Issues in Nutshell” 15 December 2020, RACVIAC. • Regional Workshop on Ammunition Surveillance coorganized with SEESAC, 27-29 June 2022, Podgorica, Montenegro. • Developments in Conventional Ammunition Management: What is new in policy and practice?’ – Seminar, co-organized with UNODA and GICHD AMAT, 27 November-1 December 2023 in RACVIAC. • Joint workshop with UNODA: the primary objectives of this workshop are to identify key priorities for implementing the UN Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), especially in light of the outcomes of the Fourth Review Conference, September 2024.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	N/A

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention of Southeast Europe (PCC SEE)</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Practical Implementation of the PCC SEE - Support in the deployment of officers among Contracting Parties pursuant to Article 26 PCC SEE for the purpose of criminal investigations</i> <i>Ms. Katarina Lednik: E-mail: k.lednik@dcaf.ch</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>This is a <u>permanent</u> offer of the PCC SEE Secretariat for an indefinite period.</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>12 Contracting Parties to the PCC SEE, namely: Albania, Austria, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia</i>
DONOR	<i>PCC SEE Secretariat core budget.</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	N/A
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	None
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate any phase of the ongoing criminal investigation in the beneficiary by deploying law enforcement officers from one beneficiary to the territory of another for a specified period of time in order to provide on-site expertise and operational support.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	Goal 3 – By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PCC SEE Secretariat facilitated several investigations in the PCC SEE Contracting Parties by supporting the deployment of criminal investigators from one beneficiary to another.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deployment of officers is supported, upon request, by the beneficiary jurisdictions.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Support for SEESAC Disarmament and Arms Control Activities in South East Europe Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, E-mail: bojana.balon@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	2020-2024
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministries of Interior, Police Services, Ministries of Economy, Customs Administrations, Prosecution Offices, and other relevant institutions in South East Europe
DONOR	European Union - EU Council Decision 2019/2111 , amended by EU Council Decision 2024/381
FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 11,819,605
FUNDING GAPS	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project is contributing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened regional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information-sharing on SALW control through Regional Meetings of SALW commissions and SEEFEN; • Comprehensive support for the capacity building of border police and criminal police services of the Western Balkans for countering illicit trafficking and possession of firearms through training, Standard Operating Procedures and provision of equipment; • Further enhancement of capacities for PSSM. <p>Direct project beneficiaries are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Ukraine.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	<p>Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region.</p> <p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>

	<p>Goal 6 - Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.</p> <p>Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</p>
<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full legal and regulatory framework is in place with regards to FAE producers. • Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards. <p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms related data resulting in periodic regional FAE. • Strengthen tasking, coordination and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation. • Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives. • Ensure that legal measures are in place allowing legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms. <p>Goal 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically destroy all surplus stockpile FAE in an environmentally benign manner. • Systematically and publicly destroy all seized FAE.

	<p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<p><u>Continuation of facilitation of regional cooperation and support for evidence-based policy-making on SALW control, thus further contributing to the reduction of the threat of illicit proliferation of SALW</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Operational cooperation on combatting illicit arms trafficking in South East and East Europe facilitated through the South East Europe Firearms Experts Network:</u> The 13th, 14th and 15th Meeting of South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) were held in November 2020, June and October 2021, with participation from law enforcement officials including ballistic experts, customs administration, prosecutors, criminal and border police representatives from Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. 16th SEEFEN meeting was held on 31 May - 1 June 2022 in Tirana, the 17th SEEFEN meeting was held on 1-2 November 2022 in Skopje, the 18th SEEFEN meeting was organized in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 13-14 June 2023. The 20th SEEFEN meeting took place in Tirana on 14-15 May 2024, while the 21st on 19-20 November 2024 in Jahorina. • <u>Cooperation on SALW control at the strategic level in South East and East Europe facilitated through the regional platform of SALW Commissions:</u> The 13th and 14th Regional Meetings of SALW Commissions were held in April and October 2021. The 15th and 16th Regional meetings of SALW Commissions took place in July and December 2022. The 17th and 18th Regional Meetings of SALW Commissions Meeting were held in Sarajevo on 6 July 2023, and in Tirana on 21 December 2023, respectively. The 19th SALW Commissions meeting meeting was organized on 11 July 2024 in Podgorica, and the 20th on 12 December 2024 in Skopje. These meetings bring together representatives of institutions from the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. In addition, the delegation from Kyrgyzstan participated in 19th meeting, while the delegation from Cambodia attended 20th meeting. Support was provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of developing a new SALW Control Strategy. SEESAC supported the SALW Coordination Board of Bosnia and Herzegovina in organizing three dedicated workshops: on 27-28 February 2024 to initiate the revision of the SALW Control Strategy and Action Plan, on 6-7 June 2024 to review the revised text, and on 23-25 October 2024 to finalize its development, while ensuring alignment with the updated Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence based policymaking and harmonisation of SALW control legislation with the EU acquis: • Support was provided to the SALW Commission of North Macedonia in assessing its SALW Control Strategy and Action Plan, which expired at the end of 2021. The new strategic documents were adopted by the Government in October 2022. • Consultative support was provided to the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia in the drafting of the new Law on Weapons. In 2023, SEESAC conducted a gap analysis of the harmonization of this Law with the relevant EU acquis by developing tables of concordance. • Additionally, a gap analysis assessed the harmonization level of the Law on Explosives for Civil Use through the developed tables of concordance. From 16–19 September 2024, a workshop in Struga provided expert support to the working group for further harmonization of the Law with the EU regulatory framework. • On 18–19 October 2022, SEESAC organised a workshop in Banja Luka on harmonising Bosnia and Herzegovina’s arms control laws with the EU acquis. The meeting brought together relevant actors to discuss aligning and standardising the jurisdiction’s different Laws on Weapons with EU regulatory framework. • During this period, SEESAC provided support to Serbia’s SALW Coordination Council in evaluating its Roadmap Action Plan covering 2019-2020 and developing the new one for 2023-2024. To this purpose, a workshop was organized in Belgrade on 7 June 2023. • Additionally, SEESAC supported the SALW Control Council of Serbia in evaluating the SALW Control Strategy, expiring at the end of 2024, during four workshops held on 18-19 April, 25-26 April 2024, 27-28 June 2024, and 2-3 September 2024. As a result, a concept for a new SALW Control Strategy was developed, and a final evaluation report to align the new Strategy with the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. • The Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade of Serbia was supported in upgrading their software for record-keeping and reporting on arms transfers completed in August 2024. • The Ministry of Interior of Serbia received SEESAC’s support in drafting the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition to address any existing gaps and ensure harmonization with the EU Acquis and relevant international practices during a workshop on 5-6 December 2023. The draft was further refined at the subsequent workshops held on 28 February to 1 March 2024 and on 27-29 March 2024. • A workshop on Draft Law on Civil Use of Explosives was held on 22-23 February 2024 in Montenegro with the aim of bringing Montenegro's legislation in line with the EU acquis, resulting in the first draft of the revised Law on explosives for civil use. As a follow-up,
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	<p>SEESAC completed the gap analysis of the level of harmonization of the new draft law with the EU acquis and international practices through developed tables of concordances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Workshop on the development of the first draft of the new Law on Arms and Ammunition in Montenegro was organized from 3 to 4 September 2024 in Podgorica. • Support was provided in the process of evaluating the existing SALW and Explosives Control Strategy and Action plan in Kosovo and the development of the new ones. The new strategic documents were adopted in 2024. • Support was provided to Albania in the development of the new Roadmap Action Plan. The Action Plan was adopted by the Government in December 2021. • The Ministry of Internal Affairs in Albania was supported in the harmonization of SALW control legislation with the relevant EU regulatory framework. A gap analysis and table of concordance of the level of harmonization of the draft Law on Weapons with the EU regulatory framework was completed in the second quarter of 2024. • To support the harmonization of arms control legislation of the Western Balkans jurisdictions with the EU acquis in the area of voluntary surrender and firearms legalization, SEESAC developed The Emergency Protocol for Safe Storage of Ammunition and Explosives (EP1) and Emergency Protocol (EP2) on the safe transport of small quantities of surrendered or recovered ammunition and explosives for final destruction. • Regional workshops on the harmonization of legislation related to arms control for the authorities coming from the Western Balkans, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine were organized in Brussels on 31 May - 1 June 2023 and on 21-22 October 2024. The Workshops were organized by SEESAC together with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs and the European External Action Service. • Knowledge tools: • The Regional Reports on Arms Exports for 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, which collect information on arms exports from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia, were published. Data collection for the Regional Report on Arms Exports for 2022 was initiated, and the report will be finalized and published in the beginning of 2025. • The Study on hand grenades produced in or originating from the Western Balkans, alongside the Best Practice Manual, was developed and is available for the authorities and interested parties in English, Albanian, BCMS and Macedonian. • Monitoring of trends: Maintenance of the Armed Violence Monitoring Platform continued, with regular dissemination of SEE Armed Violence Monitors, enabling the capture of trends and development of policy-relevant on-demand knowledge products. In total, 13
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	<p>monthly reports, 17 quarterly reports, and 17 In Focus reports have been shared and published on SEESAC's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to SALW Commissions' members continued through the provision of English language courses, which were attended at different levels and in different numbers by members of the commissions of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. • A two-day training on capacity building on gender mainstreaming to the members of the Gender Equality Coordination Board of the Ministry of Security of BiH. The training, organized on 25-26 January 2021 via an online platform, was attended by 12 participants. • On-demand support was provided to the SALW Coordination Board in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2023 for their campaign against femicide by preparing tailor-made material on domestic violence in BiH, particularly on the role firearms have in gender-based violence. Additionally, an overview of ongoing and planned activities related to integrating the gender perspective into SALW control in BiH was developed. • The Gender and SALW Control Resource Pack was finalized and published on the website in June 2024, providing an overview of the wide range of knowledge products developed by SEESAC and serving as a simple reference guide and aid to policymakers, practitioners, and researchers. <p><u>Support to capacity building of law enforcement and border authorities in preventing and countering illicit arms and explosives trafficking</u></p> <p>Support to border police services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the priorities identified through the Needs Assessment of the Border Police services in Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro regarding the prevention of illicit firearms trafficking, SEESAC provided <u>strategic and comprehensive support</u>. This support encompassed the development and institutionalization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the procurement of specialized equipment, and the implementation of tailored training. • With SEESAC support a total of <u>12 Standard Operating Procedures</u>, covering detection, risk analysis, and emergency response procedures, were developed and endorsed by Border police services of Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. Complementing these efforts, in 2024, SEESAC completed <u>procurement and delivery of 940 units of specialized equipment</u>, with a total value exceeding USD 3.5 million.
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- The ‘The Handbook for Border Guards and Customs – regional Western Balkans version’ was developed in cooperation with FRONTEX. The handbook version was translated into local languages, printed out and disseminated to the relevant authorities.
 - Workshop on the addendum of the "Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs Officers – regional Western Balkans version" was held jointly with FRONTEX, and in the framework of EMPACT firearms, on 4-5 May 2023 in Belgrade for the representatives of six Western Balkan jurisdictions.
 - Based on the Handbook and developed SOPs, a series of one-week trainings of trainers were delivered jointly with FRONTEX for 64 border police officers and 20 customs officers from [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Serbia](#), [Albania](#), [Kosovo](#), [North Macedonia](#) and [Montenegro](#) between June and October 2023. An additional Firearms Detection Training was conducted for the border police of [Montenegro](#) in 2024.
 - Facilitation of regional cooperation among border police services: The regional meetings of Border and Customs officials were held on 6-7 December 2022 on [21-22 November 2023](#), and on [5-6 November 2024](#) in cooperation with FRONTEX.
- Support to criminal police services:**
- Based on the needs assessments of the capacities of the criminal police services in the Western Balkans to counter illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, SEESAC provided comprehensive support, including the development of SOPs, procurement of equipment and training. The processes of procurement of equipment for criminal police were initiated in 6 Western Balkan jurisdictions . As a result, 821 piece of equipment was procured through several procurement processes, totalling over USD 1.65 million, and delivered across six Western Balkans jurisdictions .
 - With SEESAC's support, 20 Standard Operating Procedures (on investigations, on detection, on risk analysis, emergency situations, and on FFPs) for the criminal police of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia were finalized, translated and sent for approval to relevant authorities, with SOPs endorsed in Serbia, Albania and Montenegro by the end of 2024, while they are still under the review in BIH and North Macedonia.
 - In 2024, North Macedonia was assisted in developing a Standard Operating Procedure for firearms reported as stolen, lost, or found.
 - Based on developed SOPs, one-week trainings on the detection of firearms and practical implementation of the risk analysis methodology were organized for the criminal police of [Serbia](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Kosovo](#), [Albania](#), [Montenegro](#) and [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

from April to July 2023. An additional firearms detection training was also delivered to the State Investigation and Protection Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5-8 December 2023.

- Facilitation of regional cooperation among criminal police services: [The 1st regional meeting of criminal police representatives on countering illicit arms trafficking](#) for the representatives of the Western Balkans jurisdictions and Moldova was held on 14-15 December 2021, the [2nd meeting](#) was held on 30 November - 1 December 2022, the [3rd](#) on 25 – 26 April 2023 and the [4th](#) regional meeting was held on 23-24 April 2024.

Improvement of capacities for physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) through infrastructure security upgrades, surplus reduction and training

Security of 16 evidence rooms:

- Security upgrade works at three Mol evidence rooms in Montenegro – Nikšić, Bar and Bijelo Polje – were completed (2020).
- The security upgrades of four evidence rooms requested by the Mol of Serbia (Stari Grad, Palilula, Novi Beograd, Zemun) were completed in March 2024, including the technical handovers to the beneficiaries. The works included refurbishing the rooms, installing security doors with access control equipment, windows fitted with security bars, CCTV systems, and weapons racks.
- The security upgrade of the three selected evidence rooms in BiH belonging to the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DKPT), a Border Police field office, and the State Agency for Investigation and Protection (SIPA) was completed at the end of 2023. The upgrade works, including CCTV equipment installation, were completed by November 2023, followed by the delivery and installation of weapons cabinets.
- In North Macedonia, activities for the upgrade of three evidence rooms (in Gazi Baba, Prilep and Tetovo) were completed in March 2023, followed by the installation and delivery of weapons cabinets. The works entailed refurbishing the rooms' floors, walls, and ceilings, installing security doors with access control equipment, windows fitted with security bars, CCTV systems, and the supply and delivery of weapons racks.
- The security upgrade of the evidence safekeeping rooms at the Police Directorates in Pristina, Prizren and Mitrovica south was completed in November 2021. The evidence rooms were equipped with metal cabinets for storing weapons, secured with padlocks.
- Through SEESAC support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions in addressing the risks posed by SALW surplus, a total of 7,211 SALW, along with 4,933 SALW parts and components, were successfully destroyed as part of ongoing disarmament and stockpile reduction efforts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapons destruction was supported in Bosnia and Herzegovina: 1,069 of pieces SALW and 795 parts and components of SALW were destroyed in October 2020; additional 1,082 pieces and 891 SALW parts and components were destroyed on 18 September 2021, 1,304 pieces of SALW and 1,189 of their components were destroyed on 21 November 2022 and 1,958 pieces of SALW and 1981 of its parts and components in December 2024; in Kosovo: 1,000 pieces of SALW were destroyed on 9 July 2023; in Montenegro: 798 pieces of SALW and 77 SALW parts and components were destroyed on 8 June 2023. • <u>Regional cooperation on physical security and stockpile management was facilitated:</u> Three regional workshops were held in Podgorica on 27-29 June 2022, in Skopje on 27-28 September 2023, and in Tirana on 8-9 October 2024. The workshops gathered participants from the Western Balkans and Moldova, involved in Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) of conventional weapons and ammunition, as well as representatives of international organizations (RCC, RACVIAC, ITF, OSCE, UNDP, AMAT, US DoS PMWRA) engaged in this area. • <u>Capacity development:</u> A total of 200 police officers from the Mol of the Republic of Serbia responsible for recordkeeping and safe storage of weapons and ammunition in police stations/administrations, attended four national PSSM workshops conducted in September and October 2023.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of a wide set of measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, some project activities have been affected, such as organization of some meetings, and the implementation of the activities stemming from the needs' assessment of border police services such as the development of SOPs, purchase of equipment and training. In 2022, meetings, trainings and workshops were organized in a mix of settings - in-person, hybrid or online. Furthermore, the war in Ukraine created global market volatility, affecting the availability, pricing, and delivery of goods.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNTIL END OF 2025	N/A. The project under the framework of the EU CD (CFSP) 2019/2111, amended by CD (CFSP) 2024/381, was completed in December 2024.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
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PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Support for SEESAC Disarmament and Arms Control Activities in South East Europe <i>Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, E-mail: bojana.balon@undp.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	2024-2027
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministries of Interior, Police Services, Ministries of Economy, Customs Administrations, Prosecution Offices, and other relevant institutions in South East Europe</i>
DONOR	European Union - EU Council Decision 2024/3006
FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 3,999,920
FUNDING GAPS	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project is contributing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of a legislative and regulatory framework on SALW, firearms, and explosives, and its harmonisation with the EU framework and standardisation in South-East Europe; • Capacity building of customs authorities, border police and criminal police services of the Western Balkans to counter illicit trafficking and possession of firearms; • Continuation of evidence-based policy-making on SALW control, addressing the needs of both men and women; • Strengthened regional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information-sharing on SALW control through continued regional meetings of SALW Commissions and SEEFEN; • Comprehensive support for capacity building of border police, criminal police services, and customs authorities of the Western Balkans to prevent and disrupt illicit trafficking and possession of firearms, through training, Standard Operating Procedures and provision of equipment; • Further enhancement of capacities for Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM). <p>Direct project beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and North Macedonia.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region.

	<p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 6 - Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.</p> <p>Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</p>
<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards. <p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms related data resulting in periodic regional FAE. • Strengthen tasking, coordination and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation. • Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

	<p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives. <p>Goal 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematically destroy all surplus stockpile FAE in an environmentally benign manner. Systematically and publicly destroy all seized FAE. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	N/A
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<p><u>Facilitation of regional cooperation and support for evidence-based policymaking on SALW control, thus further contributing to the reduction of the threat of illicit proliferation of SALW</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize one SEEFEN meeting. Organize two SALW Commissions meetings. Enhance the capacities of SALW Commissions and SEEFEN members through targeted training sessions and the provision of technical and advisory support. Provide on-demand support for harmonisation of arms control legislation for relevant amendments regarding EU legislation on arms control and standardisation throughout the SEE region. Organize the annual Regional Workshop on Harmonization of Legislation on SALW control. Further integrate the gender perspective in SALW control policies in SEE. Track trends through the Armed Violence Monitoring Platform and regular publishing and dissemination of SEE Armed Violence Monitors. Publish the Regional Report on Arms Exports for 2022. <p><u>Further support to capacity building of law enforcement and border authorities in preventing and countering illicit arms and explosives trafficking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of the Training on Firearms Detection, Risk Analysis, Emergency Situation and Investigations on demand. Organize one regional meeting of criminal police representatives. SOPs endorsed by remaining two criminal police services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advisory and technical support on demand. • Support Customs Authorities in finalizing the SOPs in the area of SALW control. • Organize trainings for representatives of Customs and Border Services. <p><u>Improvement of capacities for physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) through infrastructure security upgrades, surplus reduction and training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ToR for the recruitment of a local engineer in Moldova to support the implementation of project activities on the ground. • Procure professional company to prepare security upgrade designs for up to six selected evidence rooms and to provide supervision of the construction works.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>SEESAC</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>Support for SEESAC for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans and in support of disarmament and arms control activities in South-East and East Europe</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, E-mail: bojana.balon@undp.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>19 December 2022 – 19 December 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>ROADMAP beneficiaries, Ukraine and Moldova institutions</i>
DONOR	<i>European Union - EU Council Decision 2022/2321</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 4,006,955
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW/firearms and their ammunition in the Western Balkans. • Strengthened interregional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information-sharing on arms control. • Strengthened capacities of law enforcement services of Moldova and Ukraine for preventing/ countering illicit trafficking and possession of firearms.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countering illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine through capacity assessments and technical assistance to the law-enforcement and border-police authorities.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	<p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms related data resulting in periodic regional FAE. Strengthen tasking, coordination and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation. Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency. Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms.
CURRENT ACTIVITIES (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<p><u>I Coordination of the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW/firearms and their ammunition in the Western Balkans</u></p> <p>Coordination of implementation of the Roadmap was facilitated by organizing 4 Regional Roadmap meetings and 4 rounds of Local Coordination Meetings in each capital, while monitoring was ensured through 4 monitoring reports prepared based on inputs from the SALW commissions and international and regional organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One round of local coordination meetings on the implementation of the Roadmap was supported in six Western Balkans jurisdictions during June-July 2023. The 10th round of the local Roadmap coordination meetings took place in all six jurisdictions throughout

	<p>November and December 2023. During this round of the local Roadmap coordination meetings, the first draft of the revised Roadmap was discussed, with the exception of Serbia, where such a meeting was held in January 2024. The 11th round of the local Roadmap coordination meetings took place throughout May and June 2024, while the 12th round of these meetings was organized throughout November 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 9th Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting was held on 4-5 July 2023 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the 10th Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting was organized in Tirana, Albania on 19-20 December 2023. The 11th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting was held on 9-10 July 2024 in Podgorica, Montenegro, and the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting on 10-11 December 2024 in Skopje, North Macedonia. <p>Monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 9th regional monitoring report was developed and distributed ahead of the 9th regional Roadmap coordination meeting. The 10th regional monitoring report was developed and shared prior to the 10th regional Roadmap coordination meeting. The 11th regional monitoring reports were prepared and shared before the 11th regional Roadmap meeting. The 12th regional monitoring reports were developed and shared ahead of the 12th regional Roadmap coordination meeting. • Online meeting organized on 24 February 2023 with representatives of the SALW Commissions in the Western Balkans where key findings and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review report were presented and discussed. • Based on the inputs received from the Western Balkans jurisdictions, EU, Germany, France, other donors, and international organizations, the Zero Draft of the Revised Roadmap was developed, and the first round of consultation was completed. SEESAC finalized the 2nd Revised Roadmap draft in early 2024, incorporating inputs from SALW Commissions. The consolidated document was shared with international organizations and donors for final comments and feedback and sent to SALW Commissions for final revision. The revised text of the Roadmap was discussed during the 11th round of local coordination meetings, and the final text was consolidated at the 11th Regional Roadmap meeting. The Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), their ammunition, and explosives in the Western Balkans by 2030 was endorsed by the Western Balkans Ministers of Interior during the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs on 28-29 October 2024.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund continued to be coordinated and monitored by SEESAC as its Secretariat. The Trust Fund continued its operations with the strong support and partnership from its principal donors and partners - Germany, France, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Norway and under the overall support of the European Union. By December 2024, the Trust Fund received funding contributions in the cumulative amount of US\$ 28.5 million from its principal donors, whereby three new contributions of about \$1 million were received in 2024 from Germany (\$524,254), Sweden (\$363,361), and France (\$108,013). A coordinated approach to SALW Control was ensured through a diverse set of projects implemented by UNDP and UNODC in close coordination with local authorities. The next phase of the regional project initiative Hermes, which supports the countering of firearms and ammunition trafficking via postal shipments, was approved in October 2024 by the Trust Fund's Steering Committee in the amount of \$1.3 million. This brings the total number of projects funded thus far by the Trust Fund to 25. Out of these, 16 projects have been completed by 2024, while 9 remain currently active. • On 21-23 June 2023, SEESAC co-organized a meeting on SALW violence prevention and reduction, together with the Swedish Parliamentary Forum on SALW, the Regional Cooperation Council and the Parliament of Albania. The meeting aimed to enhance parliamentary awareness understanding, and action on SALW control, regional and international frameworks, and the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. • The Western Balkans Roadmap development and implementation were presented at the NATO SALW and Mine Action Course, organized in Oberammergau, Germany, from 12-16 June 2023, while the broader presentation on the Regional Approach to SALW Control in South East Europe was presented from 10-14 June 2024. • Outreach on the Western Balkans Roadmap, its structure, best practices, and implementation process continued during the first quarter of 2024 through presentations delivered at a variety of events organized by partners such as UNIDIR, UNODA, NATO and EU. • The relevance of the Western Balkans Roadmap and its impact on regional cooperation and the fight against organized crime was acknowledged at the EU Western Balkans summit on 18 December 2024 in Brussels. The Brussels Declaration highlights the importance of combatting the trafficking of small arms and light weapons and calls on the Western Balkans partners to pursue the implementation of the Roadmap. The strong local ownership and progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap was also
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	<p>recognized at the Summit Meeting of the Berlin Process in Berlin on 14 October 2024; in particular, its relevance for regional cooperation and contribution towards fulfilling the key security standards for EU membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap as a leading regional SALW control initiative in a UNDP blog (Silencing Guns to Focus on Development, 24 Oct 2024), highlighted its global relevance and replication in the Caribbean, Central America, and Kyrgyz Republic. <p><u>II Contribute to strengthened interregional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information-sharing on arms control</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap and its regional approach has continued to be followed as best practice globally and following its approach two other regional roadmaps have been adopted, in the Caribbean in 2020 and more recently the Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap was adopted beginning 2025. • Additionally, SEESAC has proactively promoted interregional cooperation and sharing of good practices, which in 2024 was achieved through two comprehensive study visits by delegations from the Kyrgyz Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Western Balkans. These visits provided opportunities for knowledge sharing on SALW control, focusing on best practices in strategy development, regulatory frameworks, and operational measures. • SEESAC supported the process of developing the Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap on Firearms from the beginning, by providing the lessons learnt in the development and implementation of the WBs Roadmap at the <i>XXIII Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials</i> (CIFTA) on 5 April 2023 and the meeting was organized by UNLIREC and the Organization of American States (OEA) in Panama on 25-27 October 2023. • The Roadmap’s Monitoring Framework was also presented during a thematic workshop organized by UNIDIR and UNODA on Regional Roadmaps and National Target Setting on 27 September 2023. • SEESAC took part in an assessment mission and shared detailed information on experiences from South East Europe at a workshop with consultative meetings dedicated to the development of the first SALW control project in Kyrgyzstan on 3-9 December 2023. • As a follow-up to the joint assessment mission, SEESAC supported a study visit of the delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic to the Western Balkans from 12-16 July 2024 and
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	<p>contributed to the dedicated workshop in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan on 22-24 July 2024 on the development of a national strategy and action plan on SALW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEESAC organized three side events on the margins of the Fourth Review Conference (RevCon4) on the UN Programme of Action (PoA) to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI), which took place from 17 - 28 June 2024 in New York. The three side events were dedicated to 1) Sharing of good practices related to SALW Control Roadmaps in the Western Balkans, the Caribbean and Central America, organized jointly with UNODA 2) Mainstreaming of a gender perspective into SALW Control: From Policymaking to Operations organized jointly with UNODA and 3) Investigations of firearms-related crimes – good practices from Western Balkans. In addition, SEESAC supported the participation of the Head of the SALW Commission of Albania, the Head of the SALW Coordination Board of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a Senior Member of the SALW Coordination Council of Serbia in the side events to present the experiences from the Western Balkans in each side events. <p><u>IV Capacity development of law enforcement services including ballistic laboratories and customs services of the Western Balkans for countering illicit trafficking and possession of firearms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A needs assessment of the capacities of Customs Authorities in the Western Balkans to counter firearms trafficking was completed. Assessments were conducted in Serbia (27–31 May 2024), Bosnia and Herzegovina (16–19 July 2024), Montenegro (22–26 July 2024), Albania (16–20 September 2024), Kosovo (30 September–4 October 2024), and North Macedonia (14–18 October 2024). SEESAC is preparing detailed reports based on these assessments, which will form the basis for future support in areas such as training, equipment provision, and the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Guidelines on the minimum standards for constructing indoor and outdoor shooting ranges and guidelines on ammunition reloading were developed. These guidelines were developed based on the recommendations of the needs assessments of Criminal Police services in the Western Balkans conducted under the framework of the EU Decision (CFSP) 2018/1778 and are part of the ongoing support to ballistic laboratories, specifically in standardizing practices across the region. On 23 February 2023, as part of the ISO 17025 accreditation process for the Mol North Macedonia-Forensic Lab, SEESAC conducted an assessment visit to the indoor shooting range-Forensic Lab. The resulting report, outlining the status of the shooting range in the Forensic Lab and recommendations, was shared with the Mol. On 29 May 2023 in Skopje,
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	the design for upgrades at the shooting range was presented, ensuring alignment with relevant national construction and legislation.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNTIL END OF 2025	<p><u>I Coordination of the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW/firearms and their ammunition in the Western Balkans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize two Regional Roadmap Coordination meetings. • Support the organization of the two rounds of the local Roadmap coordination meetings. • Develop two Regional Monitoring Report on the progress of implementing the Roadmap. • Continue supporting the activities of the MPTF. • Continue developing and populating the online platform dedicated to the Roadmap. • Conduct the final review of the Roadmap. <p><u>II Capacity development of law enforcement services, including ballistic laboratories and customs services of the Western Balkans for countering illicit trafficking and possession of firearms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and translate a detailed report on the capacities of the Western Balkans customs authorities to counter firearms trafficking, and send it to local authorities for endorsement. • Finalize the procurement of the ballistic equipment for the Bomb Disposal Unit in North Macedonia

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>Support for Enhancing the Fight Against the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans</i></p> <p><i>Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, bojana.balon@undp.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>1 September 2021 – 31 December 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Kosovo</i>

DONOR	<i>European Union (Supported through IPA II Multi-Country Action programme 2020)</i>
PROJECT FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 4,996,576
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	/
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen strategic and operational capacity of the WB jurisdictions to conduct firearms investigations and exchange information within the region and with the EU on illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition. • To support the jurisdictions to better understand and increase the response to the factors fuelling demand and misuse of firearms in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms-related data resulting in periodic regional FAE. • Strengthen tasking, coordination, and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation. • Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade, and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures, and transparency. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional, and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms.

	<p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of FAE. • Increase awareness of dangers of celebratory shooting in particular as major contributors to firearm related death and injury. • Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increased number of seized firearms, ammunition, and explosives. • Ensure that legal measures are in place allowing legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms.
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – December 2024)</p>	<p>Support to Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) in the WB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Facilitation of regional cooperation among FFPs:</u> The Annual Workshops for the FFPs and training on gender analysis and gender-sensitive data collection was organized on 21-22 September 2022. The second annual workshop was held on 23-25 May 2023, focusing on drafting a regional SALW threat assessment. The 3rd Annual Regional Workshop of FFPs was held on 3-5 December 2024. • <u>Capacity development of FFPs:</u> • The Regional Training on Critical Thinking Skills and Analytical Capacities was held on 10-13 May 2022. • The Regional Open-Source Intelligence Training was organized on 14-17 May 2022. • Workshops for the development of SOPs for FFPs were organized in Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia. The SOPs, translated into local languages, were endorsed by the relevant authorities f. • A Regional Cyber Patrol Training was organized on 20-21 October 2022 to further improve situational analysis of criminal behaviour regarding illicit arms trafficking on the web. • A meeting of the task force with the assignment to propose the model of the FFP to the Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held with SEESAC’s support in Sarajevo on 28 November 2022, based on the specific request of the relevant authorities. The meeting resulted in an agreed model of FFP in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be officially proposed by the task force to the Council of Ministers for adoption. • At the request of the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, SEESAC provided support for the organization of another meeting of the Working Group for establishing a

	<p>Firearms Focal Point in BiH in Sarajevo on 29 February 2023 to discuss the modalities and the next steps regarding the establishment of the FFP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cooperation with the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), the Regional Meeting on Knowledge and the Best Practice Exchange in the Field of Ballistic Examination and Ballistic Intelligence was organized on 23-25 November 2022 to strengthen ballistic and forensic capacities for investigation of firearms-related crimes in the field of data collection and analysis. • A Regional Training on Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT) was organized from 21 to 24 March 2023 for Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) representatives from the Western Balkans. • In cooperation with EMPACT and NABIS, a Regional Workshop on Intelligence Collection of the Firearms Focal Points in support of EMPACT Joint Action Days for FFPs representatives from the Western Balkans was organized from 5-6 April 2023 in Budva. • A Regional Workshop on Intelligence Collection of the Firearms Focal Points in support of EMPACT Joint Action Days (JAD) was held in Skopje, North Macedonia, from 4 to 6 September 2023, for the representatives of six Western Balkans jurisdictions, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. • SEESAC supported the EMPACT Joint Action Days South East Europe (EMPACT JAD SEE 2023) from 13 to 18 November 2023, targeting firearms and drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, and human trafficking, dismantling high-risk criminal networks. In cooperation with the Ministry of Interior in Skopje and EMPACT, SEESAC facilitated cyber patrolling activities for cybersecurity units from each Western Balkans jurisdiction, providing logistical assistance and necessary equipment. • In cooperation with EMPACT FIREARMS, SEESAC organized a Regional Meeting on Firearms Trafficking Investigation Identification in Belgrade from 26 to 27 March 2024 in support of the implementation of the EMPACT Joint Action Days in South East Europe (JAD SEE) 2024. • SEESAC provided support in conducting cyber patrolling as part of the EMPACT Joint Action Days South East Europe in Sarajevo from 21 to 26 October 2024. • From 16-17 May 2023, a visit to the National Ballistic Intelligence Service (NABIS) in the United Kingdom was organized for FFP representatives from Serbia and Montenegro. • To support the operationalization of the FFP in Albania, as it transitioned from a virtual to a physical format, an expert visited Albania's State Police headquarters from 28 to 29 February 2024. The visit assessed the linkage of firearms databases and the Laboratory Information Management System, resulting in a report assessing the capacity and functionality of FFPs with recommendations.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A two-day Workshop on the Outreach of the FFP and Ballistic Laboratory to the Prosecution Office in Support of Firearms Investigations in Pristina was held on 17-18 October 2023, which marked the first in a series of such workshops, followed by the workshop in Belgrade from 7-8 December 2023, in Podgorica from 20-21 February 2024, in Skopje on 28 March 2024, and Podgorica and Tirana on 20-21 February and on 5-6 March 2024, respectively. A total of 70 sessions were organized in 2023 and 2024. • The Analyst Notebook training sessions were held in Belgrade (10–14 June 2024) and Tirana (23–27 September 2024) for FFP representatives from the Ministry of Interior in Serbia and the Albanian State Police. These trainings enhanced the strategic and operational capacities of FFPs, focusing on using the Analyst Notebook for firearms investigations, regional information exchange, and delivering analytical and strategic products. • An Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) training for Bosnia and Herzegovina police in Sarajevo (22–24 July 2024) enhanced skills in internet investigations, data sourcing, and virtual currency analysis. • Horizon Scanning and High-Value Targets Training designed to enhance the ability of FFPs to address new risks was organized in from 4-5 December 2024. • Analyst trainings were held in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2–6 September 2024), Serbia (7–10 October 2024), and Montenegro (29 October–1 November 2024), Skopje (12-15 November 2024), Pristina (26-29 November 2024), and Tirana 3-6 December 2024), enhancing FFP representatives' capacities in firearms investigations, data analysis, and intelligence. Topics included national FFP responsibilities, databases, emerging threats like 3D-printed firearms, regulatory frameworks, tracing, and international cooperation. • The knowledge product on the new technologies, "3D-Printed Firearms, State of Play, Challenges, and Law Enforcement Approach," was finalized. It explores the threat of 3D-printed firearms in the Western Balkans, offering recommendations, best practices, and strategies for police and judiciary intervention. <p>Capacities of authorities in Western Balkans to conduct crime scene investigations in accordance with relevant standards, EU good practices and guidelines strengthened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Workshop on Crime Scene Investigation was organized in Tirana on 15-16 November 2022 with the aim to train them on the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) best practice manuals and, specifically, on recovery of firearms, essential components, ballistic evidence, ammunition, explosives and explosives precursors. • The regional Training on Photography and Custody Chain was organized from 9 to 11 May 2023.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Methodology for the assessment of the capacities of Crime Scene Investigation units in the Western Balkans to counter illicit possession and trafficking of firearms</i> was developed and used as a baseline for an initial audit of the capacities of CSI Units. • The <i>initial audit</i> of Crime Scene Investigation Units was conducted in Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia. The resulting Needs Assessment Reports, translated into local languages, were sent for review and endorsement to the relevant institutions. Based on the initial audit, an Action Plan for Preparing ISO/IEC 172020: 2012 accreditation for CSI units and Needs Assessment for CSI units reports were developed. • Participants from several jurisdictions were supported to attend the ENFSI EWG Firearms and GSR Annual Meeting in 2022, 2023, and 2024. • SEESAC compared the existing CSI Units' SOPs in the Western Balkans jurisdictions, , with the best practices of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). The comparison resulted in the Reports on Gap Analysis between the SOP for CSI and ENFSI best practices, which contains findings, recommendations, and a comparison table unique for each jurisdiction. The Report for CSI Units in the region were developed and sent to relevant institutions for endorsement. On 24 April 2024 in Sarajevo, at the margins of the regional criminal police meeting, SEESAC organized a dedicated meeting with CSI Unit representatives from each WB jurisdiction to present the findings and the above comparison table and ENFSI best practices, as well as discuss recommendations for amending existing CSI SOPs and further support. • The Guidelines for drafting a quality manual for a CSI inspection body according to the standard ISO/IEC 17020:2012 were finalized, translated into local languages, and sent to relevant institutions in Western Balkans jurisdictions. Their purpose is to help the relevant authorities draft a Quality Management System (QMS) Manual that defines an organization's internal rules and usually includes policies, manuals, procedures, and work instructions necessary for ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation. • The Curriculum for the training of trainers on selected advanced CSI topics was developed. <p>Knowledge enhanced of factors fuelling demand and misuse of firearms in the Western Balkans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the Methodology for Research on Demand and Misuse of Firearms in the Western Balkans, formulated to guide the planning of each research component, a detailed plan for applying quantitative and qualitative methods was finalized. Instruments were drafted, including a Questionnaire for the perception survey planned in the framework of the research and Guides for focus group discussions and key expert
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interviews. Upon finalization, the Pilot survey (for the quantitative phase - F2F interviews with 30 respondents, and for the qualitative phase - 1 FGD with potential firearms owners) was conducted. The instruments were subsequently reviewed based on the insights gained from the pilot survey and SEESAC's review. Fieldwork began in November 2024 and included at least 24 focus groups and 40 key informant interviews across all jurisdictions. Participants included firearms legal experts, licensing officers, FFP members, psychologists, prosecutors, arms owners and sellers, journalists, and representatives of hunting, sports, and shooting associations. A perception survey targeting citizens (1,000 per jurisdiction) was also conducted, with an emphasis on youth, ensuring at least 300 respondents aged 18–30 in each jurisdiction.

- **Support to Victims of Armed Violence in the Western Balkans.** As an integral part of the research, an analysis of *Legal and Policy Frameworks for Supporting Victims of Armed Violence in the Western Balkans* has been conducted, and a report has been reviewed by SEESAC team members. The document provides an overview of definitions of the term "victim" throughout the region and outlines regional and international legal frameworks while screening SALW control strategies and action plans with a focus on victims' rights..
- **Study on Factors related to Popular Culture Shaping Firearm Demand and Risk Assessment in Western Balkans.** To understand how online platforms and popular culture, as presented on the open public web, influence individuals' motivations to acquire and use firearms, a crucial part of the research is focused on studying online platforms and internet content associated with firearms. During the reporting period, the evaluation for selecting the agency to conduct the Popular Culture Online and Social Listening has been finalized. Following the selection of the agency, the methodology for the study was drafted. Additionally, keywords and sources for tracking were identified in close coordination with the agency, and the research has been set up in an online space for implementation.
- The Knowledge Product on Mapping Good Practices of Armed Violence Prevention Measures was finalized. It identifies and maps good practices, outlines the overall approach and principles for effective violence prevention, and provides an overview of promising practical measures for violence prevention.

Awareness and operational capacity to fight illicit and/or misuse of firearms raised among key beneficiaries:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Balkans Regional Awareness-raising Task Force related to misuse and illegal possession of firearms has been established. • Six (6) WB Regional Awareness-raising Task Force meetings were organized on 22 June 2022, 4-5 October 2022, 4-5 April 2023, 3-5 October 2023, 3 to 4 April 2024, and 24-25 September 2024. • Support was provided to the Ministry of Interior in Serbia with a speedy development and implementation of a public information and awareness-raising campaign for voluntary surrender, "Predaj oružje" in the immediate aftermath of two mass shootings in Serbia. The campaign was launched on 8 May 2023 and lasted until the end of June 2023, giving way to unprecedented results with the collection of 108,883 pieces of SALW and explosive ordinances and 4,242,139 pieces of ammunition. • As a follow-up to the 2023 voluntary surrender campaign, in January 2024, SEESAC procured and delivered 75 promotional overalls for the MoI Serbia. The overalls were designed for the MoI staff handling the surrendered weapons. • Upon request, SEESAC supported the Ministry of Interior of Serbia with a media campaign against the misuse of pyrotechnics from 19 to 31 December 2023. SEESAC produced a 30-second high-quality promotional video and eight (8) info cards for Facebook and Instagram, distributed on TV stations and promoted via social media. • SEESAC supported the awareness-raising campaign in Kosovo from June to September 2023 to address celebratory shootings during the summer months. The campaign involved preparatory meetings with local stakeholders and media, material distribution at the border crossing and in local communities, as well as nationally through social and traditional media and advertising. In preparation for the campaign, six focus groups were held, while in its aftermath, a survey was conducted with 700 Kosovo citizens and diaspora to assess the campaign's impact. • SEESAC supported the new two-year awareness-raising effort by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kosovo and UNDP, which consists of several campaigns to reduce firearm supply, demand, and misuse through education, outreach and advocacy. The first campaign, launched on 8 July 2024, focused on the dangers of celebratory shooting, using social and traditional media, radio, and advertising. A promotional video in Albanian, Serbian, and English was widely shared, supported by engaging social media content and radio jingles, with plans to further expand outreach via YouTube. • A regional social media campaign, "Celebrate with your heart - #BetheStaroftheParty" developed and implemented in all local languages by SEESAC across six jurisdictions during the period of 23 December 2022 - 16 January 2023. The campaigns alerted the public on the dangers posed by celebratory shooting and the use of pyrotechnics.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration was established with the network of 'Journalists Against Violence against Women' operating in Serbia. Members of the network have been engaged to: 1. Conduct regional training of journalists on ethical reporting of gender-based violence (GBV) incidents with a focus on those where SALW is used; 2. Conduct a regional analysis of media reporting of GBV incidents where SALW is used; 3. To develop guidelines for Ministries of Interior and Police Services on how to communicate with the media regarding cases of GBV with the use of SALW. • A Regional Training of Journalists on Ethical Reporting of GBV Incidents with the Focus on Those Where SALW is Used was organized on 28-30 March 2023. Eighteen journalists from the region took part. The training was designed to improve their basic understanding of GBV, the influence of SALW in this context, the importance of ethical reporting and the consequences of unethical reporting, etc. • An Analysis of Media Reporting of Firearm Misuse in Male Gender-based Violence Against Women in the Western Balkans was finalized by SEESAC and translated into all local languages, with its design in English, BCMS, and Albanian language finalized. The printed version was distributed to participants of the training in Albania in November, as well as to the participants of the 20th SALW Commissions meeting held in Skopje on 12 December 2024. • Based on the results of the above-mentioned Analysis, the Guidelines for Ministries of Interior and Police Services on How to Better Communicate with the Media Regarding Incidents of Gender-based Violence with SALW were finalized, translated to all local languages, designed and published on the SEESAC website. • A series of jurisdiction-level trainings on Ethics of Informing the Public on Gender-Based Violence with a Focus on Incidents with Firearm Misuse were developed for journalists and relevant representatives of the Mols and Police Services were organized in Belgrade, Serbia, on 30 – 31 October 2023, in Skopje on 13-14 November 2023, in Podgorica on 27-28 November 2023, in Sarajevo on 11-12 December 2023, and in Pristina from 5 to 6 February 2024. • The jurisdiction-level trainings on the Ethics of Informing the Public on Gender-Based Violence with a Focus on Incidents with Firearm Misuse for the representatives of the prosecutors' offices, MOI/police services, and journalists were held in Vrdnik (20-21 May 2024), Bjelasnica (1 – 2 July 2024), Skopje (15 – 16 July 2024) and Podgorica (14-15 October 2024), Durres (25-26 November 2024), and Pristina (9-10 December 2024). The trainings focused on enhancing how information about gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence involving firearms, is conveyed by prosecutors' offices to the media and public, as well as by the media to their audience.
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- On 28 October 2023, SEESAC supported authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to [destroy 820 pieces of weapons](#) and 603 weapon parts.
- On 12 September 2024, SEESAC supported the authorities of Kosovo in destroying 993 pieces of SALW.

Capacities for mainstreaming gender into SALW control by institutions in Western Balkans strengthened and gender perspective integrated in institutional work at strategic, legal and operational level:

- A regional analysis of the institutional response to the misuse of firearms in domestic violence is ongoing. To that end, a tailor-made methodology was developed, data collection from relevant institutions was initiated, and analysis of AVMP data for a five-year period (2019-2023) was conducted.
- SEESAC initiated the development of *Guidelines for the first-line responders to assess and address risks related to the misuse of firearms in domestic violence*. To that end, the [Regional Working Group](#) for the Prevention of the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence through Risk Assessment was established, and two regional meetings of the Working Group were organized.
- In addition, SEESAC initiated the development of the *Guidelines for gender-responsive firearm license approval*. For that purpose, SEESAC established a Regional Working Group with professionals in charge of license approval and background checks from 5 Western Balkans jurisdictions. [Two meetings of the Working Group](#) were organized.
- To inform the development of Guidelines and regional analysis, comprehensive region-wide consultations were conducted through focus group discussions with officers dealing with firearms license approval, police officers specifically responding to domestic violence, and women's organizations providing services to survivors of domestic violence. In total, 15 focus group discussions were organized with 68 police officers and 17 women's civil society organizations. These focus groups resulted in 15 in-depth reports.
- Based on the inputs from the working groups, findings from the focus group discussions, and mapped good practices, SEESAC developed the draft versions of both Guidelines.
- Following the drafting of the guidelines, an [additional round of consultations](#) was held with members of the working groups to discuss the structure and content of the guidelines and propose amendments to ensure their practical application. In addition, five women's organizations were engaged in the peer review process, paying particular attention to ensuring that concerns related to the safety of victims of domestic violence are adequately addressed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the inputs from the working groups, findings from the focus group discussions, and mapped good practices, SEESAC finalized the Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Firearms License Approval and the Guidelines for Assessing and Addressing Risks Related to Firearms Misuse in Domestic Violence. Both knowledge products were officially launched on 21 June during a side event in the margins of RevCon4 of the UN Programme of Action in New York. They are available in English, Albanian, BCMS, and Macedonian. • SEESAC organized a Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on the practical use of the Guidelines for Assessing and Addressing Risks Related to Firearms Misuse in Domestic Violence, in Herceg Novi from 27 to 31 May 2024 as an initial step in establishing a regional pool of trainers from five Western Balkan jurisdictions to share knowledge within their institutions. To support trainers, a training manual was developed and online support was provided, with sessions planned for 2025. • The Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on the practical application of the Guidelines for Gender Responsive Firearms License Approval was organized from 4 to 8 November 2024 in Budva, Montenegro. • The Advanced Regional Gender and SALW training for SALW Commissions held in Herceg Novi on 16-17 October 2024 aimed to enhance the institutional capacities for gender-responsive SALW control policymaking and facilitate interinstitutional cooperation between SALW commissions and gender equality agencies. • The advanced draft report on the Regional Analysis of Women Participation in SALW Control was finalized. This analysis, based on a bespoke research methodology developed in 2022, includes data collected from relevant institutions, in-depth interviews with over 40 men and women involved in SALW control in the Western Balkans, and an analysis of international, regional, and jurisdictional policy frameworks submitted by the consultant. • Ahead of Revcon4, SEESAC in cooperation with UNIDIR, organized an online regional briefing - Fostering Gender-Responsive Arms Control: Regional Perspectives from the Eastern European Region on 10 May 2024.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END 2025	<p>Support to Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) in the WB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize the Annual Workshop for FFPs in the Western Balkans. • Organize the regional meeting with ballistic experts regarding blank fires • Organize the regional training on fore-sighting. • Provide technical assistance and expertise to FFPs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for the establishment of open case files in relevant jurisdictions through procurement. • Develop good practice guidelines on gender-sensitive data collection <p>Capacities of authorities in Western Balkans to conduct crime scene investigations in accordance with relevant standards, EU good practices and guidelines strengthened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure CSI equipment. • Organize the regional workshop on pyrotechnics and explosives for civil use. • Develop a good practice guideline regarding electronic evidence recovery and its custody chain. • Organize the Regional training for Electronic Evidence Recovery. <p>Knowledge enhanced of factors fuelling demand and misuse of firearms in the Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of the Research on Demand and Misuse of Firearms in the Western Balkans, and production of the knowledge products based on the conducted research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Research findings on factors fueling demand and misuse of firearms and shaping risk-taking behaviors in the Western Balkans and</i> - <i>Preliminary Insights into Armed Violence Victim Support in the Western Balkans</i> <p>Awareness and operational capacity to fight illicit and/or misuse of firearms raised among key beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize the Regional Awareness-raising Task Force meeting. • Finalize Guidelines for Crises Communication. • Develop Guidelines for Utilization of Social Media. • Support the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns per request. • Organize a series of capacity-building trainings at a jurisdiction level, per request. • Provide support requested by jurisdictions. <p>Capacities for mainstreaming gender into SALW control by institutions in Western Balkans strengthened, and gender perspective integrated in institutional work at strategic, legal and operational level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide on-demand consultative support to authorities to mainstream gender in SALW control. • Organize jurisdiction-level trainings on the application of the guidelines for gender-responsive firearms license approval and risk assessment. • Finalize the Regional analysis of institutional response to the misuse of firearms in domestic violence.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the Regional analysis of women’s participation in SALW control. • Deliver the Regional training on SALW control for women’s organizations. • Develop the knowledge product on sustainable gender mainstreaming in SALW control. • Continue implementing the Gender Coach Programme.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Enhancement of SALW control security measures in Albania - follow-on project</i> <i>Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, bojana.balon@undp.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>20 September 2022 – 19 January 2026</i> <i>This project has been terminated following Notice by the donor on 28 January 2025.</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Albanian Ministry of Internal Affairs (Mol); Albanian State Police (ASP)</i>
DONOR	<i>The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA)</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,250,000 ¹⁴
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project aims to enhance SALW control and reduce the risk of illicit weapons proliferation through increased accountability, physical security, and safety in the management of stockpiles under the responsibility of the ASP. It will focus on targeting specific areas of stockpile management to strengthen inventory management and increase stockpile physical security and safety through cost-effective and impactful improvements, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction of a barcode system for weapons recordkeeping at the Mol/ASP central SALW and ammunition storage location ‘Mullet’.

¹⁴ Initial donor support of USD 750,000 was approved on 20 September 2022. On 20 September 2023, a cost extension was approved in the amount of USD 500,000 to enable additional activities under the project in line with the official requests of the beneficiary to UNDP SEESAC as of April and May 2023.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Security upgrade and equipping of thirteen ASP priority SALW/evidence safekeeping room locations. • The project contributes directly to local and regional security and stability by ensuring that the significant amounts of stockpiled SALW and ammunition under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior/Albanian State Police are accounted for, secured, and safe. As such, the project helps reduce the risk of uncontrolled proliferation at the local and regional level and the risk of uncontrolled explosions.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 7-Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities in line with international safety and security standards.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was initiated on 20 September 2022. • The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNDP Albania and the ASP was signed to enable cooperation to continue beyond 31 December 2022 until the initially planned project completion in 2025. • ASP submitted new requests for support in April and May 2023 regarding the complete overhaul of the SIMA and the security upgrade of the locations of additional small SALW storage/evidence rooms. In September 2023, the donor approved additional funding of US\$500,000, and the project duration was extended until 19 January 2026. • By September 2023, detailed assessments of 11 out of 13 small SALW storage /evidence room locations were conducted. The two pending assessments were completed later, by 2024, upon the ASP replacement of two locations. The technical assessments of an additional six locations were completed in 2024 upon the ASP replacement of three out of six locations. The inputs obtained were used for the procurement of upgrade designs and supervision services. • Procurement of a professional company to design security upgrades for all planned small SALW storage/evidence rooms’ locations (both initially planned and additional) and provide designer supervision of the execution of the works has been prepared and completed. Upon UNDP approval in November 2024, the contract was signed in December 2024, and the security clearance from the ASP for the contractor experts to access the locations was obtained. • The development of a barcode module for weapons record-keeping at the ASP’s central SALW and ammunition storage location, ‘Mullet’, was completed in close consultation with ASP experts on the necessary IT functionalities. The beneficiary tested and accepted it in June 2024. The beneficiary clearance for the training of two storage operators at ‘Mullet’

	<p>in the use of the barcode module was obtained at the end of October, while the donor vetting was received towards the end of the year. It was agreed with ASP that the training delivery timeline should be aligned with the SIMA overhaul activity and hence scheduled for 2025. Additionally, the procurement of IT supplies necessary to support the barcode module implementation at ‘Mullet’ was completed in August 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the procurement of expertise for the development of SIMA modules were developed in consultation with the ASP. It was first endorsed by ASP and then approved by UNDP in December.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber-attacks significantly damaged the weapons registration system in Albania (SIMA), and substantive support for the activation and overhaul of SIMA is needed. Namely, the majority of data was lost and had to be repopulated. Given the system status and vulnerability, the ASP deems that an update as planned wouldn't suffice and that a complete system rebuilding is needed. In response to their requests as of April and May 2023, the project cost extension was endorsed by the donor in September 2023. • The locations of two SALW/evidence rooms could not be assessed by the project engineer as initially planned due to internal ASP issues, and they were later replaced by two other locations. Additionally, after assessing six proposed evidence room locations, three were replaced by the beneficiary. This has prompted the organization of additional assessments, which have caused a delay in the implementation timeline. The scope of the engineer’s contract had to be amended to enable additional assessments to be made. • Training of ‘Mullet’ storage operators in using barcode module, initially planned for summer, has been postponed for early Q4 2024 due to an extended clearance process by the beneficiary, which was completed at the end of October 2024.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END IN 2025¹⁵	<p>This project has been terminated following Notice by the donor on 28 January 2025. The initial plan was to implement the following activities in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed assessments of 18 evidence room locations to be upgraded and one to be constructed, with measurements taking, assessment report completion, and subsequent preparation of the designs. • Launch of the tender for upgrade and construction works at 19 locations, followed by tender evaluation and approval. • Works execution and technical handover of completed works to the beneficiaries at 19 locations. • Completion of the ToT on the usage of the barcode module at ‘Mullet’.

¹⁵ This project has been terminated following Notice by the donor on 28 January 2025.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the tender for IT expertise for SIMA rebuilding • Development and testing of the SIMA modules.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>UNDP Albania</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)</i> <i>Mr. Vladimir Malkaj, E-mail: vladimir.malkaj@undp.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	5 December 2023 – 6 December 2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Albanian State Police</i>
DONOR	<i>Multi-Partner Trust Fund</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,205,490
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To provide assistance and equipment to the Border Police, Albanian Institute of Scientific Police, and the CSI unit of the Kukes Police Directorate. This Project also focuses to enhance police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo and is implementing joint activities with UNDP Kosovo.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led. Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans.

	Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study visit of Albanian forensic experts to gain knowledge from accredited similar institutions. Joint Training on Community Policing and Intelligence-led policing approach towards SALW Control. Joint Training on identification and prevention of explosives and explosives precursors. Joint Training on weapons categorization and legal framework regulating the field of SALW Control. Joint Training on weapons conversion, methods and toolmarks used in conversion including ballistic examination and potential data exchange. Participation of Albanian FPI in ENFSI conferences. Provision of SALW-related investigation equipment for the Kukes CSI Sector.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of Albanian FPI in ENFSI conferences. Assessment of feasibility of "EVOFINDER" ballistic data share between Albania and Kosovo. Design and disseminate advanced training on countering FAE smuggling tailored to frontline staff. Darkweb training for law enforcement authorities to combat online firearms trafficking and transnational crime. Provision of equipment for green border BMP patrolling. Provision of SALW-related investigation equipment for the Albanian FPI Design approach for basic standard equipment used for detection of FAE and equipment maintenance planning and budgeting. Joint police operations at the BCPs and GBLs in increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapon's Control - LEAD</i> <i>Mr. Senad Zlatar, Project Manager, E-mail: senad.zlatar@undp.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	6 December 2023 – 4 December 2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	BiH SALW CB, Indirect Taxation Authority, Border Police BiH, State Investigation and Protection Agency, BiH Prosecutor Office and prosecutor offices at entity and cantonal level, relevant police bodies at entity and cantonal level, police academies, associations of women police officials, as well as national NGOs.
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,455,035
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The Project LEAD aims to enhance the capacity and engagement of relevant national institutions and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as strengthen inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the implementation of the National SALW Control Strategy and the SALW Control Roadmap. The project builds upon previous interventions and entails a series of activities that focus on inter-agency operational and strategic cooperation, as well as provision of specialized resources, equipment and knowledge and peer-exchange to prevent and counter FAE-related crime. An inclusive approach to civil society organizations and outreach to communities and stakeholders will be ensured, with duly integrated gender and human rights perspectives. The expected result is a comprehensive strengthening of key stakeholders in the SALW control field, leading to increased ownership and sustainability.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 1 - Ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and standardized across the region. Goal 2 - Ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.

	<p>Goal 3 - Reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 - Reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 5 - Decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>
<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations. • Exchange good practices with a specific focus on the areas defined in the Roadmap. <p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. • Institutionalize systematic collection of criminal justice data across the Criminal Justice Sector (at the level of Police and Customs, Prosecutors’ service, Court Service, Correctional and Penitentiary Services). • Fully integrate gender and age concerns in SALW/firearms control policies and ensure meaningful participation of women in SALW/firearms control <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy, reinforce outreach and reach messaging multipliers <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increased number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project Team obtained consent from 14 police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the procurement of 26 density meters/contraband detectors, including agreement on technical specifications. Following a lengthy procurement process, a contract was signed with the selected supplier on 30 September 2024. While delivery was not completed by

	<p>end-December 2024, the supplier committed to meet the contractual delivery deadline of 21 January 2025. Additionally, at the request of the RS Ministry of Interior, the Project Team procured and delivered six gun replicas and one rifle replica for police cadet training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Project Team organized three meetings of ballistics experts in close cooperation with UNDP Serbia. These included visits to ballistic laboratories in Belgrade, Sarajevo, and Banja Luka. The first meeting was held in March 2024 in Serbia, followed by two meetings in October 2024 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A total of 14 experts participated, including 8 from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 6 from Serbia. The meetings facilitated the exchange of experiences, mutual familiarization with laboratory capacities, and strengthened professional links, laying the groundwork for future regional cooperation.• The Project Team engaged an international consultant to assess the technical capacities and equipment needs of four ballistic laboratories in Bosnia and Herzegovina: two entity-level laboratories in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, the Agency for Forensic and Expert Examinations, and the Brčko District laboratory. In September 2024, the consultant conducted meetings with all four laboratories and delivered an analysis. Based on the findings, a list of equipment with technical specifications was prepared for the two entity-level laboratories. The Project Team obtained consent for procurement from the Federal Police Directorate and the RS Ministry of Interior, with procurement planned for Q1 2025.• On 3 December 2024, in coordination with UNDP Serbia, the first meeting of 10 arson-explosion-accident (AEA) experts was organized in Sarajevo, including 6 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 4 from Serbia. Experts represented the Serbia Mol, BiH Agency for Forensic and Expert Examination, Federal Police Directorate, and RS Mol. The meeting focused on the organizational structure of these services, exchange of experience through concrete cases, challenges faced in daily work, and insights into results achieved in Serbia with assistance from UNDP Serbia.• To support digitalization of processes in the Federation of BiH, the Project Team worked with a UNDP BiH IT expert to develop a Terms of Reference (ToR) for a new application to manage weapons in legal possession. Throughout 2024, the Project Team held multiple consultations and technical meetings. A tentative agreement on the ToR was reached with the FBiH IT Support Team in October 2024. To secure official support, the Project Team presented the initiative at a meeting of 10 cantonal police commissioners in November 2024. While there was general support, concerns over cantonal authority led to a request to circulate the draft ToR directly to cantonal police administrations for feedback. The Project Team continued consultations with selected jurisdictions to refine the ToR, and it was agreed that cantons may retain administrative control over their own applications, provided they remain nearly identical and compatible and allow real-time data exchange on legal SALW.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four domestic joint exercises have been successfully organized in presence of BiH prosecutor’s office and with participation of 99 customs and police officials from BiH LEAs in addition to 10 instructors from the ITA and different police agencies, increasing their illegal SALW trade investigative skills. In addition, the Project Team organized first international joint exercise with police and customs officials from Montenegro in Međugorje (BiH) gathering 36 police and customs officials with the participation of prosecutors from both jurisdictions. • Four domestic joint exercises were successfully organized across Bosnia and Herzegovina, involving various police agencies and the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA). A total of 98 police and customs officials from 15 different police agencies participated. The exercises aimed to strengthen investigative skills to more effectively combat illicit SALW trade, and were conducted under the supervision and guidance of the BiH Prosecutor’s Office. • Two cross-border exercises between police, customs, and prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro were organized to test procedures for detecting illegal SALW and subsequent procedures at joint border crossings (jurisdiction over smuggling cases, suspect handovers, prosecution procedures) established under an existing international agreement between BiH and Montenegro. The first exercise took place in BiH in October 2024 with 35 participants, and the second in Montenegro in November 2024 with 40 participants, including a UNDP Montenegro representative. The exercises revealed significant gaps, underscoring the need to clarify agency and prosecutorial roles at joint border crossings and to develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) to serve as guidance for border police and customs officials of both jurisdictions. • Engaged two police experts with an aim to develop a manual for SALW-related investigations for police cadets at relevant police academies in BiH, based on SOPs for active police officials developed within the previous projects. Three meetings were organized with experts and a draft version of a manual for SALW-related investigations for police cadets has been developed. The manual will be used by police academies and relevant law enforcement training institutions in BiH as a part of their basic training. • Two police experts were engaged to develop a draft manual on SALW-related investigations for police cadets, designed for use in police academies and law enforcement training institutions across BiH. Following consultations and revisions, the final draft was completed and reviewed by the Project Team. In December 2024, a working document was presented to the Director of the FBIH Police Academy, who expressed interest in integrating it into the academy’s curriculum, pending minor technical adjustments. The document was also renamed from “Manual” to “Guidelines” to better reflect its purpose.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project also aimed to support the development of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Border Police and the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA). Progress was delayed due to the postponed adoption of the BiH Law on Border Control. In late 2024, the law was approved by the BiH Council of Ministers on 17 December, with BiH parliamentary adoption expected in Q1 2025. Once adopted, the Project Team will begin preparations for establishing a working group, in coordination with the BiH SALW Coordination Board, to revise and adopt the new MoU. • The Project Team will continue facilitating meetings among key stakeholders, including the SALW Coordination Board, police commissioners, and the FBiH IT Support Team, with tentative plans to support the next Coordination Board meeting in Q1 2025. Additionally, the Project Team supported a meeting between the BiH Prosecutor and ITA, where 10 customs officials acquired additional knowledge on BiH criminal code procedures for vehicle and personal searches related to illegal SALW detection. • The Project Team organized 5 meetings gathering prosecutors from 5 RS District Prosecutor's Offices as well as Chief RS Prosecutor and Special RS Prosecutor, 10 cantonal prosecutors and prosecutor from Brčko District BiH. The aim of the meetings was to identify gaps in SALW-related investigation from the prosecutors' angle and incorporate these findings into a SALW Investigation Guidebook that will be distributed to all police agencies after consultations with all police agencies have been held and final version of the Guidebook produced. A total of 29 prosecutors attended these meetings that were facilitated by BiH Prosecutor Office's representatives, including one prosecutor and two investigators. Draft of the SALW Investigation Guidebook aimed to guide police on proper actions and collaboration with prosecutors in investigating SALW-related crimes has been produced while the Project Team engaged in reviewing the document and will continue to do so in 2025. Once finalized, the Guidebook will be used to plan meetings with senior police officials from all 12 jurisdictions and potentially SIPA and FPD, who also handle SALW-related crimes. • Following the December 2023 meeting with the Ministry of Security's (MoS) Coordination Board on the Gender Equality Law, the Project Team maintained contact with the Board's Chairperson, who also chairs the BiH SALW Coordination Board and is the Assistant Minister of MoS. Initially, the project planned limited support for the MoS Coordination Board's capacity building. However, following an official request from MoS in February 2024, the Project Team, in collaboration with the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, decided to involve the MoS's Coordination Board in the UNDP Global Gender Equality Seal (GES) for Public Institutions program to be implemented under Project LEAD. Therefore, in response to MoS BiH's commitment to join GES, UNDP BiH welcomed their participation and assigned at that time UNDP's Justice and Security Sector as the contact point, and
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	<p>more specifically LEAD Project Team. Three police agencies within the MoS – Border Police, SIPA and Directorate for Coordination of Police bodies -are also participating in this activity.</p> <p>An informational meeting on GES for the Coordination Board was held on 4 September 2024, followed by the hiring of a consultant. Official work began with a workshop in Igman near Sarajevo on 14-15 November 2024, where the consultant trained 22 MoS participants. A GES brochure was distributed, and the MoS GES team started gathering documents for the GES process, which will be uploaded to the GES platform.</p> <p>The GES initiative, aimed at fostering gender-responsive public policies and services, recognizes institutions advancing gender equality. This aligns with the project’s goal of supporting the MoS Coordination Board, ensuring equal opportunities for women across all security sectors, including SALW control. Following successful completion of this activity by the end of the project, the BiH MoS will have become the first security institution in the world to be awarded one of the medals (gold, silver or bronze) for successfully completing the program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notable progress was made in addressing illegal SALW possession, responsible ownership, and the impact on vulnerable groups from civil society organizations’ (CSO) perspective. A public call for CSO project proposals was launched on 14 March 2024, with 9 proposals received by the 29 April deadline. 8 proposals met the requirements, and due to their quality, all available funds were allocated to these projects. The signing ceremony of Low Value Grant Agreements took place on 6 August 2024. The first tranche of funds was disbursed in September 2024, marking the start of the projects. • The Project Team supported and monitored the CSOs, ensuring adherence to guidelines. By December 2024, all eight CSOs submitted first reports, with three requesting the second tranche. Monitoring visits for these three CSOs confirmed compliance, with no significant issues. CSO "Forum" presented an outline of the film on the dangers of SALW, to be finalized in Q1 2025 and screened in 3 schools. In 2025, the Project Team will continue monitoring and supporting the CSOs to ensure successful project implementation. • Two associations of women police officials operating in BiH were engaged to promote gender inclusion in SALW control. On 15 February 2024, the Project Team met with the Chairpersons of two women police associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, both of which committed to participating in the project. In coordination with UNDP Serbia (as this is a joint activity with UNDP Serbia), the team organized the first joint meeting of women police associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in Belgrade (15-17 May 2024). This
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	<p>meeting, attended by 21 members from two associations from BiH and one association from Serbia as well as representatives from Serbia-based Association "Female Journalists Against Violence," focused on gender perspectives in SALW policies.</p> <p>The second meeting took place in Sarajevo (15-17 October 2024), with total of 24 participants, including the BiH SALW Coordination Board Chairperson. The meeting highlighted challenges faced by women in law enforcement and their involvement in SALW policy. As a concrete result of the second meeting, representatives of two associations from BiH attended subsequently scheduled BiH SALW CB meeting and contributed proposals to the 2025-2027 Action Plan in support of a newly prepared SALW Control Strategy covering the period 2025-2030. Additionally, 5 representatives from two associations from BiH attended the 3rd International Conference in Serbia hosted by the association from Serbia, where they signed a declaration on advancing the position of women in police forces. Given the importance of the conference, this was marked as the third official meeting among associations from the two jurisdictions.</p>
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given complex constitutional and security structure of BiH, the main challenge in the implementation of the project is the large number of project partners, including police agencies within the country, establishing coordination with all partners, and scheduling activities. Although the Project Team has successfully coordinated all project partners thus far, the current political and security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina may lead to delays in the implementation of certain project activities within the planned timeframe. Also, and upon consultation with UNDP Serbia colleagues, cross-border activities involving stakeholders from Serbia have also been put on hold due to complex political situation in Serbia.
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of specialized detection equipment t- contraband detectors - to 14 police agencies in the jurisdiction. • Procurement and delivery of general and specialised equipment to ballistic laboratories in Bosnia and Herzegovina. • Procurement and delivery of CSI kits for police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. • Second meeting among AEA experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. • Final meeting among ballistic experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. • Successful implementation of new digital database for legal weapons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>UNDP Kosovo</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)</i> <i>Ms. Marta K. Gazideda, Governance and Peacebuilding Portfolio Manager, E-mail: marta.gazideda@undp.org and Mr. Mentor Cakolli, Project Manager, E-mail: mentor.cakolli@undp.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>3 November 2023 – 2 November 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Internal Affairs/SALW Commission, Police
DONOR	Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,200,990
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Objective 1: Increase the Integrated Institutional Approach and Community Engagement in Kosovo to effectively and efficiently implement SALW, Ammunition and Explosives Control. Objective 2: Strengthen the Cross-border Cooperation in the field of SALW Control.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence-led. Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans. Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy. Goal 5 - By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans. Goal 6 - Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition. Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms related data resulting in periodic regional FAE risk analysis and threat assessment; • Strengthen tasking, coordination and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation; • Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis; <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units; • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency; • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms; <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE; • Develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy, reinforce outreach and reach messaging multipliers; • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE; • Increase awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of SALW/firearms since they account for majority of young men are disproportionately represented among both perpetrators and victims of firearms; • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender based violence; • Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives; • Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal firearms possession.
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	<p>Goal 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically and publicly destroy all seized FAE. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 officials (9 men and 3 women) from the KP PPIO and MoIA trained on OSINT gathering, analysis, and distribution. • Approved training curricula on SALW control, firearm misuse prevention, and DV prevention for community policing officers and police cadets. • 5-day Train the Trainer TOT programme completed for 12 police instructors and focused on the recently developed curriculum for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Ammunition, and Explosives Control. • 516 community policing officers and LPSC members and MCSC members (through 13 tailored training sessions across all Regional Police Directorates); • The "Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun" implemented for 2024 through a diverse range of activities, reaching more than 700,000 individuals. 4 outreach events took place. <p><i>Notably: According to the MoIA report, as part of the campaign: An increase of 40% in reporting of celebratory shootings was recorded by September 2024 as compared to 2023, coupled with 28% increase in opened cases by the police. During the period from June to August 2024, 182 cases of celebratory shootings were opened. The number of people detained increased by 31.46% compared to the previous year (117 in 2024 as compared to 89 in 2023).</i></p> <p><i>*The awareness raising campaign is ongoing during 2025.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 police officers (344 men and 6 women) were trained on the detection at border posts (first- and second-line check), firearms trafficking routes and trafficking 'modus operandi', identifying the converted weapons as well as recognizing weapons parts, legal framework on SALW Control. This also included joint training for border and investigation departments on effectively investigating firearms trafficking. • Technological capacities of Police to detect and counter illicit arms trafficking enhanced through three (3) specialized thermal cameras, two (2) advanced handheld scanners, 37 handheld flashlights and 20 sets of dismantling tools to the Kosovo Police/Border department. • 4-day Joint training between law enforcement officers from Kosovo and Albania was completed regarding the role of community policing and intelligence-led policing in SALW Control.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-day joint training between law enforcement officers from Kosovo and Albania was completed regarding explosives and handmade explosives including their precursors, prevention and trafficking routes; • 4-day joint training between law enforcement officers from Kosovo and Albania was completed regarding SALW local and international legal framework including weapons categorization. • Study visits to CEPOL on gaining more knowledge and practical sight in developing the e-learning platform was completed; • A study visit to the Croatian forensic agency was completed to gain more knowledge on shooting distance determination and serial number restoration. • 7 police stations equipped with weapon storage metal cabinets (72), in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Drenas/Glogovac, and Lipjan/Lipljan; • Awareness raising campaign regarding SALW control, preventing misuse of firearms and increasing reporting of firearm-related incidents in 2024 and 2025 was organized; • Capacity development for border police in effectively conducting border control and green border surveillance was organized.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays occurred in procuring or receiving the specialized equipment. • Coordination takes more time due to the sub-regional nature of the project, challenges within each jurisdiction, more stakeholders. • The general elections in both jurisdictions, including local and presidential elections, posed risks such as political and institutional distraction, heightened tensions, policy uncertainty and security threats. • Delayed adoption of the Law on Firearms and the Law on Civil Use of Explosives.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for investigators of the crime scene of terrorist attacks when firearms, explosives, and other relevant devices are used. • Support to the Firearms Focal Point to enhance analytical capacities. • Support to the Forensic Agency to further strengthen ballistic examination capacities. • FAE handling, security, and storage, as well as related detection equipment maintenance, are further advanced. • Supporting the capacities of the MoIA/Department for Public Safety/Division for Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives and the KP's Division for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEOD). • Support to the Police in establishing the maintenance workshop for all SALW-related detection equipment;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint police operations at the BCPs and GBLs for increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>UNDP Montenegro</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes</i> <i>Mr. Gordan Ivanovic, E-mail: gordan.ivanovic@undp.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>November 2023 – November 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Police Directorate/Forensic Center</i>
DONOR	<i>Multi-Partner Trust Fund</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,091,105
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	None
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The project aims at improving the crime scene investigation and laboratory forensic capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for providing forensic evidence and intelligence necessary for investigating and judicial processing of the trafficking of firearms, their ammunition, explosives, and precursors, as well as other FAE-related criminal offences, including the sexual and gender-based violence. Improved evidence and intelligence capabilities shall serve the national criminal proceeding system and international investigations and proceedings..
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region. Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.

	Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International consultant engaged to conduct analysis and needs assessment. Consultant hired and the assessment finalised in Q3 2024. • The consultant finalised the specifications for the procurement of specialised equipment. • Tender for the specialised equipment advertised in June 2024. • Based on the evaluation of tender contracts signed for the purchase of the equipment; • Participation in the ENFSI Annual meetings of Directors of Forensic Centres – Madrid, Spain. • Participation in the ENFSI Explosives Working Group – Zurich, Switzerland. • Participation in the ENFSI CSI Working Group – Budapest, Hungary. • Study visit – Institute for Forensic Science in Bratislava, Slovakia. • Adaptation of the shooting range within the Forensic Center. • Ballistic workshop reconstructed. • Delivery of procured equipment for CSI, Ballistic, Arson, Explosives and Chemical lab partially finalized. • Work on the development of SOPs for CSI ongoing.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes of government and turnover of staff caused slow start of the project. • Small pool of experts.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-exchange – Forensic Center in Belgrade or Sarajevo. • Advanced training for 3D laser scanning crime scene documenting. • Advanced training for aerial photography crime scene documenting. • Delivery of the remaining equipment for Arson and Explosives Lab and Guns Gunshot Residues lab. • Multi-Sector panel on GBV issues. • Development of SOPs for the CSI Unit. • Training on selected CSI topics based on the SOPs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings for documenting injuries during medical examinations and interviewing technicians/protocol for the CSI officers. • Development of a Protocol for an interviewing technique for GBV cases. • Revision of existing procedures for operating the ballistic open case file physical collection, updating, and improving it in line with the OCF standards. • Training for internal auditors. • Method development for the Chemical lab and its validation. • SOP and method development for GSR lab. • Study visit to Slovenia or Poland. • Participation of professionals from Forensic Center at the various ENFSI workshops.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>UNDP North Macedonia</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Ilmiasan Dauti, Programme Analyst / Acting Head of Democratic Governance Unit, E-mail: ilmiasan.dauti@undp.org and Mr. Martin Nacevski, Project Manager, E-mail: martin.nacevski@undp.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>1 January 2024 – 30 September 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia</i>
DONOR	<i>Multi-Partner Trust Fund</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,149,180
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	The Ministry of Interior has alerted on an urgent need to install video surveillance and access control for evidence rooms and laboratories where the evidence from firearms-related crimes, including weapons and ammunition, are kept. A vacuum metal disposition method for fingerprint analysis of shells and other firearms-related evidence needs to be installed for analysis of fingerprints and DNA profiles found on shells. Specialized certified trainings for ballistic examiners are needed to ensure satisfactory examination of evidence in the new

	<p>ballistic laboratory. The new CSI Training and Simulation Facility provides foundations to solidify the progress further through developing and rolling out an advanced training program for enhanced collection of firearms-related evidence. Ongoing data collection support provided insights into the benefits of additional digital solutions, including i) upgrade of the Weapons Registration Management System regarding deactivation, and ii) development of e-services related to SALW for citizens and businesses.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The objective of the project is to modernize the forensic and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) system in the Republic of North Macedonia, with the aim of improving the quality of investigation and enabling a more efficient criminal justice response to SALW.</p> <p>The project will improve the operational capacities of the forensic authorities through a series of coordinated activities that are in line with four of the seven Roadmap goals (namely, Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3 and Goal 4). The project will also complement the previously established Police Information Management System, through its upgrade with a new module on domestic violence, in line with Goal 2 of the Roadmap.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region.</p> <p>Goal 2 – By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 – By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach, and advocacy.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations. • Exchange good practices with a specific focus on the areas defined in the Roadmap. <p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capabilities for data collection, sharing and analysis. • Prevent IAT through analysis and improvement of processes. • Prevent IAT through improved institutional capacities, provision of specialised equipment and training. • Integrate the gender perspective in SALW/firearms control measures.

	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy, reinforce outreach and reach messaging multipliers. • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. • Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<p>Output 1.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All necessary interventions for the indoor shooting range have received formal approval from the Ministry of Interior and are currently ongoing. Most of the upgrades to the electrical installations, lighting, sound and ventilation systems have been completed. • The ballistic bullet trap was installed at the end of October 2024 and is now fully tested and operational. <p>Output 1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two experts of the French National Forensic Police Service visited the Ministry of Interior Training Center in Idrizovo in November 2024. • Preparation of the technical specification for the IT equipment that is needed for the CSI units within the Ministry is initiated. • An event for identifying the needs of the CSI units in North Macedonia was held. As a result of this meeting, several key procurement procedures were initiated to bolster the capabilities of the forensic department within the Ministry of Interior. Among these initiatives were procurements for Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Kits and IT equipment specifically tailored for the CSI units within MoI, which have now been finalized, for delivery dates in December 2024 and January 2025. <p>Output 1.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approval of the technical specification is underway to initiate a procurement process for the development of a module on domestic violence. This procurement is based on the previously conducted Needs-based analysis within the Bridging project "Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new leadership of the MoI Training Center changed the decision regarding the allocated space for the CSI Training and Simulation Facility, proposing new premises. The newly proposed premises are suitable for this purpose; however, the new barracks, which is located in the perimeter of the MoI Training Center, is officially owned by the

	<p>Faculty of Security, which is sharing the same space in Idrizovo, outside of Skopje. Although the process for allocating the space from the Faculty of Security to the Mol Training Center was supposed to be completed in early October, it was finalized at the end of December 2024. This, together with the change of the initially allocated space as a result of the new leadership of the Ministry of Interior and its Training Center, has caused significant delays in the implementation of Activity 1.2.2. The UNDP project team maintained constant communication with the International Cooperation Department and the Training Center leadership, playing a significant role in hastening the complex process of approvals. Ultimately, a positive decision was made, and the barrack was officially approved for the CSI Training and Simulation Facility in late December 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The signing of donation agreements for the donated equipment was delayed as a result of the new leadership of the Ministry of Interior and its Legal Affairs Department. This was previously a standard procedure which did not take significant time or efforts. The implementation of Output 1.3 was delayed as a result of the ongoing consultations with the IT and Telecommunications Department. The shift in priorities of the new government and leadership of this Department has delayed the final approval of the Terms of Reference, therefore delaying the beginning of the implementation of this activity. However, once completed, this procurement would enable an even greater achievement of the objectives under this Output.
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize necessary interventions in the indoor shooting range (completed). • Delivery of procured CSI equipment with a promotional event (completed). • Begin the development phase for the preparation of a CSI Training and Simulation Facility at the Police Training Centre in Idrizovo. • Strengthen gender sensitization capacities of CSI staff through organization of a workshop and preparation of guidelines. • Initiate collaboration with a software development company for the upgrades to the Police Information Management System (IMS), including a module on gender-based and domestic violence, as well as related technical and expert support.

<p>ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY</p>	<p><i>UNDP Serbia</i></p>
<p>PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON</p>	<p><i>Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase III)</i> <i>Mr. Zarko Petrovic, Resilient Development Programme Specialist,</i></p>

	E-mail: zarko.petrovic@undp.org and Mr. Igor Srbljanovic, Project Manger, E-mail: igor.srbljanovic@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	November 2023- November 2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Mol Serbia, General Police Directorate, Criminal Investigation Directorate, National Forensic Centar, and Administrative Police Directorate
DONOR	Multi Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,512,540
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The overall objective of the Project is to strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the entire investigative cycle in order to improve investigations to achieve regular convictions. The General Police Directorate will be better equipped, trained and modernized.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the Project are to contribute to the preparation for accreditation of the NFC ballistic laboratory, as well as the preparation for accreditation according to ISO 17020 standard of the units which perform crime scene investigation and explosions/explosives investigation, related to the entire investigative cycle, by increasing the capacities of the Ministry of Interior. SALW-control investigative cycle will be supported by the General Police Directorate and their line of work which will populate and analyze entire firearms administration of various licenses issued by the Mol.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and standardized across the region.</p> <p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (AME) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE Investigations. <p>Goal 2:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase the number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forensic analysis in the area of SALW control, which should include recommendations, preparation of SOPs and training curricula was completed. • Two FARO licenses for 3D scanners were delivered, as well as 3-day training for 18 participants from the CSI units. • Procurement contract signed for two CNA Fuming Chambers and a Discover Imaging System for the National Forensic Center of the MoI Serbia. • Recommendations for refurbishing and equipping of premises for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence were prepared. • Contract signed with the company for technical documentation and supervision of works in evidence reception rooms in RFC Niš and Užice, and for refurbishing the forensic evidence depository at the Belgrade CSI Department. • The procurement process for the adaptation of all three locations was launched. • The Curriculum for the advanced training on the implementation of ILAC G19 was initiated and approved by the National Forensic Center. • The ballistic analysis, which should include recommendations, was completed. • The upgrade of three ballistic microscopes in the ballistic laboratories located in Belgrade and Niš was completed. • Assessment with the recommendations about future accreditation of the regional ballistic labs as well as the assessment of the necessary equipment for the regional labs was completed. • Training curricula for the Action Plan for the accreditation of the ballistic labs was prepared. • The first two-day training for ballistic examiners was held in early October 2024 for 9 participants. Online meetings with regional ballistic labs organized regularly. • Two-day workshop was held in October 2024 to enhance inter-agency cooperation, with participation of 8 representatives from the National Forensic Center and 17 from the Prosecutor’s Office. • Two bilateral meetings for ballistic experts from Serbia and BiH was organized to discuss the SALW project, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation. • The needs assessment for the equipment for the AEA Unit was conducted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bilateral meeting between AEA experts was initiated and organized in December 2024 in Sarajevo, attended by 4 experts from Serbia and 6 counterparts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, thereby strengthening regional cooperation and exchanging best practices with local forensic experts. • The upgrade of two SEM microscopes in the laboratory for GSR was completed. • Two applications for participation in the working groups were successfully processed following contact with ENFSI representatives and forensic experts in Serbia. Both the ballistics and GSR working groups confirmed their attendance for the autumn 2024 sessions. Additionally, two officers from the National Forensic Center attended the One day One topic Seminar (OOS) & Quality and Competency Liaison Group (QCLG) Meeting in Malta, from 29-31 October 2024. • Firearms identification training announced and held in November in Sokobanja for 46 participants and on Kopaonik for 39 participants, totalling 85 participants. Curricula for the training were prepared and approved by Mol. • A meeting with Mol's representatives about equipment needs for Police administration officers/stations was organized.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate and complete the procurement process for the adaptation and refurbishment of three locations for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence in Belgrade, Nis and Uzice. Adaptation started and completion is expected by the end of August 2025 at all three locations. • Prepare and organize the advanced training on the implementation of ILAC G19 Guidelines in crime scene investigation. • Deliver and implement the document for ISO extension accreditation for the Central Ballistic Unit. • Prepare documentation and accredit regional laboratories in line with ISO 17025 standard. • Mentor process of accreditation, preparation and organization of the necessary SOPs, documents and trainings with ballistic examiners. • Initiate meetings with prosecutor and judicial authorities. • Organize meetings with the BiH authorities. • Organize one Firearms identification training for more than 90 participants. • Deliver specialized AEA equipment after a successful procurement process. • Organize Post-blast training trainings for up to 50 participants, forensic technicians. • Process GSR experts who will assist GSR lab during the accreditation path.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete programmes under the ENFSI WGs. • Organize a PB Meeting with the head of outputs from Mol. • Prepare visuals and a feature story about project results. • Organize one firearm identification training for more than 85 police officers. • Deliver equipment for Police Administration.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>UNDP Serbia</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Reduce Risk – Increase Safety III</i> <i>Ms. Maja Brankovic Djundic, Gender Equality Portfolio Manager, maja.djundic@undp.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>31 October 2023 – 29 October 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Implementing partners: Ministry of Interior, National Institute for Public Health “Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut”,</i> <i>Beneficiaries: Ministry of Justice, group Journalists against Violence, Network of Women in the Police, specialized CSOs dedicated to preventing violence against women and increasing safety, persons who are or may become victims of firearms misuse, either in the context of gender-based violence or in the context of suicide by firearms.</i>
DONOR	<i>Roadmap Multi- Partner Trust Fund</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 776,135
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The objective of the project is to bridge the gaps identified under specific Goals 2 and 4 of the Roadmap, with a specific focus on reducing the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide in Serbia, while strengthening the role of women in SALW control policies, fostering collaboration and knowledge of relevant stakeholders, and enhancing community response to firearms-related crises and trauma with the goal of restoring safety and trust in institutions.

	The overall goal of the project is to contribute to meaningful integration of gender perspective into the SALW control policies.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goals 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms related data resulting in periodic regional FAE risk analysis and threat assessment Fully integrate gender and age concerns in SALW/firearms control policies and ensure meaningful participation of women in SALW/firearms control. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE. Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE. Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four meetings were organized with relevant sectors within the Mol to identify missing datasets and improve data classification by gender and age, aiming for a more comprehensive and accurate data management system. Technical and consultative support to the Mol focused on analyzing current data collection methods related to gender and age, which are essential for gender-sensitive, evidence-based policymaking, and on addressing gaps in gender- and age-related data and values. An analysis of legal and institutional solutions of jurisdictions with a similar social context to Serbia was completed, to identify good practices that successfully lead to the reduction of (firearms-enabled) femicides and attempted femicides. Additionally, completed case studies are to be used in further discussions with relevant professionals to evaluate the effectiveness of existing legal measures related to domestic and gender-based violence. This will serve to identify any missing bylaws and procedures that could enhance the practical application of laws, ensuring a more effective approach to domestic violence prevention and intervention.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two meetings of the Women Police Network Serbia were organized to strengthen their capacities for meaningful integration and active participation of women in the security sector.• The 3rd Annual Conference of the Network of Women in the Police of Serbia gathered 132 participants from 12 jurisdictions, aiming to network and strengthen the role of women in the security sector. With a focus on preventing and addressing trauma caused by gender-based violence and incidents involving firearms misuse, the conference discussed good practices and lessons learned in law enforcement response to mass shootings and domestic violence. The event also amplified the role of women in the security sector, reinforcing their participation in shaping gender-responsive SALW control policies.• A total of 44 policewomen from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia gathered to network and discuss Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control and preventing firearms misuse in violence. Through two networking meetings held in Belgrade and Sarajevo, participants explored the gender dimensions of SALW misuse and identified entry points for enhancing women's roles in SALW control policies, while also planning future activities.• Through five workshops, 215 healthcare and legal professionals from 67 municipalities received training to improve their ability to identify risks of firearms misuse in violence and ensure victim safety. These sessions equipped medical and non-medical staff within the healthcare system to recognize individuals at risk of firearm misuse and collaborate with other institutions, particularly the police and public prosecutor's offices, in managing (suspected) domestic violence cases. The training also covered procedures for reporting observed or documented changes in the psycho-physical condition of individuals with firearms licenses.• A total of 51 police officers working on domestic violence cases gathered to exchange knowledge and best practices for handling cases involving SALW misuse. This activity emphasized effective strategies for preventing and responding to domestic violence and enhancing collaboration with local communities.• 4 CSOs received low-value grants to implement activities aimed at increasing community safety and protection of women from firearms-enabled violence. Their activities encompass improvement of community support services, increasing cooperation with local institutions and awareness raising activities addressing vulnerable groups, such as women in rural areas. A capacity-building session was organized with representatives of women's civil society organizations working on domestic violence to enhance their knowledge of firearms misuse. The session focused on effectively handling these cases in collaboration with relevant institutions and developing safety plans for survivors at risk of firearms-related domestic violence.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MoI Department of Psychological Activities organized a capacity-building session for 31 representatives from the MoI Department of Psychological Activities, local police department psychologists, heads of police stations, and officers responsible for recruitment. The session focused on the early recognition of mental health risks that could lead to firearms misuse, as well as procedures for handling cases to prevent mental health issues related to domestic violence and suicide. In a separate initiative, this department provided support to police officers working on domestic violence cases, offering strategies to prevent burnout and effectively manage the stress associated with handling these sensitive situations.• With the project's support, the MoI implemented a campaign raising public awareness on the consequences of (firearms-enabled) domestic violence and encouraging (anonymous) reporting of violence to the police. MoI's communication efforts involved a campaign video and visuals published through both traditional and social media channels. This ensured a wide reach of diverse audiences, including both those directly affected by violence and bystanders, reaching over 400,000 views on social media and 670,000 viewers via the national public broadcasting service (RTS). Additionally, 33 media reports highlighted the consequences of domestic violence, including firearm misuse.• Through engagement of an expert from the Brussels-based organization Victim Support Europe, the project assisted the Government of Serbia Working Group for the Establishment of a Memorial Center for the Victims of the Mass Shooting at Vladislav Ribnikar Elementary School, to identify key action points for healing and reconciliation within the community following the mass shootings at "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School and villages of Mala Dubona and Orašje. The expert also participated in the Government's working group to provide insight into international best practices on overcoming post-tragedy/mass shootings trauma.• A three-day workshop strengthened the competencies and capacities of 31 professionals from the Institute for Mental Health, Centre for Youth, and University Clinical Centers in Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Niš in providing trauma-focused treatment for children, adolescents, and families who are direct or indirect victims of mass shootings. The training was delivered by Norwegian experts engaged through the project to enhance the capacities of mental health professionals in Serbia for therapy work. Through this activity, the project directly responds to the Ministry of Education's request for systematic approaches to healing following the May 2023, mass shootings and for providing trauma-focused assistance to those affected, including youth in crisis.• A workshop gathering 15 media photographers and photo-reporters was held to improve their awareness on the ethical visual depiction of the problem of violence against women and mass shootings. This serves to support media reporting that contributes to violence
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	<p>prevention and a deeper public understanding of the effects of violence, including that committed through firearms misuse.</p>
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindered communication with the Prime Minister’s Office, which is leading efforts around health system digitalization, caused delays in envisaged activities, due to the election of a new government. • Ongoing protests across Serbia since November 2024 require the engagement of uniformed police officers, affecting the dynamics and timeline of planned activities, especially those involving Mol senior officers and uniformed police personnel. • Mass murders and the trials of perpetrators have a profound emotional impact not only on the families of victims, but also on professionals, which should be addressed.
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of evidence-based recommendations to improve effective legal solutions for preventing and reducing firearms risk in gender-based violence. • Mapping of essential resources for victims of mass-shooting incidents, as well as for professionals responding to such crises in Serbia. • Implementation of capacity building/advocacy activities of the Network of Women in the Police of Serbia. • Bilateral meetings of networks of women police officers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, and an EU study visit, facilitating regional experience exchange and networking around the topic of SALW misuse prevention • Finalization of design and implementation of training of trainers (ToT) for healthcare workers on response to (firearms-enabled) domestic violence through multi-agency cooperation and provision of support to those in need. • Monitoring of and assistance to implementation of project-supported activities of local CSOs. • Support to media and communication activities of Mol to prevent firearms misuse in the community and in the context of domestic violence, and encourage reporting of incidents to the police. • Development of standardized risk assessment instrument and accompanying guidance for use by healthcare professionals when conducting preventive medical screenings and medical assessments for firearm license applicants. • Implementation of training and community-based activities for the prevention of firearm-related suicides targeting men over 45 years of age, particularly retired security personnel and veterans. • Implementation of an awareness-raising campaign to provide crisis support information and prevent firearm misuse for suicide.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up support provision by Norwegian experts to previously trained professionals of the Institute for Mental Health, to facilitate implementation of best practices on post-tragedy/mass shooting community reintegration and improved mass shooting prevention.• Implementation of analysis of media reporting on mass shootings and SALW misuse, to improve ethical media reporting on violence involving firearms misuse.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans</i> <i>Ms. Simonetta Grassi, Chief, Firearms Trafficking Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC, Email: simonetta.grassi@un.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>November 2023 - October 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Western Balkan jurisdictions</i>
DONOR	<i>Multi-Partner Trust Fund</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 2,390,815
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Justitia directly builds upon the previous project on “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans”, implemented by UNODC in 2020-2023, and represents a comprehensive effort to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans. By addressing gaps in legislation, enhancing the abilities of criminal justice practitioners, and harmonizing criminal legislation approaches across the region for better operational exchange, the project aims to create a more effective and unified approach to combat these pressing issues and support the implementation of the Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region. • Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans. • Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 1:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – December 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception meeting for Project Justicia; • One regional conference on legislative harmonization with the criminalization provisions of UN Firearms Protocol was organized; • Two workshops on legislative harmonization between BiH Criminal Code with the criminalization provisions of UN Firearms Protocol were organized; • One regional conference on harmonization of judicial practices in the adjudication of firearms cases was held; • One regional conference on the application of special investigative measures to firearms offences was organized; • One study visit to the European Court on Human Rights and the French judicial institutions for all WB jurisdictions was organized; • One regional conference on development of training materials for investigation and prosecution of firearms offences was held; • Training materials for the judiciary were developed and one training for judiciary in was delivered Pristina; • Training materials for the judiciary in Belgrade were developed; • 2nd edition of the firearms case collection was developed in Pristina, Belgrade, Sarajevo and Skopje; • Guide on the application of Special Investigative Measures in firearms investigations was developed in Tirana, Belgrade, Skopje, Podgorica and Sarajevo; • Training materials for investigation and prosecution of firearms offences were developed in Skopje, • Development and launch of the Commentary on the North Macedonian Criminal Code. • Regional meeting on harmonization of criminal legislation was organized. • Firearms case law workshops in Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje were organized.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal legislation workshop in Sarajevo was organized. • Training for judiciary in Belgrade was delivered. • Training materials for investigation and prosecution of firearms offences developed in Belgrade were finalized.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of training for judiciary in Sarajevo, Tirana, Skopje and Podgorica. • Development of the Regional analysis of implementation of SIMs for firearms trafficking cases. • Development of 2nd edition of the firearms case collection in Tirana and Podgorica.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>UNODC</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Simonetta Grassi, Chief, Firearms Trafficking Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC, Email: simonetta.grassi@un.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>October 2024 - October 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Western Balkan jurisdictions</i>
DONOR	<i>Multi-Partner Trust Fund</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,280,387
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Hermes is aimed at increasing the capacities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions to counter trafficking of firearms, their parts, ammunition and explosives through Express Courier and postal parcels. The project builds upon a pilot initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2020 to 2022 and the project's first phase implemented by UNODC in 2023. Under Hermes Phase 2.1, UNODC will support all jurisdictions in the WB to strengthen their response to firearms trafficking through the provision of advanced

	courses for X-ray operators, workshops targeting analytical units of customs administrations and DPOs, and through the delivery of specialized equipment to customs administrations and DPOs.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans. • Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of the X-ray scanners was initiated.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of training for customs and postal officials in Tirana, Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica, Skopje and Sarajevo. • Procurement and delivery of 7 X-ray scanners. • Procurement and delivery of 2 hand-held explosive detectors. • Organization of workshops on risk indicators for trafficking of firearms in postal parcels.

SUPPORTING COUNTRY/INSTITUTION	<i>France/Directorate for Security and Defense Cooperation/ Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs¹⁶</i>
CONTACT PERSON	<i>Mr. Olivier Buchbinder, Coordinator of the French Center of Expertise on Security in South-Eastern Europe, E-mail: olivier.buchbinder@diplomatie.gouv.fr</i>
BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>Four years</i>
CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT (IF AVAILABLE)	EUR 2,100,100
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donation of an automatic ballistic identification system in 3D and a software for processing technical information on weapons following seizures by law enforcement, allowing statistical data to be collected.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p>
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of October 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program started in 2018 and the equipment are in place since 2022 in all WB6.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow WB6 jurisdictions to have an ABIS system and be able to make ballistic exchanges. • Allow WB6 jurisdictions to have a basis for registration of weapons information seized by law enforcement. • Allow WB6 jurisdictions to produce seized weapons statistics and analyzes and exchange with their neighbours and EU countries. • Albania and France have signed an agreement to link their ballistic databases by the end of 2023.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END OF 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since Albania and France have signed an agreement to link their ballistic databases at the end of 2023, the technical implementation of this project will be carried out during 2024.

¹⁶ The inputs presented in this document are as received in November 2024 from France/Directorate for Security and Defense Cooperation/ Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs ahead of the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting held on 10-11 December 2024 as no new inputs have been received.

PARTIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>Norwegian People's Aid Bosnia and Herzegovina (NPA BiH)</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Law Enforcement Agencies SALW Marking, Labelling and Registration</i> <i>Valerie Warmington, Country Director, NPA BiH, E-mail: valwar323@npaid.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>2022 - ongoing</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Law Enforcement Agencies in BiH</i>
DONOR	<i>NMFA, UNSCAR</i>
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 350,000 (3 Law Enforcement Agencies – Cantonal and Entity Level)
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	1,500,000 (to complete all remaining state-level law enforcement agencies)
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Implementation of Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) stockpile management procedures and processes; training for and oversight of SALW marking, labelling and registration activities; SALW management digitalization; inclusion of women in arms violence reduction, conflict prevention and recovery efforts.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 2 - By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led. Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 2: Fully integrate gender and age concerns in SALW/firearms control policies and ensure meaningful participation of women in SALW/firearms control. Goal 7: Strengthen the capacities of relevant state institutions (armed forces, law enforcement, forest guards, customs, correctional services) to establish inspection systems and implement Life Cycle Management of SALW and ammunition (where relevant).
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implemented SALW marking and registration systems in Brcko District and in Posavina Canton. Implementation underway in Canton 10.

MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	Access to sufficient funding to appropriately scale the work for completion across BiH by end 2026.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing project implementation with Federal Police Authority and one additional Canton.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Presence in Albania</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of Albania to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)</i></p> <p><i>Xhenis Ballço – National Project Officer – OSCE PiA; E-mail: Xhenis.Ballco@osce.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>August 2021 – June 2026</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministries, institutions and citizens of Albania</i>
DONOR	<i>Germany, France, EU</i>
PROJECT FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 1,998,883
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 352,324
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>To enhance the Ministry of Interior’s and Albanian State Police’s SALW control and non-proliferation capacities in Albania.</p> <p>The Project aims to support the efforts of the Mol and other Albanian authorities in obtaining necessary technical assistance; expertise; resources and equipment that will enable them strengthening their preventive, investigative and management capabilities on SALW control and non-proliferation. Such an approach will continue in the process of addressing the following three priority areas as identified by the Mol and ASP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the establishment of a comprehensive legislative framework for the deactivation of firearms and its due implementation; Build the capacities of the ASP in strengthening their canine (K9) capabilities in detecting SALW, ammunition, and explosives;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the capacities of Albanian authorities in raising public awareness on the dangers of misuse and proliferation of SALW.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE; <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives, and systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal firearms possession
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoU signed with the Ministry of Interior; • The Project was launched on 9 June 2022, with the participation of project beneficiaries and other Albanian governmental institutions, donors and other international organization, civil society and media; • Held the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Executive Committee of the project; • Supported the establishment and deliberations of three working groups in support of the implementation of the related project activities; • Engagement of international and local experts for the development and delivery of activities related to deactivation, canine units and awareness raising; • Completed the 1st project amendment, which included the revision of the existing activities, additional activities, and an increase of the overall budget to reflect the project's modifications;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the 2nd project amendment, which extends the project timeline and budget. The implementation timeline was extended until June 2026, with an increased budget to reflect raising market prices, primarily related to construction works and specialized equipment; • Initiated the consultation process with members of the SALW Commission to respond to the needs related to the three priority intervention areas, as requested by the Albanian government, for inclusion in the 3rd amendment of the Project. The amendment will incorporate budget enhancements and additional activities. • Finalized the analysis of firearms deactivation in Albania and developed an action plan for its implementation. • Finalized and endorsed by the beneficiary, the Training Manual on deactivation processes. • Organized the delivery of two training courses on training manual for conducting deactivation work, providing a practical overview of the adopted training manual. • Incorporated the Training Manual on deactivation processes into the Security Academy curricula. • Developed a comprehensive list of deactivation equipment, finalized purchases, and delivered them to the beneficiary on May 2024. • Re-issued the tender for Supervision Services to oversee construction works retrofitting an existing building as the Deactivation Centre for SALW; • The Detailed Design for retrofitting the SALW Deactivation Centre is finalized and endorsed by the beneficiary, with all required technical documents submitted for the construction permit. Tendering for construction works and re-tendering for supervision services have both been completed, including the selection processes. However, these activities are currently on hold and will resume once the Albanian government approves the construction permit. • Initiated the coordination for organizing an exchange visit of the representatives of ASP in an accredited institution in Saint Etienne, France, focused on deactivation and certification processes. • Developed the standard operating procedure (SOP) and K9 Master Plan for the modernization efforts, outlining a structured approach to mapping, sequencing and prioritizing each K9 capacity requiring support and necessary actions. • Organized the first regional event in Korca, Albania, to localize the SOP and assess potential advancements of the canine regulatory framework. • Organized a two-week study visit in France for representatives of the ASP Canine Training Institute, aimed at exchanging experience and learning from EU best practices.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized a one-week working visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina for ASP Canine Training Institute representatives to exchange information and learn from regional practices. • Organized the second regional event in Durres, Albania, focused on developing and localizing the K9 Training Manual and supporting enhanced cooperation amongst canine teams in the region. • Finalized the Training Manual, “Training and Operational Use of Service Dogs of the State Police of the Republic of Albania and delivered it to the beneficiary. The document was printed in 62 copies to be officially handed over to the beneficiary during a donation ceremony. • Developed an assessment report in cooperation with the French Gendarmerie on the current K9 capacities and capabilities, and shared its findings with the beneficiary. • Organized the first Regional K9 Exhibition on the detection capabilities of police dogs for small arms, ammunition and explosives in the Western Balkans, held from 05 – 07 June 2024, in Tirana, Albania. The event gathered regional practitioners and garnered extensive media coverage of over 10 national TV channels before and after the event. • Completed the organization of SAMBI training in cooperation with the French Gendarmerie for “Training of Trainers” on K9, held from 27 May – 6 July 2024, in Gramat, France. • Re-issued tender for Supervision Services related to the construction works for refurbishing of two ambulatory rooms in the Veterinary Clinic and retrofitting four buildings with dog kennels as part of the infrastructural upgrades at the ASP Canine Training institute. • The design and technical documentation for refurbishing two ambulatory rooms and retrofitting four kennel buildings at the ASP Canine Training Institute have been finalized and approved, with tendering and supervision contracts completed; however, implementation is on hold pending the construction permit. • In December 2024, organized a donation ceremony for the handover of the K9 goods and equipment, two K9 specialized vehicles to the ASP Canine Training Institute with the project donors and partners in attendance/ • Finalized the purchase of two K9 specialized Vehicles and delivered them to the ASP Canine Training Institute. • Developed and shared an assessment report outlining the needs, requirements, benefits and potential impact of an amnesty/voluntary surrender initiative for illicit SALW, ammunition and explosives in Albania. • Finalized and presented the Awareness Raising and Communication Strategy to project beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a pre-assessment of the campaign with a small-scale audience online to measure the perception/attitudes of the Albanian population on SALW, establish a baseline for the campaign and test the campaign messaging. • Organized an exchange visit to Croatia for 8 representatives from Civil Society Organizations, Local Safety Councils, Mol and ASP, to learn from Croatia’s experience in designing and implementing awareness raising campaigns on the risks and misuse of firearms. • Implemented two national awareness raising campaigns: In May 2024, supported the production and launch of the campaign rap song “Leji armet” and its broadcasting on national TVs; • Followed by nationwide audio-visual campaigns with high media presence (traditional and social). • Established and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OSCE Presence in Albania and the Ministry of Interior and four Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), to implement joint awareness raising and outreach activities; • Established and signed a joint MOU between the OSCE and Elbasan Municipality to cooperate on awareness-raising campaigns and outreach activities. • Following the established MoUs, conducted meetings with the Mayors of Municipalities of Elbasan, Shkodra, and Lezha, focusing on the importance of local community engagement and Local Safety Councils, while discussing SALW and implementation of SALW-related initiatives. • By the end of December 2024, successfully implemented and completed two national awareness-raising campaigns, which focused on combating SALW-related gender-based violence and youth engagement, to inform Albanian citizens about the risks of firearms misuse and foster a culture of peace and security. • The awareness-raising campaign included a digital component featuring the campaign advert, social media posts, and the broadcast of the song "Leji armet" (Leave the weapons), reaching a total of 3,489,034 citizens through television, radio, and social media platforms. • In close co-operation with civil society organizations, an awareness outreach activity plan targeting school students, teachers, youth, and women was implemented throughout a three-month tour with outreach activities organized in Tirana, Elbasan, Lezhe, and Shkoder. These activities were organized from September to December 2024 with the support of CSOs, LSCs, and local governments, having a vast participation of approximately 670 students, scholars, and teachers.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced campaign materials (brochures, posters, rollups, notebooks, pins, etc.) and delivered to the participants attending the outreach activities; • Facilitated the production of six video testimonials titled “Unheard voices”. These testimonials were conceptualized and recorded by youth in co-operation with CSOs and published on social media networks during November and December 2024. • Finalized an artistic mural in the center of Tirana through the engagement of a local artist. It depicts the consequences of gun violence in families as a powerful message to the youth and citizens. • Together with the municipalities and Local Safety Council members, supported the establishment of two street installations titled “Gun Violence Memory Walls” in the most accessible areas in the cities of Shkodra and Elbasan. The street installations were conceived based on the inputs from youth showcasing their perspectives on the risks of misuse of SALW in their communities, simultaneously displaying actual events and works of art. • Conducted an assessment of the perception/attitudes through a survey/focus group with the selected target audience, as designed by the Strategy. The analysis of “Public Firearms Awareness Survey After the Campaign” contemplated the impact of the campaign's eight-month implementation period. The results were carefully compared with the outcome of the Survey conducted before the launch of the campaign, and will serve as a tool to develop and implement future campaign support. • Organized an exchange visit to Serbia for 10 Albanian journalists covering security and SALW issues, the representatives of Mol, ASP, and SALW Commission. The visit facilitated the exchange of best regional practices and the sharing of experiences with Serbian colleagues. The media exchange visit was organized in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia and with the engagement of SEESAC, UNDP Serbia, and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia. • Organized an exchange visit to Sweden for 9 Albanian journalists covering security and SALW issues, along with representatives from Mol and ASP dealing with the media, to learn from the best EU practices and uphold high reporting standards. • Completed and shared with SEESAC a monitoring report on the current state of media reporting and an assessment of the capacity building needs for the journalists covering SALW and gender-based violence related to SALW issues. • In close co-ordination with the Project, SEESAC conducted a capacity-building workshop for media, the Ministry of Interior, and the Albanian State Police on the relevance of reporting ethics, with particular focus on the reporting on SALW-related gender-based violence. The event took place on 25 – 26 November 2024. During the workshop with
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	<p>25 participants, the Project introduced the results of the monitoring of the current state of media and the assessment of the capacity-building needs of the journalists covering SALW-related gender-based violence topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed, localized, and contextualized the handbook document “Beyond the headlines: A Journalist's Guide to Reporting on Security, SALW, and Gender-Based Violence in Albania. • Duly implemented the Communications and Visibility plan, ensuring high media coverage for the project. • Finalized the Project Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and started its implementation. The findings and recommendations have been shared with the project’s beneficiary institutions. • Developed and endorsed an information leaflet “Female Factsheet” to be used as a mini campaign by the beneficiary, focusing on the promotion of women K9 handlers. • Successfully facilitated the inclusion of the first female canine handler, trained throughout 2024, thus marking a significant milestone in promoting gender diversity and equality in this field of policing. • Finalized the project’s visual identity, slogan, design and printing of visibility materials; • Finalized an animated project video and shared it across the OSCE and beneficiary communications platforms.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of bidder applications in the construction sector, and specialized equipment procurement processes. • Increased prices for goods and services on local and international markets, and rising inflation have impacted the project budget, requiring an increase to avoid only partial project implementation. • Delays in the approval chain as well as in obtaining necessary documentation from the beneficiary. • Shifts in beneficiary priorities regarding Canine infrastructural upgrades and specialized vehicles procurement. • Complex procurement processes require strict timelines and focused efforts. • Delays from the MoI/ASP in obtaining construction permission; Multiple donor pledges with different timelines.
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END OF 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of the installation services of deactivation equipment in the finalized construction site and the delivery of the relevant training on their usage. • Transpose the deactivation Training Manual into an e-learning Module • Engage a service provider for the provision of Training for neutralization/deactivation services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct supervision services for construction works related to retrofitting of the Deactivation Centre and infrastructural upgrades at the ASP Canine Training Institute. • Complete the construction works for retrofitting of the existing building to the Deactivation Centre for SALW. • Successfully complete the organization of the exchange visit for the representatives of ASP focused on deactivation and neutralization processes planned to take place on 25-28 May 2025. • Include the Training Manual on K9 in the curricula of the ASP Security Academy. • Transpose the K9 Training Manual into an e-learning Module. • Donation of the K9 Training Manual to the ASP Canine Training Institute. • Deliver training to further share the knowledge gathered during the course with the French gendarmerie and multiply it to the local directorates and/or BcP. • Execute the construction works for the refurbishment of two ambulatory rooms in the Veterinary Clinic and retrofitting of four dog kennels as part of infrastructural upgrades at the ASP Canine Training Institute. • Promote the use of K9 capacities through the organization of a national-level competition; • Delivery and organization of a capacity-building workshop for the media, Mol, and ASP on the relevance of reporting ethics, with particular focus on SALW-related gender-based violence cases, whereby the handbook will be presented and facilitated by the local expert. • Production of 3 project videos for each result and their promotion on the media platforms; • Engagement of the external evaluator as per the project plan.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Mission to BiH</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>Addressing security and safety risks of illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Andrei Sarban, Project Manager, Department for Security Co-operation (DSC)</i> <i>E-mail: andrei.sarban@osce.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>2020 - 2026</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) including entity and cantonal ministries of interior (Mols)/police agencies; SALW Control Co-ordination Board; BiH Ministry of Security (MoS);</i>

	<i>Prosecutors' offices, courts and penitentiary services; population of BiH; OSCE participating States from SEE.</i>
DONOR	<i>Austria (in-kind contribution), Czech Republic, EU, Germany, France, Lichtenstein, Norway, Slovakia, Turkey and the United States of America</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 5,321,352
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 1,313,663.44
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To support BiH in mitigating security and safety risks related to illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	<p>Goal 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and standardized across the region.</p> <p>Goal 3 - By 2025, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2025, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a complete legal framework and practice of SALW deactivation to counter all forms of illicit possession, trafficking and misuse of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE). • Fully harmonize arms control legislation and practices with OSCE and EU legal framework and other international agreements/standards. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy, and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade, and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment, and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring, and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures, and transparency. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional, and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter the trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE. • Increase awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of SALW since they account for the majority of perpetrators and victims of firearm-related incidents. • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. • Increase the partnership with, and awareness of media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence. • Increase administrative capacities and targeted outreach to complete re-registration within envisaged legal timeframe, as well as to address adequately found and inherited firearms. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standard.
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – October 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Implementation Protocol (PIP) and Project Activities Implementation Protocols (PAIPs) signed with 16 beneficiary LEAs. • Upgraded 10 SALW police storage with Installing Intruder-Detection Systems (IDS); • Equipment and furniture for the 10 SALW police storage provided. • Training framework and training materials on SALW control and management by LEAs completed. • Advanced Training of trainees on SALW control and management by LEAs completed. • Guidelines for police SALW storage management completed. • Three trainings for the IDS experts in the management and maintenance of the IDS were conducted. • Guidelines for Enhancement of Inter-institutional Communication and Outreach on SALW in BiH (Guidelines) and the related Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (the Framework) completed; • Cooperation with "Policewomen's Network" Association and Republika Srpska Mol Women Network was established. • Supported two Associations of Women in Police WG meetings on Gender and SALW, led by an international gender expert from Germany. • PR and Communication Experts from beneficiary LEAs and SALW CCB commenced applying the Guidelines and the Framework when reporting on SALW-related incidents. • Donated 11 special vehicles for the transportation of police K9. • Supporting the development of the K9 capacity optimization Master Plan. • Project technical documentation for upgrading the 11 K9 units was completed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement procedures for the K9 equipment for police K9 units completed. • Procurement procedures for upgrading the 11 K9 units initiated. • Draft of the Training Program and Training Manual on the application of SOP for the use of K9 capacity in the detection of SALW, ammunition and explosives completed. • Assessment of the legal, statistical and data collection aspects of the existing SALW-related databases being used by law enforcement and judiciary in BiH, toward establishing an integrated SALW and ammunition inter-institutional track record system for BiH completed. • Assessment of legislative and regulatory framework on SALW deactivation completed. • WG for harmonisation of firearms laws in BiH adopted important recommendations relating to (1) firearms deactivation and (2) mandatory temporary seizure of firearms immediately upon a report of domestic violence. The Mission's proposals for both were considered and accepted by the members of the WG, and thereafter constructively and effectively integrated into the final text of the recommendations that were adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers. • Proposal for harmonisation of firearms legislation in the part related to SALW deactivation and draft regulatory framework for SALW deactivation procedures in BiH. • Equipment for firearms deactivation coordinated, and procurement procedures completed. • Procurement procedures for upgrading two capacities for the SALW deactivation have been completed. • The training on the misuse of firearms in gender-based and domestic violence was organized. • Supported participation of one female police officer as speaker from BiH at the Security Committee meeting on women in the security sector in Vienna. • Organised twice per year the Project Monitoring Team meeting. • One Video to increase project visibility completed. • Training for police experts in the management and maintenance of IDS was conducted • Implementing the Guidelines for Enhancement of Inter-institutional Communication and Outreach on SALW in BiH is ongoing. • Supporting inter-institutional dialogue and outreach is ongoing. • Organising a meeting in the BiH Jurisdictions on the inter-institutional coordination and SALW awareness, ongoing. • Equipment for eleven (11) K9 units provided. • Training Program and Training Manual on the application of SOP for the use of K9 capacity in the detection of SALW, ammunition and explosives completed and printed.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRONTEX-certified training for the K9 dog handlers ongoing. • ToT training for two (2) K9 dog handlers in France Gendarmerie K9 training center Gramat completed. • Engaging expertise for the development of ToR on SALW and ammunition inter-institutional track record system for BiH. • Completed the upgrade of capacity for SALW deactivation in Tuzla. • Provided equipment for firearms deactivation in Tuzla. • Completed the development of a Gender Monitoring Framework for the project.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising prices of goods and services in both local and international markets, driven by supply chain disruptions and reduced availability, are adversely affecting project activities, particularly those involving construction and procurement. • Challenges in sourcing the necessary expertise locally and internationally. • Coordination delays due to the large number of beneficiaries spread across different levels of governance. • A rapidly changing political and security landscape. • Limited supplier engagement and a low number of interested vendors. • Project budget shortfall of EUR 1,313,663.44
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement guidelines to enhance inter-institutional communication and outreach regarding Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). • Ongoing support for inter-institutional dialogue and outreach. • Organise three meetings across BiH jurisdictions to improve inter-institutional coordination and raise awareness on SALW. • Completing and conducting FRONTEX-certified training for K9 dog handlers. • Complete the upgrade of capacity for SALW deactivation in Banja Luka (Zaluzani). • Delivery of equipment for firearms deactivation in Banja Luka (Zaluzani). • Contracting the company for the development of software for an inter-institutional track record system on SALW and ammunition for BiH. • Initiation of a Gender Equality Assessment (GEA) for relevant police units, support meetings, and information sessions with law enforcement representatives. • Facilitate meetings and advocate for the harmonization of firearms legislation throughout all BiH jurisdiction. • Initiate the standardization of deactivation processes and facilitate the Banc d'Épreuve de Saint-Étienne in conducting an assessment, providing advice on approximating the legislation and regulatory framework to international standards, and certifying the necessary human resources.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Mission in Kosovo</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Support to the strengthening of the Canine (K-9) capacity of the police services to detect and confiscate SALW, ammunition and explosives</i> <i>Mr. Betim Llapashtica, Activity Manager, E-mail: betim.llapashtica@osce.org</i> <i>Mr. Fatos Kuqani, National Project Officer, E-mail: fatos.kuqani@osce.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>1 September 2020 – 30 December 2024 (under AMDT2, 31 December 2027)</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police/ K9 Unit</i>
DONOR	<i>Federal Republic of Germany, France, European Agency for Reconstruction, European Commission, Norway (savings from previously closed OMIK ExB projects)</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 136,300 (under AMDT2, the new budget 1,050.866)
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 12,615 (under AMDT2)
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the strengthening of the existing K-9 capability of Kosovo Police and its direct contribution towards prevention, suppression and investigation of SALW, ammunition, and explosives misuse and trafficking in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive need assessment on the organizational, structural and operational capacities of K9 Police Units was completed and presented to the Working Group and Steering Committee. • Regular meetings held by the Working Group and Steering Committee. • Delivered the Project Design for Civil Construction, Electrical and ICT installation works for the K-9 Unit infrastructure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project coordination meetings are regularly organized and attended by the Project Team. • Finalized the recruitment process for project staff supporting project activities. • Training on dog anatomy is delivered. • Advanced training for dog handlers on SALW detection delivered. • Conducted an international tender for the construction of the K9 polygon, with construction works beginning in May 2023. • Completed the 1st project amendment to expand activities and extend the project duration. • Finalized a Master Plan for developing enhanced and sustainable K9 capabilities for KP, as well as the provision of technical assistance on related legal and practical matters, presented to beneficiaries and donors during a dedicated workshop held in May. • Ongoing procurement of specialized equipment for the K9 Units, supporting maintenance, deployment, and advancement of service dog capabilities. The equipment has been identified in co-operation with beneficiaries. • Completed construction of the K-9 Agility Polygon and delivered on 27 September 2023. • Delivered specialized dog equipment on 27 September 2023. • Organized an expert visit from the French Gendarmerie from 13 to 15 November 2023. • Procured additional construction works for the existing Kennels at Camp Vrelle. • Supported one KP Officer to undergo a six-week ToT course for multidisciplinary dogs in Gramat, France, from 27 May 2024 to 07 July 2024. • Organized a workshop to review and revise the KP SOP for K9 Operations. • Participation in the High-Level Meeting on the Strategic Advancement of Police Canine Capabilities for the Prevention and Detection of Illicit and Trafficked Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in South-Eastern Europe (SEE), taking place in Vienna, Austria on 25 October 2024.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing prices of goods and services on local and international markets due to supply chain disruptions and decreasing supply are having an adverse effect on planned project activities, especially those involving construction works and purchases. • Fluctuating construction costs due to rising labor and material prices. • Difficulties in finding the required local and international expertise.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF END 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the infrastructure improvements (additional works in existing kennels). • Delivery of the training plan for K9. • Delivery of specialized tailored (modified) K9 vehicles.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of training program on the Frontex methodology for the detection of SALW and ammunition. • Organization of a regional Workshop on SAMBI K9. • Preparation of the detailed designs (architect drawings by in-house expertise) of the additional infrastructure improvements of the K-9 Units training building and accompanying infrastructure.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Mission to Montenegro</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Mitigation of Safety and Security Risks related to SALW/SCA in Montenegro;</i> <i>Mr. Johan Dahl, Project Officer, E-mail: johan.dahl@osce.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>November 2020 – December 2026</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministry of Defense – Armed Forces of Montenegro, Ministry of Interior</i>
DONOR	<i>Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland</i>
PROJECT FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 2,171,776
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 716,652
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced strategic, training and coordination capacities of the Ministry of Defence and other accountable and equitable government bodies in the field of SALW/SCA management. • Support in establishing an SCA surveillance framework. • Support in introducing capabilities to transport SALW/SCA in a safe and secure way according to international good practice. • Support in reconstruction of the storage site "Brezovik" and "Nova lokacija" Židovići – Pljevlja.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	Goal 6 - Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

	Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the capacities of relevant state institutions to establish inspection systems and implement Life Cycle Management of SALW and ammunition. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the project was signed on 4th February 2022. The project completed the Hazard Classification of Montenegro's Military Explosives and Munitions including Police ammunition according to NATO Guidelines for Storage of Military Ammunitions (AASTP-1, 2015) and IATG: 01.50 - UN explosive hazard classification system and 90 codes. In the process of hazard classification, all ammunitions were updated from the "Nomenklaturni broj JNA". The final draft was delivered to the MoD and Mol for their further ownership. The project finalised the Rulebook on safes storage of ammunition according to NATO standard AASTP 1c (2023), the rulebook is pending national adoption. The project completed the Explosive Limit Licensing inspections of three of MoD's ammunition storage site Brezovik, Taraš and "Nova lokacija" Židovići, the findings are pending national adoption. Under capacity building initiatives with the MoD and the Armed Forces of Montenegro the project delivered 17 workshops and training courses attended by 135 participants (19 woman and 116 men) by the end of 2024. The project completed procurement and delivery of furniture for two classrooms and one office, as well as tools and supplies for technical training courses for the dedicated MoD ammunition training facility in Podgorica. The project provided ADR training and certification under the Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (valid for 5 years) for 10 specialists from the Montenegrin Army, Air Force and Navy. The project delivered two ADR trucks to the MoD for ammunition transportation. The project completed all firefighting activities mentioned in the first cooperation plan with the support of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). Namely, fire prevention needs assessment, training on systematic fire prevention, firefighting including ToT, establishing a training polygon and equipment donations.

MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formation of a National Technical Authority and its institutionalisation is delayed due to the political situation and senior management turnover. • Inflation and world market price increases have impacted the project budget, and the budget has been increased to meet the changes in. • Beneficiaries need to budget for life-cycle costs and the sustainability of the project results from 2027 onwards.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If requested by MoD, initiate the construction design brief for Pljevlja ammunition site based on the Urbanistic Technical Conditions (UTC) which is pending to be developed by MoD. • Procurement of additionally requested firefighting equipment for the MoD. • Conducting a series of first aid trainings, including the donation of medical equipment to MoD.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Mission to Serbia</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>ExB Project: “Support to designing and implementing awareness raising campaigns on SALW control in Serbia” Project Manager: Ms. Ana Petrovic Jovanovic, Organized Crime Adviser, OSCE Mission to Serbia, E-mail: ana.petrovic-jovanovic@osce.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>September 2019 – December 2024</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>SALW Coordination Council in Serbia, Ministry of Interior and general public</i>
DONOR	<i>European Union, France, Germany and Slovakia</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 351,163
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 10,465
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and other state institutions to conduct awareness raising campaigns on SALW control, thus contributing to decreasing the amount of weapons in illegal possession, hindering the misuses of SALW, while increasing the safety of Serbia’s citizens.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	Goal 4 - By 2025, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, outreach and advocacy.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE. • Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mission organized a kick-off Workshop on 15 and 16 September 2021 for 20 representatives from state institutions and civil society organizations involved in addressing SALW misuse. • The WG was officially formed on 24 December 2021. Soon after, OSCE expert recommendations on conducting the awareness-raising campaigns in Serbia were shared with the WG members. • In February 2022, the 1st WG meeting was held, during which the tasks working methodology were discussed, and the Recommendations for awareness raising campaigns were presented. • On 18 April, the 2nd WG meeting was organized. The main topic of discussion was the Draft Media and Awareness Raising plan, previously developed by the external expert hired by the project. • On 22 July 2022, the 3rd WG meeting was held. Members of the WG reviewed several SALW awareness raising campaigns either previously implemented in Serbia or expected in the SEE region. The WG concluded on the content, messaging and primary target groups for the planned SALW legalization awareness raising campaign in Serbia. • Following the WG recommendations, the Mission drafted the Terms of Reference for a “Service provider to develop feature (non-animated) video spots, social media campaign content, also develop of concept, content and general design requirements for banners, brochures and posters to support the Ministry of Interior in implementing a national campaign to legalize weapons in illegal possession”. • Upon completion of the competitive procedure, in January 2023, the Mission selected a “Service provider for developing campaign materials to support the Mol in implementing a national campaign aimed at legalizing weapons in illegal possession”. • During the period January – April 2023, the Mission, the Mol and the selected advertising agency held several strategy meetings to shape the direction and elements of the upcoming campaign. • Following two mass shooting incidents that occurred in Serbia on 3 and 4 May 2023, the Mol announced a voluntary surrender of weapons to commence immediately on 8 May.

	<p>Therefore, the campaign ideas developed by the media company were reprioritized and adjusted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the voluntary surrender campaign, the Mission supported the Mol by producing two informative videos to be broadcasted on national TV channels, including the respective content (short videos and visuals) for social media. • To maximize campaign reach, the Mission rented 125 billboards (both printed and LED) across Serbia. • Together with the Mol, the Mission has begun developing the next phase of the awareness-raising campaign, focusing on the safekeeping of legally possessed SALW. • A feature video on this topic was recorded on 27 February 2024 and approved by the Mission and the donors in April 2024. • The Mission also produced informational leaflets and posters, and additional promotional materials (notebooks, pens, USB sticks and cotton bags). • The campaign is expected to launch in November 2024. • The Mission supports the Mol in organizing roundtables with hunting and shooting associations in five cities in Serbia in October and November 2024. • Round tables with shooting and hunting associations in four cities in Serbia were held in October and November 2024.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of responsiveness on behalf of the Mol in respect to the adjustment of activities under result 2.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was closed in December 2024.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Mission to Serbia</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>ExB Project: “Strengthening the capacities of the Serbian Ministry of Interior to more effectively reduce, prevent, and counter illicit trafficking and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons, ammunition and explosives”</i></p> <p><i>Project Manager: Ms. Ana Petrovic Jovanovic, National Legal Adviser, OSCE Mission to Serbia, E-mail: ana.petrovic-jovanovic@osce.org</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>February 2022 – October 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministry of Interior, Agency for Marking, Branding, Testing, and Deactivation of Firearms and Ammunition</i>

DONOR	European Union, France and Germany
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 1,735,543
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 335,943
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) by developing and implementing legal framework for SALW deactivation and the use of service dogs for detection of SALW, ammunition and explosives, thus contributing to the enhancement of the MoI capabilities to reduce, prevent, and counter trafficking and misuse of SALW, ammunition and explosives in Serbia.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	Goal 3 - Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units Goal 5: Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal firearms possession
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the project implementation was signed by the Mission and the MoI on 16 May 2023. • In June 2023, an OSCE national expert (consultant) hired to develop the “Strategy for mainstreaming gender into project activities and results” submitted the final version of the Gender Mainstreaming Project Strategy, which serves as a gender blueprint guiding the project implementation to ensure gender perspective are integrated throughout. • In July 2023, a National Construction Engineer was hired, completing the SALW K9 project team. • On 4 March 2024, the first Project Steering Committee meeting was held. • On 28 March 2024, Amendment No. 1 of the Project Proposal was approved by the Head of Mission, announced to the donors and the MoI on the first Project Steering Committee, covering. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction of new components within Project Activities 2) An increase in the budget due to inflation 3) A nine-month extension (from January to October 2025) to accommodate delays from the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing.

Result 1: The legal framework on deactivation is improved and harmonized with international standards and best practices:

- Project facilitated participation of the Serbian Proof House director in a study visit to the French Proof House Saint Etienne.
- During the period October - December 2022, National Civil Engineer expert hired by the FSC SU, visited the Proof House in Kragujevac and developed a consolidated List of infrastructural needs and requirements of the Proof House. Project facilitated two visits of the of National civil engineer expert to the Proof House in Kragujevac.
- In March 2023, an OSCE international expert (consultant) on deactivation prepared an initial draft assessment of relevant Serbian legislation and actual capacities for SALW deactivation; the expert submitted the zero draft on the assessment of national legislation, with recommendations on how to best incorporate the international normative frameworks and standards on SALW deactivation into the legislative framework of Serbia. and developed zero draft Action Plan for the advancement of the existing capabilities.
- In October 2023, market research was conducted for limited infrastructural updates of the Serbian Deactivation Agency.
- In March 2024, the draft ToR for procuring the Construction design and elaboration services for limited infrastructural upgrades at the Serbian Proof House was developed.
- In May 2024, the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Serbian Agency for Marking, Branding, Testing, and Deactivation of Firearms and Ammunition (Deactivation Agency) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as a prerequisite for the continuation of the activities regarding the refurbishment of the Deactivation Agency's facilities and procuring the equipment for enhancing capabilities of deactivation processes.
- In December 2024, the construction design services for the limited infrastructural upgrades at the Deactivation Agency were completed.

Result 2: The capacity of the Mol K9 Unit to detect illicit SALW, ammunition and explosives are enhanced in compliance with human rights standards:

- In December 2021, the Minister of Interior has determined the location for the K9 facilities and an initial visit to the site took place on 24 December 2021.
- In February 2022, a needs assessment report for the K9 center was prepared by a construction expert.
- The Mission translated and shared with the Mol Standard operating procedures (SOPs) used by the French and Scottish K9 units, providing guidance to police staff and officers on the following elements:
- Training and care of police dogs,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational use of police dogs, and related practices. • In September 2023, market research for the Construction design service for the new K9 facility was conducted. • In December 2023, the Mission and the Mol agreed on the partial refurbishment of the existing Bezanijska Kosa K9 facility, including mobile training polygons and mobile dog containers. This location change was due to information provided by the Mol in October 2023 that the Gendarmerie will be using the entire Lipovica 2 location and therefore there will be no room to accommodate the K9 infrastructure. • In April 2024, the Mol’s Working Group for the development of the K9 Master Plan and the Standard Operating Procedures was established based on the agreed ToR. In June 2024, the first meeting of the Mol’s Working Group (WG) for the development of the SOP for the use of K9 Capacities, as well as the K9 Master Plan, was held. The WG consists of Mol’s representatives from various departments (including the Company of Service Dog Handlers - Special Police Unit “Police Brigade”, General Police Directorate, and Border Police Directorate). Five additional meetings were held from July to December 2024. • In April 2024, two SALW K9 experts from the French Gendarmerie visited Belgrade, as part of efforts aimed at developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the use of K9 capacity, as well as the K9 Master Plan for the modernization of this important resource. • In June 2024, the tender for the procurement of the equipment for enhancing the capacity of the K9 Unit was completed, with an expected delivery of the items in Q3-Q4 2024. The Donation Agreement was signed on 24 September 2024, and the donation of equipment is scheduled for January 2025. • In June 2024, the Project contracted an international expert to support the development of the SOP and the K9 Master Plan and provide support to the WG in developing a comprehensive and sustainable long-term strategy for the transformation of the K9 Unit. • In August 2024, the tender for the procurement of specialized K9 vehicles was completed, and two vehicles are scheduled to be delivered in May 2025. • In October 2024, the tender for Project Design services for the K9 facility Bezanijska kosa was published for the infrastructural upgrades of the K9 Unit. • In December 2024, a six-week training for two dog handlers of the K9 Unit at the National Centre for Dog Training of the Gendarmerie (CNICG) in Gramat, France, was completed.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex internal coordination of the Mol, coupled with every so often conflicting view regarding core activities of the project, with exhausting procedures for scheduling meetings with Focal Points.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflation and the rising prices of construction materials and labor also restricted the limited funding for design and construction work. • Lengthy procedures and strict national regulations on the import of some of the K9 equipment.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and distribution of visibility materials encouraging women police officers to join the K9 Unit. • Support with necessary equipment and consumables for Serbian Proof House. • Standardization of deactivation processes through engagement of one of the prominent European proof-houses, to deliver the entire package of services necessary for delivering peer-to-peer assessment, approximation of legislation and infrastructure requirements with the international standards, and certification of necessary human resources. • Completion of the limited infrastructural upgrade at the Deactivation Agency. • Continued support to the Mol's Working Group for the development of the Standard Operating Procedures for the use of K9 Capacities, as well as the K9 Master Plan through the organization of the WG Meetings. • Completion of the certification of two dog handlers of the K9 Unit who completed the SAMBI training at the CNICG in Gramat, France. • Completion of the Construction Design and Elaboration Services for the K9 Centre and start of tender for the Execution of Infrastructural upgrades.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Mission to Skopje</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<i>Assisting the National Authorities of North Macedonia to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)</i> <i>Mr. Malte Grohmann, Project Coordinator, Public Safety and Community Outreach, E-mail: malte.grohmann@osce.org</i>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>May 2020 – December 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National SALW Commission, government institutions, and the general public</i>
DONOR	<i>United States, Germany, European Union, Belgium, France, Norway, and Slovakia</i>

PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 8,059,445
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 3,129,422.18
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The overall objective is to support the Government of North Macedonia to implement international commitments in the field of SALW proliferation and contribute to security and stability in North Macedonia.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL/S	<p>Goal 3 - By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach, and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 6 - Systematically decrease the number of surpluses and seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.</p> <p>Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade, and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment, and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Enhance operational and FAE detection capacities of specialized law enforcement units through infrastructure upgrades. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE. • Increase awareness among the general public, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of FAE. • Increase awareness of the dangers of celebratory shootings, especially as major contributors to firearm-related deaths and injuries. • Increase awareness and reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. • Increase awareness on the misuse and threats of FAE targeting the youth <p>Goal 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the capacities of the firearms administration through infrastructure upgrades and equipment assistance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the capacities of the firearms destruction committee through development of standard operating procedures and training manuals • Increase the expertise of the firearms destruction committee through specialized training <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase the number of seized firearms, ammunition, and explosives. <p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities, based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K9 facilities at Ilinden, Hipodrom, the Regional K9 Training and Certification Center in Gyorche Petrov, and the K9 site in Delchevo upgraded and formally handed over to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • Review and amendment of the detailed designs for civil construction, electrical, and ICT installation works to upgrade K9 infrastructure at the Strumica, Shtip, Gostivar, Ohrid, and Bogorodica sites completed. As a result, the project team prepared the tender documentation for the K9 location in Strumica. • Two inter-agency promotional events on the capacities of the K9 Units organized. • Fourteen K9 police vehicles and three K9 trailers donated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • The procurement of office equipment for the K9 Units, as well as the procurement for the planting of grass and a green wall at the Gyorche Petrov polygon site, completed. • Dog mattresses supplied and distributed across North Macedonia as part of the equipment for the K9 Units. • Polygon agility training equipment enhancing K9 Units’ physical conditioning, agility, and operational skills delivered. • Report on animal treatment and welfare for the Police K9 Headquarters, the K9 Training and Certification Center in Gyorche Petrov, and the K9 field office finalized. • Standard Operating Procedure for the Use of Police Dogs in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and a K9 Handler Training Manual developed, approved by the Ministry, printed, and distributed to the relevant units. • Working group on K9 Masterplan Development and Executive Committee on K9 Masterplan Implementation established. • Final draft K9 Masterplan completed, amended, and submitted for review. • Assessment report on the existing legislative framework for K9 deployment and management completed. • Study visit on best practices in K9 management in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized. • Training for K9 Units on Management, Organization, and Police Service Dog Mentoring completed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Training Program on Duty Dog Care and First Aid implemented. • Regional Certification Program for Dog Handlers on Product Scent, Modules 1, 2, and 3, completed. • Access to the FRONTEX e-learning courses on K9 deployment provided. • The first woman police dog handler officially appointed at the beginning of 2024. • Infrastructure upgrades for Information Exchange Systems at the Police and Customs Cooperation Centers in Kjafasan, Blace, Deve Bair, Tabanovce, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Headquarters completed. • Secure Information Exchange Network Application encryption devices and ICT equipment donated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • Standard Operating Procedure for Real-Time Information Exchange regarding SALW-related incidents and a Training Manual for Real-Time Exchange of Information on SALW developed, approved by the Ministry, printed, and distributed to the relevant units. • Study visit on international best practices for real-time information exchange organized in Slovenia. • First Basic Secure Information Exchange Network Application Training organized. • Staff exchange and a follow-up visit with the Slovenian Border Police completed. • Staff exchange program between law enforcement officials from the Police and Customs Cooperation Centers of North Macedonia and Austria completed. • Connection between EUROPOL and North Macedonia through the Secure Information Exchange Network Application successfully established. • Content development of the e-learning courses for the real-time information exchange training manual initiated. • The High-level Police and Customs Cooperation Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Migrant Smuggling in South Eastern Europe organized in Skopje • Inter-agency cooperation meeting with the National SALW Commission organized. • Rules of Procedure for the National SALW Commission approved and adopted. • Orientation Manual outlining guidance on the processes and organizational framework within the Commission, accepted by the National SALW Commission. • Standard Operating Procedure for the Collection of Data and Reporting Information finalized and accepted by the National SALW Commission. • Leaflets on mandatory weapon certification were developed and distributed collaboratively with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • Video for the recertification campaign of firearms permits was developed and published on social media and national TV.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Strategy for the National SALW Commission developed, approved, and translated. • The service provider for the implementation of a public awareness campaign has been selected. Based on the chosen concept, the service provider developed a campaign strategy document outlining the proposed activities for implementing the campaign. • Ten PCs and two multifunction machines were donated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • Study visit on firearms deactivation to Kragujevac Proofhouse organized. • A construction manager hired for the physical upgrades of the Deactivation Verification and Administrative facilities and the infrastructure upgrades to the Firearms Deactivation and Destruction Inspection facilities. • Service provider for construction works, including electrical and low voltage installation services, for infrastructure upgrades of the Weapon Deactivation Verification facilities at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, contracted. The Ministry is exploring an alternative facility that ensures long-term operational efficiency. • Working group on developing a standard operating procedure on weapons destruction as a joint effort with SEESAC UNDP. The scope of the operating procedure has been broadened to include ammunition and explosives destruction. • Standard Operating Procedure documents for weapons, ammunition, and explosives destruction finalized. • Standard Operating Procedure for marking and registration of deactivated firearms developed and shared with the Ministry of Internal Affairs for review. • Deactivation certificate on secure paper, commensurate with the EU regulation EU 2018/337, developed and prepared for use in the Sector of Weapons, Explosives, and Hazardous Materials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs • Two vehicles for the deactivated firearms inspectors of the Ministry of Internal Affairs donated.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing prices of construction materials, fuel, and labor temporarily reduced the scope (upgrades for four K9 locations instead of nine K9 locations). • Delays in the implementation due to market instability. • Need to align the project with the current project environment, including lessons learned and economic market situation. • Ensuring gender mainstreaming within the working groups and during events. • Delays in the delivery of procured items due to the global supply chain difficulties. • Increased retirements in the Ministry of Internal Affairs led to delays due to strict procedures for appointing new personnel. • Unforeseen challenges encountered on-site and the aging of the original Bills of Quantity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays due to the election process in April and May impacted the progress. • Complex procedure for the adoption and integration of SOPs by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • Challenges in meeting the expected performance standards by the consultant.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch an awareness-raising campaign on SALW threats targeting youth, with a focus on the dangers of the misuse of firearms. • Officially adopt the Masterplan for K9 Transformation. • Set conditions for the implementation of the K9 Masterplan. • Complete the Regional K9 Certification Program on Product Scent, Module 4, Module 5, and the Professional Test. • Officially adopt, translate, and print the standard operating procedure for marking and registration of deactivated firearms. • Officially adopt, translate, and print the standard operating procedure documents for weapons, ammunition, and explosives destruction. • Complete specialized training for SALW Neutralization and Deactivation by the Banc National d'Épreuve de Saint-Étienne. • Complete the infrastructure upgrade of the K9 site in Strumica. • Complete the infrastructure upgrade and equipment assistance of the Weapons Maintenance and Deactivation Workshop.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>OSCE Secretariat</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p><i>Strengthening OSCE action against the illicit proliferation of Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) - Phase 3 (reprogrammed project –continuation of the project Strengthening OSCE action against the illicit proliferation of Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) – Phase 1 and Phase 2)</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Slobodan Boskovic, Project Officer, CPC/FSC Support Section, E-mail: slobodan.boskovic@osce.org,</i></p>
PROJECT DURATION	<i>January 2023 – December 2025</i>
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<i>OSCE Region – OSCE assistance providing pS, assistance requesting pS, Secretariat, OSCE Institutions, and the Field Operations</i>

DONOR	<i>Federal Foreign Office of Germany, France, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland</i>
FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 2,626,926
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 1,545,089
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The project provides policy and technical advice and support to OSCE pS, Secretariat, OSCE Institutions, and the FO's to better conceptualize, plan and implement their commitments against the illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and Conventional Ammunition (CA).
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP GOAL	Goal 7 - Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacities of relevant state institutions (armed forces, law enforcement, forest guards, customs, correctional services) to establish inspection systems and implement Life Cycle Management of SALW and ammunition (where relevant). • Increase human resources and administrative capacities of state institutions for monitoring, oversight and evaluation of the firearms and ammunition stocks of legal entities and individuals.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (Beginning of the project – end of December 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the EMPACT Firearms- Kick-off meeting under the Operational Action Plan for 2023 (Operational Goal 6: Operational Action 6.4), facilitating support for South-Eastern European, Moldovan and Ukrainian Canine (K9) units to participate in and learn from other European services. • Contributed to the Conference to Prevent and Combat Smuggling of Firearms in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine-Possible Measures for Enhanced Custom's Co-operation. The event was organized by the Ministry of Finance of Sweden, under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. • Continued co-ordination of SALW initiatives and activities with representatives from other international organizations and institutions, including the EEAS, EC, NATO, NSPA, UNODC, UNDP, UNDP SEESAC, GiZ, and others. • Organized three Steering Committee meetings in a blended format to implement the European Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/2133 of 2 December 2021 in support of the comprehensive programme on supporting efforts to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of SALW and CA in South- Eastern Europe.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized regular meetings of Politico-Military focal points, gathering the network of the FSC SU and OSCE FO project practitioners to discuss the progress and challenges implementing SALW and SCA projects, • Organized the assessment of the Montenegrin Police Directorate K9 units within the Special Purpose Police Unit and Border Police Unit. The mission, supported by 2 French Gendarmerie and 1 OSCE K9 experts, took place from 26 to 31 March 2023 and included visits to various locations in Montenegro. • Contributed to the Curriculum Development Workshop organized by the Border Security Management Unit of the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD), supporting the OSCE Mobile Training Team members in developing a training module on SALW and border control. • On 30 and 31 May, presented the entire OSCE assistance mechanism portfolio on SALW control at the XXXIV MSAG Symposium, held in Stockholm. • On 21 June 2023, the Project co-organized and provided programmatic and administrative support for the joint regional OSCE-REGISYNC Workshop on Firearms Registries in Europe, held in Vienna. The event provided a platform to discuss challenges and good practices in regulating civilian firearm registries and explored innovative approach for their use. • On 5 July 2023, visited the Austrian Federal Police Dog Training Centre to discuss co-operation in developing K9 training capacities to support SALW control assistance projects across the OSCE region. • On 4 and 5 July 2023, participated in the 9th WB SALW Control Roadmap Regional Coordination Meeting in Sarajevo, providing updates on implementation progress and the key findings from the mid-term review of the Roadmap, as well as to noting the development of Roadmap Phase 2. • Contributed as a member of the Review Panel for the 3rd Call for Proposals of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the United Nations, on 10 July 2023. • Developed technical specifications for the procurement of specialized equipment needed to organize a Canine training for the detection of SALW, ammunition and explosives under the auspices of EMPACT Operational Action 2023. • Finalized the selection of a Roster of Canine Experts to support capacity-building in law enforcement K9 capabilities for detecting SALW, ammunition and explosives. • Initiated in October and successfully completed in December the procurement of training equipment for a regional training of Police Canine specialists to enhance SALW detection and investigation capabilities, scheduled for Q2 2024;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated via Zoom in the Global Symposium on Weapons and Ammunition Management: Frameworks, Policies and Practices, held in Geneva on 27 November. • On 19 and 20 December 2023, the PIT participated in the 10th WB SALW Control Roadmap Regional Coordination Meeting in Tirana, providing updates on implementation progress, key findings from the mid-term review the development and continuation of the Roadmap Phase 2, for the period 2025-2030. • On 3 January 2024, the Project finalized and signed an IP contract with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lyon for the implementation of the project to provide advisory, assessment, and certified trainings on due application of deactivation of SALW, in Kosovo. • The PIT contributed to the EMPACT Firearms-kick-off meeting on the OAP 2024-2025, held on 07 February 2024, in The Hague. • From 27 to 29 February 2024, the PIT actively participated in the 2nd Regional meeting of experts on advancing the Canine Regulatory framework, organized in Durres, Albania. • The PIT coordinated the participation of OSCE representatives at a meeting with Frontex from 18-22 March 2024, in Luban, within the framework of EMPACT Firearms. • Contributed to the Project DTECT Workshop on the post-delivery phase (SALW) aimed at assessing the relevance of specific technologies to support counter-diversion efforts at the post-delivery stage, held on 26 March 2024, via Zoom. • On 24 April 2024, the Project organized and hosted the 3rd EU Steering Committee on the Implementation of Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/2133, a comprehensive programme aimed at supporting efforts to prevent and combat the illicit trafficking of SALW and CA in South-Eastern Europe. • On 25-26 April 2024, the PIT supported the organization and delivery of the bi-annual co-ordination meeting of OSCE Politico-Military Focal Points and Meeting on the Implementation of Projects on SALW and SCA. These meetings reviewed the progress and status of the implementation of OSCE SALW and SCA initiatives throughout the OSCE Region. • On 15 - 16 May 2024, the PIT facilitated the presentation by the Chief of the FSC/SU Unit at the Regional Meeting of Heads of Field Operations in South-Eastern Europe, held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. • The PIT participated via Zoom in six local Western Balkans Roadmap Co-ordination Meetings, which were organized in Tirana on 22 May 2024, Pristina on 27 May 2024, Podgorica on 30 May 2024, Belgrade on 3 June 2024, Sarajevo on 5 June 2024, and Skopje on 11 June 2024. These meetings provided a platform for key stakeholders to discuss progress, challenges, and the next steps in implementing the Western Balkans Roadmap for the control of SALW/SCA.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 25 May to 5 July 2024, the PIT organized a series of co-ordination meetings with the SALW ExB projects at the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Mission to Kosovo to facilitate the participation of one senior police dog handler from each jurisdiction in the Training of Trainers on the use and deployment of multi-purpose detection dogs. The training took place at the National Dog Training Centre of the French Gendarmerie in Gramat, France. • On 12 June 2024, the project provided a briefing at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, delivering a presentation on "The Role of the OSCE in the Field of SALW and SCA Control – Regional Cooperation" during “Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action Course”. • On 21 June 2024, the PIT participated in a coordination meeting with FRONTEX and the Polish Training Academy to prepare for the upcoming OSCE-FRONTEX K9 training, scheduled to take place from 4 to 8 November 2024 in Luban, Poland. • From 24 to 28 June 2024, the PIT supported the ExB project “Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia in Decreasing the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of SALW” by facilitating the delivery of the "Regional Training Program for Duty Dog Care and First Aid," held in Skopje. • On 9-10 July • SALW trafficking and their implications for internal and border security for South-East Europe and beyond. • Within the framework of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to arms control in the Western Balkans by 2024, the project team participated online in the following series of the Local Roadmap Co-ordination Meetings: Podgorica, 07 November, Pristina, 11 November; Tirana, 14 November; Sarajevo, 18 November; Skopje, 25 November, and Belgrade, 28 November. • From 10 to 11 December, the project team participated online and in person in the 11th Regional WB SALW Co-ordination meeting, held 10-11 December in Skopje, North Macedonia, presenting the progress and results of the OSCE SALW and SCA projects. • Throughout the reporting period PIT monitored functionalities and overall performance of the web-page “Portfolio of OSCE Practical Assistance Projects on SALW / SCA”. It continued to populate and update the OSCE SALW and SCA Assistance Projects IT Portal, (https://salw.osce.org/), while also promoting and encouraging 2024, the PIT participated in the 11th Regional Coordination Meeting of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition, held in Podgorica, Montenegro.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 28 August 2024, the PIT organized a Zoom coordination meeting with representatives from the French Proof-house from Saint Étienne (BNE). • On 24 September 2024, the PIT participated via Zoom in the 6th Regional Awareness Raising Task Force (RAR TF) meeting, held in Belgrade, Serbia. • On 15 October 2024, the PIT participated in the Meeting of the Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP) EU Council in Brussels. • On 22-23 October 2024, the PIT supported the organization and delivery of the bi-annual co-ordination meeting for OSCE Politico-Military Focal Points, as well as the Meeting on the Implementation of Projects on SALW and SCA. The event focused on reviewing the progress and current status of OSCE SALW and SCA initiatives across the OSCE Region. • On 25 October 2024, the PIT organized a High-Level Meeting on the Strategic Advancement of Police Canine Capabilities for the Prevention and Detection of Illicit and Trafficked SALW in SEE. The objective of the High-Level Meeting was to further strengthen the region's capacities to prevent and detect illicit and trafficked SALW. • On 29 October 2024, the PIT participated in the European Arms Monitor Expert Working Group meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland. • The project team supported the SALW control ExB project in Skopje to launch the • Regional K9 Frontex Certification Programme on Product Scents, aimed at unifying and enhancing K9 detection capabilities across Western Balkans jurisdictions to combat SALW trafficking. • From 4 to 8 November, the project team contributed to the High-Level Police and Customs Co-operation meeting organized by the ExB project “Assisting the national authorities of North Macedonia to decrease the risk of weapon proliferation and misuse of SALW” in Skopje, North Macedonia. The event convened professionals, experts, and leaders from the security field to discuss the nexus between migrant smuggling and its further use.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evolving security landscape in Europe is significantly influencing the scope and scale of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control initiatives. The shifting priorities of participating States (pS), combined with the increasing socio-economic and security repercussions of global political challenges, are creating complex conditions for the planning and implementation of SALW-related assistance. In this context, sustaining effective cooperation and maintaining alignment on shared objectives among all the stakeholders remains paramount.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue participating in and contributing to various fora that discuss regulatory requirements to strengthen SALW control tools and mechanisms more effectively.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue providing programmatic and administrative advisory support to the OSCE Secretariat, executive structures and FOs to adequately strengthen and improve their SALW and SCA through-life management and control capacity.• Continue supporting assistance-requesting pS across the OSCE region. The project will maintain its advisory and monitoring role in assessing the implementation status of ongoing SALW initiatives. Simultaneously, by evaluating new risks and challenges in the field of SALW control, the PIT ensures that any potentially new initiatives are justified, beneficial and aligned with overarching programme objectives and requirements.• The PIT will continue developing knowledge products to improve the effectiveness of practical assistance projects and address gaps in their implementation. These documents will serve as reference points for developing dedicated and targeted trainings for OSCE programmatic staff directly involved in practical assistance projects.• In partnership with the French Proof-house from Saint Étienne, the project will further support the technical assistance to advance deactivation capacities in SEE jurisdictions.• Continuing cooperation and coordination with the French K9 training Centre in Gramat (Centre national d'instruction cynophile de la gendarmerie – CNICG) to further enhance the operability and capabilities of the canine detection teams throughout the SEE.• In partnership with EMPACT Firearms and the Slovak National Police, the PIT will continue supporting the implementation of EMPACT Policy Cycle OA 6.4, designed to enhance the detection capabilities of K9 units, improve their interoperability with other operational teams, and strengthen their cross-border collaborative efforts.• Promotion, use and visibility of the SALW Portal (https://salw.osce.org/) remain central to the PIT. By the end of 2025, the PIT will develop the ToR for further enhancements and optimizing of the functionalities of this important tool.
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PROJECTS CLOSED IN PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIODS

For the latest list of closed projects, please refer to the [previous document with inputs from international organizations](#) published ahead of the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting.